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Talking Tourism with the Department of Conservation and Land Management

## Attractions and Facilities

### YANCHEP INN

Historic Yanchep Inn, situated in the heart of Yanchep National Park, will benefit from a \$3 million upgrade as a result of a lease agreement between CALM and Yanchep Inn Nominees, owned by business operator Mr Tony Villanova.

The twenty-one year lease will see the heritage-listed building restored and renovated, as well as the construction of a new kiosk/café, tea-rooms and up to thirty new motel units. The upgrade will meet heritage standards whilst providing visitors with modern facilities that are in harmony with the surrounding conservation and cultural values of Yanchep National Park.

The proposal for the upgrade of Yanchep Inn is in line with the park's management plan and recreation masterplan. It will complement other improvements being undertaken at the park, including infrastructure works and development of further visitor experiences such as the Aboriginal Balga Mia Village.

Yanchep Inn will provide accommodation in close proximity to Perth for families and couples as well as catering to the corporate sector for business seminars and conferences. Work on the Inn commenced in March 2000.



*Historic Yanchep Inn, Yanchep National Park*

### OPENING OF THE PENGUIN ISLAND JETTY



*The Hon Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes MLA and CALM Ranger Murray Banks at the Opening of the Penguin Island Jetty*

Penguin Island's custom-designed jetty has been completed, with the official opening by Hon Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes MLA, on 11 November 1999. The \$250,000 jetty caters for three ferries as well as CALM's management vessels.

Mrs Edwardes said the new jetty conserved the environmental values of the island whilst ensuring visitor access and experience. Penguin Island has grown in popularity since the creation of the Penguin Experience, a nature-based tourism attraction that allows visitors to view fairy penguins in a simulated environment. The island has become a sought-after destination with local residents, tourists and school groups.

CALM has undertaken several projects on the island, including the establishment of a grassed picnic area, composting toilets, boardwalks and a WMC Resources Management and Research facility that provides accommodation for researchers and island management staff.

Murray Banks, CALM Ranger at Penguin Island, said the recent developments transformed Penguin Island into a world class nature-based tourism and recreation destination. Future projects on the island will focus on replacing the two walkways that cross the island and upgrading the lookouts.



## Around the Regions

### **SOUTH COAST**

The **Stirling Range and Porongurup National Park** Management Plan was released by the Hon Minister for the Environment Cheryl Edwardes MLA, on 1 December 1999 in Albany. This finalises a long process of public consultation and liaison with adjoining landowners and community groups. Among other proposals, the plan provides for an interpretive centre to be constructed in the Stirling Range when funding is available.

At the Management Plan's release, the Minister also launched the children's book *Jeemuluk*, written by CALM South Coast Region's Interpretive Officer Corinn Hine and illustrated by Albany artist Carol Ann O'Connor. *Jeemuluk* is a story about the relocation of a young noisy scrub-bird and is available from CALM Publications. Also released was an audio CD called *Images & Reflections: Australia The South West*, by well-known musician Robert Boyd, incorporating bird calls of species from the south-west.

Heavy rains in January resulted in temporary closures of some areas of national parks along the south coast. The most extensive damage was to roads in the Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun areas. A large section of the Cullham Inlet causeway was washed away, impeding access into the eastern end of the **Fitzgerald National Park**.

Plans have also been completed for the new park entry station to be located at **Cape Le Grand National Park** near Esperance. This will provide a great welcome for the many visitors to the park, especially the eastern states' visitors experiencing WA for the first time.

### **SOUTHERN FOREST**

Work to upgrade the facilities at **Beedelup Falls** continues. A new carpark capable of accommodating coaches and long vehicles is being constructed, along with toilet and picnic facilities, onsite interpretation and wheelchair access to the falls. Work has been slowed by unseasonal summer rains and the amount of rock encountered during excavations to construct the carpark.

CALM Project Supervisor, John McKenzie, said that the site should be reopened for visitors before Easter 2000.

'It's an exciting project that will be part of the new Pemberton Karri Forest Discovery Tour,' John said.

This tour is part of CALM's contribution to the Tourism Development Program arising from the Regional Forest Agreement. The tour will include

a number of upgraded and improved sites and roads near Pemberton, as well as new link roads between sites. The tour will be promoted and marketed as a self-drive tour.

The aim of the project is to encourage visitors to remain in the Pemberton area longer by providing a range of activities and attractions. The drive will package the premium scenic forest attractions of Pemberton with local private tourism businesses, as well as making more picnic facilities accessible to the public.

If you would like more information about Beedelup Falls or the Karri Forest Discovery Tour please contact John McKenzie or David Meehan at CALM Pemberton on (08) 9776 1207.

Visitors to Pt D'Entrecasteaux near Windy Harbour will soon come to know what locals have known for generations—**D'Entrecasteaux National Park, c'est magnifique.**

A new four-kilometre scenic coastal drive and complementary cliff-top walk trail are nearing completion at Pt D'Entrecasteaux. The drive features two vehicle lookouts offering exceptional views of the southern coastline, coastal heath wilderness and Mt Chudalup some 14 kilometres in the distance.

The drive includes a 350-metre walk trail (wheel chair accessible) around the summit of Pt D'Entrecasteaux. The trail and two viewing platforms provide sensational views of the limestone cliffs, surging shoreline and the wide expanse of the Southern Ocean. Interpretation and contemplative seating is soon to be provided enroute. Linking from this trail is the first stage of a formed coastal sea cliff walk from Pt D'Entrecasteaux to the Tookulup picnic area (1.2km). Interpretation and rest sites will be provided enroute. In future project stages it is proposed to link the sea cliff walk from Windy Harbour to Salmon Beach via Pt D'Entrecasteaux and Tookulup.

These complimentary developments are set to become premier attractions in **D'Entrecasteaux National Park** and have been designed to accommodate large buses and commercial operators.

The majority of works are expected to be completed by May 2000. For an update on works progress or an inspection of work to date contact CALM's Project Manager Jeff Kimpton in Northcliffe on (08) 9776 7095 or Pemberton District Recreation and Tourism Officer David Meehan on (08) 9776 1207.



## **SOUTH WEST**

With a combined effort including CALM, Greencorp and the Friends of the Cape to Cape, the much anticipated Cape to Cape Walk Trail in **Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park** is now unofficially completed from lighthouse to lighthouse.

All five sections of the 136-kilometre Cape to Cape trail are completely marked out and allow for an uninterrupted long distance hiking experience along the coast. A presentation was held in December 1999, formally recognising the work achieved by the Greencorp participants for their six-month stint in the **Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park**.

A series of five brochures relating to the Cape to Cape track are now available from CALM offices and local tourist bureaus in the area. Ongoing trail maintenance, signage, water crossings and campsite upgrading will continue.

An official opening is planned for early 2001, when this significant recreation and tourism icon can be proudly presented to Australian and overseas visitors alike.

## **KIMBERLEY**

Improvements to the Derdbee-gerring Banan Lookout Trail in **Mirima National Park** have now been completed. The installation of staircases to assist in negotiating the more difficult sections of this trail has improved safety and accessibility. The walk trail provides good views over the rugged landscape of Mirima and the Ord Valley, while interpretive signs explain changes in the landscape over time. New trailhead signs will assist with visitor orientation.

## **PILBARA**

The visitor centre in **Karijini National Park** will reopen in late April for Easter after being closed for the summer. Galah Loop in the Fortescue campground is reserved for commercial tour operators. Please phone the park on (08) 9189 8157 or CALM's regional office on (08) 9143 1488 before your visit to make a booking.

Rain from recent cyclones and thunderstorms should result in an excellent wildflower season around June, July and August. We will have more information on the species you are most likely to see in the next edition.

Exmouth District recently attracted funding to assist in the upgrade of displays and infrastructure within the Milyering Visitor Centre located in **Cape Range National Park**. The funding will primarily be used to enhance the marine component of the centre, with emphasis on marine life and the nearby **Ningaloo Marine Park**.

Funding will also assist with improvements to the souvenir/refreshment shop located adjacent to the visitors centre. This will enable visitors to gain a valuable insight to the environment of the area and obtain quality souvenirs as mementos of their visit. Light refreshments in the form of coffee, soft drinks, icecreams and cakes can also be purchased.

Milyering shop, open between the hours of 10am and 4pm, will resume full services for the months April to October 2000. Entry to the Milyering Centre is free and tour groups are reminded that videos about the natural environment and ranger talks can be organised if prior notice is given. Phone CALM Exmouth on (08) 9949 1676 for more information.

## **Info Updates for Tour Operators**

### **CALM TOURISM EXCHANGE**

A major showcase of Western Australia's greatest nature-based tourism attractions will be on display for the tourism industry on 11 May 2000.

Acting Executive Director Dr Wally Cox said the CALMTEX Tradeshow was an innovative and direct way of informing the tourism industry on how they can best utilise nature-based attractions on CALM-managed lands in their tours and marketing without any detrimental effect to the environment.

CALMTEX has expanded from the inaugural event last year to focus on both the north and south of the State and include presentations in conjunction with regional tourism associations (RTAs). The RTA displays will value-add to each CALM product being presented by promoting CALM licensed tour operators, accommodation and transport providers that service the area.

Dr Cox said CALM was committed to forging a strong and successful partnership with members of the tourism industry to ensure that all Western Australians and visitors to the State had access to nature-based tourism attractions on conservation lands.

'CALM is committed to finding a balance between recreation, tourism and conservation and part of achieving this balance is providing for information and interaction exchange,' he said.

CALMTEX will be partially funded by CALM's Commercial Tour Operator Licence Fund. It takes place on Thursday, 11 May 2000 at the Burswood Convention Centre. For further information please contact Rod Quartermain on (08) 9334 0562.



## In Short

### GET YOUR PASSPORT TO TOUR WA

Western Australians no longer have to leave the country to get a passport. Under a new partnership initiative developed between Passport Promotions Pty. Ltd. and CALM, travellers around the State can now record their holiday destinations by collecting more than 60 specially designed 'visa' stamps on their 'Western Australia Passports'.

The *WA Passport* has been designed in a similar style to that of an official passport, complete with pages for stamping, and for a passport photo and personal details. It contains maps of the State's major recreational localities and listings and locations of all participating outlets. The *WA Passport* retails for \$4.99, a proportion of which will contribute to the ongoing protection of WA's unique flora and fauna through projects such as interpretation in national parks.

More than 60 outlets (mainly tourist bureaus, information centres and CALM outlets) are selling and/or stamping the *WA Passport*. CALM outlets include WA Naturally (Fremantle), Nambung National Park, Perth Observatory, Giants Cave, The Hills Forest Activity Centre, Monkey Mia and Purnululu National Park. Visitor centres include Albany, Busselton, Merredin, Newman and Port Hedland. The *WA Passport* is also available from CALM's NatureBase website at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au>

Included with the *WA Passport* is a separate flyer with up to \$250 of listed discounts that are available for *WA Passport* holders. These include travel, car hire, accommodation, movies and souvenir shops—providing the opportunity for local businesses to be involved.

The *WA Passport* is an excellent tool that encourages people to visit places they might otherwise not consider. In addition, by visiting a participating outlet to get their passport stamped, interaction with staff provides the opportunity for promotion of the area—its attractions, facilities and local businesses. This may increase the visitors' chance of remaining in the area for longer or returning at a later stage. The *WA Passport* is designed as a fun activity and a worthwhile memento when complete.



*Left to Right: John Barnett, host of Channel Nine's Postcards, Pauline Green, a Director of Passport Promotions and Suzanne Curry, CALM's External Funding Co-ordinator, celebrate the launch of the WA Passport. Photo by Craig Stewart*

Channel Nine, through its television series *Postcards*, is a major sponsor of the *WA Passport*. The *West Australian* newspaper also publishes weekly 'lucky *WA Passport* numbers' in its Travel section.

The *WA Passport* provides an excellent example of local business, State Government and the community working together to foster and integrate WA's tourism industry. Passport Promotions would like to encourage more Tourist Bureaus and Information Centres to participate, even if only to stamp the *WA Passport*, effectively putting themselves 'on the map'. Businesses are also being encouraged to participate, as apart from administrative fees, the *WA Passport* is a cost-effective and well-targeted way to promote business.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Trevor Andrews at Golden West Distributors on (08) 9248 5485, mobile 0419 989 693, email [goldwest@iexpress.net.au](mailto:goldwest@iexpress.net.au) or Passport Promotions on (08) 9448 4800.

### Hot off the Press

CALM's **LANDSCOPE Expeditions** brochure for 2000 is now available from UWA Extension, The University of WA, Nedlands, WA 6907. To obtain a copy phone (08) 9380 2433, fax (08) 9380 1066, or email [extension@uwa.edu.au](mailto:extension@uwa.edu.au).

### YOU WERE WONDERING?

Touring Western Australia is a newsletter produced by CALM to keep the tourism industry informed about developments which affect the industry. If you have a query regarding any of CALM's tourism policies, activities or developments, we would be pleased to answer these in future editions of the newsletter. Enquiries can be sent to *Touring Western Australia*. Fax: (08) 9334 0253 or email ([alicer@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:alicer@calm.wa.gov.au)).