

# Touring

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# Western Australia

Talking Tourism with the Department of Conservation and Land Management

FOREST SCIENCE LIBRARY  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## Attractions and facilities

### 2003 WA Nature Based Tourism Exchange and Supplier Workshop



The guides from Yanchep National Park perform a traditional welcome dance.

One of the State's fastest growing industries, nature-based tourism, was the subject of the 2003 WA Nature Based Tourism Exchange and Supplier Workshop in August.

The full-day event brought together more than 100 delegates from government and industry sectors of the nature-based tourism industry to discuss new and existing opportunities for sustainable tourism in protected areas.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management's (CALM's) Business Coordinator, Rod Quartermain, said the event demonstrated a productive and positive collaboration between Government and industry to develop and promote sustainable nature-based tourism in the State.

"Nature-based tourism is one of the State's fastest growing industries. Forums like this foster a cooperative approach to ensuring Western Australia's natural treasures are protected for the appreciation and benefit of future generations," he said.

The event, staged in response to a partnership between CALM and the WA Branch of the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC), was divided into two sessions.

CALM's Nature Based Tourism Exchange (formerly called CALMTIE) took place in the morning and the ATEC Supplier Workshop in the afternoon.



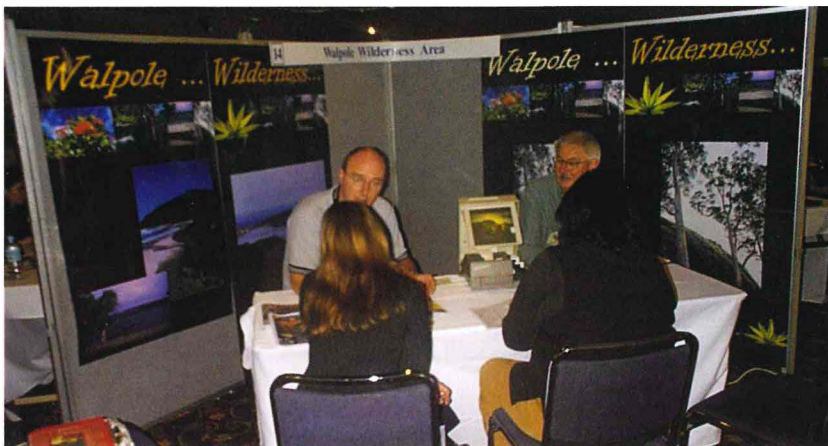
CALM Director of Parks and Visitor Services, Jim Sharp (right), with Ray Bird (left) from the WA Branch of the Australian Tourism Export Council (ATEC).

"Regional tourism representatives partnered regional staff from CALM to cooperatively present the State's natural tourism destinations to delegates, who rotated through each of the displays, essentially travelling through the entire State," Mr Quartermain said.

"It promoted a valuable two-way exchange of quality information and not only furthered the industry's knowledge, understanding and appreciation for sustainable tourism within natural areas but also helped CALM gain a greater understanding of the industry's current needs and concerns."

Tourism product suppliers were also given the opportunity to meet with buyers, such as inbound tour operators and wholesalers, at the afternoon ATEC Supplier's Workshop.

Aboriginal guides from Yanchep National Park performed a dance to welcome the delegates including inbound tour operators, commercial tour operators, government agency representatives and travel media. The event was officially opened by Fran Logan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment.



Manager of the Tree Top Walk, Trevor Burslem (right), and Derren Foster (left) from the Walpole Visitor Centre present the Walpole Wilderness Area.

## Around the regions

### Shark Bay

#### Mid west region

##### Shark Bay

Two new lookout points at Francois Peron National Park are providing visitors with spectacular cliff top views.

Located at the popular Skip Jack Point, the lookouts provide visitors with the opportunity to see an amazing display of marine life including, rays, sharks, schools of fish and sometimes dugongs. These additions enhance visitors' experiences and improve visitor safety. The lookouts will be opened to the public after rehabilitation works are completed in October.

Stunning coastal views between Skip Jack Point and Cape Peron can be absorbed on a new moderately easy walk trail called *The Wanamalu Walk Trail*. The 1.5-kilometre (one way) walk is located on the dune ridge and provides a view of the cormorant roosting beach below. The new trail was established with the assistance of CALM's Indigenous trainees and volunteers from Conservation Volunteers Australia.

For more information about the Skip Jack Point Lookouts or other developments in Francois Peron National Park, please contact CALM's Denham office on (08) 9948 1208.

##### Access to Murchison River Gorge

Sealed road access will soon be available to the Murchison River Gorge in Kalbarri National Park via Hawks Head and Ross Graham Road. These roads will be closed to all traffic from September to November 2003. Access to all other river gorge recreation sites will remain as normal.

Paths and lookouts at the coastal sites of Natural Bridge and Castle Cove have recently been upgraded



*The lookout at Skip Jack Point under construction.*

and works will soon begin to construct safe lookout platforms at Island Rock and Grandstand.

For more information on road closures in Kalbarri National Park, please call Park Headquarters on (08) 9937 1140.

#### Warren region

##### Forest by Night

Soaring 40 metres into the canopy of the rare red tingle forest of Western Australia, the Tree Top Walk is a breathtaking natural experience.

Visitors can now also experience the forest in a different light on the Forest by Night tours. This unique guided tour begins with spotlighting in the amazing Ancient Empire

boardwalk, through trees that are more than 400 years old. Visitors will have the opportunity to spot a range of marsupials in their natural environment, including woylies, quendas and brush tail possums. The tour concludes on the famous 600-metre long Tree Top Walk, which takes visitors even closer to the southern night sky, 40 metres off the ground at its highest point.

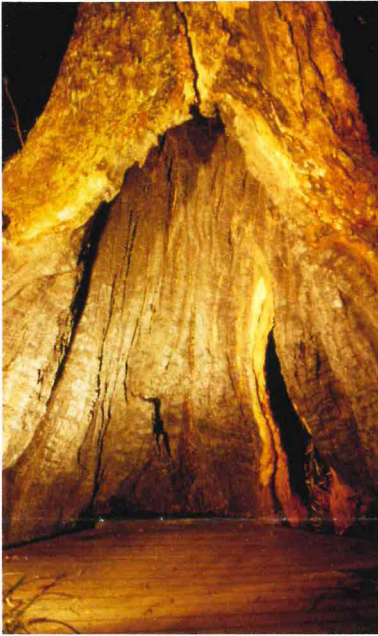
CALM's Assistant Manager of the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk, Laura Grieve, said the Forest by Night tours provided a completely different experience for visitors.

"The forest becomes a different place at night and you can never predict what will happen. Every tour is unique," she said.



*The Valley of the Giants by Night.*

## Around the regions



Participants should have a reasonable level of fitness. Bookings must be made by 4.30pm the day of the tour and cost \$15 for adults and \$6 for children. Groups can be arranged on request.

For more information on the Forest by Night tours, please contact the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk office on (08) 9840 8200 or by email ([ttw@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:ttw@calm.wa.gov.au)) or visit the NatureBase website at [www.naturebase.net/tourism/valley\\_of\\_the\\_giants.html](http://www.naturebase.net/tourism/valley_of_the_giants.html).

### The Karri Forest Explorer drive

The new Karri Forest Explorer self-guided drive in the forests around Pemberton was officially opened earlier this year.



The 86-kilometre drive showcases the unique scenic attractions of the Pemberton forests and caters to the growing number of tourism operations in the area.

This innovative tourism development, created in partnership with local businesses, is part of a concept to create a number of day activities for visitors in the area while increasing the number of facilities for camping, bushwalking and picnicking.

The major attractions surrounding the drive include Big Brook Dam, Beedelup Falls, Warren National Park, the Gloucester Tree and the main day-use site in the proposed 18,000-hectare Greater Beedelup National Park.

An interpretive radio trail accompanies the drive with a local area FM network, providing interesting information on the surrounding landscape including its history.

This progressive \$1.6 million project strives to contribute to the development and management of a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry.

Further works associated with the drive are being carried out and include the construction of canoe launch platforms and decks on the Warren River, designed to reduce impacts on the river banks, and a day-use site in the Giblett Forest.

## Swan region

### Get Nearer to Nature

The Nearer to Nature program recently launched an exciting range of nature-based activities aimed at tour groups.

A variety of experiences have been created to enable operators to choose activities that match the varying interests of their customers. Nearer to Nature can combine native animal encounters, walks, bush art and craft, Nyoongar cultural activities and light adventure to create a full day (or night) program.



Located in the picturesque Hills Forest, seven kilometres south of Mundaring, Nearer to Nature's premier venue is The Hills Forest Discovery Centre. The Discovery Centre is less than one hour's drive from central Perth and provides visitors with a taste of Western Australia's forest environments.

Nearer to Nature's activities have recently expanded, to explore other environments such as marine parks, wetlands and woodlands. This will give visitors a chance to experience the variety of natural areas that exist within Perth.

The program of activities will be reviewed every 12 months with new initiatives introduced regularly to meet the needs of tourism operators and community organisations.

Information about Nearer to Nature's activities is available on CALM's website, [www.naturebase.net/n2n.html](http://www.naturebase.net/n2n.html). For more information and bookings, please contact Rohan Swan on (08) 9295 2244.



*The Hills Forest Discovery Centre.*



*Getting Nearer to Nature.*

## Your questions answered

### ***What happens to my licence if I sell my business?***

Licences issued by CALM are not tangible assets and therefore cannot be transferred to a new owner.

If you are operating under a T class (unrestricted) licence, the purchaser of your business simply needs to apply for a new licence using CALM's standard application form. The application will be processed as a new licence application. In most cases, such T class applications are uncomplicated and can be processed quickly.

If you are selling an ongoing business that operates under an E class (restricted) licence, the person intending to purchase part or all of the business must submit an application for a replacement licence. Applications for a replacement E class licence are more involved and are assessed on a case-by-case basis. E class licences are restricted in their number and areas of operation because licence conditions alone cannot manage the impact of the activity on the environment.

The granting of a replacement E class licence is subject to the following:

- The prospective buyer providing CALM with information that shows they have the appropriate resources, skills and experience.
- Favourable assessment by CALM.
- Legal confirmation of the purchase of the ongoing business and the completion of all obligations by the existing licence holder.
- The current licence holder surrendering the licence in favour of the purchaser.
- Consultation with the Conservation Commission or the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and approval from the Minister for the Environment.

Sale of the business should be subject to the successful application for the replacement licence. The new licence will be for the same sites and activities as the original licence and will also have the same expiry date and renewal process.

If you are selling your business or are intending to purchase a tourism business, please contact CALM's Licensing Officer on (08) 9334 0119 to discuss your requirements.



## About this newsletter

*Touring Western Australia* is a newsletter produced by CALM to keep the tourism industry informed of news and developments. If you have a query regarding any of CALM's tourism policies, activities or developments, we would be happy, where possible, to answer these in future issues. Enquiries can be faxed to *Touring Western Australia* on (08) 9334 0253 or emailed to [natashad@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:natashad@calm.wa.gov.au).

CALM also issues regular email updates to members of the tourism industry and other interested groups. If you would like to be included on the email distribution list, please email your details to [kerryt@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:kerryt@calm.wa.gov.au).