

Western Australia

Talking tourism with the Department of Conservation and Land Management

'Healthy Parks, Healthy People'



John Forrest National Park, one of the many places in and around Perth's metropolitan area for people to enjoy the outdoors.

A new community initiative

Many of us have long believed in the benefits of being outside in the natural environment. Now scientific evidence, which demonstrates a strong correlation between a healthy park system accessible to everyone and a healthy community, is giving people even more reason to visit parks in Perth's metropolitan area.

Parks provide a refuge to escape from urban stress, a place for family and friends to picnic and an open space for many recreational pursuits. Parks also keep the environment healthy by improving air quality, reducing erosion, delivering clean drinking water and contributing to clean waterways. So, healthy parks are vital for the

physical and mental well being of individuals and the community.

In recognition of the important role that natural areas play in the health of the community, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) will be implementing a community-wide initiative during the coming months called 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People'. This initiative is part of CALM's commitment to protect, conserve and enhance Perth's natural areas while providing people with well-managed sites for various recreational activities.

The overall aim of the initiative is to increase awareness, support and

visitation of parks by providing a high quality visitor experience while simultaneously demonstrating the link between healthy parks and healthy people. More details about the initiative will be available in the coming months, but in the meantime use the messages of the 'Healthy Parks, Healthy People' initiative to attract people outdoors into nature!



Around the regions



Premier Dr Geoff Gallop and Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards with students from Dwellingup Primary School.

South West Region

Munda Biddi Trail extends to Collie

The section of the Munda Biddi Trail from Dwellingup to Collie was officially opened in July at a celebration in Dwellingup. Premier Dr Geoff Gallop, Minister for the Environment Dr Judy Edwards and Collie MLA Mick Murray opened the trail and experienced it first hand with a short ride into town with students from Dwellingup Primary School.

The section from Mundaring to Dwellingup was opened in December 2002 and has proven very popular with local, interstate and overseas cyclists. Dr Gallop said: "the Munda Biddi Trail will capture one of the fastest growing niche markets in the world—cycle tourism." It is expected that the trail will provide a boost for the local economies of the South West Region.

The trail has been made possible by funding from CALM's capital works program as well as generous contributions from ALCOA World Alumina Australia, Lotterywest and the Department of Justice through the Karnet Prison Farm.

Planning for Stage 2 of the trail, Collie to Northcliffe, is now complete and construction is expected to start early next year.

Planning for Stage 3, Northcliffe to Albany, is expected to begin later this year.

Swan Region

Crystal Cave car park upgrade, Yanchep National Park

The road to Crystal Cave and its car park have recently been upgraded with improvements to the radius of the turn-around on the scenic route; improving vehicular circulation through the car park.

Before the upgrade, the lack of formal car parking caused erosion and degradation of surrounding vegetation. The upgrade provides specified parking areas for coaches and visitors as well as disabled car parking access.

These improvements are part of the first stage of a larger scale project. Visitors can expect to see more improvements at Yanchep National Park, including upgrades to the entry of Crystal Cave. This enhancement will improve visitor comfort and orientation.

To make bookings for Crystal, Yonderup and Adventure caving tours, please contact Yanchep National Park on (08) 9561 1004 or by email (yanchep@calm.wa.gov.au).

Entry to the Crystal Cave and

Yonderup Cave (45 minutes) is \$6.50 per person and Adventure caving (1.5hrs) is \$15 per person. National park entry fees also apply.

Serpentine National Park

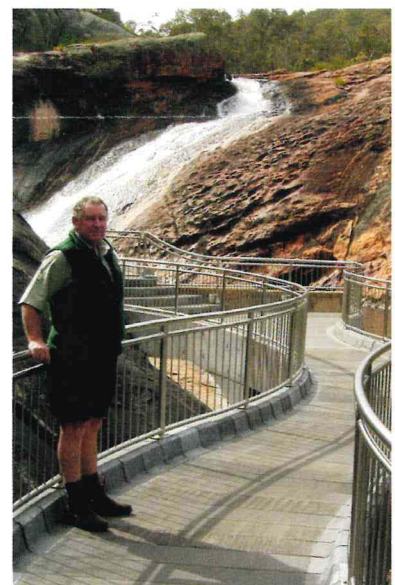
Visitor facilities at Serpentine National Park have been improved with a recently completed, universal access boardwalk and viewing platform leading to the park's feature falls.

These works will increase visitor access and safety to the year-round falls and enable visitors to absorb the sights and sounds of the area with minimal impact to the environment.

Steps have also been constructed into the fresh water pool below the falls to ensure safe access for those who wish to immerse themselves in their cool natural surrounds.

The boardwalk complements the parks' walk trails and excellent picnic areas, with gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets provided as part of the \$9 per car entry fee.

For further information regarding Serpentine National Park please direct enquiries to Senior Ranger Philip Bastian, on (08) 9525 2128.



Senior Ranger Philip Bastian with works at Serpentine National Park.

Around the regions

Proposed national parks of the Perth Hills District

Work is under way to improve visitor facilities and recreational opportunities in the five proposed national parks within the Perth Hills District. Recently completed projects include:

- **Canning National Park**

The Lesley picnic area on Brookton Highway has been redeveloped with a new car park, toilets and picnic furniture. The 3.5-km nature trail at Lesley has also been upgraded, improving visitor access. This loop walk follows a creek line through jarrah and marri forest.

- **Wandoo National Park**

A new picnic area and visitor facilities have been constructed at Mount Observation, including a new toilet, picnic furniture, internal walk trails and an animal viewing hide located just south of the picnic area—a joint project between CALM and the Darling Range Branch of the WA Naturalists' Club. CALM funded the prefabrication of the animal viewing hide and members of the WA Naturalists' Club provided their expertise and labour for the on-site installation.

- **Mundaring National Park**

CALM, the National Trust and the Shire of Mundaring have completed the design phase of a joint signage project at Sculpture Park in Mundaring. The trailhead project promotes the proposed Mundaring National Park and directly links with a number of tracks and trails through the park. Installation of the signs should be completed during November.

Visitor facilities and access to *Grevillea Mycumbene* and *Pimelia Mycumbene*, two popular spots along Mundaring Weir Road on the Munda Biddi Trail, have been redeveloped. Work completed includes picnic furniture and improved vehicle access at both sites and wood barbecues have been constructed at *Grevillea Mycumbene*. *Pimelia Mycumbene* is the eastern terminus for Lower Helena Bridal Trail and has plenty of parking for vehicles with floats.

- **Helena National Park**

Day use facilities below the summit of Mount Dale have been constructed and includes redeveloped vehicle access and parking and new picnic tables, pathways and toilets. Work continues on the construction of a new viewing platform near the summit that will provide a 180-degree panorama of the park.

More information on these sites can be gained from Michael Phillips, National Park Ranger, on (08) 9295 1955.

WA's wildflower explosion

Those who have an eye for natural beauty and enough time to make a quick stop while travelling, will not be disappointed with the recent explosion of colourful wildflowers throughout WA. During spring, visitors are encouraged to stop, take a short walk along the road and enjoy the variety of colours, in particular in Shark Bay, Geraldton and Albany districts. Visitors are reminded to keep to existing roads if driving and tracks when on foot, as some of the flora is particularly fragile.

Shark Bay

A variety of wildflowers are abundant throughout the Shark Bay area, in particular, between the Billabong Roadhouse and the Overlander Roadhouse, the first 50 kilometres along Hamelin Denham Road heading into Shark Bay and, for those with 4WD access, the northern end of Peron Peninsula.

Geraldton

Spectacular wildflower displays can be found in the Moresby Ranges. *Verticordias* (gold and pink), *dampiera* (purple) and many varieties of spider orchids are coming into flower with small patches of pink everlastings scattered throughout. Howatharra Road and Olsen Road also provide some exquisite views but are less accessible.

Albany

Fitzgerald River National Park is home to a brilliant display of wildflowers, especially along the east side of Hamersley Drive where there is an expanse of *Acacias* flowering with an abundance of *Quaalup bell*. The west side of Pabelup Drive and Point Ann Road also promises to be a dazzling wildflower display of scarlet *banksia*, pink *melaleuca* and cream blooms of *hakeas*.



The Cowslip orchid (caladenia flava subsp. flava) is WA's most common and best known spider orchid.

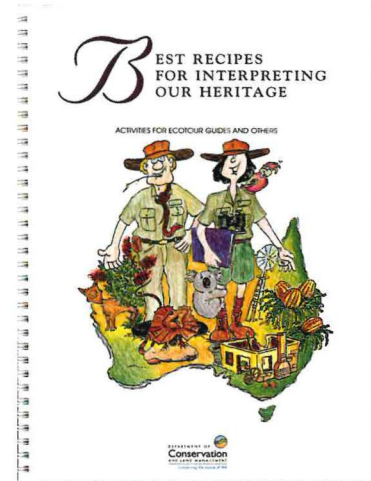
Tour operator information

CALM has two interpretative books available specifically for Tour Operators:

- *Developing Ecotours and Other Interpretative Activity Programs.* A guidebook for planning, designing, promoting and conducting ecotourism activity programs; and
- *Best Recipes for Interpreting Our Heritage: Activities for Ecotour Guides and Others.* A tool designed to help

ecotourism guides deliver quality interpretative activities. It sets a standard for interpretative activity design by presenting a comprehensive framework and providing a full script for 24 activities.

The books are available from CALM for \$27.50 each (including GST), plus postage. To order your copies, call (08) 9334 0564 or fax your order to (08) 9334 0583.



Tourism Industry Reference Group

CALM's Tourism Industry Reference Group meets quarterly to generate two way communication between CALM and the tourism industry. The meetings are designed for sectors of the nature-based tourism industry to share information with CALM, providing the industry with a regular mechanism to air issues and have them addressed in a constructive manner.

Members of the tourism industry are encouraged to contact representatives on the Tourism Industry Reference Group to raise issues for consideration at the meetings.

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About this newsletter

Touring WA is a newsletter produced by CALM to keep the tourism industry informed of recent news and developments. If you have a query regarding any of the Department's tourism policies, activities or developments, we are happy to answer these in future editions of the newsletter. Enquiries can be sent to *Touring WA* by faxing (08) 9334 0221, phoning (08) 9334 0240 or email sarahm@calm.wa.gov.au.