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Talking tourism with the Department of Environment and Conservation

Issue no: 15

Friday, 31 May 2013

Hi <<First Name>>

Welcome to the latest issue of *Touring Western Australia*, the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC's) eNewsletter detailing the latest nature-based tourism news and events for the general public and tourism industry.

In this issue:

Park and tourism information

- [Western Australia's new parks and wildlife agency](#)
- [World's longest cycling trail open!](#)
- [Alfred Cove viewing platform](#)
- [New Baden Powell camp site](#)
- [Kurrajong campground bigger and better](#)
- [Book bargains](#)
- [LANDSCOPE autumn issue 2013](#)

Stay in touch: information from DEC

- [What are EveryTrail guides?](#)
- [WA park passes – your ticket to nature](#)
- [Parks, trails and road closures](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)

Western Australia's new parks and wildlife agency

Big things are happening at DEC!

A new Department of Parks and Wildlife and a department of environmental regulation will soon replace the existing Department of Environment and Conservation.

What does this mean for park visitors and readers of this newsletter? In describing the new department Environment Minister Albert Jacob said that it will "focus not only on conserving our ecosystem but look at ways to better engage the community and help them to enjoy the amazing natural assets in our own backyard."

To support the key priority of providing low-cost, family camping opportunities in national parks and reserves the government has committed \$20 million.

For more details read Environment Minister Albert Jacob's [media statement](#).

World's longest cycling trail open!

After 12 years of construction the [Munda Biddi Trail](#), which means 'path through the forest' in Noongar Aboriginal language, is now complete. At over 1,000 kilometres in length it is the world's longest continuous off-road cycling trail.

The Munda Biddi Trail has been built through an undeveloped natural corridor of forests, bushland, gentle terrain and scenic river valleys, and showcases towering eucalypt trees and unique plants and wildlife. It has something for a wide range of users with sections of the trail suiting various abilities and speeds.

The final stage from Manjimup to Denmark was completed in April.

The occasion was marked by the Welldrill Munda Biddi Epic 1000 cycling event, where 26 cyclists from across Australia completed the first end-to-end ride on the trail, starting in Albany on 7 April and finishing in Mundaring on 28 April.

Cyclists on the Epic became the first 'Munda Biddi Trail Blazers' and the first people in the world to ride the full length of the trail.

The ride passed through local towns which hosted the riders each night at special community events.

At the completion of the Epic 1000 the Trail Blazers and broader community were treated to an official ceremony at the northern terminus in Mundaring, where the Munda Biddi Trail was officially opened by Environment Minister Albert Jacob.

Find out more from the [Munda Biddi Trail Foundation](#).



Environment Minister Albert Jacob cuts the ribbon assisted by Acting DEC Director General Jim Sharp and Chair of the Munda Biddi Trail Foundation Ron Colman.



Munda Biddi Trail Blazers are flagged in at Mundaring by Minister Jacob.



The Munda Biddi Trail Blazers.

Alfred Cove viewing platform

If you are a bird watcher or just like the fresh air, come and try out a new wheelchair-accessible viewing platform at Alfred Cove in Attadale.

Here you can enjoy sitting and watching more than 140 species of birds in comfort, without the risks posed by leaving the path and without trampling on vegetation. The structure does not compromise the delicate nature of the site.

The \$20,000 development has been a joint project between DEC and the [Swan Estuary Reserve Action Group](#) and was funded by Coastwest. It complements a lot of good work already done by



the group.

- Download a [map or brochure](#)
- Purchase the full-colour, pocket-sized guidebook, [Discovering the Swan River and Swan Estuary Marine Park](#)
- See the [Swan Estuary Marine Park EveryTrail guide](#)



New Baden Powell campground

Looking for somewhere to camp close to Perth with plenty of new facilities?

The new [Baden Powell campground](#) in Lane Poole Reserve is now open to the public and sites can be [booked online](#).

Located high above the Murray River in pine forest, it is one of two sites in Lane Poole Reserve with bitumen road access. There are a variety of camp sites available including some with space for larger groups, caravans and other bigger vehicles. There are free camp kitchens with gas barbecues, picnic tables, toilets and rubbish bins. Some of the sites are wheelchair accessible. No fires are permitted at any time at this camp site.



The old Baden Powell campground is currently still available for camping on a first-come, first-served basis.

Kurrajong campground bigger and better

Lucky visitors to the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage area are now using new camping facilities at Kurrajong campground in Cape Range National Park, one of the state's most popular campgrounds.

Twenty new camp sites have been built (15 standard sites and five separate large group sites), with connecting beach boardwalks and ocean-viewing platforms. There is also a specially designated and constructed accessible camp site with a boardwalk to a viewing platform. A purpose-built beach wheelchair is available upon request for sand/water access.

The extra facilities were built using Royalties for Regions funding aimed at increasing opportunities for low-cost caravan and camping.

Kurrajong is a generator-free campground and all camp sites can be [booked online](#).



Book bargains

Rediscover Western Australia's picturesque north-west this winter ... and why not pick up a good book to help with your planning or to read along the way.

As a special offer we've reduced prices on all of our north-west titles this winter.

- The Turquoise Coast – \$19.95
- North West Bound – \$21.95
- Shark Bay: twin bays on the edge – \$29.95
- Life along land's edge – \$29.95
- Kalbarri – \$19.95
- Marine Life of Ningaloo Marine Park and Coral Bay – \$16.95

To view the full WA Naturally range visit our online shop at www.dec.wa.gov.au/shop.



LANDSCOPE autumn issue 2013

Pick up a copy of DEC's beautifully illustrated and informative *LANDSCOPE* magazine at your local newsagent or online at www.dec.wa.gov.au/shop.

Read about:

- rediscovering plant species after 150 years
- recovery of Kimberley wildlife
- protecting Aboriginal connection to land
- the rigours of an expedition to the Kimberley in the 1920s
- understanding washed-up marine life
- a personal approach to farming and conservation
- controlling feral cats
- the past, present and future of small Nullarbor mammals.



Subscribe and get four issues packed with articles about WA's wildlife, parks and conservation delivered to your door for \$27. (International subscriptions are \$47.)

What are EveryTrail guides?

If you haven't seen our downloadable EveryTrail guides have a look before you go on holiday!



DEC now has 33 park guides full of images, maps and points of interest that can be stored on your phone or tablet. Mobile reception is not necessary to access your stored guides on the road.

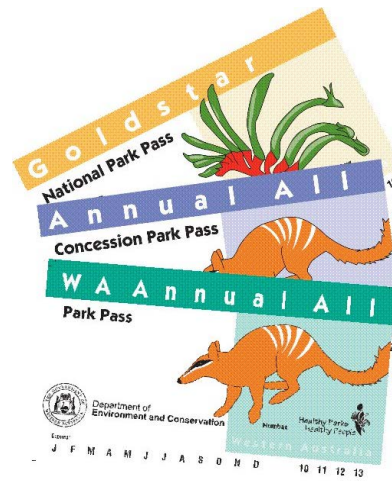
Go to www.everytrail.com/partner/dec, select a guide and set up a free account. Your guide will be sent straight to your phone. You can quickly download more guides and and share your travels with others.

See [video demonstration](#) of EveryTrail guides.

WA park passes – your ticket to nature

Park passes offer value for money and convenience. Choose from:

- Annual All Parks Pass for unlimited entry into all parks for a year – \$80 (Concession pass – \$50)
- Gold Star Pass combines an Annual All Parks Pass with an annual subscription to *LANDSCOPE* magazine – \$110
- Holiday Park Pass for unlimited entry into all parks for four weeks – \$40
- Annual Local Park Pass for unlimited entry into a single park or group of parks for a year – \$20



Money raised from park passes is retained by DEC and contributes to management of parks, protection of the environment and the development and maintenance of visitor services and infrastructure. By purchasing one of these passes you will be making a valuable contribution to the conservation of WA's special areas.

Passes are available at DEC offices, selected tourist outlets and retail stores, from www.dec.wa.gov.au/shop or over the phone at **(08) 9219 8000**.

Parks, trails and road closures

Before you travel, check DEC's [Parks, trails and road closures](#) page for any closures and re-openings.

Find us on Facebook at [DEC Parks WA](#).

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Department of Environment and Conservation



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