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November 2014

Welcome to this issue of *Touring Western Australia*. Please enjoy the latest **Parks and visitor information** and current **Industry news**.

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Parks and visitor information

Yanchep Camp Out

Tents and sleeping bags recently adorned [Yanchep National](#)

[Park](#) as part of the nationwide [Great Aussie Camp Out](#).

The event gave novice campers an opportunity to gain confidence by camping in a supportive environment and to encourage them to make camping a part of their lifestyle.

Check out the [video!](#)

A collaboration between Parks and Wildlife, [Nature Play WA](#), [Outdoors WA](#) and the [Caravan Industry Association of WA](#), it was the first in a program of *Go On Get Camping* events encouraging people to try camping as a way of reconnecting with family and friends while spending time outdoors.

Look out for more group camping opportunities in 2015.



Turtle nesting on the Ningaloo Coast

Book a guided turtle interaction experience for an exciting opportunity to see marine turtles nesting in their natural environment and learn more about turtle conservation.

The tours operate from December to March from the Jurabi Turtle Centre, 20 minutes north of Exmouth, and include an educational presentation about marine turtle biology, ecology, threats and conservation measures followed by a guided turtle interaction experience on a popular turtle rookery beneath the breathtaking Ningaloo night sky.



Tour dates and bookings are available online at the [Exmouth Visitor Centre](#) or by phoning (08) 9949 1176.

Going camping this summer?

Here's a great way to check campsite availability!

If a campground is full or filling fast, the website makes it easy to locate an alternative campground before leaving home. Check [here](#) to see how it works.



Tree Top Walk birthday and summer events

All *Touring WA* readers are invited to join the celebrations at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk 18th birthday!

Entry to the walk is free on Saturday 29 November from 9am to 5pm, with entertainment between 10am and 3pm. Local artisans will showcase their produce at a food and craft market and there will be wandering minstrels and free kids' activities including face painting.

From 22 December until 31 January, visitors can view an exhibition of prints by Parks and Wildlife's Gooitzen van der Meer and Peter Nicholas. Gooitzen's incredible watercolour illustrations and Peter's sweeping landscapes and dramatic abstract photographs reflect Western Australia's beautiful natural environment are available for purchase as a quality unframed print.

There is also a full program of engaging and interactive activities at the Tree Top Walk over the summer for children, families and adults in the spectacular Walpole Wilderness.

[Check here for program details](#)

For more information contact the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk on 9840 8263 or email tw@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Win a gift pack of *WA Naturally* publications

WA Naturally publications are offering a gift package with a total value of \$65.80 of titles including *The best of the South-West* to *Touring WA* readers.

To enter the lucky draw, just email

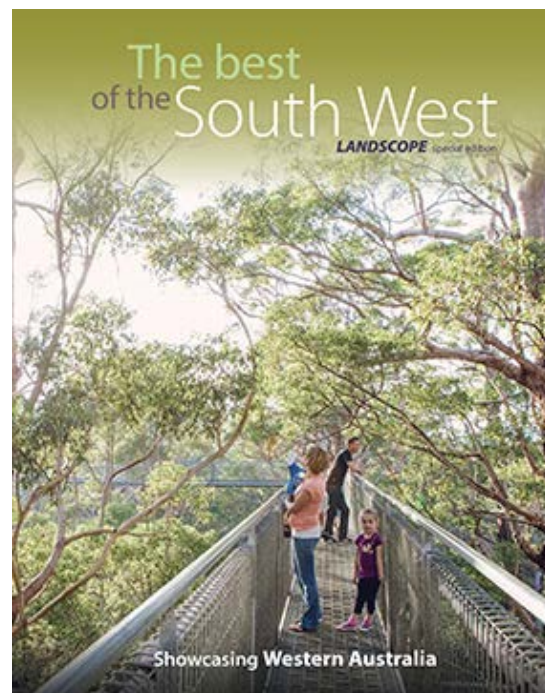


Touring.WA@dpaw.wa.gov.au and say "All I want is the best" in the subject line.

The package contains:

- *The best of the South-West (new!)*
- 1-year subscription to *LANDSCOPE: WA's parks, wildlife and conservation magazine*
- *Snakes of Western Australia Bush Book*
- *Discovering Mount Augustus National Park*
- *Urban Antics.*

Check out [more great gift ideas from WA Naturally Publications](#).



Visiting parks during bushfire season

The bushfire season is upon us! Summer is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and extra care should be taken when travelling or camping in the natural environment.

Be prepared to modify your plans, especially if it is hot and windy, and be aware that very high to catastrophic fire danger ratings may [result in the closure of parks and reserves](#).

Open fires or any cooking appliances that use solid fuels, are not permitted on these days.

You can still use a gas-fuelled barbecue and gas-fuelled camping stove, or use one of the many hot plates provided for visitor use in campgrounds and picnic areas. Search for campgrounds and picnic areas with gas barbecues in [Park Finder](#) or the booklet *National, marine and regional parks in Western Australia*.

Play it safe this summer and enjoy your park visits. Go to [Are You Bushfire Ready?](#) for all your bushfire season information.



Temporary Bibbulmun Track diversion


A 90-kilometre section of the Bibbulmun Track, including five camp sites, between Deeside Coast Road and Walpole may be diverted until late summer 2015 while major prescribed burns are carried out. The precise timing of the burns depends on factors such as weather conditions and is yet to be finalised.

While every effort will be made to minimise impacts on walkers, you may choose to plan walks on other sections of the track while the diversions are in place.



Please share this notice with anyone planning to use the Bibbulmun Track west of Walpole during this time. For more information check [Track Conditions](#) download our [Alerts App](#) or contact Parks and Wildlife in Walpole on (08) 9840 0400.

Nearer to Nature school holiday activities

The team at *Nearer to Nature* has put together activities right  across the metropolitan area for the upcoming summer holidays. [View the whole program or download a copy of the brochure here.](#)

More information and bookings are available on (08) 9295 2244 between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Osprey Bay campground upgrades underway

Work has begun to upgrade the popular Osprey Bay campground in [Cape Range National Park](#) near Exmouth with funding from the State Government's [Parks for People](#) initiative.

Osprey Bay has sweeping ocean views, fantastic snorkelling opportunities, boat launching access, kayak moorings nearby and is also close to Sandy Bay. By April next year it will re-open with twice the number of campsites and new toilet facilities. Improved traffic flow will see two camp site loops, each with their own walking tracks to the beach, and a separate road for boat launching and day time visitors. [Read more.](#)



Tourism boost for Albany

An exciting development at the Gap and Natural Bridge in [Torndirrup National Park](#) will provide spectacular new lookouts, pathways and interpretive signage for more than 200,000 visitors per year to the popular Albany tourist destination.

Designed to enhance the visitor experience, the lookouts will provide a closer, more dramatic view of the beautiful coastal environment while incorporating key safety design features. The improvements being done by Parks and Wildlife are being funded by Royalties for Regions program under the *Parks for People* initiative.

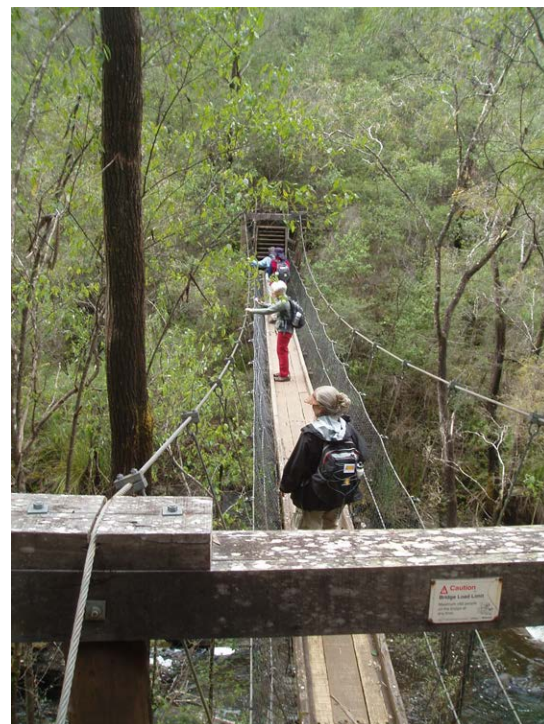
The Gap Road is now closed until June 2015 for safety reasons during the construction but the rest of the park remains open. [Read more.](#)



Bibbulmun Track user survey

Have you walked on the Bibbulmun Track in the past four weeks or know someone who has?

The [Bibbulmun Track user survey](#) will help with future planning, management and maintenance of the track and finishes soon.

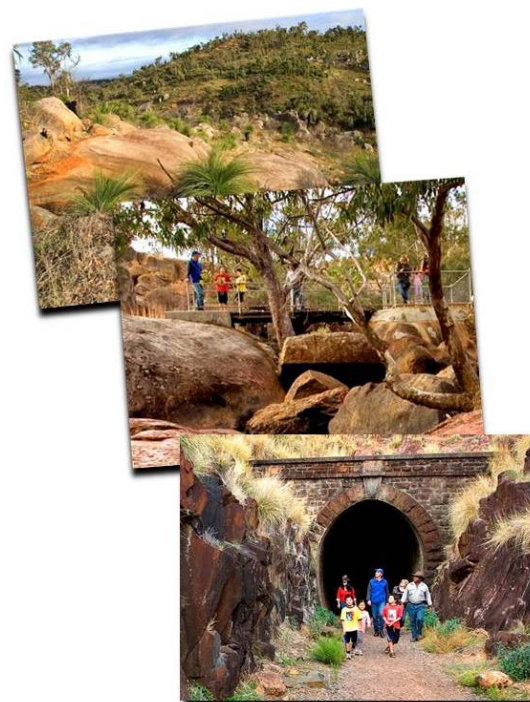


Have your say on John Forrest National Park

John Forrest National Park is Western Australia's first national park and Parks and Wildlife is looking at its future recreational needs.

If you live in the area or visit the park, have your say and help us plan for the future.

[Go online to complete the short survey](#) and share the link with your friends.



Trip of a lifetime for Kimberley visitors

An interstate family with unique circumstances has thanked Parks and Wildlife Kimberley staff and volunteers for helping them have the trip of a lifetime as they toured the region visiting national parks and reserves.

[Read about their experience.](#)



Industry News

FACET's 2015 Australian Geotourism Conference

The interest in geotourism is growing and this two-day conference to be run by FACET on 20-21 May 2015 will examine the potential and opportunities for Western Australia.

Themed "Tourism Down Under" the program will include a one-day conference and networking sundowner in Perth, a field trip and workshop on



Rottnest Island and post conference options to Rottnest Island or Mt Magnet for the Astro Rock Festival.

Read more and register [here](#).

Congratulations to tourism award winners

Parks and Wildlife congratulates all medalists in the 2014 Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards, particularly those in Category 5 – Ecotourism and the FACET Golden Guide Award, both sponsored by the department, as well as those in other categories that operate in partnership with Parks and Wildlife.



[Out of Sight Tours](#) Gold Medal, Category 5 – Ecotourism.

[Rockingham Wild Encounters](#) Silver Medal, Category 5 – Ecotourism

[Sail Ningaloo](#) Bronze Medal, Category 5 – Ecotourism; Bronze Medal, Category 13 – Adventure Tourism; Bronze Medal, Category 21 – Unique Accommodation.

[Koomal Dreaming](#) Gold Medal, Category 7 – Indigenous Tourism.

[Geographe Bay Tourism Association](#) Gold Medal, Category 9 – Visitor Information and Services.

[ADAMS](#) Gold Medal, Category 11 – Major Tour and/or Transport Operators.

[APT Kimberley Adventures](#) Silver Medal, Category 11 – Major Tour and/or Transport Operators; Winner, Category 26 – Qantas Award For Excellence in Sustainable Tourism.

[Kimberley Wild Expeditions](#) Bronze Medal, Category 11 – Major Tour and/or Transport Operators.

[Loris Harding \(Taste Bud Tours\)](#) Gold Medal, FACET Golden Guide Award; Bronze Medal, Category 12 – Tour and/or Transport Operators.



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