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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

### New campsites opened close to Perth

More than 100 new caravan and tent sites were opened in time for the summer school holidays as part of the [State Government's \\$21.05 million Parks for People initiative](#).

Logue Brook Dam near Harvey has seen the completion of the



first stage of an overall \$2.5 million upgrade including the creation of 62 camp sites. The first stage of the new \$2.2 million Nanga Brook campground in Lane Poole Reserve was also opened with 29 camp sites for caravans and 12 tent camp sites.

Further development work is still to be undertaken at both campgrounds.

For information about camping in national parks in WA, visit [Park Stay WA](#).

## Historic railway bridges back on line



Walkers, joggers and cyclists can once again enjoy traversing the gradual incline of the popular [Railway Reserves Heritage Trail](#) following the restoration of six historic railway bridges. The restored bridges allow safe public access while conserving a significant part of WA's industrial heritage. A link with the past has been maintained by incorporating imprints of the original timber decking into the new pre-cast concrete decks.



Parks and Wildlife undertook the \$480,000 restoration project in consultation with the State Heritage Office as part of a \$1 million State Government commitment to

improve visitor facilities in [John Forrest National Park](#) under the *Parks for People* initiative.

Wooden decks have been replaced with pre-cast concrete decks containing imprints of the original timber decking while water has been diverted to protect the girders from corrosion.

The bridges were part of the Eastern Railway which linked Perth to the Goldfields and the Wheatbelt until its closure in 1961. The old, gently sloping rail alignment now makes the trail a perfect way to enjoy the park and a little history. All aboard!

## Emergency phone installed in Kalbarri National Park

In response to concerned stakeholders, a new satellite telephone has been installed at [The Loop in Kalbarri National](#)



## [Park.](#)

The satellite telephone connects to 000 emergency number, an invaluable service for visitors who require urgent assistance. Park rangers and emergency services personnel can also make calls to the telephone to gain more information during an incident.

Improving response times for medical emergencies in the Murchison Gorge area, where there is no mobile phone coverage, creates a safer experience for more than 300,000 annual visitors to the park.

A \$7.7 million Royalties for Regions upgrade in the park last year included new facilities at The Loop, gateway to the sandstone formation Nature's Window and the trailhead for the popular eight kilometre [Loop Walk](#) along the Murchison River.

## Amazing efforts of volunteers recognised



Minister for Environment Hon Albert Jacob MLA with Parks and Wildlife recognised the amazing efforts of our volunteers at the 2014 Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service Awards in December.

Over 25 the years of the formal volunteer program more than 4,300 volunteers contributed more than 500,000 hours to parks management, plant and animal monitoring, terrestrial and marine science programs, invasive weed control programs and species recovery projects.

Monica Iseppi was named the Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014 Volunteer of the Year for creating a database to help the public to identify plant and animal species in Yanchep National Park.

Fifteen Outstanding Service awards were also presented to volunteers for their valuable work across Western Australia, and for their service, dedication and commitment. Twenty-nine volunteers were presented with certificates for long service for contributing over 20 years continual volunteering for the department.

[See the full list of winners and how to get involved here.](#)

## Long weekend camping

With Christmas and the New Year behind us and summer drawing to a close in the south-west, thoughts drift to the next chance to get away. As you make plans for Easter and a number of other long weekends please remember that conditions will still be dry, and maybe hot, and popular campgrounds still busy. Be sure to stay in touch through [Park Alerts](#) and [Campsite availability](#) to stay safe and fully enjoy your visits to national parks.





Prepare. Act. Survive. Before you set off on your journey, check out the current [Alerts and Warnings from DFES](#).

## **LANDSCOPE** magazine - Summer 2014-15



Get your copy of the new-look *LANDSCOPE* magazine. In this issue:

- Camping and nature at Yalgorup National Park
- Transporting a 750-year old boab tree 3200km by road
- History and Wildlife of Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve
- Protecting the nature of the Kimberley
- Enjoying the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Capes
- Successfully re-establishing the Chuditch
- Track adoption for sustainable off-road driving
- Secret lives of wedge-tailed eagles
- Novel fire fighting methods at Lake Muir

Available online at [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au), from good bookstores, newsagents, visitor centres, Parks and Wildlife visitor centres or head office at 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington and by phoning (08) 9219 9071.

## Get your tickets for the 2015 RAC Perth Caravan and Camping Show



The [RAC Perth Caravan & Camping Show](#) is returning to the Claremont Showground on Wednesday 18 to Sunday 22 March. Tickets are now available online and include free transport with Transperth.

Avoid the parking queues and take public transport instead! Better still, enter this lucky draw to win a double pass, just email [Touring.WA@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:Touring.WA@dpaw.wa.gov.au) by 4pm on Friday 6 February and say "Tickets please!" in the subject line. The first five readers drawn will receive a free double pass to the show.

This show is the best opportunity all year to see the latest caravan, camping and outdoors equipment and gather all your travel information.

Come and visit the Parks and Wildlife stand in the Jim Webster Pavillion, check out some great national park destinations and have your questions answered. While you are there, enter our show competition and be in line to win a pass to WA's fantastic parks.

## The Karijini Experience 2015



Following the success of previous years, the third annual Karijini Experience takes place from Friday 1 May to Monday 4 May 2015 in [Karijini National Park](#).

The program of workshops, performances, tours and social events covers opera, cooking, photography, astronomy, painting and basket weaving.

[Click here](#) to read more, download the program, subscribe to the news service for alerts on ticket releases and additions to the program and stay in touch by following the Karijini Experience on Facebook.

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## Industry News

Kick-start your year



**tourism council**  
*the voice of tourism* western australia

Kick-start your year by registering for one of these upcoming Tourism Council WA workshops and events:

- eTourism - Developing basic online presence or upgrading digital marketing with advanced techniques
- Tourism Connect –networking, lobbying and industry news, accreditation
- China Ready - attracting and servicing the growing Chinese visitor market
- Customer Service WAy -improving customer service and sales technique
- Media & Public Relations -effective communications and public relations

[Click here for dates and venues..](#)

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[touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au).

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