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Welcome to Touring WA, a selection of the latest news from the Department of Parks and Wildlife for visitors to Western Australia's national parks. In this issue you can find out about things to do in parks, new and improved park facilities, camping opportunities, new publications, and eco-tourism opportunities and conferences.

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Parks and visitor information

Outdoors October

Outdoors October is a month-long celebration of activities, all about getting Western Australians active and outdoors.

Whether you're an individual, group of friends, family, organisation, club, council or school, check out [how to participate in Outdoors October](#) for some great ideas.

Of course, visiting a national park is a classic way of getting outside and active. Find parks near you on [Explore Parks WA](#) or download the new [ParkFinder](#) app from the iTunes app store.



Great Aussie Camp Out

Parks and Wildlife encourages everyone to join in the spirit of the [Great Aussie Camp Out](#) (GACO) and visit one of more than a hundred campgrounds in national parks and reserves throughout WA.

National parks offer low cost camping opportunities and are great place to get away it all, connect with nature and enjoy the company of friends and family. Be part of this national event and share your stories, pictures and videos with GACO via the [Explore Parks WA Facebook](#) page!



Why not try out one of the new or upgraded campgrounds: Baden Powell, Black Point, Conto, Credo, Gnaala Mia, Kurrajong, Logue Brook, Martins Tank, Miners, Nanga Brook, Osprey. Don't know where they are? Find them on [ParkStay WA](#).

This year's GACO falls on the last weekend of the school holidays. In the southern part of the State, with winter behind and summer on the way, this is a time that some campgrounds can be very busy.

To get the most out of your GACO experience:

1. Go camping and be involved, even if not on the day.
2. Visit [ParkStay WA](#) and:
 - o Check the latest availability information.
 - o Book camp sites where possible.
 - o Find alternative places to stay in case your first choice is full when you arrive.
3. Arrive early.
4. Keep a look out for first time campers and lend a hand.
5. Enjoy and appreciate Western Australia's extraordinary natural environment.

Featured operator – Rockingham Wild Encounters

Rockingham Wild Encounters is proud to be the only cruise company licensed to operate within the wildlife sanctuary zone of the [Shoalwater Islands Marine Park](#), just a 45 minute drive south of Perth.

Spring is an exciting time in the marine park. As the weather starts to warm up all the wildlife tours re-commence.



Tours include:

- Penguin Island Ferry services to see feeding time at the Discovery Centre on the Island. [Penguin Island](#) is a world class nature reserve and home to more than 1200 Little Penguins. It re-opens 28 September after winter penguin nesting months.
- Glass Bottom Boat Cruise visiting Seal Island to see rare Australian Sea Lions.
- Award-winning Swim with Wild Dolphins adventure.
- Dolphin, Penguin and Sea Lion Adventure Cruises are the best way to encounter wild dolphins.
- For more information visit: [Rockingham Wild Encounters](#).

Fortescue Falls the easy way

One of most popular attractions in [Karijini National Park](#) is now easier to get to!

New steps, platforms and handrails at Fortescue Falls allow visitors to safely venture into the gorge, enjoy closer views of the falls, stop for a break or get some great photos.



The 60m of raised platform is part of the Fortescue Falls walk trail. It was made from raw steel, stable and durable, blending with the iron-rich gorge walls. The final phase of the project is due for completion in 2016 but the new facilities are open and lucky park visitors are already taking advantage!

New look for campground hosts

Next time you're in one of Parks and Wildlife's hosted campgrounds, keep an eye out for volunteer campground hosts in their new uniforms.

Hosts stay on-site in their own tent or caravan for varying periods of time and help out with day-to-day park operations. Their duties include allocating camp sites, collecting fees, providing information about the local area and may also assist with light maintenance jobs.



The program is particularly popular among retirees; however it is perfect for anyone who loves meeting people, camping and the great outdoors. Training for new hosts is provided in November to prepare for the season ahead.

Find out about becoming a volunteer campground at [Campground hosting](#) or phone (08) 9334 0251.

School holiday activities for kids – Sunlit Spring

School holidays are fast approaching and now is the time to book in some really fun, hands-on activities.

Kids of all ages will love getting up close and personal with our wonderful plants and animals in some very special places.

To find about the *Sunlit Spring* program and download a brochure visit [Nearer to Nature /community](#). For bookings call (08) 9295 2244.



School holiday activities at the Tree Top Walk

Take your pick from a number of nature-based activities from 26 September to 11 October at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk near Walpole.

Activities for all ages are guaranteed to create much fun and enjoyment. The big kids haven't been forgotten either with guided walks under the famous Tree Top Walk giving a totally different perspective.



Children can participate in bug hunts and join their families in a guided forest-by-night activity exploring the forest, looking for nocturnal animals and learning about forest life. It's amazing how different the forest is after the sun goes down.

A beautiful spring evening is a fantastic time to visit for a *Late Night Fridays* twilight experience.

For more information visit [Tree Top Walk](#), [Facebook.com/treetopwalk](#) or call (08) 9840 8263.

Local artists on show

The works of local artists Liz Edmonds and Penny Jewell are inspired by the beauty of the surrounding wilderness.



Visit the stunning 'Glimpse' exhibition at the [Tree Top Walk](#) from 26 September until 11 October and relish in the detail, colour and texture of nature through their collective drawings, paintings, textiles and mixed media artworks.

The exhibition is part of the [2015 Bendigo Bank Southern Art and Craft Trail](#), which will have simultaneous exhibitions at more than 74 venues and display the best art and craft created in the Great Southern region.

Spring issue of *LANDSCOPE* magazine

The beautiful and rugged D'Entrecasteaux National Park is featured in the latest issue of *LANDSCOPE* magazine.

Other feature stories include:

- Access for all; providing opportunities for everyone to experience our beautiful environment.
- A journey of colour; WA's landscape is transformed by the blooms of nearly 10,000 flowering plants.
- Adventure out; Kayaking on the Canning.

[Annual subscriptions](#) for *LANDSCOPE* are \$30 for 4 issues, including postage within Australia. Gift and Goldstar subscriptions are also available.

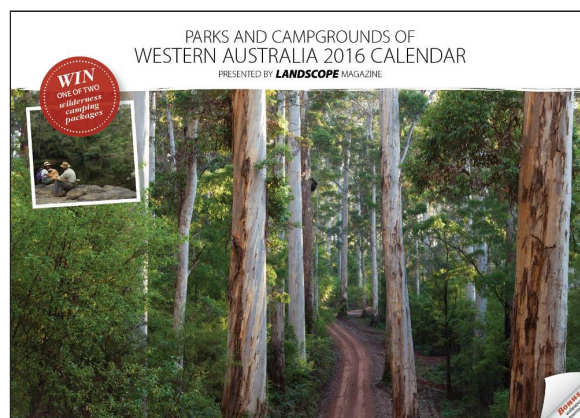
Single issues of *LANDSCOPE* are available from newsagencies - RRP \$7.95.



2016 Parks and Campgrounds Calendar available now

Featuring beautiful images of WA's parks and reserves and with information on parks and campgrounds, the *Parks and Campgrounds of Western Australia 2016 Calendar* will inspire a full year of nature experiences.

With every calendar purchased there is the chance to win one of two wilderness camping packages in the stunning Warren National Park, home to majestic karri trees. Get your copy online now at shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au.



Travelling with fresh fruit?

Fruit fly have recently been found in traps in Kununurra caravan parks and WA's Department of Agriculture and Food has asked Touring WA to spread the word about the important part that travellers play in preventing fruit fly outbreaks in the north of the State.

For more information, visit the [Department of Agriculture and Food](http://www.daf.wa.gov.au) website.



Industry news

Learn to be a tour guide

Touring and training experts Global Gypsies will be running another of their unique live-in Tour Guide Training Courses from 27 to 29 November.

The award-winning course is delivered in a bush setting two hours from Perth and combines both theoretical and practical content with an emphasis on hands-on activities and role plays. It is designed for



For more details visit [Global Gypsies](http://GlobalGypsies.com.au), phone (08) 9341 6727 or email admin@globalgypsies.com.au.

Ecotourism opportunity in Millstream Chichester National Park

An exciting opportunity exists for investors to develop new ecotourism ventures within the Millstream Chichester National Park.

There are two very different sites, Narrina Gorge and Ashburton, that could be developed to provide ecotourism accommodation or experiences such as guided walks and cultural activities.



The opportunity is part of the Naturebank program, which aims to prepare sites in conservation areas for the development of quality, environmentally sensitive tourism accommodation and experiences.

Millstream Chichester National Park has an important connection to the traditional owners, the Yindjibarndi and Ngarluma Aboriginal people, and potential developers have the opportunity to work with these groups.

Registrations of interest close September 30, 2015. Successful applicants will be invited to provide a concept development proposal. For more information, visit www.tourism.wa.gov.au

Commercial Fly/Drive Tours in Purnululu National Park

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified individuals or organisations to develop and operate commercial fly/drive tours in Purnululu National Park.



This unique World Heritage listed park, is renowned for its cultural, geological and ecological features. Visits to the park number more than 26,000 per year with many people participating in sight-seeing flights.

If you think that you have the skills, experience and finance necessary to undertake this operation, Parks and Wildlife would like to hear from you. It is essential that you obtain the [Guidelines for Submissions](#) online, by emailing matthew.king@dpaw.wa.gov.au or by calling (08) 9334 0499.

Submissions close on Wednesday 30 September 2015.

WA Trails and Outdoors Conference 2015

The 2015 WA Trails and Outdoors Conference brings together land managers, local government officers, trails advocates, outdoor instructors, educators, clubs, trails builders and volunteers from across Western Australia.



This is your chance to hear all about the issues affecting the industry, share your ideas, network and learn from people who have been there. The day includes speakers and breakout sessions shedding light on the challenges and exciting proposals for the future of the trails and outdoor industry.

Friday 9 October 2015 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at Hale School, Unwin Avenue, Wembley Downs.

[Details and online registrations.](#)

Reminders

The Gap and Natural Bridge

[The Gap and Natural Bridge](#) are temporarily closed while new paths and spectacular viewing areas are constructed.

A \$5.8 million funding package will see this highly-visited attraction completely overhauled with new state-of-the-art viewing platforms and associated facilities. The project is expected to be completed before the summer holiday season.



This will be worth the wait!

23rd Annual Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference

The 23rd Annual Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference will be held on Rottnest Island, Western Australia from 17 to 19 November 2015.

This is a business-to-business event, focused on practical and applied ecotourism and is the longest running ecotourism conference in the world. It brings together the world's leading speakers on ecotourism, sustainability and responsible tourism to further develop the tourism industry.



Global Eco facilitates excellent business networking between tourism operators, protected area managers, tourism commissions, Aboriginal organisations and academics and has created significant business benefits for delegates.

To register, please visit globaleco.com.au.

All Department of Parks and Wildlife except: Outdoors October activities -Outdoors WA; Dolphin cruise-Rockingham Wild Encounters; Mediterranean Fruit fly -Department of Agriculture and Food; Outdoor classroom -Global Gypsies; Fish Hook Bay, Rottnest Island -Tourism WA.



Department of
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