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To: [Library DPAW](#)
Subject: Touring WA - Issue 28 - December 2015
Date: Friday, 4 December 2015 2:43:26 PM

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Touring Western Australia



Issue no: 28

Friday, 4 December 2015

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 conferences.

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Parks and visitor information

Trees Adventure comes to Lane Poole Reserve

Trees Adventure Lane Poole Park opens on Sunday 20 December 2015 with a special 20 per cent entry discount!

Soar through the treetops on flying foxes and take on a series of challenges high in the trees. Trees Adventure is an exhilarating experience whether you're four or 74, with courses ranging from easy to adrenalin-pumping!

Trees Adventure Lane Poole Park is located 100km from Perth, in Lane Poole Reserve near Dwellingup. With more than 80 challenges and a kilometre of flying foxes, the courses are built in the beautiful pine and jarrah trees near Nanga Mill campground.

Bookings for two hour sessions are essential. Check out the video and all information at [Trees Adventure Lane Poole Park](#).

Trees Adventure at Glen Harrow



Never leave anything at home again!

Make sure you have packed all the gear you need for your next camping adventure with CampingMate!

CampingMate is a new app from Parks and Wildlife that helps you create and share camping checklists.

Start with a detailed list of all the things you might consider and then add or delete items to customise the list to your liking.

When you're finished, save it for later,

take it with you when you go camping and

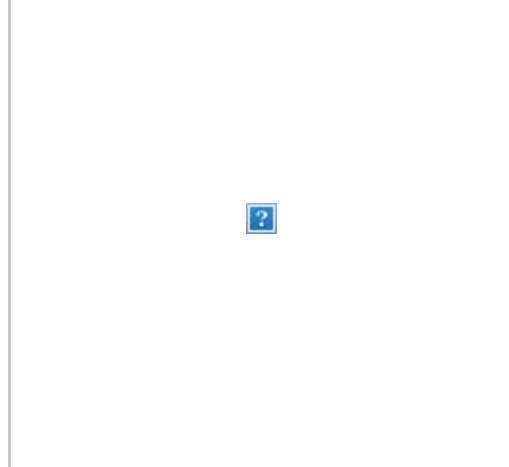
share it with friends. Next time you go away, start with your saved checklist and make it better!

CampingMate is packed with information about camping in Western Australia and also directs you to other sources of information. Where and when to camp, types of camping and staying safe are all covered.

CampingMate is available for IOS and Android



Camping Mate home screen



Discounted park passes available from RAC

The RAC has joined with Parks and Wildlife to make it easier and more affordable for RAC members to explore our natural wonders.

RAC members can now receive a 50 per cent discount on the most popular park

passes when purchased through the RAC online shop, making them even better value for money.

The partnership was founded on the organisations' common interest in encouraging all Western Australians to travel, holiday and enjoy living in WA and to visit national parks and reserves for the physical and mental health benefits they provide.

[Click here for full details.](#)

Enjoy national parks this summer

Summer is a great time to enjoy national parks. Here are four tips to help you enjoy getting away from it all and to play it safe.

- Choose parks that are more enjoyable from November to March, especially those with water or with plenty of natural shade. If you travel inland, plan for high temperature and take precautions.
- If you plan to camp at a busy time like the Christmas/New Year festive season or a long weekend, check our [Peak Period Availability](#) guide.
- You won't be able to light a fire. Use your own gas-fuelled barbecue or camping stove or use one of the many hot plates provided free for visitor use in campgrounds and picnic areas. Search for picnic areas and campgrounds with gas barbecues in [Park Finder](#) or the booklet [National, marine and regional parks in Western Australia](#).
- Take extra care when travelling or camping. Be prepared to modify your plans, especially if it is hot and windy, and be aware that on days of very high to catastrophic fire danger ratings [parks and reserves may be closed](#).



Early Christmas gift for Torndirrup National Park visitors

The State Government is providing a sneak preview of the \$5.75 million redevelopment of tourist facilities at The Gap and Natural Bridge. The area will be opened temporarily from Saturday, 5 December until mid-January for the public to enjoy during the summer school holidays.

Due to challenges in fabricating stainless steel elements of the spectacular Gap lookout structure, the multimillion dollar redevelopment will not be completed until next year.

The Natural Bridge lookout, picnic area, car park and interpretative signage have all been completed and will be available for visitors to access, but the Gap lookout site will remain a construction site and closed to the public.

[Read more.](#)

New path to Natural Bridge



Kalbarri skywalks capture new gorge views

Sealed roads and cutting-edge viewing structures will soon provide exciting and accessible panoramas of the Murchison River Gorge in [Kalbarri National Park](#).

New skywalks will take people of all ages and abilities beyond the gorge rim more than 100m above the Murchison River for breathtaking, unobstructed views. The sealed road, parking for coaches and large caravans, shade shelters and toilets will make the trip significantly more comfortable.

The park already receives over 300,000 visitors a year and the sealed road will put the gorge on the agenda for many more visitors to the area. Construction will begin in 2016 and the facilities are expected to open in 2017.

[Read more and watch the clip.](#)

Kalbarri Skywalk -artist impression



Entry fee introductions in 2016

Entry fees will come into effect at Lane Poole Reserve, Torndirrup and West Cape Howe national parks and Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve as of 4 April 2016. The fees will be \$12 per vehicle, the same as at the other 29 parks that already have entry fees.

The State Government has recently invested substantial sums through *Royalties for Regions* to upgrade facilities in Lane Poole Reserve and in the Albany area. Revenue generated by the new fees will be retained locally to assist with future park management, contributing toward the upgrade and maintenance of visitor facilities, enhanced management presence during peak times and supporting nature conservation efforts. It will go some way to ensure that the exceptional visitor experiences provided can be maintained to a high standard into the future.

Passes that provide unlimited access to all parks for twelve months are available at shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au, at Parks and Wildlife offices and selected visitor centres and retail outlets. Current pass holders need take no action at all and will receive even better value for money.

Join Friends of Nature Play

Help Nature Play WA get more kids outside more often and have your whole family rewarded with great outdoor adventures along the way!

Nature Play WA believes every child deserves the opportunity to play in nature. They should climb trees, make mud pies, scrape their knees and have the freedom to learn by doing so - because it's fun, it's great for their health and happiness, and it's the best way to build family memories that will last a lifetime.

Yanchep National Park -Russell Barton



The Gap



Join "Friends of Nature Play"



To help WA families get outdoors, Nature Play WA have launched Friends of Nature Play WA Family Memberships.

For just \$55 your whole family will get a year of special offers including:

- Discounts on adventure tours, outdoor activities and lessons
- Discounts on outdoor gear & products
- Prize draws & competitions
- Members-only pricing for Nature Play WA-run events,
- PLUS the first 300 members will receive a dry bag from Sea to Summit valued at \$30!

As a membership partner, the Parks and Wildlife is offering Friends of Nature Play a 50% discount on the Barna Mia tour at [Dryandra Woodland](#) with a stay one night, get one free deal at either Congelin Campground or Gnaala Mia Campground.

Find out about this offer and other benefits of joining [Friends of Nature Play](#).

School holiday activities for kids – Sparkling Summer

Book now for some really fun, hands-on holiday activities in the natural environment.

Nearer to Nature offers programs in locations across the metropolitan area and in the south-west.

To find about the *Sparkling Summer* program and download a brochure visit [Nearer to Nature](#).

Sparkling summer activities



Forest fun for the family

Summer holiday activities at the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk connect visitors with the natural environment and provide a fun learning opportunity for kids and adults alike. The program runs from 26 December to 17 January 2016.

If you want to experience the Tree Top Walk from a different perspective, enjoy the magic of the tingle forest at night. Try

Fun at the Tree Top Walk

either the ever-popular **Late Night Friday** or the famous **Forest by Night** walk, which offers a more exclusive guided experience on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

For many more great free and low cost activities and full program details call the Tree Top Walk on **9840 8263** or email ttw@dpaw.wa.gov.au. Program flyers are also available at local visitor centres. Get in early and book your forest fun today!

Christmas gift ideas

LANDSCOPE magazine Summer 2015-2016

Read about lakeside camping at Logue Brook, Australasian bitterns – the ‘bunyip bird’ of the south-west, visitor opportunities where the sky’s the limit, a treasure trove of seaweeds of the north-west, Perth Observatory moving upwards with the times, managing Matuwa and Kurrara Kurrara, Nature Play getting kids outdoors and back to basics, and celebrating 100 new plant and fungi species.

Annual gift subscriptions to *LANDSCOPE* are just \$30 for four issues, including postage within Australia. Goldstar gift subscriptions are also available. Single issues of *LANDSCOPE* are available from newsagencies - RRP\$7.95.

[Order now for Christmas](#) and, while you’re at it, download one of 33 free desktop backgrounds for your computer or mobile device.

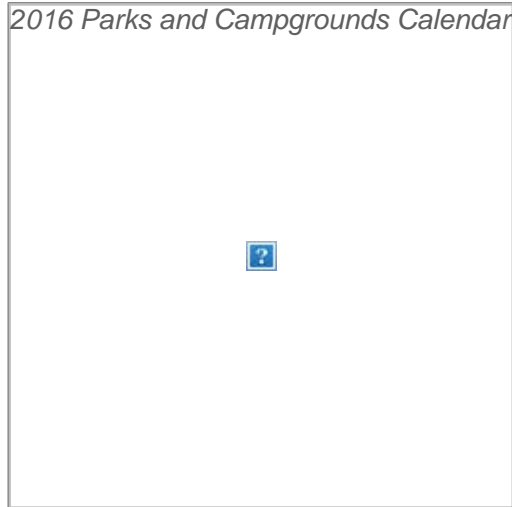
Parks and Campgrounds of Western Australia 2016 Calendar



2016 Parks and Campgrounds Calendar

Featuring beautiful images of WA's parks and reserves and with information on parks and campgrounds, every calendar purchased contains a chance to win one of two wilderness camping packages in the stunning Warren National Park. Prizes will be drawn on 5 January 2016.

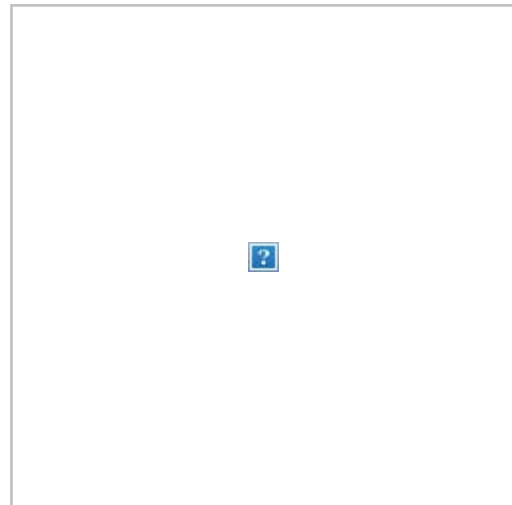
The 2016 Calendar is available for \$14.95 from newsagents, visitor centres and good bookstores across the State.



Volunteers of the year recognised

The Minister for Environment Hon Albert Jacob MLA and Parks and Wildlife recognised the outstanding efforts of volunteers at the 2015 Volunteer of the Year and Outstanding Service Awards on 2 December.

No less than 4636 volunteers contributed more than 610,000 hours to Parks and Wildlife projects in 2014-15, a record amount. Volunteers perform a variety of tasks from staffing the Wildcare Helpline to working in national parks, assisting in plant and animal monitoring, invasive weed control programs, species recovery projects and many others.



Minister Jacob presented Bruce and Kay Withnell with the prestigious Parks and Wildlife Volunteer of the Year award. He said the Withnells showed great commitment as full-time caretakers of the homestead at Matuwa over a six-month period, welcoming and managing visitors and maintaining amenities while contributing to the Rangelands Restoration project at the former pastoral lease. "They also went above and beyond the call of duty, responding with initiative and dedication when two bushfires came through the area, threatening the fenced enclosure where many species of rare and unique native animals live."

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

For more information visit [volunteering opportunities](#).

2016 Western Australian Heritage Festival - call for events

The National Trust invites you to take part in the Western Australian Heritage Festival, 16 April to 18 May 2016, by registering events, talks, tours and activities celebrating Australia's diverse historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage. The theme for the festival is *Discovery and Rediscoveries*.

The festival will be a great opportunity for communities, government and organisations to raise their profiles and celebrate the places, culture, people and events that have shaped our heritage. Event registration is free.

2016 Heritage Festival



Register your event by Friday 11 December 2015 at www.nationaltrustfestival.org.au to have it included in the printed program.

Horizontal Falls park plan open for public comment

Have your say on the future of one of the world's most significant cultural and natural tourist attractions - Horizontal Falls and surrounding areas on WA's Kimberley coast.

The State Government, in partnership with the Dambimangari traditional owners, has released the draft management plan for the proposed Lalang-garram / Horizontal Falls and North Lalang-garram marine parks and the proposed Oomeday National Park. The area is in the Dambimangari people's homelands and is considered one of the most pristine coastal areas left in the world. It contains nationally significant natural, Aboriginal and historical values.

The parks are being delivered as a part of the State Government's Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, which is creating one of the world's largest networks of connected marine and terrestrial reserves.



The plan creates tourism and employment opportunities for traditional owners and is [available here for public comment](#) until 22 January 2016.

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy released

Perth's much-loved Swan and Canning rivers will remain vibrant and accessible for all Western Australians under the new Swan Canning River Protection Strategy.

The strategy has been developed in partnership with 21 local government authorities, State Government agencies, NRM groups and with extensive community consultation. It provides a master plan to guide investment, keep the rivers healthy and ensure they are accessible for the community to enjoy in the long term.

A key priority is encouraging greater community awareness and collaboration, with about \$2 million provided this financial year for priority Riverbank projects.

[View the Swan Canning River Protection Strategy here.](#)

Swan Canning River Protection Strategy



Industry news

Congratulations to tourism award winners

Parks and Wildlife congratulates all of the medalists in the 2015 Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards, particularly those in the FACET Golden Guide Award and Category 5 – Ecotourism, both sponsored by the department, as well as those in other categories that operate in partnership with Parks and Wildlife. You can be sure of exemplary service when you use any of these operators.

[Brian Lee – Tagalong Tours](#); FACET

2015 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards



Golden Guide Award; Silver Medal, Category 7 – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism.

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

[Ocean Park Aquarium](#); Silver Medal, Category 5 – Ecotourism.

[Charter 1](#); Bronze Medal, Category 5 – Ecotourism.

[ADAMS](#); Gold Medal, Category 11 – Major Tour and Transport Operators; Gold Medal, Category 29 – Excellence in Chinese Tourism.

[Helispirit](#); Silver Medal, Category 11 – Major Tour and Transport Operators.

[Cape to Cape Explorer Tours](#); Silver Medal, Category 12 – Tour and Transport Operators.

[Aussie Wanderer Tours and Safaris](#); Bronze Medal, Category 12 – Tour and Transport Operators.

[Three Islands Whale Shark Dive](#); Silver Medal, Category 13 – Adventure Tourism.

[Walk into Luxury](#); Bronze Medal, Category 24 – New Tourism Business.

[Chocolate Drops](#); Silver Medal, Category 29 – Excellence in Chinese Tourism.

2016 Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference

The Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) will present the 8th Australian Indigenous Tourism Conference (AITC) at the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre from 9 – 11 March 2016.

The theme of the conference is *Walking Together – Building Sustainable Futures*.

Early bird registrations will be available until 21 December. To register, and for more information including speakers and sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#).

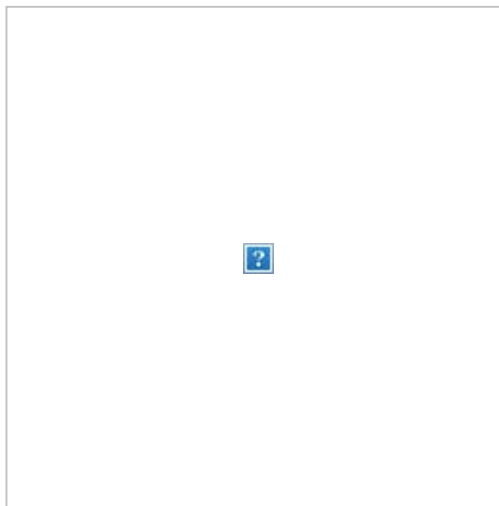


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All Parks and Wildlife except: Trees Adventure comes to Lane Poole Reserve -Trees Adventure; Yanchep National Park -Russell Barton; Join Friends of Nature Play - Nature Play WA; Volunteers of the year -Nick Way.

Touring Western Australia



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