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Issue no: 37

Friday, 15 December 2017

Welcome to *Touring WA*, where we share some of the latest news from DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service for visitors to Western Australia's national parks.

In this issue you'll find stories about tips on how to plan an awesome holiday in

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Parks and visitor information

A bridge over the Murray River!

A brand new suspension bridge for the Bibbulmun Track has opened in Lane Poole Reserve. Walkers can now safely cross the Murray River any time of the year - even when the water level rises in winter.



The new bridge replaces the historical Long Gully Bridge, which was destroyed in a 2015 bushfire.

The Gnaala Karla Booja traditional owners have named it Bilya Bjena Bidi which means 'a swinging river foot bridge'.

Adventure in the south-west in Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park



Pack your bags, it's time to head to the South-West's Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park to explore WA's beautiful beaches, forests and one of the many exciting activities on offer!

Where should you stay?

Book online for Conto Campground. There are 116 camp sites hidden among the peppermint trees and not far from Conto Beach where you can surf, swim or fish!

Campsites are filling fast so get in quick! What are you waiting for? Book online now at [Explore Parks WA](#).

you'll find [Boranup Campground](#) and [Point Road Campground](#). Bookings cannot be made for these campgrounds and the sites are very popular during the school holidays and long weekends. Make sure you have back-up accommodation just in case. For more information, visit [Explore Parks WA](#).



What can you do there?

Swim, fish or surf! If you're looking for crystal clear waters and sandy white beaches, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park has it covered.

If you're camping at Conto, swim, fish or surf nearby at beautiful [Conto Beach](#), take a drive up to [Smiths Beach](#) or grab the surfboard and head to [Regdate Beach](#).

To find out how to get there visit [Explore Parks WA](#).



Walk the Cape to Cape track and explore the diverse range of flora and fauna as you make your way along the coast.

that runs the length of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

The track takes you high above the Ngari Capes Marine Park for beautiful cliff top views where you might be lucky enough to see whales or dolphins.



The track can be completed in sections but an end-to-end adventure on foot takes on average 5-7 days. For more information and to start planning your walk by visiting [Explore Parks WA](#).

If you would like a guided tour, [Cape to Cape Explorer Tours](#) specialise in eco-tours and recently won Tourism WA's Ecotourism Award. Book a guided or self-guided tour with them now by visiting the [Cape to Cape Explorer Tours website](#).

Explore underground caves

Escape the heat of the day and get underground in one of the park's unique and magnificent caves.

The [Cave Works Discovery Centre](#) is a short distance from Conto Campground and well worth a visit. You'll find interactive displays and there is a model cave where you can experience a 'cave-crawl'.

Take one of the boardwalks to a viewing platform to see into the depths of Lake Cave. It has a series of stairways and paths that descend through a large crater with huge karri trees growing from its depths. For more information visit the [Explore Parks WA website](#).



the cave to discover colourful crystals, stalactites, stalagmites and walls of flowstone. Calgardup Cave is suitable for all ages and is open every day of the year except Christmas and Boxing days.

If you're looking for a more adventurous experience, [Giants Cave](#) is for you! It's the park's deepest cave with vertical ladder climbs, tight spots and gigantic chambers. Giants Cave is not for everyone and children under the age of six are not permitted. Giants Cave is open daily during the school holidays from 9.30am - 3.30pm.



For more information visit on visiting the caves [Explore Parks WA](#).

Access to nature, south of Perth

[#didyouknow](#) most major attractions in national parks are suitable for people with a range of accessibility requirements?

Everyone should have access to nature so we have put together a list of national parks and trails south of Perth.

You can venture onto a platform high above the surging seas at The Gap, get a lungful of karri goodness in Swarbrick Forest or even follow part of the Cape to Cape trail.



Tips to enjoy national parks in summer

Summer is the perfect time to be out enjoying WA's beautiful national parks but it's also the season when bushfires most commonly occur.

Here are some tips to help you play it safe while enjoying getting away from it all:

- 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 temperatures and take precautions.
- If you plan to camp at a busy time like the Christmas/New Year festive season or a long weekend do some research and make sure you book early or have a backup accommodation.
- At this time of year, 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 online](#) or download the [Parkfinder app](#) for free from iTunes.
- Be prepared to modify your plans if the weather is hot and windy. Use the [Emergency WA website](#) for access to emergency information and community safety warnings. Be aware that on days of very high to catastrophic fire danger ratings, parks and reserves may be closed.



Fancy winning a glamping holiday?
A couple of our Instagram followers
already have.

The next photo competition starts on
15 January 2018 and all you need to
do is upload a pic of you, your family
and/or friends exploring WA's
beautiful national parks, follow
[@ExploreParks](#) on Instagram and use
the hashtag [#parkexplorerscomp](#).



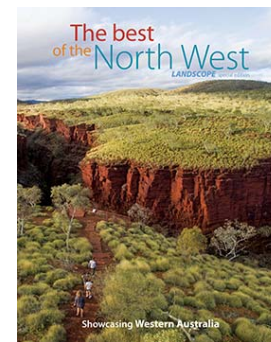
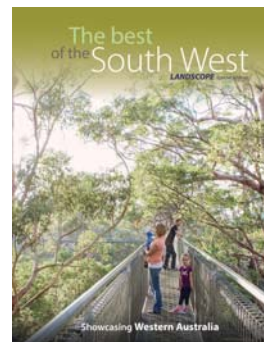
If you're camping, swimming, hiking, having a picnic or just taking in the views over
the Christmas break, be sure to capture a moment so you can enter.

Congratulations to Instagram [@jen.fergy](#) (pictured) for winning the first competition
for the cricket on the beach at Lucky Bay pic.

For more information and to read the Terms and Conditions visit [Explore Parks WA](#).
Start following Explore Parks on Instagram [@ExploreParksWA](#).

Get your *LANDSCOPE* Special Edition

These special editions
of *LANDSCOPE* feature a collection
of some of the most
popular *LANDSCOPE* articles
showcasing Western Australia's
stunning north-west and south-west
national parks and marine reserves.



West provide inspiration and information to help you explore these special parts of Western Australia.

RRP \$16.95 each. Purchase your special edition now at the [WA Naturally Online Shop](#).

Welcome to Perup: Nature's Guesthouse

Deep in the southern forests of Pemberton you'll find a cosy group of guesthouses surrounded by the beautiful Tone-Perup Nature Reserve.

Perup: Nature's Guesthouse is the perfect place to see native wildlife including numbats, ringtail and brushtail possums, quenda, woylies and chuditch.

They have two or three bedroom cottages for up to seven people and a bunkhouse for big groups of up to 28 guests. They can accommodate larger groups such as a conference, school camps and other events.

There is a classroom set up as a science laboratory which can also be used as a venue for meetings and conferences.

All profits from your stay at Perup: Natures Guesthouse are reinvested in the Blackwood Basin Group who work to protect and enhance the environmental values of the Blackwood River catchment.

For more information and to book your accommodation in the beautiful Tone-Perup Nature Reserve visit www.perupnaturesguesthouse.com.au



Have a sparkling summer these school holidays

Get the kids outdoors for sparkling summer fun with *Nearer to Nature*. Kids will love the awesome activities on offer such as Dolphin Discovery, a Sunset Paddle, Nature Photography and so much more!

To view all the activities on offer and to make your booking visit [Nearer to Nature](#) or phone 9295 2244.



Give your kids the gift of nature

Give your kids the gift of the outdoors for Christmas with the *Nature Passport Outdoor App*.

Nature Play WA know it's not easy getting the kids outside so they have combined technology with the outdoors.

The app encourages children to have fun in nature with activities such as scavenger hunts, micro-hikes, a mud-pie food fight, cubby building and bug hunts!

The app is great fun for children and teachers too!

To find out more and download the app visit [Nature Play WA](#).



Treasure hunting in Lane Poole Reserve

Take the kids to discover Lane Poole Reserve in a whole new way! *Treasure Hunting* is a brand new interactive adventure app where you can follow trails and unlock fun

Starting at [Trees Adventure](#), choose from the 1, 2 or 3 hour trails and navigate your way with Andrew, as he learns how to become a Park Ranger of Lane Poole Reserve.

Use the compass to find clues and discover interactive challenges, including listening to native birds, learning of the history of the forest or pretending to chop the wood with your device!

Treasure Hunting will keep the kids entertained while giving them fun and interactive way to enjoy nature. Download the app from [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#) now.



For more information on visiting Lane Poole Reserve visit the [Explore Parks WA website](#).

Industry news

Congratulations to the WA Tourism Award winners

The WA Tourism Awards recognise excellence in the tourism industry and provide recognition and exposure to recipients.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions proudly sponsors these awards in recognition of the vital role that the tourism operators play in enhancing visitor experiences and the importance of ecologically sustainable tourism.



To view the list of winners and medallists visit [Tourism Council WA](#).

Ningaloo.

Image credits

All Parks and Wildlife Service except:

Thanks to Instagram [@Galwaysgoround](#) for the banner image, Instagram [@natural_tiarni](#), Amanda Smith, [Tourism Western Australia](#), Instagram [@gunjoz](#), [Kiosk at the Dam](#), Instagram [@jen,fergy](#), [Perup: Natures Guesthouse](#), [Nature Play WA](#), [Trees Adventure](#) and [Live Ningaloo](#).

For more information see the department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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touring.wa@dbca.wa.gov.au.

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