

Nearer to Nature school holiday program, Pop Up Explore Centre, Wild about Walking, and more!



Friday, 12 April 2013

Hi <<First Name>>

Welcome to the first edition of the Yanchep National Park e-newsletter for 2013. After a long hot summer we welcome the cool autumn mornings with glorious warm days.

In this issue... plenty of school holiday action, adventure caving available through *Nearer to Nature* and lots more.

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***Nearer to Nature* school holiday program**

Nearer to Nature provides fun nature-based activities that are designed to get you outdoors enjoying the natural environment. This autumn's activity program has plenty of exciting activities to keep the kids busy.

Part of this program will run at Yanchep National Park during April and May (as well as at six other locations around the metropolitan area).

For loads of fun, get into the park and into nature for 'Adventure Caving', 'Snugglegum and Cuddlenut' and 'Aliens in the Bush'.

Adventure Caving

Adventure Caving is renowned for being action-packed, safe and fun for kids. Join our experienced guide and explore the world beneath your feet. Due to popular demand we are running two sessions, one in the morning and one the afternoon.



Photo: Adventure Caving

- **When, who and where:** Wednesday 24 April, 10.30am to 12 noon, for 8 to 10-year-olds, meet at Crystal Cave car park, Yanchep National Park
- **When, who and where:** Wednesday 24 April, 10.30am to 12 noon, for 10 to 14-year-olds, meet at the flags in the main car park, Yanchep National Park
- **When, who and where:** Wednesday 24 April, 1pm to 2.30pm, for 8 to 10-year-olds, meet at Crystal Cave car park, Yanchep National Park
- **When, who and where:** Wednesday 24 April, 1pm to 2.30pm, for 10 to 14-year-olds, meet at the flags in the main car park, Yanchep National Park

Snugglegum and Cuddlenut

An activity designed especially for the little ones! Join us for a journey of discovery into the world of Snugglegum and Cuddlenut. Listen to stories about early Australian bushcraft, take a bush walk, then get crafty and make your own gumnut baby and seed bag to take home.



Photo: Snugglegum

- **When, who and where:** Thursday 2 May, 10am to 12 noon, for 4 to 7-year-olds, meet at the Wangi Mia, Yanchep National Park

Aliens in the bush

What happens when you get an 'intruder' in your bushland? How do you recognise something that is not native to an area? The Australian bushland is under threat from introduced species from all over the world! How did they get there and what are the consequences of them being there?

Join a *Nearer to Nature* guide on the feral trail and learn more about the threats to our bushland as you delve further into the competitive world of native versus non-native species.



Photo: Aliens in the bush

- **When, who and where:** Thursday 2 May, 1pm to 3pm, for 7 to 12-year-olds, meet at the Cabaret Cave, Yanchep National Park

For more information and bookings please *call Nearer to Nature* on (08) 9295 2244, go to www.dec.gov.au/n2n.

Pop Up Explore Centre

Discover Yanchep National Park for kids:

Our Pop-Up Explore Centre activities for kids were so popular over the long school holiday break that we will be running them again for the April/May school holidays.



Photo: Discovery kids

Our Pop Up Explore Centre will again be running from the Wangi Mia kiosk, open Monday to Friday from 11am to 2pm (except for Thursday 2 May when the fabulous *Nearer to Nature* activities are running).

Come and meet our friendly Yanchep National Park staff and volunteers and get a 'Discovery Pack' – available for a refundable deposit. This great product provides all the essentials to play and learn independently, including binoculars, a compass and other goodies provided to complete the pack's 'mission sheets'. Use it to have fun and discover a little more about Yanchep National Park's history, and the plants and animals that live here.

You can also pick up some activity sheets and coloured pencils, and enter our cool colouring-in competition.

Our Pop Up Explore Centre also has a fabulous 'touch area' of 'roo skins, skulls, Aboriginal tools, shields and spears, invertebrate displays, mammals, snakes and other interesting stuff.

Discovery Packs are now also available from McNess House Visitor Centre.



Photo: Discovery Pack



Are you 'Wild about walking'?



Photo: Walk trail

Autumn is a great time to get out for a challenging walk or just a stroll on the great walk trails at Yanchep National Park.

Wetlands, woodlands, wildlife and wildflowers - it's all out there on one of the nine trails the park has to offer.

The trails are designed to suit a variety of age groups, interests and fitness abilities.

You can start your bushwalking adventures with a 30-minute stroll through Boomerang Gorge, or pack a backpack and take a challenging three-day journey from Yanchep National Park to Melaleuca Park.

Each trail has been selected to showcase the unique biodiversity of the northern Swan Coastal Plain.

To ensure your safety, plan your walks carefully and seek advice if you are unsure of the challenges or hazards you might encounter along the way.

Please register with 'Walk Safe' at McNess House Visitor Centre before starting your walk and ask our friendly staff for a 'Wild about walking' map.

Easter at Yanchep National Park

Another busy Easter saw more than 2,000 vehicles enter the park, with more coming through in the

evenings to enjoy the Yanchep Inn. The visitor centre staff were kept on their toes, keeping the flow of visitors happy with the Crystal Cave tours - 1,158 people visited our beautiful Crystal Cave during the four-day period.

Lots of families enjoyed picnics and took advantage of the free barbecues along the lake front, with plenty of people enjoying some action in great family favourites including cricket, footy and frisbee.

On Good Friday, the BBC were filming in the park for a program for the UK market called 'Wanted Down Under'. They visited Crystal Cave and the lakefront area, and also filmed the man of many talents, Derek Nannup, performing some of his 'Aboriginal Experience' tour. The crew even managed to capture Pip the Koala as she wandered around the park.



Photo: Pip the Koala

Pip the Koala was out and about every day, receiving lots of attention and hugs, and appearing on many family happy snaps. We think she is missing all the attention now Easter is over! Perhaps we can let her out again during the school holidays - watch this space.

Volunteers Clean Up for Keep Australia Beautiful

Yanchep National Park volunteers have once again contributed to the annual nation-wide effort to collect rubbish from our local roads, parks, beaches and bushland.

Yanchep volunteers participated in a clean-up day on Wednesday 6 March as part of the yearly Clean up Australia Day. About 80 bags of rubbish were collected along a four-kilometre stretch of Wanneroo Road.

"This included glass bottles, aluminium cans, cigarette butts and general rubbish," said Volunteer Coordinator Naomi Hunt.

"It was an outstanding effort by all."

The Yanchep volunteers are also involved in the Keep Australia Beautiful's Adopt-a-Spot program throughout the year, participating in ongoing litter pick-ups and enjoying the social 'sausage sizzle' after their hard work.



Photo: Yanchep National Park Volunteers

If you are interested in being part of the Yanchep Volunteer Group please call 9303 7771.

International volunteer heads home

Jeremy Keane is a guide from Grand Canyon National Park, located in the Colorado Plateau which covers the states of Arizona, Utah and Nevada in the USA.

Jeremy is heading home after a five-month stint volunteering at Yanchep National Park and Penguin Island.

During his time at Yanchep, Jeremy has been involved with the introduction of the Pop Up Explore Centre, a concept adapted from Grand Canyon and other USA national parks.

Jeremy was also keen to learn about our own unique wildlife and soon joined our guides. He became a regular on the koala boardwalk, presenting information on our interesting koalas – a free activity for visitors to the park conducted at 3.15pm each day. With his passion for birdlife, Jeremy also provided a very entertaining activity during the summer school holidays based around the beautiful waterbirds and bush birds that frequent our park.



Photo: Jeremy conducting a koala talk

So, as Jeremy prepares to wing his way home, we send him with our thanks and best wishes.

- Yanchep National Park



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