

N2N activities for the kids, a new department name, volunteers' big day out and lots more

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Wednesday, 25 September 2013

Hi Deborah Harding

Welcome to the Yanchep National Park e-newsletter. Spring is possibly the best time of the year for venturing out into your national park, which is a great way to stay healthy and active.

In this issue ... some great *Nearer to Nature* activities for the kids, a new department name, the volunteers' big day out and lots more.

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

You don't have to stay indoors these holidays. Spring is a great time to get outdoors and explore nature with the *Nearer to Nature* school holiday program. There is a huge range of activities running at a number of locations throughout Perth, so there really is something to suit everyone.

Get into Yanchep National Park during September and October for loads of fun with some great activities including, '*Enchanted environment*', '*Deadly and dangerous*' and a big favourite '*Adventure caving*'.

Enchanted environment (in the caves)

Have you ever explored deep down in a cave and wondered about the mythical formations within? Join Faerie Cara on a journey of discovery in our enchanted cave environment and learn more about this wonderful underground world.

This activity runs from 10am–12 noon Thursday 10 October and is suitable for four to seven year olds.

Deadly and dangerous

They bite, they sting, they spit and they spring. In the vast state of WA, deadly and dangerous creatures come in all shapes and sizes – on land and in the sea.

Discover why some of the world's most dangerous creatures call Australia home.

Then get up close and personal with some real-life scary species ... if you dare!

This activity runs from 1–3pm on Thursday 10 October and is suitable for seven to 12 year olds.

Adventure caving

Plunge into a world of darkness for an underground experience you'll never forget.

Join our expert guides as you crawl, climb and slide your way through a wild cave environment where your only light source is a torch. Parents drop children off for this activity.

Due to popular demand we will conduct two sessions of *Adventure caving* on Friday 4 October, 10.30am–12 noon and 1–2.30pm. Places available for 8–10 year olds and 10–14 year olds.

For bookings and more information on these and other great activities happening over the school holidays, call *Nearer to Nature* on 9295 2244.



Photos: Getting up close and personal with a scary reptile; Adventuring through a cave; Faerie Cara shares her wonderful underground world

New name ... same great park

In April 2013 Premier Colin Barnett, as part of a [broader machinery of government announcement](#), directed that the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) be divided into two agencies: one to carry out environmental regulation and administer the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, the Department of Environment Regulation (DER); and the other to be responsible for administering the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

As of 1 July 2013 Yanchep National Park is managed by the newly formed Department of Parks and Wildlife. So while it's business as usual for us at the park you may notice some changes with our new department name, new logos and a brand new website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au. You can also visit the Yanchep National Park sub page at <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/yanchep>.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



TripAdvisor, Certificate of Excellence Award for Yanchep National Park

Yanchep National Park received five stars from our TripAdvisor visitors and as a result has received a 2013 Certificate of Excellence which will proudly be displayed alongside last year's four-star award.



Our 2013 award places us in the top-performing 10 per cent of all businesses worldwide on TripAdvisor, and is only given to businesses that consistently earn high ratings from TripAdvisor travellers.

So thank you for voting Yanchep National Park as a great place to visit!

Celebrating NAIDOC

As part of NAIDOC celebrations, Yanchep National Park conducted two *Nearer to Nature* school holiday activities that shared Aboriginal culture in a fun and educational way. The two activities, '*Coolangar dreaming*' and '*Discovering the six seasons*', proved very popular. Jonnie Saegenschnitter, our MATES trainee (Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme), led the activities.

'Coolangar dreaming' took children on a Dreamtime journey, discovering the rich culture of Nyoongar people, and also involved many cultural activities including bush jewellery making and boomerang decorating.

Discovering the six seasons was held in the traditional hunting ground of Yanchep National Park and participants learnt how Aboriginal people traditionally recognised

six distinct seasons, rather than four.

In conjunction with these activities the NAIDOC celebrations continued for the rest of the school holidays with the 'Wangi Mia' open for anyone to venture into for storytelling, colouring-in, snap and other games played the Nyoongar way.



Jonnie Saegenschnitter and friends have fun during the NAIDOC celebrations.

Volunteers rewarded during National Volunteer Week

Yanchep volunteers contribute more than 6,000 hours a year to the park's nature conservation programs and are an integral part of our team. Without the dedication and commitment of our volunteer group we couldn't maintain the park to the standard that visitors have come to expect. Taking the group on outings is just a small way to reward them for their involvement in maintaining and improving Yanchep National Park.

The 24th annual National Volunteer Week ran during May, and Yanchep volunteers were treated to a relaxing day at Moore River. The day was spent with morning tea and lunch on the foreshore and included short scenic walks, before finishing with an excellent informative and historic account of the unique and unspoilt splendour of Moore River given by local expert and Moore River Tours operator Phil Cook.

“It really was a great day; we saw an array of wildlife during the tour from cormorants to a wedge-tailed eagle and even Carnaby’s cockatoos,” said Volunteer Coordinator Naomi Hunt.

If you would like to be involved with the volunteer program, please contact the volunteer coordinator on 9303 7771.



Some of Yanchep National Park’s dedicated volunteers cruising Moore River.

Arboriculture reporting for your safety

Visitor risk management (VRM) plays an integral role within Yanchep National Park. With some 10 acres of recreation area including almost five kilometres of road, two ovals, lakefront grassed area, nine-hole golf course, 13 double barbecue stands and many picnic tables; there is a lot to consider on a daily basis to help ensure the safety of our visitors.

An arboriculturist visits Yanchep National Park throughout the year to carry out inspections of the trees within our recreation area. In the report, any limbs, branches or entire trees that are identified as being of a high risk are recorded. If limbs become weak or cracked, which can happen due to drought, they stand a greater chance of falling. Sometimes a whole tree is identified as having a major

flaw such as a fungus infection and in this instance it is removed entirely.

Here at Yanchep National Park we do everything that we possibly can to ensure visitor safety. Risk management is essential and the work carried out by grounds staff and the arboriculturist is one aspect of many tasks of park works.



Photos: View of the Yanchep Inn memorial garden from a cherry picker undertaking limb trimming; a cherry picker with a view.

Nature Play WA winner Willow Byrne goes adventure caving

Nature Play competition winner Willow Byrne, along with family and friends, visited Yanchep National Park on Saturday 18 May for an adventure caving experience.

Willow completed all 10 national park missions as part of Nature Play's Christmas challenge and won an adventure caving experience at Yanchep National Park for herself and eight lucky friends!

Nature Play WA Inc is an incorporated, not-for-profit association established to increase the time Western Australian children spend in nature and in unstructured play outdoors (nature play). It is founded on the understanding that nature play is

fundamental to a full and healthy childhood.

If you'd like to complete a Nature Play challenge, simply pick up your passport at McNess Visitor Centre or any participating site. More details at www.natureplaywa.org.au.



Photo: Willow Byrne, third from the left, with her family and friends.

News from Chocolate Drops

Sue Dash and her team of 'Droplets' recently won an award for customer service from the Commonwealth Bank North Metro Small Business Awards.

Sue attended a function at Joondalup Resort in June to accept the award from Debbie Lanario, Principal of the award sponsor Joondalup Good Guys.

For a spectacular range of yummy treats served with a friendly smile drop in to Chocolate Drops. Sue and the 'Droplets' can be contacted on 9561 6699. Open 10.30am–4.30pm daily.



Photo: Sue and the 'Droplets' show off their award.

The Worcestershire Youth Brass Band comes to town

On tour from the UK the Worcestershire Youth Brass Band (WYBB) recently performed in Cabaret Cave at Yanchep National Park.

The youth band consists of 32 musicians, aged 11 to 18, and is led by their conductor Nicky Dawson. The performance was enjoyed by park staff, volunteers and a group of retirees from Merriwa.

The WYBB tour, dubbed the Boomerang Tour, was the second time the band has toured Australia—they last visited the park in 2009 as part of their first international tour. The band have also completed tours of Switzerland, America and Hawaii.

These talented young people are very dedicated to their craft, travelling great distances for rehearsals and performing regularly in national and regional competitions for youth brass bands. The band has received a prize each year they have attended.



Photo: Worcestershire Youth Brass Band performing in Cabaret Cave.

Crucial prescribed burns completed at Yanchep and across WA

The Department of Parks and Wildlife's (DPaW) autumn-winter prescribed burning program in the state's south-west has drawn to a close with some crucial burns completed in Yellagonga Regional Park and Yanchep, Gnangara and Pinjar pines

near Perth to manage bushfire risk and for nature conservation purposes.

Wetter than usual conditions delayed some burns, which have been carried over to the spring burning program – the main season for favourable prescribed burning conditions.

Twenty individual burns have been started or completed in the hills area this year including a few very difficult burns to protect homes and infrastructure on the urban fringes, and some significant preparatory work on some larger prescribed burns that are scheduled for early spring in the Avon Valley National Park and east of Pickering Brook.

In the Kimberley, a number of bushfires have already been reported following early dry season prescribed burning, which finished in June, with fire scars created on about 1.1 million hectares of land across approximately five million hectares in the region.

Already during this bushfire season in northern WA, a fire near Mitchell Plateau and one at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve were prevented from spreading when they ran into areas prescribed burnt earlier this year.

Burns were also completed in other areas of the state including DPaW's South West, Warren, South Coast and Wheatbelt regions. Like the Kimberley, the bushfire season has begun in the Goldfields, Midwest and Pilbara regions with some prescribed burning continuing when conditions allow.

Prescribed burning is the primary tool available to DPaW to control the build up of flammable fuel to mitigate the severity of bushfires.

DPaW thanks the local volunteer brigades and traditional owners that collaborated on some of the burns.

To find out more about DPaW's fire management and prescribed burning activities visit www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/fire.



Staff conducting a prescribed burn.



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