

Fun for the kids this winter, part closure of walk trail, volunteers recognised, plus more.

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June 2014

Hi Lisa

Welcome to Yanchep National Park's eNewsletter.

Winter is a wonderful time to visit Yanchep National Park. Enjoy a good leg stretch on one of nine walk trails. From the 2.1km Dwerta Mia trail, which takes you through the beautiful Boomerang Gorge, to the 52km Coastal Plain trail, extending from Yanchep National Park to Neaves Road Bullsbrook, there is plenty of walking to keep you warm during the cool season. All trails start at the McNess House Visitor Centre.

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Winter holiday fun at Yanchep National Park

Yanchep National Park will be a hive of activity this winter when the Nearer to Nature school holiday program gets underway.

Children of all ages can discover the wonderful world of fossils, caves and understand more about local Nyoongar culture.

Yanchep National Park marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said this year's winter holidays would be jam-packed with things to do.

“Children can experience local Nyoongar culture at the *Coolangar Dreaming* activity on Friday 11 July. This activity involves bush jewellery making, boomerang decorating and listening to Dreamtime stories around the mia mia.

“Later that day, an afternoon *Funky fossil* session will take children on a journey back to the days of our earliest marine life, where they will learn how to spot evidence of these creatures in the surrounding limestone.

“On Thursday 17 July, participants can enjoy the underground wonderland of Yanchep’s caves at the *Adventure caving* session, with both Yonderup and Yanchep cave open for little explorers.”

Places go quickly, so jump in early to make sure your spot is confirmed. To make a booking contact Nearer to Nature on 9295 2244 during business hours.



Adventure caving.

Volunteers celebrate with zoo trip

Volunteers at Yanchep National Park celebrated the 25th National Volunteer Week by enjoying a day out at Perth Zoo.

National Volunteer Week runs from 12–18 May, recognising the efforts of all volunteers. Yanchep’s volunteers dedicate more than 8000 hours each year towards nature conservation, administration, restoration and maintenance projects.

Many thanks to volunteer Graham Bown, an active Perth Zoo docent, who led the group and shared his knowledge on the wildlife and history of the zoo.

Most of the animals were happy to be out and about despite it being a cooler day, and the volunteers got to check out the new orangutan boardwalk, which gives visitors an up-close view of these amazing animals.

Volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff said it was great to be able to spend time with the incredible volunteer group and to recognise their inspiring contribution to Yanchep National Park.

If you would like to be a part of the Yanchep National Park volunteer group please call the volunteer coordinator on 9303 7771.



Yanchep volunteers at Perth Zoo.

Closure of southern end of Coastal Plain Walk Trail

Antisocial behaviour has led to the closure of 7km of the Coastal Plain Walk Trail and the Prickly Bark shelter.

The trail, which extended from Yanchep National Park to Cooper Road Bullsbrook, has been reduced to 52km, with the southern terminus now ending at Neaves Road, Bullsbrook.

Yanchep National Park senior ranger Mark Varley said it was extremely disappointing to see this kind of unruly behaviour affecting the popular walking trail.

“Park rangers regularly respond to graffiti, damage and anti-social behaviour. This has been an ongoing problem for a number of years, and it’s a shame that the actions of a small minority affect those who respect the trail facilities and surrounding environment.”

The closure of Prickly Bark shelter, which is located 6km south of Neaves Road, now leaves the walk trail with three shelters.

“Hikers can continue to use the facilities at the Shapcotts, Ridges and Moitch shelters,” Mark said.

Anyone with information about this vandalism is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Yanchep celebrates NAIDOC Week

As part of 2014 NAIDOC Week, Yanchep National Park will be hosting a day packed with fun and informative cultural activities to suit all ages. A special NAIDOC celebration day will be held on Sunday 6 July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Free activities will be held throughout the day including bush tucker tasting, tool and jewellery making, a spear throwing demonstration and traditional artefact displays.

On this day, the *Aboriginal Cultural Experience* sessions, which usually cost \$11 per adult, will be free. A session will be held at 2pm and will immerse you in the world’s oldest living culture. Then at 3pm, learn how expression in dance is linked to spiritual beliefs of Nyoongar culture during the free *Didgeridoo and Dance* session.

Yanchep National Park marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said this was a great opportunity for everyone in the community to visit Yanchep National Park.

“Help us celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” she said.

“This popular annual event is not to be missed!”

For all enquiries, please contact Yanchep National Park on 9303 7759.

Community clean-up tackles litter problem

Twenty-six community members and Yanchep National Park volunteers cleared more than 120 bags of rubbish along Yanchep Beach Road in the World Environment Week

roadside clean-up on Wednesday 4 June.

Coordinated by Yanchep National Park with support by the City of Wanneroo, the clean-up saw volunteers clear thousands of bottles, cans and plastic drink containers, in addition to cigarette butts, syringes, fast food wrappers, car tyres, a set of vertical blinds and a dartboard along a 2km stretch of road.

Volunteer coordinator Ciara McIlduff said it was disappointing to see how our beautiful environment had been used as dumping pit.

“Not only does illegally dumped rubbish cost a lot to remove and look unsightly, it also has serious impacts on our natural environment,” she said.

Every year volunteers spend about 1000 hours collecting rubbish from the bushlands and wetlands of Yanchep National Park, which is registered as a Keep Australia Beautiful (KABC) Adopt-a-Spot site.

Illegal dumping can be prosecuted under the *Litter Act 1979* and can attract an infringement fine between \$200 and \$500 for individuals which may increase to \$5000 if taken to court.

Community members can help with the fight against illegal littering by registering as a [litter reporter with KABC](#). KABC offers a variety of other programs aimed at educating the community about litter prevention and environmental sustainability. Visit their website at www.kabc.wa.gov.au.



Focus on Heather Jarvis

We like introducing you to our wonderful staff members and volunteers. This issue, meet Heather Jarvis.

Heather is the administration officer at Yanchep National Park – she will generally be the first person you speak with when ringing the park.

How long have you been working in the park?

Five years.

What is your work background?

Since being in Australia I have been involved in many community events in the Yanchep-Two Rocks area. I was a founding member of the Yanchep Community Centre and ran the centre for many years. Eventually the City of Wanneroo took over management of the centre and I was transferred to their head office.

I stayed with the City of Wanneroo for 13 years working in community services – organising transport, volunteers, administration and aged care. I was involved in their social club for many years and was the social club president for six years. I then was lucky enough to score my current job here at the park.

What projects are you involved in at Yanchep National Park?

Working in administration, you get to give feedback for many of the projects that the park puts on. I usually put forward my ideas and help out wherever I can in other people's projects.

I organised the Worcestershire Brass band event in Cabaret Cave and the launch of the Yanchep National Park Management Plan. I have also organised a ball for Telethon which raised \$5000, with another one being held on 4 October this year.

What do you like most about the park?

The camaraderie between staff. It is like a big family – everyone has their job to do but they are all happy to lend a hand helping others to make sure jobs get done. Everyone works as a team looking out for each other which is fantastic and of course it is worth coming to work each day just to get to see the beautiful views from the window.

What's your most memorable park moment?

Getting my job.





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