

Adventure caving treat for birthday boy, call for wildlife photos, high hopes for Chocolate Drops, plus more.

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Spring 2014

Hi DPaW

Welcome to the spring issue of the Yanchep National Park eNewsletter. Spring is a wonderful time to visit Yanchep National Park – the stunning wildflowers are blooming and there is plenty of new life to be found throughout the park.

In this issue, find out about our latest *Nearer to Nature* activities which will keep your children busy throughout the school holidays. Get updated on some fabulous events to be held in the park, such as the Duke of Gloucester celebrations and Hot Rods in the Park. Hear about how a year-long countdown to an adventure caving birthday was well worth the wait, how Chocolate Drops have been keeping busy preparing for the Royal Show and WA Tourism Awards, and find out how you can help with our wildflower database.

Plus keep your eyes peeled for the Yanchep geocaching article in the spring issue of *LANDSCOPE* magazine, available at Yanchep National Park, online at shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au or from newsagents.

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Photography and enchanting caves available these school holidays

Visit Yanchep National Park these school holidays to explore wild caves, an enchanting environment and photograph our amazing wildlife.

During October, the Department of Parks and Wildlife will host a range of *Nearer to Nature* activities, including the popular *Adventure caving*, *Enchanted environment* and nature photographic activity, *Life through a lens*.

On Friday 3 October, enjoy the underground wonderland of Yanchep's wild caves at the *Adventure caving* session, with both Yonderup and Yanchep caves open for little explorers.

Program coordinator Jill Francis said kids can enjoy the magnificent world of the underground as they crawl their way through one of the park's wild caves.

"As they explore the cave by torchlight, they will discover large chambers filled with stunning natural decorations such as stalactites, stalagmites and columns," she said.

Parks and Wildlife officer Peta Bolz said *Enchanted environment* would take children on a journey of discovery where they would learn about the enchanting world of limestone caves.

"Aimed at younger ages, children will be inspired by the importance of our local environment and how we can protect it for generations to come," Peta said.

"This activity is developed for three to six-year-olds and is held in Cabaret Cave on the morning of Thursday 9 October."

Later in the afternoon, Yanchep National Park will host a great new photographic activity for older children, *Life through a lens*.

Jill said this activity would provide an opportunity to photograph some of the park's plants and animals.

"Suitable for eight to 14-year-olds, *Life through a lens* will lead participants into the Yanchep environment to capture Mother Nature's charm by digital camera. To join in the activity, children must bring their own digital camera."

Bookings are essential. To secure a spot please contact Parks and Wildlife's *Nearer to Nature* on 9295 2244, between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.



Duke of Gloucester celebrations at Yanchep National Park

Yanchep National Park will relive its glorious past next month when it celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Duke of Gloucester's visit to the park.

In October 1934, Prince Henry, the Duke of Gloucester, entertained guests at a formal function in Yanchep National Park's Cabaret Cave before staying overnight at The Lodge, later renamed Gloucester Lodge in honour of his visit.

To celebrate 80 years since this special occasion, Yanchep National Park will be holding morning teas in Gloucester Lodge each day from Tuesday 30 September until Friday 3 October at 10am. High teas will be available on Tuesday 30 September and Thursday 2 October from 2pm.

Administration officer Heather Jarvis said people from the community, particularly the local Yanchep and Two Rocks community, were most welcome to attend the teas.

"The Duke of Gloucester's visit was not only a special occasion in the park's history, but also in the history of the local area," Heather said.

"The celebratory morning teas will cost \$5 and include scones, jam and cream, and your choice of tea or coffee, all provided by the award-winning Chocolate Drops Tearooms.

“Special high teas, which include finger sandwiches, petit fours, scones, jam and cream, are available for \$28, and all food is organised by Yanchep Inn.

“To add to the feel of the 1930s, Parks and Wildlife staff will be dressed to suit the era.”

The week of celebrations will culminate in a masquerade ball in Cabaret Cave on Saturday 4 October, which has been organised privately by Heather Jarvis.

To book for the morning and high teas, contact Yanchep National Park on 9303 7759 or email Heather at heather.jarvis@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

To reserve your place for the masquerade ball, please contact Heather outside of business hours on 0421 776 828.



Hot rods roll in to Yanchep in November

Hot rod fans are in for a treat next month when an impressive line-up of classic cars roll into Yanchep National Park.

The annual Hot Rods in the Park event, hosted by Parks and Wildlife, will be held on Sunday 16 November.

Marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said the hot rods would be on display in the park from 11am.

“People will see an impressive gathering of lil’ deuce coupes, highboy roadsters, fat

fender Fords and old classics such as Chevys including Corvettes near the historic Yanchep Inn,” she said.

“Hot rod enthusiasts can get up close to the cars to admire the meticulous attention to detail by their owners in building these fantastic vehicles.

“There will be something for everyone on the day, with a fine display of vintage cars from the Goodfellas Hot Rod Club, several stalls selling their wares, a wood-turning demonstration, bouncy castle, and entertainment for the whole family.

“We usually see around 4000 people come to the hot rods event, so get in early to avoid disappointment,” Jennifer said.

Normal park entry fees apply for this event. Contact Yanchep National Park on 9303 7765 for more information.



Wildflower photos sought for new image library

Budding photographers are being asked to help Parks and Wildlife develop a new image library which will detail all living things at Yanchep National Park.

The integrated flora and fauna database, which aims to catalogue information about each of the park’s species, will be beneficial for research, conservation and educational purposes.



Volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff said the entire community could assist with the

project.

“We have a shortage of images of plants, so we are asking people in our community to help by taking photos of wildflowers and sending them to us,” Ciara said.

“Anyone providing images should be aware that Parks and Wildlife may use the images in its future publications, materials and websites. Where possible, the photographer will be credited.”

As wildflowers species vary depending on each habitat, please provide the approximate location of the flower pictured to help in identifying the species.

“When sending in your photos, please let us know whether you found the flowers in the main recreation area, on a specific walk trail or near one of the caves,” Ciara said.

“It would also be very helpful if people could send an additional image of the environment in which it was found.”

While the database will initially be used for research and education, the community will also benefit from the project, as it aims to raise awareness and improve understanding about the value of the natural environment.

If you would like to get involved, send your images, sized less than 2MB, together with the name of the photographer and date the photo was taken to

Yanchep@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Adventure caving well worth the wait

When Luan Kqiku from Fremantle heard that he had to wait until he was nine years old to hold his birthday party in one of Yanchep National Park’s wild caves, he was disappointed, but not deterred. Luan counted down a whole year to have his dream birthday party come true.

Last year when Luan was eight years old, his mother Louisa Kqiko contacted Yanchep National Park to book an adventure caving experience for him and his friends. However as the minimum age for adventure caving in the park was nine years old Louisa was unable to book.

“Luan was so looking forward to holding his birthday party in the cave, that when I told him he would have to wait until he was nine, he started to countdown the days in his head,” Louisa said.

Marketing officer Jennifer Green explained that minimum ages were required for all Yanchep National Park’s adventure caving tours due to the environment of the caves.

“Yanchep’s adventure caves are naturally wild and have very narrow passages and

tight spaces. While the participants wear a hard hat and torch, the caves do not have inbuilt lighting so they can be quite dark for young children,” she said.

Yanchep National Park has four adventure caves available for tours, with varying degrees of difficulty and adventure.

“Staff at the park will recommend a particular cave dependent on the age of the participants and level of adventure sought,” Jennifer said.

“Some caves like Yonderup have small chambers and can only allow up to eight participants, but others are larger and can take up to 14 people. All groups are led by an experienced cave guides.”

After a 12-month countdown, Luan decided to share his birthday celebration with his friend Fergus Schipf-Randell, who was also turning nine, plus seven of their friends.

“The adventure caving tour was awesome and I especially loved climbing the rock wall and the commando crawl through the tunnel,” Luan said.

The park’s adventure caves tours are suitable for social and corporate groups. To book your tour, contact the booking officer on 9303 7759.



Chocolate Drops enters Royal Show and WA Tourism Awards

Sue Dash, the proprietor of Chocolate Drops Tearooms at Yanchep National Park, has her mind set on two big events this year.

Over the past few weeks, Sue has created some handmade edible delights for the

Royal Show.

“For this year’s Perth Royal Show, I will be making a hand-crafted presentation basket, chocolate sculpture, chocolate table setting, moulded chocolates and rum balls for the cookery section. We’ve had some success at the show, with a few wins, second and third places,” Sue said.

In addition to making edible artworks, Sue has been busy writing an application for the 2014 Western Australian Tourism Awards under the Specialised Tourism Services category, which is open to businesses that enhance the visitor experience.

“Chocolate Drops’ interaction with visitors at Yanchep National Park makes us a suitable candidate for this category. We hope for a good outcome at the awards.”

The tearooms have also introduced a new product range of larger style chocolates which represent the flora and fauna at Yanchep National Park. Check out some of the new offerings below.



Yanchep National Park celebrates NAIDOC Week

As part of 2014 NAIDOC Week, Yanchep National Park hosted a day packed with fun and informative cultural activities to suit all ages.

A special NAIDOC celebration day was held on Sunday 6 July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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

The Aboriginal Cultural Experience sessions, which usually cost \$11 per adult, were free.

Marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said it was a great opportunity for the community to mark NAIDOC Week at Yanchep National Park.



Focus on: Kerstin Koeller

How long have you been involved with the park?

I started volunteering in the park in January 2010 and also got the opportunity to work as a cave tour guide and visitor services employee later that year. Currently I am volunteering due to health issues, but I hope to return as a visitor services employee soon.

What attracted you to the park?

I came to the park on an ecotour in 2008 and loved the scenery, koalas and bushland. I decided to study Environmental Science at TAFE and thought volunteer work would help me with my studies. The Department of Parks and Wildlife website displays a variety of work available for volunteers, and thankfully Yanchep's volunteer coordinator was very forthcoming with assistance.



What projects are you involved in at Yanchep National Park?

At the moment I am involved with a camera trap project, which traps fauna around Loch McNess and Lake Yonderup. As a volunteer, we check cameras and put fresh bait in the traps.

What do you like most about the park?

The park is very diverse. It has wetlands, great bushland and walk trails, which make

volunteering a great experience. Also the staff are great and very supportive.

What's your most memorable park moment?

Having had the opportunity to cover the volunteer coordinator role while the substantive staff member was on maternity leave. I have also enjoyed developing strategies for the park according to the park's 10-year management plan, and presenting the outcomes to the Conservation Commission of Western Australia.

What do you like most about volunteering?

Volunteering in Yanchep National Park gives you a great opportunity to learn about native flora and fauna in this area. Furthermore, there are a great bunch of volunteers working together and I've always had a lot of fun. I've had the opportunity to be involved in a lot of projects, which makes volunteering interesting every time you come in. It's never boring.



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