

Wins for Chocolate Drops, *Nearer to Nature* activities at Yanchep, plus news on the park's China Ready status.

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Summer 2014

Hi

Welcome to the Summer 2014–15 issue of *Yanchep National Park eNews*.

The festive season is upon us once again, and therefore it's worthwhile reminding everyone at the park is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day. This is a perfect opportunity to find a cool spot under the eucalyptus trees and enjoy the festive season. In this issue ...

Find out about the latest *Nearer to Nature* activities that will keep you cool these school holidays. Get an update on this year's Hot Rods in the Park; learn how visitors to Crystal Cave were in for an artistic surprise; see how Chocolate Drops have done well in recent awards and how both the tea rooms and the park have achieved Chinese accreditation; and find out how you can contribute to our fauna and flora database.

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## Caves, environment and dangerous creatures at Yanchep

Be enchanted at Yanchep National Park these school holidays when it hosts the *Nearer to Nature* program.

The park once again has organised the popular '*Adventure caving*' activity with two sessions aimed at ages 8 to 10 and 10 to 14 years. Participants can enjoy the magnificent world of the underground as they crawl and explore their way through an amazing world in one of the park's wild caves. Both activities will be held on Friday 23 January.

On the morning of Thursday 15 January, children can discover the magic of the native bushland in the '*Enchanted environment*'.

Visitor services manager Peta Bolz said the activity would take children on a journey of discovery where they will learn about the enchanting Australian bush.

"Aimed at three to six-year-olds, the activity involves entertainment from Faerie Cara and inspired by the importance of the environment and how we can protect it for generations to come."

*'Deadly and dangerous'* will be held during the afternoon of Thursday 15 January and aimed at children aged seven to 12 years. Get up close and personal with some scary species and find out what methods they use to protect themselves in the natural environment.

Yanchep National Park marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said there had been a lot of interest in these activities and that bookings were essential.

“To secure a spot contact *Nearer to Nature* on (08) 9295 2244 during business hours.”



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## Hot Rods in the Park

Last month we saw an assortment of colourful road machines enter the park in the annual Hot Rods in the Park event.

About 250 cars from the Goodfellas Hot Rods Club entered the park in single file around 9.30am and took pride of place on the lakefront lawn.

This year's event saw about 3000 people come to see the entourage and enjoy the activities of the day, including the fine display of vintage cars, several stalls selling their wares and sausage sizzles, plus a wood-turning demonstration, bouncy castle and native animal display.



## Crystal Cave patrons receive artistic treat

Visitors to Yanchep National Park's Crystal Cave were in for a special treat in October, when printmaker Sarah Robinson displayed some of her unique etchings in the cave to complete her PhD with Edith Cowan University.

Sarah, from Secret Harbour, installed six pieces of her work in various locations throughout Crystal Cave.

"A requirement of my PhD was that I needed to display my works at a public art exhibition," she said.

"I have always had a fondness for limestone caves and decided to create prints that respond to the cave environment. Crystal Cave was the perfect location to hold such an exhibition.

"The installation included 3D and digital prints on glass plus a piece called 'Tunnel Vision' which incorporates images of a 3D printed creature (once unique to Crystal Cave) and experiments with *Xanthorrhoea* (grasstree) resin as an art material."

Park manager Julia Coggins welcomed this unique opportunity and said it gave visitors an added bonus when visiting the Parks and Wildlife-managed Crystal Cave .

"This was the first time we've held an artistic exhibition of this type in one of our caves," Julia said.

"Sarah's works were displayed in various locations throughout Crystal Cave and gave



an added dimension to the visitor experience.

“The exhibition was also a result of the park’s ongoing relationships with local educational organisations such as Edith Cowan University.”

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## 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 McIlduff 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](mailto:Yanchep@dpaw.wa.gov.au).

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## Chocolate Drops’ winning streak

Staff at Chocolate Drops have had a lot to celebrate recently with successes in the WA Tourism Awards and City of Wanneroo Business Awards.

The tearooms received silver in the Specialised Tourism Services category at the WA Tourism awards, which was held 25 October. This category recognises businesses that enhance the tourism experience and integrate with other tourism products. Their unique selection of handmade Australian-themed chocolates, which are sold in the tearooms and also distributed to tourism businesses, made Chocolate Drops a worthy place getter.

Chocolate Drops' luck continued when they won the Best Tourism and Hospitality category at the City of Wanneroo Business Awards held on 27 November and staff member Gemma Orford won Employee of the Year.



Gemma has been working part time at Chocolate Drops since 2007 while she completes her Tourism and Hospitality Management degree at Edith Cowan University. And to top off the list of awards, Chocolate Drops received second prize in the Best Business 5 – 20 Employees Award.

Congratulations also go out to Little Gumnuts on winning the Best New Business, Most Innovative Business Awards and coming runner up in the Environmental Sustainability Award at the City of Wanneroo Business Awards for their Nature Inspired Education Programs held in Yanchep National Park.

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## Christmas gifts at Chocolate Drops

Chocolate Drops has brought out a new range of Christmas-themed goodies in time for the festive season. Take a look in store for the latest Christmas tree-shaped chocolates which are a great size for stocking fillers or as small gift. Chocolate Drops would also like to wish its customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



## 'China Ready' achieved

Both Yanchep National Park and Chocolate Drops have recently achieved 'China Ready' accreditation.

This global accreditation system identifies products and services that Chinese consumers can trust. The China Ready



and Accredited trademark signifies quality assurance, cultural awareness, consumer protection and respect for Chinese travelers.

Marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said the China Ready accreditation would make it easier and more appealing for Chinese visitors to visit and engage with the park.

“To reach accreditation, the business menus, brochure, business cards and website must be converted into Mandarin and the business must provide for Chinese payment facilities,” she said.

“Visitors can easily identify businesses that have reached China Ready accreditation by the specifically designed red logo.”

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## Focus on: Jennifer Green

We like to introduce you to our volunteers and staff members. This time, we introduce you to Jennifer Green, the marketing coordinator at Yanchep National Park. Jennifer organises the park’s events, tourism and promotional activities.

In one sentence, describe yourself.

Positive, lover of life who enjoys travelling, exploring the world and experiencing different cultures.

How long have you been working in the park?

Three years.

What is your work background?

I come from a tourism background – and had previously worked in the strategic development areas of Tourism Western Australia, Ansett Airlines and Deluxe Coachlines. I completed a double major at university – Bachelor of Communications majoring in Public Relations and Bachelor of Business majoring in Tourism Management and am also a tourism lecturer.

What projects are you involved in at Yanchep National Park?

I’ve been fortunate to have worked with the Goodfellas Hot Rods Club to develop Hot Rods in the Park over the past four years, and City of Wanneroo to bring together Retro Rewind. My projects have included writing the tourism awards submission, attending the Australian Tourism Exchange and other tourism trade events, organising a ballet company in Crystal Cave and writing articles for media.

What do you like most about working in the park?

The people! Everyone that works here are very friendly and welcoming. And it's awfully nice to be welcomed by kangaroos and koalas each morning!

What's your most memorable park moment?

Winning the tourism awards! It was a great moment for the park, and such an enjoyable and celebratory night to follow!



*Jennifer (centre in blue dress) and her team at the Tourism Awards*



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