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Winter 2015

**Hi Lisa**

Welcome to the winter issue of Yanchep National Park eNews.

Winter is a wonderful time to visit Yanchep National Park and enjoy a good stretch on one of our nine walk trails. Try the 2.1km Dwerta Mia Trail which takes you through beautiful Boomerang Gorge, the 2.6km Woodlands Trail to glimpse some of our stunning wildflowers, or for the more adventurous, the 52km Coastal Plain Trail. For trails longer than 5km, please complete a Walk Safe form at McNess House Visitor Centre.

In this issue ... find out about our upcoming July school holiday program, featuring the new activity *Workers of the wonderland*. Learn about the brilliant NAIDOC activities you can participate in this year, and hear about a new weed species discovered in the park, along with the latest news from Chocolate Drops and Little Gumnuts. Read on to find out more.

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## **Intriguing creatures and wild caves at Yanchep National Park**

Visit Yanchep National Park these school holidays to explore wild caves and discover the wonderful world of ants and underground creatures when Parks and Wildlife hosts a range of *Nearer to Nature* activities.



Visitor services manager Peta Bolz said *BrilliANTS* encouraged children to work in teams and provided an interesting look into the life of an ant.

“Ants are such fascinating and interesting creatures to explore and participants will learn that these insects are excellent recyclers and have an intricate social structure necessary for survival,” Peta said.

“The interactive program will be held on Thursday 16 July and it is suitable for children aged between four and seven.”

*Nearer to Nature* have also introduced a new activity for the July school holidays called *Workers of the underground*, which will also be held on Thursday 16 July.

Program coordinator Jill Francis said participants would learn about animals that recycled and helped keep our environment alive and healthy.

“Kids will head into the bush with magnifying equipment to take a closer look at evidence left by natural recyclers,” Jill said.

“Every child involved in the session will make a mini worm farm to take home.”

The popular *Adventure caving* sessions, suitable for ages eight to 14, will be held on Friday 10 July in the Yonderup and Yanchep caves.

“The caving sessions allow participants to 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,” Peta said.

“They will also discover large chambers filled with stunning natural decorations such as stalactites, stalagmites and columns as they make their way through the cave by torchlight.”

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

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# Yanchep National Park NAIDOC celebrations

As part of 2015 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 Saturday 11 July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Free activities will be held throughout the day including sand art, tool and clap stick making, a spear throwing demonstration and traditional artefact displays.

Our regular 2pm Aboriginal Cultural Experience session (which usually cost \$11) will be free, and at 3pm, a special Didgeridoo and Dance session will follow, teaching participants how expression in dance is linked to spiritual beliefs of Noongar culture.

Marketing coordinator Jennifer Green said it would be a great opportunity for everyone in the community to mark NAIDOC week at Yanchep National Park.

“Come along and 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 (08) 9303 7759.



Parks and Wildlife MATES cadet Jonnie Saegenschnitter will be on hand to help with this year's activities.

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## Yanchep volunteers discover new invasive weed

A group of Yanchep National Park volunteers recently discovered an unrecorded invasive weed along one of the park's popular walking trails.

The Noogoora burr (*Xanthium strumarium*), a declared pest under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, was found on the Ghost House Walk Trail by volunteers targeting another well-known weed species.

Volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff explained the surprise discovery.

"A group of our volunteers was targeting a population of narrow leaf cotton bush in wetlands at Yanchep National Park, when they came across the unidentified plant," she said.

"One of our long standing volunteers and well-known plant guru, David Pike, contacted fellow wildflower enthusiast and Parks and Wildlife research scientist Greg Keighery, who identified the plant as Noogoora burr – a weed primarily found in New South Wales and Queensland."

A drone helped to identify the extent of the infestation, avoiding potential damage to the wetland system.

"The sensitive location of the Ghost House Walk Trail meant that vehicle access close to the site was difficult. So our volunteers parked as close as they could and walked 2.5km along the trail to remove seeds from the cotton bush and Noogoora burr in an attempt to control the infestation.

"It was fantastic to see our dedicated volunteers come together to help to eradicate this and other species that threaten biodiversity, increase fire fuel load and prevent the growth of native seedlings."





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## Little Gumnuts

If you're looking for something to keep your pre-kindergarten children busy and inspired, look into Little Gumnuts – a nature-inspired program located at Gloucester Lodge in the national park.

Little Gumnuts provides programs for children aged 18 months to four years, with activities including music and movement, storytelling, discovery play and outdoor nature play.

Owner Lee-anne Groenewegen said the program was run predominantly outdoors.

“Children spend most of their time outdoors exploring, discovering, learning and having fun in the world’s best playground – nature,” she said.



To find out more about this unique program, contact [lee-anne@littlegumnuts.com.au](mailto:lee-anne@littlegumnuts.com.au).

*Little Gumnuts is privately run and licensed to operate in Yanchep National Park.*

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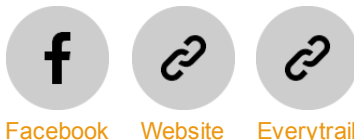
# Chocolate Drops update

Chocolate Drops staff have been kept busy attending training programs over the past few months.

Gemma Orford attended the China Ready individual accreditation course, and joins two other staff that have already achieved their individual accreditation. The individual China Ready accreditation and training provides tourism employees with a greater understanding of the Chinese market to Australia.

In addition, eight Chocolate Drops staff have successfully completed the 'Food Alert' training from the City of Wanneroo. This training is provided to all food businesses to ensure food is handled safely.

Well done Chocolate Drops employees!



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