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Spring 2015

Hi DPaW

Welcome to the spring issue of Yanchep National Park eNews. Wildflowers are blooming in the park and the landscape is a stunning explosion of colour. Why not visit, take a walk and re-energise in the spring sunshine?

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Mystery markers explained

Visitors to the park may have been wondering why little pink tags are lining the road at the entry station ... well wonder no more.

Visitor services officer Madonna Mulholland explains they are markers identifying a planting site as part of the volunteer program's *Adopt a Site* initiative.

“Keen horticulture student and valued park volunteer Keel-in Jackson has adopted this site and begun planting parrot bush, Swan River myrtle and Payne's thrypromene seedlings,” Madonna said.

“The plants were propagated in the park nursery from Keel-in's seed bank. The species were carefully chosen to encourage bees and other pollinating insects. The parrot bush will also provide a future food source for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo.”

“These particular plants are also not a preferred food choice for the local kangaroos so we look forward to seeing them thrive under Keel-in's care.”

Look out for them at our entry station on your next visit!





Parrot bush.



Payne's thrysmene.

Carnaby's program begins

Yanchep National Park volunteers have started their annual 'Hollow Knocking Program' in search of breeding pairs of endangered Carnaby's cockatoo.

The volunteer survey was initiated by Birdlife Australia to gain a better understanding of the distribution of cockatoos during the breeding season.

These beautiful birds generally breed in the Wheatbelt and move to coastal areas to feed during late spring and early winter, however, large groups of cockies are remaining in the Yanchep area during the breeding season.

Carnaby's need large, old tree hollows for nesting but sadly much of the Carnaby's breeding and feeding habitat has been cleared for human use. Additionally Carnaby's have to compete for remaining natural hollows with feral bees and other bird species.

To assist with conservation efforts Yanchep volunteers have designed and built artificial hollows to provide additional nesting opportunities in Yanchep National Park.

Both natural and artificial hollows are monitored and the volunteer's hopes were recently elevated when a pair of Carnaby's was seen mating close to potential nesting hollows. All fingers are crossed that this year's monitoring program will reveal baby Carnaby's, which will help to ensure the survival of this iconic species.



Yanchep National Park celebrates NAIDOC Week

The 2015 NAIDOC celebrations at Yanchep National Park were extremely successful with more than 250 visitors taking part.

Park ranger Pips Carboon said it was a beautiful day in the park and the Wangi Mia was bustling with people getting an insight into Noongar culture.



"Indigenous guide Judith Burchall was once again the artist in charge of the sand art, producing an amazing piece with assistance from many little helpers," she said.

"The boomerang throwing with Indigenous guide Jonnie Saegenschmitter had both young and old lined up having turns, with most of the younger participants out-throwing their older counterparts!"

"Visitors were treated to some tummy-rubbing goodness with volunteers cooking damper in the coals of the fire and offering emu, kangaroo and crocodile sausages for people to taste," Pips said.

"The day's activities ended with a presentation by Indigenous guide Derek Nannup, who covered Noongar history, language and the ever-popular didgeridoo demonstration."

If you missed out on the celebrations this year and can't wait until NAIDOC 2016 why not visit us on a weekend and book onto the Aboriginal Experience activity. Tickets can be purchased from McNess House Visitor Centre.



Top left: Jonnie Saegenschnitter demonstrates tool making. Top right: Boomerang throwing. Above: Sand art in progress.

Nearer to Nature 'Sunlit Spring 2015'

This school holidays Parks and Wildlife's *Nearer to Nature* program returns to Yanchep National Park.

On Friday 2 October, children aged 8 to 14 years have the opportunity to experience the magnificent underground world of a wild cave on an **Adventure caving** activity. Wearing hard hats and armed with a torch for light, kids will explore, crawl and climb as they discover chambers filled with fascinating formations. Definitely one for the young explorer!



On Thursday 8 October, children aged 3 to 6 are invited to Join Faerie Cara on an enchanted journey of discovery to learn the importance of looking after our limestone caves. The **Enchanted environment (in the caves)** activity will be held in Cabaret Cave and will be a magical morning not to be missed.

During the afternoon of Thursday 8 October, there is an exciting opportunity to join an indigenous guide on the interactive activity **Discovering the six seasons**. Traditionally Aboriginal people had six distinct seasons rather than four. Children will discover how the changing seasons heralded a move to new hunting grounds. Hands-on and great fun, this activity is suitable for 7 to 12 year-olds.



Activities are popular and bookings are essential. For more information and to secure a spot please contact *Nearer to Nature* on 9295 2244 between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or visit nearertonature.dpaw.wa.gov.au.

News from Chocolate Drops

Sue and her fabulous team were kept very busy at the beginning of the month creating an array of chocolate Father's Day gifts including



chocolate motorbikes, golf clubs, footballs, chess set pieces, fishing-themed 'giant' chocolate freckles, and assorted gift packs all perfectly themed to celebrate with Dad. We are sure there were many happy dads thrilled to receive these gorgeous chocolatey gifts on Father's Day!



Chocolate Drops staff have also been working very hard preparing two submissions for the 2015 Western Australian Tourism Awards Category 8 - 'Specialised Tourism Services'. Chocolate Drops achieved 'Silver' in this category in 2014.

This year there is a new category, Category 29 - 'Excellence in Chinese Tourism'. Chocolate Drops became China Ready and accredited in November 2014 therefore qualifying to submit an entry. Chocolate Drops menus are now available in mandarin within the tearooms and online at www.chocolatedrops.com.au.

Chocolate Drops is open every day. Call in for a cuppa and enjoy some chocolate!

Spring gems in Yanchep National Park

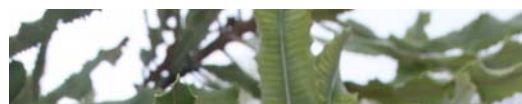
Visit Yanchep National Park this spring to experience stunning wildflowers in bloom and discover all the wonderful new life as ducklings hatch and new joeys fill pouches. Keep your eyes peeled for these two spring gems:

Wood duck – so called because they line their nests with wood chips these fascinating ducks actually nest in tree hollows high off the ground! To the surprise of some visitors, it's common to see wood ducks perching in trees in the main recreation area of Yanchep National Park, during late winter and spring. When it's time for their first swim the parent ducks stand at the bottom of the tree and encourage their ducklings to jump to the ground before leading them to water. Look for wood duck families on the lakefront this spring and don't forget to also look up!



Referenced from '[Waterbirds of the South West Wetlands](#)' Bush Book, Department of Parks and Wildlife. Available from McNess House Visitor Centre \$6.95 or online.

Candle banksia (*Banksia attenuata*) – this beautiful banksia has a later season



than other spring wildflowers. It produces long yellow cylindrical cones from September through to February. The candle banksia provides a valuable food source for honeyeaters, bees and honey possums after many other plants have already finished flowering. Look for them in the wildflower gardens and along a number of the walk trails in Yanchep National Park this spring!

Referenced from '[Common Wildflowers of the South West Forests](#)' Bush Book, Department of Parks and Wildlife. Available from McNess House Visitor Centre \$6.95 or online.



Telethon Ball 2015

Sparkles, pearls, feathers and fedoras! It's Telethon Ball time again and this year the theme is **Roaring 20s/Great Gatsby**.

Yanchep National Park's administration officer, Heather Jarvis, is once again volunteering her time to organise the event.

Heather said the ball was a fantastic opportunity to experience Yanchep National Park's spectacular Cabaret Cave while supporting a fantastic cause, with all profits going to Telethon.

"This year the cave will be transformed into 'Club Cabaret' to reflect our theme. Think glitz and glamour. Flappery finery, pinstripe suits and swanky tuxedos."

Date: Saturday 17 October 2015 - 7pm until midnight

Price: \$150 per person (includes three-course meal, beer, wine and soft drinks.)

For more information, silent auction donations or to purchase a ticket please contact Heather directly on 0421 776 828.

Hot Rods in the park – save the date!



The annual Hot Rods event will return this year, with another impressive collection of cars



rolling into Yanchep National Park. More information will follow in a special Hot Rods issue of our e-newsletter in early November but for now mark **Sunday 15 November** in your diary. It's an event not to be missed!

Nature Play is more than 'just play'!

By Lee-Anne Groenewegen – Little Gumnuts Nature Inspired Education Programs

A large chunk of our day at Little Gumnuts is spent outdoors and it is wondrous to observe the children at play. We allow children to play in a large area where we are able to see them but they still have freedom of movement to explore and discover their environment, develop their physical skills, be self determining, assess risk and master challenges. When they are clambering up a hill or over rocks, bending to walk under fallen trees and running in a large open space, their physical and emotional minds connect and they experience an increase in their confidence and self esteem.



The role of the teacher and parents while observing their play is to ensure safety, model curiosity and wonder, and encourage problem solving. When children are allowed the freedom to move around, their imaginations become active, they communicate with each other, make discoveries, which allow them to construct their own knowledge.

Some 'bits and pieces' are left around to stimulate their play - cardboard boxes, pots, pans, spades, fabric, water, sieves, pipes and anything that will provoke play. We never know what games or adventures will evolve from what they find lying around.

Children's spatial concepts are stimulated while outdoors; they stand at the top of



the hill and look out over the park, they use binoculars and magnifying glasses to look at natural objects. Their auditory senses are stimulated as they listen for noises in the bush and listen to the birds. Children learn resilience, risk taking and grow in confidence. We encourage a respect and love for nature and the planet to which we are all connected.



We may look out and see children running around 'just playing', the learning is enormous and I feel very privileged to be part of creating these experiences for young children.

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



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