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Summer 2015–16

Hi Lisa

Welcome to the Summer 2015–16 issue of the Yanchep National Park eNewsletter. In this issue...

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New year, new venture

The new year will see a new venture in Yanchep National Park, with EasyRider Adventure Tours starting operations. Visitors to the national park will be able to ride an electric personal transporter, or self-balancing scooter.

This unique experience is not your average tour where a guide leads a group on a set

path - you will be free to test your mettle and skills in a safe zone.

Even better ... no family member will be left on the bench because EasyRider caters for people using wheelchairs.

Stay tuned for more details.



Dugite mapping and trapping

Yanchep National Park volunteers have recently had a unique opportunity to assist Curtin University Environmental Biology PhD candidate Ashleigh Wolfe with her research. Ashleigh is passionate about reptiles and her work here at Yanchep is focused on dugites (*Pseudonaja affinis*) and bobtail lizards (*Tiliqua rugosa*), which are very active at this time of year.



Ashleigh tracks the movements of these reptiles through an external GPS unit attached to their tails. The movements can then be mapped and analysed, providing new information to improve our understanding about these awesome creatures.

Volunteers helped to track translocated dugites and set up funnel traps to monitor local fauna and find a resident dugite for the project. The traps were checked daily, animals identified and then released back into the bush. Ashleigh has been teaching volunteers about tracking equipment, safe and ethical trapping techniques and reptile identification.

Our volunteers are thankful for this fantastic opportunity to learn specialised field techniques, increase knowledge about native species and be a part of a meaningful research project.

Above: Dugite. Photo – Matt Swan/Parks and Wildlife. Below: Volunteers help Ashleigh trap dugites. Photo – Parks and Wildlife.



Meet Derek

Yanchep National Park is excited to introduce the newest member of the visitor services team. Previously an external provider to the park, Derek Nannup, a Nyoongar man of the south-west Wardandi Binjarrab people, has come on board as a full-time visitor services officer. Derek will continue to lead the Aboriginal Experience on Sundays as well as run school activities and work with existing staff to expand the Yanchep National Park Indigenous program.



We've thrown the spotlight on Derek to give you a quick introduction:

Before working at Yanchep what was the most unusual or interesting job you had?

I performed as a clown in a company called 'Clowning Around'.

(Derek's talents include fire breathing, unicycling, acrobats, juggling and stilt walking!)

What do you like most about your job?

Inspiring the public to enjoy and embrace culture through my work at the park.

What's your favourite thing about Yanchep National Park?

The staff and atmosphere make working at the park feel like not working. When you love what you do it's easy to be passionate about it.

What are three words that best describe you?

Hilarious, passionate and proud.

What is your favourite food, sport and place?

Food – kangaroo dip and damper

Sport – footy, AFL

Place – nature.

Name something on your bucket list.

I am looking forward to watching my children graduate and live long happy and healthy lives – not really a bucket list thingy but a real dream...



Give the gift of Yanchep National Park this Christmas

This festive season is almost upon us and if you're stuck for a gift for your loved ones this Christmas why not give them the gift of Yanchep National Park? Gift vouchers are available from McNess House Visitor Centre for:

- a day to remember (entry ticket plus tour)
- an unforgettable experience (tours)
- a year of fun (season passes).

Or why not get a voucher to the value of your choosing that they can spend in the shop, on a tour or however they choose? Gift vouchers are also available for goodies from Chocolate Drops so why not make it the ultimate gift and add a voucher for chocolates, morning tea or a light lunch as well. Please see the Droplets at Chocolate Drops directly for Chocolate Drop vouchers.

Summer holiday fun

The long summer break is here! Get the kids out of the house and into nature these school holidays. The Department of Parks and Wildlife's *Nearer to Nature* program returns to Yanchep National Park this summer for unforgettable underground adventures, magical discoveries and an encounter with WA's deadly and dangerous!! The program is as follows:

Thursday 14 January 2016

Deadly and dangerous (Ages 7–12)

They bite, they sting, they spit and they spring. In the vast State of WA, deadly and dangerous creatures come in all shapes and sizes – on land and in the sea. Discover why some of the world's most dangerous creatures call Australia home. Then get up close and personal with some real life scary species, if you dare!

Enchanted environment (Ages 4–7)

Have you ever been deep inside a cave and wondered about the mystery of it all? If you look closely, deep into our wonderful world, you might find something magical within. Join Faerie Cara on a journey of discovery through our enchanted environment and discover how looking after nature is good for everyone



Friday 22 January 2016

Adventure caving (Ages 8–10 and 10–14)

Plunge into a world of darkness for an underground experience you'll never forget. Join our expert guides as you crawl, climb and slide your way through a wild cave environment where your only light source is torchlight! Be amazed at the fascinating formations and take the challenge to make your way through the cracks and fissures that make our limestone caves an exciting place to explore.



Bookings for nearer to nature activities are essential! For more information or to secure a place please contact *Nearer to Nature* on (08) 9295 2244.

The Wangi Mia will also offer free activities for children throughout January. Please call the park office on (08) 9303 7772 in the new year to find out what's available.

Retro Rewind – save the date!

The toe-tapping **Retro Rewind** will return to the beautiful surrounds of Yanchep National Park again on **12 March 2016**.

In partnership with the Vintage Collective Markets, the City of Wanneroo promises this

event will be even bigger and better than 2015 and will include a fantastic line-up of musical entertainment, a hot rods display, a Vintage Collective Market showcase, a vintage fashion parade, and activities designed to celebrate everything retro.

Be sure to mark this free event in your diaries! Pack a picnic and your dancing shoes and bring your friends and families to be part of a wonderful day of retro fun in Yanchep National Park.

Good times at the Great Aussie Camp Out 2015

This October Yanchep National Park hosted some beginner campers as part of the second Great Aussie Camp Out. This Outdoors WA event, supported by the *Parks for People* initiative, saw a range of families come together to experience an introduction to camping in a supportive environment. Park staff were on hand to help set up camp sites and campers were provided with an information pack that included a range of self-guided activities that aimed to provide them with a realistic camping experience in WA's national parks.

Zsazsa and Yudho Nugroho attended the event and told us on [Facebook](#): "We had a wonderful time, the park is gorgeous and John [the ranger] is amazing. For first-time campers, it was a perfect opportunity."

"Julia the park manager was very welcoming and was very helpful with our questions. Thank you Yanchep National Park team! We can't wait to have more picnics at the park and join this next year. We have learned so much."

Park manager Julia Coggins said the Department of Parks and Wildlife would consider reintroducing camping at Yanchep National Park in the future.



Chocolate Drops celebrates!

At the 2015 Wanneroo Business Awards last month Chocolate Drops was announced as 'Runner Up' in the Best Tourism and Hospitality category and a 'Finalist' in the Best Customer Service category.

The following evening at the 2015 Western Australian Tourism Awards held at Crown Casino in Perth Chocolate Drops received a 'Silver' in the Excellence in Chinese Tourism category and were awarded 'Finalist' in the Specialised Tourism Services category. A wonderful achievement for the Droplets!

Sue tells us that after the celebrations it was straight back to work, with the team spending the first week of December busy crafting an array of Christmas-themed chocolates, including reindeer, Santas, tree decorations and some really tasty rum balls and mouth-watering truffles.

Giant chocolate freckles are also available and can be personalised with a hand-decorated Christmas message by pre-order, a truly unique chocolate gift!



Summer lovers in Yanchep National Park

Summer is a great time to visit Yanchep National Park. The beautiful Morrison featherflower can be spotted along the coastal plain sheltered under the flowering banksia and tuart trees, Carnaby's cockatoos fly in flocks overhead and Christmas beetles (*Anoplognathu*) remind us that it's the festive season. While enjoying some time out in the park this summer keep your eyes peeled for these two summer loving residents of Yanchep National Park:

Christmas tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*). This beautiful hermiparasitic tree grows to a height of 8m and occurs on sandy soils of the Swan Coastal Plain. Its bright orange flowers can be seen throughout the summer season and it is often referred to as the native Christmas tree. Traditionally, as the Nyoongar season of Kambarang turned to Birak, the bark of the Christmas tree was used for making shields.





Bobtail (*tiliqua rugosa*). An unmistakable lizard with its stout body, broad triangular head, stumpy tail and large, rugose scales. Bobtails can be any shade of brown, grey or black and usually have irregular bands on the body and tail. The Bobtail is common throughout this region and often seeks shelter beneath a variety of ground covers including rubbish and corrugated iron. During summer they are a familiar sight on our roads and unfortunately this slow-moving lizard often falls victim to traffic. These harmless little lizards mate for life so please take care when you see them crossing this summer, they may have a partner waiting on the other side!

Referenced from 'Guide to the Wildlife of Perth and the South West' Simon Nevill Publications. Available from McNess House Visitor Centre \$38.95

Hot rods roll in

Sunday 15 November saw 170 hot rods roll into Yanchep National Park as the Goodfellas Car Club celebrated their annual hot rods event.

More than 1700 visitors to the park strolled through market stalls and delighted in taking photos with the vintage cars as passionate owners happily answered questions about their pride and joy.



The Yanchep National Park volunteers tempted hungry tummies with a sausage sizzle and Yanchep national park volunteer coordinator Ciara McIlduff said it was a fantastic opportunity to do some fundraising for the group. Fabulous weather, a great crowd and beautiful cars made this a lovely day to remember.

The Great Gatsby 1920s Cabaret Cave Telethon Ball a success!

This year's Telethon Ball was another great success. Ball organiser Heather Jarvis said Cabaret Cave was transformed into a 1920s club.

"Everybody looked absolutely amazing and thanks to the generosity of everybody who

was involved, we managed to raise \$5500 for Telethon. That's over \$15,000 in 3 years!"

Will there be a fourth?

"Yes," says Heather. "It was such a great night we're going to do it all again next year. Saturday 8 October 2016 will be the Hollywood-themed Cabaret Cave for Telethon so save the date!"



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