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Winter 2016

## Hi DPaW

Winter is truly a magical time of year. While the weather may be grey, **Yanchep National Park is full of colour** as the rains freshen the wetland and bring the woodlands to life. Don't let gloomy skies dampen your days.

The cooler weather provides a great opportunity to stretch your legs on one of our **walk trails** where you may spot beautiful fungi, stunning wildflowers and young kangaroos enjoying a rough-and-tumble in the milder winter sun. On the wettest of days why not visit the **underground wonderland of Crystal Cave** where you'll stay warm and dry despite the wintry weather.

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## Park staff prepare campground

Yanchep National Park staff have been kept busy over the past few months as plans to expand Parks and Wildlife's camping network unfold. Following Environment Minister Albert Jacobs's announcement that, as part of the *Parks for People* initiative, a camping trial will commence in Yanchep National Park, the park's operational team have been working hard on the ground.



Located on the Henry White Oval, the new campground will have 20 sites to accommodate caravans, campervans, camper trailers and tents during the trial period.

Park manager Julia Coggins said the team had been busy completing woodland revegetation works, erecting new boundary signage with directional symbols and road markings to improve traffic flow.

"A one-way boom gate has been installed and camp sites have been measured, marked and designated," she said.

"The ablution block has also been upgraded with hot water showers added. Visitor

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park maps. The camping trial is an exciting addition to the park and will provide an excellent opportunity for people to stay and experience Yanchep's many attractions," Julia said.

The trial is due to start in July 2016 with bookings available online only via the [ParkStay website](#) and app. Please go to [www.parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://www.parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au) for bookings and more information.

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## NAIDOC Week celebrations and school holiday fun

To kick off [NAIDOC Week 2016](#) Yanchep National Park has teamed up with City of Wanneroo to offer an **Aboriginal Cultural Tour of the Yaberoo Budjara Trail on Sunday 3 July**.

Participants will walk a section of the trail with Yanchep's Indigenous guide Derek Nannup, and learn about the richly diverse history and culture of local Aboriginal people. Derek will also give an insight into the unique local plants and their use in bush food and traditional medicines.

The tour will start and finish in Yanchep National Park with participants travelling by bus to the start point at Lacey Road and walking back in. A bush tucker style lunch is also included. Registrations are essential and places are limited. Bookings are available at [www.ybculturetour.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.ybculturetour.eventbrite.com.au) and enquiries can be made to the City of Wanneroo on 9405 5900.

To continue the celebrations Yanchep National Park will hold a **special NAIDOC Day event on Saturday 9 July**. Visitors are invited to come along and join park staff in celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Following an acknowledgement of country in the Wangi Mia at 11am a free program of activities will commence including sand art in the Yorga Mia with Judith Birchall, a traditional artefact display and fun children's activities such as message stick art and traditional face painting.

At 12.30pm Yanchep National Park volunteers will cook up a barbecue with damper and bush tucker tastings and at 1pm its time to pull up a stump and settle in for 'Kaartdijin Dreaming'. During this session Derek will tell the story of the painted canvas mural that provides the backdrop to our cultural interpretative area in the Wangi Mia.

At 2pm the regular Aboriginal Experience session will be free (usually \$14 an adult ticket) and visitors are encouraged to join in and learn more about the history and way of life of Aboriginal people in our area.

The fun will continue through the school holidays with a program of culturally themed

Songline sheets will be available for children to collect and complete with their days 'songline' or journey through Yanchep National Park.

The school holiday activities are free of charge however bookings are required and all children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information or to book please call 9303 7772.



## Meet Sharon

Administration guru and bookings officer extraordinaire Sharon has worked in Yanchep National Park for nine years. We asked her a few questions so you can put a face to the voice on the end of the phone.

### **What's your favourite thing about Yanchep National Park?**

The serenity! It's a truly beautiful environment to work in. You couldn't ask for a better office and my work team is great.

### **What do you like most about your job?**

I love my job. It's busy but so rewarding. I particularly love hearing the school children enjoying the park after I've worked with their teachers to plan an exciting excursion for them.

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Talkative, funny, team player (that's four hehe).

**What is your favourite food, sport and place?**

My favourite food is definitely seafood, I enjoy walking and spending time on Rottnest Island.

**Name something on your bucket list.**

I'd love to see snow and try skiing.



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## Yanchep National Park celebrates its volunteers

Yanchep National Park recently celebrated the generous contribution of its volunteers during [National Volunteer Week](#).

This year the Volunteering WA awareness campaign focused on evidence that volunteers lead happier and healthier lives using the motto '**Volunteering is something to smile about**'.

Volunteer coordinator Ciara McIllduff said the volunteers at Yanchep definitely give her something to smile about.

"They contribute about 10,000 hours each year to important conservation and maintenance projects and are an integral part of our team. To celebrate this amazing group of volunteers we arranged a day out to Kings Park for them," she said.

"Twenty-six of our volunteers came together for a guided tour of the stunning Botanic Gardens and we had a lovely lunch with a beautiful view over Perth city. To end the day the team was treated to a special behind-the-scenes tour of the Kings Park nursery and seed centre.

"We gained an insight into a professional and successful native plant nursery and brought back lots of ideas to improve our own nursery and garden projects here at Yanchep," Ciara said.

If you are interested in volunteering in Yanchep National Park or learning more about our projects please contact Ciara on 9303 7771.



## Warm up for winter with *Nearer to Nature*

*Nearer to Nature* has released a new calendar of activities for the winter season. [Warm up for winter 2016](#) is packed full of exciting and interactive activities to keep the kids entertained and out-and-about in nature these school holidays.

In Yanchep National Park, kids will be able to explore wild caves, discover fascinating fossil facts and learn all about the journey of a water droplet in an activity held in the park for the very first time.

- The ever-popular **Adventure caving** activity will be held on Friday 8 July with a session for the younger children (8–10 yrs) held at 10.15am and a session for the bigger kids (10–14yrs) starting at 12.45pm. Hard hats and torches are provided so participants just need to bring their sense of adventure as they take a journey into the underground wonderland of a wild cave and discover all of its magnificent secrets.
- On Thursday 14 July at 10am children aged 4–7 yrs can follow **Dewy**



**Droplet's incredible journey** around the water cycle and learn all about the struggles a drop of water faces. They will dress up as one of Dewy's friends and try and make their way through an obstacle course as a fun and interactive way of learning how precious our drinking water is.

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experiments, learn all about the tiny creatures trapped in limestone formations. They'll even get to make a fossil to take home! **Funky fossils** will be held at 1pm.



Bookings for these activities are essential. To secure a spot please contact *Nearer to Nature* on 9295 2244 during business hours. Visit *Nearer to Nature* on [Facebook](#) or on their website: [www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature](http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/get-involved/nearer-to-nature).

## Chocolate Drops 'choc-a-block' calendar!

Chocolate Drops Tearooms have been choc-a-block these past few months, with a calendar that included an exciting visit from Ardross Primary School. Sue Dash tells us 51 students from the school participated in a chocolate-making workshop.



"I am pleased to say that there were some budding 'chocolatiers' among the group, already planning next year's Easter gifts for their family and friends!" she said.

Sue and the Droplets also worked hard to create 300 dinner chocolates as sponsors of the 2016 WA Young Achiever Awards. The awards, held at the Parmelia Hilton Hotel in May, showcased some amazing young Western Australians.

"As well as the dinner chocolates we were proud to also provide a chocolate hamper as the major door prize. Photos and more information about the evening can be found on the [WA Young Achiever Awards Facebook page](#)."

More about what Chocolate Drops has been up to, including photos and comments from the City of Wanneroo's V8 Supercars Gala dinner held at Barbagello Race Track, can be found on the Chocolate Drops Tearooms [Facebook page](#) or [www.chocolatedrops.com.au](http://www.chocolatedrops.com.au).

If you haven't already get online and check them out or call in and see Sue and the Droplets for a cuppa, a chocolate and a chat soon.

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Elizabeth Brennan accepts a Chocolate Drops hamper.

## Easy Rider Adventures set to launch 2 July!

The personal transport machines have arrived and the countdown to launch has well and truly begun for Easy Rider Adventures. **Tours will start Saturday 2 July!**

The northern suburbs' newest and most exciting family attraction is nearly ready to go. The fun zone obstacles have been constructed and the road testing completed.

Keep an eye on Easy Rider Adventures' [Facebook](#) page for updates so you can be among the first to enjoy this new experience in Yanchep National Park.

For direct enquiries please call 1300 EASYRIDER, visit [www.easyrideradventures.com.au](http://www.easyrideradventures.com.au) or find them on [Facebook](#).



## What happens when children get freedom in nature?

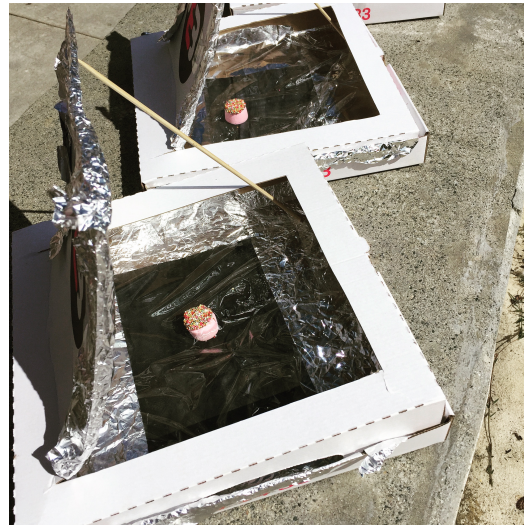
*An update from Lee-Ann Groenewegen of Little Gumnuts:*



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The children were **allowed the space and freedom to play, explore and discover**, they were aware of the boundaries and knew to respect each other and the environment. It was fascinating to watch how the children naturally and instinctively played.

They were given tools, saws and sandpaper. The boys immediately began building a cubby, the girls started 'cooking' with mud and used the tools to whittle – they made pencils, fairy houses and wands. I left some rope on the ground, the boys took it and started making bows and arrows, they tied a rock around a stick and made axes, they were responsible and cooperative and there was not one mishap. Leaders and followers naturally emerged, they worked together as a team, found places to hide and explore, their play was guided and inspired by nature.



A day out in nature provided wondrous adventures, developed skills, confidence and independence.

Little Gumnuts Nature Programs will be running Nature Adventure Programs in the July School Holidays. Details will be advertised on our [Facebook page](#) and [www.littlegumnuts.com.au](http://www.littlegumnuts.com.au). Unplug, come and enjoy a day of fresh air, fun and play.



## Winter wonders on the Woodland Trail



**Red ink sundew** – Yanchep National Park visitor services officer Madonna Mulholland snapped this stunning photo of a red ink sundew or *Drosera erythrorhiza* on a walk through the park recently. This dainty little sundew is a perennial tuberous species of carnivorous plant and can be found throughout the Perth region. With a height of between just 50–300mm they can be difficult to spot but a keen eye may be drawn to the glistening moisture from winter rains sitting in droplets on the leaves.

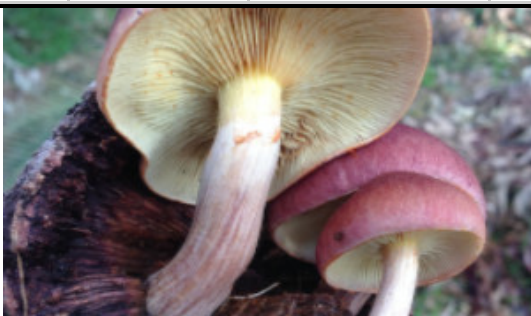
**Fungi** – Fungi appear throughout winter and have an important job to do breaking down and recycling nutrients in dead wood. These fungi were photographed by ranger Pips Carboon on the Woodlands Trail in June. Winter is a great time to see a number of varieties of common fungi in Yanchep National Park.

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***Guide to the Wildlife of Perth and the Southwest by Simon Neville publications available in McNess House Visitor Centre \$38.95***

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