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Summer 2016–17

Hi DPaW

Carnaby's cockatoos are flying in flocks overhead, Christmas spiders have been spotted weaving their sticky webs and the beautiful Australian Christmas trees have burst into bloom signalling the start of the hot summer season. It's a beautiful time to relax under the shade of a eucalyptus tree and spend some quality time with family and friends.

Yanchep National Park is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day, so why not take advantage of the longer days and cooler evening temperatures and enjoy a barbecue this festive season.

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Fun at 'Spring Back in Time'

A slideshow of black and white images from the 1930s to present and displays of old signs, brochures and wares triggered memories with many wonderful stories shared.

Outside, families enjoyed old-school games on the lawn and kids painted masterpieces that were hung on string lines to dry in the sun. Yanchep National Park volunteers offered tea and coffee for a gold coin from the historic No. 57 tram which offered a fantastic opportunity to see the restored tramcar as well as raise money for September's 'Save the Koala' campaign.

Historic figure Henry White also made an appearance, with adventure caving guide Rob Susac transforming himself into Yanchep's first official cave guide and leading tours through Yonderup cave by the light of a lantern.

Yanchep staff are currently working on a 'Summer Senses' program for the upcoming school holidays and it's shaping up to be more great fun with sensory activities, a blindfold trail and a pop-up playground planned. The free program will run weekdays 3–27 January. More information will be available when the details are confirmed.



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Top left: Adventure caving guide Rob Susac in costume as Henry White, Yanchep's first official cave guide.

Top right and above: Some of the historic items on display at Gloucester Lodge.

Hot Rods roll in 2016

Sunday 13 November saw the lakefront area transformed into a car park of colour and chrome as 225 hot rods from the Goodfellas Hot Rods Club rolled in for its annual display.

Nearly 3500 visitors took advantage of the beautiful weather and strolled among classic Fords, Corvettes, Chevys and a bevy of other vintage beauties with passionate owners happily sharing stories about their pride and joy.

Market stalls were popular and Yanchep National Park volunteers tempted rumbling tummies with a fundraising sausage sizzle.



Hot Rods club president Jeff Hitchins said the club were pleased with the turnout and Yanchep National Park look forward to welcoming them back in 2017.



Meet Ciara

Ciara McIllduff started as a volunteer in Yanchep National Park in 2007 before becoming an employee in 2008. After working with the operations crew and also as a guide and visitor services officer, Ciara became the park's volunteer coordinator in 2012.

Ciara can often be seen out and about in the park with a dedicated band of volunteers and can be contacted on 9303 7771 if you would like some information about how to join them. We asked Ciara our 'Meet' questions to help break the ice.



What's your favourite thing about Yanchep National Park?

I love coming into work and being surrounded by nature... seeing kangaroos when I arrive in the mornings, hearing birds through my office window, enjoying amazing wildflowers in the spring and even encountering tiger snakes on the lake front.

What do you like most about your job?

Being a part of an awesome team, constantly learning from all of the interesting people I work with and the diversity of my job – you never know what the day will bring here in

What are three words that best describe you?

Honest, adaptable, determined.

What is your favourite food, sport and place?

Favourite food is anything Thai. I don't have the patience to watch any sport except when my son is playing footy. My favourite place is the beach at sunset and being in the bush, especially Yanchep National Park of course!

Name something on your bucket list?

Trekking in Nepal.

Memorial Garden Fountain beautifully dressed for Remembrance Day

The memorial garden fountain looked even more beautiful than usual on Remembrance Day thanks to a stunning net of poppies handmade by Yanchep National Park volunteer and memorial garden warden Maureen Day.

Maureen spent many hours making the net along with numerous hand-crocheted poppies which she lovingly places in the garden beds for each of the memorial services held by the Yanchep Two Rocks RSL Sub Branch.

The fountain, built in 1937, is a prominent feature of the memorial gardens and is located in front of the historic Yanchep Inn.

Constructed with weathered limestone rocks found locally, the memorial was built using carefully selected stones, according to an article published in *The West Australian* on 12 June 1937.

"Remarkable specimens were available to choose from," it said. "Stones resembling grotesque monsters ornament the corners of each of the four sections with little or no alteration from the condition in which they were found."

There was nothing 'grotesque' about the fountain on Remembrance Day. Maureen's dedication to the maintenance of the gardens along with her beautiful poppies and poppy net meant that it was immaculately presented for the occasion and Joyce Harris, on behalf of the Yanchep Two Rocks RSL Sub Branch, extended her thanks to





***Nearer to Nature* summer holiday fun**

Parks and Wildlife's *Nearer to Nature* program returns to Yanchep National Park this summer with a fun-packed program to get the kids out of the house and into nature. Kids can enjoy:

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

Join an expert guide and plunge into a world of darkness for an underground experience you won't forget! Crawl, climb and make your way through a wild cave environment with just a torch for light and be amazed at the fascinating formations. Ages 8–10: 10.15am–12pm, Friday 13 January 2017. Ages 10–14: 12.45pm–2.30pm, Friday 13 January 2017.



Enchanted environment in the caves

(ages 4–7)

Faerie Cara is returning to Yanchep for another journey of discovery through our enchanted environment to explore how looking after nature is good for everyone. 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 10–11.30am, Thursday 19 January 2017.

NEW! Palaeontologist for a day (ages 7–12)

Be transported back to the Pleistocene and discover facts about marvelous mega beasts that roamed the earth during this time. Take the fossil trail and use your paleontologist skills to uncover bones then work in teams to reconstruct the giant creature.

1–3pm, Thursday 19 January 2017.

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essential. For more information or to secure a place please contact [Nearer to Nature](#) directly on 9295 2244.



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 them 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 vouchers.

Merry Christmas from Chocolate Drops

[Chocolate Drops](#) have been hard at working creating a wonderful selection of chocolate Christmas gifts this year with a range including rumballs, giant freckles, hazelnut Christmas pudding soft centres and some wonderful truffles just to name a few!

Their chocolate kangaroos, wombats, echidnas, frill-necked lizards, koalas and boomerangs can also be gift wrapped for you, making for a unique and delicious gift for your family and friends!

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Switch off the screen and go green this summer!

Some thoughts from Lee-Anne Groenewegen of Little Gumnuts:

The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need. I attended the Nature Play WA conference in September and came away with some valuable and enlightening information. Some of the standout points were:

- Dr Alan Logan – author of *Your Brain on Nature*. 'There are lower rates of anxiety and higher empathy when people are exposed to nature.'
- Lyn Beazley – neuroscientist and educator from Perth. 'There has been a myopia boom in children, higher levels of stress and obesity.'
- Ben Klasky from Islandwood School in Washington. 'If kids don't touch and experience nature, why would they want to save it?'
- Griffin Longley from Nature Play WA said: 'Nothing in nature is 'clickable!'



That's a good enough reason to get outside!

Little Gumnuts offers:

- Pre-kindy programs
- Holiday programs for children from K-Year 6
- School incursion programs
- Nature craft at community centres and events.

"Children in the 'green' day care, who played outside every day, regardless of weather, had better motor coordination and more ability to concentrate." — Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.



Festive flora and fauna

Keep your eyes peeled for these two summer loving residents of Yanchep National Park this festive season.

Named due to being most easily seen at Christmas time, the native **Christmas tree** (*Nuytsia floribunda*) is a beautiful hemiparasitic tree with bright orange flowers. It grows to 8m tall and can be seen growing on the Swan Coastal Plain.

Just as beautiful are the little **Christmas spiders** (*Austracantha minax*). These spiders belong to the orb weaving family. The female spiders are about 1cm with pointy spikes and have brightly coloured patches on their abdomens. The males are smaller and not as colourful. Christmas spiders are common in Yanchep National Park and are most often spotted sitting in delicate little webs.



Retro Rewind – save the date!

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Park again on 4 March 2017. Be sure to mark the date in your diaries because it's an event not to be missed!

More details to come in the new year.

To keep updated with all news and events don't forget to like [Yanchep National Park on Facebook](#).



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