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Winter 2017

Hi Lisa

What an incredible start to winter. We have seen with the highest temperatures since records began and glorious sunny days are providing a fantastic opportunity to stretch your legs in Yanchep National Park. Young kangaroos can be seen practising their boxing skills, Banksias have burst into flower and funky fungi is popping up in all shapes and sizes. Winter rains will bring the wetland and woodlands to life so don't be afraid to walk a trail during these cooler months and don't forget the Crystal Cave stays warm and dry all year round so if you want to get out in nature but out of the weather now is the perfect time!

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Campground trial continues

Yanchep National Park staff have been kept busy on the Henry White campground in recent weeks.

Revegetation works have commenced and, in partnership with the Yanchep National Park volunteers, a mass planting of young trees has started to transform the once-bare oval with more defined areas and shade. A prescribed burn to promote regeneration has been completed, and fencing has been erected to protect newly planted areas from the grazing kangaroos.

Additional fencing will also help divide the generously-sized camp sites, and campervan and RV visitors will be pleased to know we have recently installed a dump point. A safety audit of the mature trees provided a perfect opportunity to snap a picture of the dump point from a cherry picker!



Top: View of the new dump point from the safety audit cherry picker.

If you haven't camped at Yanchep yet then now is the time. If you have, then come back and see us soon, we'd love to know if you like the progress. Don't forget to pack the marshmallows as the communal fire pit is now in place for winter!

Bookings are available online only via the Department of Parks and Wildlife's parkstay website and app. Please go to parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au for bookings and further information.

Who's Henry?

You may have noticed him sitting in the fireplace in McNess House Visitor Centre. You may have seen his name on the sign at the campground. You may even know we had a koala named in his memory, but unless you have done a Crystal Cave tour you may not know much about old Henry!

While earlier European explorers are recorded to have visited Yanchep, Mr Henry White was the first official settler to the area in the period 1899 -1902. Henry built a cottage at a site nearby that is now known as Yanchep Beach Road and is believed to have discovered and explored many caves in the area. He is even credited with discovering the beautiful Crystal Cave in 1903.

the then Yanchep Reserve by the State Gardens Board and led visits into the caves for many years thereafter. Henry White is an important figure in Yanchep National Park's history.

He explored, discovered, built a home, became a caretaker and is remembered as our very first cave guide! Take a tour of Crystal Cave if you'd like to learn a little more about Henry.

Top: Cave guide Rob with Henry



NAIDOC Week celebrations and school holiday fun!

Yanchep National Park will hold a special NAIDOC day event on Saturday 8 July.

Visitors are invited to come along and join us 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 activities for the kids.
- At 12.30pm Yanchep National Park volunteers will cook up a barbecue with damper and bush tucker tastings.
- At 1pm Derek Nannup will share some local language in keeping with this year's NAIDOC theme 'Our Language Matters'.
- At 2pm the Aboriginal Experience activity will be free (usually \$30 a family ticket) and visitors are encouraged to join the tour to 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 self guided activities available in the Wangi Mia on weekdays (excluding Friday 7 and Thursday 13 July).

NAIDOC day and school holiday activities are free of charge however park entry fees do apply. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For further information please call 9303 7759.

Yanchep National Park volunteers visit Penguin Island

National Volunteer Week is celebrated 8-14 May to acknowledge the generous contribution of thousands of volunteers Australia-wide. Volunteers are an integral part of the Yanchep National Park family, with approximately 80 volunteers contributing more than 15,000 hours in the past year to conservation and maintenance projects in the park. Every year we acknowledge the significant efforts of our amazing group of volunteers with a fun day out.

This year, Yanchep National Park volunteers enjoyed a day at beautiful Penguin Island within Shoalwater Islands Marine Park near Rockingham. Despite predicted stormy weather, the sun shone and nature put on a fabulous spectacle for our hardworking group. After a ferry trip and lovely lunch, volunteers learnt about the delightful little penguins that call the Island home during feeding time at the Penguin Discovery Centre.



Marine park ranger Stephen Goodlich then led the group on a 'waddle' around the island, sharing his vast knowledge about the marine environment and management challenges faced on the island. The islands walk trails offer breathtaking ocean views and a diverse range of bird species. Some volunteers were lucky enough to see one of the usually shy penguins hiding under a boardwalk, starting to prepare for the coming nesting season.

The National Volunteer Week motto is 'Give Happy, Live Happy' as volunteering is a proven way to live a happier, healthier life and our volunteers are no exception to this adage.

If you are interested in volunteering in Yanchep National Park or learning more about our projects please contact Ciara on (08) 9303 7771.

Meet Heather

Our administration guru Heather made the move from City of Wanneroo to join the team in Yanchep National Park almost 10 years ago. Heather not only keeps the office running smoothly but is also well known for spoiling the staff with homemade cakes! Heather is usually the voice on the end of the phone when you call, our 'meet' questions will help introduce you to Heather.

What's your favourite thing about Yanchep National Park?

Working somewhere I absolutely love to be.

What do you like most about your job?

Working with a great team of people.

What are three words that best describe you?

Resourceful, feisty and passionate.

Curry and Chips, West Coast Eagles and 'Bourton on the Water' in the Cotswolds (but wouldn't want to live permanently any place other than Yanchep).

Name something on your bucket list?

Travelling first class and seeing my grandchildren achieve their goals whatever they may be.



Warm up for winter with *Nearer to Nature*

Parks and Wildlife's *Nearer to Nature* program has released a new calendar of activities for winter. 'Warm up for Winter 2017' 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 are provided an opportunity to explore wild caves and delve into the amazing world of wetland in activities held in the park for the very first time.

The ever-popular 'Adventure Caving' activity will be held on Friday 7 July with a session for the younger children aged 8 to 10 years at 10.15am and a session for 10 to 14 year-olds 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 its magnificent secrets.

On Thursday 13 July at 10am children aged 4 to 7 can learn about the wetland and enjoy some watery craft fun on the 'Squelching through Swampland' activity. Later in the day children aged 7 to 12 years will discover more about the fascinating wetland inhabitants during a 'Swamp Dwellers Discovery' activity to be held at 1pm.





Bookings for these activities are essential. To secure a spot please contact *Nearer to Nature* on (08) 9295 2244 during business hours.

Spotted in Yanchep National Park

Carpet Python (*Morelia spilota*) - These beautiful pythons can grow to 240cm in length and are a shy harmless species. While they are still common on the coastal plain, and here in Yanchep National Park, they are recognised as threatened due to habitat destruction, predation by feral species and increased urbanisation. Their colour varies from green to brown and markings can be described as cream blotches or bands. This 5-foot beauty was spotted near our entry station over the Easter long weekend to the delight of motorists who stopped to watch it safely cross the road.



Yanchep Rose (*Diplolana angustifolia*) -

The Yanchep Rose is in flower and has been spotted at numerous locations in and around Yanchep National Park including on the Yanchep Rose walktrail, on the Caves trail and also at the entry station. This delicate little plant occurs on the coastal plain north to Lancelin and flowers from July to September. If you haven't seen one before now is the time! The visitor centre staff will point you in the right direction so call in and ask where they have been seen during your next visit.



Chocolate making workshops with the droplets

Chocolate Drops is an award winning speciality handmade chocolate shop located within the Yanchep Tearooms. Chocolate Drops staff ('the droplets') have been busy making NAIDOC-themed chocolates such as boomerangs, koalas, kangaroos and wombats, which will be packaged in small gift bags specially for the July school holidays.

During June to September, the droplets will also be offering children the opportunity to learn the basic art of chocolate making. Participants will learn about the history of chocolate while creating their own moulded chocolates to take home. Chocolate making workshops are informative, fun, and creative - where artistic flair is personally guaranteed! It is truly a tasteful, mouth-watering experience.

For more information/bookings please contact Chocolate Drops on (08) 9561 6699. Chocolate Drops is open seven days from 10.30am until 2.30pm weekdays, and 10.30am until 4.30pm on weekends, public holidays and school holidays.



If you love Christmas and can't wait until December then Yanchep Inn has you covered! Every Saturday night throughout the month of July, the Yanchep Inn is offering Christmas in July dinners for just \$55 per person, which includes a three-course meal and plenty of Christmas fun!

If Christmas isn't your thing then maybe the Love Finders Band, who are playing on Friday nights between 7 July and 11 August, will be more to your liking. The Faulty Towers Show is also returning on both 3 and 4 August and is guaranteed to make you laugh out loud. For more information and to make bookings please contact the Yanchep Inn on (08) 9561 1001.



"Play is the most important thing our children do" - Lee-Anne Groenewegen

What we need to know about play and children: Play is a process, not a product.

During play, children explore, experiment, create, destroy, achieve and fail. Sometimes they get hurt, they gain independence, they develop resilience, they learn and have an immense amount of fun.

We spend a fortune on toys for children. Big business targets children as a captive market; they sell parents the concept that an idyllic childhood can be bought and, often because of this, many children have gotten the message that valid experiences are bought experiences.

When we take them to the bush, beach or a park, sit back, and let them play for as long as they like, we allow them to direct their own play, allow them to explore, experience and just be.

Little Gumnuts runs nature education programs in Yanchep National Park for children aged three and older. Children spend time outdoors immersed in nature; creating, experiencing, playing and learning.

2017 Cabaret Cave Ball for Telethon

What better venue for an Arabian Nights themed Ball than Yanchep's very own Cabaret Cave! Heather Jarvis and her fundraising team are once again holding a ball for Telethon to be held on Saturday 14 October with all profits going directly to the Telethon appeal. For further information, to make a donation to the silent auction, or to book a ticket please contact Heather on 0421 776 828.

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

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