



WA Museum Albany  
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*Living, caring and  
learning in our  
environment*

## Museum Under the Microscope

**Lisa Kirkendale, Curator Molluscs,  
Aquatic Zoology, WA Museum Perth**

My name is Lisa Kirkendale and I am the new Curator Molluscs, Aquatic Zoology, Western Australian Museum.

I am responsible for curating and management of the Mollusc collections in Aquatic Zoology and the position blends scientific research, public programming and exhibit development and design.

My typical working day involves a bit of everything, but mainly unpacking boxes right now! I can be analysing genetic data on oyster relationships and writing it up for scientific publication, making new slides for a talk on what molluscs live in the Kimberly near shore islands, identifying specimens under the microscope, gearing up for a dive in the Swan River, working on the science panels for a new exhibit on pearls and assisting visiting researchers in organizing a trip to WA.

I came to be involved in this work through an early love of the ocean growing up on the beachfront in cold Victoria BC Canada, with lots of boating, swimming, curiosity and outdoor play. I did a unique Bachelor's degree that enabled hands on work experience across different fields of

study and before I knew it I found myself at the Royal British Columbia Museum describing a new species of sea cucumber.

My career path/background and relevant qualifications are B. Sc., M. Sc and PhD degrees with speciality in molluscan evolution, biogeography and systematics. I am interested in other invertebrate (no backbone groups) and teaching/communicating science to others. I participate in large scale biodiversity survey work, identification of non-native species and take special interest in genetics/molecular tool- usually from a mollusc's eye view!

What interested me as a young person about the natural world was that the more you felt you knew the more you inevitably didn't. Eventually you take a deep breath, accept that and learn to see it as a healthy challenge.

The most interesting / exciting / challenging part of my work is: balancing everything, constantly learning, finding the truth, keeping up with rapidly evolving fields, diving in beautiful remote areas that few people have ever seen, making taxonomy come alive for children/people and linking taxonomy to real world

problems, working with groups all over the world.

My tip for discovering whether this type of work is for you is to get involved! You have already started this by being part of the Young Naturalists Club. I am a strong advocate of volunteering, be it at your local museum, landcare group, aquarium or zoo and your club is helping you achieve this also. I think for students it is a nice idea to start a club at school but in general come up with what you think your dream position is and then find a way to just give it a go!



Lisa will be visiting the Young Naturalists club in March so please come and join her for everything Mollusc!

## Member Profile— Brendon Waud

My name is Brendon Waud, I'm 11 years old and I'm home schooled.

I like to read fiction adventure books, some of my favourite authors are Willard Price, Rick Riordan and Eoin Colfer.

I've been with the Young Nat's (YNC) for a year; one of my favourite outings with the YNC was the bat hunt. We all got into groups and went looking for bats and then we looked in the bat traps to see if any bats got stuck in them. One Trap had caught a bat and after we all looked at it we let it go.

My favourite place in the natural world to visit is Wansborough walk in the Porongurup's. The young naturalists club is lots of fun and does lots of different things that includes geocaching, fungi hunt and map reading. You might not know what geocaching is so I'll tell you. It's a world wide treasure hunt, all you need is a GPS the co-ordinates and some spare time, some of them are really tough and will take some time to find.

I have a brother and a sister and they are Young Naturalists Club members too.



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send your mag contributions to Mandy.Arnold@museum.wa.gov.au or ring 9841 4844

# The Barking gEcho

## Summer/ Newsletter 2013

Hi All .

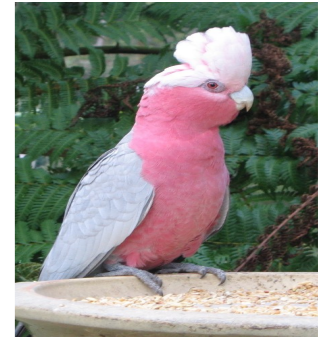
I hope you have all had a fabulous Christmas and spent time out in the beautiful environment somewhere in the world these past holidays. Summer is a great time for early mornings outdoors and usually an active time for insects, plants and many birds. I hope you have had the opportunity to experience some of this.

Another year of fun environmental events is about to start up and I hope you are all excited about the events that we have planned. I think there is something to cover all interests so I am sure we will have all of you on board for as many events as possible.

The school holidays and Easter are a bit different this year so some months are less filled than others. Please email us as soon as you know which events you would like to come along to and we will book you in.

I am happy to say that we have had an influx of new memberships over the Summer holidays. I know that our more veteran members will make all the new members feel very welcome. Please introduce yourself to anyone you have not seen at an event before.

I have just done a new t-shirt order so if anyone has outgrown theirs feel free to come and purchase another from the Museum.



Hey Young Nat's—  
Keep a lookout for my feathered cousins that are fast disappearing.

We used our Community Club money from Camping, Kayaks and 4 x 4 to purchase 6 new head lamps for members to use on our night events. They have already been used at our Bat Event last year.

1st Snake: "Hey Frank, are we venomous?"

2nd Snake: "Why do you want to know?"

1st Snake: "Cause I just bit my tongue!"

## You can be part of IGA Taste Great Southern!



During February and March this year there will be many events held around the Great Southern that promote local food, wine and lifestyle. The WA Museum, Albany will be part of this fabulous festival and our event might be just your cup of tea!

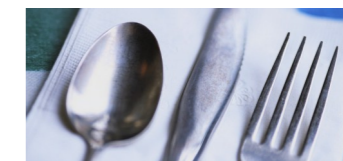
"It's All In The Making" will be held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March here at the Museum. Let local chefs inspire you to become a "Zero Food Miles" junior Chef. They

will teach you how to use fresh, local and seasonal foods to create delicious dishes the will surprise and delight your taste buds.

\$25.00 per person

Sessions will be at 10am and 2pm.

Book by phoning the Museum on 9841 4844.



## Camping, Kayaks and 4x4 Community Fund.

**Remember to remind** family and friends to nominate YNC as their recipient for the Community Club loyalty fund when they purchase anything from this store. The reward dollars can be used by us to buy equipment that our club can use.

# Events Program!

## Beautiful Bees!

Sunday February 17th 1pm –2.30pm  
Bartholomew's Meadery and Bees  
2620 South Coast Highway, Denmark

Come along and learn about how important bees are, watch them at their work from the safety of the shop and build a native bee house or make a beeswax candle to take home. The shop sells great home made ice cream but feel free to bring along a picnic afternoon tea to have in this lovely bush setting.

## Blooming Butterflies!

Sunday February 24th 1pm to 2pm  
Albany Butterfly House  
127 Angove Road, Spencer Park.

Come along and visit Albany's very own Butterfly House with expert Jonathon Middleweek. We will learn about native and exotic butterflies, their favourite flowers and their life cycle. This is a special opportunity that you really shouldn't miss! Numbers will be limited for this so please book! These people run on donations and the Young Naturalists will donate to them. If you wish to add to the donation feel free to do so on the day. They may have chrysalis for sale on the day if you are interested.

## Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday March 3rd 9.30am to 11.30am  
This is one of those occasions where we really look after our environment. Meet at the Museum to collect your gloves, bags and instructions and then

roll up your sleeves for some good clean fun and exercise.

## Marvellous Molluscs!

Sunday 10th March 2-4pm

We have been lucky enough to invite Lisa Kirkendale down to Albany from the WA Museum in Perth to go Mollusc finding and learn all about these (sometimes tasty) little creatures. Please meet at the Lower Kalgan Bridge and be prepared to get wet and muddy!

## Kite Festival! \*TBC

Saturday and Sunday March 23rd and 24th

Come along to the Museum and make your very own kite to celebrate nature and the great outdoors! Young Nat's will be subsidised for this event as it normally incurs a cost. Please wear your YNC t-shirts.

## Wilson Inlet Macro invertebrate Study

Sunday 7th April 10am-12noon

This has been one of our ongoing studies and I am very please to say that many members have been involved over the lasted 18 months. Remember the data we collect will be published for future reference for those organisations that manage our water ways. Wear shoes that you can wear in the water (eg. reef shoes). Bring sun scream. Feel free to bring along your bathers and have a swim after if mum or dad allows and weather is good.

## Shorebirds For Sure! \*TBC

Saturday April 13th 1pm –2pm  
Learn all about our local shorebird

species and what to look out for if you are out walking along the beach.

## The Estuary Environment \*TBC

Sunday May 19th 1pm to 3pm

What makes an estuary an estuary? What is special about the creatures that live in the estuary? We will have some estuary fish to dissect and learn about as well as some water testing to do. Be prepared to get a little messy!

## Healthy Food Miles! \*TBC

Sunday May 26th 1pm to 3pm

How many miles has your food travelled before it reaches your plate? All these miles puts a strain on our environment with more fuel being used and more carbon released into the world. Learn to cook something local from all local ingredients. Learn to make your own mouth wash or moisturiser so you stay healthy and so does the world. Following our Taste Great Southern Event this one is for those who loved that or might have missed out on it.

\$10 per child for this one.

**\*TBC : to be confirmed.** More details of these events will be released shortly but you are welcome to book in for them now.

**Remember-** Please book in for all the events you intend to come to. This really helps with organisation. Just drop us an email either to Peter at the museum or Rebecca at home [repeter2@tpg.com.au](mailto:repeter2@tpg.com.au)

# Going Batty!



Our final event for 2012 was "Going Batty" and it was a really well supported and enjoyable evening. Everyone who attend will tell you that Susan was a fabulous presenter who was knowledgeable personable. She brought along sonar equipment that all the kids got to use to try to track the bats and some amazing nets to catch them with. A few of the senior Young Nat's were able to help set the nets up and all that attended walked through the bush when is got dark to check the nets. We were very lucky to catch a lovely little Lesser Long Eared Bat. She was a lactating mother so we released her after a short time. Susan was really impressed with the number of questions the Young Nat's asked and the quality of their questions—Well Done guys!

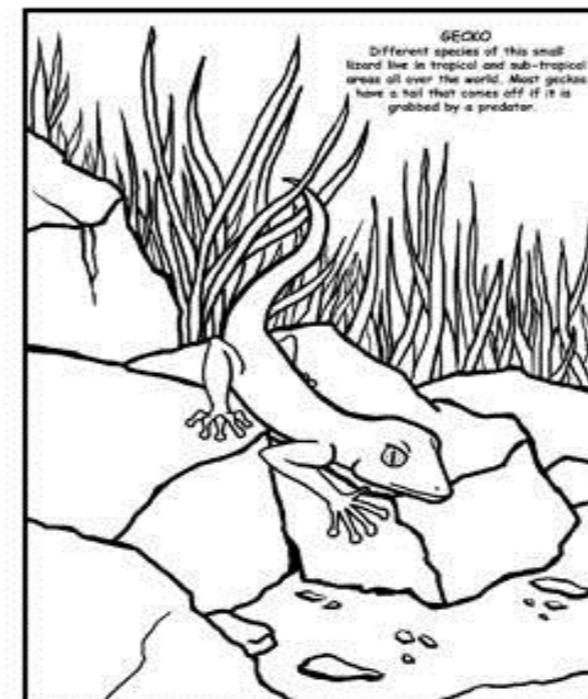
This was a fun night to finish off our year.

Q. Where do frogs keep their money?

A. In a river bank!



# Fun Corner (By National Geographic)



## Gecko Quiz

1. Scientists organise animals into different classes. What class do geckos belong to?
2. Baby geckos have a special tooth when they hatch. What is it called?
3. True or False? All geckos live in the rainforest.
4. Geckos are the only lizards to communicate using what? A. Smells, B. Sign Language, C. Voices, D. Postures
5. True of False? If a gecko loses its tail it will grow back.
6. What do most geckos eat?
7. Many geckos are nocturnal. What does this mean?

Have a look at this the National Geographic website for fun, facts and loads more!

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com.au/kids/games/moregames/big-gulp/>

Answers: 1. Reptiles 2. egg tooth 3. False 4. voices 5. True 6. insects 7. They are active at night time.

# Festival of Birds Expo

On Saturday 13th April there will be a Festival of Birds Expo and Forum held at the WA Museum, Albany. The aim of the event is to bring together a range of bird, community and Natural Resource Management groups to showcase what is special about WA's birds. The event will be an educational and fun day for the general public and the Young Naturalists club are encouraged to come along too. We will have our own short talk and shorebirds identification session at 1pm (see program for details).

There are many organisations already down to be involved in this Expo by holding stalls, giving talks or providing activities for the day.

Other events being organised under the umbrella of the Festival of Birds include;

An exhibition titled "Bird Flight" at Yongergnow Australian Malleefowl Centre which will open on 9th March.

"Meet the Birds" event to be held near Esperance on the weekend of the

16th/17th March.

Might be a nice weekend away?

