



Barking gEcho

Summer edition 2015

Young Naturalists Club

Welcome to a new year of fun and learning with the Young Naturalists Club.



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End of Year Camp 2014

We ended last year with a relaxing (for the parents) and an exciting (for the members) Young Nats Camp at the Rotary Club camp grounds by Princess Royal Harbour.

All who attended spent a fun weekend canoeing, swimming, rogaining (like orienteering), playing games like spotlight, ping pong and cricket.



Many took advantage of the accommodation while others pitched a tent to experience camping life.

At night we lit up the pit fire to roast marshmallows, and apart from a few burnt fingers and many burnt sticks, it was a highlight for most.

Courage award should go to Escher who suffered a few mishaps including a split lip during the weekend, but soldiered on and still had a great time.

Mt Melville/ Kardarup Fauna Survey

The City of Albany has received a grant through South Coast Natural Resource Management to undertake a community fauna survey on Mt Melville/Kardarup.

The Young naturalists have been invited to be involved in checking traps for animals and going on spotlight walks.

This is a great opportunity to see some of our wonderful native wildlife up close, and to see how scientists carry out fauna surveys.



Calendar of Events Term One

Young Naturalists Club Co-ordinator PETER PRITCHARD e: Peter.Pritchard@museum.wa.gov.au

February

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd Checking Traps

Start: **6:30 am**

Max 10 people for each day.

Meet at the Lion St Park - the same as last time.

We will be checking fauna traps which have been set overnight. The city is surveying the native wildlife found on Mt Melville.

Last year we caught bandicoots, bush rats, skinks and quite a few frogs.

It usually takes about 3.5 hours, but you are welcome to leave earlier if you wish.

Bring sturdy shoes, long pants (as we will be bush bashing), water, hats, sun cream and insect repellent. Own hot drinks.

I will supply some muffins and pastries for a morning snack.



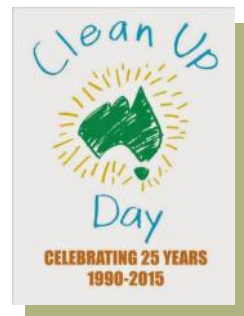
March

Sunday 1st Clean-up Australia Day

Start: **1.00pm**

Location: **Mt Clarence & Mt Melville**

Join us on **Clean-up Australia Day** to help keep our local environment free of rubbish. Hopefully we will have enough volunteers to cover the walk trails of Mt Clarence and Mt Melville. For Young Nats this is our patch so we should take ownership of keeping it clean for the flora and fauna.



Saturday 7th Spotlighting

Start: **8:00 pm**

3 Locations on Mt Melville **TBA**

Three groups - **max 10 people** per group.

Last year we saw many possums and bats!

Bring sturdy shoes, torches and insect repellent.

We usually take about 1.5 hours for this event.



Sunday 15th Farewell to Shorebirds

Start: **TBA**

Location: **Rushy Point**

Right now over 5 million shorebirds are migrating from Australia to breed in the Arctic – for some that can be a 30,000km return journey! Join us at Rushy Point with bird expert Anne Bondin to spot some of these amazing birds.

From March 21st to April 19th check out the **Farewell Shorebirds Challenge**.

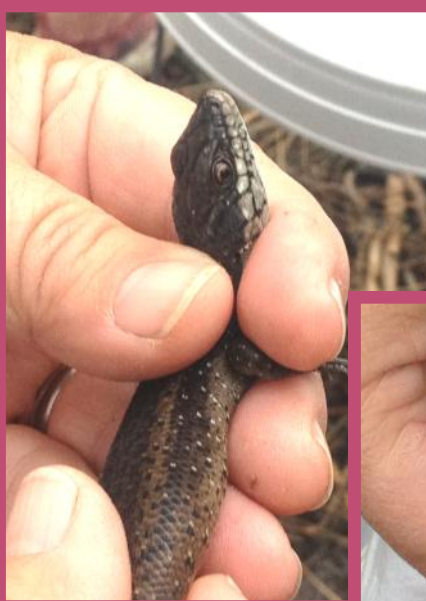
Do we as a nation have what it takes to walk, jog, cycle or swim as far as these incredible birds?

From March 21st head to the website, farewellshorebirds.org.au log your distance travelled each day, help us reach the national target and go into the draw to win some incredible prizes.





Camp 2014



Mt Melville Fauna Survey 2014

Museum Matters

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM- ALBANY

Residency Road, Albany WA 6330

Phone: 08 9841 4844

E-mail: albany@museum.wa.gov.au

Taste Great Southern Kids Taste Kitchen

Kids, join a guest chef to discover how simple, fresh, local food can get your taste buds hopping! Discover facts about taste buds and why freshness really does taste better. Yum! Ages 7-14, adult must remain with child, cost is \$20 per child

Monday 2nd March 10am-1pm
Old Mount Barker Co-op

South Coast Festival of Birds Kite Making Workshop

With a focus on bird designs, Michael & Jan Alvarez will show you how to make a beautiful kite, ready to fly in the Bird Kite Fiesta the following day. \$12 per person or \$30 per family (TBC) includes cost of materials.

Register with Green Skills Denmark
9848 3310

denmark@greenskills.org.au

Saturday 21st March 10am-2pm
Old Mt Barker Co-op

Taste Great Southern The Science of Chocolate is a journey into why we love chocolate, why it makes us feel the way we do, a little about its history and how it is made, its active chemistry, health benefits and some of the myths surrounding it. The session includes a hands-on chocolate making demonstration, and a taste of the best chocolate in the world! Presenter: UWA's food forensic expert Prof Garry Lee. Cost \$15 per person, bookings essential.

Saturday 14th March 4pm-6pm
Old Mount Barker Co-op

Pop Up Galleries PIAF Great Southern Festival 2015 Exhibition On the Beach by Tim Pearn.

This free exhibition provides a thought provoking look at the insidious build-up of small scale plastic detritus on the wild and pristine beaches of the southern coast of Western Australia. **Daily until Saturday 7th March** 10am-4pm

Naturalists under the Microscope

Hello! My name is Sheryn Prior. When I was a kid, I loved the ocean. And I still do.

Fortunately, I managed to find a profession involving some practical outdoor work that engages the technical side of my brain in amongst managing projects and paperwork. There's also the opportunity to work with passionate and dedicated people that look after the coast, and even some 'rough diamonds' who are a bit salty and rough, with hearts of gold.

As a kid, I loved family picnics to various national parks and going bushwalking.

My grandfather had a big camera, and he and my mum were members of the Wildflower Society for many years. Their enthusiasm for all the colours and forms in the bush rubbed off on me. I took some time off after high school to work, then went to university and studied Marine Science. It was a bit shocking when lecturers explained that a professional scientist could spend their time: ~10% fieldwork, ~30% data analyses and ~60%

report writing. There's a lot more to science than going diving to see the amazing life underwater!

My first professional job was to survey recreational fishing in



the Blackwood Estuary near Augusta, where I improved my boat driving skills and also ways to

interact with outspoken individuals.

For the past seven years, I've worked in coastal management and community engagement for South Coast NRM based in Albany.

My work involves supporting community groups and public land managers to look after the coastal reserves between Walpole and Esperance. We also have the chance to assist on some awesome research projects, such as monitoring seabirds on the islands, or filming the reef fish underwater with stereo video cameras.