

Volume 3

Winter 2014



Send your mag contributions to Peter.Pritchard@museum.wa.gov.au or ring 9841 4844

The Barking gEcho

Winter Newsletter 2014

Welcome to our newest members -Jaxon Marshall, Peter Packard, Ethan and Finn Thomas, Hudson Armstrong, Alec McDonald, Isabelle Maher, Noah Gibson and Charlize Flatman.

The past few events have been very different. Back in March we visited Lake Seppings to explore the birdlife and examine some of the macro-invertebrates living in the lake.



After the school holidays we delved into some forensic detective work trying to solve the murder mystery of who killed the dunnart. At the same event some of our members explored the world of paleontology and learnt some basic skills in how to uncover fossils.

In May we also took a closer look at crystals as part of the International Year of Crystallography and tried our hand at growing some crystals.

June is fungi time! A fantastic number of members turned up on a beautiful afternoon to search for fungi on Mt Melville. It was a great success with many types found. By the end, everyone had their eyes tuned to fungi spotting. We also got an opportunity to test out our new dissecting microscopes.



Why we have them is due to funding the Young



Roving reporter

Naturalists Club received from South Coast Natural Resource Management (SCNRM) as part of a project to engage young people in conservation and protection of South Coast flora and fauna species and ecosystems. The money will allow us to invite more experts to talk to us and hopefully an end of year camp! We will keep you posted!

Spider's Amazing Survival Story!

During the Easter weekend this reporter and family were on Mt Clarence with visiting relatives. There we found a specimen container that had been left behind from the Spider Hunt event on March 1st. Looking inside, we were dismayed to find a spider! Dismay turned to amazement when we realized the spider was still alive!! Even though there was a bit of water in the container, it had been trapped in there for 50 days!

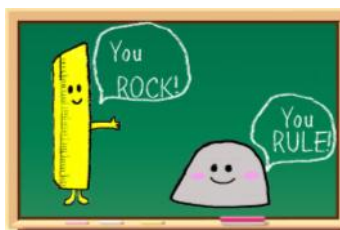
Our spider expert Amber Beavis responded to the tale, "I'm quite blown away that the spider survived that long, even with the presence of condensation...In my experience spiders can live without food or fresh air for months at a time, particularly if they are kept in cool conditions...Spiders are tough that's for sure! "

The spider was last seen scurrying into the bush.

Funnies

Q: What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano?

A: I Lava You!



Q: What is big, yellow and eats stones?

A: The big yellow stone eater.

Q: What is big, green and eats stones?

A: The big yellow stone eater in disguise.

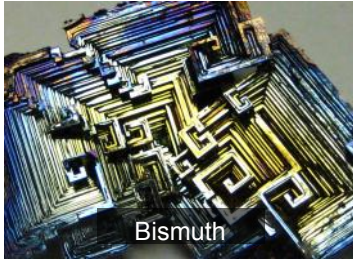
Events Program!

Sunday 3rd August 1-3pm

Floating Rocks and Bendy Stones

Ever seen rocks float? Can you bend a rock? Geologist John Lamerand is our special guest and he will entertain us with amazing stories and experiments that will make you think twice about rocks.

Venue: Co-op building at the Museum.



Bismuth

Saturday August 23rd 5.30-8.30pm

Frog Hunt

Time to put on your head torches and tune up your frog listening skills and join expert Dale Roberts on a forage for flippery frogs.

Venue: TBC



Sunday 7th September 1-3pm

Bush Survival

Join us for an afternoon of bush survival skills. Discover how to get water out of trees and navigate your way out of trouble. Learn some tips on how Australian aborigines have survived for thousand of years in the bush, knowing what to eat and how to catch it.

Venue: Young's Siding



Sunday 21st September 1-3pm

Life in a Granite Rockpool

Noongars call the granite rock holes found in the great southern, gnammas, and they hold not just



Clam Shrimp

fresh water but up to 230 different aquatic species. Visit the gnammas found near the **Wind Farm** and discover creatures such as clam shrimps and maybe, if we're lucky, some triops.

Saturday 11th October 6.00 am

SPECIAL EVENT– Limited places

Fauna Survey-Two Peoples Bay

We have been granted special permission to be part of the Fauna trapping program run by the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife. Join Ranger Mark True and his team as they



Chuditch

check the fauna traps at Two Peoples Bay and then help identify and record what we find.

NOTE: We have a limit of 30 people (including adults) to this event, to be chosen on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis.

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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.

Photo Gallery—what we have been up to



Crystal Growing



Who Dunnart?

Lake Seppings



Fungi Foray





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*Living, caring and
learning in our
environment*

Museum Under the Microscope

Maddy McAllister

Assistant Curator/Maritime Archaeologist

My name is Maddy McAllister and I grew up in Western Australia's southwest region. Throughout my childhood and into my teens I loved everything about the ocean and I was often found swimming and snorkelling in Geographe Bay. I was fascinated with stories my granddad told me of famous ships and shipwrecks around the world and by the time I was 15 I had my SCUBA diving certification. In 2006 my dad and I completed a weekend course with the WA Museum in maritime archaeology – from there on I was hooked on studying shipwrecks. After high school I studied a Bachelor of Archaeology followed by a Masters of Maritime Archaeology at Flinders University in Adelaide.

In January 2012 I was offered a position as an Assistant Curator with the Department of Maritime Archaeology in the Western Australian Museum – a dream come true.

My work at the museum covers a wide range of tasks, all of which I find fascinating. The Department is responsible for the management of all of Western Australia's historic shipwrecks – a big job! This involves following up reports of new shipwrecks sites, inspecting shipwrecks (lots of diving and fieldwork!), researching the history of these shipwrecks and studying the artefacts recovered from them. Ultimately we design exhibits to tell these stories of



shipwrecks to the public and one of my favourite parts of the job is sharing these stories. Lastly, I am very lucky to be a part of an incredible and active department that regularly spends days on the water inspecting shipwrecks and conducting further research.

Member Profile

Hi my name is Noah Gibson. I am 10 years old and have recently joined the Young Naturalists Club. I go to St Joseph's College and really enjoy it there.



Luca and Noah on Bluff Knoll

My family and I moved to Albany at the end of last year. My brother, Luca, is 4 and would like to be a young nat too. Mum sometimes works at the museum and Dad is a doctor in town. We also have a black cat called Tibbles.

I joined the YNC because I am interested in all the things going on in and around Albany and because I am interested in science. My other interests are reading, maths, drawing, art and craft, tennis and swimming,

My favourite event so far is the Fungi foray because I enjoyed finding the different sorts of fungi around Mt Melville and am interested in their differences and their structure. I photographed the fungi we found and took this to school to share with my class and teacher. I also really enjoyed the forensic science mystery 'Who Dunnart?'. I enjoyed looking at the different skulls of the animals and working to try and figure out which animal killed the dunnart.