School’s Out!

The best homework excuse:
Teacher: Where’s your homework?
Pupil: I lost it fighting this kid who said you weren’t the best teacher in the school.

Important Phone Numbers If you see injured wildlife while out in nature on your holidays:
Seabird Rescue: 0418 952 683
Born Free Wildlife Carers: 0427 772 312

What do you get if you cross a vampire with a teacher?
Lots of blood tests!

School holiday’s At the Museum
We are going to the Beach! Join us for Beach Combining and Sandcastle building at Middleton on 13th and 27th Jan 10am or at Emu Point on 20th Jan.
The Discovery Centre is wild about the ocean too! Come along have loads of fun doing various beach or ocean themed activities and crafts out of the hot sun! No need to slip slop slap when you come inside at the Museum! See the awesome coral reef, hang ten in the beach hut, decorate our diorama, dress up as a shark or a jelly fish or paint your own plaster mould sea creature to take home. Phone the museum for more information.
9841 4844

2012—a sneak peek
Please put the following date in your diary for next year Sunday 19th February.
This is the date of our first event for the year. It would be great to have everyone at this one. We will be meeting in the carpark at Castle Rock very early in the morning, having breakfast together and then walking the new Sky Walk. Details still need to be confirmed but please keep the date free.

Next year I will be running another “One Hour Challenge” and I strongly advise all members try to do as many of the tasks as possible. The first prize for this year “One Hour Challenge” was a $50 voucher! Second prize was a $30 voucher. All those who handed their journals in received a prize! It is very worthwhile. Not to mention that all those who did their journals told me how much they enjoyed doing them!
The theme for the “One Hour challenge for 2012 will be something to do with sustainable energy. This is because 2012 is International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. Stay tuned for more information about this.

Next year we will run a few age specific events. They will be held at the same time and at the same venue but the activities will be different for different ages. This means that families will still only need to come to one place at a time but also allows me to tailor the events to the members. I hope everyone can get as much out of the program as possible.

Please make sure you have renewed your membership before the end of January 2012. This is for all members who joined in 2010 or those who joined Jan or Feb 2011. If you are unsure of which month you joined then please contact me and I will let you know.
We have an action packed year planned and I do not want anyone to miss out on it. Our very first event for 2012 is in February and involves a breakfast and a very high mountain. The events program will be released in January so make sure you are on the list to receive that.

Outdoor World Community Fund
Don’t forget that if you are purchasing any new camping equipment from Camping World here in Albany then please nominate the Young Naturalists Club as the community group you would like to support. We get rewards when people shop at Camping World and nominate our club. It is important to do this at the time of purchase.
Awards Galore!

As I mentioned in our last newsletter—Albany won the Regional Tidy Towns Award for the South Coast Region. The judges specifically noted that the Young Naturalists Club was one of the key reasons that this was awarded to Albany. They said that “The new Young Naturalists Club was a terrific vehicle for education through the involvement of families.”

Well I can now tell you that due to our fabulous club Albany has taken home the state title for Natural Heritage and conservation! This is a fabulous feather in our cap!

But wait there’s more!

In November The Young Naturalists Club was short listed for a national museums award. We had been nominated for the National Museums and Galleries Awards in the category of Public Programs. These awards attracted nominations from all over Australia and from major Museums and Galleries that have multimillion dollar budgets. While it was a terrific honour to be short listed I can now tell you that we received a Highly Commended! The category had only one winner and then three highly commended.

Young Naturalists Club look out one of the Highly commended and another went to our great Mini Museus Program!

The Young Naturalists Club is really significant to our community. We are a valuable resource for other groups to use to help get projects that improve our environment done. Our club is building on the skills and knowledge that our young people have so they can continue to make a difference to the world we live in. I am so very proud of the work we have done and I am really looking forward to another year of building on these achievements.

Rachael (Museum Manager) and everyone at the WA Museum wishes to say thanks for being such an active and enthusiastic group of families. Alec Coles (WA Museum CEO) has acknowledged our achievements in these awards. The Young Naturalists Club fits his strategic aim to “contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities by facilitating people’s exploration of their identity, culture, environment and place in the world.”

Thank you parents for getting your kids along to the events and sharing the experiences that we have had. Well done kids for participating in a club that genuinely makes a difference to your world and to yourself!

More Winners!

The following members won our inaugural awards.

The Young Naturalist Club Participant of The Year

Given to the member who attends the most events and who meets new members and interacts well with others at all events they attend.

1st: Ellie Fisher
2nd: Lucy Barkovic and Jazman Allen

Most curious Young Naturalist

Given to the member who asks questions of our facilitators or who does further research on a topic from our events.

1st: Jessinta Ferreira
2nd: Jack Boyce and Rose Cuddihy

Best One Hour Outdoor Challenge Journal

For a completed Journal

1st: Ellie Fisher

Best Single Entry in a One Hour Outdoor Challenge Journal

(Journal can be incomplete)

1st: Oscar Ferriera
2nd: Eamon Pritchard
Best Wildlife Rescuers/carers
Sidney and Eamon Pritchard

Congratulations to all!

Camp Awards:

The following people won gift vouchers for being on camp and for being themselves!

Sol Toussaint: for always paddling his own canoe
Ellen Toussaint and Emma Turbill: Future wildlife vets
Sam Turbill: for being so caring and thoughtful
Lily Turbill: for cultivating the most bird friendly hairstyle

Joseph Paratore: for always observing the natural world
Donley Paratore: for perseverance and confidence in everything
Sonia Barkovic: for maintaining great poise in the face of chaos
George Wiseman: for being the fastest camper ever
Callum Duffield: combining nature and athletics and being the best dune jumper
Josh Duffield: Gary’s best ever critter wrangler
Romy Duffield: Brother tamer!
Carl and Toby Ryan: both best at multimillion dollars
Matt Duffield: for being the best ever mum
Melina Hicks: For being a hard working deck hand on the cruise

Well done everyone!!! What fun!

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Well done everyone!!! What fun!

As a kid I was always interested in the animals around me. I would drive my Mum and Dad crazy bringing home things I had found like lizards, frogs and insects. As I got older I started to become interested in birds. I rescued injured birds and helped out at the local wildlife shelter, as well as breeding my own birds in aviaries at home. When I left school I went to university to study ornithology, and soon after I got a job at the museum. I work as a Technical Officer for the Terrestrial Zoology department researching birds, mammals, reptiles and frogs. My job is very varied and I am never doing the same thing. My job includes drawing and photography, taxidermy, mapping (GIS), handling public enquiries, helping students and researchers, and looking after our huge collection of around 250,000 specimens. The best part of my job is when I travel to far-away places in search of animals. I have traveled to the Abrolhos Islands, the Gibsoon Desert, the Pilbara region and throughout the Kimberley looking for new beasts to discover. During these trips we often camp out with no tv, no mobile phones and not even showers or toilets! It can be hard and dirty work, but it makes it all worth while when you get to see places and animals very few people will ever get the chance to. I consider myself to be very lucky to have a job where I am doing something I love!