

Others fail, the park t



Jennifer Bryan (8) of Bassendean points to a koala bear, and right, nestled snugly in the groove. PICTURES: BRUCE HUNT www.communitypix.com.au d265963

Signs to signal area's attractions



Sign on the marina.

d265969

TOURIST signs promoting attractions in Yancheep Two Rocks have been installed along Marmion Avenue between Butler and Yancheep.

Last month, Wanneroo Council approved a proposal for the signs put forward by Yancheep Two Rocks Tourism Network as part of the "Rediscover Yancheep" initiative.

Capricorn Village Joint Venture set up the initiative.

Funding will eventually be gained from the signs under two-year sponsorship deals to provide a revenue stream for the network to start promoting tourism in the area.

The tourism network will maintain the signs.

It will also pay for them to be moved when Marmion's second carriageway is built.



i PARK FACTS

- Yancheep National Park is a finalist in this year's WA Tourism Awards
- The park attracts about 240,000 visitors a year
- Most popular park attractions are the koalas and the daily caves tours
- The park uses all local volunteers
- A DEC 20-year management plan for the park's future will be released by the end of the year

fail, the park thrives



YANCHEPTWO ROCKS

By **EMMA BRENNAN**

ONE of Yanchep's finest natural assets, and one that will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the area in the future is Yanchep National Park.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) run park has survived the loss of several other prominent tourist attractions in the region and has thrived where others have failed.

It has just been announced as a finalist in the best tourist attraction category of the WA Tourism Awards and now pulls in about 240,000 interstate, overseas and local visitors every year.

Although it has increased visitor numbers dramatically over the past 10 years, the success of the park has not come without hard work.

During that time, facilities such as car parking, accommodation, barbecues and toilet blocks have been upgraded, the cave function centre has been refurbished, walk trails upgraded and new attractions developed to keep the visitors rolling in.

The park operates varied school holiday and volunteer programs, several with an emphasis on aboriginal culture.

To many, the park is the heart of the Yanchep Two Rocks community, with local people taking out annual park passes so they can regularly use the walking trails.

It is vital to the economy of the Yanchep Two Rocks area because it provides employment for local people, uses local suppliers and brings visitors to the region.

Its environmental significance is unparalleled, boasting four wetlands, seven different biological plant communities, protected limestone and a karst cave system.

The planned development in Yanchep Two Rocks will bring a big influx of people to the area.

How this could affect the park is the subject of a DEC Yanchep National Park Management Plan, a draft of which is currently with the State Government for approval.

It will set out how the park should deal with issues such as effects on wildlife and vegetation, visitor management and security issues over the next 20 years.

Sue Dash has run her business Chocolate Drops tearooms from Yanchep National Park for the past four years and is a finalist in two categories of the WA Tourism Awards.

She employs between nine and 15 local people and numerous work experience students from local colleges.

"We have seen a big increase in the number of visitors to the park," she said.

"It used to be young couples coming up from the city but it now seems to be more families bringing their extended family and they are definitely spending more money.

"The tourism awards are great motivation for the staff and it shows people that tourism is being well represented in Yanchep."



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