

BUSSELTON NATURALISTS CLUB

2015 PROGRAM

- February** Meeting Thursday 12 – AGM + John Bunting, geologist with Earth Science WA: **Hot Rocks, Warm Corals, Cool Microbes – Unravelling the Geology of the SW Capes Region**
- Excursion Sunday 22 – **Marine Life at Gannet Rock, Meelup Regional Park** – swimming and snorkeling at Gannet Rock. Meet 9.30am at car park about 500 metres north of Meelup Beach. Bring own swimming gear, plus morning tea/picnic lunch.
- February/March** **Long Weekend Camping Excursion** Friday February 27 to Monday March 2 – Glenbrook Estate, 36 Darch Rd, Margaret River – drive 5km south of town and turn left onto Darch Road: driveway starts where the bitumen ends. Land for Wildlife property, bushwalks, unpowered sites, campers' kitchen with fridge, games room, no pets. \$15 per person per night. Visits to Augusta River Festival, geological sites around Cape Leeuwin, Augusta abalone farm.
- March** Excursion Friday 6 – **Meelup Moon Rise Walk**. Easy 4km walk along coastal track to watch full moon rise over Geographe Bay. **BUS** from Pries Ave at 5.00pm for 5.30pm walk from boat ramp on Bay View Crescent, Dunsborough. \$6 return trip from Busselton; \$3 from Meelup to Dunsborough. Bring picnic meal.
- Meeting Thursday 12 – Dr Trudy Paap, research fellow, School of Biological Sciences, Murdoch University: **Marri Canker – why south west red gums are in trouble**
- Excursion Sunday 22 – **Walks around Bunbury: 5.0km easy Mangrove Walk, Dolphin Discovery Centre, 2.2km easy Manea Park, 1.8km moderate Maidens Walk. BUS.** \$10 plus \$10/\$5 for entry to Dolphin Centre. Bring picnic lunch and m/a teas.
- April** Meeting Thursday 9 – Prof Steve Hopper, Winthrop Professor of Biodiversity, School of Plant Biology, University of WA: **Flora of the Wheatbelt.**
- Excursion Sunday 19 – **Delys Forrest, Pioneer of the Year award winner: Morning walk through Pioneer Cemetery and St Mary's Church Cemetery. Afternoon bird watching on Vasse Estuary and Lower Vasse River.** Meet 9.30am at Pioneer Cemetery, Stanley St opposite Esplanade Hotel.
- May** Meeting Thursday 14 – **Eric McCrum**, Environmentalist, Naturalist, Photographer: **The Abrolhos Islands.**
- Excursion Sunday 24 – **2.5km Dardanup Heritage Walk** – leader: Councillor Danny Harris, Shire of Darnaup. Afternoon walk through **Crooked Brook Forest.** BUS. \$10.00. Bring picnic lunch and m/a teas.
- May to July** **Long Range Camping Excursion to the Kimberleys.** May 31 to Sunday July 19. Meet at Broome Bird Observatory on Sunday May 31 for 3 days of Birdwatching starting on Monday June 1, then Cape Leveque, Gibb River Road, various gorges, Mornington Sanctuary, El Questro Station, Parry's Lagoon, Kununurra, Purnululu National Park, Wolf Creek Meteorite Crater, Geikie Gorge. Caravans to be left behind on some side trips. All vehicles must have high clearance, 4WD preferred. \$40 per vehicle. Book with excursion leader Bernie Masters on 9727 2474 or bmasters@iinet.net.au

- July** Excursion Sunday 26 - **Mid-Year Lunch at Caves House and afternoon walk to Yallingup Beach – 12.00 for 12.30pm sit-down.** \$30 includes choice of 2 entrees and 2 mains, tea and coffee. **No bus.** Can you offer a lift to members who don't wish to drive? Bookings: 0408 944 242 or bmasters@iinet.net.au
- August** Meeting Thursday 13 – Dr. Elaine Davison, plant pathologist, Department of Environment and Agriculture, Curtin University: **Is dieback a problem of waterlogging and soil disturbance more than just the presence of a plant pathogen?**
- Excursion Sunday 23 – **Indigenous Learning and Cultural Awareness: Exploring the Ocean to Preston Project Area, Bunbury.** Leaders from the South West Catchments Council. BUS.
- September** Meeting Thursday 10 – Dr Alex Bevan, Head, Earth & Planetary Sciences, WA Museum: **Meteorites: Clues to the Origin of the Solar System**
- Excursion Sunday 20 – **Wildflower Walk # 1: Meelup Regional Park.** Morning and afternoon walks lead by Mandy Polley and Shirley Fisher. **BUS.** Bring \$10, m/a teas, picnic lunch.
- October** Meeting Thursday 8 – Prof Don Bradshaw, University of WA: **Honey Possums and Fire in the Scott National Park, east of Augusta**
- Excursion Sunday 11 – **Maintenance Morning on the Cape Naturaliste to Sugarloaf Rock section of the Cape to Cape track.** Meet at 9.00am, Sand Patch car Park off Sugarloaf Rock Rd.. Bring gloves, secateurs, lunch, brushcutters, etc.
- Excursion Friday 16 to Monday 19 – **Frankland River Caravan Park camping/ caravan excursion.** \$15 or 25/site/day unpowered or powered. Park has camp kitchen and new ablution block and is located on Wingebellup (Frankland-Cranbrook) Road. Explore nearby reserves and forests, including bushland around Osbourn Lodge and Bobtail Ridge Winery. Book with excursion leader Bernie Masters on 9727 2474 or bmasters@iinet.net.au
- November** Committee Meeting Monday 9 – Planning Meeting for 2016
- Meeting Thursday 12 – Sue Morrison, marine biologist: **The Life of Fishes**
- Excursion Sunday 22 – **11km Trig Hill walk in Boranup forest area** for panoramic views over forest and farmland. BUS. Bring picnic lunch, m/a teas and \$10. Walkers will need to carry lunch. Easy to moderate walk.
- December** Meeting Thursday 10 - **Christmas Party** at Senior Citizens Centre from 6.00pm. Bring food and drinks. Entertainment, raffle, slides, Squashed Possum award, etc.

Most meetings start 7.30pm at the Lesser Hall, Senior Citizens Centre, 22 Peel Terrace, on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Most excursions start 9.00am sharp from Pries Avenue. Check **Busselton Dunsborough Times** to confirm details or listen to ABC Regional Radio. Email bmasters@iinet.net.au or phone 9727 2474 to book a BUS seat or for general enquiries. People attending Club activities do so entirely at their own risk. While the Club and its members take all reasonable care, attendees are ultimately responsible for their own safety.