

MEDIA STATEMENT



Monday, 4 April 2017

Bunbury Wildlife Park to welcome dingo pups

The Bunbury Wildlife Park is expecting some cute new additions later in the year with dingo pups to take up residence in a purpose-built enclosure.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from the Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre, the dingoes will take pride of place among the many other native animals that call the Wildlife Park home, and they are sure to be a big hit with the public.

The Park is expecting two pups mid-year, but their exact arrival date won't be known as they are yet to be born. Dingoes only breed once a year between March and June, so the Wildlife Park is making sure everything is in place so the pups can move in as soon as they are ready.

Acting Manager Tourism, Events and Wildlife Park Isabell Evans said dingoes had proven to be very popular in other wildlife parks around Australia.

"The addition of dingoes will not only add to our tourist attractions, but will also allow us to provide education on this often misunderstood native species," Ms Evans said.

"The Bunbury Wildlife Park has taken great care in the design of their enclosure with recommendations from the leading dingo conservation associations in Australia.

"Risk management practices will also be in place for the handling and husbandry of the dingoes, as we have with all animals at the Park."

The Bunbury Wildlife Park and the Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre will also encourage the community to become involved in the project with a Name the Dingo competition to help promote their arrival.

Pure-bred dingoes are rare and Ms Evans said their addition would play a big part in growing the Park's popularity.

"Bunbury Wildlife Park has just enjoyed a record month as visitation continues to grow as more and more people discover the animals and enjoy the experience," Ms Evans said.

Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre Marketing Manager Meike Daeffner said retailers and management were over the moon to support this great project.

"This is another fantastic opportunity for us to support our local community," she said.

"The naming of the dingo pups will be done in collaboration with local schools in Bunbury and the South West, who are encouraged to show creativity.

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“The Bunbury Mens’ Shed has crafted some amazing wooden cut-outs of dingoes, which will be decorated by local schools and displayed in the centre for a two-week period, during which time customers can vote on their favourite.

“The winning schools will receive a \$1000 cash donation, as well as other prizes from our retailers.

“This is such an excellent opportunity for Bunbury Forum Shopping Centre to give back to our community in more than one way – to the Bunbury Wildlife Park, the Mens’ Shed as well as local schools.”

The dingo enclosures have also been supported by LD Total, Jetline and Holcim.

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