

Stakeholder consultation underway, opening of the Pilgrim Trail and more...

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WA Parks Foundation

# NEWS

*Uniting the community to protect our natural areas*



*Black Point, D'entrecasteaux National Park. Credit - L-A Shibish.*

Issue Three, March 2016

Welcome to the third issue of WA Parks Foundation News, where you can find updates on the progress of planning for the Foundation which aims to increase community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of the State's national parks and conservation reserves.

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## Stakeholder consultation underway

Over the past few weeks, consultants Steve and Valerie Pretzel from PX2 have been actively engaging many of the more than 160 identified stakeholder organisations to gain insight into their perspectives on the role, scope and structure of the WA Parks Foundation.

Discussions have been held with representatives of major corporations, conservation groups and recreation advocates in both one-on-one meetings and group workshops.



*Valerie Pretzel from PX2 speaks to members of the stakeholder workshop in early March*

Valerie said it was great to hear there is a lot of support for the Foundation and many parties are asking the big questions, which shows a genuine interest in how the body

Several areas of opportunity have been identified through the consultations, including helping to connect people with parks, amplifying and enhancing the work of other groups, and assisting in facilitating corporate engagement with national parks and reserves. The importance of having a clearly articulated vision was a common theme.

“There is a lot of information to process at the moment.” Valerie said. “It’s an exciting stage of the study as we factor in everything we have learnt to set a clear direction for the next stage.”

The results of the consultation will help shape the recommendations on a business model for the Foundation.



If you would like to provide input into this important study, please contact us via [www.ourwaparks.com.au](http://www.ourwaparks.com.au)

*Photo: Stakeholders provide input through a series of practical activities*

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## Case study: Seattle Parks Foundation

Research into other successful Parks Foundation models around the world has uncovered some valuable case studies.

Seattle Parks Foundation was established in 2001 to advocate and raise funds for public space throughout the city and connected parks.

In 2015 the Seattle Parks Foundation raised US\$2.5 million from individual, foundation, corporate and government sources to support 39 community-led public space projects across Seattle. Through its Fiscal Partnership program it managed contributions, donor relations, and all financial transactions for 25 community groups engaged in creating, enhancing, expanding, restoring, and activating parks, trails and other public spaces all over Seattle.

As an example, the Foundation implemented a comprehensive tree canopy enhancement project with the goal of putting veterans and local youth to work to plan and maintain 700 trees in the next two years. It also promotes regular events to encourage community engagement with parks.

designing a trail system that allows side-by-side mountain biking and pedestrian activity to provide safe and improved access to natural areas.

The Foundation does not sell memberships, instead it encourages donations, corporate sponsorship, gifts and bequests that can be applied to the Foundation's funds pool or to specific projects.



Seattle Parks Foundation is one of over a dozen similar foundations in the US that have been examined. Each has provided slightly different perspectives along the same theme – of connecting people to parks to increase community appreciation of and protection for the natural resources.

<https://seattleparksfoundation.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SeattleParksFoundation>

*Photo: Schmitz Park, Seattle*

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## Opening of the Pilgrim Trail

More than 200 years after Dom Rosendo Salvado was born, a trail has been created in honour of the renowned Spanish Benedictine monk who walked from Perth to establish the Benedictine Monastery Community in New Norcia.

The Pilgrim Trail was officially opened on 1 March 2016 by Her Excellency, Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia. The trail passes through Julimar and Avon Valley national parks as well as Walyunga National Park – a place of spiritual significance to the Whajuk people who have links to the area.

The 201km path starts at St Joseph's Church on Salvado Road in Subiaco, goes through Kings Park and the CBD, down along the Swan River to Guildford. From there it travels through the Swan Valley to Walyunga National Park, and then follows through the Chittering Valley and on to Bindoon, then inland through Julimar Forest and Old Plains Road to New Norcia.

The trail has been developed and is managed by the Pilgrim Trail Foundation which is keen to ensure that the trail does not only reflect Christian values but also the spiritual journeys and song lines of the Noongar people. The Foundation has



*Her Excellency Kerry Sanderson AO, Governor of Western Australia with "Salvado", Maggie and Duncan Jefferson and school children at the official launch on 1 March. Credit - Pilgrim Trail Foundation*

Her Excellency walked the Pilgrim Trail (the physical asset) and undertook the Camino Salvado (spiritual journey) from end to end in 2013 and said knowing she was following in the steps of Bishop Rosendo Salvado and en route to New Norcia, made it very much a personal pilgrimage.

“It was a time of reflection, connection and renewal; a very uplifting and bonding experience for all of us,” Her Excellency said. “I am sure that all who have walked the Camino Salvado would be delighted to see the trail itself now marked and open.”

Pilgrim Trail Foundation Chairman Duncan Jefferson said the goal was to change people's lives by providing them with a challenge that was not only physical, but mental and spiritual too.



The trail has now been aligned and marked by the Pilgrim Trail Foundation with help from staff from Parks and Wildlife's Perth Hills District.

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## Feature park: Walyunga National Park

Walyunga National Park is steeped with cultural significance and contains one of the largest known Aboriginal camp sites within close proximity to Perth. Archaeological evidence suggests that the area has been used by Aboriginal people for more than 40,000 years.

The park lies 40km north-east from Perth and is known for abundant native animals, rugged valley scenery and sensational wildflowers in winter and spring.

### *Picnic site*

Walyunga National Park contains some highly picturesque landforms and is covered with woodland and open forest as well as granite outcrops. Jarrah is most common, the understorey is characterised by Wilson's grevillia and hairy jugflower. Wandoo replaces marri and jarrah on the valley slopes, while flooded gum occurs along the river banks.



The park is of considerable recreational value, its special attractions being the river, which contains several sets of rapids and is heavily used by canoeists in winter, and the picturesque steep-sided valley.

The river runs through the centre of the park, forming a string of placid pools along the valley floor in summer, and a raging torrent with long series of rapids in winter. The latter provides one of Australia's best white water canoeing courses and is part of the annual Avon Descent race each August.



*Goatwalk Trail. Credit - weekendnotes.com*

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## MASH's Alan Alda talks science

Alan Alda is known for his role as Hawkeye in the popular TV series MASH, but earlier in the month he wore a different hat as an advocate for the importance of effective science communication.

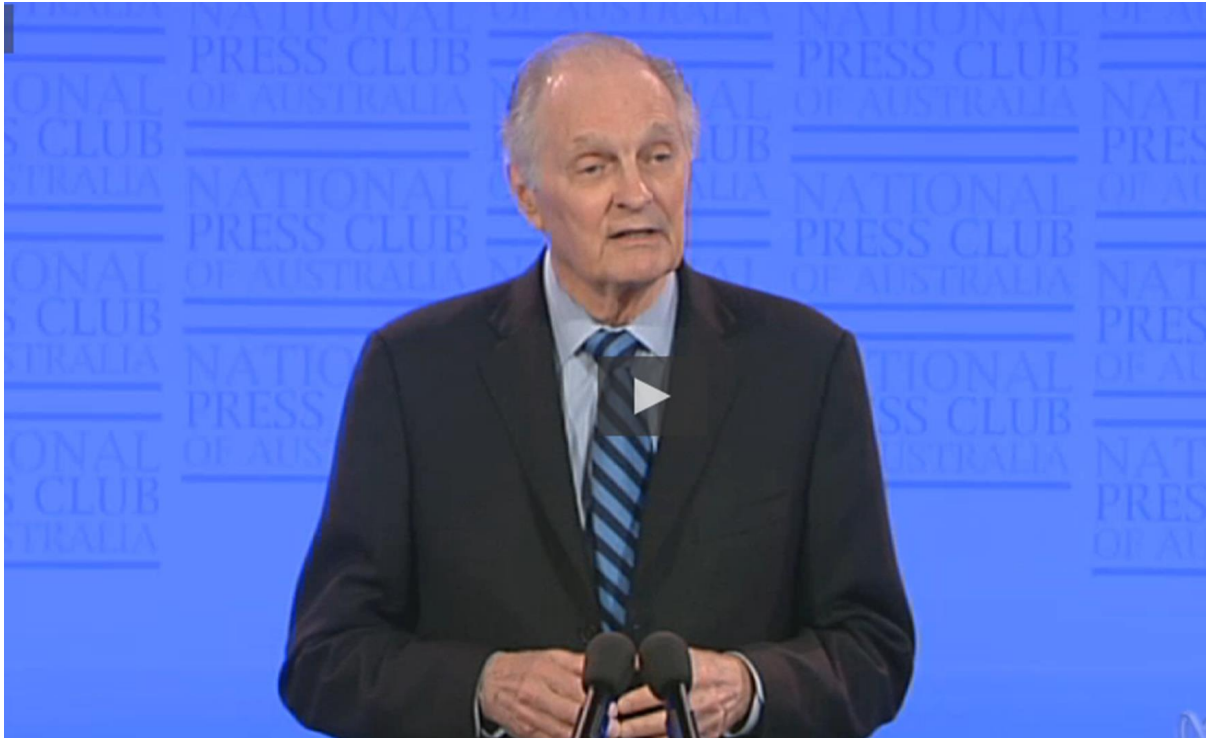


Addressing the National Press Club, Mr Alda used humour and storytelling about the need to train scientists to be better communicators at the same time they are training to be scientists.

Mr Alda said it was all good and well to know the science so deeply but if you can't explain it clearly what's the point?

"What difference does it make if I say it perfectly but you don't get it? It's possible to be accurate and not dumb it down," he said.

Communicating science is important to be able to receive funding as well as share the information and spread the knowledge.



Watch the full video here:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-10/actor-alan-alda-addresses-the-national-press-club/7238316>



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