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Australia's Best Kept Secret Parks, Bibbulmun Track End-to-End Odyssey, FACET "Celebrating Our Parks" Conference, AGM, more...

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Welcome to the 17th issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, where you can find updates from the WA Parks Foundation as we celebrate Our WA Parks and work to increase community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of our incredible national parks and conservation reserves.

In this issue:

- [FACET “Celebrating Our Parks” Conference](#)
- [WAPF Annual General Meeting](#)
- [Eva Skira \(Ambassador, Board Director and Hon Treasurer\) awarded the AICD Gold Medal](#)
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FACET “Celebrating Our Parks” Conference

[FACET](#) (Forum Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism) held their annual conference in partnership with the WA Parks Foundation, the Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions ([DBCA](#)) and [Tourism WA](#). The conference delivered an exciting, informative and innovative program and provided a platform to raise awareness and appreciation of our unique and ancient landscapes. Her Excellency, the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, showcased the establishment of the WA Parks Foundation and explained how the Foundation plans to support our parks, based on other similar parks foundations around the world. The speech can be viewed [here](#).

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WAPF Annual General Meeting

The WA Parks Foundation held its inaugural Annual General Meeting at Government House with more than 30 members in attendance. The chair, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, provided an update on the

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update on financial issues.

The Foundation's vision is for Western Australia's Parks to be increasingly loved and visited, and the plants, animals, landscapes and cultural values they embody to be protected and a source of pride for all Western Australians.

Early efforts are focusing on peri-urban parks and the Pilbara, enhancing the visitor experience through improved information, facilities and conservation activities.

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Hon Treasurer) awarded the AICD Gold Medal

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) recently awarded a Gold Medal for the WA Division to Eva Skira. The Gold Medal is one of the highest awards available within the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and recognises an AICD member's contribution to the community through business, charitable and philanthropic works and employment creation. The recipient upholds good corporate governance and high ethical standards in their personal, professional and public life, and the award is presented in recognition of outstanding effort as a company director.



Australia's Best Kept Secrets are WA's parks

In December 2016, Qantas's Travel Insider magazine published Best Kept Secrets, The Hidden Treasure of Australia as nominated and voted by the readers. Five National winners were given top honours and three of those were in WA's Parks:

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- Most Romantic Place – [Karijini National Park](#)



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Park tales: Bibbulmun Track End-to-End Odyssey

To be classified as an End-to-Ender you need to have walked the entire length of the Bibbulmun Track. Whether you do this in one go, or in stages over many years (a sectional end-to-end) makes no difference. It doesn't matter if you walk some sections from north to south and others from south to north. The important thing is that you have walked every step of the way!



2017 at the Northern Terminus.

A few highlights of the track so far included:

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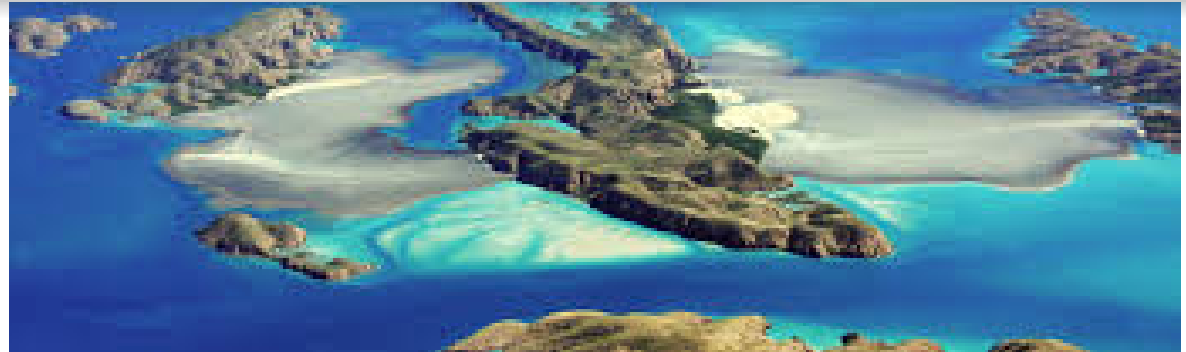
Feature National Park: North Kimberley Marine Park

The north Kimberley coast is one of the last remaining unspoilt coastlines on Earth, and is recognised as one of the world's most ecologically diverse marine areas. Located within the west Kimberley region, North Kimberley Marine Park is the largest marine park in Western Australia, at seven times the size of Ningaloo Marine Park, and the second largest State marine park in Australia.

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Feature urban park: Lightning Swamp

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[Lightning Swamp Bushland](#) is a 71-hectare A-class reserve located 12Kms North-East of Perth in the suburb of Noranda. The A-class reserve includes two ephemeral (seasonal) wetlands and semi-perched wetland Category 4 containing water most of the year. Over 3.5 kms of limestone path meander throughout the southern area of the bushland and pedestrian gates allow for disabled access onto some rolled sections of path with entrances to the reserve from Matthews Close and Della Road. An innovative, sustainable 75 metre boardwalk was opened in August 2011 to improve access and viewing of the ephemeral eastern wetland.



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Canoeing and kayaking have long been popular in western Australia and the number of people enjoying stand up paddle boarding (SUP) is growing rapidly. The range of possible paddle adventures is wide: float lazily down tranquil rivers spotting birds, paddle to secluded beaches, islands and lagoons or experience the rush of surfing waves or riding river rapids. You can find more detailed information on canoe and kayak trails, including those managed by Parks and Wildlife, at the [TrailsWA website](#).

Listen to the early morning bird songs in this kayaking video clip [here](#).

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Tell us what you think!

We'd love to hear from you about what you think of *WA Parks Foundation News*, what you would like to see and if you have any questions about the WA Parks Foundation.

[Contact us at info@ourwaparks.org.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.org.au)

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