
April Newsletter - Smartreka maps popular at Karijini, Celebrating and protecting our shorebirds and much more!

From WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>

Date Thu 5/1/2025 10:49 AM

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April 2025



Waterholes and waterfalls are much loved and enjoyed features of Karijini National Park. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Smartreka maps popular with Karijini visitors

As the WA Parks Foundation continues to develop its digital Smartreka mapping series for the State's most

visited parks and reserves it has been interesting to see which of our maps so far has had the most downloads.

Unsurprisingly, it is Western Australia's beautiful Karijini National Park, a bucket list destination for nature lovers and explorers. The ideal times to visit are late autumn, winter and early spring.

A visit to Karijini in the State's north west offers adventurous and unforgettable experiences such as exploring rocky tunnels, plunging gorges with layered red cliffs and other ancient geological features, paddling through crystal-clear waters and swimming beneath refreshing waterfalls.

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Celebrating and protecting our shorebirds



Roebuck Bay at Broome in Western Australia's Kimberley region is one of the world's most important sites for migratory shorebirds. Image credit: Broome Bird Observatory

The Western Australian coastline provides important habitats and refuges for many shorebird and seabird species, some local and others from distant lands.

For migratory shorebirds, sandy spits, sandbars, rocky shores, sandy beaches, salt marshes, intertidal flats and mangroves are important feeding and resting habitats during spring and summer, when the birds escape the harsh winter of their northern hemisphere breeding grounds.

Migrating birds may fly from 15 to 600 miles or more per day during migration, depending on when they are migrating, how far they must go, and the conditions they face along the route.

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Seaweeds and Spiders – upcoming talks of interest



Asparagopsis armata is a red seaweed native to the cool waters of Australia's southern coastline. Image credit: Dr John Huisman

The Western Australian Naturalists' Club has several interesting talks coming up in May.

The history and current state of seaweed diversity in the Perth region will be the theme of a presentation by Dr John Huisman, Curator of the Western Australian Herbarium (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) at the Kalamunda Community Centre at 7.30pm 9 May.

Dr Huisman also undertakes taxonomic research into Western Australian marine plants and has written ten books and over 200 articles and chapters describing various seaweed-related topics, including the pictorial guide, 'Marine Plants of Australia (revised and updated) in 2023.

His presentation will give a general overview and then concentrate on his efforts to clarify the identities of several species that were described by Irish botanist William Henry Harvey in 1855.

Mygalomorph spiders (trapdoors and their relatives) is the topic of a talk by Dr Jeremy Wison, Postdoctoral Researcher working on trapdoor and other spiders at The University of Western Australia and the Western Australian Museum.

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Lightscape heads back to Perth



Image credit: Ticketek Australia

This world-renowned, award-winning and hugely popular spectacle, *Lightscape 2025* will transform Kings Park and Botanic Gardens into an after dark wonderland when it returns this winter,

Lightscape 2025 is an entirely new and unforgettable experience, so prepare to be dazzled by radiant beams of ever-changing colour, beneath towering flowers and between giant bush blossoms, all wrapped in an immersive soundscape.

[Read more](#)

Exploring Woody Island



Woody Island Nature Reserve is a 40-minute boat ride from Esperance. Image credit: Wikipedia

Woody Island Nature Reserve in the Recherche Archipelago is located just 15km off the coast of Esperance. Part of a chain of more than 100 islands stretching 230km from Esperance to the Great Australian Bight, it stands out because it has tall trees. In Spring, the wildflowers are beautiful.

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