

Library

From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 October 2025 12:54 PM
To: Library
Subject: September Newsletter - New marine park proposed, Photo competition returns and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



September 2025



Exmouth Gulf is a globally significant marine habitat - an area of high ecological importance an area of enormous ecological, cultural and community value. Image credit: Shire of Exmouth

New marine park proposed

A new marine park spanning the entire Exmouth Gulf in WA's north west will be established to conserve and protect this globally significant marine habitat.

The Gulf is an important habitat for nursing humpback whales and their calves, one of the world's largest populations of dugongs, Australian humpback dolphins and four species of marine turtles. It is a global hotspot for threatened sawfish and wedgefish, and home to at least 11 species of sea snakes, including two species previously thought to be extinct.

The Exmouth Gulf coast is also an internationally significant area for several migratory shorebird species and contains unique subterranean fauna found nowhere else in the world.

The area contains important Aboriginal culture and heritage, including materials and sites that have been dated to be at least 40,000 years old.

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Memorable Moments in Nature competition returns



Winner of the 2024 Memorable Moments in Nature competition: "Branco Gibb River", Sunrise, Bryan May.
Image credit: Bryan May

Entries are invited for the WA Parks Foundation's Spring into Parks Memorable Moments in Nature Photo Competition.

There's no better time than Spring to explore the outdoors and harness your creativity to celebrate the natural treasures of Western Australia - from its iconic flora and fauna to its pristine national parks, reserves and marine sanctuaries.

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Get creative with bird mask making



The quilt banner was inspired by the beauty and uniqueness of Western Australia's national parks and reserves. It was made by 39 members of the West Australian Quilters Association and gifted to the WA Parks Foundation for use each year at the Spring into Parks program of events. Image credit: WA Museum Boola Bardip

Free bird mask making workshops presented as part of the WA Parks Foundation's Spring into Parks program will be hosted at the WA Museum Boola Bardip on 11 and 12 October.

Perfect for kids (and kids at heart), this is an opportunity to make a mask inspired by birds such as the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo, or to invent a new species. No bookings required, materials are provided by Scribblers and volunteers will be on hand to help.

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WA colours up - our State's Spring awakening



The beautiful sight of roadside Wreath Flowers (*Lechenaultia macrantha*) draws visitors from all over the world. Image credit: Shire of Morowa

More than 12,000 species of flora burst into brilliant bloom across the Western Australia in the wildflower season which is making its way southward in spectacular fashion from its winter start in the Pilbara region.

Carpets of everlastings transform the Morawa Shire in the Golden Outback into a breathtaking spectacle, drawing wildflower enthusiasts from across Australia and beyond. This region is also famed for the distinctive Wreath Flower

(*Lechenaultia macrantha*), a true icon of Western Australia's wildflower season.

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Kangaroo paws - new species discovered



The tall catspaw (*Anigozanthos humilis* subsp. *grandis*), photographed at Minyulo Nature Reserve, is a striking native featured in recent research uncovering new kangaroo paw species across Western Australia. Image credit: Professor Stephen Hopper, The University of Western Australia

A long-term study compiled from field work on four continents over five decades has unearthed new species of kangaroo paws and related genera.

Professor Stephen Hopper, from The University of Western Australia's School of Biological Sciences, was lead author of the study published in the WA Herbarium's *Nuytsia*.

The study examined species of kangaroo paws, *Haemodorum* and *Conostylis* collected from 1973 to the present from Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Americas and South Africa.

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Wildflower and bushtucker brochure

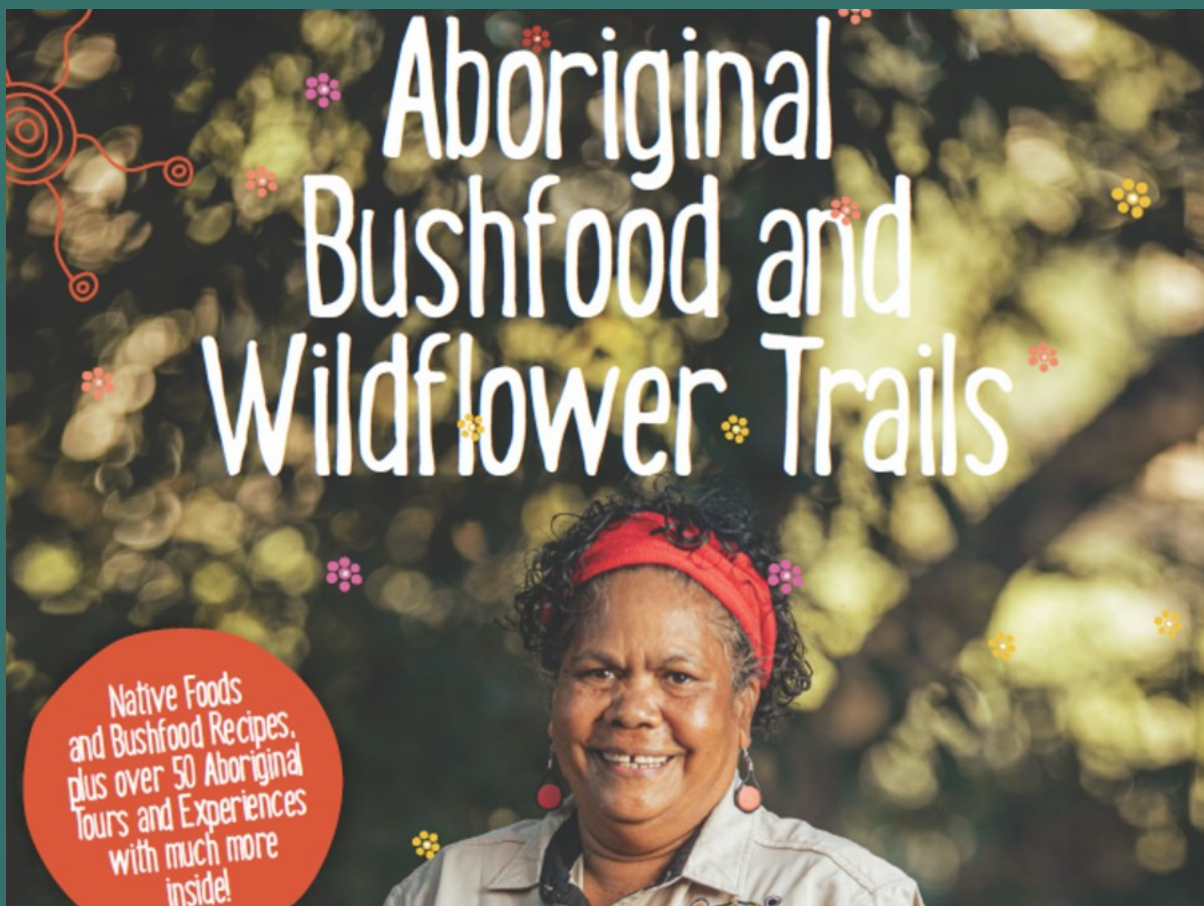


Image credit: WAITOC/ Injiid Marlabu Cultural Experiences

The Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) has released its Aboriginal Bushfood and Wildflower Trails Brochure.

The guide highlights over 50 Aboriginal led tours and experiences across WA, inviting visitors to explore the cultural, medicinal and nutritional significance of WA's native bushfood and wildflowers, along with bushfood-inspired recipes.

Detector dogs for dieback



Detector dog Kelly has been partnered with Megan Barnes of Detection for Good, which deploys detection dog teams for environmental and health applications. Milo's handler is Liam Brown of Glevan Consulting, which provides dieback mapping services. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions / Miles Brotherson

Two new scent detection dogs have been delivered to Western Australia and partnered with their new handlers as part of a multi-state Saving Native Species project.

Milo and Kelly are both English springer spaniels and will be used by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Plant Diseases Program to sniff out *Phytophthora* dieback on the conservation estate.

Phytophthora dieback is the greatest disease threat to the flora of the south-west bioregion of WA, where it is known as the 'biological bulldozer'.

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