

## Library

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**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 February 2026 1:02 PM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** February Newsletter - Exploring the rich history of eucalypts, Smartreka expansion and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



February 2026



Dr Richard Walley OAM, a champion of Aboriginal culture, is one of Australia's leading Aboriginal performers, musicians and writers. He has received numerous honours including an Order of Australia, Honorary Doctorate, and WA Citizen of the Year.

## Board changes

Highly respected Noongar Elder Dr Richard Walley OAM has retired recently after nine years' service as a WA Parks Foundation Board Director.

"With his profound knowledge of Aboriginal culture and a deep love of Western Australia's natural environment, Dr Walley made a very valuable contribution

during his three terms on the Board and as a Park Ambassador,” said the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, WA Parks Foundation Chair.

“His thoughtful analysis and insightful input to the Foundation’s strategic pathways, conservation initiatives, cultural awareness and building of community links have been greatly appreciated.

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## Shannon National Park now on Smartreka



Shannon National Park is home to some of the state’s most magnificent Karri forest. Image credit: Northcliffe Visitor Centre

The Shannon National Park on WA’s south coast is the latest to be mapped in the WA Parks Foundation’s Smartreka mapping series.

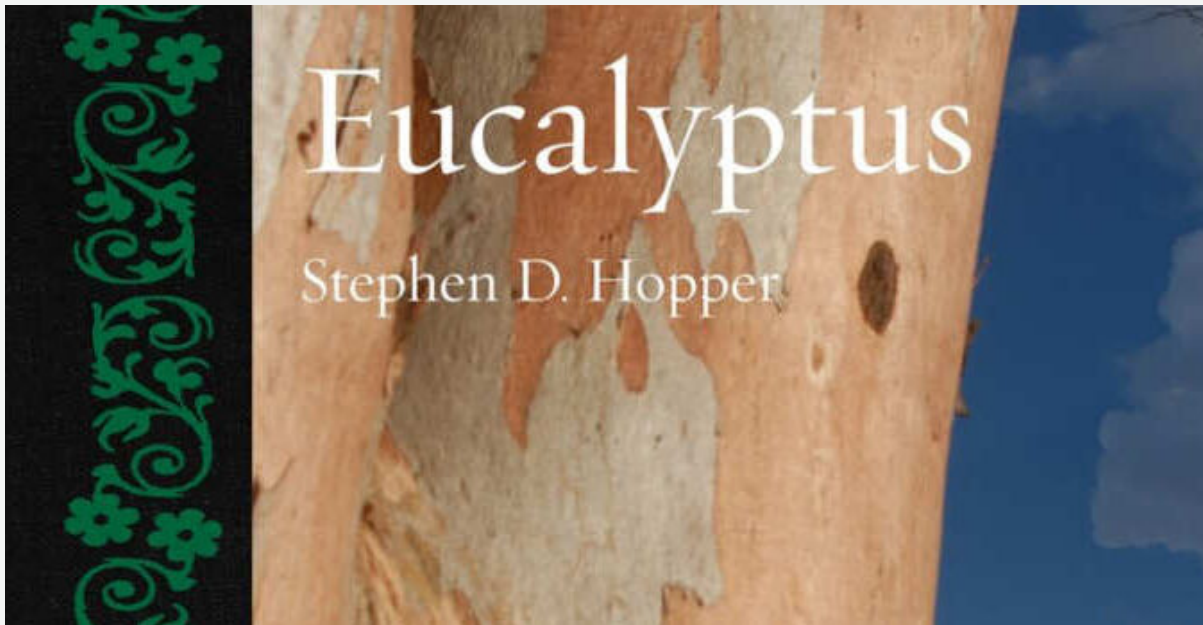
About 55 km south east of Manjimup, the park covers the entire Shannon River basin and is part of the larger Walpole Wilderness Area, an international

biodiversity hotspot. The area contains biologically rich wetlands and heathlands as well as old growth and regrowth karri forests.

The 50-kilometre Great Forest Trees Drive winds through towering karri, jarrah and marri, with interpretive signs and picnic spots along the way, while bushwalking trails cater for all fitness levels.

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## Exploring the rich history and biology of eucalypts



Professor Stephen Hopper's book *Eucalyptus* explores the rich natural history, biology and conservation of these remarkable trees. It features stunning photographs from fifty years of fieldwork. Image credit: Prof Stephen Hopper

The Australian eucalyptus species is the subject of a new book by internationally recognised scientist Professor Stephen Hopper AC.

Professor Hopper (The University of Western Australia's School of Biological Sciences) is a world leader in botany and conservation biology. He has been researching eucalypts for 50 years.

His book reaches into the history, biology and cultural significance of the eucalypts and Indigenous knowledge systems to better understand how we can help preserve these magnificent trees amid a challenging future.

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## Supporting the Foundation through Containers for Change



The WA Parks Foundation's participation in the Containers for Change program creates an opportunity for people to donate their refunds to support the Foundation's projects.

Since the introduction of the scheme in 2020, more than 4.56 billion containers have been collected for recycling and diverted from landfill. Every eligible container collected is worth 10 cents.

As well as helping to conserve the environment, the container deposit scheme has resulted in \$16.77 million being donated to charities, community groups and schools.

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## Rare fish rediscovered off Albany



*Pictilabrus brauni*, known as Braun's wrasse. Image credit: Dr Albert Pessarrodona, The University of Western Australia

A marine ecology researcher diving off Albany has had the thrill of a lifetime after spotting a tiny fish so rare it has been officially recorded only once since its discovery in 1996.

The vividly coloured *Pictilabrus brauni*, known as Braun's wrasse, is found nowhere else in the world and has one of the smallest geographic ranges of any temperate fish in Australia.

It has been spotted in only a handful of locations along WA's south-west coast since first being described near Albany in 1996 and was last recorded during a scientific survey in 2009.

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## Joint management plan for Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve



Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve (Niyaparli Country), the Pilbara's largest wetland. Image Credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

The Pilbara's largest and most significant wetland, Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve (Niyaparli Country), is now protected under a new joint management plan.

Covering approximately 107,000 hectares between the Chichester and Hamersley ranges, the reserve has rich ceremonial and mythological significance and encompasses one of only three inland wetlands in north-western Australia that can support up to one million waterbirds.

It is also home to the critically endangered night parrot, endangered northern quoll, vulnerable greater bilby and Pilbara olive python.

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Uniting the community through a shared love for our WA Parks to protect and conserve them for our physical and mental health, and so they can be enjoyed into the future.

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