

PLACES WHERE MEMORIES ARE MADE

*The term 'national park' is one of the great brand names of the world. It conjures up images of picture postcard natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, and ecological balance. And you'll find them in more than 160 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.*

*I remember my first visit to a national park, sitting in absolute awe in the back seat of my parents' Plymouth as we drove beneath the towering jagged peaks and glistening glaciers of Banff National Park in Canada. The allure of that park for me was, and still is, more than the sweeping vistas and unparalleled mountain scenery, it was the feeling of stepping out into the wilderness and experiencing a connection with the land that is not possible in an urban environment. It is something I continue to experience in special natural places like our own Karijini National Park, unquestionably one of the greatest national parks you'll find anywhere.*

*In this issue of LANDSCOPE, we celebrate 100 years of National Parks in Western Australia: where we've been and where we're going, with stops in some of this State's most magnificent places. While a century is not long when compared with the association Aboriginal people have had with this land, it does make WA's national park system one of the oldest on Earth.*

*An interesting footnote is that while the Americans can lay claim to creating the first National Park in the world, the first area on the planet that was actually called a National Park was The National Park in New South Wales in 1879 (renamed the Royal National Park in 1955). When the Federal Government of the United States in March 1872 proclaimed the law that gave the breathtaking Yellowstone area of Wyoming a conservation status, they referred to it as a 'public park and pleasure ground' and only started using the term 'National Park' some years later.*

*Western Australia's national park system began with John Forrest National park and, in this issue of LANDSCOPE, recently retired national park ranger George Duxbury takes us through the history of a park that has seen many changes (see 'Premier Park'). In 'Feast for the Soul', Neil Taylor, Jane Scott, Carolyn Thomson-Dans and Roger Banks introduce you to a few of the many attractions of Leeuwin-Naturaliste, the most visited national park in WA.*

*These are but a few of the special places visited in the following pages. So, we hope that you'll sit back and enjoy this issue of LANDSCOPE as much as we did in preparing it for you.*

*If you're looking for further information on the State's national park system and details about national park passes, we invite you to visit WA Naturally, CALM's outdoors and nature information centre in Fremantle (47 Henry Street, open 10-5.30 every day except Tuesdays), or use the extensive information you'll find on our Internet site 'NatureBase' ([www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)) to plan your next visit to one or more of our national parks—places where memories are made.*

*RA Kennelly*  
Executive Editor

BIRD MAN HONOURED

Earlier this year, Kevin Coate, a respected ornithologist and LANDSCOPE Expeditions leader, was awarded the State Tourism's FACET Golden Guide Award.

The award, a Western Australian innovation, is for excellence in tour guiding. It is designed to encourage individual tour guides and to enhance tourism product and visitor experience. Western Australia is the only State to offer an award for guiding.

Kevin, who has devoted most of his life to nature-based tourism, says of himself: "My life is my work, and my work is my life. I began my career as a Forests Department cadet and the older foresters encouraged me to develop my natural history interests.

I bought my first company, Cross Country Safaris, in 1975, and I've never looked back."

Kevin founded one of the State's first wildlife tour operations, Coate's Wildlife Tours, in 1980, and is a pioneer of the nature-based tourism industry in Western Australia. He and his wife Yvonne, researched and wrote the first tour guide

booklet on the Pinnacles, now Nambung National Park.

Pioneering history is another of Kevin Coate's interests. He and Yvonne have written three books on Lonely Graves of Western Australia, including one that details burials at sea. In their travels all over the State, they have documented many sites and uncovered poignant and remarkable stories in the process.

The quintessential bushman, Kevin has led natural history tours all over Australia as well as overseas. He also passes on his knowledge through community organisations and is currently president of the WA Naturalists Club.

"Kevin Coate is one of the pioneers of the nature-based tourism industry, and has earned the respect of the industry and the scientific community," said LANDSCOPE Expedition's Scientific Coordinator, Kevin Kenneally, who nominated Mr Coate for the award.

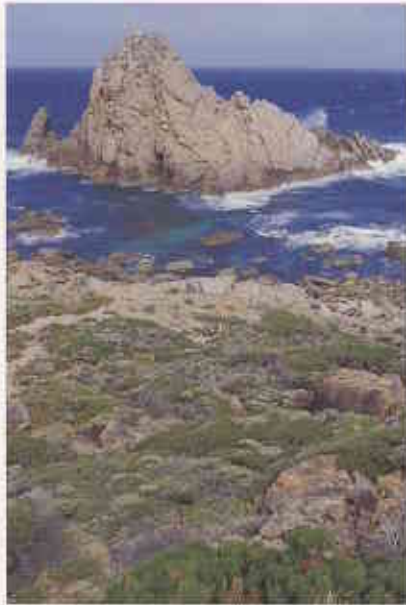
"He combines knowledge and enthusiasm with a caring and congenial personality. He richly deserves the award, and it's a very popular win," Mr Kenneally said.



Winner of the 1998 Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting.

# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME SIXTEEN NUMBER 1, SPRING 2000



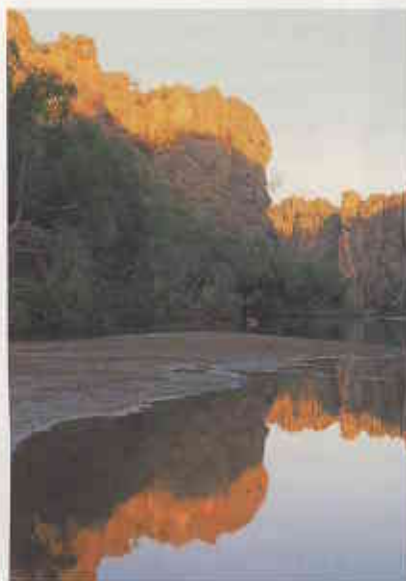
Sugarloaf Rock is just one of the many features that make Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park the most visited park in WA. (See page 10.)



*Premier Park: John Forrest National Park is Western Australia's oldest park, celebrating its centenary year. (See page 22.)*



*Pinnacle of Parks: These unusual formations make Nambung National Park well known the world over. (See page 36.)*



Windjana Gorge National Park holds important clues to the evolution of fish. See 'Old Fossils' on page 28.



William Bay National Park displays a miniature version of karri forest flora. (See page 42.)

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With 67 national parks spread across the State, park rangers are often the first contact that visitors have with the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Apart from providing visitors with information and guidance, they perform a vital role in the day-to-day management of their local environment.

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Colour Separation by Colourbox Digital

Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print

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Visit LANDSCOPE online on our award-winning Internet site NatureBase at <http://www.naturebase.net>Published by  
Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia