



# Capturing places and spaces

As well as being important conservation areas, Western Australia's parks and protected areas play a crucial role in providing opportunities for people to experience the natural environment. Amateur photographers are invited to enter a new photographic competition on protected areas to communicate what parks and protected areas mean to them.

by **Jessie Cochrane**





**W**estern Australia's national parks and other terrestrial and marine protected areas are set aside because of their scenic, cultural or biological values and for the role they play in protecting plant and animal communities. In WA, these areas equate to more than 26 million hectares of lands and waters, which are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). They promote a sense of wellbeing, not only for people who visit our parks but even for those who may only drive through them or gain comfort from just knowing they are there. In our busy and sometimes stressful lives, natural areas provide a space in which we can rest and recover, and from which inspiration can arise.

### Revaluing our parks and protected areas

A partnership of the Conservation Commission, Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, the Department of Environment and Conservation, Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Forum Advocating

Cultural and Eco-tourism (FACET) is culminating in a national forum, 'Parks and Protected Areas: A Sense of Place, for all People, for all Time' in Fremantle in September 2007 (see box on page 8).

The forum will focus attention on the significance and value of the protected area network, of which national parks and marine parks are the cornerstone. The intended outcome of the forum is to raise public awareness and support for a secure, publicly owned and publicly managed network of protected areas, particularly in WA. The forum will emphasise the value of the protected area network for biodiversity conservation, public recreation and tourism and hence its economic and social value to the community.

### Competition

To promote the value of WA's national parks and other terrestrial and marine protected areas, the conference organisers invite *LANDSCOPE* readers to enter an amateur nature photography competition. The competition has the theme of parks and protected areas.

*Opposite page*

**Main** Granite coastline near Castle Rock in Geographe Bay.

*Photo – Brett Dennis/Lochman Transparencies*

**Above** WA's south-west is Australia's only internationally recognised terrestrial biodiversity hotspot.

*Photo – Ken Stepnell/DEC*

Entrants are asked to capture the value and meaning of these precious areas and share their own unique experience of a park or protected area through their photographs.

The competition has two junior categories and three open categories: primary school (for entrants 12 years and under); secondary school (for entrants between 13 and 18 years); seascape; landscape; and wildlife (flora and fauna).

Photographs must be in colour and taken in a park or protected area in WA. Entries must be submitted as prints by 1 August 2007. Send entries with your full contact details and the category you're entering to *LANDSCOPE*



magazine, Parks and Protected Areas Photographic Competition, Locked Bag 29, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA, 6983. Entries must clearly indicate where the photo was taken and should include a 50 (or less) word explanation about what you believe the value of our parks and protected areas is and what they mean to you.

The entries will be judged by a panel from the 'Parks and Protected Areas: A Sense of Place, for all People, for all Time' national forum. The entries of all finalists will be displayed and the winners announced at the forum.

### Prizes

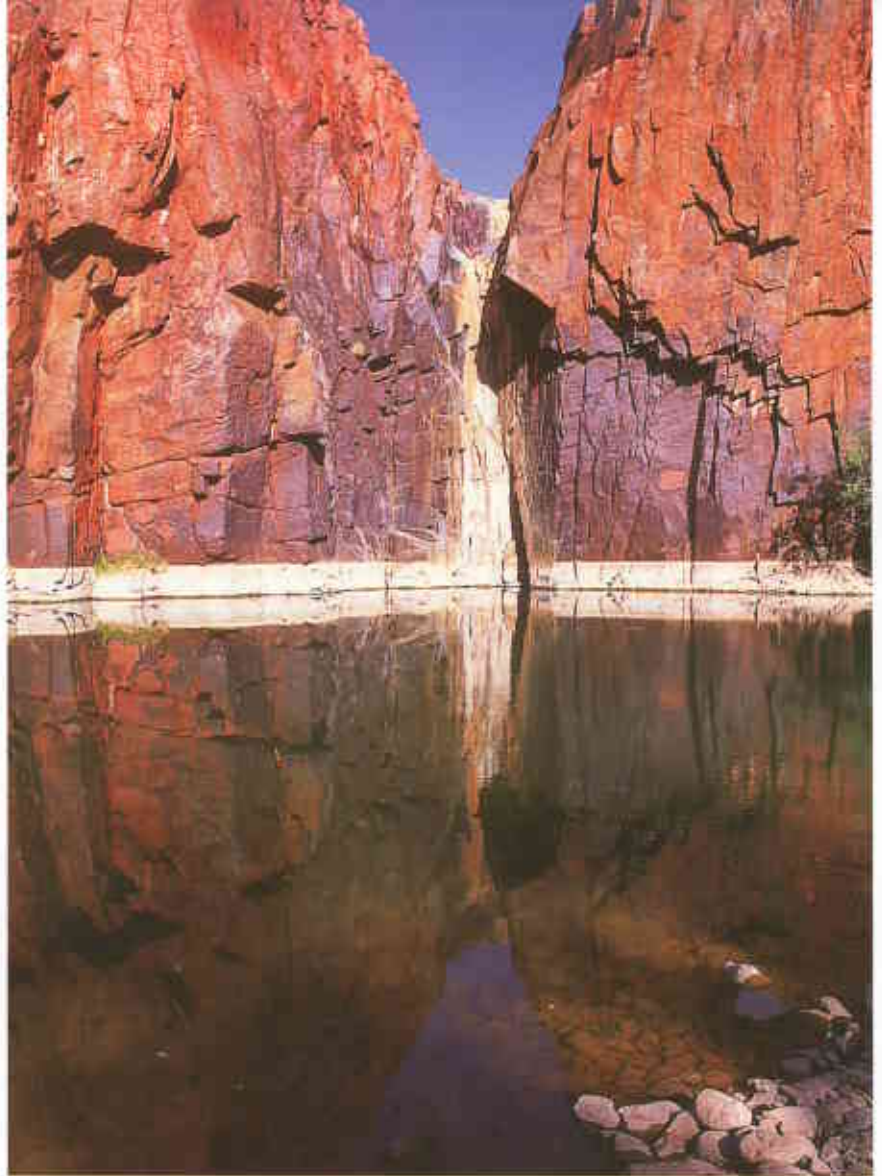
The winner of each category will receive photographic equipment valued at \$500 donated by Portside Duty Free and Retail of High Street in Fremantle. An overall winner across the five categories will receive a place on a *LANDSCOPE* Expedition giving them a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in a study and research project on an expedition in 2008 in a remote location in WA. A people's choice winner voted by the forum's attendees will also be awarded.

**Above right** Python Pool at Millstream-Chichester National Park.

*Photo – David Bettini*

**Below** The gorges of Kalbarri National Park.

*Photo – Brent Johnson*



### Parks and Protected Areas: A Sense of Place, for all People, for all Time

Western Australia's national parks and other terrestrial and marine protected areas (for example, marine parks and marine and terrestrial nature reserves) represent our shared contribution to living with, caring for and valuing our natural and cultural diversity. The natural and cultural values found within our national parks and protected areas are of global significance and merit conservation and interpretation for that reason alone. Equally, though, these areas provide locations where people from many and varied backgrounds, both Indigenous people and other Australians, can meet and work together with a common purpose. In this way, parks and protected areas provide social values that reach beyond their immediate boundaries to provide bridges and overcome barriers. At least that is our hope and vision.

To fulfil that hope and deliver on that vision requires that we revalue our parks and protected areas, and define an agenda for action that has meaning for all who care for these areas, to guide all in their own programs and actions.

You are invited to take part in defining this agenda by attending a national forum to be held from 23–25 September 2007, in the port city of Fremantle with the theme 'A Sense of Place, for all People, for all Time'.

For more information contact the organisers, Promaco Conventions Pty Ltd by phone (08) 9332 2900, fax (08) 9332 2911 or via email ([promaco@promaco.com.au](mailto:promaco@promaco.com.au)).

Jessie Cochrane is the Community Liaison Officer for the Conservation Council of WA. She can be contacted on (08) 9420 7266 or by email ([clo@conservationwa.asn.au](mailto:clo@conservationwa.asn.au)).

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**Executive editor** Kaye Verboon.

**Editors** Carolyn Thomson-Dans, Rhianna King.

### Scientific/technical advice

Kevin Kenneally, Paul Jones, Keith Morris.

**Design and production** David Abel, Maria Duthie, Natalie Jolakoski, Tiffany Taylor, Gooitzen van der Meer.

**Illustration** Gooitzen van der Meer.

**Cartography** Promaco Geodraft.

**Marketing** Estelle de San Miguel.

Phone (08) 9334 0296 Fax (08) 9334 0432.

### Subscription enquiries

Phone (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.

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