

Wild Wonders OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The incredible beauty of Western Australia's natural areas has been captured in high resolution with more than 980 entries as part of the WA Parks Foundation's *Wild Wonders of Western Australia* photo competition.

by Sally Stabler







The WA Parks Foundation is Western Australia's charity partner for parks; an independent and supportive organisation committed to connecting more people with the State's outstanding network of national parks, marine parks and reserves. On a mission to connect people to nature, the Foundation delivers projects that celebrate, protect, and enrich WA's parks. One such project is the *Wild Wonders of Western Australia* photo competition.

The photo competition was held in late 2024 as part of the Foundation's

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Main 'Parenting Symphony' at Herdsman Lake.

Photo – Naidu Kumpatla

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Above 'Branco's Sunrise' at Gibb River.

Photo – Bryan May

Right 'Do these figs make me look tiny?' at Wungong Regional Park.

Photo – Naidu Kumpatla





Far left 'First Light' at Bluff Knoll.
Photo – Liam Drennan

Left 'Peek-A-Boo' at Yanchep National Park.
Photo – Colin Wimbridge

Below 'Dolphin Pod' at Cheynes Beach.
Photo – Lex Porebski

Far below 'Aurora and Milky Way' at Boulders Rock.
Photo – Harrison Green





increasingly popular Spring into Parks program supported by Lotterywest (see 'Consciously connecting with nature', *LANDSCOPE*, spring 2022).

The winning image for the 2024 competition was a stunning shot along the Gibb River by Bryan May. The Gibb River Road is a popular adventure following the 660-kilometre outback road that was originally constructed in the 1960s to transport cattle from outlying stations to the ports of Derby and Wyndham.

Bryan's photo was taken at Branco's Lookout, capturing the spectacular views from the cliff edge along the river. The lookout requires a steep climb to get to, showing Bryan really put in the effort to get the award-winning shot.

The second prize winner was a marvellous moment in time between two great crested grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*)

and their young, by Naidu Kumpatla. The image was captured at Herdsman Lake and fittingly titled 'Parental Symphony'.

Herdsman Lake is the largest waterbird breeding site in the Perth metropolitan area and home to a huge variety of ducks, swans, and egrets to name a few. The surrounding flowering trees are a hotspot for western wattlebirds, red wattlebirds, willie wagtails, silvereyes and new holland honeyeaters.

The three runners up were Brian Yeo for 'Dancing with the Waves' (Red Bluff); Liam Drennan for 'First Light at Bluff' (Bluff Knoll); and Harrison Green for 'Aurora and Milky Way' at Boulders Rock (Midgegooroo National Park).

For the first time, a video component was added to the competition and the

Top 'Dancing with the Waves' at Red Bluff.
Photo – Brian Yeo

Above left 'Thomas Dambo's Santi Ikto Giant' at Halls Head, Mandurah.
Photo – Donald Chin

Above 'Reflecting' at Lake Clifton Thrombolites.
Photo – Vance Thompson

winning video by Toni Battle can be found on the WA Parks Foundation website ourwaparks.org.au

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