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Welcome to the latest issue of *Touring Western Australia*. The start of Spring is one of the best times of the year to be outdoors and connecting with nature in Western Australia's world-class parks. Look out for the many special offers in this issue, exclusive to our readers.

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## Park and tourism information

### Parks and Wildlife Strategic Directions 2014-17 released

The Department of Parks and Wildlife's Strategic Directions for 2014-17 outlines how the department will continue on-ground animal and plant conservation, improve recreation and tourism facilities, and enhance local and landscape scale management outcomes.



Click here to download the document - [Department of Parks and Wildlife Strategic Directions 2014-17](#).

### Fitzgerald River National Park facilities opened

Significant improvements to road access and new and upgraded visitor facilities have put [Fitzgerald River National Park](#) firmly on the agenda as one of the must-see places to visit in the south

coast. The park's unique flora and stunning landscapes can now be experience and enjoyed via these by world-class visitor facilities.



Forty kilometres of sealed roads, campgrounds, viewing platforms, interpretative displays and walk trails were [officially opened](#) by the Premier of Western Australia, Hon. Colin Barnett, in June. A further 40km of gravel roads were upgraded.

## New **Aboriginal Cultural Immersion** experience

A new *Aboriginal Cultural Immersion* experience has received excellent reviews from participants. [Koomal Dreaming](#) have joined with [Wharncliffe Mill Bush Retreat and Eco Tours](#) to offer a two-day experience in Wardandi and Bibbulmun country. Participants have the opportunity to see the world from the perspective of a Traditional Owner and build their own cultural awareness by understanding the connection to country. Participants try traditional bush foods and fire-lighting, learn about bush medicine and share stories of the Dreaming spirits.



Other Aboriginal cultural experiences are also available. Please contact Wharncliffe Mill for details and bookings at [stay@wharncliffemill.com.au](mailto:stay@wharncliffemill.com.au) or phone (08) 9758 8227.

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## Stay in touch: information from Parks and Wildlife

### Prescribed burning

Parks and Wildlife prescribed burning program as opportunities arise to provide additional protection for properties and life.

The department conducts broad scale burns in the autumn and spring seasons to assist in reducing the impact of large scale bushfires.

All prescribed burns are carefully planned and mapped out to protect communities.

While there may be short-term inconveniences such as smoke and road closures, these burns will greatly reduce bushfire risk.



Information about the department's prescribed burning and fire management activities is available at [dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://dpaw.wa.gov.au) and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Alerts are now also available in apps for mobile devices. Download the app by searching for '[DPaW Alerts](#)' in the [iTunes app store](#) or in [Google's Play Store](#).

## Publications

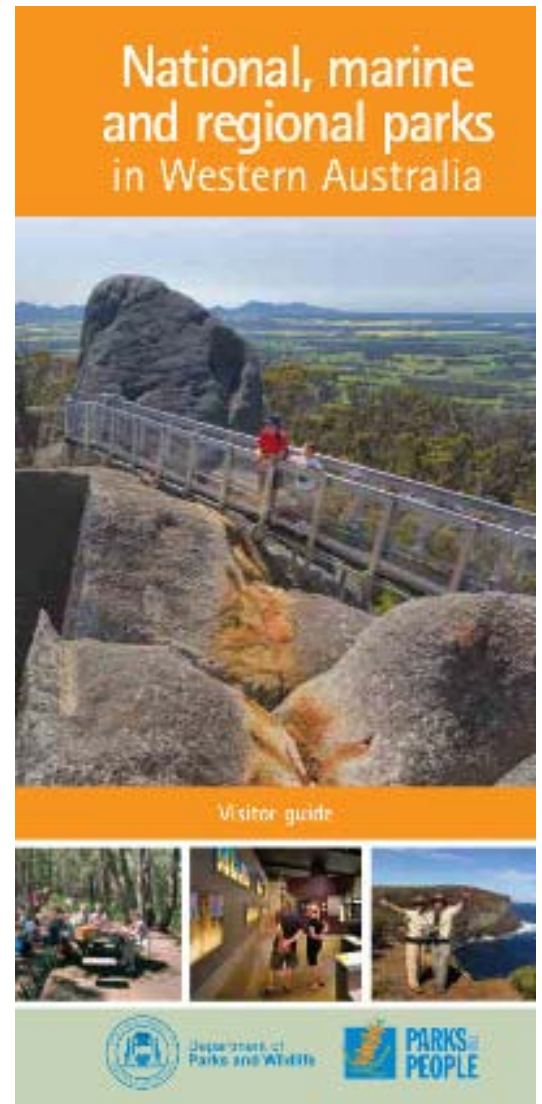
### ***National marine and regional parks in Western Australia***

This glove-box guide, popular with self-drive visitors, has been updated and provides a simple yet comprehensive guide to Western Australia's world-class parks. Get your copy from visitor centres, Parks and Wildlife offices or places where Parks and Wildlife's [park passes](#) are sold.

This new version can also be [viewed or downloaded online](#).

Updates include:

- four new parks
- grouping of sites into destinations to match the Explore Parks WA website and regional tourism information
- inclusion of Perth's regional parks in the Experience Perth section
- expanded Emergency information section inside the back cover, and
- addition of Parks and Wildlife as well as tourism industry online and digital information and addition of *WA Naturally* publications information.



### Western Australia 2015 **LANDSCOPE** calendar

Enjoy spectacular images of Western Australia's parks, plants and animals all year with a *Western Australia 2015 Calendar*. RRP \$16.95

Available from good bookstores, newsagents, visitor centres, Parks and Wildlife visitor centres, online at [shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://shop.dpaw.wa.gov.au), by phoning (08) 9219 9071 or in person at Parks and Wildlife head office at 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington.



## How to be involved

Outdoors October 2014 - Go on, get outside!

Getting outdoors is great for your health and it is always better when you share the experience with others. Sometimes we just need some gentle prodding to do something, and the more we do, the easier it becomes.

[Outdoors WA](#) is taking the lead and is encouraging and supporting individuals and families as well as outdoor leaders, clubs, organisations, schools and companies to add to the growing list of events on the Outdoors October calendar.



The goal of Outdoors October is to stir the pot and get everyone thinking about getting outside and taking action.

Start planning your Outdoors October adventure now and make sure your outdoor club or organisation is involved too!

Go to [Outdoors October](#) to find out how to participate, share your activity or show your support.

### Enter the Bibbulmun Team Challenge

The [Bibbulmun Team Challenge](#) involves teams of four battling it out across 50km of the Bibbulmun Track over four days in October and November.

Activities focus on outdoor skills, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, safety and first aid, environmental awareness and physical challenge in a unique physical and mental team building event.



This is the ultimate test for corporate teams to disconnect with technology and reconnect with others, while being immersed in WA's beautiful bushland.

Register your team at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/bibbulmun-team-challenge/](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/walk-the-track/bibbulmun-team-challenge/)

Whale app to help get the big picture on WA migration

It's whale watching season! It's estimated that 30,000 whales travel along the WA coast each year, and the Department of Fisheries with Parks and Wildlife have created an app so you can reporting any sightings and support research into whale migration.

Researchers need to learn more about whale

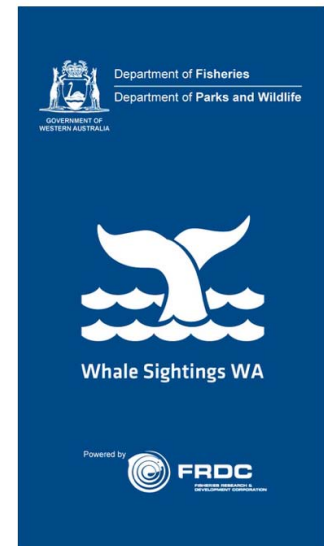


Whale  
Sightings WA  
Department of...

FREE

movement patterns and you can help by reporting any sightings of the many whale species you see as they make their journeys through the State's coastal waters.

To download the free app, go to the iTunes store and search for [Whale Sightings WA](#). An android version is also being developed.



## Industry news

**World Parks Congress**  
Australia is hosting the World Parks Congress in Sydney and to celebrate, Parks and Wildlife are offering a range of unique field trips in WA's Perth and South West regions this November.



The field trips are open to the public and will give participants a once in lifetime opportunity to visit Australia's natural icons and hidden gems with the people that know them best - the land managers.

Delegates of the World Parks Congress will visit from all over the world, eager to share knowledge and innovation and set the agenda for protected areas conservation for the decade to come.

### [Find out more about the World Parks Congress](#)

## Celebrating 15 years of the FACET Golden Guide Award

For 15 years, the FACET Golden Guide Award has been acknowledging individual excellence and recognising the contribution that quality tour guides make to visitor experiences by interpreting the natural and cultural environment.



Winners of the award have been ambassadors for the tourism industry and role models for others.

The award is open to tour guides and coach captains working in natural, cultural and heritage environments in either a paid or volunteer capacity. It is presented each year at the prestigious Western Australian Tourism Awards Gala Dinner.

To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Golden Guide Awards [read about the history and catch up with past winners.](#)

## Featured Operator – Karijini Eco Retreat

[Karijini Eco Retreat](#) offers a range of environmentally friendly accommodation amid pristine bushland in the heart of [Karijini National Park](#).

Take a packed picnic lunch to the gorges and return for coffee, tea, snacks and drinks when you are ready. Finish the day in an outback style alfresco licensed restaurant and then relax in a comfortable bed –luxury!



For the latest offers, news and information visit [Latest News and Information](#)



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