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## Issue no: 33

Friday, 16 September 2016

Welcome to Touring WA, where we share some of the latest news from the Department of Parks and Wildlife for visitors to Western Australia's national parks.

This issue has a heap of ideas for school holiday fun and some awesome giveaways to be won!

## Parks and visitor information

### DISCOVER WA – Win your own virtual reality goggles

Have you tried the DISCOVER WA app yet? Discover the wonders of Western Australia through Virtual Reality!

DISCOVER WA takes you diving, camping, bushwalking and relaxing on a stunning coastal beach - all from the comfort of your own home.



We have 20 pairs of cardboard VR goggles to giveaway to help you to escape and visit the wonders of WA - simply be one of the first 20 people to email us with the correct answer to this question:

**Which islands are set to become WA's next national park? (Hint: the answer is somewhere in this newsletter)**

Type your answer in the 'Subject Field' of your email and include your name and

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Download the app now for free at [iTunes](#) or [Google play](#).

## Become a Park Explorer!

Last month there was a call for explorers who were holidaying around WA to take photos and videos of their experiences and share them with us.

There has been an incredible response and the first round of *Park Explorers* will be headed out on their holidays in the next few months.

You too can become a *Park Explorer* just by sharing your WA holiday experiences in national parks with us by using the hashtag #parkexplorers, #exploreparkswa and #justanotherdayinWA.

Follow the Explore Parks [Facebook](#) and Parks and Wildlife [Instagram](#) pages or look for the hashtags #parkexplorers and #exploreparkswa to share in the amazing adventures around WA.



## Step into spring on the Bibbulmun Track

Shake off the winter blues and head for the  Bibbulmun Track hills! Experience the spectacular hilltop views, mist shrouded valleys and the abundance of wildflowers. It's the best time of year to get out onto the Track and the [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#) has a plenty of options to help get you there.

Do the *Wildflower Wander* and be amazed at the beauty of the spring flowers as you spend three days hiking in one of the most scenic sections of the Bibbulmun Track.

You can also experience the *Bibbulmun Blossoms* as you take a guided walk and discover the many plants and flowers blooming near Kalamunda.

Or you can even go it alone. The Bibbulmun Track Foundation's Day Walk Map Packs have a variety of walk options varying in length and difficulty.

The calendar of events, prices and more information about these hikes and other activities are available at [www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au](http://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au) or by phone on (08) 9481 0551.

Don't forget you can also download the [TrailsWA app](#). The app features trails from all over WA and is packed with information such as directions to the start of the trail, how long it will take, facilities on site and more!

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If not, don't worry, the Gravity Discovery Centre can make you feel like you have and it's a great place to take the kids for a school holiday excursion.

With activities such as *Rocket Making and Launching* and *Astro Kids - Experience the Observatory*, your children will feel like they have been to the moon and back.

The surrounding bush is a biodiversity hotspot so while your kids are having an out of this world experience, why not take a walk through the wildflowers or visit the Gravity Café for coffee and lunch?

For bookings email [bookings@gravitycentre.com.au](mailto:bookings@gravitycentre.com.au) and visit the [Gravity Discovery Centre website](#) for more information.

### School holiday activities with *Nearer to Nature*


Why not keep the children entertained during  the spring school holidays by getting them nearer to nature?

The *Nearer to Nature* team will 'captivate the kids' with spring-themed, fun-filled activities designed to capture their imaginations.

- Baby bush birds - discover amazing facts about how a mummy bird builds a warm, safe haven for her babies.
- Downy ducklings - it's a delight to see cute downy ducklings and their feathered friends wandering around water holes.
- Wander through wildflower-land - you can learn a lot from the flowers; they have extra special powers. So join Alicia to understand our uniquely Australian wildflower-land.

To find out more about all the other activities on offer visit [nearertonature.dpaw.wa.gov.au](http://nearertonature.dpaw.wa.gov.au) and to make your bookings please phone *Nearer to Nature* on (08) 9295 2244.

### Abrolhos Islands set to become a national park

The Abrolhos Islands, also known as the  jewel in the crown of the beautiful mid-west coast of WA, are about to become a national park.

Creating the Abrolhos Islands National Park will ensure provide better access and better visitor facilities on the islands and help to ensure they are protected for future generations.

Activities on the islands include diving on coral reefs, sightseeing, walking, fishing and

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Make sure you put the Abrolhos Islands on your next travel itinerary!

## **LANDSCOPE** magazine Spring 2016 available now

Inside the latest issue of *LANDSCOPE* magazine there's mountain bike fun at Bramley National Park and hidden gems to be found in Nambung National Park.

Articles featured include:

- *Parks for People*: Bramley National Park
- Filling in the blanks: Growing our knowledge of the Pilbara
- Touched by nature: Home to Cape Arid National Park
- Now you see me...secrets of our craftiest marine animals
- Eighty Mile Beach: Where tradition meets science
- Adventure out: *Nearer to Nature*- school holiday fun in the Perth hills
- Lichens: Hidden gems of Nambung National Park
- Island battlefield: Toads versus native fauna
- Recruitment processes: A tale of marine life survival.



[Annual subscriptions](#) to [LANDSCOPE](#) are \$30 for four issues, including postage within Australia. Gift and Goldstar subscriptions are also available.

Single issues of *LANDSCOPE* are available from selected newsagencies - RRP \$7.95.

## **Free wi-fi in Karijini**

One of Western Australia's most iconic national parks, Karijini National Park is now connected with free public wi-fi!

As you are travelling into the park through the beautiful Karijini Visitor Centre you will now be able to connect and share your experiences through this free public service.





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visit [www.prc.wa.gov.au](http://www.prc.wa.gov.au).

## Swimming with humpback whales

If you're heading to [Ninglao Marine Park](#) why not take a dive with a humpback whale?



The in-water humpback whale experiences are being offered by commercial operators based at Exmouth and Coral Bay. At this time of year, humpback whales are migrating to the Southern Ocean from warm Kimberley waters where they have been breeding.

This is a world class tourist attraction and is on a trial period until the 30 November.

## Get outdoors this October

Getting outdoors in nature has amazing benefits to our health and well-being.

Outdoors WA has pulled together an exciting calendar of outdoor activities for you and your family to get involved in for the month of October.



With activities such as abseiling, ghost walks, canoeing and rock climbing - there really is something for everyone!

Visit the [Outdoors October website](#) to find events and don't forget to take photos and share your outdoor fun with the hashtag #outdoorsoctober.

## Leave behind the fresh fruit and clean your shoes!

These are the messages being issued to travellers both within Western Australia and from other states to protect WA's agriculture industries against two serious pest threats.

The Russian Wheat Aphid, previously not found in Australia, was found in South Australia and Victoria.

The Department of Agriculture and Food are asking members of the public who are travelling from these states into WA to follow good biosecurity practices, such as brushing down shoes and luggage, to minimise the

### Travelling to Kununurra?

When travelling north into the Ord River Irrigation Area between April and November, don't carry WA grown citrus or stone fruit as you may be carrying Mediterranean fruit fly.

Freedom from Mediterranean fruit fly allows the area's horticultural industry access to important markets.

 [www.agric.wa.gov.au](http://www.agric.wa.gov.au)

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Ord River Irrigation Area near Kununurra is the only horticulture region in WA that is free of Medfly.

Visit [Department of Agriculture and Food](#) website for more information.

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## Industry news

### FACET Forum – A Foundation for WA Parks breakfast

The WA Parks Foundation's mission is to help celebrate,  promote, protect and enrich WA's Parks for their natural values and their contribution to people's health and wellbeing and to ecotourism.

Join Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia at a breakfast on the river as she addresses what we can do to support and become involved in our parks.

For more information and to book your tickets visit [www.facet.asn.au](http://www.facet.asn.au).

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### Image credits

All Parks and Wildlife except:

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation, Featured operator – The Gravity Discovery Centre; Brenda Lai – Pilbara Regional Council, Matt Swan, Outdoors October and the Department of Agriculture and Food.

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 Touring Western Australia

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If you would like to contact us, provide feedback or are experiencing problems opening stories please email the Touring WA Team at:

[touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au](mailto:touring.wa@dpaw.wa.gov.au).

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