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Issue no: 36

Friday, 1 September 2017

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

In this issue take you on a ride through Geikie Gorge on the new boat, show you where you can camp close to Perth and heaps more.

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Parks and visitor information

Take a boat ride through Geikie Gorge

Now is the perfect time to visit the spectacular Geikie Gorge and what a better way to experience its stunning geology, wildlife and cultural significance than on the new boat *Ms Casey Ross*.



The artwork for the new boat embodies the spirit of the Bunuba people. It features totemic animals like freshwater crocodiles, sawfish, red-tailed black cockatoos and broilgas - most of which you might see while on the tour.

For more information on how to book your trip visit the [Explore Parks WA website](#).

Camping close to Perth

Do you love camping but would like to stay close to home?

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service has put together a selection of campgrounds all within a two-hour drive of Perth's CBD in one easy-to-read guide.



The guide also contains activities you can do at parks such as fishing, snorkelling, mountain biking and seasonal fire pits.

And, there is no need to leave your furry family member home because we have highlighted which parks your dog can visit, too.

Get packed and ready to step into nature close to Perth - it's right at your doorstep!

[Download the guide now.](#)

Can you picture yourself hiking in WA's beautiful South West?

The south-west of WA is famous for its pristine white beaches, rugged coastlines and beautiful forests and what better way to enjoy them than hiking.

Of Py is an avid hiker and has put together some of the best hiking trails in the South West of Western Australia. Check them out [here](#).



What are you waiting for? Grab your pack, put on your boots and get out and enjoy them.

To find a park and hit the trails in the South West, visit [Park Finder](#).

National park fees

As of the 1 September 2017, entry fees into all fee paying parks and campgrounds across the State will incur a slight increase.



All fees collected are retained by the Department to assist in conservation and park management, including the improvement of visitor services and facilities, so that you can continue to enjoy these special areas of our State.

The Annual Parks Pass and the Holiday Pass are excellent value for money and definitely the way to go if you plan to visit more than one park.

For more information on fee the increases please visit the [Explore Parks website](#).

To purchase a Parks Pass, please visit the [WA Naturally Shop](#).

Technology in nature

Take a look at the latest apps designed to make your visit to our national parks easier and even more enjoyable.

Discover WA's South West

If you're heading to the south-west of WA, don't forget to download the South West Nature Guide App.

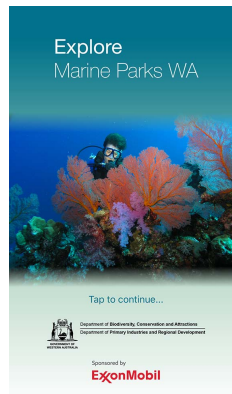
The app can help you identify local flora and fauna, and provide you with some history and geology of the area. It's just like taking a walk with a local expert!

Dive into marine parks

You can have marine park information at your fingertips with the Marine Parks WA App.

This free app provides practical information on WA's marine parks including wildlife, activities and how to get there.

Surf the net and download the app for [Apple](#) or [Android](#).



Hoot hoot - who do you call?

If you ever find sick or injured native wildlife then this app can help.

The free Wildcare Helpline app provides advice such as basic first aid for wildlife and contact numbers for help in your area.

Download the app now app for [Apple](#) or [Android](#).



What are your kids doing these school holidays?

There are only a few weeks until the school holidays and [Nearer to Nature](#) has a program packed full of spring-time activities.

Adventures like *Wander through Wildflower-land*, *Bat Box Builders* and *Dolphin Discovery* are sure to keep the kids entertained.



Visit the [Explore Parks WA What's On](#) page for more information and call 9295 2244 to book.

Plug in your headphones, close your eyes and take a moment to relax to the sounds of [Sue's Bridge](#).

While kayaking on the Blackwood River, Anthony Karro recorded the sounds he experienced on the water.

You will hear birds, the occasional car crossing the bridge in the distance, the paddle stroke gently pushing through the water and, you will feel like you are there.

Follow this [link](#) to hear the Sounds of Sue's Bridge and enjoy.



Get your 2018 calendar now

The *Nature of Western Australia 2018 Calendar* is now available!

Featuring the captivating red-capped robin on the cover and beautiful monthly photographs, the 2018 calendar will make a great addition to your home or office or the perfect gift for family and friends.



It comes spiral bound with a lightweight envelope for postage and includes WA school and public holiday information with plenty of room to include your own special event details.

As a bonus, with every calendar purchased you can enter the draw to win a two-night luxury camping adventure in the beautiful Walpole-Nornalup National Park at Coalmine Beach Holiday Park.

Purchase your 2018 LANDSCOPE calendar now!

LANDSCOPE Magazine out next week!

Inside the spring edition of *LANDSCOPE* magazine we share the incredible journey to 'Bust the Bidli' and set an official time for the fastest, unsupported end-to-end ride of the Munda Bidli trail, plus so much more.

- *Parks for People*: Kings Park – A haven at the heart of the city.
- Snapping back: Saltwater crocodiles return from the brink of extinction.
- Saving a Wheatbelt wetland refuge: Unseasonal rainfall transforms Toolibin Lake.
- Touched by nature: Global Gypsies – Jeremy Perks and Jan Barrie are sharing their love of travel and their experience as tour guides.
- Busting the Bididi – Declan von Dietze takes on the Munda Bididi Trail.
- Island home: a new start for dibblers – Dibblers bred at Perth Zoo are reintroduced to Gunton Island.
- Adventure out: Yanchep caves – A journey beneath the earth to discover Yanchep National Park's hidden world.
- Continuing the battle – Felines in the Fitzgerald biosphere.



[Annual subscriptions](#) to [LANDSCOPE](#) are \$30 (four issues, free postage within Australia). Gift subscriptions are \$30 (four issues, free postage within Australia, plus a beautiful gift card for your personal message).

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

Festival Family Fun

Rottnest Island Carnivale 2017

The Rottnest Island Carnivale is back again on 28 October 2017 with a full day and night of festivities raising funds for Telethon.

Hop on the ferry with your family and friends for an exciting island-wide celebration with loads of free entertainment and activities.



There is discount bike hire so you can explore the island and all of its natural beauty.

Book your tickets [now](#).

Kings Park Festival

State but what better way to see them than close to home in the stunning Kings Park.

Whether you want to get back to nature or just want to appreciate the beauty of Kings Park and Western Australian plant life, the Kings Park Festival is for you!



The Kings Park Festival runs from 1 – 30 September 2017. Start planning your trip to the festival [now](#).

Industry news

FACET conference – Celebrating our Parks

FACET and the [WA Parks Foundation](#) are working together to bring you *Celebrating Our Parks*.

Celebrating Our Parks is a three-day event that will deliver an exciting, informative and innovative program raising awareness and appreciation of our unique and ancient landscapes.



FACET
Forum Advocating Cultural &
Eco-Tourism Inc

Participants can also explore opportunities for communities to connect with our parks showcasing the work of the WA Parks Foundation.

The conference will be held at Government House on Monday 9 October - Wednesday 11 October 2017.

Book your tickets [now](#).

Image credits

All Parks and Wildlife Service except:
Chanel Bowen, Mark Pybus, Nearer to Nature, Rottnest Island.

For more information see the department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



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