

Business Plan takes shape, The Gap lookout opened and more...

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WA Parks Foundation

NEWS

Uniting the community to protect our natural areas



Eucalyptus miniata. Photo - Corrin Everitt

Issue Four, April 2016

Welcome to the fourth issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, where you can find updates on the progress of planning for the Foundation which aims to increase community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of the State's national parks and conservation reserves.

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Business Plan takes shape

An initial draft of the Foundation's Business Plan has been received and discussed by the Steering Committee.

Consultants Steve and Valerie Pretzel from PX2 have built on the original vision for the Foundation, tying together the research and the many views expressed through the consultation process into a comprehensive plan and financial model.



Word cloud from PX2 consultation

our amazing natural assets can be enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come.

“The business plan is expected to be completed next month, and will at that point also include a detailed implementation plan and timetable,” he said.



Steve at work on the Business Plan, inspired by the beautiful view out his window

If you would like to provide input into this important study, please contact us via www.ourwaparks.com.au

New Steering Committee members

In August 2015, a committed group of seven individuals formed the WA Parks Foundation Steering Committee and have met regularly to progress the establishment of the organisation. The members each bring with them significant experience and knowledge, and share a strong passion for Western Australia's natural places.

In February and March, the committee expanded to include a number of new

The current WA Parks Foundation Steering Committee members are:

- **Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO**

Governor of Western Australia

- **Mrs Pat Barblett AM** Chair, Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco-Tourism Inc

- **Professor Lyn Beazley AO** Former Chief Scientist and science ambassador

- **Mrs Carol Buckley MVO** CEO and Official Secretary, Government House

- **Professor Ross Dowling OAM** Foundation Professor of Tourism, School of Business and Law, ECU

- **Mr Tristan Duke** Regional Manager - WA, Conservation Volunteers Australia

- **Dr Tom Hatton** Chairman EPA and environmental scientist

- **Mr Simon Holthouse** Viticulturist and former WA Planning Commission chief

- **Mr Colin Ingram** Senior Policy Officer, Department of Parks and Wildlife

- **Mr Glen Kelly** Former CEO South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Commission

- **Mr Griffin Longley** CEO, Nature Play WA

- **Ms Shirley MacPherson** AFL Sports Ready and Indigenous Leader

- **Ms Kellie Parker** Managing Director, Planning, Integration & Assets, Iron Ore, Rio Tinto

- **Ms Claire Savage** Former Chair, Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco-Tourism Inc

- **Mr Jim Sharp** Director General, Department of Parks and Wildlife



New Steering Committee member Griffin Longley is invited by Her Excellency

Opening of The Gap lookout

The Gap and Natural Bridge, 18km from the centre of Albany in Torndirrup National Park, has been transformed using a combination of state-of-the-art design and outstanding environmental sensitivity. From vantage points high above the waters of the Southern Ocean, visitors safely experience the awe and excitement of dramatic coastal conditions and spectacular scenery.

The project includes new accessible viewing structures at the Gap and Natural Bridge, paths, a picnic area, visitor information and parking capacity for 27 cars, two ACROD vehicles, three motorcycles and two long vehicles.

Visitors to the Gap will be able to venture safely beyond the precipice to stand on a platform 37m above the ocean. The structure provides universal access to the spectacular views.



Visitors enjoy the new Gap lookout

The solid pathway and viewing area of the Natural Bridge provides an impressive window to one of Australia's most exposed coasts. Interpretive signage gives an insight into the cultural and geological history of the area and the design of the new viewing facilities.

Extensive measures were undertaken to minimise environmental impact during construction. Existing path alignments and degraded areas were chosen to minimise disturbance, while old paths not being reused were removed and areas rehabilitated. Vehicle and machinery access was limited to a temporary access track to preserve both the natural rock surface and remnant vegetation.

The upgrade of facilities at The Gap and Natural Bridge was officially opened for the start of the April school holidays.



Interactive interpretation at the Natural Bridge

Case study: US National ParkRx initiative

The US National ParkRx Initiative is a movement to strengthen the connection between health care and parks and public lands to improve the physical and mental health among individuals and communities. The initiative is led by the US National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the Institute at the Golden Gate (IGG), and the National Park Service (NPS) in the USA.

The National ParkRx Initiative is made up of agencies that are dedicated to using nature and public lands to improve individual and community health. At the heart of the National ParkRx Initiative is the belief that ParkRx programs are going to be key players in preventative health for the future of public health.

ParkRx practitioners are encouraged to communicate with each other on the National Recreation and Park Association's *Connect Forum*. All ParkRx practitioners, even if they are not NRPA members, are encouraged to join the 'Park Prescriptions' community within NRPA's *Connect Forum* to talk with colleagues and



Park Prescriptions are programs designed in collaboration with healthcare providers and community partners that utilise parks, trails, and open space for the purpose of improving individual and community health.



US National Park Service Director, Jon Jarvis, Dr. Maria Cristi Rueda and Dr. Robert Zarr with a young patient holding a copy of her park prescription. Photo - Washington DC Park Rx

It is a collaboration of national partners and subject-matter experts to advance the movement and create awareness among various audiences, including park and health professionals, to address the operational hurdles present in parks and health collaborations, and hone and measure the best delivery models currently in practice.

[Find out more about Park Rx](#)

Feature conservation area: Dryandra Woodland

Dryandra Woodland, 30km north of Narrogin, features the largest area of remnant vegetation in the western wheatbelt and forms part of an international biodiversity hotspot where more than 850 species of plants can be seen. The woodland is home to the numbat, Western Australia's state faunal emblem.

echidna as well as a diverse variety of reptiles and insects.



Mala and numbats active at night at Dryandra

Birdwatching is a favourite activity at Dryandra with spectacular birds such as Carnaby's cockatoo finding the woodlands to be the perfect habitat as well as rare birds such as bush stone curlew and rufous tree creeper. There are also several drive trails. With more than 25 mammal, 100 bird and 50 reptile species there is plenty of wildlife to encounter while exploring the woodlands.



Brown mallet and Gastrolobium parviflorum found at Dryandra

Video: US National Park Foundation

Describing the National Park Foundation as the 'best kept secret in the US', President Will Shafroth talks about the relationship the Foundation has with government and all its been able to achieve since it was established nearly 50 years ago.

identify the park that means the most to them.



Q & A with Will Shafroth, President of US National Parks Foundation

[Watch the full video here](#)

Tell us what you think!

We'd love to hear from you about what you think of *WA Parks Foundation News*, what you would like to see and if you have any questions about the progression of *WA Parks Foundation*.

[Contact us via www.ourwaparks.com.au](http://www.ourwaparks.com.au)

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