



*Male variegated fairy wren. Photo - Doug Coughran*

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Issue Seven, August 2016

Welcome to the seventh issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, where you can find stories that promote community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of the State's national parks and conservation reserves.

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## Pokemon Go

The phenomenon of Pokemon Go is taking over the world. Players use their smart phones to chase virtual creatures through real spaces in the hope of “catching them all” for points. It appears Kings Parks is such a hot spot for players, so much so that Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority reported to the media that “while it was great to see more people, particularly young people, visiting the park, the increased traffic had already killed off large swathes of lawn and damaged garden beds.”



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*Pokemon Go players in King Park. Photo - ABC News*

The game certainly gets people outdoors but is it just more screen time? Are players even engaging with the natural environment? It's a valid question our friends at [Nature Play WA](#) have endeavoured to answer.

In a comprehensive and timely blog post, Nature Play WA assesses the good, the bad and the healthy parts of the game and has some good advice for parents.

[Read the blog post here](#)

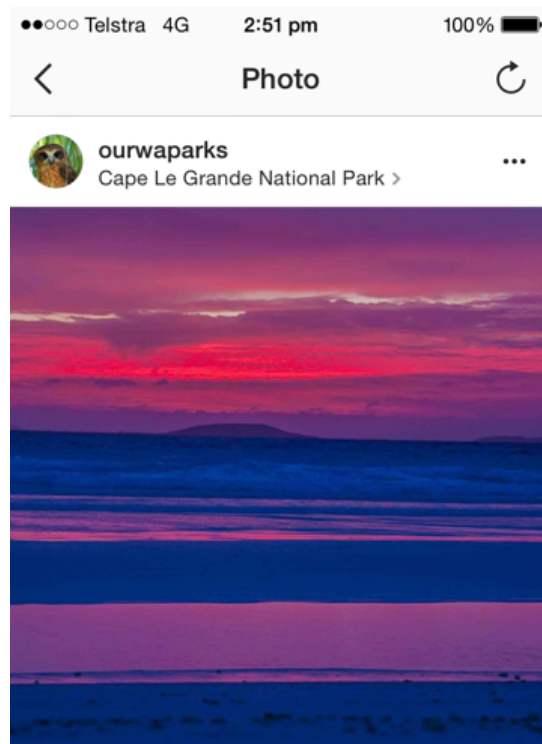
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## The power of an image

As Western Australians we have access to some of the most incredible natural places. The power of social media has brought people's adventures in our natural areas to us via smart phones and computers.

The increase in popularity of social media platforms such as Instagram means that those images can be shared and appreciated. Instagram works much like a portfolio of beautiful images shared amongst followers quite simply for that purpose – because they are beautiful.

The WA Parks Foundation's Instagram page has seen remarkable growth and



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quality of the images being posted, the beauty of WA's natural areas and the love people feel for them.

If you have amazing images in your collection, we would be honoured to share them with our followers who we are sure will love them as much as you do.

[www.instagram.com/OurWAParks/](http://www.instagram.com/OurWAParks/)

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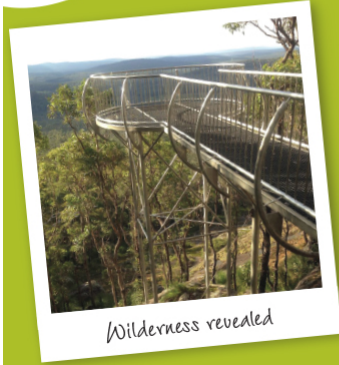
## Calling all Park Explorers

Do you love getting out and exploring Western Australia's incredible natural places? Parks and Wildlife is looking for people to showcase their holidays and experiences in national parks and reserves.

The department will loan you camera gear and give you free entry to national parks. All you need to do is have fun and post your experiences on social media. So if you're planning an adventure in WA's great outdoors, [become a Park Explorer](#) and share your love of the great outdoors.



# Become a Park Explorer!



[parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parkexplorers](https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/parkexplorers)



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## Case study: Re-wilding the desert

“Australia has the worst record of extinction in the world. Many of the species that remain



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FAUNA Research Alliance are Rewilding the Desert – an initiative to secure the future of Australia’s threatened and endangered wildlife at a number of key locations, by:



- Reintroducing unique wildlife species to their original habitat and location
- Building a renowned desert conservation center
- Working within and beyond sanctuaries and reserves to recreate functional desert ecosystems
- Nurturing an engaged community, dedicated to growing and sharing open source evidence-based knowledge
- Building a hub of participatory, hands-on learning that purposefully connects people with nature

‘Re-wilding’ is a concept that has been implemented all over the world. This Australian initiative aims to conserve a suite of nationally threatened fauna, including the western quoll and numbat, and further restore the ecology of the desert landscape.

*Numbat. Photo - Doug Coughran*

## Feature park: Swan Canning Riverpark

The Swan and Canning rivers are renowned for their natural beauty and cultural and recreational significance. Swan Canning Riverpark is an important habitat for a wide variety of native animals with more than 300 species of birds and 130 species of fish recorded. There is also a resident population of 25 bottlenose dolphins including their calves.

*Interpretive nodes at the Swan Canning Riverpark*



The rivers are used by the community for a wide variety of recreational pursuits including boating, fishing, picnicking, swimming, cycling, waterskiing, windsurfing, diving, walking and a multitude of events.

When next strolling along the river, keep a look out for interpretation nodes at Bicton, Point Walter and Heathcote. They are part of the *River Journeys* project and showcase the story of the river, its cultural heritage and how it has evolved. Each node features QR code technology where visitors can access further information and audio elements where Aboriginal elders tell Dreamtime stories of the surrounding

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*Dolphins enjoying the Riverpark. Photo - River Guardians*

## Video: Carluccio's Six Seasons

We are SO excited about watching chef Antonio Carluccio's *Six Seasons* on SBS this month! He's joining Aboriginal elder Richard Walley to explore WA's Aboriginal

culture through food at Rottnest Island, Kings Park Botanical Gardens, New Norcia, Margaret River, Pinjarra and Walyunga National Park.

YUM! Our mouths are watering already! *Carluccio's Six Seasons* airs on SBS TV on 31 August 2016

[Watch the promotional video here](#)



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*Richard and Antonio during filming*

## 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 the WA Parks Foundation.

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





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