

New logo, swimming with the giants and more...

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WA Parks Foundation

NEWS

Issue 8 • September 2016



ANZAC Day morning in Lorna Glen. Photo - Judy Dunlop

Issue Eight, September 2016

Welcome to the eighth 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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Unveiling the new logo

Western Australia is known around the world for the great variety of its plant and animal life. The honey possum and Baxter's banksia, both species unique to the State, were chosen for the logo as emblematic of this rich biodiversity and the connections found in nature.

The theme of connections runs through the WA Parks Foundation's goals, including people's connection to the natural environment and the Foundation's connection with its partners and collaborators.



WA PARKS
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In a first for western Australia, visitors to Ningaloo Marine Park could swim with humpbacks whales as part of a four month trial. Whale watching and swimming with whale sharks are extremely popular activities in the area, drawing thousands of visitors each year from around the world.

Encouragingly, humpback whale numbers have steadily recovered and Western Australian population estimates have now reached pre-whaling figures.

There are strict rules around swimming with these giants of the sea and the activity is restricted to licensed tour operators.

[You can find out more here](#)



Humpack whale. Photo - Doug Coughran

Adopt-a-spot

We'd all like to think we are good citizens of the world and don't leave rubbish behind anywhere. Unfortunately, whether it's on purpose or not, some of our natural places are littered with bits and pieces left behind by people as they pass through.

Keep Australia Beautiful WA have rallied together those people who get frustrated when they see rubbish lying about and can't walk idly by and involved them in the 'Adopt-a-aSpot' program. The program is about getting those people who want to contribute to a healthier and cleaner community and asking them to choose a local

clean.



"Bag Ladies" from a May Day clean-up. Photo - KABC

These caring citizens of WA have become so passionate about their adopted spots they have cleaned up tonnes of rubbish and more than 650 groups that include up to 15,000 volunteers in the past six years.

All adopters receive a clean-up kit of bags, gloves, a sharps container and tongs to assist with clean ups. Insurance is also available if required. Safety vests are also provided to those who adopt a roadside.

[Find out how you can adopt your own spot here](#)

Adventurous women

spirit by providing soft adventure opportunities, step by step challenges, social activities and travel opportunities in a safe, supportive, all-female environment.



Sue said the idea was all about helping women feel more comfortable and supported in the great outdoors and providing opportunities for them to meet like-minded women.



“We have an online social network for women to connect through discussion forums and special interest groups,” Sue said. “It’s also a platform where independent female travellers can find travel buddies or a female host at their destination.”

Many of the activities and tours now see groups of women out enjoying our beautiful WA Parks more often, such as the seven-day Cape to Cape walk coming up from 11-18 September.

[Find out more](#)

FACET breakfast - supporting the Foundation

Registrations are now open to attend a breakfast forum where Her Excellency, Kerry Sanderson AC, the Governor of Western Australia will speak about the WA Parks Foundation and focus on what we can do to support and become involved in our parks and relate to what has been achieved in the US and elsewhere.

Tuesday, 20 September

7.15 for 7.30 start

9.00am finish

Venue:

Roe Room, Matilda Bay on the River
Hackett Drive, Crawley

Register online at www.facet.asn.au
by 16 September or
email: admin@facet.asn.au or
Contact Pauline McMullan on
9448 8150

\$60 FACET Members \$45 FACET Concession
\$80 Non-members \$55 Non-member Concession

Includes breakfast

Join FACET & receive member discount
Standard \$99, Concession \$55

Partners



HERITAGE COUNCIL
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Register online at www.facet.asn.au

Case study: Nature Explorers

Nature Explorers, a new preschool program from Montgomery Parks in the USA, is different from traditional preschools. For two days each week, the young students at Nature Explorers won't hang their things in a cubby and report to a desk, they will exploring outside turning over rocks and seeing what's underneath.

"The goal of the program is to have kids outside playing, exploring, imagining — just having fun outside in nature, which, unfortunately, a lot of kids that age don't get to do anymore," said Rebecca Wadler, a naturalist at Locust Grove Nature Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Nature-based schools are not a new concept — countries like [Germany](#) and Austria have been teaching this way for ages — but they are becoming [more common](#) in the U.S., in an era when outdoor play is on the decline.

Wadler says it's all about being a kid and doing what kids do best: learning through play.

[Read the full story here](#)



Feature park: Colseam Conservation Park

Social media is overflowing with pictures of Colseam Conservation Park from people who have visited recently. Beautiful displays of wildflowers carpeting the land are inviting very excited travellers to stop and take the time to get a picture of the incredible display.

Colseam Conservation Park is among the most botanically diverse areas in the northern Wheatbelt region and known for its beauty during wildflower season. The park lies between the northern sandplain country where woody heath plants flower, and the arid lands of the Murchison region where spectacular everlastings bloom.



Bursting with colour at Coalseam. Photo - Michael Raykos

During spring, a carpet of everlastings transforms the usually sparse wattle understorey, covering the valley slopes. Everlastings are short-lived annual herbs, mostly from the daisy family, that dry out to produce papery petals and seeds that are dispersed by the wind.

Video: Why do we love parks?

They say a picture says a thousand words and Parks Victoria have proved this beautifully with a short video that need not say a thing. The collection of incredible imagery showcases Victoria's beautiful national parks, including amazingly candid moments of a range of rarely seen wildlife. The closing statement sums up exactly how we feel about it. A must watch.

[Watch the video here](#)



17 August at 14:46 · 🌐 · Travel

Why do we love parks?

#natureforall

Australia.com Visit Melbourne

Visit Grampians DELWP Grampians DELWP Hume DELWP Gippsland
DELWP PortPhillip DELWP Loddon Mallee People and Parks Foundation



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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.

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