

[Meet our Park Ambassadors, Peel Youth Bush Walks and more...](#)

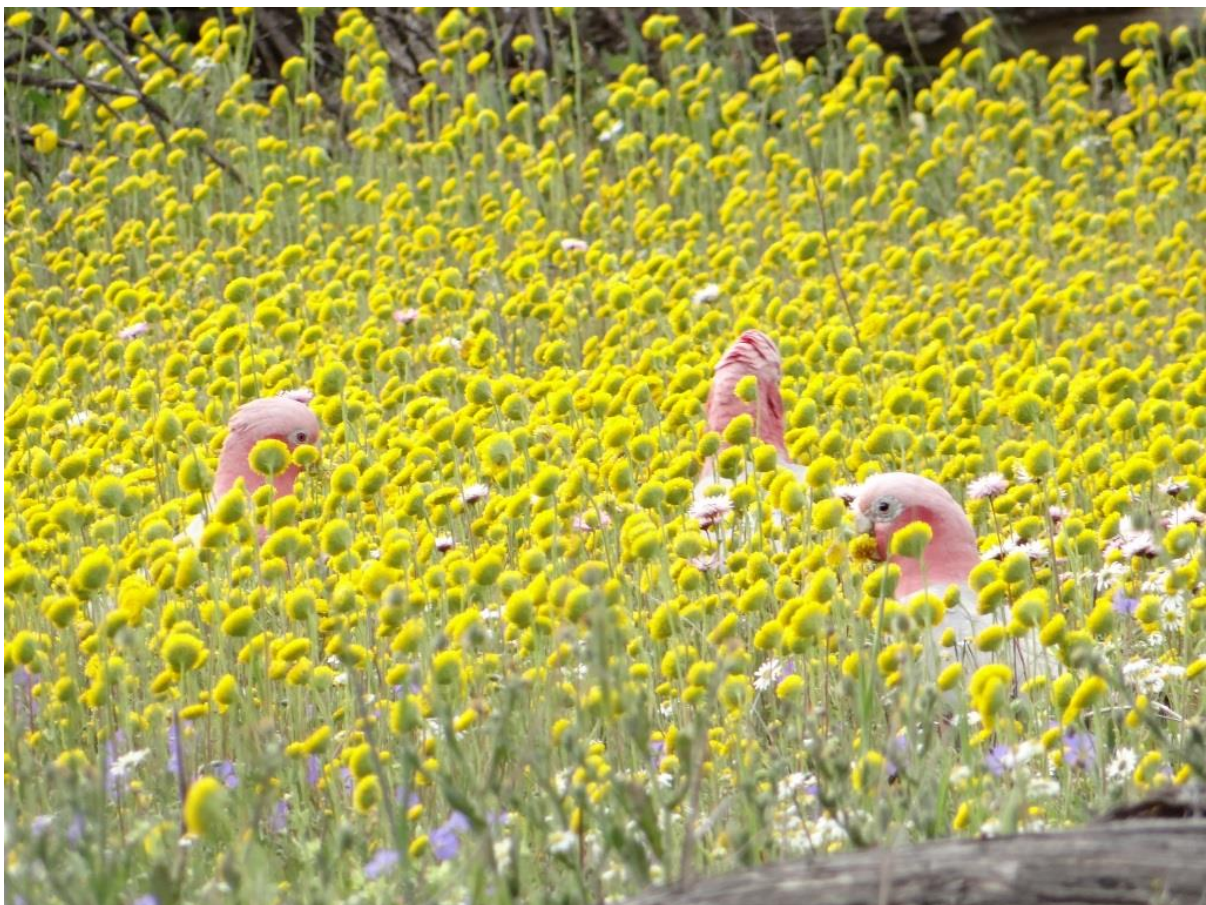
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WA Parks Foundation

# NEWS

Issue 10, November 2016



*Galaha enjoying the wildflowers. Photo - Carol Strang*

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Welcome to the tenth issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, where you can share your love for our WA Parks with us as we aim to increase community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of the State's national parks and conservation reserves.

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## Official launch of the WA Parks Foundation

A shared love for WA Parks brought more than 140 members of the community, corporate sector and peak organisations to Government House to launch the WA Parks Foundation on Wednesday 19 October. *(Parks mean all categories of land and marine areas set aside, reserved or identified in or under Western Australian legislation for the purpose of conservation of the natural environment and other purposes consistent with that legislation).*

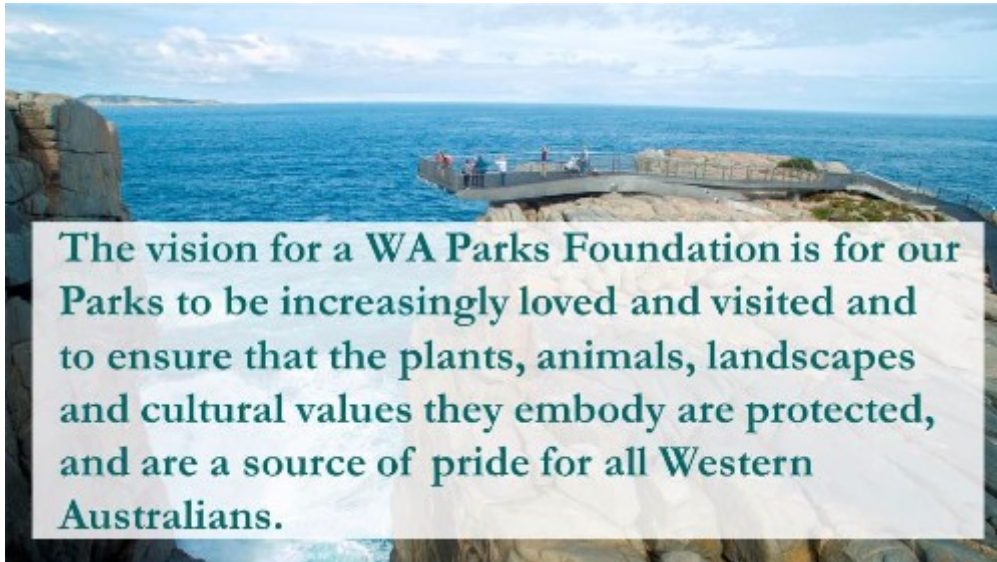


Guests enjoyed presentations by respected members of the environmental community including Professor Steve Hopper AC, Ms Victoria Lawrie, Mr Jim Sharp and Mr Griffin Longley and stayed to visit their favourite national park in full virtual reality, get their picture taken in a park via a green screen photo booth and met some local wildlife thanks to Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and its founder Mrs June Butcher AM.





Thanks to the passion and support shown for our WA Parks, the requirement of 50 membership sign ups was quickly met, with most members joining using the [new website](#). The Foundation is now in the process of applying for tax deductibility status.



Members of inaugural Board were announced, led by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, who each have expressed a love for WA's unique parks.

- Hon Kerry Sanderson AC (Chair of the WA Parks Foundation)
- Dr Tom Hatton PSM (Chair EPA)
- Mr Griff Longley (CEO Natureplay)
- Mr Richard Simpson (Chair BGPA )
- Ms Eva Skira (Chair Water Corporation and Chair of the Trustees of St John of God Healthcare)
- Mr Mike Wood (Chair Bibbulmun Track Foundation )
- Mr Shaun Hardcastle (Director Bellanhouse Legal)
- Mr Jim Sharp (Director General Parks and Wildlife ex-officio attendee)
- Ms Kathryn Conway (Acting Company Secretary, Learning Horizons)



Inaugural [WA Parks Foundation](#) Board members

(back) Griffin Longley, Shaun Hardcastle, Dr Tom Hatton PSM, Jim Sharp, Mike Wood

(front) Her Excellency and Treasurer Kath Conway

(absent) Richard Simpson and Eva Skira

[To find out more about the WA Parks Foundation including the first priorities, you can view the Strategic Plan here](#)

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## Meet our Park Ambassadors

Each issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, we introduce you to one of our Park Ambassadors who inspire people to appreciate our parks for their uniqueness, and to want to visit and enjoy them as well as increasing community pride in our parks.

### **Professor Steve D. Hopper AC**

Steve Hopper has been recognised as a global science leader in the field of plant conservation biology, particularly in the delivery of world class research programs and contributing to the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems. He was the first non-British person to become the Director of the prestigious Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2006-2012). Prior to this he served as Director and then CEO of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority encompassing Kings Park (1992-2004). He is currently Professor of Biodiversity at The University of Western Australia.



### *Why do I love WA Parks?*

“Western Australia's parks and reserves contain a rich diversity of plants, animals and other organisms which is of global significance. As today's custodians, we all have responsibilities to care for this abundant heritage. The Western Australian Parks Foundation is an important step towards achieving due recognition and broad community support for the State's incomparable biodiversity, landscapes and waters.”

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## **Can the selfie generation unplug and get into parks?**

A father and son's outdoor adventure in Grand Canyon National Park made Timothy Egan think about the next generation and their disconnection from the great outdoors.

Timothy took his twenty-something son on the trip of a lifetime and made some interesting observations in his heart-warming account of the trip in a blog post for National Geographic magazine.

“He's a millennial, mid-20s. I'm a baby boomer, approaching an unmentionable age. My generation loves the national parks to death. His generation, slightly larger than mine, will have to save them.”

[Read the full article here:](#)





Author Timothy Egan and his son, Casey, climb Ryan Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park

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## Case study: Peel Youth Bush Walks

In response to the overwhelming evidence around the benefits of spending time outdoors, Peel Youth Services are tackling teen mental health by hitting the hiking trails.

The good people at [Nature Play WA](#) pointed out that spending 30 minutes a week in nature reduces depressive states and high blood pressure by 7 to 9 per cent, improving cognitive state and elevates mood.



*The first bushwalk on 16 October. Photo - Peel Youth Bushwalks and Adventures*

And so the Peel Bush Walks and Adventures was born; where teenagers and their families are encouraged to leave their home and discover the beauty of the region's countryside while enjoying the health benefits of exercising in nature.

The group go hiking every second Sunday until the end of the year and have plans to expand the program in the near future to include camp outs, high rope adventures and canoeing.

For any more information about the initiative call Peel Youth Services on 9581 3365 or 0459 020179 or [like them on Facebook](#)

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## Feature park: Dirk Hartog Island National Park

Dirk Hartog is Western Australia's largest island and lies within the beautiful Shark Bay World Heritage area. The national park is renowned as one of the best shore fishing locations in Australia.

The island features incredible coastal sites including the historic precinct at Cape Inscription, rugged scenery at Charlies Harbour and Mystery Beach. The



*Above Cape Rasonnet*

Four hundred years ago in October 1616, Dirk Hartog made the first recorded landing by a European in WA and now plans are underway to restore the island's natural ecosystems to how Dirk Hartog would have seen them, with thriving native mammal populations. Restoration was necessary because intense grazing and trampling by sheep and goats denuded the island's vegetation and, combined with feral cats, had earlier exacted a hefty toll on the island's small mammal population.





*Top Cape Inscription Lighthouse. Above Loggerhead turtle after nesting. Photos - Parks and Wildlife*

[Read an article by Park Ambassador Victoria Laurie on the restoration of Dirk Hartog Island](#)

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## Wedge-tailed eagles

In an emotional video, renowned ornithologist and passionate advocate for native birds of prey, Simon Cherriman proudly announces satellite transmitters have been fitted to a 10-week old wedge-tailed eagle chick thanks to crowd funding. This is the first bird in the south west of Western Australia with a satellite transmitter allowing Simon and his team to follow its movements and learn more about eagle behaviour.

[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 WA Parks Foundation.

[Contact us at info@ourwaparks.com.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.com.au)



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



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