

[Progress update, new Bibbulmun Spur Track and more...](#)

[View this email in your browser](#)



WA Parks Foundation

NEWS

Issue 11, December 2016



Australian Christmas Tree (Nuytsia floribunda) in bloom. Photo - Jessica Stingemore

Welcome to the 11th 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.

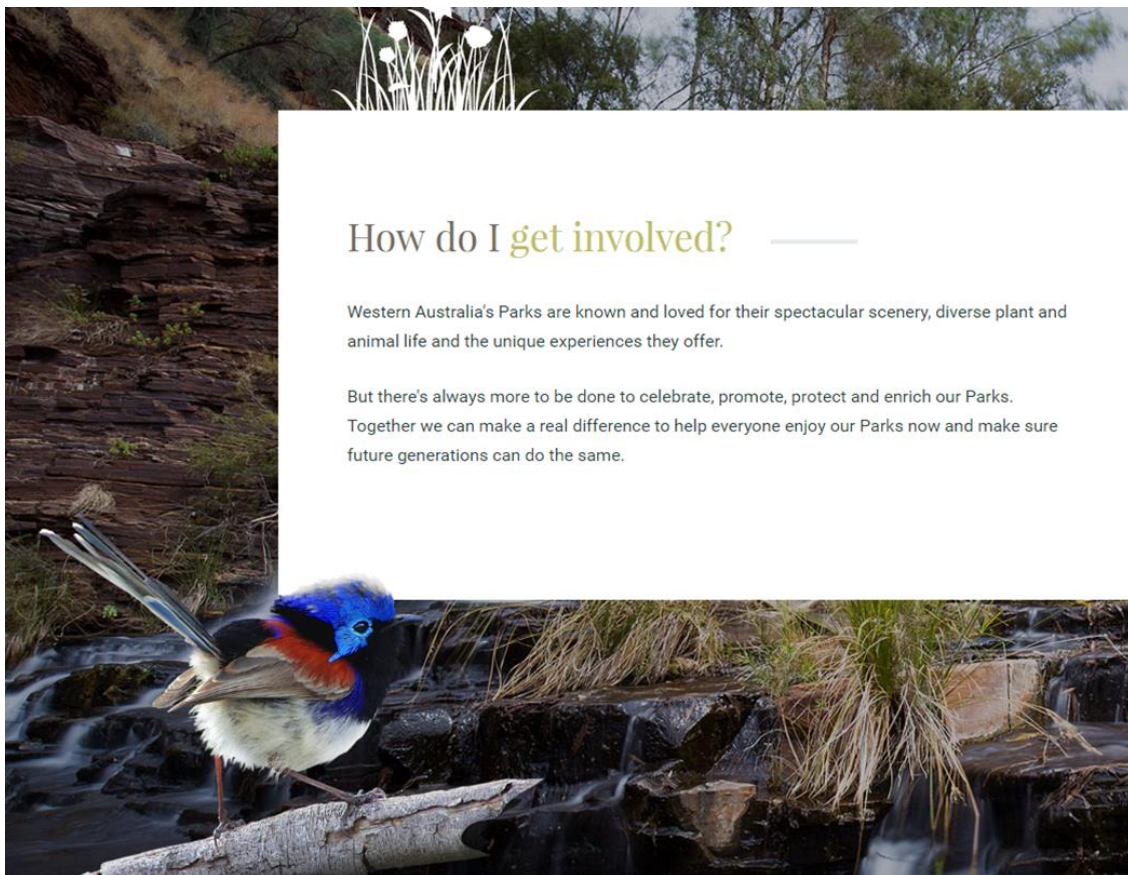
In this issue:

- [Meet our Park Ambassadors](#)
- [Former rivals unite for national parks](#)
- [Case study: Perth Bushwalking Club](#)
- [Feature park: Walpole-Nornalup National Park](#)
- [Video: Defying cancer with nature](#)
- [Tell us what you think!](#)

Progress update

After a successful launch event in October, an encouraging number of individuals and groups have offered their support and assistance to the WA Parks Foundation. Several pledges for donations or donations have been gratefully received and the first Board meeting in early November reflected the energy and enthusiasm for the mission of the organisation.

After being registered with ASIC and member numbers totalling well in excess of the minimum required to apply for tax deductibility status, the wheels are in motion towards receiving tax deductibility in the new year.



However, there is a lot of work to be done and your help is appreciated to better connect people to our parks so they are valued, visited and appreciated. So

partner.

[Get involved](#)

New Bibbulmun spur track

The world-famous Waugul symbol on the Bibbulmun Track has gone green, marking a new spur track built to connect Yabberup camp site (south of Collie) and Wellington Dam recreation area.

The new 19km Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail was built with the help of Lotterywest and was designed with students and youth groups in mind with two camp sites big enough to accommodate groups of up to 30 people.

“It is a pretty walk through the Wellington National Park which features WA’s unique eucalypt forests of jarrah, marri and yarri (blackbutt),” said the Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

The trail can be walked as a three day/two night or two day/one night walk and is free to use.



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.

Eric McCrum

Passionate bird lover, Eric is known for being able to imitate the call of almost any bird found in the Australian bush, tell the Latin name of any flower or plant and having a considerable knowledge of Noongar history. He is also the Treasurer of the Darling Range Branch WA Naturalists' Club.



Why do I love WA Parks?

“Even as a kid, I was happier in the trees and swimming than spending time with school friends. Parks are everything. As soon as I noticed birds in the bush, I wanted to find out what they were doing and what their calls meant. Parks take me away somewhere very special.”

Former rivals unite for national parks

The Australian Financial Review Magazine for December 2016 carried an

national parks across Australia. The surprising duo joined forces to create the Australian Walking Company (AWC) and are planning to build luxury walks and accommodation in a number of national parks.

"Australia is way behind the current trends in this space," says a former general manager of Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service, Peter Mooney, who retired earlier this year.



Brett Godfrey (left) and Geoff Dixon, photographed near Uluru. Photo - Nic Walker

Over the past year, the Australian Walking Company has lodged an expression of interest to develop multi-night walks not only in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park but also in the Flinders Chase National Park on South Australia's Kangaroo Island. AWC's project development team is also scouring for a suitable site in the Blue Mountains.

"Every year 800,000 people head to the Blue Mountains to walk, more than anywhere else in Australia, and not one of them can sleep in the park unless they take a tent," Godfrey says.

Case study: Perth Bushwalking Club

With a proud history of more than 45 years, Perth Bushwalkers Club is the largest and one of the most active of WA's bushwalking and hiking clubs. The club provides members with a wide range of choice in activities, from easy on-track day walks to very challenging 'epic' multi-day pack-carries, catering to a

“If you are just starting out in bushwalking you will have a great opportunity to build confidence and progress from easy to more challenging activities,” the club’s website states.



A walk in the open bush. Photo - Perth Bushwalkers Club

“Mostly our walks are in the bush, and the majority are day walks of 12-18km led by volunteer leaders in the Hills area within 100km of Perth. The walks usually include some more adventurous cross-country off-track walking where there will be no formed and marked trails for at least part of the walk route.”

Walk leaders also organise longer distance activities which involve carrying a backpack and camping out.

[Find out more or join](#)

Feature park: Walpole-Nornalup National Park

Located in the heart of the Walpole Wilderness is Walpole-Nornalup National Park. A 400km drive from Perth takes you to the home of the endemic tingle forest as well as heathlands, wetlands, and rushing rivers and coast.

This year marks 20 years since the completion of the construction of the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk in the Park, which has drawn in millions of visitors fascinated by the towering trees that can reach a height of up to 40m.

minimise the impact of humans on the tingle trees, which have a shallow root system.



Visitors to Walpole-Nornalup National Park can also enjoy hilltop views from the Hilltop Lookout or Giant Tingle Tree, watch whales on their annual migration from the lookout at Conspicuous Cliff or simply pass through on their journey along the Bibbulmun Track. They can also explore the world famous Bibbulmun Track, picnic at Isle Road, swim at Coalmine Beach or Circular Pool or be amazed at the variety of wildflowers on one of the many walk trails through bushland.

Find out more here:

<https://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/walpole-nornalup>

<https://www.walpole.com.au/>



Top Tree Top Walk. Above Bottleneck Bay. Photos - Parks and Wildlife

Video: Defying cancer with nature

Young adult cancer fighters and survivors are using nature to reclaim their lives and connect with others through First Descents program. Participants are empowered to climb, paddle and surf beyond their diagnosis and defy their cancer in the great outdoors.



[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)



twitter.com/OurWAParks



facebook.com/OurWAParks

www.ourwaparks.com.au



Copyright © 2016 WA Parks Foundation, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

MailChimp