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Updates: Conference registration now open, Interview with departing Parks & Wildlife Director General Jim Sharp, International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017 and more...

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Issue 15, July 2017



Rainbow Bee Eater in Silent Grove National Park *Photo - L-A Shibish*

Welcome to the 15th issue of WA Parks Foundation News, where you can find updates on the progress of the WA Parks 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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Registrations are Open for “Celebrating our Parks” Conference organised by FACET

FACET is an organisation dedicated to encouraging people to experience and enjoy our extraordinary natural and cultural landscapes, and the Conference and associated social events and site visit should be fascinating. The program is designed to promote new initiatives to connect people with parks, celebrate Aboriginal culture and joint management programs and explore ways to engage communities, visitors and business with WA's parks and wildlife.



FACET
Forum Advocating Cultural
& Eco-Tourism Inc

Date: Monday, 9 October - Wednesday 11 October 2017

Location: Government House Ballroom

Register now online at <http://facet.asn.au/conference.aspx#>

Interview with the Parks and Wildlife departing Director General Jim Sharp

The WA Parks Foundation would like to congratulate Jim Sharp on his energy, ideas, resolve and support which were critical in helping establish the Foundation.

In March 2014 Jim was appointed Director General, Department of Parks and Wildlife after nearly 30 years in parks and conservation management. Prior to that he was Deputy Director General Parks and Conservation in the Department of Environment and Conservation, Director of National Parks for 12 years and Scientific Advisor before that.

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International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development recalling the potential of tourism to advance the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is 12 months to celebrate and promote the contribution of the tourism sector to building a better world.



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Meet our Park Ambassadors Professor Lyn Beazley AO

Professor Lyn Beazley AO
As Western Australia's Chief Scientist from 2006 to 2013, Lyn advised governments on science



and innovation, worked closely with industry and was a science ambassador in Australia and internationally. She was also named WA Australian of the Year for 2015, is a renowned neuroscientist, a member of several boards and even has a sea sponge named after her *Manihinea lynbeazleyae*!



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Urban Park Volunteers Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park

Perth has many volunteer community groups who are concerned about and involved in urban parks and bushland. Often called “Friends” groups, these champions of parkland provide a valuable service to our community parks. One such group is the Friends of Yellagonga



Regional Park" or FOY who are a group of local enthusiastic conservation volunteers who desire to protect and restore the biodiversity of this Perth northern suburbs regional park, for current and future generations to enjoy.

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What to do in Parks – Birding/Twitching

What to do in Parks – Birding/Twitching

Another way to enjoy our parks is through the activity of “birding” or “twitching” (bird watching). The main goal of twitching is often to accumulate species on one's lists. Some birders engage in competition to accumulate the longest



species list. The act of the pursuit itself is referred to as a twitch or a chase. A rare bird that stays put long enough for people to see it is twitchable or chaseable. Perth has a surprising number of good birding sites within the

metropolitan area or within a two hour drive.

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Feature park: D'Entrecasteaux National Park

D'Entrecasteaux National Park is a narrow strip of land 5 to 20 km wide which stretches along the south coast along the Indian Ocean for more than 130 kilometres between Augusta and Walpole. It is the result of the amalgamation of various State forests and timber reserves,



Crown land, Shire of Manjimup reserves, conservation reserves, pastoral leases and freehold purchases between the 1970s and 1990s. The park's impressive natural features include (but are not limited to) the hexagonal-shaped basalt columns at Black Point, formed by a volcanic lava flow 135 million years ago, and the 10-kilometre-long Yeagarup Dunes, the largest land-locked mobile dune system in the southern hemisphere, which are moving into the forest at a rate of 4 metres a year.

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Feature urban park: Yellagonga Regional Park

Yellagonga Regional Park is approximately 13 kilometres long and contains numerous activities to keep both young and old entertained. It contains several lakes and wetlands which are part of a larger chain of water bodies which stretch from north of the park south to Cockburn. A local community group, 'Friends of Yellagonga Park' regularly clean and rehabilitate areas of the site.



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Park Tales: Best hiking trips in the South West of Western Australia

Simon and Emily from Inspiration Outdoors have a great Walking Blog and recently published their thoughts on the Best Hiking Trips in the South West of Western Australia.



“The down south road trip is one of the great Western Australian traditions (or #douth as the young people now call it) with the basic concept of loading the car up with your family/friends and setting off for a weekend adventure (or possibly longer). There is great music, food stops, wineries and if you’re feeling active, plenty of great outdoor activities to partake in. One of the great things about these trips is the number of options you have when it comes to settling on a final location.

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Video: Four day National Park adventure around Albany, Western Australia

Need something to do in the school holidays?
How about an adventurous 4 days exploring parks around Albany.

Some of the highlights include: **The Gap and Natural Bridge**

- A new universally accessible viewing platform at the Gap allows visitors to stand 40 metres directly above the surging seas, allowing those brave enough to view the true power of mother nature. The new raised pathways gives safe access to the stunning views and provide protection to vulnerable plants and lichens on the rock surface.
- The pathway out to the Natural Bridge provide a stunning view of the bridge, a monumental span of granite demonstrating the awesome power of the sea when a heavy swell is running. Enjoy epic views of the Southern Ocean and the coast from Bald Head to West Cape Howe.

Enjoy the video by clicking here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyif_1aMyy4

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.org.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.org.au)



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