

New Murray River Bridge, Governor visits Geikie Gorge and Broome Observatory, local artist honours endemic birds and more...

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WA Parks Foundation

NEWS



Loggerhead turtle hatchlings take their first steps at Dirk Hartog Island. Photo - DBCA

Welcome to the 16th issue of *WA Parks Foundation News*, where you can find updates from the WA Parks Foundation as we celebrate Our WA Parks and increase community appreciation and involvement in the conservation of our incredible national parks and conservation reserves.

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Thank you Deloitte

Named as one of Australia's top 10 socially responsible organisations by the Australian Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Deloitte Australia has joined the WA Parks Foundation as a pro-bono partner to provide compliance and consulting services and tax advice.

Central to Deloitte's values is the importance of creating an enduring economic, social and cultural contribution, so it was an easy fit to align with the WA Parks Foundation as an advocate for connecting Western Australians to the State's incredible parks.



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Bibbulmun Track changing lives

There seems to be no end to the incredibly positive impact nature can have on us all. For newly arrived immigrants, a few days on the Bibbulmun Track is an opportunity to transform their sense of belonging and connection to their new home.



Neil McCulloch and a few volunteers have been taking immigrants and refugee kids out into the bush as part of the *First Hike Project* and the results have been life changing.

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Governor visits Geikie Gorge and Broome Bird Observatory

One of the highlights of an official visit by Her Excellency, the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, to the West Kimberley in July, was a late afternoon tour along the Fitzroy River aboard the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Service's new boat *Ms Casey Ross* in the spectacular Geikie Gorge.



The gorge is part of an ancient limestone barrier reef that snakes across the region, and was laid down in an ancient sea that covered a large part of the Kimberley in Devonian times, some 350 million years ago.

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New bridge over Murray River

The devastating bushfire near in Boddington in 2015 destroyed the Long Gully Bridge in Lane Poole Reserve, and now thanks to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation, contractors, volunteers and Parks and Wildlife Service staff, a new bridge has been opened.



There is still work to be done, but the realignment of the Bibbulmun Track is open and the new bridge has been named Bilya Djena Bidi (pronounced beel-ya jenabidi) by the Gnaala Karla Booja traditional owners. The name means a swinging river foot-bridge.

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Local artist honours WA's endemic birds

found nowhere else in the world and artist Brenton See is working with photographers to celebrate these birds, painting large murals on walls where the birds are known to live.

Brenton just finished his latest mural, the red-winged fairy wren in Denmark and is looking forward to painting more with the support of the community through his crowdfunding page.

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Meet our Park Ambassador Gary Muir

Gary Muir is a sixth-generation member of the Muir family whose ancestors helped first settle WA's south west wilderness and Eucla region. Gary established WOW Wilderness as a leading EcoTourism operation in the heart of the Walpole Wilderness, personally taking thousands of people each year through the Walpole and Nornalup Inlets Marine Park to WA's first wilderness zone in the Walpole Nornalup National Park.

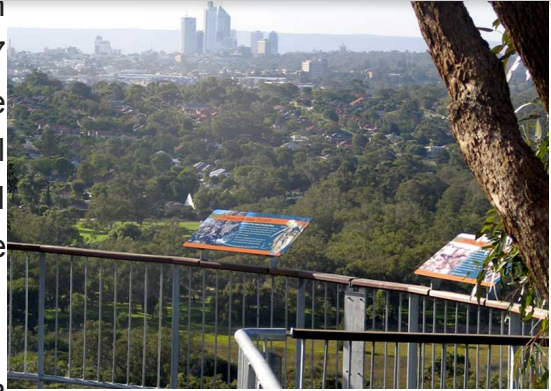


Why do I love WA Parks?

My home has always been in the wild and it is humbling to recognise why I still have this home. It was through the stewardship of many unsung heroes in our past, so moved by WA's uniqueness, beauty, biodiversity and long natural and cultural history that they had a vision to influence others to conserve these wild places, which would ultimately lead to our WA Parks.

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Bold Park is Perth's largest urban bushland in the Swan Coastal Plain. The park spans 437 hectares and includes Reabold Hill, the highest natural point on the Swan Coastal Plain and a place where you have beautiful views of both the ocean and the city from one lookout.



The Friends of Bold Park Bushland is a community group committed to protecting Bold Park. The group played a key role in securing the park as an A class reserve and their current goal is to work with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority to help create a world recognised urban wilderness.

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Video: John Forrest waterfalls

Spectacular footage of John Forrest National Park, with waterfalls flowing from winter rains.



[Watch the 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

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