

Governor's Season's Greetings, Park Volunteer Awards, Saving the Western Ground Parrot, nesting turtles and more...

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Western Australia Christmas Tree (*Nuytsia Floribunda*), a native mistletoe. This tree is very significant to the Noongar people who consider it sacred; a being in which the spirits of the newly departed resided. (Photo: Michael Ward)

Welcome to the 19th issue of WA Parks Foundation News, where you can find updates from the WA Parks Foundation as we celebrate Our WA Parks and work to increase community appreciation and involvement in the stewardship of our incredible national parks and conservation estate.

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Season's Greetings from the Governor



As the holidays approach I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during the year and to wish you a safe and fulfilling New Year. Your contribution to the enjoyment and conservation of our precious natural environment

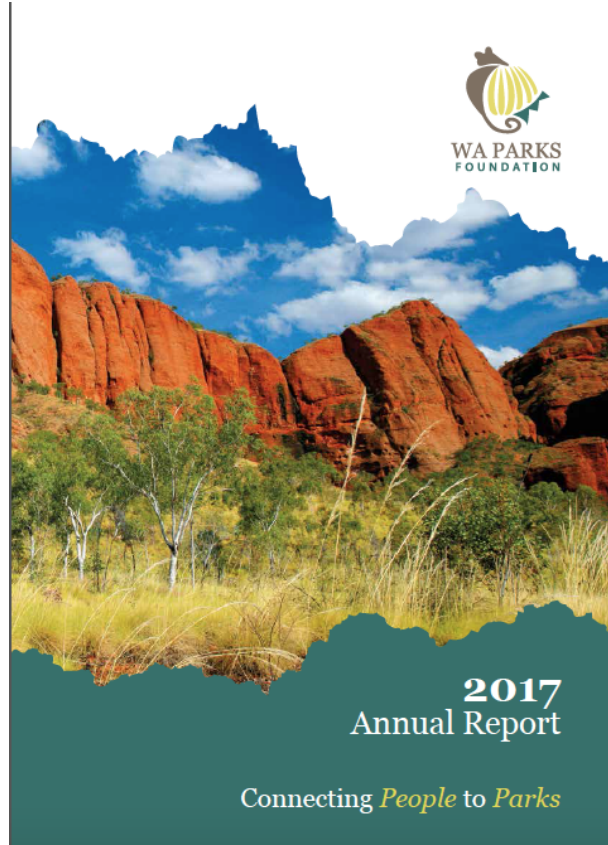
most wonderful time of the year.

WA Parks Foundation Annual Report

The inaugural WA Parks Foundation (WAPF) Annual Report is now available. The initial focus of the Board has been on setting in place strong and effective governance arrangements and establishing solid financial platforms for the future. The Report indicates that partnerships are a critical factor in achieving success for the WAPF's goals, and much work has been done this year to establish these relationships. The Foundation is continuing to work with its corporate and community partners to secure resources for priority projects.

Reviewing the past year the Governor remarked, "I am confident that the foundational work undertaken by our skilled and experienced Board in this initial year provides a strong base for securing the future success of the Foundation".

A copy of the full Report can be found on the WA Parks Foundation website [here](#).



FACET supporting the WA Parks Foundation



The WA Parks Foundation gratefully acknowledges and thanks the Forum Advocating Cultural and Ecotourism (FACET) for the wonderful job they did organising and delivering the 2017 FACET Conference - 'Celebrating Our Parks' in October. In addition to attracting International keynote speaker Theresa Pierno, President and CEO of the National Parks Conservation Association in the USA and others to the three day conference FACET donated \$1,500 to the WA Parks Foundation, which they raised through a raffle that was generously supported by the RAC, Willie Creek Pearls, Pemberton Botanical Artist, Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery, Two Feet & a Heartbeat, Fremantle Prison, and the Margaret River Chocolate Company.

A summary of the conference can be found [here](#).

Secrets At Sunrise - Western Ground Parrot Project



Secrets At Sunrise is a documentary that tells the story of Western Australia's rarest bird, the Western Ground Parrot, and the people who are trying to save it from extinction. The film follows a team of passionate scientists from the WA Parks and Wildlife Service as they conduct field work in remote Cape Arid National Park and the Fitzgerald River National Park, monitoring the birds and trying to lessen the threats to their survival. It shows how this dedicated and determined team work collaboratively with a non-profit community group, the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, to conduct listening surveys, conduct feral predator mitigation work, and combat the difficulties of working in such a rugged area with an incredibly cryptic species.

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Outstanding Park Volunteers Recognised



To celebrate International Volunteer Day, a very special award ceremony was held on 5 December to publicly thank Parks and Wildlife Service volunteers for their hard work, dedication and commitment to protecting the natural environment of Western Australia. Lee Hollingsworth, Volunteer Program Coordinator for WA Parks & Wildlife Service said, "The awards are an opportunity for Parks and Wildlife Service to thank its volunteers for the important roles they play in the community across a variety of areas, and the selfless work they contribute towards protecting our natural environment.

"Last year, more than 5400 Parks and Wildlife Service volunteers contributed more than 720,000 hours to volunteer projects around the State – a record effort - congratulations go to these exceptional volunteers for standing out".

The prestigious 2017 Volunteer of the Year honour was awarded to Eddie Seaman of Mandurah in recognition for his work in Stirling Range National Park.

In addition to Eddie's award, five Outstanding Service awards and eight Long Service Awards for over 20 years voluntary work were also presented along with a Community Group Award and Western Shield Volunteer Award.

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Meet Park Ambassador Sophia Forrest

first acting experience was in the Russell Crowe directed, *The Water Diviner*. Sophia went on to train at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) graduating in 2016. There she performed in various productions including *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, which toured to Hong Kong and *Coriolanus* which toured to the Hydra Festival in Greece. Sophia appeared in the fourth season of *LOVE CHILD* on Channel Nine and was the lead in the Black Swan State Theatre Company's production of *Let the Right One In* in late 2017.



Why do I love WA Parks?

I have always loved our West Australian Parks, having grown up around them. From camping in Karijini to swimming in the Serpentine falls, the time spent in the beautiful open air was at the centre of my childhood. Western Australia is fortunate in having such diversity in its landscape, plants and wildlife. I am proud to be an Ambassador of the WA Parks Foundation to protect and honour these parks so one day my children can enjoy them as I have.

Sophia was recently featured on the Channel 9 news and interviewed on ABC radio where she spoke about her connection with parks and her role as a Park Ambassador. When asked why she wanted to be a park ambassador, Sophia replied, "I feel such a strong connection to incredible national parks and that's quite a broad statement here in WA, considering how that goes out to marine parks and to national forests. I just wanted to help promote and protect them in any way I could."

The interview can be viewed here. <https://www.ourwaparks.org.au/news/meet-park-ambassador-sophia-forrest/>

Feature National Park: Kalbarri National Park



A six and a half hour drive north of Perth will land you in Kalbarri National Park, one of WA's most popular places for spectacular scenery and red rock gorges that were cut from the landscape by the mighty Murchison River, and wildflowers in season. This park offers a range of adventure activities like bush walking, gorge hiking and canoeing.

You can experience views of the gorges from one of the many lookouts including the famous Nature's Window where the vista is seen through a massive red rock frame. The Loop, Z Bend, Hawkes Head Lookout and Ross Graham Lookout are also popular for views over the sandstone cliffs.

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Feature urban park: Koondoola Regional Bushland



Koondoola Regional Bushland is a near pristine remnant of the Swan Coastal Plain. It has an extensive reptile population which includes the Significant listed reptile Gould's Goanna (*Varanus gouldii*). Its significant bird species include Carnaby's Cockatoo, Western Thornbill and Splendid Fairy Wren. Its significant listed flora includes Waldjumi (*Jacksonia seric*), Drummond's Featherflower (*Verticordia drummondii*) and Morrison (*Verticordia nitens*).

Koondoola Regional Bushland has stunning scenery and is an extremely precious site. The Bushland contains approximately 8.6 km of limestone paths and a further 9.2 km of sand tracks with many gated pedestrian entrances. The two seasonal wetlands in the Southern portion of the Bushland, and the dunal formation in the Northern area have high scenic value.

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What to do in Parks – Pitch a Tent



Pitching a tent in one of the State's national parks is a great adventure for all ages - and one you can share again and again. There are many options with more than 265 campgrounds in parks throughout Western Australia with some 2,900 campsites to choose from. The Parks and Wildlife Service have compiled a list of the Top Ten campsites between Perth and Esperance. These campsites are suitable for anyone with a conventional two-wheel drive vehicle.

Like any outdoor activity, plan ahead and make sure you are well prepared by reading the "About Camping" section on the Parkstay website. Some sites can be booked online through Parkstay WA.

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Video: It's Turtle Nesting Season



Green turtles, loggerhead turtles and hawksbill turtles, three of the world's seven species of marine turtles, nest on mainland beaches adjacent to Ningaloo Reef during the summer months between November and April annually.

If you would like to view nesting marine turtles the WA Parks & Wildlife Service strongly recommends that you visit the [Jurabi Turtle Centre](#) and encourages you to participate in a guided experience. By participating in guided turtle experiences, you are actively helping to conserve marine turtles and will have a better opportunity to view marine turtles nesting in the natural environment. (Photo courtesy of [Live Ningaloo](#)).

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 Foundation.

Contact us at info@ourwaparks.org.au

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