

Governor's New Year's Greeting, Frog ID Ap, Numbat recovery, Geocaching and more...

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Set in the heart of Western Australia's Pilbara region, Karijini National Park will take you on a journey through two billion years of the Earth's natural history. Descend into ancient cavernous gorges, scale some of the oldest rocks on the planet, paddle in crystal-clear waterways and cool off with a swim beneath cascading waterfalls. (Photo: L-A Shibish)

Welcome to the 20th 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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New Year's Greetings from the Governor



Welcome to the New Year. I would like to wish you all a wonderful 2018, filled with good health and wellbeing. May you make time to enjoy the many benefits of spending time in the wonderful National Parks of Western Australia.

“The parks belong to all of us. The planet belongs to all of us. We have to have the foresight and the faith in the future to do what it takes to protect our parks and to protect this planet for generations to come.”

(Barack Obama, Former US President, marking the 100th anniversary of the US National Parks Service June 2016).

Citizen Science Helping Australian Frogs



Croaks, whistles, bleats and barks - every frog species makes a different sound! By recording a frog call on a new app called FrogID, you can discover which frogs live around you and help scientists identify the habitats of Australia's frogs.

FrogID is a national citizen science project that is helping us learn more about what is happening to Australia's frogs. All around the country, people are recording frog calls with nothing more than a smartphone.

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Australia's numbat population boosted after successful breeding in WA



Australia's numbat population has been boosted after a colony recorded its first successful breeding inside the largest feral predator-proof zone in Western Australia. The nation's numbat population has been decimated by introduced predators and now less than 1,000 of the termite-loving individuals are believed to be left in the wild. But there are signs of hope for Western Australia's faunal emblem.

To boost the species' chance of survival, numbats from New South Wales and Perth Zoo were transported to Mount Gibson Wildlife Sanctuary, in WA's Mid West, last year. The 7,800 hectare sanctuary is located 367 km (5 hours) from Perth or 104 km (1.5 hours) from Wubin, travelling along the Great Northern Hwy to the signposted turnoff 73km north of Wubin. It is in the Avon-Wheatbelt Bioregion and is owned and managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC).

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Millions of Deep-water mushroom corals found at Ningaloo Reef



Researchers have discovered what they believe is the world's biggest community of a species of deep-water mushroom corals using an underwater robot. The discovery was made at the Ningaloo Marine Park off our Western Australia coast.

Doctor Russ Babcock from the CSIRO said while the mushroom corals had been reported in other areas including the Great Barrier Reef, this appeared to be the largest community of its kind.

"It's over 2.5 kilometres long and 100 metres wide and we estimate there are as many as 12 million of these little corals living shoulder-to-shoulder on the reef," he said.

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Meet Park Ambassador Tracy Shea

Tracy has held a range of policy, advisory and leadership roles across the State government in environment, conservation, recreation and parks-based tourism during a career spanning 38 years, with the last decade spent as an assistant director in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and its predecessors. Tracy is also a long-standing Executive member of the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism (FACET) and believes that sustainable nature-based tourism, and connecting people with parks, is vital to securing the community advocacy that parks need to survive and thrive. She is also a great supporter of Aboriginal cultural tourism in WA parks and sees it as a great way for locals and international visitors alike to gain knowledge and understanding of our ancient and

Why do I love WA Parks?

I am an animal lover and WA's vast network of parks - which covers an area larger than Victoria and Tasmania put together - safeguards the habitat of our extraordinary plants and animals as well as providing inspirational places for people to experience nature. Getting people connected with parks is the



best way to ensure parks are understood, valued and protected into the future. Parks are essential for our health and wellbeing, and for protecting our unique biodiversity and landscapes. The job of protecting WA's parks is too big for any one organisation and we need to bring people together and form partnerships and connections to protect these special places. I'm honoured to be a Park Ambassador and I look forward to helping in whatever way I can to bring people together to celebrate, promote, protect and enrich WA's parks.

Feature National Park: Cape Le Grand National Park, Esperance



offer. Its other claim to fame is having the title of the official “[whitest sand](#)” beach in Australia.

This pristine, remote and wild park near Esperance is known for its stunning scenery and idyllic beaches where you can go swimming, bushwalking, fishing and camping. The landscape changes from massive granite outcrops to freshwater pools and unbelievably white sandy beaches with views over many islands. [Lucky Bay](#) is home to a colony of friendly kangaroos, which are often seen soaking up the sun.

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Feature urban park: Mundy Regional Park



Mundy Regional Park stretches from the coastal plain to the top of the Darling Scarp to Lesmurdie Falls. Sections of the park provide a virtually unbroken belt of scarp woodland to explore. It is located approximately 16 kilometres south east of Perth, in Forrestfield. There is a car park at the northern end of Lewis Road.

The name of Mundy Regional Park (pronounced mun-dee) commemorates, Mundy (or Munday), a leader of the Beelu Aboriginal people at the time of European settlement. During the early days of settlement, Mundy was one of the most important and successful negotiators for Perth’s Whadjuk community.

What to do in Parks – Geocaching



Geocaching is a treasure hunt done by using map coordinates and a GPS enabled device or a GPS-enabled smartphone. Geocaching is a special way to use technology to have fun on your own, with friends, competitive teams or with your family. There are geocache hidden in urban and National Parks. It is an activity suitable for all ages.

Rottnest Island Authority has established a number of geocaches within the Rottnest Island reserve that complement the suite of existing finds placed by other caching enthusiasts. Rottnest Island caches are informative and provide a further insight into the Island's environmental and historical attributes.

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Video: Cape le Grand National Park, Esperance, Western Australia



Come to Cape le Grand National Park to explore marvellously sculpted rock formations that capture the sounds of the wind and waves. Be treated to spectacular sunrises and sunsets over the southern ocean and walk on squeaky snow-white sand. (Photo: Colin Ingram)

With the new age of drone photography we have gained the ability to see our National Parks in ways never before viewed. Here are some stunning video images of Thistle Cove in Cape le Grand National Park captured by Filip Kulisev.

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



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