



January 2021



Walking Bluff Knoll in Stirling Range National Park | credit: Charlene Camilleri

Reception no barrier to exploring Stirling Range

No network. No worries. Stirling Range is the fifth national park in Western Australia with accessible geo-referenced maps developed and available for download on android or smart phone.

Smart Park Maps are making it easier to navigate some of our most popular parks. Providing the maps are downloaded when you have mobile reception, they can be used to display your real-time location even in areas where there is no mobile reception.

This Smart Park Maps initiative is sponsored by BHP and is delivered by the WA Parks Foundation

in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions.

[Read more](#)

And the winner is...



Nature's Window, Kalbarri National Park | credit: David Ashley

A breathtaking beautiful photograph of Nature's Window in Kalbarri National Park has won David Ashley the WA Parks Foundation's Ultimate Park Prize Pack in our Hidden Corners Community Photo Competition.

Congratulations, David, on this superb image.

[Read more](#)

We've joined Containers for Change



The WA Parks Foundation has signed up for the Containers for Change program, creating an opportunity for people to donate their refunds to support the Foundation's projects.

Western Australians have returned more than 120 million containers and donated over half a million dollars for community groups and charities as part of the State Government's container deposit scheme since its introduction in October 2020. Every eligible container collected is worth 10 cents.

[Read more](#)

Aboriginal knowledge assists seagrass restoration



Butter fish explore a 2.5 year old ribbon weed restoration site | credit: Rachel Austin, UWA

Scientists from The University of Western Australia have partnered with Aboriginal rangers in Shark Bay to develop a seagrass restoration program that combines traditional ecological knowledge with genetically informed science.

Senior Research Fellow Dr Elizabeth Sinclair from UWA's School of Biological Sciences and Oceans Institute said there was increasing recognition of the value provided by Aboriginal rangers to restoring damaged seagrass systems.

[Read more](#)

Input invited on draft dark sky position statement



The Milky Way is often clearly seen from the Pinnacles Desert, Nambung National Park, about 200 kms north of Perth | credit: Michael Goh

Western Australia's celestial landscape is an extraordinary natural asset. Our night skies offer exceptional viewing opportunities for scientific and recreational star gazers and are opening tourism opportunities.

As mentioned in previous WA Foundation newsletters, several communities in areas of WA where stargazing is spectacular are working to keep the night sky as dark as possible by reducing light pollution.

[Read more](#)

Explore



Hardy Inlet

At the south west tip of Western Australia, Augusta's Hardy Inlet is a popular destination. The tranquil waterway, where the Blackwood and Scott rivers converge, opens to the Southern Ocean via Flinders Bay.

[Read more](#)



Appreciating nature at Gull Rock

Gull Rock National Park situated 25 km southeast of Albany is a south coast beauty spot with sweeping views, plus great swimming, fishing and bushwalking.

[Read more](#)

Tracing history via the Kimberley's “upside down” trees



One of the Kimberley region's many carved boab trees | credit: Professor Jane Balme, UWA

Archaeologists from four Australian universities have launched a project to find and document the stories carved into boab trees in the Kimberley.

These water storing trees with their distinctive bottle-like shape are an icon of the region and can live for many hundreds of years. Some more than 1500 years old. Carvings on their swollen trunks record stories of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

[Read more](#)

Botanical tribute to Stephen van Leeuwen



The delicate blooms of Leeuwen's Lily open one at a time | credit: Steve Dillon, WA Herbarium

A delicate lily from the Pilbara has been named by the Western Australian Herbarium in honour of Stephen van Leeuwen, Curtin University's Indigenous Professor for Biodiversity and Environmental Science.

Staff at the herbarium marked NAIDOC Week 2020 with the publication of Leeuwen's lily (*Arthropodium vanleeuwenii*).

The species is currently known from two small populations— one in Karijini National Park, the other growing on the ironstone hillslopes of a mining tenement.

[Read more](#)

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