



June 2021



Wildflowers in Coalseam Conservation Park | credit: Tourism WA

Spectacular wildflower season expected

Local experts are predicting we're in for a fantastic wildflower season in Western Australia, thanks to abundant autumn and early winter rains.

There's been extensive annual growth on the ground and some areas, for example the Mid-West, Gascoyne and Wheatbelt, are expecting the season to be the best we've seen for several years.

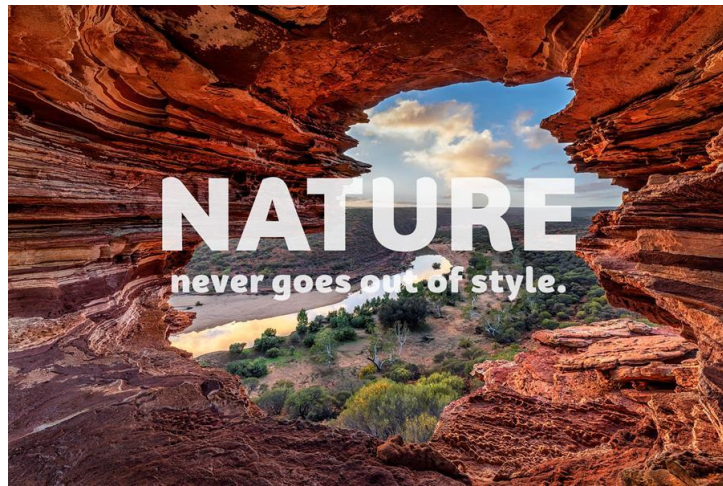
The first orchids are already out and some wattles are starting to flower in the wheatbelt.

The WA Visitor Centre's WA Wildflower tracker App, supported by Tourism and populated with

current sightings, will be launched soon, in time for the season.

[Read more](#)

Do good, feel good this tax-time



Nature's Window in Kalbarri National Park by Spring into Parks competition winner, David Ashley

As 30 June is upon us, please consider a tax-deductible gift to the WA Parks Foundation.

Park experiences hold deep meaning for Western Australians and our natural environment is vitally important for our physical and mental wellbeing.

As a non-government entity we need the continued support of our donors and partners so that we can continue to deliver projects both to enhance our parks and to increase our connection to them.

Protecting the conservation of our natural treasures is a gift to our children and future generations. And with your contribution before 30 June more can be achieved over the next year.

Thank you to those who have already donated, and if you haven't already had the opportunity to

create a better world, donate today.

[Donate now](#)

World's richest ecosystems grow on ancient soils



*A honeyeater feeds from Red-flowering Gum *Corymbia ficifolia* | credit: Professor Stephen Hopper AC*

Understanding why old landscapes such as Western Australia's Southwest are so biodiverse is an enduring area of interest and expertise for world renowned plant conservationist, Professor Stephen Hopper AC.

Professor Hopper was the Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at The University of Western Australia. He is a former Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, former CEO of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority in WA and was Director of the Royal Botanic Garden Kew, in London (2006-2012).

[Read more](#)

Renewed hope for Western Ground Parrot



Western Ground Parrot | credit: Alan Danks

In a meticulously planned operation, scientists and volunteers have translocated a number of critically endangered Western Ground Parrots to a new location in the State's lower southwest.

This extremely shy, parrot is Western Australia's rarest bird. Habitat loss and degradation exacerbated by higher fire frequencies, predation from introduced carnivores and rainfall reduction have brought it perilously close to extinction.

[Read more](#)

Meet the Snubfins. Or not.



Australian snubfin dolphin | credit: Broome Whale Watching

By David de Vos, Park Ambassador

Wildlife tours come with a caveat. Or should do. Because whatever mammal, fish or bird gets star billing on the brochure, it will not appear on demand.

But that's no reason NOT to take the tour!

So to Broome. It's mid-May, the beginning of the Kimberley dry, and Roebuck Bay* is banded with tropic blues. Orcaella's crew, also in blues but less subtle shades than the ocean, are young and welcoming – Rebecca, Matt and Beth. During the three hours on board they'll serve strawberry cream scones, ham filled croissants and fruit skewers for dessert.

[Read more](#)

Explore



Exploring eco dyes through creativity

Mandurah artist Helen Coleman combines her background in botany and chemistry with a passion for art to explore the eco-dye potential of local plant and earth materials.

[Read more](#)



Experiencing the Bibbulmun Track

Bushwalking is a natural tonic, providing a balance between enjoyable, low impact physical activity and a wellbeing workout.

[Read more](#)

Professor Ross Dowling

AM honoured



L to R: ECU Vice Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman CBE with Emeritus Professor Ross Dowling AM

WA Parks Ambassador Professor Ross Dowling AM was last week named Emeritus Professor of Tourism at Western Australia's Edith Cowan University, receiving a testamur in person from Vice Chancellor Professor Steve Chapman.

The award was given in recognition of Professor Dowling's "distinguished academic contribution and leadership in the tourism field at Edith Cowan University for more than two decades; and his considerable broader contributions to geotourism, ecotourism and cruise ship tourism in Western Australia, Australia and internationally".

[Read more](#)

Valuing a master of the skies



Wedge-tailed Eagle, Rosemary Island | credit: Simon Geppert

The Wedge-tail eagle is Western Australia's largest bird of prey. This huge bird has a wingspan of up to 2.84 metres and soars with ease, circling at great heights.

Seeing one of these magnificent creatures in flight is awe-inspiring.

[Read more](#)

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Uniting the community through a shared love for our WA Parks to protect and conserve them for our physical and mental health, and so they can be enjoyed into the future.

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Get in touch with us
info@ourwaparks.org.au



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