



July 2021



*Ningaloo's fringing reef is one of the longest in the world | credit:  
Australia's Coral Coast*

## **Ningaloo's special anniversary acknowledged**

A recent milestone well worth celebrating was the tenth anniversary of the World Heritage listing of the spectacular Ningaloo Coast.

The 604,500 hectare, marine and terrestrial area near Exmouth is home to a diverse range of wildlife and one of the world's longest near-shore reefs. This beautiful part of the world is much loved by Western Australians as well as being a huge drawcard for interstate and international tourists.

The Ningaloo Coast's World Heritage listing was officially announced on June 24, 2011, with its submission to UNESCO highlighting the area's

natural beauty, significant geomorphic features and biological diversity.

[Read more](#)

## Welcoming our new Ambassadors



*Park Ambassadors Prof Stephen van Leeuwen and Dr Regina Flugge*

The WA Parks Foundation is very pleased to welcome two new Park Ambassadors.

They are highly respected botanical ecologist Professor Stephen van Leeuwen and Dr Regina Flugge, who is widely experienced in sustainability, environment and natural resource management and chairs the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Advisory Committee.

From primary school age Regina was travelling north with her parents during school holidays to the Ningaloo Coast, Millstream and Karijini.

[Read more](#)

# Humpbacks travelling north



*The annual migration provides wonderful opportunities for whale watching  
| credit: Dani Rob, Parks and Wildlife Service*

Magnificent humpback whales are undertaking their seasonal migration from their feeding grounds in the cold Southern Ocean to their breeding grounds in the warm tropical waters of the Kimberley.

They have been spotted in recent weeks along the WA coast, including off Ningaloo.

Western Australia is one of the world's whale watching wonders. The State's 'Humpback Highway' features the largest whale migration in the southern hemisphere, with approximately 40,000 whales travelling along the coastline each year.

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# Our South West forests – have your say



*Karri trees on the Bibbulmun Track, Northcliffe | credit: Inspiration Outdoors*

Western Australians are invited to have their say about WA's native forests by participating in a survey developed by the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute.

Ahead of formal consultation for drafting the next Forest Management Plan 2024-33, participants in the survey can provide their views on the value and use of the South West forests.

[Read more](#)

## Junior citizen science element in Miyawaki project



*Miyawaki planting at South Padbury Primary School | credit: Murdoch University*

Murdoch University's Dr Grey Coupland, from the Harry Butler Institute (HBI) has partnered with South Padbury Primary School to plant WA's first "tiny forest", following the Miyawaki planting method developed in Japan.

"Miyawaki forests are becoming increasingly popular for urban greening to rehabilitate degraded areas and increase biodiversity in urban areas," Dr Coupland said.

"They contain up to 30 different native species planted in a dense planting arrangement and anecdotally, grow up to 20 times as fast as traditionally planted forests, and support up to 100 times the diversity."

[Read more](#)

## **Experiencing Willie Creek Pearl Farm**



*Willie Creek Pearl Farm*

*by David de Vos, Park Ambassador*

It's a classic line - You should have been here yesterday.  
Or last week. Or last month.

But we're not. We're in Broome, today, and going  
touring.

Over the years I've seen luggers pull up against  
the old jetty in Chinatown, and the shells opened  
and sorted. But I've never actually been  
pearling. Which is why we're on a bus with a  
bunch of other tourists, heading for the Willie  
Creek Pearl Farm. This will be pearling in comfort.  
Pearling lite.

[Read more](#)

## Conserving our Wheatbelt's natural heritage



*Toolibin Lake is in the Narrogin Shire*

Areas of outstanding natural and cultural value in Western Australia's vast wheatbelt region include Dryandra Woodland, the Wongan Hills Complex, reserves containing eucalyptus woodlands, spectacular granite outcrops and significant Aboriginal sites.

A 10-year management plan for the Wheatbelt's parks and reserves has been released recently by the WA Government.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions prepared the final plan on behalf of the Conservation and Parks Commission, in accordance with the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

[Read more](#)

## **Oldest evidence of the bilby discovered**



*A national plan is being implemented to aid the recovery of the Bilby's population numbers and distribution range | credit: Perth Zoo*

Recent research has filled in some gaps in the documented history of one of Australia's much loved but endangered marsupials, the bilby.

Western Australian Museum scientist Dr Kenny Travouillon has found that bilby fossils discovered in the 1980s and 90s are over 24.9 million years old.

These fossils, located in central Australia by U.S. palaeontologists, are now confirmed to be the oldest known evidence of bilbies from the bandicoot family tree, representing a new genus and species. The previous recorded fossil find was 10 million years old.

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