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WA Parks Foundation |
Connecting people to parks.

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September 2021



Kerry Sanderson AC CVO Chair, WA Parks Foundation | credit: The West Australian

From the Chair

As summarised in our 2021 Annual Report, now on our website, 2020-21 was a year of significant progress for the WA Parks Foundation. While the effects of the global pandemic have created some challenges for our fundraising, there have been some excellent achievements.

Visitors to the Swan River foreshore at Matilda Bay can now learn more of its cultural significance, history and ecology.

The release of a further five maps in our smart park mapping partnership with DBCA is making it easier for people to navigate some of our most popular national parks, there has been increased

community participation and reach through Spring into Parks and the launch of the ultimate digital park guide.

[Read more](#)

Forest giants setting for dual celebrations



Kerry Sanderson with Dr Syd Shea, former Executive Director, Dept of Conservation and Land Management and initiator of the Valley of the Giants Treetop Walk concept and development.

Set within the ancient tingle trees and karri, an event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Valley of the Giant Tree Top Walk and the launch of Spring into Parks 2021 was bound to be a success.

It was, attracting many local families, those involved with the inception and construction of the Walk, representatives of environmental groups and others for a day of acknowledgements, reminiscing, information sharing, appreciation of

this superb natural environment and entertainment.

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Magical evening under the stars in Badgingarra, October 23



Discover two worlds in the night sky above with Yued Aboriginal Night Sky Storyteller, Madeline Anderson, and Astrotourism WA Astronomy Guide, Riley Johnston.

This special event, supported by the WA Parks Foundation as part of Spring into Parks, includes a copy of the new Yued Aboriginal Astronomy Planisphere that features Weitj (Emu) in the Night Sky!

Journey across the stars with a green laser pointer tour and marvel at Saturn, Jupiter and the brilliant Milky Way through telescopes before a spectacular Moon rise.

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Have your say on proposed marine park



Southern right whales at Point Ann, Fitzgerald River National Park | credit: Peter Nicholas, DBCA

Consultation is now underway for a proposed marine park on WA's south coast.

The marine study area extends from Bremer Bay eastward to the Western Australian border, and offshore to the limit of State waters. Development of an indicative boundary will occur as part of the consultation process.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, will be consulting the commercial, recreational and charter fishing sectors, along with aquaculture, environmental groups, local

government, traditional owners, tourism groups and the community.

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Giving native wildlife a second chance



Greater stick-nest rats | credit: Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA

Another milestone has been achieved in the innovative Return to 1616 ecological restoration project on Dirk Hartog Island. Eighty vulnerable Shark Bay mice and 58 greater stick-nest rats have been successfully released onto the island.

These are the fifth and sixth mammal translocations to Dirk Hartog Island, completed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as part of ecological restoration efforts on the island.

[Read more](#)

Wattles put on a show



Australian snubfin dolphin | credit: Broome Whale Watching

Kings Park's Acacia Garden was a delight to behold as we farewelled Winter and welcomed Spring.

Acacias are the largest group of woody plants in Australia, with over 1200 species occurring in habitats ranging from desert to riverine and displaying habits from groundcovers to trees. They comprise the largest native genus in Western Australia, with most favouring arid or semi-arid zones, hence the design choice of a dry watercourse for the hard elements of the Acacia Garden landscape.

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#springintoparks



Didgeridoo Delight & Golden Views Hike

Traverse through 6km of the Bibbulmun Track from Mundaring Weir immersed in Beelu National Park bushland, as the sun tucks behind the trees in the late afternoon.

Upon reaching the Golden View Lookout, you'll enjoy a mindful rest and didgeridoo sound healing on the rocky outcrops.

[Book here](#)



Walyunga Bushtucker Experience

As a special event for Spring into Parks, you can enjoy a bush tucker experience as you learn about Aboriginal culture at Walyunga National Park.

Join Dale Tilbrook from the nearby award-winning Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery as she shows you the remnants of Noongar yam gardens that were here long before European settlement.

[Book here](#)

Protecting native forests



South West Karri forest

The State Government's recent decision to end logging of native forests means nearly two million hectares of native forests will be protected for future generations.

This includes preserving at least an additional 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests. About 9,000 hectares of high conservation-value karri will receive immediate protection, with other high value forest areas to be recommended for national park status.

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Camping with Custodians program expanding



Violet Valley Campground in the Kimberley | credit: Australia's North West

Aboriginal communities are being encouraged to register their interest in developing and operating public campgrounds with the expansion of the Camping with Custodians program.

Camping with Custodians is an Australian-first program offered by Tourism WA. In collaboration with the respective communities, top quality campgrounds are built, and are then owned and operated by the community. The campgrounds are open to the public, allowing visitors to learn more about the local Aboriginal culture.

[Read more](#)

Trails forum and tourism workshops



Former Olympic athlete and passionate outdoor recreation advocate [Emma George](#) will give the keynote address on her journey of recovery and resilience at the WA Trails and Recreation Forum to be held in Albany from 13-15 October.

The forum will highlight the major trails projects underway in the Great Southern region. It is a valuable networking opportunity for the wider trails and outdoor recreation community including land managers, government agencies, local government officers, trails and outdoor recreation advocates, the corporate sector, educators and volunteers.

Read more

Experiencing biodiversity in the Dryandra



Powderbark wandoo in Dryandra Woodland | credit: Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA

The Dryandra Woodland, near Narrogin, is a rare remnant of the open eucalypt woodlands which covered much of the wheatbelt prior to land clearing which started from the 1890s.

Dryandra's flora is transitional between that of the moister jarrah forest (generally to the south) and the semi-arid wheatbelt (to the east). It is known particularly for its extensive stands of wandoo, powderbark wandoo and salmon white gum and provides a haven for native flora and fauna.

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Head for the hills – Wongan Hills, that is!



Flora rich Reynoldson Reserve is on the Old Ballidu Road | credit: Shire of Wongan-Ballidu

The 2021 Reynoldson Reserve Wildflower Festival will be held from the 29th-31st October at Wongan Hills, 182 kms north east of Perth.

This is a family event with a lively program planned, including a sundowner, special breakfast, Bushcare wildflower display, cupcake competition and children's activities. Guest speaker on Saturday 30th will be garden journalist, radio host and podcaster Deryn Thorpe.

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