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November 2021



Hopping into Christmas, Lucky Bay, Esperance. Photo credit: Samantha Wright

The gift of membership at Christmas

With the summer holidays fast approaching, the WA Parks Foundation has introduced an attractive new membership package with extra benefits for added appeal.

With the support of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), it continues to include a 50% discount on annual national parks passes.

The \$30-\$50 individual membership fee now offers a complimentary copy of Landscape Magazine, discounts to DBCA's WA Naturally on-line gift shop and discounts to adventure treks and tours by many WA organisations.

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Wellington National Park expansion



Wellington Park Dam, WA. Photo credit: M Rahul Ruddy

The Wellington National Park near Collie in WA's south west has been expanded by over 7,000 hectares. It now covers 25,000 hectares, protecting high quality jarrah and marri forest and important habitat for a range of threatened and priority species.

Fauna found in the park include the [chuditch](#), [western ringtail possum](#), [quokka](#), [brush-tailed phascogale](#), [woylie](#), [carpet python](#), [peregrine falcon](#), [red-tailed black cockatoo](#), [Carnaby's black cockatoo](#) and [Baudin's cockatoo](#).

The central feature of this beautiful area, attracting over a quarter of a million visitors annually, is the Collie River Valley and Wellington Dam. The first stages of works to improve facilities at the dam are underway to better cater for growing visitation.

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Protecting our endangered sea lions



An inquisitive Sea Lion in Shoalwater Islands Marine Park. Photo credit: Tourism Western Australia

Saving Sea Lions was the theme of a thoughtful and creative awareness and fundraising initiative involving the Year 10 Bush Rangers at Rockingham Senior High School's Education Support Centre. The Creative Conservation art, education, environment and action program focused on the Australian Sea Lions in the local Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.

Australian Sea Lions, beautiful and fascinating animals, are continuing to decline in numbers and are among the world's most endangered pinnipeds (seals, sea lions and walruses).

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New self-drive app for Pilbara tourists



'Outback Road', Pilbara, WA. Photo credit: Richard Smyth - Wild Earth Images

A new app developed by the Pilbara Tourism Association is helping self-drive tourists to explore Western Australia's vast and beautiful Pilbara region. The Warlu Way, named after a spirit snake featured in Pilbara creation stories, provides four routes between Exmouth and Broome, taking in the Pilbara's major tourism attractions on sealed and unsealed roads.

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Record hatchlings year for critically endangered tortoise



The Western Swamp Tortoise is Australia's most endangered reptile. Photo credit: Perth Zoo

Conservation efforts for the western swamp tortoise, one of the world's most critically

endangered reptiles, are making a difference. The population of this rare Western Australian species has been boosted as a result of a record breeding year and new releases to the wild.

This season, 65 western swamp tortoises were successfully bred at Perth Zoo, and a further 73 older zoo-bred animals have been released into habitat in the South West. The hope is to develop a new, self-sustaining population.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and researchers from the University of Western Australia's School of Biological Sciences released 16 tortoises east of Augusta and a further 57 into a swamp at nearby Scott National Park. Forty-eight tortoises were fitted with radio transmitters and data loggers.

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Have your say on Bold Park plan



The Hike Collective runs guided walking tours in Bold Park. Photo credit: The Hike Collective

Community feedback is invited on the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority's draft Bold Park

Management Plan 2022-27.

Beautiful Bold Park is one of the largest remaining urban bushland areas in Perth covering 442 hectares and was declared an A-class reserve in 1998 for its high conservation, landscape and recreation values. Reabold Hill within the reserve is the highest natural point on the metropolitan coastal plain, peaking at 85 metres above sea level.

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Caving experience on old stock route



Stockyard Gully Cave. Photo credit: Parks and Wildlife Service (DBCA)

Stockyard Gully Reserve, about 3 hours' drive northeast of Perth in the Coorow Shire, has a fascinating group of limestone caves that lead to an underwater river system.

The reserve forms part of the old North Stock Route used by stockmen in the 1850s through to the 1920s. The deep and cool gullies were used by stockmen as a holding pen for their cattle on the way from Geraldton to Perth for market.

Today, Stockyard Gully is a relaxing, tranquil and interesting place to explore.

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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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