

WA Parks Foundation |
Connecting people to parks.

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December 2021



Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, Chair WA Parks Foundation

Message from the Chair

As we head into Christmas and the New Year I want to thank you for your support of the WA Parks Foundation over the past 12 months.

2021 has been a challenging year, but it has led to more Western Australians visiting our natural areas and appreciating what they have to offer. That is great because one of our main aims is to connect more people to Western Australia's magnificent parks and reserves, including marine parks. Increasing understanding of the importance of our wonderful parks through increased visitation or connectivity continues to be a strategic focus.

In that regard, [Spring into Parks](#), supported this year by Lotterywest, offered many and varied opportunities for getting out into nature. Supporting and promoting the mental and physical benefits of spending time in the great outdoors through this very successful, targeted campaign is also helping to build our government, community and corporate networks.

We're also very proud of progress made on our mapping project which provides details of the trails and facilities in major national parks through a free mobile phone app. Supported to date by BHP and delivered in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), [Smartreka maps](#) are now available for nine national parks, and we hope to deliver more.

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Nature theme for holiday programs at Herdsman Lake



Dream catcher workshop at Herdsman Lake. Photo credit: [@wagouldleague](#)

Nature-inspired art, craft and wildlife education activities are included in the WA Gould League's family holiday programs at the Herdsman Lake Discovery Centre.

Running every Wednesday – Saturday from 5th – 29th January, there will be activities to suit a range of ages and interests. From nature playgroup for the littlest adventurers, to painting, jewellery making, board-game design, wetland warriors, wildlife visits, eagle adventures and more.

Workshops will be facilitated by well-known and emerging artists, educators, and naturalists, with programs ranging from 1.5 – 3hrs and all materials provided. Included in ticket prices will be entry to the Discovery Centre, which features interactive, educational wildlife exhibits.

Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please note that these are NOT a drop-off programs, so anyone under 16 will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. The coffee window will be open, and seating is available overlooking the stunning natural beauty and wildlife of Herdsman Lake.

For more details and to book, visit the website www.wagouldleague.com.au

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Tourism achievements by Park Ambassadors win gold



Matagarup Bridge Zip Line. Photo credit: @MatagarupBridgeZipLine

Among the key strengths of the WA Parks Foundation are its 51 Park Ambassadors. These are people who love our WA parks, inspiring in others an appreciation of their uniqueness and value to the community.

We were delighted at the news recently of success achieved by businesses led by two of our Ambassadors in the 2021 Perth Airport WA Tourism – Business Awards. Ryan Mossny is co-founder of the recently launched and very exciting [Matagarup Zip+Climb](#) which won a gold award in the New Tourism Business category and Kate Gibson is the Founder of [The Hike Collective](#), which took out the Gold Award in the Tour and Transport Operators category.

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FACET to host tour guiding conference



Guided kayak tours are great for exploring the Harvey, Serpentine and Murray Rivers. Photo credit: Salt and Bush Eco Tours

Insights on how to build a sustainable and successful tour guiding business, will be shared at FACET's upcoming conference, The Art of Tour Guiding. Participants will learn how tourism businesses and tour guides can thrive and inspire in the new world of travel and will gain insights from award winning experts.

Keynote speakers will include FACET Golden Guide Award winners Scott Connell, [Kimberley Spirit](#) and Gary Muir, [WOW Wilderness EcoCruises](#), Walpole.

Registrations are open for this highly informative and interesting conference to be held on 25 February at Keiran McNamara Conservation and Science Centre, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Kensington, WA. More information [here](#).

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New tech for Bibbulmun Track



Torndirrup National Park. Photo credit: Kate Karacsony

Over the past two years, there has been a resurgence in bushwalking in Western Australia, with trails such as the Bibbulmun Track hugely popular.

Education, up- to-date information and preparation are keys to safe and enjoyable hiking and the Bibbulmun Track Foundation's planned new website will soon make the journey easier for hikers. It's being developed with the help of an \$81,400 Lotterywest grant.

As well as enabling visitors to better plan their trek, the website will include a new portal for the [Bibbulmun Track Foundation](#)'s 400 volunteers, enabling them to connect and to report on track conditions.

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Harewood Trail extended



Harewood Trail crew from Denmark trail building company Monkey Rock Co.

Locals and visitors can now enjoy connecting with nature along the newly extended Harewood Trail in Denmark's Harewood State Forest.

The project has been completed by the Parks and Wildlife Service which is part of DBCA.

The 2.8km loop trail starts and ends at the carpark on Scottsdale Road. It is suitable for most ages and fitness levels and is dog friendly.

This trail is in Denmark's winery region, so it's expected to be popular with tourists. An excellent opportunity to walk off a long lunch and meander through some spectacular karri regrowth, listening to the bird chorus in the canopy.

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Wildflower and native grasses role in revegetation



Herbaceous species are important for supporting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in restored old fields. Photo credit: Murdoch University

Murdoch University researchers have identified that wildflowers and native grasses may be the missing element to achieve success in revegetation of northern wheatbelt sites once used for cropping and grazing.

Such areas are often difficult to restore due to the extensive modification of soil properties and vegetation communities following cultivation, resulting in the degradation of these key ecosystem components.

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Thundelarra – our newest conservation park



Thundelarra Lignum Swamp. Photo credit: Sue Hancock, DBCA

The creation of Thundelarra Conservation Park in WA's Mid-West is the latest step in the State Government's *Plan for Our Parks* initiative.

The new conservation area, spanning more than 100,000 hectares, supports significant ecological communities including threatened flora and vegetation types, and threatened fauna species including the mallee fowl.

The land includes a 25-kilometre stretch of land along Mongers Lake, with associated fringing vegetation and swamps that provide important nesting habitat for waterbirds. It also contains a lignum cane grass swamp listed in the Australian Directory of Important Wetlands.

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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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info@ourwaparks.org.au



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