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Sent: Wednesday, 30 March 2022 12:29 PM
To: Lisa Wright
Subject: Nature connections, turtle rehabilitation, garden conservation and more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks.



March 2022



Outdoor 'landscaping' - Nature Connection Excursion Series by Educated by Nature

Nature Connection excursions helps kids consciously connect

The WA Parks Foundation's theme this year is "Consciously Connect", and we are delighted with the success of the highly engaging Nature Connection schools' excursions series.

This eight-week immersive program in outdoor learning environments supports teachers in techniques that inspire and enhance engagement with their students to foster a deep connection with nature.

It is run by Educated by Nature as the Foundation's delivery partner and has been made possible through the generous funding support of the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group.

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Turning gardeners into conservationists: using gardens to conserve wildlife



Western ringtail possums, an endangered species, are shy animals found only in the South West region of WA. Photo credit: Dr Bronte Van Helden

Scientists from The University of Western Australia Albany and Perth Natural Resource Management (NRM) are seeking participants for research on the biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits of wildlife-friendly gardening.

UWA research associate Dr Bronte Van Helden is asking residents from the south-west of WA to complete a short questionnaire.

“We are looking to work with citizens all over south-western Australia to help us monitor wildlife in gardens and install wildlife-friendly structures to investigate whether wildlife and wildlife-friendly gardening have biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits,” Dr Van Helden said.

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Rescued, rehabilitated, and released - Loggerheads get a second chance!



Loggerhead turtles released at Ningaloo. Photo credit: Dolphin Discovery Centre, Bunbury

The Dolphin Discovery Centre in Bunbury has rehabilitated more than 20 loggerhead turtles over the past year and more than 200 in total since the introduction of its marine turtle rescue program.

Once the turtles are nursed back to health and ready for release, they are put into tubs for transportation to the Department of Biodiversity, Culture and Attractions in Perth. There, they are microchipped, DNA samples are taken, and some turtles have a satellite tracker attached. They are then flown north to Exmouth and released into warmer waters off the Ningaloo coast.

DBCA's Department of Parks and Wildlife says anyone finding a turtle washed up on a beach should immediately call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.

The Dolphin Discovery Centre at Bunbury has the only DBCA licensed Marine Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation facility in WA's south west.

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Quilted banner goes on display



Spring Into Parks Quilt on display at the WA Museum Boola Bardip. Photo Credit: WA Museum Boola Bardip

A quilted banner presented to the WA Parks Foundation by members of the West Australian Quilters' Association has been installed as an exhibit at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

This impressive craftwork, inspired by the beauty and uniqueness of Western Australia's national parks and reserves, is in a showcase in the entry foyer of the Woodside Studios, opposite the main public entry to the museum.

Thirty-nine quilters contributed to the banner which was designed to promote the WA Parks Foundation's Spring into Parks program. It is made up of

individual mini quilts depicting WA fauna, flora, geological features and Aboriginal cultural aspects.

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Nannup develops as a mountain bike hub



The Nannup Tank 7 Mountain Bike Park is designed to maximise the opportunities presented by the area's natural elevation and to make the most of its picturesque landscape. Thomas Smyth. Photo credit: WA Gravity Enduro

Construction of stages 1 and 2 of the Nannup Tank 7 Mountain Bike Park on Brockman Highway have been completed. Mountain bikers have access to 24 approved trails, with one trail still closed and Stage 3 now a construction zone.

The extensive trails network is designed to maximise Nannup's natural elevation and make the most of its picturesque landscape, including forests of tall trees. There are trails to suit a range of abilities from beginners to more adventurous and experienced mountain bike riders.

The project is a collaboration between the Shire of Nannup, the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, the Forest Products Commission and the Nannup Mountain Bike Club.

If you are a mountain bike enthusiast or know someone who loves to race, visit out and share the WA Gravity Enduro events [here](#).

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Kalbarri Skywalk named top Australian architecture project



The Kalbarri Skywalk 'Kaju Yatka' is located 110 metres above the Murchison River in the Kalbarri National Park. Photo credit: Shem Bisluck, DBCA

The breathtaking Kalbarri Skywalk in Kalbarri National Park has been voted the best Australian architecture project on the popular Network 10 TV program *Australia By Design*. The attraction was featured in series 5, with the final episode showcasing the top ten architectural projects across the country.

With wide-ranging input to the project, Geraldton-based Eastman Poletti Sherwood Architects designed the attraction, including its two cantilevered walks which jut dramatically out from the rim of the Murchison Gorge.

The opening of the universally accessible Kalbarri Skywalk in 2020 marked the culmination of a \$24 million project delivered by the State Government to install the viewing platforms, a kiosk, shade shelters, toilets, parking, 22km of park roads, and upgrades to Meanarra Hill and Z Bend tourist sites.

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WA tourism businesses recognised



Bespoke guided tours create opportunities to observe and interact with marine life such as the huge but gentle whale shark.. Photo credit: Kate Benini

WA tourism and travel businesses, including two operated by Park Ambassadors, were well recognised in the 2021 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards. WA finalists in this prestigious national awards program won three golds and a total of 12 medals out of 25 categories.

Gold in the ecotourism category went to Live Ningaloo for its specialist bespoke boat tours of world heritage listed Ningaloo Reef on WA's coral coast. Live Ningaloo is one of 15 companies licensed to bring the extraordinary Ningaloo Reef to tourists across the world.

Eco-friendly Tree Chalets in Busselton won a gold medal for self-contained accommodation and nature-based tour company, the Hike Collective, bridging the gap between urbanised life and outdoor adventure, won a silver medal in the tour and transport operators category. Click the link for more winning businesses.

[Read more](#)

Wiilman Bilya Trail on Track



Wiilman Bilya Trail. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Culture and Attractions (DBCA)

Work is well progressed to complete the 81km Wiilman Bilya loop walk trail, which circumnavigates Wellington Dam in the heart of Wellington National Park. Expected to be completed by mid-2022, the trail allows for walking durations from one to five nights.

Named after the traditional Noongar group (Wiilman) and the Noongar word for river (Bilya), the trail showcases the beautiful views of the Wellington Dam and the surrounding jarrah, marri and yarri (blackbutt) forests.

It is accessible from a Spur Trail off the Bibbulmun Track, from the Collie townsite, the Wellington Dam kiosk area and Potters Gorge.

The WA Hiking Strategy 2020-2030 identified the development of loop trails, rather than out and back trails, as the trail style preferred by hikers.

There are four purpose-built campsites along the Wiilman Bilya trail. Hikers can also book a campsite at DBCA's Potters Gorge campground and choose from a variety of accommodation venues in and around Collie. There is also the option to use the Bibbulmun Track's Yabberup campsite for an extra day.

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Architects selected for John Forrester Park Centre



Hovea Falls, John Forrest National Park. Photo credit: Tourism WA

The new Park Centre planned as the focal point of John Forrest National Park will be designed by local architects Gresley Abas. The centre will showcase the park's heritage and culture in a contemporary facility complementing the surrounding environment.

“The WA Parks Foundation is delighted to see the progress on this project,” said our Chair, the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO.

“We are very pleased to have been involved in promoting the importance of the Park Centre project at John Forrest and to have had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the business case, working the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and others.”

The design will include environmentally sustainable, accessible and culturally appropriate spaces, with a strong emphasis on integrating the facilities into the natural surrounds.

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