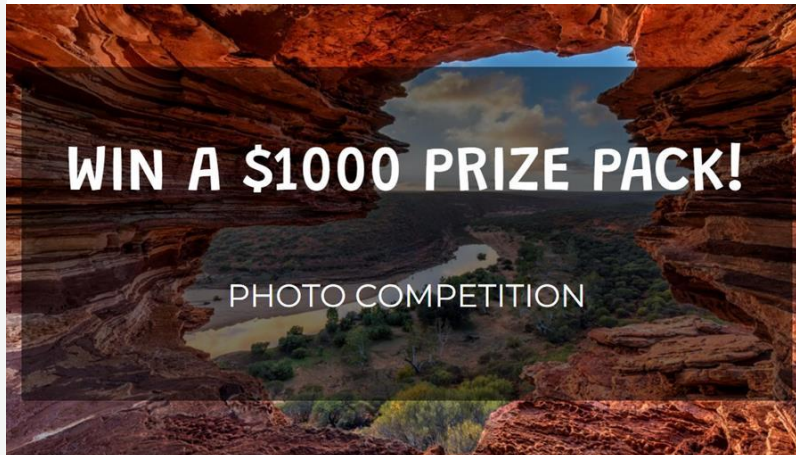


WA Parks Foundation |
Connecting people to parks.



September 2022



Natures Window by David Ashley, 2020 Winner.

Capturing memorable moments

Memorable Moments in Nature is the theme of the [photo competition](#) we are running as one of the feature activities of the WA Parks Foundation's [2022 Spring into Parks program](#).

Now is the perfect time to wander out yonder to experience the beauty and wonder of Western Australia's natural wilderness and to creatively capture the special moments on your phone or camera.

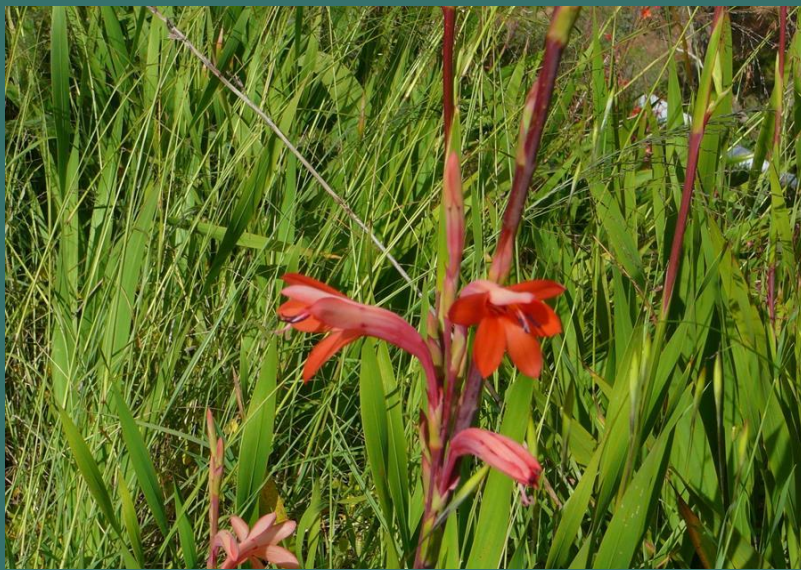
We invite you to enter your favourite images – the hidden corners you find, stunning land and seascapes you behold, special places explored, plants and animals encountered.

The scope is wide and there are great prizes to win in this competition supported by RAC Parks &

Resorts, the Matagarup Zip and Climb, Camera Electronic, Two Feet and a Heartbeat, Mindful in Nature, and Naturally WA – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

[Read more](#)

Funding for community stewardship projects



Weeds such as those of the introduced Watsonia family can reduce biodiversity and adversely affect the integrity, conservation value and processes of ecosystems. Photo Credit: Urban Bushland Council

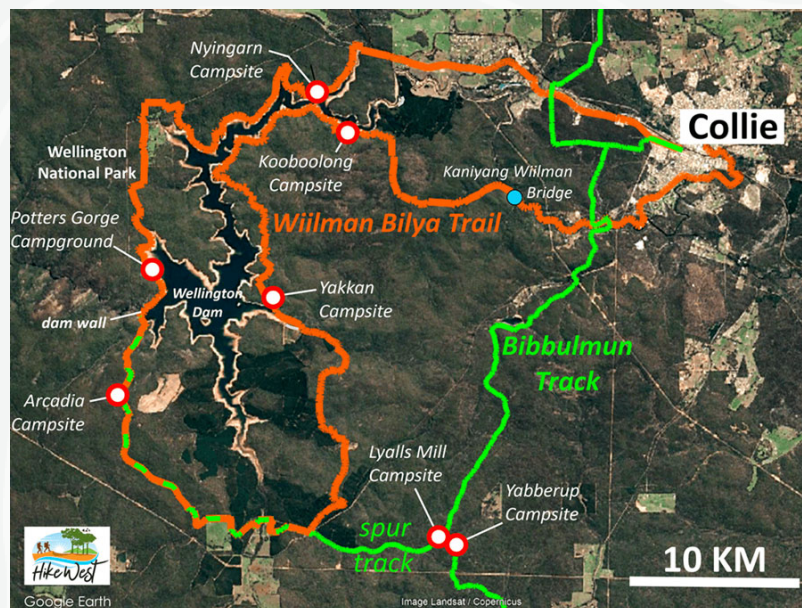
Broad scale weed mapping throughout John Forrest National Park is among 57 community-driven projects to attract funding under the State Natural Resource Management Community Stewardship grants program this year.

John Forrest has significant conservation values and is very popular with nature enthusiasts, but it also has large weed infestations, particularly geophyte species such as Watsonia. Over the past 10 years, extensive weed control has been undertaken.

As sponsor for Friends of John Forrest National Park, the Jane Brook Catchment Group has been awarded a \$91,750 grant to evaluate the effectiveness of this weed control including work undertaken in previous Community Stewardship projects. The group will also identify new weed infestations that pose a threat to native bushland and rare flora. Improved long-term weed management is the aim.

[Read more](#)

New Collie hiking trail opened



Willman Bilya Trail 2022. Photo credit: Hike West, Google Earth

The next section of the Willman Bilya hiking trail, a 56-kilometre stretch that includes a new 94-metre pedestrian bridge over the Collie River, is now open.

The eastern portion of the trail winds through stunning jarrah, marri and yarri forests, providing spectacular views of Wellington Dam. The new section can be linked with the Bibbulmun Track for a four-day return hike from Collie.

Overnight campsites are available and can be accessed by paddle craft from the dam. When all sections are complete, the 87-kilometre trail will offer hikers a five-day, four-night experience that starts and finishes in Collie, circling Wellington Dam.

[Read more](#)

Swimming with seals



Sea lions in the shallows, Jurien Bay Marine Park. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

A trial has been proposed at Shoalwater Islands and Jurien Bay marine parks this summer, enabling swimmers to interact with seals, including sea lions.

Seals are protected in WA, with a requirement to keep a minimum distance of 50 metres away from them in the water, 100 metres in a vessel and 10 metres on land.

The draft management program aims to protect the animals and manage their natural curiosity safely and ethically. If the trial is successful, showing that interactions can be safely managed, it will transition to a licensed industry like Ningaloo's humpback and whale shark swim tours.

The public can have a say until 15 November by visiting this [link](#).

[Read more](#)

Saving rare frogs



The White-bellied Frog (*Geocrinia alba*) is critically endangered due to habitat loss. Photo credit: B Maryan and the Western Australian Museum

The critically endangered white-bellied frog has been given a population boost, with dozens returned to the wild in the State's southwest. The tiny frog (*Anstisia alba*) is found in an area spanning about 130 square kilometres between Karridale and Witchcliffe. This latest release, at a creek near Boranup Downs, takes the total number reintroduced to more than 1,250.

Eggs are collected from the wild by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and then reared to adulthood in a protected environment at Perth Zoo – the first zoo to successfully breed these frogs in captivity.

The frog breeding program is also helping to increase the numbers of two other vulnerable species – the orange-bellied frog (*Anstisia*

vitellina) and the sunset frog (*Spicospina flammocaerulea*).

[Read more](#)

Park visitor numbers up



The Kimberley's Purnululu National Park is a World Heritage Area. Photo credit: Tourism Western Australia

There were 22.6 million visits to WA's national parks in 2021-22, an increase of five percent on the previous year. Regional destinations, in particular, have delivered great results with the Kimberley and Wheatbelt regions recording the largest proportional increases in visitation compared to the previous year with 22 per cent increases in both regions.

New and expanded trails networks are drawing many visitors and camping in national parks continues to be popular, with many campsites booking out well in advance.

There are now almost 2,000 campsites bookable online via the Park Stay WA website across 67 campgrounds, following the addition of more than 150 campsites to the Park Stay WA online booking system since 2020

[Read more](#)

WA successes in national tourism awards



Oyster Stacks, Exmouth, Ningaloo Marine Park, Western Australia -
Photo Credit: [SundaySunset.images](https://www.sundaysunsetimages.com/)

Exmouth, on the Coral Coast, has received national recognition after being named Australia's Top Small Tourism Town for 2022 at the Australian Top Tourism Awards in Canberra.

The local Exmouth community was acknowledged at the awards ceremony for working together to promote the natural assets of the area which is the gateway to the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Marine Park.

The Exmouth coastline features in the new global tourism campaign, Walking On A Dream that promotes Western Australia to the world for Tourism WA. The town will also be the premier location to witness the Total Solar Eclipse on 20 April 2023.

Congratulations also to Jamie Van Jones, of Salt and Bush Eco Tours in Mandurah, who received the Top Tour Guide Award, a category which was

awarded at the national level for the first time this year.

Ms Van Jones was recognised for her commitment to delivering high-quality experiences for visitors by encouraging them to immerse themselves in nature and develop a deeper appreciation for the local environment.

[Read more](#)

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