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From: WA Parks Foundation <info=ourwaparks.org.au@cmail19.com> on behalf of WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 October 2022 12:54 PM
To: Library
Subject: Dark skies, night skies, and total eclipses - plus other news!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks.



October 2022



Totality in a solar eclipse occurs in a narrow path across the surface of the Earth, with the partial eclipse visible over a surrounding region thousands of kilometres wide. Photo credit: Shire of Ashburton

When day turns to night at Ningaloo

The 2023 total solar eclipse is expected to bring thousands of visitors from around the world to Western Australia. The State's Ningaloo region, which includes the Shires of Ashburton, Carnarvon and Exmouth, will be one of the best places on Earth to view this fantastic event.

The sun, moon and Earth will align at 11.27 am on 20 April 2023. Exmouth is the ideal place to experience the spectacle of a 100% solar eclipse. Onslow

and Coral Bay will experience 99% darkness, and Carnarvon will be about 95%.

An accompanying program of events will take place to enrich the Total Solar Eclipse experience across Exmouth, Carnarvon, and Onslow. This includes a three-day Dark Sky Festival from 19 to 21 April presented by Tourism WA in partnership with the Shires of Exmouth, Carnarvon, and Ashburton.

[Read more](#)

Dark skies workshop rescheduled



Building Sustainable Cultural and Eco-Tourism Opportunities Around Dark Skies and Natural Phenomena
Workshop by FACET, Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism

FACET's previously postponed workshop "Building Sustainable Cultural and Eco Tourism Opportunities Around Dark Skies and Natural Phenomena" will now be held on Tuesday 29th November 2022.

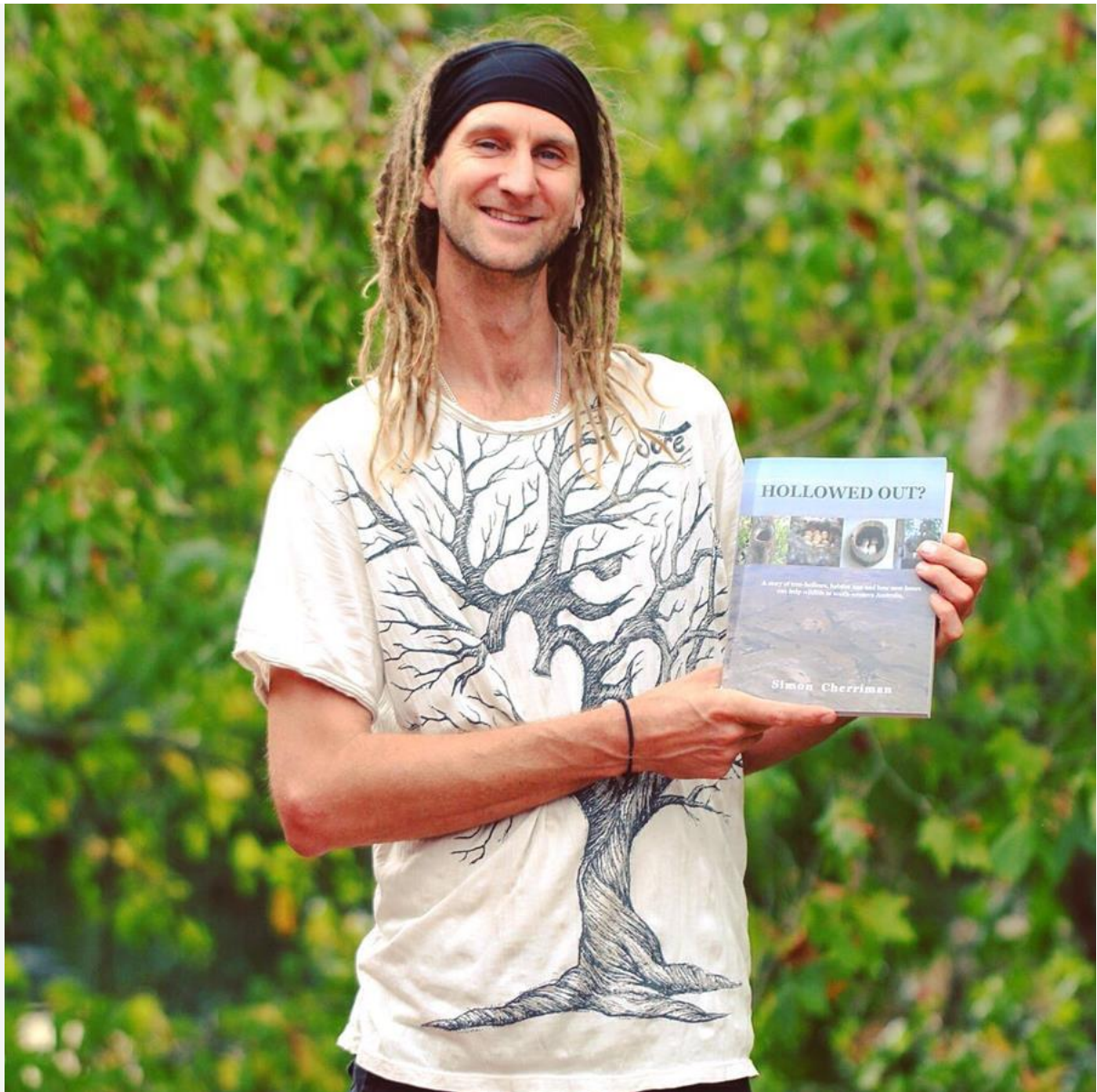
This event will feature two international dark sky and eclipse experts – Dr Kate Russo from Queensland, founder of Being in the Shadow – and Michael Marlin

from the US, author of *Astrotourism: Star Gazers, Eclipse Chasers, and the Dark Sky Movement*.

Expert speakers will showcase the latest developments, including planning for the Ningaloo Eclipse on 20 April 2023, and explore the amazing opportunities our night skies and other natural phenomena – like staircases to the moon, wildflowers, pink lakes, ancient geology, giant tides, Aboriginal rock art, amazing wildlife and more – can offer Western Australia by adding a new layer to regional economies.

[Read more](#)

New book from wildlife legend



Environmentalist and wildlife warrior Simon Cherriman inspires and engages through his books, films, photography, projects, stories and talks. Photo credit: Shire of Mundaring

Hollowed Out? by WA ornithologist Simon Cherriman is a story of tree hollows, habitat loss and how nest boxes can help wildlife in southwest Australia.

It is a comprehensive resource on building, installing, monitoring and maintaining long-lasting, bee-resistant nest boxes suitable for hollow-dependent wildlife in WA's southwest. The book also contains a wealth of information on natural tree hollows, and over five hundred colour photographs.

Simon Cherriman is an award-winning environmental scientist, ecologist, writer, educator and wildlife filmmaker. He is Managing Director of iNSiGHT Ornithology and is one of the WA Parks Foundation's 52 Park Ambassadors.

Hollowed Out? is the culmination of more than two decades of study and photography of both natural and artificial tree hollows, and the wildlife of Noongar country (Western Australia's southwest) that depends on them.

[Read more](#)

Researching artificial homes to protect threatened wildlife



Wooden pallet refuge. Photo credit: Tenaya Duncan, Murdoch University

Providing artificial shelters to keep wildlife safe from feral predators is the subject of a research project by Murdoch University PhD student Tenaya Duncan.

“Materials as simple as corrugated iron, wooden pallets, and fence posts can give our wildlife a refuge when their habitats are disturbed and natural shelters are lost,” she said.

“As well as somewhere to hide, artificial homes can provide shelter from stormy nights and hot days.”

Conservation and wildlife biology is Tenaya's field, and she is passionate about contributing to changes that can save Australia's unique wildlife.

Dr Trish Fleming, Professor in Environmental and Conservation sciences and principal supervisor for Tenaya Duncan's research, says feral cats and habitat disturbance represent the largest threat to biodiversity.

[Read more](#)

More endangered dibblers re-located to island home



Dibblers are very agile animals and often climb bushes to lick nectar from flowers. Photo credit: Perth Zoo

One of Australia's rarest marsupials has had a population boost, with 28 dibblers released at Dirk Hartog Island National Park.

The precious little carnivores, bred at Perth Zoo, travelled 800 kilometres by road, plane and helicopter to reach the new home. Staff from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions released 16 males and 12 females in optimal conditions for their welfare.

This is the fourth dabbler release on Dirk Hartog Island since 2019. Another 16 will be added soon, taking the total number to 137.

The species once thrived on the island until feral animals wiped them out. It was feared dibblers were extinct for half a century, before being rediscovered near Albany in 1967.

[Read more](#)

Genome Atlas supporting conservation



Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur. Photo credit: The University of Western Australia

A project led by The University of Western Australia to help safeguard Western Australian plants and animals currently under threat has received more than \$1.5 million in seed funding from Lotterywest.

WA Genome Atlas, part of the global DNA Zoo initiative, will establish Australia's first-of-its-kind disciplinary hub of excellence to genetically characterise, record and support the State's unique biodiversity.

This open-source data will fill a critical gap in genetic knowledge required for ecosystem and species conservation.

The program's founder and chairperson, Associate Professor Parwinder Kaur, from UWA's School of Agriculture and Environment, said the donation was an extraordinary contribution.

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Have your say on plan to protect WA's native forests



Forests are important habitats that support much of the biodiversity of WA's south-west. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Following the decision to end logging of native forest in WA's south-west from 2024, a 10-year draft Forest Management Plan has been released for public comment.

This has been prepared by the Conservation and Parks Commission (through the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) in accordance with the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

Under the draft plan, at least 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah, and wandoo forests will become nature reserves, national parks or conservation parks, meaning nearly two million hectares of native forests will be protected into the future.

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Celebrating our natural wonders and building links



Kuldjuk Boorongur. Wargyl (Rainbow Serpent) by Tjyllyungoo Lance Chadd, Art Gallery of Western Australia. Photo credit: F Smyth

The WA Parks Foundation looks to promote and celebrate our wonderful land and seascapes and create opportunities for getting out into nature.

Educational and cultural activities are included as important elements of helping people to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of our natural environment. This year's photographic competition invites us all to celebrate our favourite landscapes, fauna and flora.

Pleasingly, in the area of culture, we are also developing links with the Art Gallery of Western Australia which houses the State's finest public art collection, with over 18,000 works. The Gallery is helping us to link with visitors to the Gallery and promote Spring into Parks to a new audience.

Read more

Dam! It's big!

by Park Ambassador, David de Vos



Painted across a vast surface of Collie's Wellington Dam, the Guido van Helten mural was inspired by local stories and photographs. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Of course, I had some idea of what was waiting at the bottom of that hill in the Wellington National Park. How could I not since it was one of the biggest televisual, news events of recent years? Those four months when a modern-day abseiling Michelangelo, painted an area much, much bigger than the Sistine. This is the back story.

In 2021 the West Australian government awards a commission to Australian artist, Guido van Helten. Guido will paint a mural called Reflections on the wall of Wellington Dam on the Collie River.

His canvas is 8000 square metres – the biggest dam mural in the world, they say. They also say that Guido was influenced by traditional graffiti movements. This led to his early introduction to aerosol, they say. I find this interesting. Even potentially anarchic. I also find the last couple of hundred metres down the hill to be the perfect tease for Guido van Helten's finished work.

[Read more](#)

Karijini, with love



Karijini landscape by Mary Aris

They come for the wildlife, the wildflowers and the remoteness. But mostly they come for the deep gorges – those ancient wrinkles across the face of the Pilbara’s Karijini National Park.

Everyone has a camera. Some bring paint brushes. But to paint or snap you have to visit.

Or you follow Mary into painting classes.

Mary had wanted to visit with her husband. For him, a return to a place that had so captivated him. For Mary, a first-time experience. Sadly, they never got to make this planned trip together.

Mary says Karijini was Paul’s inspiration. Her painting in acrylics, from a friend’s photograph, is her tribute to him.

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