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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:** Friday, 28 April 2023 10:00 AM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** Plastic endangering young dolphins, new funding for Aboriginal Ranger Program, Collie Wellington Dam walkway + more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks.



April 2023



Fishing line and other entanglements can cause immense harm and sometimes spell death for dolphins. Photo credit: Murdoch University

## Fishing line and plastic endangering young dolphins

Summer in Western Australia, when many people enjoying fishing and boating, is a time of high risk for dolphin entanglements. It is also the season when newborn calves make their appearance.

As reported in Murdoch University's *News and Opinion*, one of Western Australia's leading dolphin researchers is urging fishers to be extra vigilant with

the proper disposal of fishing lines and hooks after seeing several of the marine mammals in Cockburn Sound caught up in discarded line.

Dr Delphine Chabanne, from Murdoch University's Harry Butler Institute, saw two young bottlenose dolphins within about eight months that had line wrapped tightly around their bodies. Others had been seen caught in line in previous years.

"We want people to understand the harm fishing line and other pollutants cause to marine animals, including dolphins," Dr Chabanne said.

"Many of the animals recorded with fishing gear entanglement are calves or juveniles and as they grow the lines dig into their skin."

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## New round of funding for Aboriginal Ranger Program



Ngurrara Aboriginal Rangers in the Kimberley. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Western Australia's Aboriginal Ranger Program creates jobs and training and community development opportunities for Aboriginal people in regional and remote communities.

Since its introduction in 2017, the State Government funded program has created more than 650 ranger jobs on Country and supported management of nearly 500 significant cultural sites.

A total of up to \$11million will be available in the latest round of grants.

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## Walkway across Collie's Wellington Dam mega-mural



The walkway at the Collie's Wellington Dam opens up new perspectives of the stunning mural below. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Walkers can now experience Collie's Wellington Dam and its spectacular mega-mural from new heights. A walkway recently opened across the 367-metre dam wall provides new perspectives of artist Guido van Helten's massive and inspiring artwork 'Reflections'.



It forms part of the Reflections Trail, which, when completed, will include new boardwalks and lookout points for wheelchairs and prams, providing access to experience the sweeping views from the top of the dam down the Collie River Valley.

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## Rescuing our malleefowl



Malleefowl are very active, but very seldom seen as they freeze if disturbed, relying on their intricately patterned plumage to render them invisible. Photo credit: Yongergnow Malleefowl Centre

As part of a national recovery plan, Western Australia is playing a significant part in the conservation of the endangered malleefowl. You can help too.

This elusive, ground dwelling bird, once common, has been in serious decline over the last one hundred years. It is recognised as threatened wherever it occurs in Australia and in WA it is listed as vulnerable fauna under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The malleefowl gets its name from its habitat (scrubland and woodland dominated by mallee and wattle species). It is famous for its ability to build and maintain enormous nesting mounds.

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## Out in nature – Waychinicup National Park



Waychinicup National Park. Photo credit: Bronwyn Wells/ Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Waychinicup National Park, 65 kms east of Albany has been described as picture postcard perfect, with a scenic inlet, diverse coastal heath and interesting granite rock formations. Tree-filled, deeply-incised valleys have freshwater streams flowing through them, with moss-covered boulders.

The park is bordered by the Southern Ocean to the south, Mount Manypeaks Nature Reserve to the east, and agricultural land to the north. Its coastline runs between Normans Beach and Cheynes Beach, near Bremer Bay.

The park's interesting, and long name Waychinicup is made up of two Nyoongar Aboriginal words: 'waitch' which means 'emu' and 'up' meaning 'place of'.



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## Lotterywest grant for Swan River conservation efforts



Members of the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group volunteer their time to help maintain and improve habitats within the reserves. Photo credit: Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group

A dedicated group of volunteers has been awarded a Lotterywest grant in a welcome boost to protect the Swan River.

The Swan River Estuary is a sanctuary for native wildlife including endangered species and migratory birds.

The Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group will use the \$14,666 in funding to purchase a trailer and equipment to help its 90 volunteers, who carry out conservation work across more than six kilometres of the foreshore.

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