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From: WA Parks Foundation <info=ourwaparks.org.au@cmail20.com> on behalf of WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 8 June 2023 10:00 AM
To: Library
Subject: Interpretive visitor centre for Purnululu, importance of protecting our biodiverse south west, seagrass restoration in Shark Bay + more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks.



May 2023



New visitor centre at Purnululu. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Interpretive visitor centre for Purnululu

Purnululu National Park in the heart of Western Australia's East Kimberley has a new visitor centre.

The \$1.92 million building, opened in time for this year's tourist season, has been designed to fit in with the natural surroundings of Purnululu National Park and to educate visitors about the Traditional Owners of the land, the Jaru and Gija people and their culture.

The centre, which received State and Federal funding, has large east facing windows framing the view of the striking ancient rock formations of the Bungle Bungle range.

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Importance of protecting our biodiverse south west



Granite outcrops in the Mt Lindesay National Park north of Denmark in WA's South West. Photo credit: Bronwyn Wells

The South West Australia Ecoregion is one of only two Global Biodiversity Hotspots in Australia. Although the region covers only five percent of the

Australian land mass, this area contains about 8,000 plant species, more than half of which are found nowhere else.

This corner of the continent, stretching from Shark Bay in the north to Esperance on the south coast is also home to a variety of unique fauna, including the numbat, western swamp tortoise and the tiny honey possum, which feeds on the nectar of flowering plants.

“International biodiversity hotspot status recognises the ecosystem richness of this part of the world, but also that many of the flora and fauna are under serious threat,” says Professor Stephen Hopper AC, Professor of Biodiversity at UWA’s Albany Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management.

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Your support for the Foundation appreciated



Through initiatives supporting conservation and appreciation of WA’s National Parks and Reserves, the WA Parks Foundation is helping to protect the State’s biodiversity of flora and fauna, including the endangered numbat. Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

The end of the financial year is fast approaching, and we take this opportunity to thank all who have donated to our EOFY appeal.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation and the support of the community and corporate sectors is vitally important in enabling us to deliver our programs and projects.

These are designed to conserve, promote and add value to Western Australia's spectacular and biodiverse network of terrestrial and marine parks encompassing more than thirty-one million hectares, including three natural World Heritage areas.

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Seagrass restoration in Shark Bay



Seagrass at Shark Bay. Photo credit: The University of Western Australia

A vital part of the marine ecosystem, seagrasses, provide food, habitat, and nursery areas for numerous vertebrate and invertebrate species.

Researchers from The University of Western Australia in collaboration with Shark Bay Resources have completed a 10,000 sq m seagrass restoration site

at Useless Loop in the southern region of WA's UNESCO World Heritage listed Shark Bay.

Led by Oceans Institute members Professor Gary Kendrick, Dr John Statton, Dr Elizabeth Sinclair, and Ms Rachel Austin from UWA's School of Biological Sciences, the five-month project also involved Murdoch University researchers, the Tidal Moon Sea Cucumbers company, Malgana Aboriginal Corporation (MAC) Rangers, and the Useless Loop local community and volunteers.

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Celebrating a Bibbulmun Track anniversary



Trekking along West Cape Howe heathland on the south coast. Photo credit: Graham Mason

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the last section of Western Australia's famous Bibbulmun Track with a re-enactment of the Bib Walk'98.

On 13 September 1998, Western Australia's longest walk trail, the 'new' Bibbulmun Track was opened after being significantly realigned, extended from Walpole to Albany and upgraded with the addition of timber shelters at the campsites.

Stretching over 1,000 kilometres from Kalamunda in the Perth Hills to Albany on the south coast the track passes through some of the most beautiful and wild areas of the State's south west.

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Smartreka maps helping visitors to enjoy our national parks



Francois Peron National Park on WA's Coral Coast is a colourful wilderness adventure. Once part of a pastoral station, it is now part of the now it is part of the Shark Bay World Heritage Area. Photo credit: Tourism WA

The WA Parks Foundation's Smartreka mapping initiative is increasingly popular with visitors to WA's national parks.

These innovative maps using GPS capabilities on smartphone or tablet to plot real-time location have been developed with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and in partnership with BHP.

The fifteen national parks which now have Smartreka maps available to download are: Mount Augustus, D'Entrecasteaux, Cape le Grande, Cape Range, Fitzgerald River, Francois Peron, Kalbarri, Karijini, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Millstream Chichester, Purnululu, Stirling Range, Walpole-Nornalup, Walyunga, and Yanchep.

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Record \$14 billion tourism spend for WA



Sunset camel rides on Cable Beach enable tourists to experience this beautiful feature of the Broome coast from a different perspective. Photo credit: C.J. Maddock

Western Australia achieved its highest ever annual visitor spend on record, with \$14 billion put into the WA economy by travellers in 2022.

Tourism Research Australia statistics show WA's tourism recovery has led to a spending increase of \$3.6 billion compared with 2021, and \$500 million more than the previous record in 2019 before the pandemic.

Almost half of the record spend - about \$6.8 billion - was injected into the regional WA economy. This included \$2.84 billion in the South-West, \$1.75 billion in the North-West, almost \$1.1 billion in the Coral Coast and \$1 billion in the Golden Outback.

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