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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 July 2023 9:05 AM
To: Library
Subject: Connecting kids with nature, Perth conference on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, wildflowers blooming + more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



July 2023



Educated by Nature provides learning experiences in a variety of natural spaces to facilitate connection to self, nature and community. Image credit: Educated by Nature

Connecting kids with nature

Five primary schools are participating in the WA Parks Foundation's 2023 Nature Connection Education Program. They are Queens Park, Brookman, Hilton, Kingsley and Clifton Hills.

Since its launch in 2021, this well received program, made possible through generous funding support from the Australian Gas and Infrastructure Group, has involved 14 primary schools in the Perth and Peel regions.

The immersive eight-week program, designed and delivered by Educated by Nature, engages primary school students and their teachers in outdoor learning experiences within their local communities.

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Perth hosting conference on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation



Brushtail possum and joey. Image credit: WA Wildlife

The Australian Wildlife Rehabilitation conference at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre (PCEC) from 11 to 13 August 2023 will be wide ranging in its reach of topics, from care of injured fauna to planning for emergencies and the contribution of volunteers.

Presentations will deal with challenges faced and overcome during Covid-19 and other emergencies such as bushfires and floods. Also, innovation in wildlife medicine and rehabilitation.

Presentations on days one and two will be at the PCEC and will be available via zoom for those unable to travel to Perth. Morning presentations on day three will also be at the PCEC.

Attendees will have the opportunity to visit two Perth-based wildlife rehabilitation facilities as part of day three excursion packages.

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Changing seasons - wildflowers blooming



Wattles blooming in Kings Park's Acacia Garden

The Noongar Season 'Makuru', represented by the colour dark blue symbolising rain and cold weather, is drawing to a close.

In the southwest of Australia, the Noongar seasonal calendar is a guide to what nature is doing at every stage of the year.

During Makuru, Aboriginal people would traditionally move inland away from the cold winds of the coast, with a change in food sources from seafood to land-grazing fauna such as the kangaroo and emu.

The flowering of many different plants, the hibernation of reptiles and the moulting of swans are helpful indicators of change.

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Hand sewn banner promotes Spring into Parks



A delightful quilted banner, inspired by the beauty and diversity of Western Australia's national parks and reserves, has been on display throughout July in the Community Showcase at the WA Museum Boola Bardip.

The banner was crafted by 39 quilters to promote the WA Parks Foundation's Spring into Parks program and presented to the WA Parks Foundation by the WA Quilters' Association in 2020.

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Contributing to conservation of migratory shorebirds



From September to April, the Broome Bird Observatory in Roebuck Bay is one of the best places in the world to view vast numbers of migratory shorebirds. Image credit: Australia's Wonderful Birds

Australia's migratory shorebirds achieve astonishing feats of flight and navigation, with many species flying to and from the Northern Hemisphere every year.

The Bar-tailed Godwit is a famous example, holding the record for the longest non-stop flight of any bird, with a satellite tagged juvenile recording an astounding 13,560km journey from Alaska to Australia.

The 37 migratory shorebird species visiting Australia each year are recognised as being of national significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

To gain sufficient energy to sustain them on their long flights, migratory shorebirds must feed on coastal mudflats and other wetlands to increase their body mass by up to 70 per cent. Sadly, though, because of habitat destruction, hunting and disturbance, the number of our migratory shorebirds has declined greatly.

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Whale song expert honoured



Off the WA coastline, the humpback, southern right and rare blue whales make their annual migration from May to November to their tropical breeding grounds in the Kimberley. Images credit: Whale Watch Western Australia

A pioneering marine scientist, whose dedication has contributed to a greater understanding of the secret life of whales through their song, has been honoured among Australia's top marine scientists.

Professor Robert McCauley, from Curtin University's Centre for Marine Science and Technology, has been named the Australian Marine Sciences Association's 2023 Jubilee Award winner for his outstanding contribution to marine research, spanning more than 30 years of recording captivating whale song, fish grunts and prawn pops.

Curtin's Faculty of Science and Engineering Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Ogden said the award confirmed Professor McCauley's place as one of Australia's pre-eminent experts in marine bioacoustics.

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