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From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au> on behalf of WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 29 September 2023 1:51 PM
To: Library
Subject: September Newsletter - Kimberley reef ecosystems, Kings Park wildflower festival and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



WA PARKS
FOUNDATION

September 2023



Kimberley soft coral. Credit: WA Museum Boola Bardip

Understanding Kimberley reef ecosystems

The Kimberley Marine Park supports diverse marine life, but little is known about its coral reef ecosystems. A new collaborative project 'Kimberley Reef Connect' aims to close that knowledge gap.

Funded by the Australian Government through the Our Marine Parks Program, the project is a collaboration between Curtin University, the Western Australian Museum, Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Australia.

It will focus on the Uunguu Wundaagu Indigenous Protected Area within the Commonwealth Kimberley Marine Park and aims to increase understanding of the health, biodiversity, ecological and cultural values of the area.

[Read more](#)

Kings Park wildflower festival delights and inspires



Sometimes known as paper daisies, these pink everlastings are easy and rewarding to grow. Credit: Janna Schreier Garden Design

The perennially popular Everlasting Kings Park Festival has again drawn visitors in large numbers, with a total of some 300,000 expected by early October.

This year's event marks 60 years of wildflower celebrations in the heart of Perth, providing visitors to Kings Park and Bold Park with opportunities to enjoy free and low-cost exhibitions, interactive displays, wellness classes, guided tours and workshops.

As well as highlighting the beauty of Western Australian flora, the festival focuses on the conservation commitment required for the future. The Western Australian Botanic Garden is home to more than 3,000 of our State's 12,000 species of native flora.

More information can be found on the new-look Kings Park website [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Shutterbugs alert!



Lex Porebski was among the prize winners in our 2022 Memorable Moments in Nature photographic competition for his beautiful entry entitled “Hopetoun Bathers” Hopetoun/ Fitzgerald biosphere. Credit: Lex Porebski

Capture a memorable moment that celebrates the biodiversity of Western Australia’s flora and fauna plus the beauty of our magnificent national and marine parks and enter our photo competition.

There is a \$1400+ prize pack for the winner and other great prizes on offer in this competition, presented as part of the extensive program of activities included in our 2023 Spring into Parks program supported by Lotterywest.

So, if your photo is picture perfect in your eyes, enter now to win!

More information about our Memorable Moments in Nature photo competition [here](#).

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WA shines on national tourism awards stage



The scenery around Dwellingup is stunning, with forested valleys, waterways, abundant wildlife and beautiful springtime wildflowers. Credit: We Are Explorers

Western Australia has had a stella result at the Australian Top Tourism Town Awards 2023.

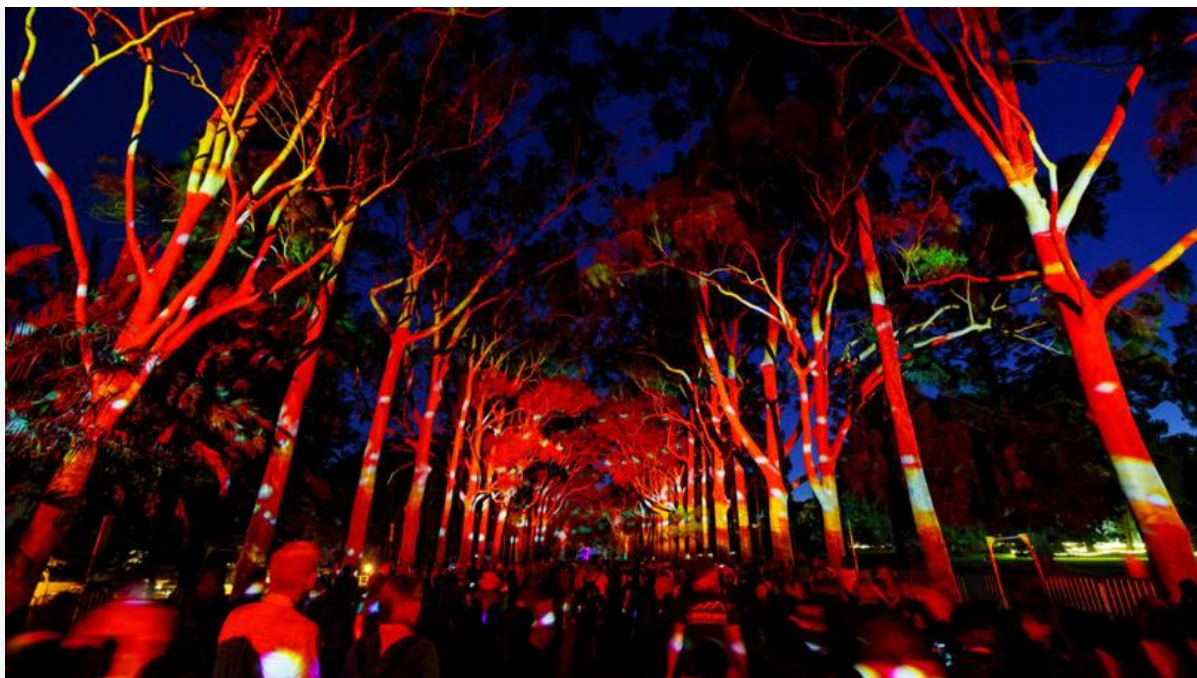
Mandurah was crowned the nation's top tourism town, recognised for its aquatic, adventure, fine dining and entertainment tourism experiences.

Dwellingup, with its forests, waterways and trails, took out the Tiny Tourism Town category for its abundance of nature-inspired experiences.

In the In the Top Tour Guide category, Rosanna Angus won the award for her work running Oolin Sunday Island Cultural Tours in the Kimberley.

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Multi-sensory EverNow event coming soon



Boorna Waaginy: The Trees Speak will be reimaged in Kings Park as one of the festival highlights.

The exciting and imaginative EverNow festival planned for Perth (Noongar name Boorloo) this Spring will ignite the senses and celebrate Aboriginal culture and WA's biodiversity. It will light up the city with five nights of sound, light and fire.

EverNow will run from October 4 to 9 during the Noongar season of Kambarang – when wildflowers are putting on spectacular displays across the regions.

EverNow has been developed by Perth Festival and supported by the Western Australian Government through Tourism WA. Find out more [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Trails improvements for John Forrest National Park



A bridge across Glen Brook. Credit: Jamie Wright/Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Western Australia's first and very popular national park, the John Forrest National Park in Mundaring, is receiving some long-awaited upgrades with projects designed to bring its facilities up to a higher standard to improve the visitor experience.

Work is now complete on 10km of new class 3 and 4 hiking trails. This includes construction of a new Little Eagle walk trail, extension and upgrades to Glen Brook walk trail and permanently realigns and upgrades sections of the Eagle View and Wildflower walk trails.

Visitors should be aware that Scenic Drive will be closed from late September 2023 with park entry via the main Park Road entrance for the duration of construction.

More information about the walk and cycle trails upgrading [here](#).

[Read more](#)

Vote for the 2023 Australian Bird of the Year



The Peregrine Falcon is the world's fastest bird. Credit: The Australian Museum

The Guardian/BirdLife Australian Bird of the Year poll is now open.

From Emus to tiny Silvereyes, from Rainbow Lorikeets to Rainbow Bee-eaters, there are 50 species to vote for, so whether you're a "lover of plovers or you're raven mad", say the organisers, it's up to you to decide who will take out the prestigious honour of being crowned Bird of the Year in 2023?

Previous winners have been the Australian Magpie, Black-throated Finch and Superb Fairy-wren.

Can runner up, the Tawny Frogmouth, make it across the line this time or could the Peregrine Falcon swoop in to snatch victory?

You can nominate your favourite bird on social media with the hashtag [#birdoftheyear](#), or via the online form at the [Guardian Australia website](#).

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