

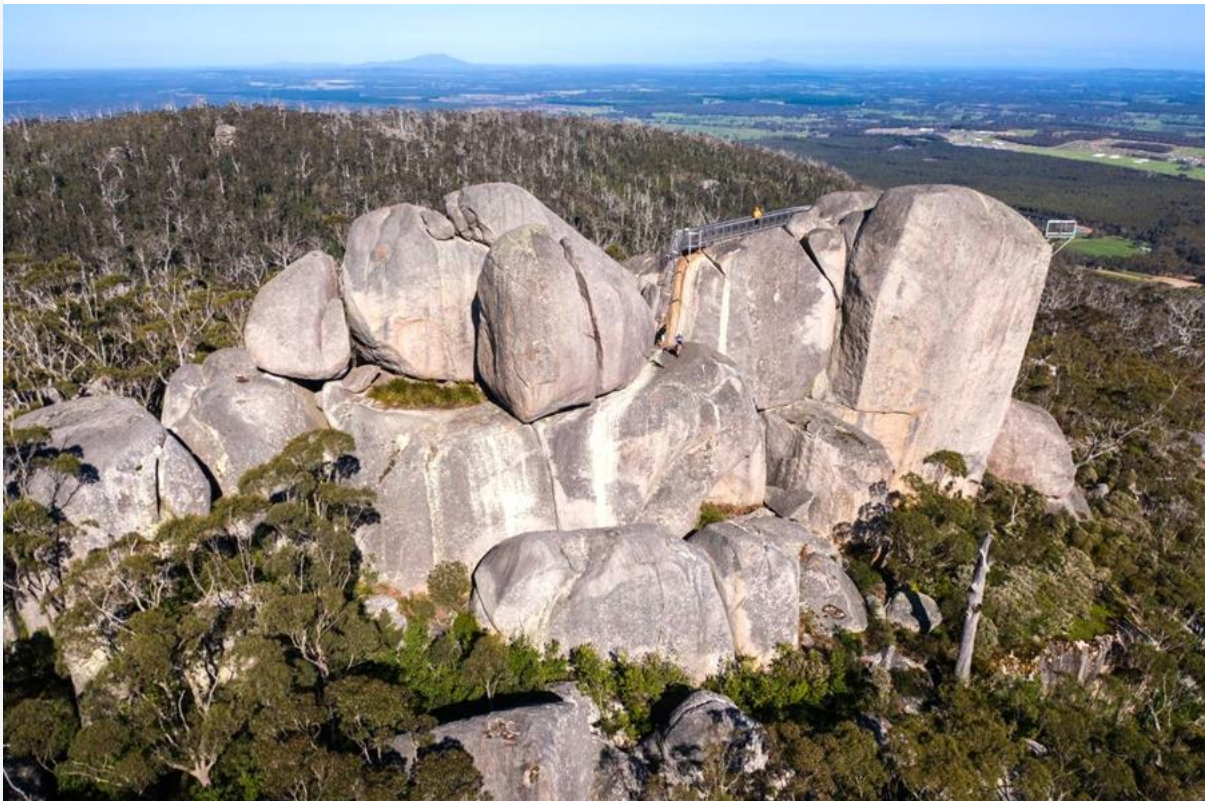
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From: WA Parks Foundation <info=ourwaparks.org.au@cmail20.com> on behalf of WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 1:21 PM
To: Library
Subject: October Newsletter - New Smartreka maps, still time to get snapping, new research on feral cats and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



October 2023



Granite Skywalk, Castle Rock Trail, Porongurup National Park. Image credit: Jacki Baxter/Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

Additional parks added to Smartreka mapping series

Torndirrup and Porongurup national parks in Western Australia's south are the latest to be added to the WA Parks Foundation's Smartreka mapping series, bringing the total so far to seventeen.

Using built-in GPS capabilities on smartphone or tablet to plot real-time location, they make it easier to navigate. If the maps are downloaded ahead of your trip while network access is available, this can be done without a network connection and without roaming charges.

The innovative Smartreka maps developed with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and in partnership with BHP provide information on access, park facilities, trails and other features and attractions.

[Read more](#)

Still time to get snapping



Willie Wagtail Hunting, Mindarie by Paul Jarvis was highly commended in the Memorable Moments in Nature photo competition 2022. Image credit: Paul Jarvis

The Memorable Moments photo competition being run by the WA Parks Foundation as part of Spring into Parks 2023 is attracting strong interest.

With excellent prizes to be won, more than 990 entries have been received to date and the competition remains open until 31 October.

This is a great opportunity to show off your keen eye and photography skills and celebrate WA's unique flora and fauna plus the beauty of our magnificent national and marine parks.

[Read more](#)

Deloitte volunteers lend a hand



Deloitte volunteers lend a hand at Yanchep National Park. Image credit: Deloitte

Deloitte Australia employees volunteered their time for several community projects on nature themes for the company's annual Impact Day.

Impact Day is a national initiative which celebrates Deloitte's year-round commitment to supporting the communities in which they live and work.

Assisting Woodvale Waters Friends with weed control at the Beenyup Channel, a natural waterway which connects Beenyup Swamp and Lake Joondalup in the Yellalonga Regional Park was one of the projects selected for support.

Teams also helped out at the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and at the Yanchep National Park where they assisted with grounds maintenance.

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Daniel Ricciardo hits the open road for Tourism WA



F1 driver Daniel Ricciardo and friend Blake buckle up for their Coral Coast adventure. Image credit: Tourism WA

A new global tourism campaign led by Western Australian Formula 1 star Daniel Ricciardo invites travellers to explore WA as the ultimate destination for a self-drive holiday.

The Drive the Dream campaign follows Ricciardo and his best mate Blake on their road trip from Perth to Exmouth along the Coral Coast Highway.

The campaign will be rolled out over the next 12 months across Australia and the State's key international markets, including Europe, the UK, South East Asia and Japan, aiming to attract visitors to WA and inspire them to take their own road trip.

Feral cats threatening our little eco-engineers



Bilbies spend their daylight hours in their deep, spiral shaped burrows and emerge at night to forage for plant roots, bulbs, fungi, grass seeds, termites, ants, beetles, insect larvae and spiders. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

Murdoch University research has identified feral cats as a serious threat to WA's beloved bilby population, often described as wildlife's eco-engineers.

Master's student Faith Chen, now a PhD candidate, monitored bilby habitats in the West Kimberley using motion-activated cameras. Results showed cats regularly visiting the burrows, and that even the presence of these feral predators was enough to substantially decrease burrow maintenance activity.

Feral cats had been linked to the extinction of more than 20 native mammal species, and previous field research recorded positive fauna responses after small mammal to cat population suppression.

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Celebrating seaweed – a marine flora love affair



Acetabularia calyculus, Umbrella Alga. Image credit: Dr John Huisman

Mostly hidden beneath the waves, Australia's marine plants have an impressive range of colours, shapes and textures.

Additional to their important ecological role, they have great potential for human use, either as food directly or in a range of industrial and agricultural processes.

Dr John Huisman, Curator of the Western Australian Herbarium (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) has dedicated his career to studying the classification of Western Australian seaweeds.

He has written nine books and over 200 articles and chapters describing various seaweed-related topics.

His newly revised and updated third edition of *Marine Plants of Australia* published by UWA Publishing includes detailed descriptions and line drawings delving into the complexities of marine plants.

[Read more](#)

New Rottnest Island Management Plan released



The Basin, Rottnest Island. Image credit: Rottnest Fast Ferries

A new five-year plan for Rottnest Island and its associated waters focuses on conservation, sustainability, infrastructure, visitor experience, cultural heritage and building partnerships with Aboriginal communities, industry, and commercial operators.

The plan was developed by the Rottnest Island Authority in consultation with key stakeholders, advisory groups and island businesses and was also open for a period of public comment earlier this year.

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