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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, 30 November 2023 3:12 PM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** November Newsletter - Karijini planned upgrades, saving vulnerable turtles and much more.

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



November 2023



Clinton Walker started Ngurranga Tours to educate and immerse people in the ways of his culture and history.  
Image credit: Welcome to Country – Ngurranga Tours

## Achievements in tourism recognised

Ngurranga Tours, which delivers cultural tourism experiences within the Pilbara region, has won the Sir David Brand Award for Tourism as the most outstanding tourism operator in the 2023 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards.

The fully Aboriginal owned and operated company focuses on tours to the coastal and inland areas within the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi traditional country.

Willie Creek Pearls, Live Ningaloo, CORE Cider House, Tree Chalets and the City of Fremantle were awarded Hall of Fame - for winning the gold medal in their categories three years in a row.

The Hike Collective, which offers bite-sized guided tours to explore the rugged landscapes and natural beauty of hiking trails within one hour of the Perth CBD, received a Gold Award in the Adventure Tourism category.

Kate Gibson founder and owner of the Hike Collective is a Park Ambassador and a member of the WA Parks Foundation's Ambassador Advisory Committee.

[Read more](#)

## Boosting ecological restoration through improved seed quality





The growing demand for native seeds in ecological restoration and rehabilitation has resulted in a rapidly growing global industry in the sourcing, supply and sale of native seeds. Image credit: Curtin University

A groundbreaking initiative by Curtin University to improve the quality of native seeds and how they are used in land restoration efforts in Western Australia has been boosted by a \$1.8 million grant from Lotterywest.

"Seeds play a vital role in restoring native vegetation across degraded ecosystems," said Environment Minister the Hon Reece Whitby MLA.

"Good quality seeds are required for restoring biodiversity in more than one million hectares of degraded land across WA."

The Curtin-based Native Seed Technology and Innovation Hub will focus on developing the most cost-effective technological solution for seed-based restoration.

[Read more](#)

## Exploring geopark potential



Jack Hills in WA's Murchison region has some of the oldest terrestrial material ever found. Image credit: Shire of Murchison

Western Australia's geoheritage provides a record of our region's evolution and landscapes. Geologically significant features of this ancient wonderland abound, from spectacular gorges to epic rock formations, rugged peaks and weathered ranges.

As well as being of outstanding scientific, cultural and educational value, this integral part of WA's natural heritage influences our State's biodiversity of flora and fauna.

Western Australia's geological features are also a major tourism drawcard.

[Read more](#)

## Karijini planned upgrades



Knox Gorge, Karijini National Park. Image credit: Tripadvisor



Works are due to start soon on a new lookout and upgraded roads as part of the WA Government's \$16 million program to improve the park's infrastructure.

The lookout will be built at Knox Gorge and 41km of road will be sealed to improve access to and between Weano Gorge, Karijini Eco Retreat and Dales Gorge.

The roadworks will continue throughout the low visitor season.

[Read more](#)

## Helping to save vulnerable turtles



The Saving Our Snake Necked Turtle project is empowering community members to become citizen scientists. Image credit: Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

The Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtles project has expanded to now cover 30 wetlands across 21 local government areas between Joondalup and Albany.

Sixteen wetlands have been added to the fourteen already monitored by Murdoch University Harry Butler Institute scientists working to protect turtle populations from extinction.

The southwestern snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) lives across the Perth metropolitan and the south-west regions, but population numbers appear to be in decline due to threats including roads, ravens and foxes.

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Uniting the community through a shared love for our WA Parks to protect and conserve them for our physical and mental health, and so they can be enjoyed into the future.

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