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From: WA Parks Foundation <info=ourwaparks.org.au@cmail19.com> on behalf of WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
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To: Library
Subject: December Newsletter - Message from the Chair, Photo Competition winners announced and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



December 2023



Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, WA Parks Foundation Chair

Christmas Message from the Chair

Over the past year in our monthly on-line newsletter, in talks and in social media we have shared many stories on themes relevant to our aims of supporting conservation and encouraging people to experience the wonders of WA's biodiverse national parks and reserves.

Some of these such as Smartreka mapping, Spring into Parks and the Nature Connection Excursion Series for schools have been about WA Parks Foundation projects and initiatives, including those progressed in association with our community, government or corporate partners.

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Memorable Moments prize winners



First Prize - "First light over Dales Gorge, Karijini" by David Manning

The Memorable Moments photo competition run as part of the WA Parks Foundation's very successful Spring into Parks 2023 attracted over 1500 entries, a record number.

"We were delighted with the level of interest," said WA Parks Foundation Chair, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO.

"The high quality of images submitted was impressive, giving our judges a wealth of beautiful photos from which to choose the winners."

First prize went to David Manning for his beautiful image "First light over Dales Gorge, Karijini" - Karijini National Park. David wins the Ultimate Park Pack valued at over \$1400.

Naidu Kumapatla won second prize for his black cockatoo photo "Feasting on Gum" - Jirdarup Bushland. He wins the Connect with Nature Pack valued over \$600. Three runners-up in no particular order are: "Thorny Devil" - Great Sandy Desert by Sarah Pemberton; "Look Mum, no hands!" - Cheynes Beach by Andrea Watts; and "Peek-a-roo"- Yellagonga Regional Park Lake

Joondalup by Glenys Dixon. They each receive the Spring into Parks pack valued at over \$200.

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Conserving habitat for Gnangara's black cockatoos



Carnaby's Black Cockatoo has declined in the last 50 years due to habitat loss and destruction, especially large-scale clearing in much of WA's wheatbelt and Banksia and Tuart woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain. Image credit: Jean, Wikimedia

Pine harvesting in the Gnangara State Forest will come to an end to preserve critical black cockatoo habitat.

This plantation in the Wanneroo area has been a source of timber for the construction industry in WA since harvesting of it began in 1996.

However, in recent years it has become an important roosting and foraging habitat for Carnaby's black cockatoos, with further harvesting likely to have a significant impact on the population of this endangered species.

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Spring into Parks ‘Design an Ad’ competition winners



Winners from L-R: Madison (Carnaby Rise Primary School), Jake (Spring Hill Primary School), Sasha (Mount Lawley Senior High School) and Chelsea (St Hilda's Anglican School).

“Ways to be Wild” was the theme of the WA Parks Foundation’s Spring into Parks brief, as part of The West Australian newspaper’s “Design an Ad” competition.

Primary and high school students were invited to design an advertisement that inspires and encourages visitation to our national parks and promotes the many ways to connect with nature, to be active outdoors and have fun, whether on land or in the water.

Thank you to the participating schools and congratulations to our winners, Madison (Carnaby Rise Primary School), Jake (Spring Hill Primary School), Sasha (Mount Lawley Senior High School) and Chelsea (St Hilda's Anglican School).

[Read more](#)

Sharing insider knowledge of the Bibbulmun Track



The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long-distance walk trails, stretching 1000 km from Kalamunda on the outskirts of Perth to Albany on the south coast of WA. Image credit: Bibbulmun Track Foundation

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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