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**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 March 2024 8:41 AM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** February Newsletter - Kimberley travel discounts, Have your say - South Coast Marine Park, Grants available for Swan Canning foreshore and much more!

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February 2024



The magnificent four-tiered Mitchell Falls in the Kimberley's Mitchell River National Park. Photo credit: Australia's North West/Tourism WA/Localista

# Kimberley calling – travel discounts offered

Western Australia's Kimberley is home to many vast, remote, and utterly spectacular national parks. Limestone caves, plunging gorges, one of the world's largest meteorite craters and some of the finest examples of Aboriginal rock art are among the attractions.

Discounted travel, accommodation and airfares are now available for visitors to this region in 2024, as part of the State Government's support for local tourism businesses in their recovery from last year's weather events.

[Read more](#)

## Understanding and conserving dugongs



Dugongs at Shark Bay can be found year-round but are most active between September and May. Photo credit: Australia's Coral Coast/Tourism WA

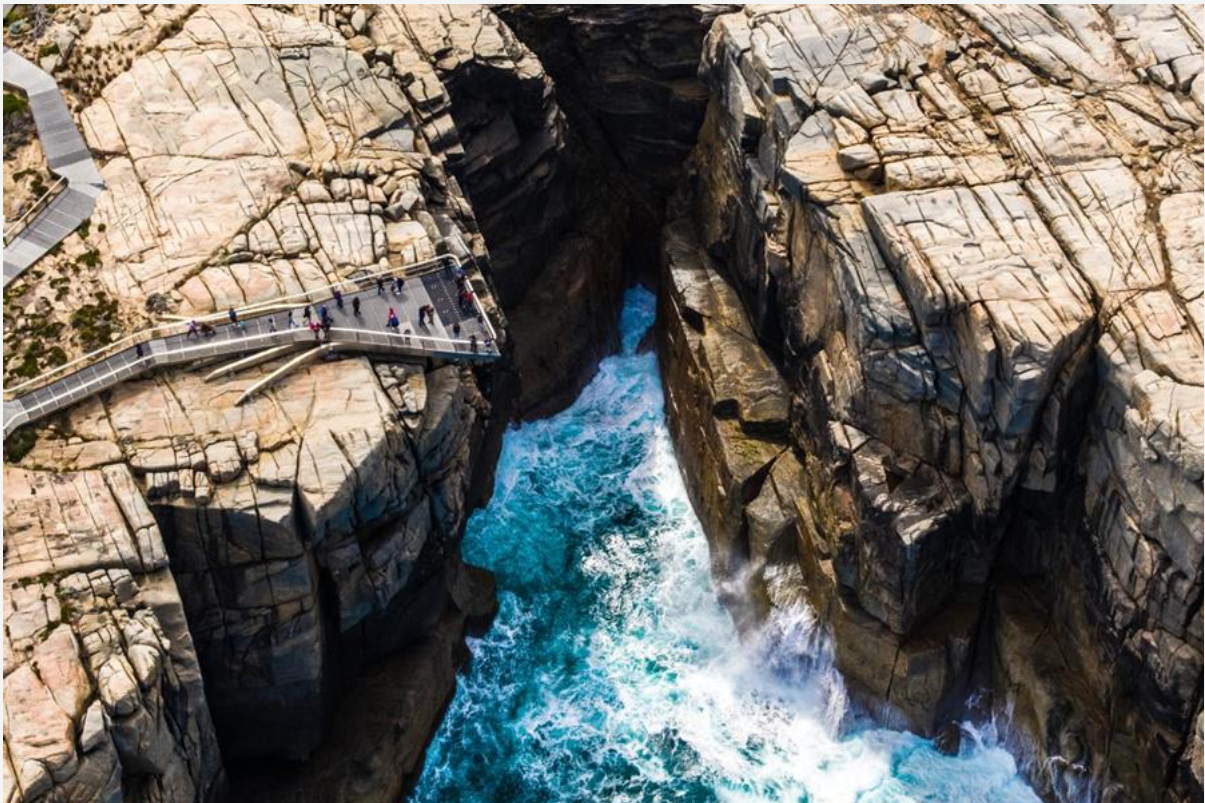
The coastal waters of northwest Australia, encompassing the Kimberley and Pilbara regions down to Shark Bay, are home to one of the largest remaining dugong populations.

Dugongs are an important species in marine ecosystems and have high cultural value to coastal Aboriginal communities.

To help conservation and management efforts in Western Australia, dugong populations and their habitats continue to be researched and monitored by organisations such as the UWA Oceans Institute, Murdoch University's Cetacean Research Institute, the Western Australian Marine Science Institution and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

[Read more](#)

## Torndirrup National Park access improvements



The Gap is a spectacular channel in the 40m high coastal granites of Torndirrup National Park. Photo credit: Tourism WA

Known for its spectacular coastline, with rugged granite cliffs, Torndirrup National Park at Albany in the Great Southern is a huge visitor drawcard.

Significant upgrades expected to begin this year are designed to accommodate increasing visitation to the park's most popular features, The

Gap and Natural Bridge – wonders carved by the pounding waves of the Southern Ocean.

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## Novel approach to improve Peel-Harvey estuary water quality



Applying clay-based treatment to help prevent algal growth in the Peel Harvey estuary catchment. Photo credit: Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

An innovative trial is helping to improve water quality in the Peel-Harvey estuary catchment by reducing the nutrients that fuel algal growth.

Scientists from Healthy Estuaries WA have applied a specially manufactured clay-based treatment to a drain in the catchment of the Peel-Harvey estuary (Bindjareb Djilba). The clay successfully bound up to 95 per cent of phosphorus at the treatment site, preventing it from fuelling algal growth in the downstream waterways.

Many of WA's waterways receive excess phosphorus from fertiliser use in their catchment, potentially causing algal growth that can lead to fish kills and adverse human health impacts.

[Read more](#)

## Birdwatching outing at Bibra Lake - this Sunday



Australasian Grebe, Bibra Lake Reserve. Photo credit: Birdingplaces

Bibra Lake is a part of the Beeliiar Wetlands chain and a large number of bushbirds and waterbirds can be seen here. Over 130 bird species have been recorded in this reserve.

BirdLife Western Australia runs a variety of activities for members and the broader community and has a walk around Bibra Lake planned for Sunday 10 March starting at 7.30 am.

[Read more](#)

# South Coast Marine Park – further input invited



The Ruby seadragon (*Phyllopteryx dewysea*), which inhabits coastal waters of WA, was first described in 2015. A live specimen was first filmed in 2016 by marine biologists from the Western Australian Museum and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography on an expedition to the Recherche Archipelago off Esperance. Photo credit: Zoe Della Vedova

Western Australians are encouraged to have their say on one of the State's most important marine conservation projects.

The proposed South Coast Marine Park will provide important protections to marine species, such as the ruby seadragon, which is not found anywhere else in the world. The area is also home to southern right whale nurseries, vast kelp forests, vulnerable seal and sea lion colonies, precious reefs, and important fisheries.

[Read more](#)

# Grants available for Swan Canning foreshore restoration



Point Resolution foreshore, Dalkeith. Photo credit: Tripadvisor

Local governments will share in up to \$850,000 in funding as part of the latest round of Riverbank grants.

The program, introduced in 2002, has contributed almost \$30 million to nearly 350 projects that have improved the health and amenity of the Swan Canning Riverpark.

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## Get in touch with us

[info@ourwaparks.org.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.org.au)



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