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From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 May 2024 12:27 PM
To: Library
Subject: April Newsletter - Regional tourism funding boost, Fish hotels and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



April 2024



St Mary Inlet, Fitzgerald River National Park. Photo credit: Localista

State budget support for encouraging regional tourism

Campgrounds across WA will receive a significant funding boost, with \$17.1 million allocated to deliver a range of upgrades and new camp sites in Perth and regional areas.

The funding is part of the State Government's Outdoor Adventure Tourism \$165 million package to encourage more local visitation to regional tourism destinations, supporting local businesses and helping to diversify regional economies.

"WA has the best coastline, national parks and natural attractions in the country, and we want every Western Australian to enjoy what our outdoors has to offer," said WA Premier the Hon Roger Cook MLA.

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Fish hotels – an innovative conservation initiative



Fish hotel being installed in the Harvey River. Photo credit: Craig Duncan/ South Western Times

An innovative new project to breathe life into the Harvey River involves the installation of nine 'fish hotels' designed to provide habitat and protection for native aquatic species.

The fish hotels, looking like small wooden pyramids, will sit on the riverbed in a 500 metre section near Riverdale Road and serve as an ideal location to attract and retain aquatic wildlife.

The new fish hotels will also boost habitat for turtles, rakali (water rats) and water birds. The new structures emulate what naturally occurs in rivers and streams when trees fall into the waterways.

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New national park for Mid-West



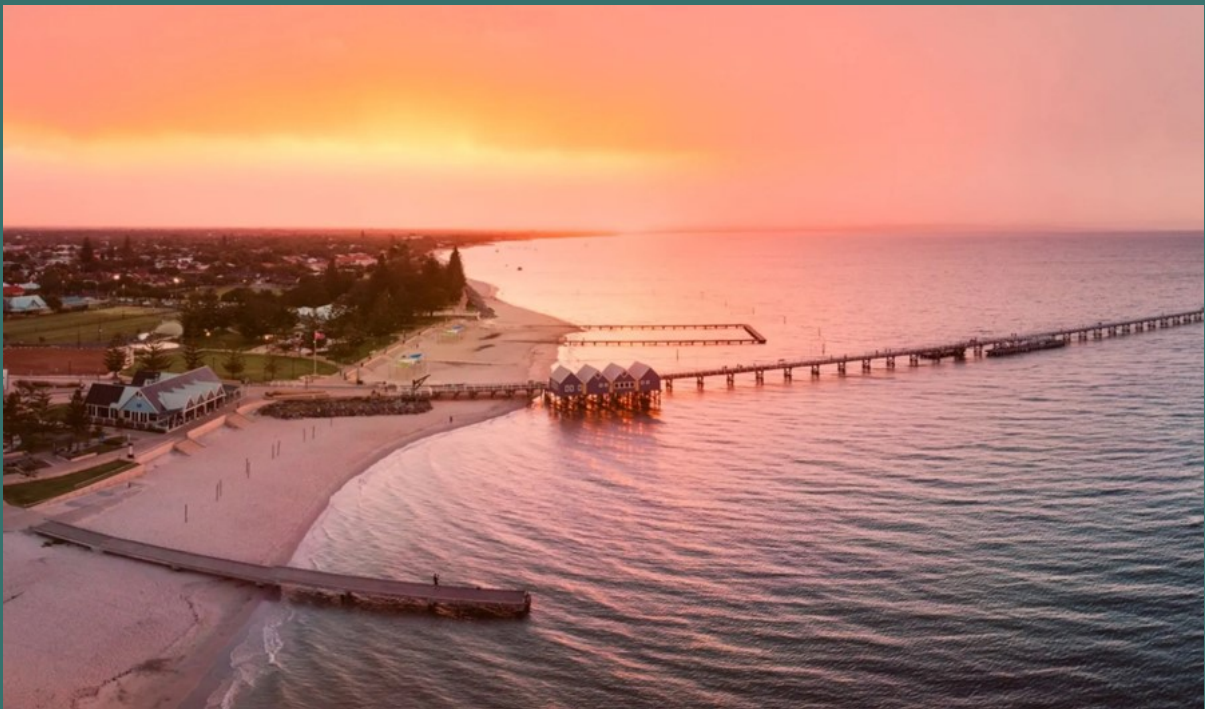
Collier Range National Park. Photo Credit: Localista

A new national park has been created in the Mid West-Gascoyne region. The Jilgu National Park spans 102,000 hectares of scenic mulga country interspersed with rugged hills and watercourses.

Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation will jointly manage the park and the existing Collier Range National Park with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Five Traditional Owners will be employed to care for Country, with future investment in nature-based tourism and other economic opportunities also a possibility.

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WA Tourism Awards – nominations invited



Busselton tourism attractions have been among previous winners in the prestigious Perth Airport Tourism Awards. Photo credit: Margaret River Region

Over the years, many tourism-related businesses and organisations have benefited from participation and recognition in the Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards.

Nominations, submitted online, are now open for the 27 Business categories and will close on 29 May.

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Smartreka mapping series continues to expand



Millstream Chichester National Park has been likened to the Garden of Eden in the middle of a desert landscape. Photo credit: Karratha is Calling

Smartreka maps, a WA Parks Foundation innovation, delivered in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, is making it easier for visitors to navigate WA's national parks and reserves.

“The interactive maps are increasingly popular and we now have nineteen of them on our website, with Kennedy Range in final draft and a Smartreka map for Rottnest Island at the ground-truthing stage.”

The Smartreka Maps series provides information on facilities, trails, lookouts and other points of interest within the park. Before visiting, users need to download the free Avenza Maps app to display the maps interactively on their mobile devices.

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