

## Library

---

**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** July Newsletter - Halting cane toad invasion, New Board Director and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



July 2024



Cane toads were introduced to Australia in 1935 and arrived in north-eastern WA in 2009, progressing westwards through the Kimberley ever since. They are a threat to biodiversity because they are poisonous, predatory, adaptive and competitive. Image credit: Professor Ben Phillips, Curtin University.

## Halting cane toad invasion of the Pilbara

A 'toad-break' area devoid of water needed by cane toads to survive will be used to prevent the invasive species from infiltrating the Pilbara region and protect its 27 million hectares of sensitive habitat, significant Aboriginal cultural heritage and native wildlife.

The WA State Government has announced funding for the first phase of the Toad Containment Zone (TCZ), which is a collaborative project involving

Traditional Owners, rangers, pastoralists, and scientists from Curtin University, Deakin University, Rangelands NRM, Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation and Karajarri Traditional Lands Association.

Professor Ben Phillips, Curtin's School of Molecular and Life Sciences said the containment zone, on the edge of the Great Sandy Desert, aimed to halt the spread of cane toads south from the Kimberley and prevent the ecological damage they have caused in other regions.

[Read more](#)

## New Board Director welcomed



Rickeeta Walley, Director, WA Parks Foundation.

Aboriginal cultural and engagement specialist, Rickeeta Walley has joined the WA Parks Foundation Board as a Director.



Rickeeta, a Nyoongar woman with a deep love of Country and the natural environment, has worked in government roles, previously with the Department of Health and currently as Aboriginal Liaison Officer with WA's Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. She also works within her family business, Aboriginal Productions, as a cultural educator, performer and researcher.

[Read more](#)

## Café operator sought for John Forrest National Park



Artist's impression of Park Hub. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Registrations of interest are sought from individuals and organisations interested in operating a new café within John Forrest National Park.

Forming part of a new park centre, which will be the central point of the visitor hub once the John Forrest National Park improvement project is complete, the café will have an internal dining area of 180 square metres and an alfresco dining area of 150 square metres.

The café's operator will also have the opportunity to provide dine-in, takeaway and function catering, as well as obtain a liquor licence.

[Read more](#)

## Perth schoolgirl sets Bibbulmun Track ‘end-to enders’ record



Zara White on the Bibbulmun Track in November 2023. Image credit: Bibbulmun Track Foundation.

Seventeen-year-old Zara White has walked into the record books as the youngest person known to complete WA’s gruelling Bibbulmun Track solo.

The Year 11 student attending Presbyterian Ladies College took just 54 days to complete the 1000-kilometre walk from Kalamunda to Albany. She took only four rest days during the epic end-to end adventure, sometimes walking more than 38 kilometres in a single day.

Zara also took the opportunity to raise funds to support the Bibbulmun Track Foundation during its 25th Anniversary year – to date raising more than \$15,000.

[Read more](#)

## Innovative imaging of whale sharks



Dr Mark Meekan and Kim Brooks work in tandem to collect copepods from the mouth of the whale shark, which places the fish in a good position for a liver ultrasound. Image credit: Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS).

An international team of researchers has discovered a new method of imaging free-swimming whale sharks using underwater ultrasound.

The research, published in [Frontiers](#), was led by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) in a collaboration with The University of Western Australia, WA's Mira Mar Veterinary Hospital, Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium in Japan, and Georgia Aquarium in the US.

Lead author Dr Mark Meekan, from UWA's Oceans Institute, has been running a monitoring program at WA's Ningaloo Reef with AIMS for the past 20 years.

[Read more](#)



# Giant tree re-opened for climbing



Bicentennial Tree re-opened for climbers to reach 20 metre platform. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

The Bicentennial Tree in WA's Pemberton region has reopened for climbing to the 20-metre platform.

It's the first step in a program of State funded upgrades at the Gloucester and Bicentennial Trees. Both were closed in 2023 to allow for structural investigations and upgrades to the viewing platforms.

[Read more](#)

## Greatest wildflower show on Earth is underway



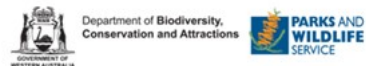
Mulla Mulla is a spectacular herbaceous perennial with feathery purple flower heads which can be seen in Kennedy Ranges National Park. Image credit: David Bettini

Wildflowers are starting to bud in the northern regions of WA's Golden Outback and Coral Coast, thanks to recent heavy rainfall.

Species such as Mulla Mulla and Senna are beginning to burst into colour. With more than 12,000 species, 60 per cent of which are found nowhere else in the world, the flowers will colour the landscapes from coast to forest and city to outback from now until November.

[Read more](#)

## Our supporters



# Make a difference

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.

Become a member

Donate

Volunteer

Become a partner

## Get in touch with us [info@ourwaparks.org.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.org.au)



The WA Parks Foundation is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. Any donations of \$2.00 or more are eligible for a tax deduction under the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.





**f** Share

**X** Tweet

**in** Share

**✉** Forward

© 2024 WA Parks Foundation

[WA Parks Foundation News](#)

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)