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**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 3 September 2024 3:18 PM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** August Newsletter - Spring into Parks, Fitzroy River National Park expanded and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



August 2024



Opportunities for nature-based wellness experiences such as forest therapy are highlighted in the Spring into Parks program, partnering with a wide range of community-based organisations. Image credit: Mindful in Nature.

# Spring into Parks – Celebrate our spectacular wilderness and access to nature

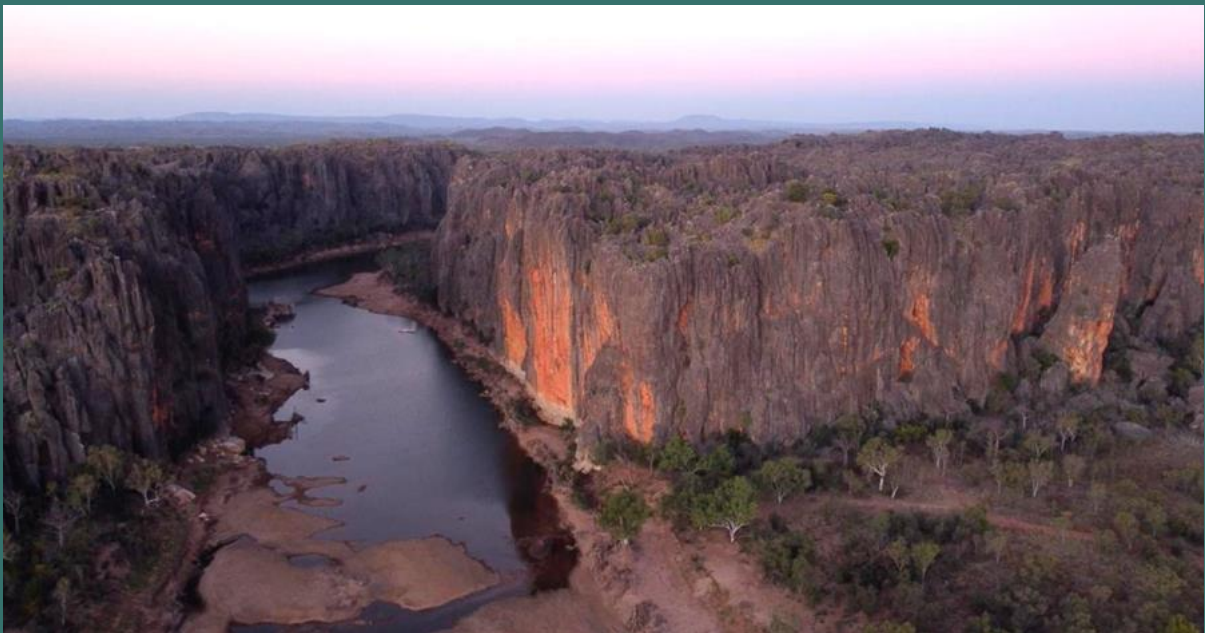
National parks and reserves across Western Australia will be promoted and celebrated in the WA Parks Foundation's Spring into Parks campaign 2024, supported by Lotterywest.

This community engaging initiative, now in its sixth year and coinciding with the wildflower season, focuses on the enjoyment and benefits of spending time in nature for improved health and wellbeing.

It also promotes WA's incredible biodiversity, the importance of conserving our magnificent parks and reserves for present and future generations and the cultural significance of these areas.

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## Fitzroy River National Park expanded



The beautiful Bunuba National Park is included in the recently announced expansion. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Recognised as one of the world's most pristine and free-flowing river systems, the Fitzroy River supports an array of wildlife, including the critically endangered freshwater sawfish, which is found nowhere else in the world.

Following the implementation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Yurriyangem Taam Traditional Owners, the Fitzroy River National Park

has been expanded to further protect this mighty river system which is of immense environmental and cultural significance.

Covering 260,000 hectares, it will now include Yurriyangem Taam, Warlibirri, and Bunuba national parks, also protecting the spectacular Sir John Gorge and other areas important to Kija people, who will jointly manage the park with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

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## EverNow Festival returning soon



From the Light Flow: Bena Koorliny (light travelling) will amaze with a series of dazzling towers of light, larger-than-life illuminations, flame and performance on the banks of the Swan River (Derbal Yerrigan). Creative company Groupe F has worked with one of Australia's leading Aboriginal performers and musicians, Dr Richard Walley OAM and Noongar storyteller and artist Alton Walley to bring this monumental outdoor public performance to Perth. Dr Walley is a WA Parks Foundation Board Director. Image credit: Groupe F/Tourism Western Australia.

The 2024 program for Western Australia's free EverNow festival has been unveiled, headlined by a world-renowned French theatrical and pyrotechnics company.



Groupe F, whose credentials include multiple Olympic Games opening ceremonies, the FIFA World Cup and celebrations at global landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, will bring an Australian-exclusive show to this year's festival called From the Light Flow: Bena Koorliny.

Other favourites from 2023 will also feature again this year including Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak and Song Circle.

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## Explore the Binjareb-Peel Geotrail Drive



Lake Clifton's ancient thrombolites. Image credit: Wikipedia.

The living, rock-like structures known as thrombolites on the shores of Lake Clifton in the Yalgorup National Park are one of the outstanding features along the recently launched Binjareb-Peel Geotrail Drive.

New interpretive signage along the trail, extending from Mandurah to Lake Clifton and out to Pinjarra and Waroona, enables visitors to scan a QR code and learn more about the geology of the area (Bindjareb Noongar Country), its flora and fauna and cultural significance.

The Peel Development Commission worked in partnership with Dr Alan Briggs, Professor Ross Dowling AM and Wendy Dowling AM from Geoparks WA and Bindjareb elders to bring this project to life. (Professor Dowling and Wendy Dowling are both Park Ambassadors.)

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## Environmental initiatives recognised in Science Awards



Posidonia seagrass fruit. Image credit: Rachel Austin, The University of Western Australia.

Seeds for Snapper, Australia's largest community-driven seagrass restoration project, was a finalist in the Science Engagement of the Year category of the 2024 Premier's Science Awards.

Operating in Cockburn Sound since 2018, the project recognised is the result of a collaboration between the WA Chapter of the not-for-profit OzFish Unlimited, seagrass researchers from The University of Western Australia and hundreds of community volunteers. The aim is to replenish and enhance

snapper populations by supporting seagrass restoration along the WA coastline.

Using seed-based restoration techniques developed by UWA researchers, Seeds for Snapper engages the community to actively participate in habitat restoration while learning about the importance of seagrasses.

[Read more](#)

## Tackling feral cat impacts



Feral cat captured by a remote sensing camera and carrying a bandicoot. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Southwest regions of Western Australia will share in \$500,000 worth of grants under round two of the State Government's Feral Cat Management Program.

They are the Gillamii Centre, Conservation Australia and Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee.

So far, the program has invested \$1 million in eight projects, with a further \$500,000 to be made available next year. The investment forms part of the Government's five-year Feral Cat Management Strategy.

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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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