

**Nicole Wreford**

**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2024 11:58 AM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** December Newsletter - Christmas message from our Chair, competition winners and and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



December 2024



Families participating in the evolving forest at the Sustainability Tent, sponsored by the WA Parks Foundation, Scribblers Festival. Image credit: Dan MacBride, courtesy of FORM Building a State of Creativity.

## Christmas message from our Chair

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we reflect on another productive and enjoyable year filled with achievements and memorable moments.

One of the recent highlights has been the announcement of our newest Smartreka project – the mapping of the Wadjemup Bidi, a series of hiking trails on Rottne Island.

We're very pleased to have had the opportunity to work with DBCA and the Rottnest Island Authority to deliver the Wadjemup Bidi map to enhance visitor experience and understanding of Rottnest Island (Wadjemup).

[Read more](#)

## Competition winners announced



Wild Wonders of WA Photo Competition Winner by Bryan May, Branco's Sunrise (Gibb River).

The 2024 Wild Wonders of Western Australia photo competition conducted by the WA Parks Foundation in association with Spring into Parks, with excellent prizes to be won, attracted over 980 entries.

As in previous years, the high quality of many entries received made judging a challenge.



1st Prize: Ultimate Park Pack valued at \$900+ was awarded to Bryan May for Branco's Sunrise (Gibb River).

This includes a RAC Parks & Resorts accommodation voucher (worth \$300), Matagarup Zip+Climb voucher for one (worth \$165), Camera Electronic voucher (worth \$200), Scitech Family Pass (worth \$77), WA Parks Foundation individual membership, and an annual all parks pass (worth \$180).

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## Rottnest walk trails added to Smartreka mapping series



The Gabbi Kaminy Bidi is a beautiful walk trail that meanders through the lake systems and back along the northern coastline. Images credit: Rottnest Island Authority.

The Wadjemup Bidi, a series of hiking trails taking in the spectacular coastal headlands, inland lakes, and other features of Rottnest Island, has been included in the innovative Smartreka mapping series.

The digital Smartreka maps use the built-in GPS on smartphone or tablet to plot real time locations without relying on network connections and without roaming charges, provided they are downloaded in advance while network connectivity is available.

This latest addition to Smartreka makes it easier to navigate the Wadjemup Bidi's 45 kilometres of bushland walks and coastal trails.

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## Protecting vulnerable Little Penguins



The primary cause of the significant decrease in penguin numbers is thought to be the increasingly warmer water impacting on the penguin's food sources as a result of changing climatic conditions. Other factors likely to be contributing to the decline include injuries caused by watercraft, and increasing land temperatures. Image credit: City of Rockingham.

Further action is being taken to address the dramatic decline in the population of Little Penguins on Penguin Island within the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, about 50 kms south of Perth.



A newly formed independent Little Penguin Advisory Group will support a range of efforts by the WA Government to protect Penguin Island, where research shows the major factor in the decline of the island's penguin population has likely been a reduction in food sources due to warming sea temperatures.

The group, chaired by Western Australian Marine Science Institute CEO Dr Luke Twomey, will comprise scientists, marine park coordinators and local representatives.

[Read more](#)

## Pilbara Ranger Network secures major funding boost



Pilbara Rangers. Image credit: National Indigenous Times/ Rhiannon Clarke.

A series of programs administered through the Pilbara Ranger Network (PRN) to support biodiversity and community wellbeing will receive a Lotterywest grant worth over \$4.1 million.

The PRN is an Aboriginal-led partnership of ten Traditional Owner groups working together to share knowledge, resources, and opportunities to care for Country and establish cultural land management within the Pilbara region.

The Lotterywest grant will provide funding for training, staff, equipment, planning, governance, and future sustainability of the PRN.

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



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