

Nicole Wreford

From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 5 March 2025 11:17 AM
To: Library
Subject: February Newsletter - Nature Connection program delivers, Inspiring Aboriginal artwork and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



February 2025



Nature Connection, designed and delivered by Educated by Nature in partnership with the WA Parks Foundation, engages primary school students and their teachers in outdoor learning experiences within their local communities. Image credit: Educated by Nature

Nature Connection program delivers outdoor learning for kids

The WA Parks Foundation is delighted that another three schools in the Perth metropolitan area have taken up the opportunity to participate in our Nature Connection Excursion Program this year.

Students from Mirrabooka, Balga and Girrawheen primary schools will take part in a condensed program included in the WA Foundation's 2025 Spring into

Parks initiative, supported by Lotterywest. This will bring to 17 the number of schools in the Perth and Peel region in which this program has been delivered.

The Nature Connection Excursion program has been developed for primary school-aged students, with a particular focus on those who may be disadvantaged. The outdoor sessions are designed and delivered by trained educators and nature connection mentors and provide time for the students (and their teachers) to experience learning outdoors.

[Read more](#)

Inspiring Aboriginal artwork created for Kings Park



Kings Park's iconic lookout transformed by new artwork. Image credit: Cam Campbell/Botanic Garden and Parks Authority

The design of a new, temporary mural at Kings Park's Kaarta Gar-up lookout is inspired primarily by Eucalypt trees.

Created by local artist Kamsani (Kam) Bin-Salleh, this impressive Aboriginal artwork was commissioned to mark the beginning of 60th anniversary

celebrations for the Western Australian Botanic Garden, which reaches this milestone in 2025.

Kam, a Perth (Boorloo) based Ballardong Noongar artist with connections to the Nimunburr and Yawuru people of the Kimberley, worked with Kings Park botanists and horticulturists while concepting the artwork.

[Read more](#)

Astonishing moth trickery revealed in WA led research



This masquerading moth's 3D leaf illusion helps to evade predators. Image credit: The University of Western Australia

A species of moth which looks remarkably like a curved leaf, even though its wings are flat, has been discovered in a study led by researchers from The University of Western Australia.

The research, published today in *Current Biology*, revealed that the moth uses specialised scales in its wings to produce an illusion of three-dimensional leaf shape.

Lead author Dr Jennifer Kelley from UWA's School of Biological Sciences, said the moth was using a type of camouflage known as masquerade, where it pretends to be an object that is uninteresting to predators such as birds.

[Read more](#)

Introducing our newest Board Director



Elisha Jacobs-Smith, Director, WA Parks Foundation

The WA Parks Foundation is pleased to welcome Elisha Jacobs-Smith to support the work of the Foundation as a Director.

Elisha is a Whadjuk Noongar man and has a background in cultural education and caring for Country. He is currently employed as Program Coordinator of Cultural Capability at Curtin University and Cultural Educator at Indigenous Economic Solutions (IES).

[Read more](#)

Broadening hiking and trail running opportunities



Bushwalking in the Jarrah forest. Image credit: HikeWest

Western Australians looking to experience nature and escape paved roads and footpaths will soon have more opportunities for hiking and trail running.

The latest round of the WA Hiking Participation Grants Program will see \$252,168 provided to 12 projects designed to encourage people of all ages and cultures to safely go off the beaten track.

The program aims to increase entry level supervised opportunities for bushwalking and the increasingly popular sport of trail running, with organised races over varying distances.

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Learn more about the dolphins that call Mandurah home



The Peel-Harvey Estuary south of Mandurah is occupied by a year-round resident community of approximately 90 Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. Image credit: Mandurah Cruises

Dolphin Watch is a collaborative, citizen science research and education project developed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) together with Murdoch and Edith Cowan universities in 2009 to help learn more about the bottlenose dolphins residing in Perth (Swan Canning Riverpark) and Mandurah (Peel-Harvey Estuary).

The next Dolphin Watch training event at the Mandurah Seniors and Community Centre is on Thursday 27 March from 6pm to 8pm.

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Eucalypt of the Year 2025: The Travel Edition



WA's Great Western Woodlands is home to an impressive 3,000 flowering plant species, 20 per cent of Australia's known flora, as well as a diverse range of wildlife dependent on its varied habitats. The area is well known for its diversity of eucalypts with some 160 species recorded. Image credit: Keren Gila Raiter/Wikimedia

Eucalypt of the Year celebrates the beauty and importance of Australia's iconic eucalypts. This annual event highlights the incredible diversity of these trees and their significance to our landscapes and heritage.

As part of National Eucalypt Day on March 23, Eucalyptus Australia are shaking things up and asking you to vote for your favourite holiday among the gum trees!

[Read more](#)

Ancient Lands, Dark Skies, Aboriginal Cultural Tourism and Geoparks in Western Australia



Black Point, D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Image credit: Wendy Eiby / FACET

"Ancient Lands, Dark Skies, Aboriginal Cultural Tourism and Geoparks in Western Australia is the theme of a half day forum hosted by FACET (Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco-Tourism) on 26th March 2025.

This event will explore the latest developments and opportunities provided by WA's ancient lands, night skies, Aboriginal cultural tourism and geoparks.

Keynote Speaker, Helen Jansen – Board Member and Immediate Past Chair of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust in New Zealand – will provide her insights on the “why and how” of creating a global geopark through her experience with the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark.

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