

## Library

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**From:** WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 June 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** Library  
**Subject:** May Newsletter - Parks' community contribution quantified, Paralysis syndrome claim magpie lives and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



May 2025



Kings Park, with its vast array of WA's native plant species, is one of the world's largest and most beautiful inner city parks, Managed by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, it is rich in Aboriginal and European history and has an international reputation for scientific research, leading horticulture, conservation and public education.

# Parks' community contribution quantified

The enormous value of Kings Park, Bold Park and the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) to the Western Australian community has been revealed in a report by Deloitte Access Economics.

The contribution of both parks has been calculated to be \$1.7 billion over 30 years.

The report was commissioned by BGPA, which oversees the operation of the A-Class reserves - Kings Park and Bold Park. The analysis explores the economic and social contribution of both parks to the WA economy.

Confirming Kings Park's status as one of the most popular tourist attractions in Western Australia, the report found that 1 in 2 international visitors, and 1 in 5 interstate visitors, visited Kings Park in 2023. These visitors generated over \$27 million in economic activity for the WA economy over 12 months.

[Read more](#)

## Paralysis syndrome continues to claim many magpie lives - searching for the cause





Magpies in treatment. Image credit: Murdoch University

Rescue centres in WA such as Kanyana Wildlife have reported an increase of more than five times the rate of admissions of magpies with this distressing and frequently fatal neurological disorder in recent months.

Impacted birds show symptoms such as weakness, inability to stand or coordinate movements – and in more advanced cases, an inability to lift their heads or breathe.

[Read more](#)

## Experiencing the Great Kimberley Wilderness



The King George Falls are in the North Kimberley Marine Park. Image credit: Australia's North West

Following its hugely successful world premiere season at WA Museum Boola Bardip in Perth, and regional Western Australia earlier this year, The Great

Kimberley Wilderness is now showing at the WA Maritime Museum in Fremantle.

Narrated by Luke Hemsworth and produced by award-winning Australian production company White Spark Pictures, The Great Kimberley Wilderness is a 35-minute immersive virtual reality experience.

[Read more](#)

## Your support for the Foundation appreciated



Spring into Parks 2024 Feature Event, Poolgarla Family Day. Image credit: Kings Park and Botanic Garden

Thank you to those who were able to support us this financial year.

The end of the financial year is fast approaching, and we take this opportunity to thank all who have donated to our End of Financial Year appeal. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, and the support of the community and corporate sectors is vitally important in enabling us to deliver our programs and projects.



These are designed to conserve, promote and add value to Western Australia's spectacular and biodiverse network of terrestrial and marine parks encompassing more than thirty-four million hectares, including three natural World Heritage areas.

[Read more](#)

## Native bees struggle against invasive honey bee



Bee Hotel. Image credit: Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Kit Prendergast/Curtin University

New Curtin University research has revealed that high densities of European honey bees could be harming the ‘fitness’ of Australian native bees by reducing their reproductive success and altering key traits linked to survival.

The study, led by Adjunct Research Fellow Dr Kit Prendergast from Curtin’s School of Molecular and Life Sciences, found that honey bees not only dominate pollen resources but may also affect the fitness of native cavity-nesting bees – with concerning consequences for biodiversity.

[Read more](#)

## Perth to host 2026 World Trails Conference



The 130km Cape to Cape Track traverses the length of Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park and overlooks the adjoining Ngari Capes Marine Park, alternating spectacular sweeping cliff-top views with stretches of pristine beach. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions / Bronwyn Wells

The World Trails Conference is coming to Perth in October 2026, the first time the event has been held in the Southern Hemisphere.



The conference is a global gathering of trail experts, trail destinations and academics, who meet every two years to ensure the benefits trails offer society continue to be sustainable and supported around the world.

[Read more](#)

## The Dunnart



The sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*) is the second largest of the 19 species of *Sminthopsis*. It is listed as Endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) (EPBC Act). Image credit: Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions/Joanna Riley

Fat-tailed, slender-tailed, hairy footed, lesser hairy footed, that's just four in a long list of names for various dunnarts. The dunnart name itself comes from a Noongar word, *donat*, that sounds awfully like doughnut. Unfortunately.

There are more than 19 species of dunnart. They are found all over Australia, from Cape York to Tasmania, from the east coast to the south-west. And in New Guinea.

[Read more](#)

## World Environment Day



Marine ecosystems worldwide are affected by human-made refuse and much of it is plastic, coming from both land and sea-based sources. Image credit: Pinterest

Plastic pollution permeates every corner of the planet. Approximately 11 million tonnes of plastic enters the ocean every year. That's the equivalent of us dumping 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic into the world's oceans, rivers, and lakes every single day (UN Environment Programme 2025).

World Environment Day 2025 calls for collective action to tackle plastic pollution.

[Read more](#)



# Ningaloo Sky Festival



Vlamingh Head Light House. Image credit: Ningaloo Sky Festival

27 to 29 June Exmouth Coral Coast

The Ningaloo Sky Festival is a new biennial event held in Exmouth.

Organised by the Shire of Exmouth, this festival showcases the magic of the Ningaloo Coast and includes live music, a dazzling drone show, bustling food stalls, degustation dinners and insightful astronomy talks that unlock the secrets of the universe.

More about the festival [here](#).

[Read more](#)

# Grants now open to restore Perth's northern waterways



Friends of Bennett Brook planting along the brook under a Round 5 project. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Community volunteer groups committed to improving the health of Perth's northern waterways can apply for a share of \$120,000 in grants in the latest round of the Community Rivercare Program, a WA Government initiative.

Grants of up to \$15,000 are open to community groups to help improve the waterways in the Swan Canning Catchment's North Subregion. This includes parts of the cities of Bayswater, Fremantle, Nedlands, Perth, Subiaco, Swan and Vincent, the towns of Cambridge, Claremont and Mosman Park, Stirling, Wanneroo, and the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

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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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