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From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 3 July 2025 3:13 PM
To: Library
Subject: June Newsletter - Discover Yalgorup, New species of marsupial and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



June 2025



Thrombolite Reef Lake Clifton, Yalgorup National Park. Image credit: Tourism WA

Discover Yalgorup and its ancient wonders via Smartreka

Yalgorup National Park, home to the largest thrombolite reef in the southern hemisphere, has been added to the WA Parks Foundation's Smartreka mapping series.

The rounded rock-like structures at the park's Lake Clifton are living fossils. Around 2000 years old, they have been formed by ancient microorganisms that

scientists believe are among Earth's first life forms, dating back 570 million years.

Located 105km from Perth, and directly south of Mandurah, the Yalgorup National Park is on the western edge of the Swan Coastal Plain and contains a chain of about ten lakes. The area is part of the Peel-Yalgorup wetland system, which is classified as a Ramsar Wetland Site and was added to the List of Ramsar wetlands of international importance in 1990.

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New species of marsupial discovered



The utterly cute long-eared kultarr (*Antechinomys auritus*), one of the two new species identified, is found across much of outback Western Australia. Image credit: The University of Western Australia

Taxonomic research from The University of Western Australia has discovered two new species of kultarr, a small carnivorous marsupial found in the arid interior of Australia.

PhD student Cameron Dodd, from UWA's School of Biological Sciences, led the study in collaboration with UWA's Dr Renee Catullo, Dr Kenny Travouillon, from the Western Australian Museum, Dr Andrew Baker and Dr Linette Umbrello, from Queensland University of Technology, and Dr Mike Westerman, from La Trobe University, which was published in *Ecology and Evolution*.

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Playground at Karlkurla is a winner



Karlkurla Nature Playground is tailored towards primary school children, with a zip-line, large climbing structure and a variety of play-based and sensory equipment. Families can also enjoy barbecue areas, large, grassed areas for picnics and shaded spaces. Image credit: Kalgoorlie-Boulder Urban Landcare Group

The nature playground at Kalgoorlie's beautiful Karlkurla Bushland Park has been recognised as a national leader in play safe design.

The playground, opened in 2024, is the winner of the Public Playspaces \$500K to \$1M category in Kidsafe Australia's National Playspace Design Awards. It was recognised for excellence in community engagement, whilst incorporating innovative approaches to embracing risky and challenging play and integrating the use of sustainable resources.

"The idea of building the nature playground was to get kids off their devices and into nature and attract them to Karlkurla Bushland Park," said the Group's CEO Kim Eckert OAM.

Kim Eckert makes a strong contribution to the WA Parks Foundation as a WA Parks Ambassador.

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Maidens Reserve project wins high praise



Maidens Reserve lookout provides panoramic views of Kalgulup Regional Park, the ocean and Bunbury. Image credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Top honour in the 2025 WA Landscape Architecture Awards went to the design of a coastal reserve project in Bunbury.

The WA Medal was awarded to Maidens Reserve, a coastal nature reserve featuring lookouts, hiking and walking trails, and picnic and play spaces.

The project was designed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions in collaboration with the City of Bunbury and the City of Bunbury Co-Design Access Panel, in consultation with traditional owners from the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation.

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Spider research commemorative event planned for WA Wheatbelt town



Trapdoor spiders are reclusive ambush predators. Image credit: Western Australian Museum

Fifty years of trapdoor spider research initiated in 1974 by the late Professor Barbara York Main OAM will be commemorated in a weekend long program at Tammin (5-7 September).

The event will honour Barbara's legacy as a pioneering zoologist, nature writer, and advocate for remnant bushland, and particularly her deep connection to the Wheatbelt and her decades-long study of *Gaius villosus* at North Bungulla Nature Reserve,

Organised under Edith Cowan University's Matriarchs of the Wheatbelt banner, it will also mark a transition into the next 50 years of ecological stewardship, intergenerational knowledge-sharing, and Caring for Country.

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Fostering and celebrating excellence in tour guides



The City of Perth's iCity Free Guided Walking Tours. Image credit: City of Perth

Following the success of its 2022 and 2023 tour guiding conferences, the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism (FACET) is again presenting this inspiring event dedicated to celebrating, supporting and empowering Western Australia's tour guide community.

The Art of Tour Guiding Forum on 8 August 2025 is designed to share and discuss ways in which tour guides and tourism businesses can adapt and thrive in today's evolving tourism landscape.

Attendees can look forward to gaining valuable insights from award-winning tour guides and industry experts as they share practical strategies for building a sustainable, standout tourism business and becoming a leading tour guide.

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Native forests protected



Southwest Karri forest

The WA Government has delivered its commitment to protect the State's native forests, with the *Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2025* passing through Parliament.

The Bill gives legal effect to the government's 2021 decision to end large-scale commercial timber harvesting in native forests.

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