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From: WA Parks Foundation <info@ourwaparks.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 11:16 AM
To: Library
Subject: August Newsletter - Malleefowl monitoring, Adaptability of a native grasstree and much more!

WA Parks Foundation | Connecting people to parks



August 2025



Malleefowl were once common and widespread throughout southern Australia but impacted by habitat clearing and predators such as the fox, their numbers have declined significantly. Image credit: WA Malleefowl Recovery Group

Malleefowl monitoring – an opportunity to be involved

It's that time of the year again, says the WA Malleefowl Recovery Group. Volunteering days to monitor known nesting mounds of these extraordinary birds are planned for the Merredin and Dalwallinu areas of the Wheatbelt in October, followed by a weekend camping event in the Ongerup area in November.

The Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) is one of only three large mound building birds found in Australia, and its mallee woodland habitat has been largely cleared decades ago for farming.

Listed as vulnerable, it is a priority species in the Threatened Species Action Plan 2022–2032 which maps a pathway to protect, manage and restore Australia’s threatened species and important natural places. This builds on the Action Plan 2021-2026 developed with input from experts, the community, natural resource managers, scientists, conservation groups, and First Nations peoples.

[Read more](#)

Adaptability of a native grasstree – study delivers new insights



Eroded bank of Sabina River near Busselton that revealed the root systems of Kingias growing on the bank.
Image credit: Byron Lamont

A surprising discovery on the banks of the Sabina River near Busselton has revealed the iconic *Kingia australis* hides a remarkable root system never before documented by science.

The Curtin University-led research found dense clusters of ultra-fine roots buried deep in the soil, boosting the plant's surface area for nutrient uptake by up to 70 times – a likely key to its survival in the nutrient-poor soils of WA's South West.

Lead author Emeritus Professor Byron Lamont, from Curtin University's School of Molecular and Life Sciences, said the structures were discovered by chance after winter rains eroded part of the riverbank and exposed them.

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Smartreka maps extend their reach



Karijini National Park is the most downloaded Smartreka map in the series. Image credit: Tourism WA

The WA Parks Foundation's Smartreka mapping series continues to expand and a decision to bundle maps where more than one map has been produced for a national park has been well received.

The Smartreka mapping initiative, developed in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, includes maps for 23 national parks and reserves.

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Celebrate Spring in WA's Great Southern



The annual Bloom Festival encompasses 70+ events and activities across eight shires and 26 communities. Image credit: Annie Leitch/ Fitzgerald Biosphere

The Great Southern Treasures' signature annual event, the Bloom Festival (27 September – 26 October) extends from Kojonup, out to Pingrup, down to Bremer Bay on the coast, across to the Porongurup and Frankland River,

taking in destinations such as Katanning, the Stirling Range and Fitzgerald River National Parks and everything in between.

Highlighting the character, creativity and beauty of rural WA through a wide range of experiences, the festival is an opportunity for communities to work together and celebrate 'everything that blooms' in the region during Spring.

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Creating an urban forest in Bayswater



Planting day at Riverside Gardens. Images credit: City of Bayswater

More than 2,000 trees have been planted at Riverside Gardens in Bayswater as the first stage of a \$2 million urban forest project nears completion.

Supported by \$1.83 million funding from the WA Government and a further \$200,000 from the Federal Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program, the project aims to increase the area's tree canopy and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The City of Bayswater is managing the project in partnership with Emerge Associates and Greening Australia, and there has been significant input from the local community.

[Read more](#)

Partnering to develop outstanding tourism experiences



Within a forest setting, Pair'd festival's Nature's Table in the Margaret River region is an enchanting dining experience. Image credit: Tourism Western Australia

Tourism WA administers the National Park Tourism Experiences Development Program which aims to create diverse, high quality, environmentally conscious and culturally sensitive tourism experiences in and around national parks and protected areas.

The program aims to:

- facilitate new tourism experiences that activate national parks visitation
- create density and diversity of tourism products throughout the state by engaging and building capacity within the tourism industry
- assist with business case development, progression of approval, and community consultation
- assist private sector operators through the various stages of planning and development of new tourism experiences and assets activating national parks; and
- enhance tourism experience development activities by providing development workshops, tools and one-on-one coaching for tourism operators.

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