

Thrombolites, stromatolites, star gazing, Bibblumun documentary, Rottneest hiking trails and more...

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Swimming with whale sharks is a bucket list activity. The Ningaloo Coast, a World Heritage Area is home to a migrating population of the world's biggest fish. They come to Ningaloo Reef to feed on coral spawn between the months of April and September. Licenced tour operators provide both an experience of a lifetime for visitors and valuable scientific information to Parks and Wildlife from data they collect with each encounter. (Photo: Live Ningaloo)

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Welcome to the WA Parks Foundation News, where you can find updates from the WA Parks Foundation as we celebrate Our WA Parks and work to increase community appreciation and involvement in the stewardship of our incredible national parks and conservation estate.

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## Bibbulmun Track Documentary Premiere



The premiere of a documentary on the Bibbulmun Track is screening in Perth for one night only. Come along on the journey to experience the beauty of the Bibbulmun Track with the people who love it, walk it and care for it. Part proceeds from this event go to the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to help rebuild the Helena Campsite, lost in a recent bush fire. The screening is on **11 March 2018, 3pm – 5pm** at the State Library of Western Australia, 25 Francis St, Perth, WA, 6000

Ticket information is [here](#).

View the video trailer [here](#).

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## Rottnest Island Wadjemup Bidi Walk Trails



Wadjemup Bidi is a series of walk trails on Rottnest Island that provide visitors an opportunity to traverse the Island's unique landscapes and experience spectacular coastal headlands, stunning inland lakes and natural and man-made attractions along the way.

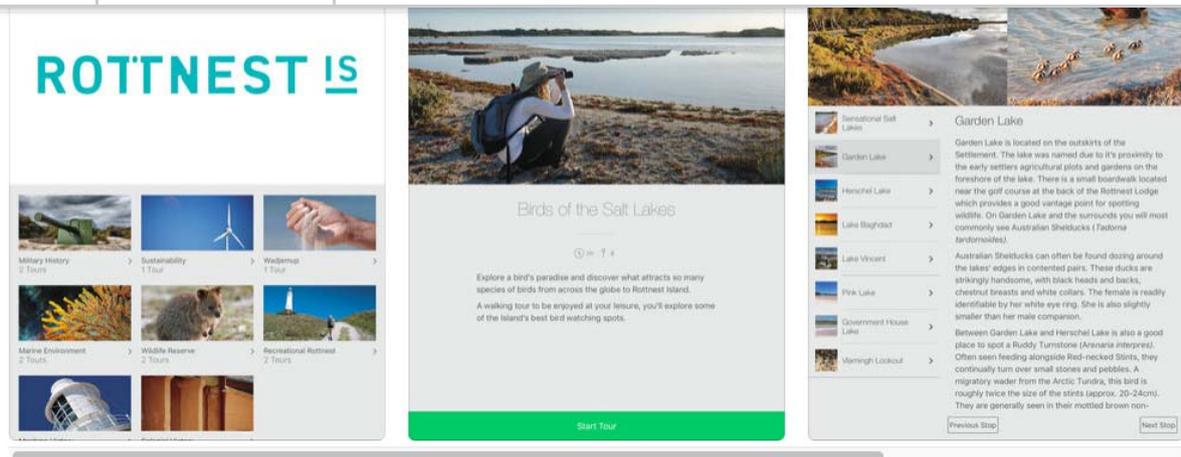
Recently the Governor spent an afternoon walking some of the trails and reflected, "I love Rottnest and the walks take you to different places, all with fantastic views of Rottnest's coastline and lakes. The walks are a great way to learn more about the Island's precious environment and its history, to enjoy Rottnest's unique charm and to keep fit."

When asked about the establishment of the trails, Rottnest Island Authority chief executive Michelle Reynolds said, "Our walk trails showcase the diversity of Rottnest Island (Wadjemup). Whether it be walking along our northern beaches or visiting the colonial history on the Bickley Walk Trail there is so much of the Island to explore."

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## Rottnest Island Interactive Maps Apps



Interactive Maps are a sustainable solution to traditional paper printed maps. Use the App on your mobile device to locate Rottnest Island accommodation, places of interest, moorings, boat pens, snorkelling spots and more. You can even print your own maps or share with friends on social media. Download them [today](#).

## WA's World Heritage Sites

UNESCO's globally recognised list of World Heritage sites contain places of special cultural or physical significance. Four World Heritage sites are located in Western Australia; three of them include WA parks:

### 1. Shark Bay



westernmost point of Australia is a truly unique place. Perhaps most famous for the friendly dolphins of Monkey Mia, Shark Bay is home to a wealth of other sea creatures such as turtles, manta rays and whales. It also boasts a large dugong population, the largest and richest sea-grass beds in the world, and unique stromatolites (colonies of algae which form hard, dome-shaped structures and are known to be among the oldest forms of life on earth).

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## Meet Park Ambassador Fred Chaney

Hon Fred Chaney AO was a member of Federal Senate for 16 years and was the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs from 1978 to 1980. As founding co-chair of Reconciliation Australia and an early advocate for Aboriginal voting rights in 1961 and for the 1967 referendum, he helped establish the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia in his national role as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. He is the former Deputy President of the Australian Native Title Tribunal, Chair of Desert



Knowledge Australia and was instrumental in establishing the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation. He was Senior Australian of the Year in 2014 and is widely respected for the major contribution he has made to Aboriginal rights and reconciliation prior to, during and after his parliamentary career.

### Why do I love WA Parks

“Parks should be enjoyed by all of us. They are wonderful spaces that are good for our health, our relationships and our wellbeing. Successful management of our Parks involves a cooperative approach between Indigenous people and government with the not-for-profit and private sectors.”

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## Feature National Park: Yalgorup National Park



*(The thrombolites in Yalgorup National Park. Photo: Parks & Wildlife)*

Yalgorup National Park is best known for the microscopic fresh water communities that reside in Lake Clifton and form thrombolites, which can be viewed from a boardwalk. This is one of few places in WA where these communities survive. It was announced this year that this iconic and internationally recognised RAMSAR wetland will be expanded to include an additional 1,001 hectares of land.

The expansion of Yalgorup National Park is significant. The park protects a wetland system that has achieved international recognition as an important area for migratory water birds. It also supports several threatened plant and animal species. Lake Clifton and Lake Preston are home to a large variety of bird-life. There are nature walks at Lake Preston and Martins Tank Lake Campground (which incorporates the Lake Pollard Bird Hide). Both walks can be strolled at a leisurely pace before indulging in a well-earned barbecue or picnic.

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## **Feature Urban Park: Yellagonga Regional Park**



Yellagonga Regional Park incorporates wetlands, manicured parklands and mature woodland areas in a naturally, culturally, and recreationally significant setting. Yellagonga's chain of wetlands includes Lake Joondalup, Beenyup Swamp, Walluburnup Swamp and Lake Goollelal.

Yellagonga provides an ideal environment for a range of leisure and physical activity pursuits and a variety of facilities to cater for outdoor recreation including barbeques, picnic tables, viewing platforms and seating. It is very popular with walkers and cyclists, and provides an ample venue for many local community events. The Park offers a network of shared paths (for walking and cycling) and dedicated walking paths.

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## What to do in Parks – Stargazing



*(Milky Way over Cape Range National Park. Photo: Sal Salis Ningaloo Reef)*

Sit back, relax and look up. While some visitors briefly marvel at the overhead celestial show, increasing numbers choose their destination with stargazing in mind. Dark sky tourism is a small but growing trend. And when it comes to the best stargazing places, WA is blessed. We have some of the most pristine night skies in the world to view million of stars. When you are off the beaten track, in many of WA's remote National Parks, you will experience a big sky from horizon to horizon. On a moonless night you can clearly see the Milky Way Galaxy stretch across the sky; an awe-inspiring view so close you feel like you could touch it. All you need is a comfortable chair to sit back in, or a beach rug. Better yet, grab a swag and let the night sky blanket you.

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**Video: Little Penguins on Penguin Island.**



The little penguin occurs along the southern coast of Australia from Fremantle to northern New South Wales. Originally, little penguins were fairly common on the Australian mainland, but these days due to feral animals, their colonies are generally restricted to offshore islands. Penguin Island, which is surrounded by Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, is one of the most northern places this species is found. Penguin Island also has the largest known breeding colony in WA, with an estimated 1200 little penguins and 500 to 700 breeding pairs.

Enjoy this video of the Little Penguins.

Watch the video [here](#).

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## Tell us what you think!

We'd love to hear from you about what you think of *WA Parks Foundation News*, what you would like to see and if you have any questions about the WA Parks Foundation.

[Contact us at info@ourwaparks.org.au](mailto:info@ourwaparks.org.au)



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