

Forest adventures, Founding Partners, Snorkelling, Fitzgerald Biosphere and more...

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WA Parks Foundation

NEWS

Issue 22, March 2018



The red-winged fairy wren is endemic to the southwestern corner of Western Australia. Photo: Doug Coughran (In recognition and memory of WA Parks Foundation photo contributor Doug Coughran OA, who passed away recently. Doug, a highly respected wildlife officer with WA Parks and Wildlife received the Order of Australia for his development and delivery of national and international training for the disentanglement of large cetaceans. He loved wildlife and was a true conservationist.)

Welcome to the WA Parks Foundation News, where you can find updates from the

national parks and conservation estate.

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Founding Partners and Supporters Reception



(L-R: Professor Stephen Hopper AC, Jo Williams, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Greg Lilleyman, Nigel Hearne, Michael Abbott)

A reception to celebrate Western Australia's Parks and thank Founding Partners and Supporters of the WA Parks Foundation was held on 22 March at Government House.

prints from historic illustrations by Margaret Forrest, wife of Sir John Forrest, to each of the four founding partners: Wesfarmers; Chevron Australia; Fortescue Metals Group Ltd; and Woodside Energy.

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New Partnership Kicks off to Support WA's Natural Treasures



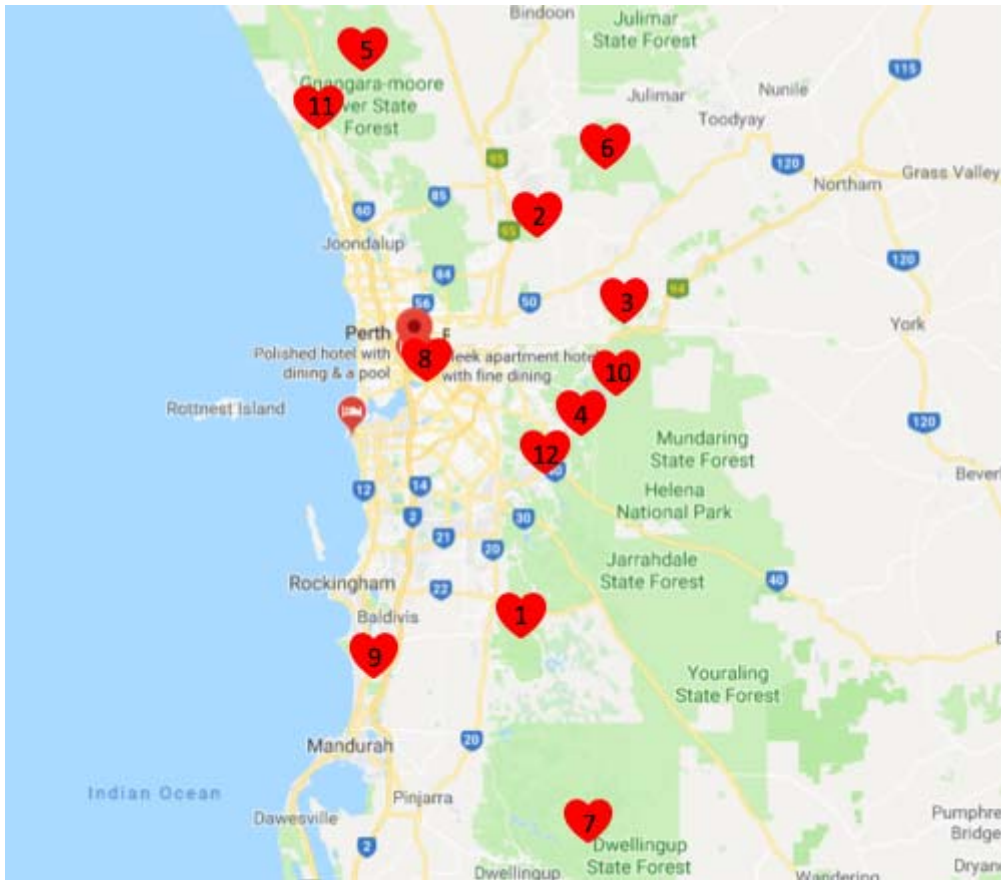
(Nigel Hearne, Managing Director, Chevron Australia accepts presentation from Her Excellency)

WA Parks Foundation, with the support of founding partner Chevron Australia, is aiming to inspire people from all backgrounds to connect with, celebrate, and support parks across Western Australia.

Chevron Australia's Managing Director Nigel Hearne said the work of the WA Parks Foundation matched the foundation and spirit of Chevron's values. "The responsible development of resources to protect and conserve our environment for future generations is key to how we operate at Chevron," Nigel said.

"Much work is already being done to protect WA's parks, and by working together we can make an even greater difference to strengthen social and cultural experiences for our community," he said.

11 Great Forest Adventures on Perth's Doorstep



(Map of Perth area activities)

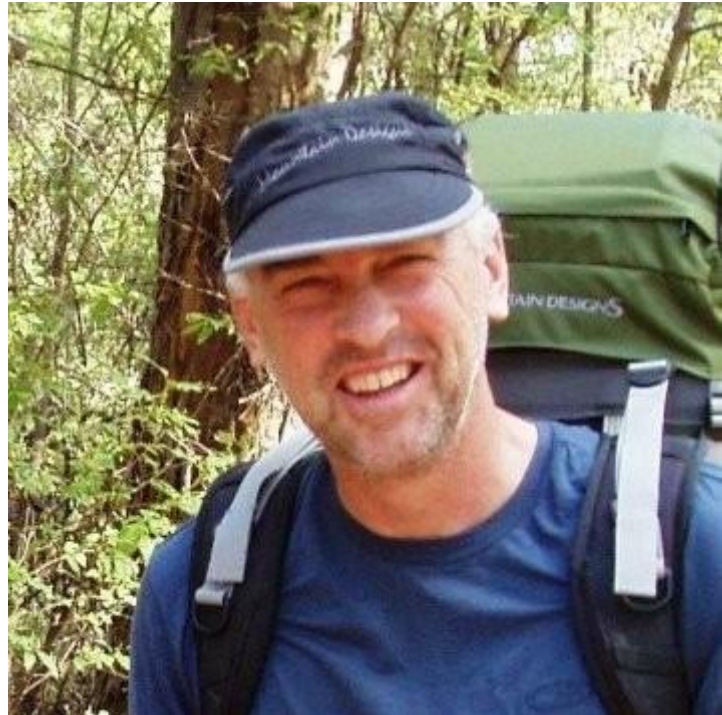
There is no better time to start enjoying our natural landscape. In celebration of the UN's International Day of Forests (21st day of March), we have put together a list of activities you might like to enjoy with your friends and family in some of Perth's closest and most amazing forests and parks.

1. Mountain Biking – [Munda Bididi Trail](#)

Meaning 'path through the forest', Munda Bididi Trail travels between Mundaring and Albany through 1,000km of unspoiled forest and bushland, showcasing a vast array of Western Australia's terrain. As this trail is predominately off-road you will be able to enjoy picturesque towering forests, ancient bushland, and unique flora and fauna along the way. This is a great way to discover the unique natural features, local heritage and Aboriginal culture of the states South West. With wineries and charming country towns along the way to explore, or camping shelters along the trail for the adventurous, there really is something for everyone. From an independent day trip between Mundaring and Jarrahdale, to a group cycling adventure all the way to Albany, you can [plan your mountain biking ride](#) to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable adventure.

Meet Park Ambassador Mike Wood

Mike Wood is the founding Chair of the Bibbulmun Track Foundation since 1996 and the Managing Director of Peregrine Travel Centre Perth. Mike completed an end-to-end walk of the Bibbulmun Track in 2008 and has trekked extensively overseas, travelling to every continent. Mike's outdoor skills include bushwalking, white water and sea kayaking, rock climbing and abseiling. Mike has led treks and expeditions for 36 years and feels it's



important to visit as many of the world's long distance trails as possible to bring back knowledge to WA to continue to develop the exciting opportunities on our own doorstep. Prior to joining Peregrine, Mike owned and operated the Mountain Designs adventure stores across the State.

Why do I love WA Parks

"I am a huge fan of national parks because I believe it is imperative that there are some wild places left on the planet where we can go to rejuvenate and immerse ourselves in the wilderness. And for sake of the eco-system that doesn't need humans to keep interfering in its workings."

Feature National Park: Fitzgerald River National Park



(Royal Hakea. Fitzgerald National Park. Photo: Mike Pelusey)

With the distinction of being one of only two Biosphere reserves in Western Australia and 14 in Australia, this biodiversity hotspot supports 1,748 identified plant species, which represents almost 20% of the State's described plant species. There are 75 species that are endemic to the park, a further 48 are seldom found anywhere else and 250 species are listed as rare. In 2016 [Fitzgerald River National Park](#) was included in the National Heritage List for its outstanding diversity of native plant species, including many plants, which are unique to the local area.

The Fitzgerald River National Park is located in WA's south near the seaside towns of Hopetoun to the east and Bremer Bay to the west. At 297,244 hectares in size, it is one of the largest parks in Australia.

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Park



(Herdsman Lake. Photo: Parks & Wildlife)

Herdsman Lake is an extremely important wetland on the Swan Coastal Plain, as it supports a wide diversity of wildlife species, serves as an important bird breeding ground and is a summer refuge for trans-equatorial migratory birds.

The natural features of the Herdsman Lake in association with the grassed areas of Maurice Hamer Park and Glendalough Open Space attract many people to the Park. A range of recreation opportunities is provided for Park visitors. The Herdsman Lake Wildlife Centre is also a popular attraction in the Park for environmental education.

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What to do in Parks – Snorkel



(Marmion Marine Park. Photo: Tourism WA)

Measuring an amazing 10,194 kilometres, Western Australia has the longest coastline of any state or territory in Australia. It is little wonder that WA also has some of the best snorkelling spots in the country. WA Marine Parks are great places to snorkel and there are even underwater [snorkel trails](#). Being spoiled for choice, here are some of the best spots for snorkelling:

[Mackerel Islands](#)

The Mackerel Islands are 22km off the coast near Onslow in the Pilbara Region. Thevenard Island in the Mackerel Islands group is surrounded by reef teeming with coral formations and colorful reef fish. Direction Island is also a great spot to slip on a mask and explore the colorful underwater world.

[Abrolhos Islands](#)

The 122 islands making up the Houtman Abrolhos Island group can be reached by boat or a scenic flight from Geraldton. More than 180 species of coral have been identified in the Abrolhos and you can take a day-long snorkelling tour to explore diverse coral gardens fringing the islands. The waters here are classed as a fish habitat protection area.

[Jurien Bay Marine Park](#)

The Jurien Bay Marine Park extends from Greenhead to south of Nambung National Park. Snorkel sites along the limestone reef that runs parallel to the shoreline offer diverse marine life, including sea lions, dolphins and colorful coral.

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(Snorkelling at Mettams Pool, Triggs Beach. Photo: True Local)

Watch this video to journey under the water's surface to discover what lives just metres from the shore of one of Perth's most popular beaches – Triggs Beach. [Mettams Pool](#) is a good family spot in which you can see a range of marine plant and animal species close to shore. This naturally formed lagoon is less than two metres deep inside. There is also access for the disabled.

Enjoy this [video](#)

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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