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Half price Park Passes, Autumn Colours, Great Scuba Dive Spots,
World Environment Day and more...

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Rowley Shoals Marine Park (300 kilometres west of Broome) is made up of three coral atolls, with untouched coral gardens, amazing marine life and clear lagoons. Some of the world's most spectacular diving and snorkelling sites can be found in the Rowley Shoals Marine Park. (Photo: Australia's Northwest.com)

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.

- [World Environment Day 5 June 2018 – How you can get involved](#)
- [50% off Park Passes for members of the WA Parks Foundation](#)
- [Autumn Colours – Explore Golden Valley Tree park](#)
- [Seeking more energy, less stress? It's a walk in the park](#)
- [Meet Park Ambassador - Prof Ross Dowling OAM](#)
- [Feature National Park: Torndirrup National Park](#)
- [Feature Urban Park: Baigup Wetlands](#)
- [What to do in Parks – Scuba Diving](#)
- [Video: Mermaid Reef, Rowley Shoals: vertical wall](#)
- [Tell us what you think!](#)

World Environment Day 5 June 2018 – How you can get involved



[World Environment Day](#) is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. Since it began in 1974 it has been a platform for action and is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

World Environment Day calls on all of us to get involved. It is the "people's day" for doing something to care for the Earth. That "something" can be focused locally, nationally or globally; it can be a solo action or involve a crowd.

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Parks Foundation



When exploring Western Australia's stunning parks and reserves an annual Park Pass offers both value for money and convenience, with unlimited entry into all WA fee-paying National Parks for a year.

Through the WA Parks Foundation's partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions our Foundation members will receive a 50% discount on the annual Park Pass.

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Autumn Colours – Explore Golden Valley Tree park



(Golden Valley Tree Park, Balingup. Photo: Margaret River Discovery Co.)

Two kilometres south of Balingup, WA, on the South Western Highway, you can discover [Golden Valley Tree Park](#), a unique collection of beautiful and interesting trees from all over the world, grown in a landscaped setting. The aim of the park is to create an inspirational place for all to enjoy the beauty of nature and celebrate trees.

transition to dormancy. This change involves a stunning procession of colours - oranges, yellows, reds, burgundies, golds and russets. Many ask when to expect the best autumn display. Well this depends on the year. Generally, the prettiest moment is late April to early May. However, the autumn colour is a slow procession that starts in late March and continues through to June. As the grasses green up with rain, the colour contrast intensifies.

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Seeking more energy, less stress? It's a walk in the park



(Walking in Parks. Photo: Now We Move Blog)

A recent Sydney Morning Herald article by Greg Callaghan highlighted nature's positive health benefits. Callaghan wrote:

“You don't have to be a tree-hugging greenie to understand the importance of forests for life on Earth: as giant vacuum cleaners for sucking up carbon dioxide, as store houses for myriad ecosystems. But increasing evidence points to them having a more subtle effect as barometers of our mental well-being. With humans becoming more divorced from nature than ever, particularly with our addiction to screen technologies, there may be a long-term cost to our mental health.”

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Meet Park Ambassador - Prof Ross Dowling OAM

Professor Dowling is Foundation Professor of Tourism in the School of Business & Law at Edith Cowan University. He has a strong interest in conservation, parks and tourism and is a member of the WA Conservation & Parks Commission. He is also a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and an advisor to UNESCO Global Geoparks. In New Zealand he was a foundation staff member of the



Ministry for the Environment and he has been awarded an NZ Conservation Council Citation for his contributions to conservation education.

Why do I love WA Parks?

Western Australia is blessed by its outstanding natural diversity. However, with such an enormous range of plants, animals and landforms encompassed by the parks in our huge state, it is paramount that collectively we work together to conserve these special places for the wellbeing of the environment and the enjoyment of people. Thus I am proud to be an Ambassador of the WA Parks Foundation working towards their conservation whilst providing an even greater connection between parks and people.

Feature National Park: Torndirrup National Park



(The Gap Lookout. Photo: Parks & Wildlife)

[Torndirrup National Park](#) is definitely one of the most impressive and diverse National Parks along the Great Southern Ocean. From towering granite cliffs to white sandy beaches, amazing views and wonderful walks, Torndirrup National Park is a 'Must See' while visiting the Albany area in Western Australia.

Torndirrup National Park is home to the famous '[Natural Bridge](#)' and '[The Gap](#)' rock formations as well as '[The Blowholes](#)', which have formed over thousands of years.

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Feature Urban Park: Baigup Wetlands



(Baigup Wetlands trail. Photo: Parks and Wildlife)

The [Baigup Wetlands](#) lie along the Swan River in the Maylands and Bayswater area. The reserve covers 16.4 ha in total, as it extends for one kilometre downstream. It features near pristine sedge plains along the river where endemic Saltmarsh Rush (*Juncus kraussii*) dominates with an over-story in some sections of remnant Freshwater Paperbarks (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*).

Extensive wetlands, including freshwater swamps, tidal marshlands, acid/saline scalds and two constructed lakes, as well as the river, attract a variety of birds all year round.

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What to do in Parks – Scuba Diving



(Scuba Diving at Rowley Shoals. Photo: AroundYou. com .au)

Western Australia is a scuba diver's paradise and is quickly becoming a top diving destination. Diving allows you to explore a diverse and lively marine world on pristine reefs and interesting shipwrecks. WA is renowned for the megafauna its waters host, including whale sharks, humpback whales, manta rays and several species of sea turtles. Maori wrasses, potato cod and giant clams are other frequent residents of dive sites. And of course, the hard and soft corals teem with abundant colourful reef fish. Occasionally schools of trevally, mackerel, tuna, large bait balls and even the occasional solo marlin are seen on dives.

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Video: Mermaid Reef, Rowley Shoals: vertical wall

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This brief video takes you underwater at Rowley Shoals Mermaid Reef's vertical wall. This video is part of an interactive documentary project called [Beneath the Waves](#), which highlights the incredible variety and abundance of marine life of the Kimberley Region of WA (produced by Periscope Pictures and the WA Museum).

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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