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Sharing Aboriginal culture and heritage, New Board member welcomed, Counting cockies...it's on again, Spoilt for choice in Autumn and more...

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Issue 33, March 2019



Picture: Esperance, Western Australia via [Salty Travellers](#).

involvement in the stewardship of our incredible national parks and conservation estate.

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Picture: Russell Ord, Cape Cultural Tours

The suite of opportunities for guided tours in Western Australia to learn about Aboriginal culture continues to expand.

The most recent businesses to join the Discover Aboriginal Experiences program are Cape Cultural Tours in the Margaret River region and Narlijia Experiences operating from Broome in the Kimberley.

[Read more...](#)

[New Board member welcomed](#)



Picture: Marissa Verma at the 2017 Perth NAIDOC Awards

The WA Parks Foundation Board's newest member, Marissa Verma brings a wealth of experience to this role, particularly in the area of community engagement and delivery of cultural education programs.

Her career pathway reflects an enduring passion to share her knowledge of the rich culture of the Whadjuk Noongar people – history, values and traditions.

[Counting cockies...it's on again!](#)



Picture: Keith Lightbody

The Great Cockey Count, now in its 10th year, is a long-term citizen science survey of black cockatoos in Western Australia.

On Sunday April 7, 2019 at sunset, volunteers will monitor known roost sites and count black-cockatoos as they come in to their evening roosts. Records submitted will provide a snapshot of black-cockatoo populations. Over time, this surveying has helped to quantify the changes in black-cockatoo numbers.

[Read more...](#)

[Spoilt for choice in Autumn](#)



Picture: Elephant Rock William Bay by B Anderson (DBCA)

Western Australia's south coast, with an abundance of national parks and reserves, has been described as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Its natural wonders of dramatic coastline, pristine beaches, sheltered waterways, ancient forests and trails are a huge drawcard for tourists from throughout the State and further afield.

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Contributor: David de Vos, Park Ambassador



Picture: Gary Muir

If you're heading into the south-west, go all the way to the coast, to Walpole, where I promise there's a gem to be found!

Gary Muir is in his mid-fifties and fit as a mallee bull. His head's shaved, his feet are bare and he's in shorts. Perhaps he's not quite what you're expecting because Gary is your captain and tour guide on board the Lady Walpole discovering the Walpole Inlet.

[Read More...](#)

[Cultural legacy of a wildflower love affair](#)



Margaret Forrest, wife of Western Australia's first Premier was of one Australia's early botanical artists. It's thought that her love of bushland and wildflowers may have had some influence on Sir John Forrest's decision to proclaim Western Australia's first national park.

[Read more...](#)

Picture: *Leptospermum spinescens* (Spiny Teatree) by Margaret Forrest via [Australian National Botanic Gardens](#)

[National recognition for walking tours business](#)



Picture: Ryan Mossny and Ryan Zaknich via Two Feet & a Heartbeat

Congratulations to WA Park Ambassador Ryan Mossny and other members of the walking tours team at Two Feet & a Heartbeat for their recent success in the 2018 Qantas Australian Tourism Awards announced earlier this month in Launceston.

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[Urban greenspace benefits kids' mental health](#)



Picture: Nature Play WA

The importance of nature to children's development has been confirmed in numerous studies across decades.

It has been further reinforced in a recent Danish study which found that residential green space in childhood is associated with lower risk of mental health problems from adolescence into adulthood.

[Read More ...](#)

[Get Involved!](#)

There are a number of ways you can support the WA Parks Foundation. Together, we can make a lasting difference for the future of our national parks.

[Become a member](#)

WA Parks Foundation members take pride in our natural areas, enjoy spending time in nature and understand how important our Parks are to biodiversity and communities.

[Make a donation](#)

Your donation will directly contribute to promoting the benefits of spending time in parks, to raise money for projects and programs that wouldn't otherwise be possible, to recruit volunteers and to facilitate collaboration.

You can share your park adventures and give us permission to repost your snaps by tagging [@OurWAParks](#) or [#OurWAParks](#). Let's be social!

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