



Issue 5 - Autumn 2020

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Ngari Capes Marine Park News*

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Above: *PV Leeuwin* at East Flinders Bay Sanctuary Zone, Augusta

Rescued rockhoppers begin the journey home



Video - Mark Jackman.

You can find more adorable video and pictures on Mark's Instagram

mark_jackman_edits

Three rockhopper penguins were recently released after spending a couple of months in care with FAWNA carer and WA Seabird Volunteer, Linda Moyle, in Margaret River.

Initially two of the three penguins were taken to the islands off Augusta for release, however only one of the penguins was ready to head off. As the male headed south, the female hopped back onto the Parks and Wildlife Service boat and refused to leave. After a few more weeks in care with the third penguin, she was ready and the pair were successfully released together off Hamelin Bay.



Above: This rockhopper wasn't too keen on getting back into the wild just yet, jumping back onto the Parks and Wildlife Service vessel after the team's first attempt to release her. *Photo - Fiona Graham/DBCA*

The penguins were found by members of the public at Redgate, Boranup and Cape Mentelle.

The penguins are believed to be one-year old northern crested rockhoppers (*Eudyptes moseleyi*).

Rockhopper penguins don't normally reside in Ngari Capes Marine Park and it's likely the animals only came ashore to moult. During the annual moulting process, the penguins lose all their feathers and are unable to swim as their feathers provide a waterproof coating. Penguins travel long distances following food sources and will sometimes come ashore thousands of kilometres from home to moult and then head off again.

Blood and feather samples were collected from the penguins by veterinarians at Margaret River Vet Hospital and provided to Dr Cannell at The University of Western Australia in Perth.

Since December 2016, marine park rangers have recorded seven rockhopper penguins in the marine park. The most recent three have been microchipped and this information has been shared with penguin researchers around the world.

Dr Cannell, one of the researchers, is also planning to analyse the feathers to determine 1) what the penguins were eating when they formed the feathers the previous year, and 2) the levels of corticosteroids, hormones related to stress, in the feathers.

If you come across a disorientated, sick or storm-blown seabird please contact the Parks and Wildlife WILDCARE Helpline on 9474 9055 or WA Seabird Rescue on 0418 952 683. If you save the numbers as contacts in your mobile phone, you could save a life. The WILDCARE Helpline is a seven-day-a-week telephone referral service. The helpline is operated by volunteers on behalf of the Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA, and based at the department's Kensington headquarters. The Helpline provides a service for the public who find sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife and are seeking advice on where to find care for the animal.



It is a timely reminder to dog owners that it is illegal to bring your dogs into national parks as dogs are a



threat

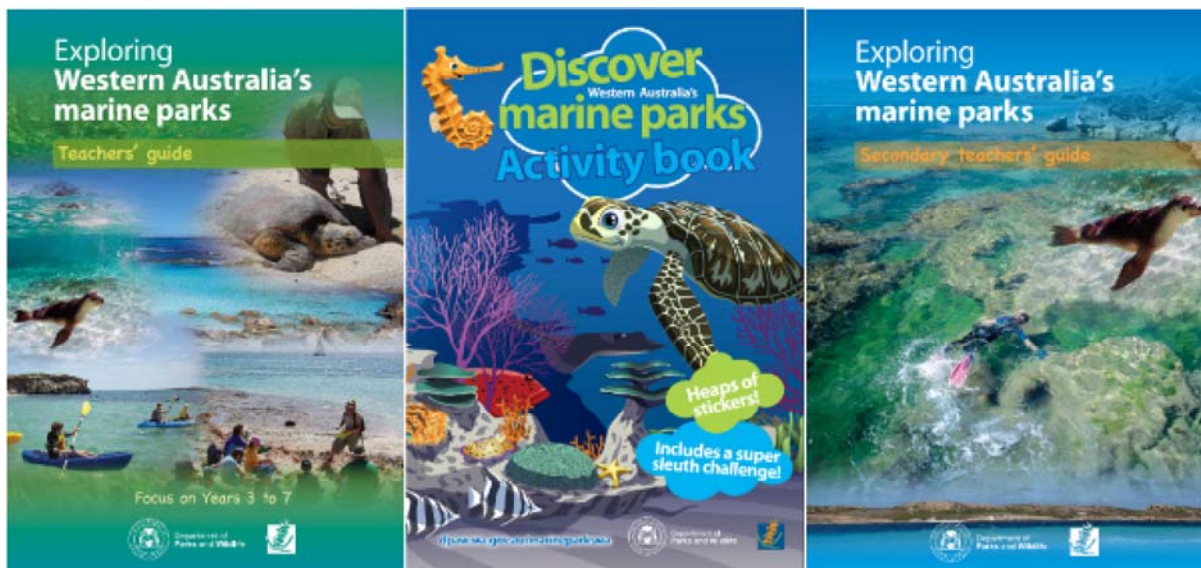
to such seabirds as

penguins and other wildlife that live in or visit our forests and marine reserves.

Acknowledgements

- Linda Moyle - 6R Wildlife Rescue, FAWNA carer and WA Seabird Volunteer
- Mark Jackman - Volunteer and video maker
- Selim Processors, Miles family, Dunsborough - local fisherman/seafood processors who donated food to feed the penguins
- Western Australian Seabird Rescue

Marine lesson plans and education resources



Are you wondering how to keep your kids busy? Or, are you a teacher that needs marine-themed lesson plans for your students? Never fear, DBCA marine parks activities are here.

Three resources for all ages are available on the [NCMP webpage](#) under the Downloads and Resources tab.

- [Discover marine parks activity – Activity book \(young kids\)](#)
- [Exploring Western Australia's marine parks – Teachers guide \(Years 3-7\)](#)
- [Exploring Western Australia's marine parks – Secondary teachers' guide \(Year 8-12\)](#)

These activity and lesson plans aim to promote Western Australia's unique marine parks and their importance.

Introducing Marine Ranger Ian Anderson...



or as we like to call him... Ando!

"I grew up on the northern beaches of Perth where my love of surfing and diving began and carries on today.

"After a long period of working as a commercial photographer in the advertising industry, I signed up for a degree in marine science at Murdoch University. This has allowed me to carry on a passion for the marine environment and work with like-minded people to carry marine conservation through to the future.

"I graduated from university and joined CALM as a graduate recruit and have spent the past 20 years working in various positions within the department around the State, from Shark Bay to Exmouth onto Lancelin and finally settling in the south-west with a young family.

"This has given me an understanding of marine conservation throughout the State and has allowed me to bring this knowledge to Ngari Capes Marine Park as a marine park ranger and pass this information on to future generations and preserve what we hold so dear to our hearts."

IUCN candidate Important Marine Mammal Areas for conservation

Australian waters are being recognised for their key habitats essential for the future survival of marine mammals. *The International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force recently identified 45 candidate Important Marine Mammal Areas (cIMMA) in the Australian, New Zealand and South East Indian Ocean region in a meeting that engaged 31 scientists mainly from Australia and New Zealand to participate in the process.*

Of the 45 candidate areas, 31 were in Australian waters, several of which were in Australia's south-west corner. They included:

- core coastal habitats between Bunbury and Perth occupied by Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphin communities
- breeding and foraging habitats used by New Zealand fur seals in the Capes region and beyond and by endangered Australian sea lions in the Perth metro region north to Jurien and the Abrolhos, and eastward of Flinders Bay
- calving and breeding grounds occupied seasonally by endangered southern right whales, and migratory corridors of vulnerable humpback and endangered blue whales including within Geographe and Flinders Bay and the surrounding region.

Identifying and protecting important areas such as these could safeguard the future conservation of such marine mammals. Protection of key marine mammal species also provides an umbrella for many other species through the protection of their habitats.

The candidate IMMAs will go through a stringent scientific process of being assessed by an independent international review panel for meeting the criteria.

These IMMAs are used to inform government to plan for the development of

future Marine Protected Areas, as well as for monitoring, marine spatial planning and other conservation measures. "After these IMMAs are finalised," said Task Force co-chair Erich Hoyt, "they will be put on the [IMMA e-Atlas](#), adding to 114 existing IMMAs from previous workshops in the South Pacific and Indian oceans and in the Mediterranean."



Above: The IUCN's Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force's February 2020 meeting participants for the Australia, New Zealand, and South East Indian Ocean region.

Author: Chandra P. Salgado Kent, Associate Professor at Edith Cowan University and Australia, New Zealand and South East Indian Ocean Regional Co-Coordinator for the IUCN Marine Mammal Protected Areas Task Force

Ngari's neighbours



Australian Government
Parks Australia



Extending offshore from the northern and western boundaries of Ngari Capes Marine Park into Commonwealth waters are two Australian Marine Parks managed by Parks Australia.

To the north, Geographe Marine Park sits within the sheltered waters of Geographe Bay. Its extensive seagrass meadows provide a home for numerous marine species including whiting, tailor, crabs, prawns and squid. These meadows also provide safe nursery habitat for many species including the dusky whaler shark and commercially important western rock lobster. Sand areas and discrete patches of rocky reef also support diverse marine communities. This marine park is relatively shallow, with water depths ranging from 15 to 70 metres, and offers great places to dive and drop a line. The park is also a popular rest stop for migrating humpback and blue whales.

To the west and south, South-west Corner Marine Park extends out to Australia's maritime border, 370 kilometres offshore. This enormous marine park protects diverse habitats, from shallow rocky reefs in coastal waters to the abyssal plain, approximately 6,400 metres below the ocean's surface. Exploring these depths is at the very limits of our technological capabilities, but areas like the Diamantina Fracture Zone that features seafloor ridges and trenches, are likely to sustain marine life as yet unknown to science. In shallower waters, more familiar seafloor features like the continental shelf influence ocean currents, creating nutrient hotspots that provide rich feeding grounds for sperm and pygmy blue whales, white sharks, pelagic seabirds and the Australian sea lion.

In the waters around the Capes, State and Commonwealth marine parks work

together, supporting a long-term conservation and sustainable use vision for the region's marine environment.

For more information, visit [Geographe Marine Park](#) or [South-west Corner Marine Park](#). You can also follow @ausmarineparks on your favourite social media platform to learn more about Australian Marine Parks.

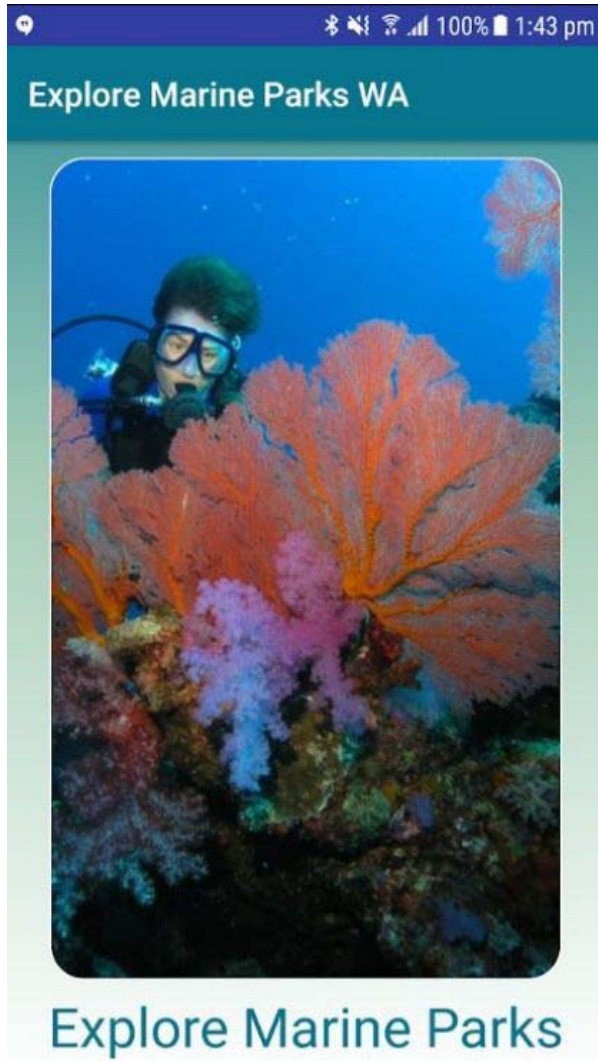
Storm hits south-west coast



In early May the south-west saw its first big storm of the season. Wind gusts recorded by the Bureau of Meteorology reaching 126kph at Cape Naturaliste

and 118kph at Busselton Jetty. Marine Rangers Dave and Fiona captured this photo of Canal Rocks while out on patrol checking on the coastal infrastructure.

Do you know about marine park sanctuary zones?



Before visiting any marine park, it's important to always 'know your zones' and find out what you can do in each zone. Since April 2020 the Ngari Capes Marine Park zones have been enforced.

These zones cater for a wide range of user groups from fishers, scuba divers and snorkellers to surfers and kayakers.

While allowing sustainable recreational and commercial activities, zoning also provides for conservation. By establishing sanctuary zones for undisturbed nature study and passive enjoyment of the natural environment.

The map below is a great guide, however if you require more information about the zones and

what activities are permitted, please download the Marine Parks WA App or call the Parks and Wildlife Service Busselton office on 9752 5555.

Get the app on iTunes

Get the app on Android



