

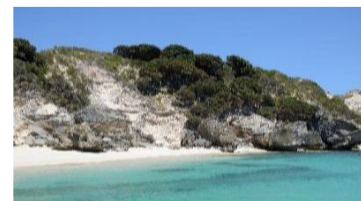


Issue 10 - Winter 2021

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

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Above: Torpedo Rocks, Yallingup

Introducing marine ranger Eden Baxter

Life for me began on a farm near the small Wheatbelt town of Cuballing, where I would spend countless hours outside exploring the paddocks and remnant bushlands. It was during the summer holidays however, that my passion for the marine environment began. These holidays were spent waterskiing, crabbing and fishing at Koombana Bay in Bunbury and Molloy Island in Augusta.

While attending high school in Perth I chose Marine Science as one of my subjects and I was fortunate enough to attend marine science trips to Queensland and Canada. These school trips gave me the amazing opportunity of diving on the Great Barrier Reef, bioluminescence diving and kayaking over the kelp forests in the San Juan Islands. These experiences led to me choosing a Bachelor of Marine Science and Environmental Science degree at Murdoch University.

My four years at university were spent studying intently, attending marine science camps and driving back to the Wheatbelt during uni breaks to help with crop harvesting. After graduating university in 2015 I returned to the Wheatbelt and accepted a position with Parks and Wildlife as a conservation employee. In September 2018 I moved to the Blackwood District taking on a role as a marine ranger for Ngari Capes Marine Park.

I feel very lucky to be a marine ranger in the south-west and have some of the most stunning landscapes in Western Australia as my office. The role is challenging and exciting. I enjoy being a part of a close-knit team with people just as passionate about marine conservation as me.



Eden on PV Leeuwin at Cape Leeuwin after a successful whale disentanglement.

Upgraded Canal Rocks Boat Ramp is open



Canal Rocks Boat Ramp. Photo - David Lierich/DBCA

A new boat ramp and jetty at Canal Rocks was officially opened in May, providing a safer alignment for launching and retrieving vessels within Ngari Capes Marine Park.

Canal Rocks is popular with fishers, divers and tourism operators for its proximity to deeper waters and good fishing grounds. The \$1.6 million upgrade project included the removal of the old boat ramp, construction

of a new boat ramp and jetty, and resealing of the car park. The new wheelchair-accessible jetty extends 40 metres offshore into deeper water, and the ramp has been lengthened and converted to a single lane for safety.

The new site will also play a critical role in supporting the emergency training and response operations of the Naturaliste Volunteer Marine Rescue Group.

The upgrade was supported by the Department of Transport with \$750,000 awarded through the Recreational Boating Facilities Scheme grant, with additional funding from DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service. Local Western Australian contractors were engaged for the engineering and construction works.

Due to its location, the Canal Rocks boat ramp is not an all-weather launching facility – boat users should check the swell and weather before launching or retrieving vessels.

Fishers are encouraged to become familiar with nearby sanctuary zones designed to protect marine aquatic life and ecosystems in the area. These zones are located offshore from Cape Clairault, Wyadup Bay and Cape Naturaliste. The free Recfishwest and Marine Parks WA smartphone apps provide options for finding out what zone you are in and what activities you can enjoy at that location. Sanctuary zones within Geographe bay are also marked by yellow buoys that extend one metre above the water level. Alternatively, information on these zones and the permitted activities is available from the [Explore Parks website](#).

Whale, whale, whale... look who's back!

It's whale watching season - remember to keep your distance.

Humpback, southern right and blue whales visit Ngari Capes Marine Park off the south-west coast this time of year, every year.

In May, approximately 40,000 whales make their way up from the cold Antarctic waters north to the warm, tropical waters to calve. In August they turn around and travel down south again, back to the feeding grounds of the polar waters.

To see one of these incredible creatures do pec slaps, tail slaps, spy hop or breaching is awesome.

The best places to see them are Cape Naturalist Lighthouse, Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse and Point Piquet.

If you have a boat, there are a few rules to remember:

Whale Watching

NO APPROACH 60°

NO VESSELS

300m separation

100m separation

GO SLOW
PROCEED WITH CAUTION
BE MINDFUL OF VESSEL NOISE

NO WAITING 60°

People are not permitted to swim with whales unless on a licensed tour.

GIVE WHALES ROOM TO MOVE
Give whales space to behave naturally. Avoid chasing, crowding or blocking whales.

GO SLOW FOR THOSE BELOW
Reduce your speed and maintain a lookout.

BE COURTEOUS to other whale watchers.

Touching, disturbing, interfering with the natural movement of, or breaching separation distances for whales in Western Australia is prohibited under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. Penalties of up to \$500,000 may apply.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The diagram above shows the separation distance needed between vessel and whales.

- Never swim with whales; never touch the whale.
- Keep to the separation distances in the [diagram](#).
- You must not restrict the path of a whale or approach from behind.

Remember - it is an offence under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* to approach a whale by vessel or person closer than the separation distances permitted.

Whale Song Festival



The blow-up humpback whales made a splash at the festival.

Ngari Capes Marine Park rangers were pleased to take part in this year's Augusta Whale Song Festival. The weather was perfect for the festival and the marine team was able to inflate the life-size humpback whales. This year's event was even more special due to last year's event being cancelled because of COVID-19.

Marine park rangers had the opportunity to engage with the community and share information about the park's sanctuary zones. These events are important for NCMP rangers to attend as they provide a platform to discuss the marine park and gauge any concerns the public may have.

Our Marine Parks Grant funding for jetty project

Busselton Jetty's highly-anticipated new marine observatory has received a boost from the Australian Government's Our Marine Parks Grants Program.

Already a local icon, the Busselton Jetty is being redeveloped to better showcase the unique marine environment via the largest natural underwater observatory in the world.

Now, a \$410,000 investment from the Our Marine Parks Grants Program will fund a Marine Park Discovery Zone within the redevelopment, allowing visitors of all ages to learn about the incredible marine life and habitats found in Australian Marine Parks.

The Discovery Zone will improve awareness and understanding about local marine parks off the south-west of WA which are part of a network of 58 offshore Australian Marine Parks around Australia.

Our Marine Parks Grants Program aims to support partnerships with marine park users and industries that rely on a healthy marine environment. It is providing investment to a wide range of organisations, including tourism operators, to support the management of Australian Marine Parks.

Established for the benefit of all Australians, Australian Marine Parks help conserve marine habitats and the marine life that depend on these habitats and support marine industries that rely on a healthy ocean.

We can't wait for the new observatory development to get underway. The project has received funding from the Commonwealth Regional Growth Fund, the WA State Royalties for Regions Program, Building Better Regions and Lotterywest WA.



To find out more about other inspiring projects visit the [Our Marine Park Grants website](#).

Below: The design for the new jetty redevelopment.

Photo - BACA Architects



Busselton Jetty school holiday activities

Busselton Jetty is the place to be this school holidays! Tickets are still available for a number of movie screenings, but you need to be quick. For more information please visit the [Busselton Jetty website](#).

All proceeds from the movie tickets sales will be going to the Busselton Jetty's Environment Foundation to help implement important environmental projects and programs, such as the pile rehabilitation program, marine life monitoring and the Busselton Jetty's Clean Ocean program.

Pizza and a Movie!

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MARINE MOVIES AT THE BUSSELTON JETTY

Disney's Brand New "LUCA"

DISNEY AND PIXAR'S ORIGINAL FEATURE FILM "LUCA" IS A COMING-OF-AGE STORY ABOUT ONE YOUNG BOY EXPERIENCING AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER. YET ALL THE FUN IS THREATENED BY A DEEPLY-HELD SECRET: THEY ARE SEA MONSTERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD JUST BELOW THE WATER'S SURFACE.

**JULY 5, 9, 12 & 16
2:00PM - 4:00PM
ONLINE BOOKINGS AVAILABLE NOW!**

Bean Bags sponsored by Cape Mentelle

**BYO BLANKET TO SNUGGLE IN THE HEATED BALLAARAT ROOM OF RAILWAY HOUSE.
\$25 PP GETS YOU:**

- FLAVOURED POPCORN TASTING TRAY
- 3 SLICES OF PIZZA
- 2 DRINKS (COKE, LEMONADE, COKE NS, LIFT, CHOC MILK, JUICE OR WATER)
- FRIENDS OF THE JETTY MEMBERSHIP

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BUSSELTON JETTY ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION (BJEF)
BOOK NOW @ WWW.BUSSELTONJETTY.COM.AU
LIMITED SEATS AND BEAN BAGS AVAILABLE

**WINTER 2021
CAPE MENTELLE and BUSSELTON JETTY
INDOOR BEAN BAG MARINE MOVIE NIGHTS**

Railway House Ballarat Room from 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Includes Pizza Dinner, Cape Mentelle Wines and Flavoured Popcorn

- Thursday June 10 - **Mission Blue** - rated 7.6/10 stars
Incredible cinematography documentary about legendary oceanographer, marine biologist, environmentalist and National Geographic explorer Sylvia Earle and her campaign to create a global network of protected marine sanctuaries.
- Thursday June 24 - **Seaspiracy** - rated 8.2/10 stars
Passionate about ocean life, a film maker sets out to document the harm that humans do to marine species and uncovers alarming global corruption.
- Thursday July 1 - **Big Wednesday Surf Movie** - rated 7.2/10 stars
A 1970s classic featuring the likes of Cushman Stokes from the early 40's to 70's.
- Thursday July 15 - **A Plastic Ocean** (8.30pm-8.30pm) - rated 8.1/10 stars
Journalist Craig Leeson teams up with diver Tanya Green & an international team of scientists & researchers, travelling around the world to explore our fragile oceans.
- Thursday July 29 - **Jaws** - rated 8/10 stars
1975 Thriller - when a killer shark unleashes chaos on a beach community, its up to the local sheriff, a marine biologist, and an old sealer to hunt the beast down.
- Thursday August 5 - **My Octopus Teacher** - rated 8.1/10 stars
Oscar winner A filmmaker forges an unusual friendship with an Octopus living in a South African kelp forest, learning as the animal shares the mysteries of her world.
- Thursday August 19 - **Chasing Coral** (8.30pm-8.30pm) - rated 8.1/10 stars
Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world.
- Thursday Sept 2 - **The Meg** - rated 5.6/10 stars
Horror Movie: a group of scientists exploring the Mariana Trench encounter the largest marine predator that has ever existed - the Megalodon.
- Thursday September 16 - **From Sky to Sea** (8.30pm-8.30pm) - rated 8.6/10 stars
Jaimen Hudson's spectacular aerial whale and dolphin imagery reaches hundreds of people online. Unknown to most he is confined to a wheelchair, embarking on the greatest challenge of his life to begin the quest to become the world's first underwater cinematographer with quadriplegia.

Relax in large comfy Cape Mentelle Bean Bags (chairs also avail), sip on Cape Mentelle Wine and enjoy Pizza and Flavoured Popcorn as you enjoy a selection of marine movies. BYO blanket to snuggle under or relax in the heated Ballarat Room of Railway House.

Brought to you - Busselton Jetty Environment Foundation

\$25pp includes welcome Flavoured Popcorn Tasting Tray, 3 slices of assorted Pizza & 2 Glasses of Cape Mentelle Red or White Wine, 2 beers

2 Soft Drinks (Coke, Lemonade, Caffe Mocha, LIFT, Juice, Choc Milk or Water)

Book online now at www.busseltonjetty.com.au

Whale research boost for south-west

A new company has been established to spearhead support for professional research on whale migration through Geographe Bay in WA's south-west.

Based in Busselton, Geographe Marine Research aims to protect whales and their environment in the south-west by raising more funds for targeted research and building new partnerships with other whale research groups in Australia and overseas.

Chair Frank Eckler said trained local volunteers and small organisations had been conducting research from a land base in Geographe Bay since 2004, but there was a growing need for more support.

“As research technology becomes more complex, it grows beyond the capability of volunteer groups to finance. That inability to raise adequate funding has been a major barrier in benefiting from the efforts made to date,” Frank said.

He said the company hoped to attract sponsorship support from local companies and corporations for the work ahead.

“Public donations can also be made via our company website. All donations are tax deductible.”

Four species of baleen whales – blue, southern right, humpback and minke whale – pass through Geographe Bay every year during their southern migration season from July through to December.

“Their numbers along our south-west coast have been recovering since the days when they were hunted. That’s encouraging, but it’s now vitally important we are more proactive and professional in assisting them with better support mechanisms for the research,” Frank said.

Geographe Marine Research Director Chris Burton has been a Director of Western Whale Research for 18 years, taking a lead role in organising local volunteer whale watchers, data collection and analysis.

“I’ve joined Geographe Marine Research from the beginning as I see the company as the way forward in harnessing resources to enable more studies and protection for our whales,” Chris said.

“There are still many answers we need about the migratory patterns of whales, the impact of climate change on their populations, movements and food sources in the coming years.”

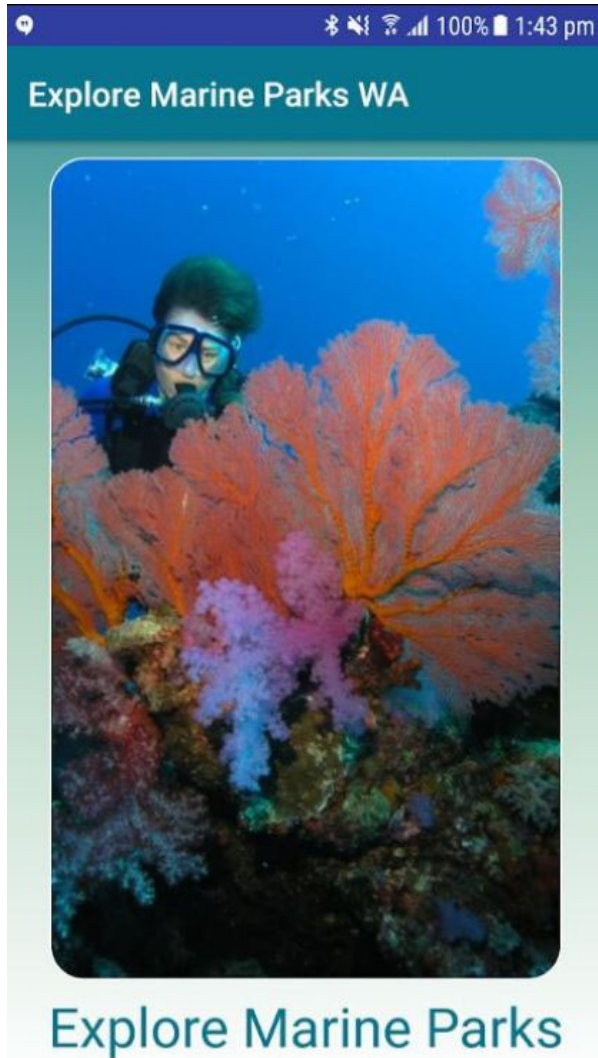
Geographe Marine Research is a CSIRO Approved Research Institute and has ATO Deductible Gift Recipient status. It is a not-for-profit company.

Visit marineresearch.org.au for more information or to donate.



A mother and calf pass by the Geographe Bay monitoring point at Point Picquet. Photo: Ian Wiese

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.

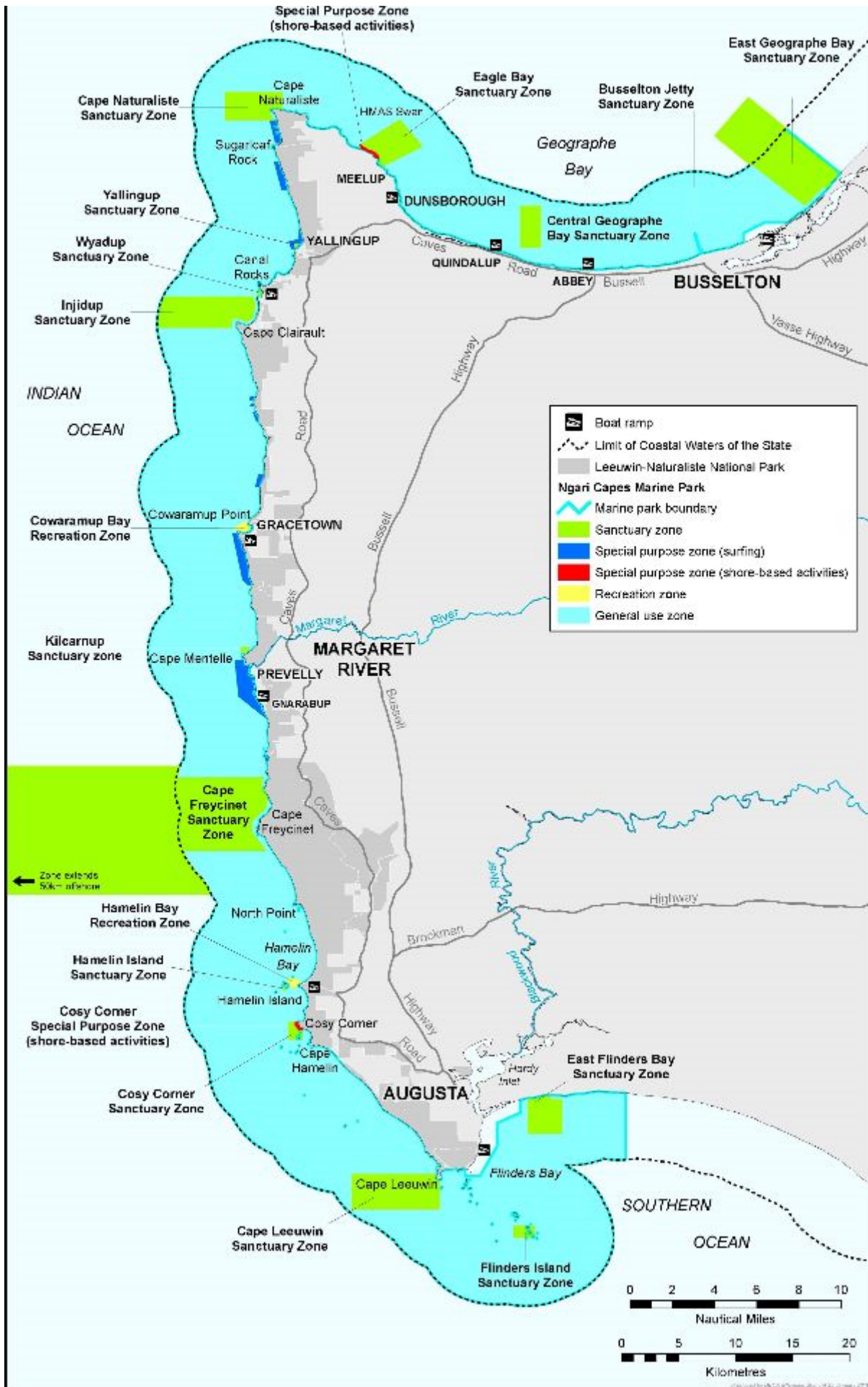
The map below is a great guide, however, if you require more information about the zones and

what activities are permitted, for marine parks around the Capes or anywhere off the WA coast 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





Above Map of Ngari Capes Marine Park showing zones plus National Park Zones in adjacent Australian Marine Parks.



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