



WA PARKS
FOUNDATION

2025 Year in Review

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS

The WA Parks Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of our national parks, conservation, nature and marine reserves and honours the deep connection and care of Country.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The WA Parks Foundation is dedicated to supporting conservation, deepening appreciation for our national parks and reserves and promoting opportunities to connect with nature. Western Australia's parks are being enjoyed more than ever by locals and visitors alike, drawn by the beauty, diversity, and richness of the environments they offer.

We are committed to building strong collaborative partnerships across government, corporate, and community sectors, as well as with individuals and volunteer groups. Community engagement is at the heart of our work, and through our programs, we highlight the immense value of our natural assets, from landscapes and seascapes to our extraordinary flora and fauna, and the collective responsibility we share as stewards of our environment.

A key focus is promoting the physical and mental health benefits of spending time in nature, and we are delighted by the continued success of our annual Spring into Parks initiative. Supported by Lotterywest, the 2024 program featured more than 170 events and activities across 85 parks and attractions. Notable highlights included the popular Wild Wonders of WA photo competition and our inaugural Instagram video competition. Together, these attracted over 1,000 entries. Such activities continue to inspire community connection to nature and encourage exploration of our remarkable environment.

Progress has also been made in other areas. Our Smartreka mapping initiative, developed in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, now includes maps for 23 national parks and reserves, including Wadjemup / Rottnest Island.

The Nature Connection Education Series has also been successfully delivered to 17 primary schools across the Perth and Peel regions, fostering environmental awareness among our

younger generations. Readership of our monthly online newsletter, prepared by Board Director Ainslie de Vos and our staff, continues to grow and remains a key channel for engagement.

Our focus on John Forrest National Park as Perth's premier national park continues. Following the development of a Business Case funded jointly by the Foundation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservations and Attractions (DBCA) and commitment from the Western Australian Government for park improvements, we were pleased to see that through DBCA work is underway on designs for the visitor centre, as well the completion of a new access road and a 270-bay carpark at West Ridge, providing an elevated arrival experience with views across the park.

In progressing our strategic initiatives, we are seeking collaborative opportunities in the delivery of projects and programs. We also need to tackle some challenges. While the Foundation has been successful in attracting funding required to deliver its programs and projects, achieving long-term sustainability through a dedicated revenue flow is not yet achieved and remains a priority.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to our Platinum Partners, Fortescue and Coogee, and to Bronze Partner, The Jock Clough Marine Foundation, for their ongoing philanthropic support and commitment to the work of the Foundation. I also thank Lotterywest for its valuable support towards the activation of the Spring into Parks program.

The early support received from our Founding Partners, Chevron Australia, Woodside Energy, Fortescue and Wesfarmers has been of enormous help in taking our projects forward and is greatly appreciated.

I thank our General Manager Melanie Wilshin and staff for their contribution over the year. Their input has enabled us to progress projects and programs to deliver on our strategic objectives.



Western Australia’s conservation estate now spans over 34.4 million hectares and includes 123 national parks, 21 marine parks and three natural World Heritage Areas.

I thank pro-bono partners Deloitte for accounting services and Hamilton Locke for the provision of legal services, particularly in updating the Foundation’s Constitution to reflect recent legislative changes. Special thanks also to Justin Carroll and PWC for their support over the last 8 years, and to Trevor Hart and KPMG, for their support in 2025.

My appreciation extends also to our volunteer Board Directors. Their support has been enormously valuable, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to new Board Director Elisha Jacobs-Smith. The continued help of our Honorary Treasurer, Leigh-Anne Meyerowitz, also deserves special mention. Thanks also to Committee members, to our Founding Ambassadors, Park Ambassadors and our members, donors, supporters and volunteers who have all contributed to the Foundation this year.

A special thank you to His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and his wife, Mrs Darrilyn Dawson, who as Joint Patrons of the Foundation, have been very supportive.

The Western Australian Government’s Plan for Our Parks saw the creation of more than five million hectares of new national and marine parks and other conservation reserves across the State, an area

equivalent in size to Tasmania. Western Australia’s conservation estate now spans over 34.4 million hectares and includes 123 national parks, 21 marine parks, three natural World Heritage Areas and is one of 36 global biodiversity hotspots in the world.

At the WA Parks Foundation, we recognise the vital importance of understanding, protecting and celebrating our unique natural environment. We remain committed to actively contributing to the promotion of our parks and reserves and to fostering a culture of stewardship and philanthropy to help conserve them.

Your continued support, both financial and through your influence and community reach, is essential and greatly appreciated as we work together to ensure our parks are valued, enjoyed and protected for generations to come.

With best wishes

Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC CVO
Chair, WA Parks Foundation

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Cover image:
Granite Skywalk, Porongurup National Park.
Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

YEAR IN REVIEW

The WA Parks Foundation

continues to make progress by connecting more people to parks, fostering pride in Western Australia's natural assets, supporting conservation and encouraging collaboration. Despite the challenges posed by economic pressures and rising inflation, the year was marked by significant achievements across key initiatives.

Spring into Parks, the Foundation's flagship program, with a focus on youth and families, engaged over 79,000 participants through in-person activities and digital platforms, supported by a social media campaign that achieved over 1.1 million connections in combined reach and impressions.

Highlights included accessibility-focused guided hikes, stargazing experiences, photo competition and creative workshops that encouraged hands-on engagement with nature. A commemorative quilt, exhibited at WA Museum Boola Bardip, beautifully captured the State's biodiversity through community-led art.

The Foundation's interactive Smartreka digital mapping tool, developed in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, further expanded its reach

this year with the addition of five new park maps, including the launch of the Wadjemup / Rottnest Island map. Smartreka now features 23 popular destinations across the State. Optimised for offline use, these GPS-enabled maps make it easier and safer to explore Western Australia's natural landscapes, with more than 83,000 downloads recorded to date.

Environmental education remained a priority through the Nature Connection Education series, which has now been successfully implemented at 17 primary schools, targeting areas where some students are from disadvantaged backgrounds. This immersive program fosters children's environmental stewardship by bringing outdoor learning experiences to students and training teachers in innovative nature-based pedagogy.

The Foundation also strengthened its community connections through growing its digital engagement, including a 26 per cent increase in Instagram followers and consistent growth across other social media platforms. Collaborative conservation efforts were boosted by Deloitte Australia's annual Impact Day, where more than 100 volunteers contributed to habitat restoration and wildlife support across multiple sites.

These achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of our partners. Sincere thanks to our Platinum Partners (Fortescue and Coogee), Bronze Partner (The Jock Clough Marine Foundation), and Government Partners (Lotterywest and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), who have all played a vital role in enabling the Foundation to develop and deliver important programs.

We also gratefully acknowledge the early contributions of our Founding Partners, whose initial support helped establish the Foundation and shape its long-term vision.

As Western Australia's conservation estate grows to more than 34.4 million hectares, the Foundation remains committed to celebrating, protecting, and connecting people to our parks.

We look forward to building on this momentum with the continued support of our community, partners, and supporters to ensure these extraordinary places are valued and enjoyed for generations to come.

Elephant Rocks, William Bay National Park. Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia



We want everyone to feel connected to nature and Western Australia's parks and reserves.



Image courtesy of Vance Thompson

VISION

Our parks are increasingly loved and visited and the plants, animals, landscapes and cultural values they embody are protected and a source of pride for all Western Australians thus contributing to people's health, wellbeing and to ecotourism.

MISSION

To connect people to our parks and nature and through collaboration, deliver projects that celebrate, protect, increase understanding and enrich our parks to increase people's sense of connection.

GOALS

- Help, protect and enrich WA's parks and their conservation values.
- Develop people's love of, pride in and connection to parks.
- Build and support a network of partners, drive community and corporate engagement with parks and promote philanthropy.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Identified priority focus areas are:

- 1
- Attract support and work with community and corporate organisations and government to improve conservation outcomes (flora, fauna and ecological systems).
- 2
- Implement creative and innovative campaigns to improve connection to and support for our parks.
- 3
- Collaborate to increase cultural awareness and awareness of the importance of the health of our natural environment.
- 4
- Build a sustainable organisation.

GOALS	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
CONSERVE Help protect and enrich our parks and their conservation and cultural values.	- Work with government, community and corporate organisations to improve conservation outcomes (flora, fauna and ecological systems). - Collaborate with aligned organisations to support and grow cultural responsibility and respect, and stewardship of the conservation estate.
CONNECT Develop people's love of, pride in and connection to parks.	- Increase profile and reach for the Foundation and its objectives through a strategically defined brand that resonates and connects with our audience. - Build opportunities for lifelong learning and connection to our natural areas. - Increase community understanding, appreciation and awareness of our natural environment including through interpretation and increasing awareness of cultural heritage.
COLLABORATE Build and support a network of partners and drive community and corporate engagement with parks.	- Review and expand relationships with current stakeholders, explore and develop new partnerships. - Increase corporate and community engagement through the growth and development of signature programs (Spring into Parks, Smartreka). - Implement creative and innovative campaigns to attract support from corporate and community organisations. - Build a portfolio of fundable projects with short, medium and long-term horizons.
CAPABILITY Build organisational capacity and sustainability.	- Build a sustainable organisation. - Increase organisational capability and continue to explore and use innovative technologies. - Build fit-for-purpose organisational capacity through engaging appropriate internal and external resources.



IMPACT

Spring into Parks

The 2024 Spring into Parks program, supported by Lotterywest, was launched in September and featured an extensive calendar of activities designed to foster connection and strengthen engagement with nature across Western Australia. With a focus on engaging youth and families, the program combined online resources with place-based experiences and was delivered in collaboration with more than 50 community-based organisations.

Over 170 events were held across 85 parks and attractions throughout the State, attracting more than 79,000 participants through in-person attendance, online engagement, expos, and visits to the Spring into Parks website. A comprehensive social media campaign amplified the program's visibility, generating over 1.1 million connections in combined reach and impressions. Along with 55,000 page views on the website, this contributed to strong growth in the Foundation's digital presence.

Program highlights included an Accessibility and Inclusion Guided Hike and a Bush to Beach Self-Guided Hike as part of the Australian Golden Outback Esperance Hiking Festival. A stargazing evening in Wickepin was followed by a guided morning walk. The Poolgarla Family Day, held

during the Kings Park Everlasting Festival, attracted more than 1,800 attendees, while a creative flag-making and hut-building activity at Yanchep National Park further encouraged youth participation through hands-on, nature-based play and exploration.

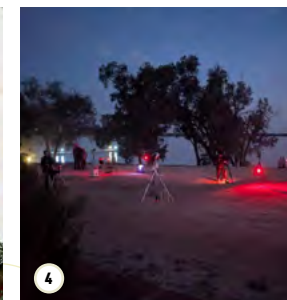
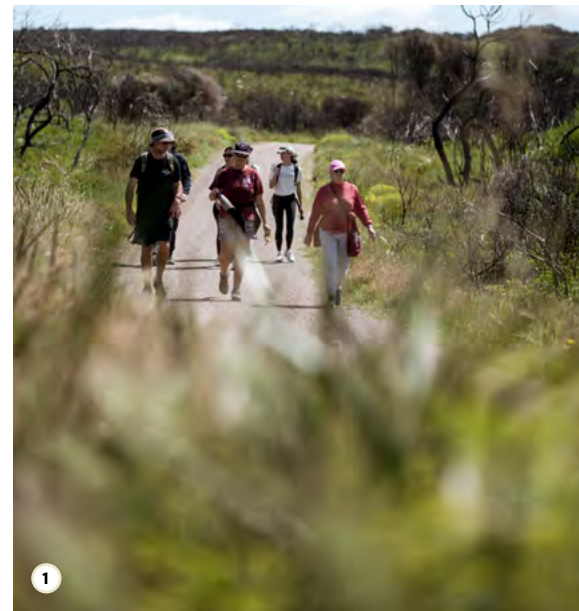
The Foundation was also proud to present the Sustainability Area at the 2024 Scribblers Festival, where daily interactive activations invited children and families to create imaginative creatures from clay and natural materials. These contributions formed a collaborative, evolving forest installation. In parallel, a series of free events at Herdsman Lake offered enriching wetland education experiences for families and school groups.

A special feature of the program was the Spring into Parks commemorative quilt, created by the West Australian Quilters Association. Displayed at the WA Museum Boola Bardip in July as part of the Community Showcase Exhibition, the quilt offered a vibrant visual celebration of the biodiversity and inspiration found in Western Australia's parks and reserves.



Strategic partnerships with organisations such as DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Educated by Nature, BirdLife WA, Shire of Wickepin, Karlkurla Bushland Park, Astrotourism WA, WA Gould League, and the WA Naturalists' Club were central to extending the reach and impact of the campaign across the State.

1. Esperance images courtesy of Australia's Golden Outback
2. King's Park Festival images courtesy of Jason Thomas
3. FORM Scribblers Festival images courtesy of Dan MacBride, FORM
4. Wickepin 'Star Gazing' event. Image courtesy of Melaine McQuillan





SMARTREKA

THE SMARTER PARK MAPS

Your Ultimate Outdoor Companion

The Foundation's interactive Smartreka mapping initiative, developed in partnership with the Parks and Wildlife Service (DBCA), now features maps for 23 priority national parks and reserves across Western Australia. Designed to help visitors explore the State's natural landscapes with confidence, Smartreka continues to grow in reach and impact.

During the reporting period, new maps were added for Yalgorup, Dryandra, Stokes

and Kennedy Range national parks, along with the release of the Wadjemup / Rottne Island map.

Optimised for smartphones and tablets, Smartreka maps use built-in GPS to plot the user's real-time location and offer detailed information on campgrounds, picnic areas, walk trails (including classifications), lookouts, car parks, swimming areas, wheelchair accessibility, Wi-Fi access, roads, tracks, and important safety details.

Maps can be downloaded in advance using the free Avenza Maps app while internet access is available. Once downloaded, they remain accessible without a network connection or roaming charges, making them particularly valuable in remote or regional areas.

In addition to the newly added sites, Smartreka maps are already available for Cape Le Grand, Cape Range, D'Entrecasteaux, Fitzgerald River, Francois Peron, Kalbarri, Karijini, Lane Poole Reserve, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Millstream Chichester, Mount Augustus, Porongurup, Purnululu, Stirling Range, Torndirrup, Walpole-Nornalup, Walyunga, Wellington, and Yanchep national parks.

With more than 83,000 map downloads, Smartreka continues to be a trusted and popular companion for local and international visitors exploring Western Australia's breathtaking landscapes, from the gorges of Karijini and cliffs of the Kimberley to the wild southern coast and towering southern forests.



Start exploring
in two easy
steps

1

Download the free Avenza Maps App.
Scan the QR code to explore the WA Parks Foundation website for more information.



2

Get your Smartreka Map.
Create an account and search WA Parks Foundation in the Avenza Map Store, then purchase and download your maps.

Kennedy Range. Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia



Children connecting and learning with nature

The Nature Connection Education series has been successfully implemented at 17 primary schools in areas of disadvantage across the Perth metro and Peel regions.

Each participating class of up to 32 students attends a weekly two-hour session over eight consecutive weeks. Designed and delivered by trained educators and nature connection mentors, the sessions allow both students and their teachers to experience the benefits of learning in an outdoor environment.

The program nurtures key elements of environmental stewardship, including developing a sense of belonging in nature, observing subtle ecological changes, fostering curiosity and feeling empowered to contribute to environmental protection and regeneration. Students are also encouraged to become more aware of themselves, their belongings and their actions within the natural world.

A professional learning component for teachers is included, equipping them with practical techniques to enhance student engagement with nature and inspire future outdoor learning beyond the program's duration.



Connection to nature is increasingly recognised as essential to physical and mental wellbeing across all age groups, and particularly important in fostering communities that value sustainability.

Research shows that meaningful contact with nature supports healthy child development and plays a critical role in cultivating long-term environmental stewardship (Green et al., 2022; Harris, 2021).

By sponsoring participation for public schools with limited resources and students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, it creates a much-needed opportunity for primary school children to experience programs which otherwise would not be within their reach.

The positive outcomes of the program have been captured in a series of short videos, available to view on the Foundation's website (scan the QR code to view).



Credits?

Top Ten Statistics

100%

of parents noticed a change in their child's attitude to school and learning.

100%

of parents would like their child to participate in projects like this again in future.

100%

of teachers said the program enhanced their ability to teach outdoors.

32%

of students knew no local plants before the project; only 4% after the program.

65%

increase in words used to describe knowledge of local birds, plants, and parks.

86%

of teachers think the project positively influenced student learning.

24%

decrease in children spending 2-3 hours a week on screens.

84%

of students enjoyed participating in Nature Connection.

20%

increase in children preferring to play outdoors, up from 39% to 59%.

13%

increase in children spending 2-3 hours a week outdoors.

What did the kids say about the program?

"I'm in the best spot ever, sitting in a tree, because it is high up and you can hear the birds better. I am actually pretty good at this observation. Everyone can be good at nature."

"I usually didn't go out in nature much. I only go out with Nature Connection. I want to go out more now. I have lived in Pakistan, Afghanistan and in Australia. I'm really interested in the bush and bush tucker."

"I've learnt that I enjoy taking walks more than I thought, I take a walk through the neighbourhood with my little sister every Saturday now."

"I've learnt how to treat nature how to love nature."

"I really enjoyed learning about the local plants and animals in my area and also learning about some bush medicine."

"It makes me feel relaxed. It is like therapy."

"This has made me realise how this is making me feel better being outside in nature, rather than looking myself in my room. When I'm upset I now go outside into nature more."

"We were more free to the wild and we felt more free to learn more and experience life and nature."

"It's really calming just looking at all the nature and all of the animals and all of the things and I really like just closing my eyes and just listening to the sounds."

What the teachers said:

"The kids you won't expect are doing the right things out here. It is giving them ownership for what they are doing, letting them have their own way of driving things. This is a trust thing. It builds confidence and we find there is less misbehaviour."

"They are also learning about teamwork and strategy, as well as nature. It is really a good way to incorporate lots of different elements into the learning. Just look how eager they all are. It is brilliant."

"The curiosity is amazing. The excitement and enthusiasm for learning is great out here. They are enjoying it, so they are learning. It intrigues them, so they want to learn more."

"I observed a significant increase in the confidence and connection to nature in most of my students when it came to exploring their natural surroundings. The program effectively catered to the learning needs of students who struggle with prolonged indoor classroom settings."

"They are taking their parents on bushwalks and pointing things out to them. They are learning a lot about the ecosystem. The children are learning and sharing it with their parents."

What did the parents and carers say:

"So much fun and healthy thinking involved. Great for mental & physical health."

"She had learnt a lot about nature, not only respecting it but wanting to educate others too."

"She is spending more time outside willingly."

"I think they got a much better understanding of the natural environment in their local area and a better appreciation of the different plants and animals that use these spaces."



Wild Wonders of WA

Magical moments are made when you 'wander out yonder' and we encouraged the community to capture their dream moments in nature.

The Wild Wonders of WA photo competition was once again a highlight of the Spring into Parks program and attracted more than 1,000 entries. Inviting community members to share their 'Instagramable' images created opportunities for people of all ages to play a part in celebrating Western Australia's spectacular natural assets and in promoting the importance of caring for and respecting our great outdoors.

Congratulations to Bryan May, winner of the photo competition, for his beautiful image titled "Branco's Sunrise" taken at Gibb River. The second prize was awarded to Naidu Kumpatla for "Parental Symphony", captured at Herdsman Lake. Congratulations also to the three runners-up Liam Drennan, Brian Yeo, and Harrison Green.

The winner of our inaugural Instagram video competition on the same theme was Toni Battle for "Our Landscapes, Our Beaches, Our Wildlife, Our Sunsets – Our WA".



Winner: 'Branco's Sunrise' Gibb River. Bryan May

Thank you to our competition supporters RAC Parks & Resorts; Heyscape Tiny Cabins; Matagarup Zip+Climb; Two Feet and a Heartbeat; Camera Electronic; Scitech; Mindful in Nature; Hike Collective and DBCA for donating prizes.



Second Prize: 'Parental Symphony' Herdsman Lake. Naidu Kumpatla



Upgrading a natural jewel

The WA Parks Foundation and the DBCA have a shared vision to make John Forrest National Park a gateway national park, through the revitalisation of facilities to improve the visitor experience.

Just 30 minutes from the Perth CBD, John Forrest is Western Australia's first national park and is renowned for its exceptional environmental features, as well as its rich Aboriginal heritage and ongoing community enjoyment.

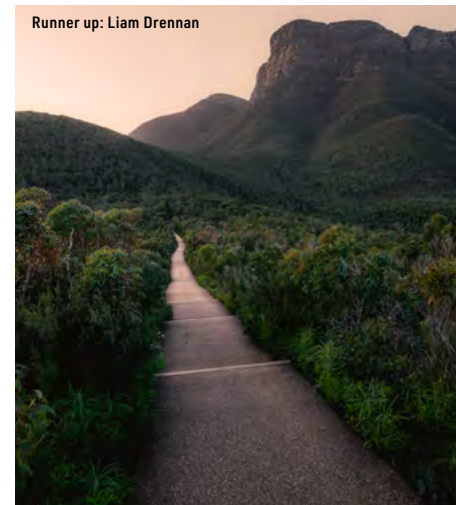
With funding provided by the Western Australian Government, the revitalisation of the facilities continues. While the park in its entirety is the main attraction, an architecturally designed Park Hub with a café and interpretation space, improvements to existing picnic areas and gardens, with increased parking and access are part of the plan. The WA Parks Foundation was pleased to contribute to development of the business case for this upgrading.

Construction of a new access road and a 270-bay carpark built to the west of Glen Brook and the park's existing visitor precinct parking area has been completed. The entry road and carpark offer visitors an elevated view over the park to a new dedicated parking area nestled within the natural landscape, amongst the trees.

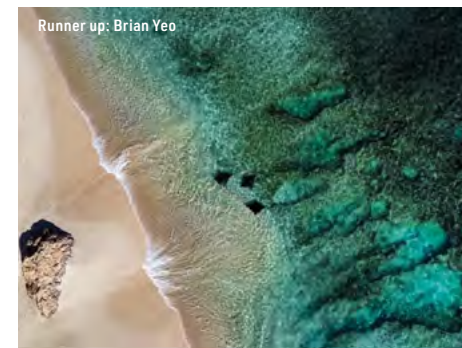
There is new trailhead signage in the West Ridge carpark providing visitors with information on the walking and off-road cycling trails, the Railway Reserve Heritage Trail and the visitor precinct.

Work has also begun on the prefabrication of elements of the Glen Brook elevated walkway and onsite installation of the concrete footings and abutments to provide visitors with an accessible link between the new West Ridge carpark and the new day use area and existing Jane Brook picnic areas. Installation of the elevated walkway structure is planned for August 2025.

John Forrest National Park is one of the most visited in the Perth metropolitan area. Its many natural attractions include two scenic waterfalls that flow in winter and spring, and a jarrah forest conserved in its natural state.



Runner up: Liam Drennan



Runner up: Brian Yeo



Runner up: Harrison Green



Connecting with community

The Foundation continues to strengthen community engagement through collaboration with partner organisations to cross-promote projects, events, and campaigns.

Subscriptions to our monthly e-newsletter grew steadily over the past year, with open rates consistently exceeding 40 per cent, well above industry benchmarks, demonstrating strong public interest and trust in our communications.

Increased campaign and project activity has driven strong growth across the Foundation's digital platforms. Instagram followers grew by 26 per cent to 6,026, Facebook by 8 per cent to 8,366, and LinkedIn by 19 per cent to 661. Newsletter subscriptions also continued to rise, reaching 3,277.

Our social media channels maintained strong and consistent engagement, with organic content performing particularly well. This growth reflects a highly engaged and responsive community, supported by

strategic campaign delivery, audience-focused storytelling and a commitment to providing relevant and inspiring content.

At the heart of all communications is a clear and consistent message to foster understanding, appreciation and conservation of Western Australia's parks and reserves, while highlighting the mental and physical health benefits of spending time in nature.

FOLLOWERS

Increased campaign and project activity has driven strong growth across the Foundation's digital platforms.



+8%



+26%



+19%



Conserving our parks

The Foundation was once again delighted to partner with Deloitte Australia for the company's annual Impact Day. Each October, Deloitte staff across the country set aside their usual work to make meaningful contributions within their communities.

In Western Australia, more than one hundred Deloitte volunteers supported conservation initiatives, including projects at Yanchep National Park, weed control and planting with the Woodvale Waters Friends of Beenyup Channel, Friends of Point Peron, and activities at the Perth Hills Discovery Centre. Volunteers also provided valuable assistance at the Kanyana Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre.



GOVERNANCE

Management focused on progressing key projects, driving business development and streamlining processes to improve efficiency and reduce resource requirements for administrative functions. The Foundation's Constitution was updated to reflect legislative changes, including the abolition of Public Funds, and was endorsed by members at the 2024 Annual General Meeting. A strong commitment to maintaining high standards of corporate governance remains central to our operations.

While global economic trends and the rising cost of living have influenced the Foundation's financial position, the Board, with support from the Fundraising Strategy Committee, is addressing this in a focused and targeted way. We remain committed to nurturing and strengthening our valued partnerships for mutual benefit while pursuing new opportunities for support beyond our current networks.

All mandatory reporting requirements for the year were completed in a timely fashion and the reporting requirements of our partners were met.

PATRONS

The WA Parks Foundation is honoured to have the Joint Patronage of **His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson** AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and his wife, **Mrs Darrilyn Dawson**.

This Vice-Regal interest and support is very much valued.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The membership of the Board of Directors for the year ending June 30, 2025.

- **Chair: The Hon Kerry Sanderson** AC CVO
Former Governor of Western Australia, former Chancellor Edith Cowan University, Chair St John of God Healthcare
- **Hon Treasurer: Ms Leigh-Anne Meyerowitz** CA
Group Director, Shakespeare Total Financial Solutions
- **Mrs Ainslie de Vos** GAICD
Former Manager External Affairs, Fremantle Ports Communication Adviser, Perron Institute
- **Hon Albert Jacob** GAICD JP
Mayor of the City of Joondalup
- **Mr Elisha Jacobs-Smith** (from February 2025)
Senior Training Manager, First Nations at Murdoch University and Cultural Educator at Indigenous Economic Solutions
- **Mr Richard Simpson**
Director, Euroz Hartleys Group, former Chair Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, former member State Emergency Management Committee
- **Dr Richard Walley** OAM
Director of Aboriginal Productions
- **Ms Rickeeta Walley**
Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority; Educator and Researcher, Aboriginal Productions; Lecturer/Tutor, University of Western Australia

Other attendees:

- **Ex-officio attendee: Mr Luke Bentley**
Executive Director, Parks and Visitor Services, DBCA (from April 2025);
- **Ex-officio attendee: Dr Fran Stanley**
Executive Director, Conservation and Ecosystem Management, DBCA (to February 2025)
- **Board Secretary: Ms Melanie Wilshin** GAICD
General Manager, WA Parks Foundation



NOMINATION COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee identifies and evaluates the necessary and desirable skills, knowledge, experience and diversity of the Board. Membership is determined on a case by case basis and where applicable composition is as required under the Constitution.

FUNDRAISING STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Strategy Committee fosters corporate and public engagement with our parks and promotes philanthropy by guiding the strategic direction of major programs and projects.

Membership is:

- Chair: Ms Tanya Trevisan** OAM
- **Hon Kerry Sanderson** AC CVO
 - **Ms Deborah Attard Portughes** (from January 2025)
 - **Mr Richard Simpson**
 - **Ms Diane Smith-Gander** AO (to December 2024)
 - **Ms Heather Zampatti**

AMBASSADOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Ambassador Advisory Committee seeks to engage Park Ambassadors and to assist with the achievement of the Foundation's goals.

Membership is:

- Chair: Mr Jim Sharp**
Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO
Professor Lyn Beazley AO
Mrs Ainslie de Vos
Ms Kim Eckert OAM
Dr Regina Flugge
Mr Ryan Mossny
Ms Tracy Shea

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ms Melanie Wilshin GAICD, General Manager
Ms Sally Stabler, Marketing and Partnerships



SUPPORTERS

The Foundation deeply values the support of the Western Australian community and is proud to recognise the generous contributions of our corporate partners, donors, members, ambassadors and dedicated volunteers.

With special thanks to our partners.

Platinum Partners



Bronze Partner



Courtesy of Rottnest Island Authority



Supporting Partners



Government Partners



Silver Business Partner



The WA Parks Foundation would like to acknowledge the very important and early support from our Founding Partners: Chevron Australia, Fortescue, Wesfarmers and Woodside Energy.

We also greatly value the ongoing support of our Government Partners: the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Lotterywest.

Donors

Our appreciation and thanks also go to the other individuals and organisations who made contributions during 2024/25:

Kangaroo Paw Silver Circle

- Explore Caravans
- Janet Holmes à Court AC
- Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO

Park Steward

- John van Bockxmeer
- Ainslie de Vos
- Amelia Gough
- Mark Haynes
- Sienna Jones
- David Lim
- Lucy Patel
- Melanie Wilshin



Stokes Inlet, Stokes National Park. Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia



MEMBERS

The Foundation is a membership-based organisation and at 30 June 2025, there were 95 members, comprising student, individual and family memberships. All Foundation members are entitled to receive a 50 per cent discount on the annual All Parks Pass from the Parks and Wildlife Service (DBCA) as well as a range of exclusive discount offers.

AMBASSADORS

The Foundation has fifty-eight Ambassadors, all with a common love of our parks and support for the Foundation's objectives. They include people with extensive and varied experience of Western Australia's national parks as well as those with relevant experience in other areas.

Our Ambassadors, with their wide-ranging expertise and networks, have much to contribute in raising awareness of the importance of our parks and of the Foundation's work.

Founding Ambassadors

We thank the Founding Ambassadors for their contributions and time volunteered.

- Pat Barblett AM • Hon Fred Chaney AO • Janet Holmes à Court AC

Park Ambassadors

We thank the Park Ambassadors for their contributions and time volunteered.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Liz and Simon Beazley, Lifestyle Pioneers | Brendon Moore |
| Professor Lyn Beazley AO | Karen Morrissey OAM |
| June Butcher AM | Ryan Mossny |
| Simon Cherriman | Gary Muir |
| Jock Clough | Philippa Nikulinsky AM |
| Professor Ross Dowling AM | Dr Brad Norman AM |
| Kim Eckert OAM | Jane O'Malley |
| David Flanagan AM | Robin Piesse |
| Dr Regina Flugge | Tracey Roberts MP |
| Sophia Forrest | Chandra Salgado Kent |
| Nat Fyfe | Verity Sebire |
| Kate Gibson | Jim Sharp |
| Shaun Hardcastle | Tracy Shea |
| Dr Tom Hatton PSM | Richard Simpson |
| Professor Stephen Hopper AC | Eva Skira AM |
| Hon Albert Jacobs JP | Andrew St Pierre White |
| Elisha Jacobs-Smith | Dale Tilbrook |
| Ezra Jacobs-Smith | David and Ainslie de Vos |
| Josie Janz-Dawson | Dr Richard Walley OAM |
| Victoria Laurie | Rickeeta Walley |
| Professor Stephen van Leeuwen | Mark Webb PSM |
| Mayor Peter Long and Vicki Long | Melanie Wilshin |
| Griffin Longley | Tim Winton |
| Janelle and Adam Marr | Mike Wood AM |
| Eric McCrum OAM | Ben Wyatt |
| Richard McLellan | |

Francois Peron National Park, Shark Bay. Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to our many volunteers, who have contributed their time and expertise over the past year.

WA Parks Foundation Board

Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, Ainslie de Vos, Hon. Albert Jacob, Elisha Jacobs-Smith, Leigh-Anne Meyerowitz, Richard Simpson, Dr Richard Walley OAM, Rickeeta Walley.

WA Parks Foundation Committees

Professor Lyn Beazley AO, Ainslie de Vos, Kim Eckert OAM, Dr Regina Flugge, Hon Albert Jacob, Leigh-Anne Meyerowitz, Ryan Mossny, Deborah Attard Portughes, Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, Jim Sharp, Tracy Shea, Diane Smith-Gander AO, Richard Simpson, Tanya Trevisan OAM and Heather Zampatti.

PRO BONO SUPPORT

The contributions of our Supporting Partners, Deloitte, PwC, and Hamilton Locke have been of significant value to the Foundation this year. Deloitte has provided pro bono accounting services, PwC has delivered pro bono audit services, and

Hamilton Locke continues to offer pro bono legal support. We also acknowledge Shakespeare Partners for their expertise in managing the Foundation's financial reserves, helping to optimise returns and support our ongoing programs. The professionalism of these services is greatly valued by the Foundation and provides confidence that high levels of corporate governance are being maintained.

Financial Services

- Deloitte: Thomas Hodgkins, Nashwa El Hosseny
- Shakespeare Partners: Leigh-Anne Meyerowitz, Nicholas Chetkovich, Dillon Hellmrich

Audit Services

- PwC: Justin Carroll, Nadia Monaco, Juan Sebastian Garcia

Legal Services

- Hamilton Locke: Shaun Hardcastle, Liesl Ellies, Janice Lau

Communications and Marketing Services

- Ainslie de Vos

Information Technology Consultant

- Harrison Thomas

Kennedy Range National Park. Courtesy of Tourism Western Australia

GET INVOLVED

Western Australia's parks are known and loved for their spectacular scenery, diverse plant and animal life and the unique experiences they offer. Together, we can make a real difference to help everyone enjoy our parks now and make sure future generations can do the same.

Become a friend of the Foundation

Individual, family and student memberships are available. All members receive a 50% discount on the Parks and Wildlife Annual Park Passes, which offer both convenience and value for money when exploring our stunning parks and reserves, as well as a range of exclusive discounts with retail and tour operators.

Donate

Donations directly contribute to programs that promote the many benefits of spending time in nature and raise vital funds for park improvement projects that would not otherwise be possible.

Leave a bequest

By making a gift to the Foundation, you can help make a real difference to conserving our parks and creating a legacy.

Volunteer your time

With more than 34.4 million hectares of national parks and reserves across Western Australia, and more continuing to be created, every little bit of help makes a difference. If you love parks and you want to help conserve or improve park experiences, please let us know!

Ways to partner

There are many opportunities to partner with the Foundation with a wide range of corporate and community projects requiring financial, in-kind and corporate volunteering support.

www.ourwaparks.org.au/get-involved



OUR VALUES

WE ARE...

COLLABORATIVE - We understand that we can achieve more by collaborating with others.

We collaborate and work together with Traditional Owners, land managers, cultural leaders, scientists, recreation professionals and our community. We are inclusive and make collaboration part of how we do business.

WE ARE HERE TO...

CONSERVE - Our park experiences have shaped us and hold deep meaning and value. Our wish is to gift this value to our children and future generations.

We are stewards of our parks and help conserve and protect our natural environment.

WE VALUE THE...

OUTDOORS - We value the natural treasures on our doorstep. We love getting outdoors and encouraging others to experience and enjoy our amazing land and marine parks.

Everything we do is to encourage the experience and appreciation of nature and the outdoors.

WE SEEK...

UNDERSTANDING - Through increasing understanding we help people to gain greater appreciation of our parks and build the emotional value and sense of stewardship to conserve them.

We are here to further explore and discover what our parks can teach us and through this, better understand and celebrate their true meaning and intrinsic value. Our role is to help increase understanding of the vital role nature holds for our lives and our connection to it, and our interconnection with it.

WE FACILITATE...

WELLBEING - Positively connecting with our parks nurtures our physical, mental, spiritual, social and economic wellbeing. We understand that the health of our parks directly impacts our health and the health of our society.

We are mindful that all of our choices will positively support the wellbeing of our parks and us. In our parks we find joy.

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS



WA PARKS
FOUNDATION

ABN: 96 615 298 952

CONTACT US

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We are social: @ourwaparks



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