



Newsletter

January, 2019

Exciting news...expansion takes a big step forward!

Our *Imagine a Greater Wellington National Park* campaign has taken a big step forward with the public announcement of the proposed new boundaries for the Wellington National Park. The proposal for the expansion of Wellington National Park has been released for public comment with submissions closing **5pm, 13 March 2019**.

The current proposal would see an additional 7360 hectares of land added to the existing Wellington National Park, along the current southern border of the park to the Preston River. These additions will increase the overall area of the national park to almost 25,000 hectares. For more information on the proposal and submission process click [here](#).

While we are currently working on our submission we would like to share our initial response:

Promote Preston welcomes that the expansion of the Wellington National Park focuses on the Preston River Valley

What we like

1. The expansion highlights the 'special' assets of the Preston River Valley.
2. Yabberup will become the 'southern gateway' to an expanded Wellington National Park.
3. A national park becomes a pivotal asset and enabler for future ecotourism opportunities for Preston River Valley as the host community.
4. The new boundaries provide a clear link with the Ferguson River Valley and Collie River Valley and the broader Bun-Geo tourism strategies.
5. Inclusion of this southern region is important from a conservation perspective as they are catchment areas for the Preston River. They are also important habitat zones for threatened and endangered species. As changes to our rainfall and temperature occurs in response to climate change it will be the 'cooler' southern slopes which will become even more critical habitat zones.

"Expanding national parks was important in order to protect conservation values and ensure these areas could be enjoyed by future generations. During the past 10 years visitation to the park has increased substantially and more than 315,000 visitors had gone through the park over the past year. Wellington National Park continues to grow as a popular destination due to the proximity to Perth, outstanding scenic, cultural and biodiversity values and the multitude of recreational activities it offers." Stephen Dawson, Environment Minister

What could be improved

Inclusion of all Balingup, Grimwade and Catterick vegetation complex groups which are currently underrepresented in IUCN I-IV and are vital habitat zones for threatened and endangered species. Addition of these zones also seeks to increase connectivity and reduce edge to area ratio to support wildlife movement and biodiversity resilience in response to climate change and tourism impacts. This would see a minimum expansion of 8840 hectares. Ideally a minimal expansion of 9928 hectares would be optimal to further support connectivity and edge to area ratios.

For a more detailed outline of our response and help with writing your submissions we will be holding a workshop on **Tuesday, February 12 from 6.30pm -7.30pm at the Yabberup Hall**. Please email us on promotepreston@gmail.com to register.

Promote Preston is a subcommittee of the Yabberup Community Association.

Wrap up of our 2018 Spring program



Our spring program was a great success again this year. Our spring programs have proven to be a great way to test out ideas and to develop our tourism knowledge and capacity. This year we built on previous bush regeneration and citizen science initiatives and celebrated our local artists. We had great media coverage including a wonderful article in the new *Bun Geo Found* magazine.

At the Bush Regen workshop we learnt how to create wildlife corridors and at our Citizen Science weekend we did some more mapping of our local flora. We have now identified 150 flora species in the Yabberup and Arcadia region. Thanks Sherry Thomas and Scott Bartholemew for taking the lead on these two events and to Bonnie Flynn for the amazing catering.

***Art...Naturally* showcases the beauty and creativity of the Preston River Valley**



It was a fabulous weekend. Preston River Valley was a vibrant hub of creativity and community.

With four artist studios joining 'Fernbank' open garden and our art exhibition, the *Art...Naturally* trail did a wonderful job of showcasing our beautiful Preston River Valley and wonderful community.

Our textile fine art exhibition held at the Yabberup Hall was an outstanding success. Nearly 100 people gathered on Saturday evening for the judging of the 'For the Love of Nature' textile fine art competition. Congratulations to all the wonderful artists who entered pieces and were exhibited alongside notable Bunbury-Geographe artists Jenni Doherty, Jane Flower, Val Hornibrook and Helen Seiver. Thank you too, to internationally renowned Noongar artist Sandra Hill and Ferguson Valley artist Jan Hart for judging. They were very impressed at the quality and thought that went into the art works exhibited.

First prize was won by Preston River Valley artist, Sally Young for her piece 'Natural decay of humanity' (see above image on right).

2nd prize went to Robyn Inkpen for her piece "Warning-bleached coral in a plastic sea"

3rd prize went to Elaine Sheridan for "Next generation"

Special mention was made for Valerie Rowe's piece, "Respect, Protect, Preserve"

As Jan Hart shared, "It was a great pleasure to be involved in *Art ...Naturally*. A great concept well executed by all involved. The Hall looked a treat with its beautiful floral arrangement at the entrance. All the objects inside were curated with much thought and consideration and the catalogue was superb. I found the standard very high and with the extra works by accomplished artists to fill the hall it was so interesting to the whole exhibition. The organiser Fiona Richardson was industrious with her team. The food and drinks were delightful and the atmosphere she created outside for the public and artists was so friendly we all had a great time. It's been a pleasure for me to see such active and creative people working together to put Preston Valley on the map as an exciting place to enjoy contemporary artisans at their work in some very interesting studios."

Thank you to Georgina Richardson who did a great job as curator and to Balingup resident Sean Mitchell who shared his talent and expertise in lighting and hanging the exhibition. Thank you also to Sam Dixon for being our textile artist in residence on the Saturday.

The artists Sally Young, Cynthia Dix, Janelle Barnes and Marion Dreaver who opened their studios had a great turn out and the feedback from the community has been great.

"Many thanks to the organisers of this outstanding week-end of art, craft and fellowship. The organisation was superb, the variety and quality of the work on display was amazing ... so many talented people living around us down here ... and the atmosphere of friendliness and community spirit was uplifting." Elizabeth and Russell Docking

More photos of the Art...Naturally weekend can be found on facebook [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

Plans for 2019 ...want to join in the fun?

Hot of the press...plans are afoot to support *Art...Naturally* again in 2020 with a slightly different twist...so keep the first weekend of November free to come and join in the fun.

We are also exploring funding to get some street art happening and to connect up and promote our local food producers.

If you are a resident of the Preston River Valley and would like to be involved in activating and promoting our valley then send us an email. We are always on the look out for positive 'can do' people to join the team!

Thank you

On behalf of the Promote Preston team we would like to thank the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire council for the community grant that made our Spring program possible and everyone who contributed along the way.

And a BIG THANK YOU to the Anglican Parish Boomerang Bags group (see pictures below) in Donnybrook for donating \$337.45 towards our *Greater Wellington National Park* campaign. The boomerang club were instrumental in getting us to switch from plastic to BYO bags at the Donnybrook IGA. Now that it has been legislated by the WA Government this group has dissolved. The group have donated the funds they raised selling their bags to Promote Preston as *"the expansion of the Wellington National Park will benefit many people in our community and visitors to our region helping them to feel connected to their natural environment with all the benefits that brings"*. It is another example of the great community support we have received along the way.



Members of the Donnybrook Boomerang club | Dianne Da're, Colleen Bandy, Sandy Holdaway, Dot Pendergrast, Deborah Scoullar, Emily Jendrzejak, Katrina Zeehandelaar-Adams, Priscilla Symes, Louise Haydock, Marilyn Schmit, Will Holdaway, Lucille Piesse, Claire Jendrzejak, Marg and Stu Law, Leonie Darlington, June Scott

Other information of interest

Tourism in Bushfire Prone Areas

The WA Government is seeking comment on the draft Position Statement: [Position Statement: Tourism Land Uses in Bushfire Prone Areas](#) which aims to facilitate tourism land uses that are consistent with local planning strategies and provide a decision-making framework to ensure consideration of bushfire risk that is appropriate to the use. Submissions close **5pm Wednesday 20 March 2019**.

Inclusive tourism

Did you know that disability tourism is already a major tourism sector with Australian research putting its value at 11% of the total industry market share and is anticipated to increase to 25% by 2020. Accessibility isn't only about people who use wheelchairs – it can also include people with vision or hearing loss, people who need to travel with support people, people with learning challenges and allergies.

Universal access and disability tourism are key priorities in Promote Preston's [strategic plan](#). We were delighted to attend the [disability tourism community challenge](#) held in Bunbury recently where ideas on how to better support people with disabilities were shared. For more information on this area of tourism click [here](#).

For more information

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