

*Imagine*

# GREATER WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK



creating innovative eco-tourism opportunities for the Preston Valley and beyond

## November Newsletter

*Support from the community for the expansion of the Wellington National Park has been overwhelmingly positive. We have collected **1195 signatures** from local residents and visitors to the area in the past eight weeks....people have been literally lining up to support us!*



### Talking to people...questions and answers

We have talked to ministers, government departments, local government, tourism agencies, chambers of commerce, the community and visitors to the area. The most common questions we are asked are:

#### **What does a Category II national park mean exactly?**

A Category II national park is a multipurpose park with a range of zones that offer environmentally and culturally compatible recreational, educational, spiritual, scientific, conservation and visitor opportunities.

#### **How does this idea fit with the bigger regional picture?**

An expanded Wellington National Park would be a wonderful asset to region. It meets 6 of 12 key actions for the [Bunbury, Wellington Boyup-Brook regional tourism strategy](#). It would be the centre piece for a tourism loop that connects Bunbury, Donnybrook, Mumbalup and Collie. And world class adventure-nature experiences including camping, bike-riding and bush-walking trails, an adventure park, cultural centre and nature play. It would also offer something unique with the provision of a ceremony area which accompanying birthing forest (tree plantings for births), natural burial site, earth art trail and community nursery.

### **How will we benefit?**

A GWNP is a very clear statement that this area is special which will provide the security of tenure needed to create job and business opportunities locally in the Preston Valley now and into the future.

### **Do the burning practices change when an area becomes a national park?**

The Department of Parks and Wildlife burning protocol is the same for national parks as it is for state conservation areas.

### **Will this help our flora and fauna?**

What we have here is a one of a kind temperate eucalypt forest that is found nowhere else on earth. A national park will provide habitat for the Carnaby's Cockatoo, Forest Red-tail Black Cockatoo, Brush-tailed Phascogale, Chuditch and the rare mainland Quokka. We view citizen science and species recovery programs as a great way to engage our community in 'caring for country'.

### **Why a national park?**

We know we are on a winner with [increased visitations for all national parks across the state](#). There was a 32% increase in the number of visitations to Wellington National Park in just one year from 191,000 in 2013-2014 to 280,000 in 2014-2015. (DPAW, 2016) High visitor numbers start affecting the features people came to experience, so a larger national park will spread the impact.

According to Tourism WA if we keep people in the region one more day the average expenditure is \$157 for intrastate visitors and \$161 for interstate and \$67 for international visitors. Wild visitors (ie into outdoor adventure) tend to stay longer and spend more. Tourism Research Australia has found that for every tourism dollar spent there is a flow on effect of an extra 87c to other parts of the economy.

### **What about logging?**

Promote Preston is requesting approximately 10,000 hectares be added to the existing WNP. This excludes the 3,000 hectares of pine plantations in the region. Of the 10,000 hectares - 8,000 has been logged in the past 20 years. Some of the remaining 2,000 hectares is currently under consideration for logging in the next 3 years. We are asking for a moratorium on these as they are high conservation areas which will be essential for creating positive, high quality experiences for tourists.

## Springtime Walks



Citizen Science is a great way to learn more about our flora and fauna. Steve and Sherry took us on a wonderful wildflower walk. We found 104 different types of plants.

The last of our springtime walks will be held on **Sunday, November 6**. This will be an opportunity to create a memento of the land. It will be a windfall meditation walk and what we collect will be used to make an eco-print for you to keep. For more information go to [www.imaginegwnp.com/springtimewalks](http://www.imaginegwnp.com/springtimewalks). Register with Chris on 9732 1258 or [christinewessling@westnet.com.au](mailto:christinewessling@westnet.com.au)

### Help out

***...please show your support by sending an email to our politicians requesting a moratorium on logging in the lead up to the election.***

Arcadia 3 forest block is being prepared for logging. This block is a high conservation area with stunning blackbutt in its midst. It is also the southern entrance for a Greater Wellington National Park. Please use the attached email template to ask that no logging happens in the proposed Greater Wellington National Park in the lead up to the next election in March.

Alternatively you can sign an online petition at

[www.communityrun.org/petitions/imagine-a-greater-wellington-national-park](http://www.communityrun.org/petitions/imagine-a-greater-wellington-national-park)

*...‘Like’ us on Facebook*

To keep up to date on things check out our [Facebook page](#)...

'Like' us if you haven't already and **share our page** with your friends

Share our '[I support a Greater Wellington National Park](#)' image

*...Share this newsletter*

*...Donate*

Donations - big and small - towards our campaign are gratefully received. We will be acknowledging all our supporters. Account details can be found on our [supporters page](#).

## **Stay informed**

We will be posting regularly about our campaign on our [Facebook page](#) and our [website](#).

*Any questions, ideas or offers of support*

Email us on [info@imaginegwnp.com](mailto:info@imaginegwnp.com) and one of the team will get back to you.

*ImagineGWNP is a campaign of **Promote Preston**, a sub-committee of the Yabberup Community Association*