

Imagine

GREATER WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK



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

Promote Preston Newsletter | June, 2017

Hi everyone

We have been quiet for a little bit on the newsletter front...taking a bit of a breather while the new government got established. Now they are all ready to go and it is time for phase 2 - making the **Greater Wellington National Park** a reality!

All is GO!

Just in case you missed out on the exciting news ... just before the March election [WA Labor](#) announced that *if elected it would expand the Wellington National Park*. The consultation process for this has begun. We met with [Chris Tallentire MLA](#) and senior policy advisor Mark Chimielewski and took them on a tour showing them the forest areas in our proposal, highlighting the many opportunities an expanded national park would bring to both our local community and the wider region.



Picture Mark Chimielewski, Chris Tallentire and Scott Bartholomew looking at some of early settler practices in the forest

We recently had an article in the [South West Times](#). Our local member, Mick Murray reinforced his commitment to making this happen.

"I will be working closely with Promote Preston, the Minister for Environment and other relevant stakeholders to make sure this valuable natural asset is protected and contributes to expanding the Collie-Preston electorate as an area of natural beauty and tourism," Mr Murray said.

Beach to Bush...some exciting developments

Knowing there will be security of purpose and tenure makes it more viable to start conversations around business opportunities. The election announcement has provided us with the opportunity to go ahead with this. In the past few months we have some positive talks with the tourism sector in the Bunbury-Geographe region...exploring how we could value add to the [Bunbury Geographe tourism strategy](#). We tick so many of the boxes! We believe that Bunbury can provide the iconic beach experience with the Greater Wellington National Park providing the iconic bush experience. We have also begun exploring how we could partner with our neighbours in the Ferguson Valley to extend the opportunities around nature art and community festivals. *Watch this space....!*

Greater Wellington National Park...something special...a place for LOVE ♡



You probably know about Honeymoon pool in the existing park...did you know about the *Lovers Tree*?

The *Lovers Tree* stands where two young lovers who were forbidden to love each other died. Their love for each other (according to legend) was so strong, that the two trees (one marri, one jarrah) grew together and are now one. This tree is symbolic of the strength of that love.

This is just one of the stories we have collected as part of our *Preston Tales* project. This project aims to capture the stories (old and new) of the Preston River Valley.

If you have a story about a special place or know part of the history of Preston River Valley we would like to hear from you.

Image by [Alex Berndt](#)

WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR SPONSORS who can help us engage local artists to support this project. If you are interested and would like to know more please email us.

...the PLAN

Promote Preston is keen to explore innovative ideas that will encourage micro-businesses that reconnect people with nature. Our proposal (www.imaginegwnp.com/plan) was informed by six months' worth of conversations with key government, industry and community stakeholders. It sets out a vision for a multi-use national park that actively supports people to engage with the forest landscape via a range of activities – both traditional (eg camping, cycling, bushwalking) and more innovative (eg nature play, citizen science/volunteer tourism, natural burials, outdoor weddings and ceremonies, nature art trails, Aboriginal cultural centre, adventure and education zone to name a few). Our

research shows these are all viable activities that would stimulate micro business opportunities for us as the host community - similar to what has occurred for the Ferguson Valley in the past 20 years. Time now, to get a bit more input on some of the details...we are interested in your thoughts. So...to start with...

1. What do you think about having a camp area where dogs are allowed? If so, where?

2. What about having 'sacred spaces' designated for ceremony?

Holding personal celebrations and ceremonies such as weddings in natural environments is the latest 'in thing' (see www.facebook.com/soulcampingwa/videos/1030843037017556/ and <http://hellomay.com.au/article/theme/bush/>).

3. Would you like to be buried or have your ashes scattered in the forest?

There is a growing movement around natural burials. It all started in the UK in the 1990s where they now have over 270 sites. The USA has picked up on the idea (see <https://vimeo.com/38397555>) and so has Australia where there are natural burial places in NSW, SA and Perth (eg www.sydneynaturalburialparks.com.au/natural-burial.html).

Email any comments or thoughts on any of the above to info@imaginegwnp.com

We will also be seeking comments on these and other ideas via our facebook page... www.facebook.com/imaginegwnp and at upcoming community events.

Thank you to our supporters

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported Promote Preston over the past year. We look forward to your continued support. A special shout out to Marg Richardson who is a GOLD sponsor.



Promote Preston is a not-for-profit community group. If you would like to support our Greater Wellington National Park campaign or our Preston Tales project you can make a donation [here](#).

The **Greater Wellington National Park** is an initiative of **Promote Preston** which is a subcommittee of the Yabberup Community Association. Our aim is to create a prosperous economic future for the residents of Preston River Valley.

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