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Australian Geoparks Network Newsletter No. 5 July 2022



News about Geoparks, Geotourism, Geotrails and Geoheritage

FROM THE CHAIR



This is our second newsletter for 2022 and as always, lots is happening in the world of geoparks, geotourism, geotrails and geoheritage.

Since our last newsletter in **February** the Australian Government released its **Thrive 2030 Strategy *The Re-Imagined Visitor Economy***. This is a National Strategy for Australia's visitor economy recovery and return to sustainable growth 2022 - 2030. The AGN is working with Austrade on fostering greater awareness of geoparks and their potential to grow Australia's Visitor Economy through sustainable regional development. In **April** UNESCO's Executive Board approved the designation of eight new UNESCO Global Geoparks bringing the number of sites participating in the Global Geoparks Network to 177 in 46 countries. Two new countries, Luxembourg and Sweden, joined the network with the designation of their first geoparks. In **May** the AGN in collaboration with Geoparks WA held an *Invitation Only Geoparks Workshop* for those groups actively working towards establishing a geopark in their region. Four Regions participated with another two in possible starters in attendance. In **June** two aspiring geoparks in Western Australia, Nannup and Peel, held important meetings furthering their advancement towards establishing Aspiring Geoparks.

In this edition of our Newsletter we introduce the *Thrive 2030 Strategy*. This is followed by an update on three Aspiring Geoparks in Western Australia as well as a report on the recent Geoparks Workshop for Aspiring Geopark Communities, written by Dr Alan Briggs, AGN Deputy Chair. News from our neighbours across the Tasman is that the

Featured Member is **Wendy Dowling AM**, a pioneer of geotourism and geoparks. Wendy is Foundation Secretary of the AGN and a Co-Founder and Board Member of Geoparks Western Australia.

Our Featured UNESCO Global Geopark is the **Cliffs of Fundy UGGp** in Nova Scotia, Canada. This is supplemented by a report by Sebastian Jones, Chair, Peel Aspiring Geopark (WA) who recently visited the Geopark. In our UNESCO Global Geoparks section we report on the recent addition of eight Global Geoparks as well as a UNESCO Report on **Geoparks and Oceans**. Three upcoming Geopark Conferences are noted as are four recent academic papers on geoparks, all from the journal *Geoheritage*. Finally, a Geotourism Workshop at the *6th Brazilian Symposium on Geological Heritage* is noted as it has contributions by Professor Iain Stewart (leading Global Geoheritage Communicator) and the AGN Chair.

In summary, there is much happening in the world of geoparks and this is reflected in Australia. The AGN encourages members and anyone else interested to keep in touch with us so we can advocate on your behalf to promote geoparks and their benefits in your region. We love geoparks!

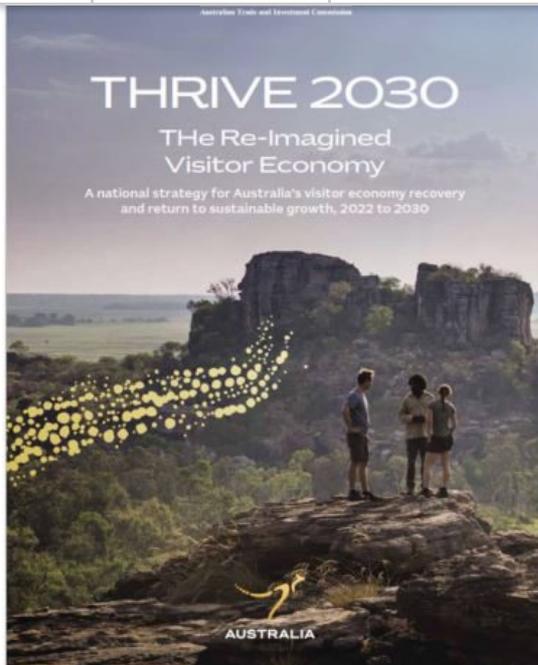


Professor Ross Dowling AM
Chair, Australian Geoparks
Network
Contact: r.dowling@ecu.edu.au

LATEST NEWS

Thrive 2030 - The Re-Imagined Visitor Economy

This report is a national strategy for Australia's visitor economy recovery and return to sustainable growth, 2022 - 2030. The Strategy sets a target of returning visitor expenditure to pre-covid levels of \$166 billion by 2024 and growing it to \$230 billion by 2030. It includes actions for governments and industry under three key themes - Collaborate, Modernise and Diversity (www.austrade.gov.au/visitoreconomy).



Action 7.6 of the Strategy is to 'grow and develop high-quality products and experiences around unique Australian locations and themes, including approaches which integrate sustainable nature tourism with economic opportunities for Traditional Owners, and capitalise on emerging trends such as geotourism'.

One of the Case Studies in the Strategy focuses on the Northern Inland region of New South Wales, the Glen Innes Highlands. The Report states that 'the region is embracing geotourism as a way of helping communities develop experiences that protect and explain the natural and cultural heritage of important regions. This ensures tourism has community acceptance and delivers socio-economic opportunities'.

It adds that Glen Innes is working to be nominated as an Aspiring Geopark along with Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Northern Beaches coastline of New South Wales, as well as the Murchison GeoRegion of Western Australia.

Case
study**Geotourism puts Glen Innes
Highlands on the map**

In the Northern Inland region of New South Wales, Glen Innes Highlands is embracing an emerging global trend: geotourism.

Geotourism is a nature-based experience that describes how geology shapes the character of a region. It uses storytelling to connect:

- landscapes, landforms and the night sky
- flora and fauna
- First Nations and European cultural heritage.

Geotourism helps communities develop experiences that protect and explain the natural and cultural heritage of important regions. This ensures tourism has community acceptance and delivers socio-economic opportunities.



Image Credit: Glen Innes Severn Council.

Editor's Note: The AGN asked both of the NSW GeoRegions to provide an update on their activities for this Newsletter but did not receive any responses. The Murchison GeoRegion provided the following report.

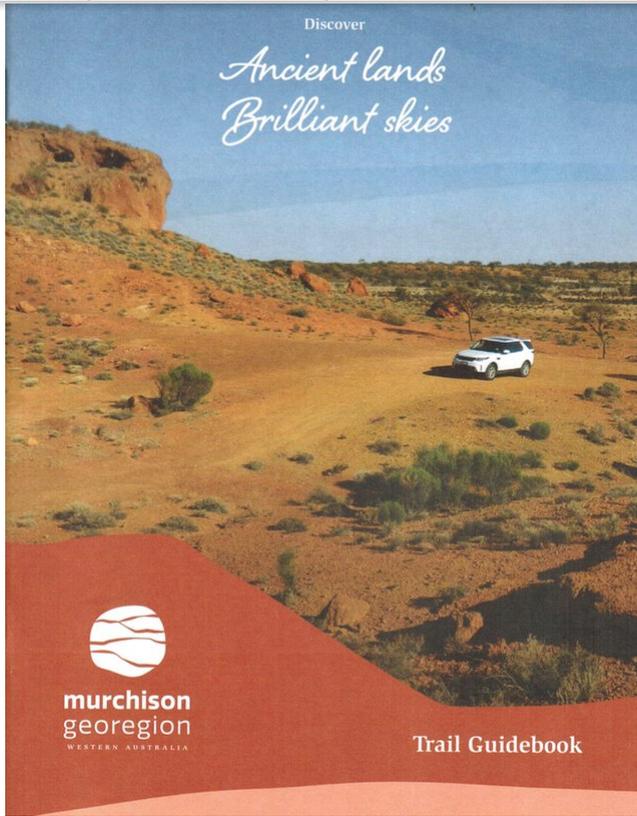
ASPIRING GEOPARKS

The Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia



Karen Morrissey OAM, Chair of the Murchison GeoRegion Project Working Group is a pioneer of geotourism in Australia having sought to have a georegion in her region since 2009. Here she updates what is happening in 2022.

The Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark has a new **Trail Guidebook** available. It not only includes the original 21 Geosites, but also includes the six towns and one settlement in the Region, as well as the 'Top Things to See and Do'. This has made the booklet more visitor friendly with all relevant information in the one publication. Published in hard copy format and available at Visitor Centres, the Trail Guidebook, map and free App are also available on www.murchisongeoregion.com



The Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Global Geopark story - *Our Journey* was recently presented at the AGN / Geoparks WA Workshop in Perth, by Dr Kelvin Matthews, Inaugural CEO Representative of the Project Working Group. Also, Karin Grima - GeoRegion Project Manager, recently gave a presentation to Local Government Professionals WA, resulting in an article for publication in the July Issue of LG Professionals *Statewide* magazine.



The Granites, Mount Magnet, Murchison GeoRegion are a significant Aboriginal rock art

The Annual **Mount Magnet Astro Rocks Fest**, in the Murchison GeoRegion will be held from 16 – 18 September 2022. As usual it has an exciting program over three days, including an Astrofest evening overseen by the International Centre Radio Astronomy Research, astronomy presentations, an Astrophotography Exhibition and Astrophotography Workshop. The Geological Survey of WA are giving three presentations, including Murchison StoryMap, Minerals Galore – ancient stories behind the hidden gems of the Murchison, and the fascinating Boogardie Orbicular Granite. In the field, are The Granites Badimia Aboriginal Heritage Tour, Ramelius Minesite Tours, Boogardie Orbicular Granite and Warroan Rock tag along tours. www.mtmagnet.wa.gov.au All-in-all there is a lot happening in the GeoRegion as it works towards establishing a geopark.



The Opening of the Murchison GeoRegion's AstroRocks Festival 2021. **Left:** Dr Kelvin Matthews, CEO, Shire of Mount Magnet and geopark enthusiast; Second from right, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, WA Minister for Regional Development and geopark supporter; far right: Karen Morrissey OAM, Chair, Murchison GeoRegion Project Working Group. **Right:** Karen introducing Ross & Wendy before their joint presentation on the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark.

Peel Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia

The Peel Aspiring Geopark has been gaining momentum locally under the leadership of Sebastian (Base) Jones, a geologist and co-owner of Salt and Bush Eco Tours (<https://saltandbush.com.au/>). Working together with his wife Jamie, an Award Winning Ecotour Guide, they are hard working, passionate advocates of the natural and cultural environment and are committed to establishing a geopark in the Peel Region.

Sebastian notes - Our Working Group has established a preliminary boundary and potential sites for the geopark covering key geological features as well as key biotic and cultural sites. We have been actively engaging with local stakeholders to build a baseline of support for the proposed geopark. In addition we have been liaising and consulting with a local indigenous Bindjareb community, seeking their advice regarding the narrative they would like to share through the Aspiring Geopark on Bindjareb country'.

wetlands of the Swan Coastal Plain across the Peel Region'. Along with a more expansive narrative a preliminary Draft Site Assessment has been completed for 30 potential sites in the proposed geopark. The Abiotic, Biotic, and Cultural elements of each site have been researched, summarised and compiled. There is also a chance to list relevant businesses, organisations and other significance at each site. This site assessment will be an ongoing working document that we continue to use to shape the Peel Aspiring Geopark.

On 28 June the Peel Aspiring Geopark Working Group held its 7th meeting and started to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding to be shared with Local Government Representatives and relevant stakeholders of the geopark. A large part of the work to be done is in consulting with the Bindjareb indigenous community regarding the cultural sites and the narrative they would like to contribute to the geopark. We are also working on the official naming of the geopark, and we are again consulting with the Bindjareb community around this. Our next step is wider community consultation and sharing regarding the Geopark concept. We are moving forward and have started to develop a good foundation of knowledge for the Peel Aspiring Geopark and significant sites within it.

The Aspiring Geopark recently featured in 'Peel', the Peel Development Commission's Newsletter (Vol. 8.1 Autumn / Winter, 2022), and is reprinted here with permission from the Editor.



The Peel Aspiring Geopark

WORDS | Professor Ross Dowling AM, Chair, Australian Geoparks Network

IMAGES | Dr Alan Briggs

The Peel Region has positioned itself as a progressive, prosperous and dynamic region with a number of strategies to achieve this goal.

Three key strategies are to develop a Thriving Industry; build Strong and Resilient Communities; and foster Tourism Excellence. One way of capturing all these goals is through the development of a geopark in the region.

A geopark is a vehicle for achieving sustainable regional economic development whilst protecting the environment, underpinned by geological and landscape attractions. They foster economic development, community well-being and conservation. Geoparks are a program of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). They were started as a concept in 2004 and became a full UNESCO Program in 2015. 'Aspiring' geoparks become 'National' geoparks before applying to be included as a 'UNESCO Global Geopark'.

Today there are hundreds of aspiring and national geoparks around the world as well as 169 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 44 countries. However, there are no geoparks in Australia and it is time now for us to embrace them as an effective tool for regional development. Western Australia is well placed to establish the first geoparks in the country and use them as vehicles for generating regional economic and social-cultural benefits.

In the Peel Region a Working Group has been meeting since August 2021 to establish an Aspiring Geopark. Initiated by the Peel Development Commission and led by local tour operators Sebastian (Base) Jones and Jamie van Jones of Salt & Bush Eco Tours, the group comprises representatives of the Peel Development Commission, Visit Mandurah, the City of Mandurah and several traditional custodians.



THROMBOLITES
RAMSAR wetlands at Peel-Yalgorup lake system, living rocks as a primitive life form resembling stromatolites.

THE PEEL ASPIRING GEOPARK GROUP
Visiting the Cultural Circle near Yalgorup Lake.

The group is supported by Geoparks WA and the Australian Geoparks Network.

With funding support from the Peel Development Commission, Base and Jamie are assessing approximately 40 sites across Peel, for their alignment with Global Geoparks requirements of significant abiotic, biotic and cultural heritage components.

Base says "The Peel Region has so much to contribute to an Aspiring Global Geopark, including the geological wonder of the largest microbialite reef in the Southern Hemisphere — The Thrombolites. The working group with local Bindjareb community leaders were able to visit this site and four other possible sites of interest for the geopark on a recent field trip."

Geoparks
foster economic development, community well-being and conservation.

"In May, I will be travelling to Canada to visit two UNESCO Global Geoparks — Stonehammer in New Brunswick and Cliffs of Fundy in Nova Scotia. I will bring these valuable learnings back with me to the Peel working group."

Dr Alan Briggs, President of Geoparks WA notes that "There is strong interest in establishing geoparks across Western Australia to create improved communities, enhance businesses and create jobs. A number of regions are actively working towards establishing geoparks including the cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo, Margaret River & Busselton, the Shire of Nannup, and the already established Murchison GeoRegion".

He adds, "The Peel Geopark project is exciting with a strong working group

driving the project with the support of the Peel Development Commission".

Professor Ross Dowling AM, Chair, Australian Geoparks Network, is excited about establishing a geopark in the Region, something he first suggested in the Spring/Summer PDC Newsletter in 2018. He says, "This is a perfect time to embrace the geoparks movement which I have seen add value to local communities around the world. It would be great if the innovative Peel Region could lead the way in Australia by establishing an Aspiring Geopark with the goal of becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark down the track. That would put Peel on a global map".

MORE INFORMATION

Visit <https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks> or contact Wendy Muir, Principal Regional Development Officer: wendy.muir@peel.wa.gov.au

Nannup Aspiring Geopark, Western Australia

The Nannup Aspiring Geopark Working Group is led by Mark White, a passionate, enthusiastic and knowledgeable local businessman who since first hearing about the concept of geoparks has the desire to establish a geopark in his community. He has built around him a team of highly qualified people with superb local knowledge. A number of members are highly qualified academically with each individual bringing their own discipline knowledge to the project. We have now moved from setting up the Park Team and Park Structure to now assembling information to build the geopark.

NANNUP IS THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A GEOPARK



- **The geology of the area is ancient**

It's situated across the Darling Fault that separates 2,600 million year old rocks from 100-200 million year old sediments filling a 9 km deep rift valley

- **Large and intact natural areas with significant features**

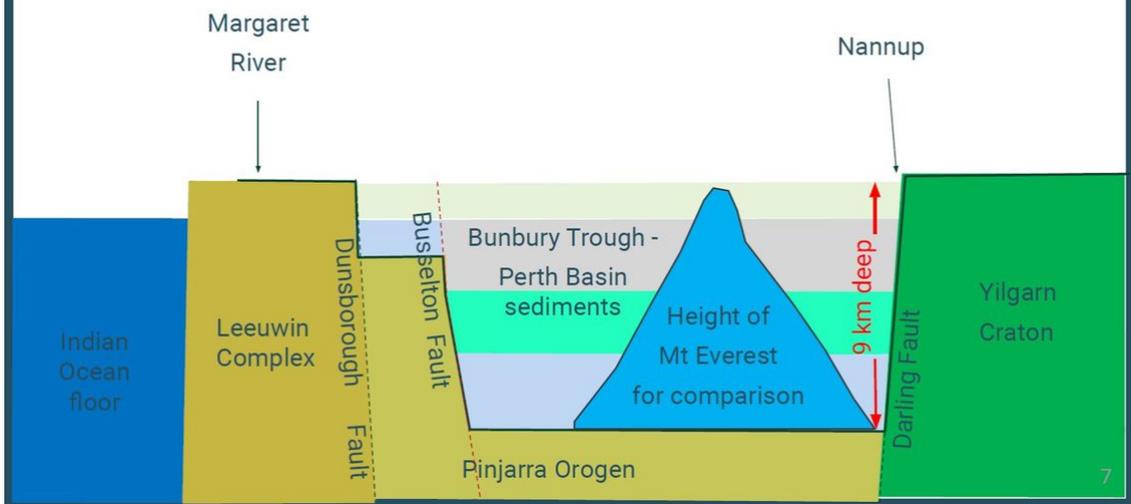
Over 85% of the Shire of Nannup is covered in state forest¹, containing flora and fauna with Gondwana links and protecting the Blackwood River, Lake Jasper and Black Point

- **A place of rich cultural heritage**

Nannup (stopping place) has been occupied and managed by the Noongar peoples for over 40,000 years. European settlement has also played a part in shaping the area as it is today.

1. Nannup Cycle Master Plan, 2020 5

Nannup's rift valley – the Bunbury Trough



Members on the team are building their knowledge on the requirements to establish the park and have embraced how the park will be presented to the public. Team Members are currently collecting information on the Abiotic, Biotic and Cultural components of the Geopark and this aspect is moving forward well. The technology-based park is allowing individuals to explore fields they wish to get involved with. Unique geology in the Nannup region has already been identified fulfilling our first geopark requirement.

Geoparks Western Australia Workshop

There continues to be strong interest in establishing geoparks by communities in Western Australia with the Murchison, Peel and Nannup Aspiring Geoparks. All three are well managed and moving towards their goals.

In the Perth Metropolitan Region, the cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo continue to engage in discussions with Geoparks WA. Boundaries have been established and communications are continuing with both Mayors and CEOs in advance of processing through the stages of Council and community presentations. Exciting karst topography, linear and circular lakes, the coastal plain and offshore, the Marmion Marine Park with its reefs and dive trails, are all great inclusions within the geopark boundary. The addition of coastal fauna and flora plus Aboriginal cultural heritage and early settler heritage add to this future geopark.

Western Australia. The workshop was held at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Offices in Kensington, Perth. The aim was to draw together the WA family of aspiring geoparks. It worked! What a wonderful, keen, and enthusiastic group of team players we have in this state

After an introduction to the current situation of International and National Geoparks, AGN Chair Ross Dowling invited a selection of aspiring geoparks to summarise their progress to date and boy, are they powering along. Murchison, Nannup, and Peel, along with Joondalup/Wanneroo have progressed towards incorporation stage. In addition, representatives from the Cities of Fremantle and Kalamunda also participated as regions which are potentially interested in establishing geoparks.

The Workshop also had a very positive presentation from the Geological Survey of Western Australia about the work they have done and continue to do for Geoheritage and Geotourism in WA. Check [Australian Geoparks Network News and Events](#). Watch this space at the [GSWA](#) geotourism website. Ian Lewis, AGN Board Member and South Australia's Geopark Guru, called in to outline his experiences with Kanawinka, and how geotrails are being given a huge boost in SA. Base Jones, Chair of the Peel Aspiring Geopark Working Group, gave his presentation by Zoom from eastern Canada where he was visiting two UNESCO Global Geoparks (see report below).

All-in-all, this 'Invitation Only' Workshop was a great success with 12 people participating in person and an additional 12 contributing via Zoom including representatives from the Cities of Kalamunda and Kalgoorlie, the Mid West Development Commission and the Geological Society of Australia (WA Branch). The workshop was supported by the Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism (FACET) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) via use of their venue. Check [#australia](#) [#geoparks](#) [#GeoparksWA](#)



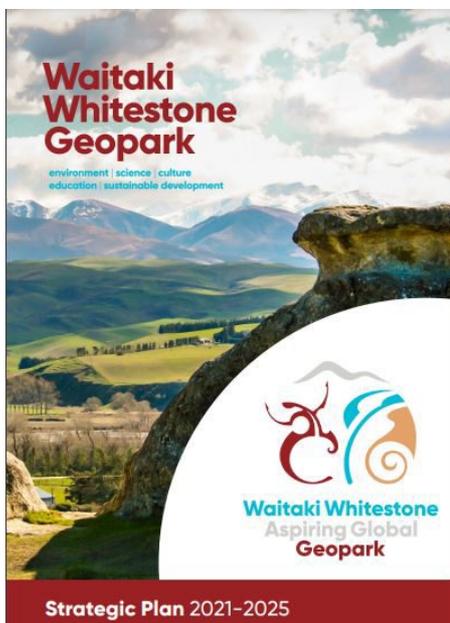
Left: Workshop Participants both In Person and by Zoom from four Aspiring Geoparks and two interested regions. **Right:** AGN Chair Ross Dowling leads discussion about the establishment of geoparks.

On Saturday 2 July the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark began its UNESCO Field Evaluation. The UNESCO Assessors were Professor Nickolas Zouros (Lesvos Island UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece) and Anchel Belmonte Ribas (Sobrarbe-Pirineos UNESCO Global Geopark, Spain). The three day evaluation mission began with a Maori Welcome (Powhiri) at the Moeraki Marae before visiting various sites across the district. The Field Evaluation is a crucial element for Waitaki Whitestone which aims to become New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark. For further information about the park visit their website at <https://whitestonegeopark.nz>

For those wishing to see a good Geopark Plan check out the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025. The Plan sets out the Mission, Vision, Strategic Direction, Development Roadmap and Operating Philosophy of the Geopark. It provides a timeline for the key projects within each workstream up until 2025. An Annual Plan outlining the year's workplan and budget will be approved by the Trust for each financial year.

See

https://www.whitestonegeopark.nz/_files/ugd/90046d_f3f2f4ab707d4665ba454008ed139ca6.pdf



Left: The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Strategic Plan. **Right:** AGN Chair Ross Dowling with Professor Nickolas Zouros, President, Global Geoparks Network, on a Field Trip during the 3rd Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium held on Jeju Island, South Korea in September 2013.

been involved jointly in geotourism development and geoparks advocacy around the world. Wendy is the Foundation Secretary of the Australian Geoparks Network and a Founding Board Member of Geoparks Western Australia. She has been actively involved in the Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism (FACET) for 30 years and has been a Board Member for the past decade.

Wendy Dowling AM

Wendy is a pioneer in the field of geotourism and together with her husband Ross, they have worked around the world promoting both geotourism and geoparks. Wendy acted as Recorder of the very first meeting of the AGN when it was held at the *Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference* in Fremantle, WA in August 2008. She was instrumental in running the Conference as well as the *Second Global Geotourism Conference* held in Mulu, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo in 2010. Wendy initiated the *Third Global Geotourism Conference* held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman in 2011. In fact she was instrumental in getting the deal done with the Government to host the Conference there, a Conference which was free for delegates having no Registration Fees!

Wendy has been an active member on the Organising Committees of many Geopark and Geotourism Workshops, Seminars and Conferences in Australia. She helped pioneer the Murchison GeoRegion and Aspiring Geopark through her involvement with the Forum Advocating Cultural & Eco Tourism (FACET) Conference held in Mount Magnet, in the Murchison Region, in 2009. She is also an integral member of the Peel Aspiring Geopark Working Group and helped plant the idea for an Aspiring Geopark in the Nannup Region.

Wendy co-authored a *Sustainable Tourism Development Plan for the Sultanate of Oman* 2008 in which she fostered the concept of both geotourism and geoparks. In 2012 she was a Lecturer at a University of Iceland Field School for Masters Students undertaking a postgraduate unit in Geotourism and Geoparks. She has also undertaken geotourism fieldwork on seven continents and recently she was invited by the Government of Uzbekistan to work with the Government Departments of Geology and Tourism to host a Workshop on Geotourism and Geoparks.

Wendy is also a pioneer of ecotourism and is a longstanding Board Member of WA's Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism (<https://www.facet.asn.au/>).

Wendy was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2018 for 'significant service to community health, particularly in Western Australia through support for people living with Coeliac Disease'.



Top Left: Wendy at the *Second Global Geotourism Conference* held at the Royal Mulu Resort, Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo (2010) with Dr Alan Briggs (AGN Deputy Chair) & his wife Ingrid. **Top Right:** The *Third Global Geotourism Conference* held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman (2011). Wendy was instrumental in initiating and convening the Conference. **Lower Left:** Wendy with staff and students from the University of Iceland undertaking a *Masters Field School Unit on Geotourism & Geoparks* (2011). In the background is Eyjafjallajökull, the volcano which 'stopped the world' the previous year. **Lower Right:** Wendy with Dr Temur Mirzaev, State Committee for Tourism Development, at the conclusion of the *Kitab International Geotourism Forum*, Shakhrisabz, Uzbekistan (2019).

FEATURED UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK

Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark, Canada

<https://fundygeopark.ca>



On the North shore of the Minas Basin in Nova Scotia, Canada, the Geopark features a varied landscape of hills, mountains, valleys, heavily forested areas, and coastal marshlands. Its broad biodiversity includes rare birds, fungi and

Central Atlantic Magmatic Province, the largest outpouring of lava in Earth history, fossils of early dinosaurs, vertebrates and more. The indigenous people of the region, the Mi'kmaq, have lived in the area for thousands of years, making it one of the earliest known sites of human habitation in northeastern North America. Passed down through the ages, their stories explain many geosites and the communities of Cliffs of Fundy are committed to preserving them for future generations.

The area has a combined population of approximately 5800 people, largely the descendants of Scottish, Irish, and English immigrants, and includes two municipal counties – Colchester and Cumberland. Many residents work in the service industry, or in trades, forestry, and fishing. Much of the economic activity of the area is tourist-related – art galleries, summer festivals, traditional crafts and foods, music events, and outdoor activities draw tourists from across the globe. The entire area of the geopark is connected by one main roadway. The international significance of the Cliffs of Fundy aspiring geopark has long been established, and involves many areas of geological and indigenous heritage including:

- site of early dinosaurs mirrored in contemporaneous sites in Africa, China and South America
- site of the earliest documented exploration for minerals by European explorers in the earliest Seventeenth century
- cultural centre of oral traditions and trade source, and oldest and best documented region of the indigenous peoples of northeastern North America.

Canadian UNESCO Global Geoparks Visit

Sebastian and Jamie Jones, Chair and Champions of the Peel Aspiring Geopark, toured the East Coast of Canada in May visiting the *Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark* in Nova Scotia and *Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark* in New Brunswick. The Cliffs of Fundy Geopark was hosting a Geological Association of Canada Conference Field Trip during the time of their visit and Sebastian was able to attend the first professional excursion of this Global Geopark that was established in 2019. The three-day excursion visited key geological sites and allowed for discussions with the founders and current management of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. Key insights from visiting these two Global Geoparks included: ongoing funding strategies for Geoparks, establishment challenges, the need for cultural consultation, and the importance of extensive community involvement. It was a very inspiring field trip with great connections and insights.

The following week Sebastian visited some of the sites of the Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark as well as the UNESCO World Heritage Joggins Fossil Cliffs. Geotourism is well and truly established in this part of Canada which is bringing along food producers, ecotourism operators, accommodation providers, local governments, passionate locals, and academics together to celebrate the rich geological heritage of the Bay of Fundy and the amazing geological story this part of the world tells.



Above: Cliffs of Fundy Field Excursion Day 2 - Cape Chingnecto (Sebastian Jones, Louise Leslie (Outreach Educator and Field Trip Leader) and Don Fletcher (Cliffs of Fundy UNESCO Global Geopark Board Member).



Left: Cliffs of Fundy Field Excursion Day 1 - Visiting Old Wife formation and the Cliffs of Five Islands Provincial Park. **Right:** Cliffs of Fundy Field Excursion Day 3 – Geoscientists and Science Educators visiting the East Bay mudstone and sandstone cliffs.

Global Geoparks Network (GGN)

The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), is a non-profit International Association established in 2014 (<https://globalgeopark.org>). The Network is the official partner of UNESCO for the operation of the UNESCO Global Geoparks. It was initially founded in 2004 as an international partnership developed under the umbrella of UNESCO and serves to develop models of best practice and set

Networking and collaboration among global geoparks is an important component of the Global Geoparks Network. As to be expected the Network promotes networking on a regional basis. For Global Geoparks in Asia – Pacific the Asia-Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN) acts as the Regional Network of the GGN. In Europe, it is the European Geoparks Network (EGN). A third regional network is the Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network. A recent addition is the African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN) - see below.

Asian UNESCO Global Geoparks: Asia Pacific Geoparks Network (APGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: http://asiapacificgeoparks.org/ • Email: apgn.office(at)gmail.com
European UNESCO Global Geoparks: European Geoparks Network (EGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: http://www.europeangeoparks.org/ • Email: egncoordinator(at)hotmail.com
Latin American and Caribbean UNESCO Global Geoparks: Latin American and Caribbean Geopark Network (LACGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: http://www.redgeolac.org/ • Email: geolacgeoparques(at)gmail.com
African UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (AUGGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website: https://www.visitgeoparks.org/african-geopark-network • Email: dgs.rbk@gmail.com

To be further inspired about geoparks check out the GGN Newsletters (<http://www.globalgeopark.org/News/Newsletter/index.htm>), and their Promotional Video at <https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/SPOT-GGN.mp4>

GGN PROMOTIONAL VIDEO



UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps)

UNESCO Designates Eight New Global Geoparks

<https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-designates-8-new-global-geoparks>

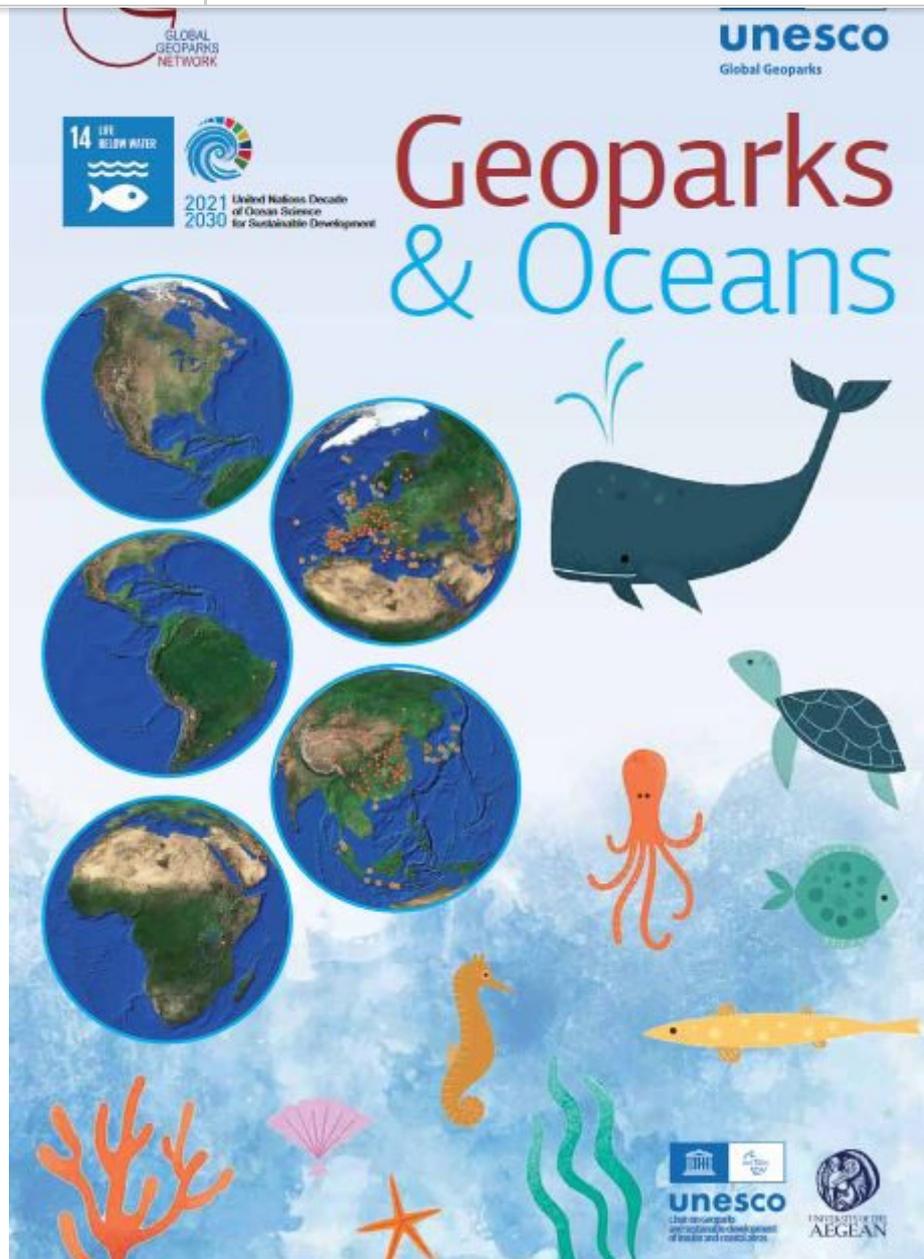
On 21 April 2022 UNESCO's Executive Board announced it had approved the designation of eight new UNESCO Global Geoparks bringing the number of sites participating in the Global Geoparks Network to 177 in 46 countries. Two new countries, Luxembourg and Sweden, this year join the Global Network with the designation of their first geoparks. With these 8 new designations, the Network now covers a worldwide surface area of 370,662 km², comparable to the area of Japan.

1. Seridó UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil
2. Southern Canyons Pathways UNESCO Global Geopark, Brazil
3. Salpausselkä UNESCO Global Geopark, Finland
4. Ries UNESCO Global Geopark, Germany
5. Kefalonia-Ithaca UNESCO Global Geopark, Greece
6. Méllerdall UNESCO Global Geopark, Luxembourg
7. Buzău Land UNESCO Global Geopark, Romania
8. Platåbergens UNESCO Global Geopark, Sweden

Geoparks and Oceans

2021 – 2030 is the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The marine environment is one of the important parts of some UNESCO Global Geoparks. More than 30% of UNESCO Global Geoparks have a maritime component and many of them, despite being located in continental areas, are the guardians of the evolution of former oceans. Activities in Geoparks contribute significantly to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and to other SDGs, such as SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The marine environment is fully included in the UNESCO Global Geoparks guidelines for the sustainable use of Earth's natural resources.

(https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/GGN_OCEAN_30_6_2022..pdf)



Geoparks are working towards achieving clean oceans and protecting their biodiversity and geodiversity. They are concerned about how they can interact with the oceans without disturbing the ecosystem, the measures that they need to take for dealing with pollution and how to achieve a balance between human activities and sustainability. Geoparks maintain and promote traditional activities like fishing and implement various good practices which are in line with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. In collaboration with UNESCO, the Global Geoparks Network presents some of the good examples of activities and good practices in the following video: <https://globalgeoparksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WorldOceansDay4.mp4>

CONFERENCES

**7th Asia Pacific Geoparks Network Symposium 4-11 September 2022
– Satun Province, Thailand**

information and registration visit <http://satunapgn2022.org>



16th European Geoparks Conference 26-30 September 2022 – Verbania, Italy <https://www.egn2022conference.eu>



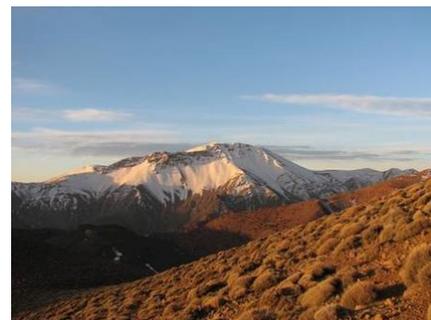
The Sesia Val Grande UNESCO Global Geopark will host the **16th European Geoparks Conference** (*Where Stone becomes Culture*), in Verbania, Italy from **26 to 30 September 2022**. The Conference also includes the 46th European Geoparks Network Meeting. The Organizing Secretariat can be contacted at www.ccicongress.com or on email at EGN2022@ccicongress.com.

10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks 5 -10 September 2023 – Marrakesh, Morocco

Morocco will host the **10th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks in Marrakesh in September 2023**. It is the first Arab and African country to host such event. The host Geopark is M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark (<https://en.unesco.org/global-geoparks/mgoun>). It is located 100km from Marrakesh in the middle of the central High Atlas Mountain Chain.



Its territory covers an area of medium to high mountains. The climate of the Atlas is Mediterranean with Atlantic influences. The Geopark consists of two zones, one with high rainfall and with temperatures between 35°C and 3°C and another characterized by lower rainfall. Snowfall is common from November to May. The geological history of M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark fits into the geological evolution of the central High Atlas dating back to the Triassic period, 250 million years ago, while the main stages took place during the Jurassic period, about 180 million years ago. It includes famous and spectacular footprints of sauropod and theropod dinosaurs and many deposits of bones. The territory contains numerous minerals: copper, zinc, barite, iron, basalt, limestone and dolomitic Triassic red clays. The M'Goun UNESCO Global Geopark consists of a large number of geosites and geological sites showing several large tectonic structures of the Atlas Mountains that sculpt the landscape.



PAPERS & REPORTS

Recent *Geoheritage* papers on Geoparks

A number of academic papers have been written on geoparks this year in the journal of *Geoheritage* (<https://www.springer.com/journal/12371>). They include:

- 1. Culturally differentiated paths towards the conservation of the paleontological heritage at Araripe (NE Brazil) and Arouca N Portugal UNESCO Global Geoparks** (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-022-00700-0>)
- 2. A GIS-supported multidisciplinary database for the management of UNESCO Global Geoparks: The Courel Mountains Geopark, Spain** (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-022-00654-3>)
- 3. Classification, spatial distribution pattern, forming reasons, and driving forces of national geoparks in China** (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-022-00675-y>)

6th Brazilian Symposium on Geological Heritage <https://6sbpg.igc.usp.br/>



The *6th Brazilian Symposium on Geological Heritage* (VI SBPG) is being held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 20 - 27 August 2022. Part of the Symposium is a two day **Geotourism Workshop** by the Brazilian Institute of Geosciences (<https://6sbpg.igc.usp.br/programacao/programacao-completa/>).

The Workshop includes an online presentation on *Geotourism Communication* by Professor Iain Stewart (Research Chair in Sustainability at the Royal Scientific Society in Jordan; Global Earth Science Communicator and Patron of the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark) as well as three online presentations on *Geotourism, Geoparks and Geotrails* by the AGN Chair. The following day is a full day Field Trip looking at Geotourism in the Old Centre of Sao Paolo.



Left: Iain & Ross at the *34th International Geological Congress (IGC)* held in Brisbane, Australia (2012) **Right:** At the *7th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks* held at the English Riviera UNESCO Global Geopark, Torquay, England (2016).

End of Newsletter

Well that's it from the Australian Geoparks Network. We are excited by the increased community interest in re-establishing geoparks in Australia and the AGN is committed to seeing the return of UNESCO Global Geoparks here.





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Mentoring & Promoting Geoparks

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