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Geoparks WA Reflections December 2022

There is so much positive activity in Western Australia in the fields of geotourism, geotrails and geoparks.

Geoparks WA Annual General Meeting

Geoparks WA held its Annual general meeting with a well-attended meeting in the City of Perth Library in October. Dr Alan Briggs was re-elected as President, Professor Ross Dowling AM was re-elected Vice President and Tracy Shea as Secretary/Treasurer. A strong board of 6 members was also elected.



Image 1: Front – Lisa Hindmarsh, Wendy Dowling AM and Tour Guide 2022 Jamie Van Egmond. Back – Mark Delane, Tracy Shea (Sec/Treas), Professor Ross Dowling AM (VP), Dr Alan Briggs (P), Sebastian Jones, Professor David Newsome.

Geological Survey Western Australia

Geotourism received a boost from the Geological Survey of Western Australia through its 6-monthly online forum discussing geotourism. As well as GSWA providing an update on its own work in this field, feedback is contributed from the Australian Geoparks Network on activity Internationally and across Australian, the development of the National Geotourism Strategy launched in April 2021, and from Geoparks WA on progress with the development of geoparks in Western Australia.

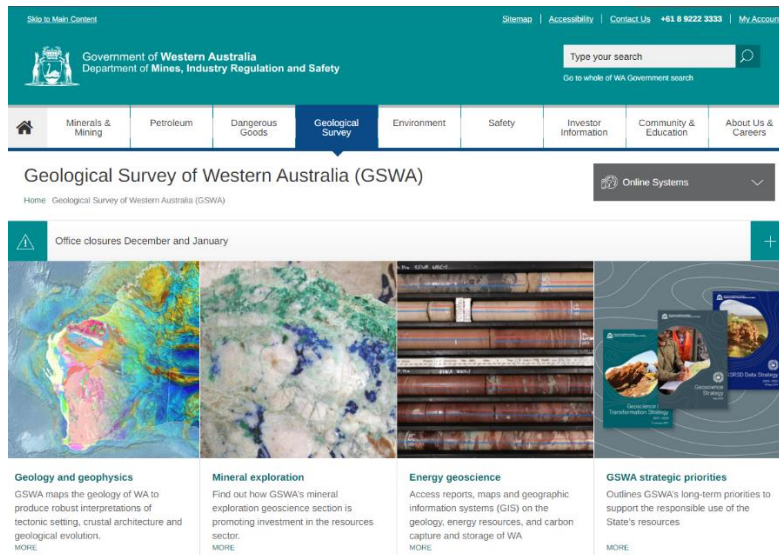


Image 2: Geological Survey of Western Australia website.

John Forrest Geotrail

GSWA has recently launched the John Forrest Geotrail, a walk up to and through the old railway tunnel with excellent descriptions of the geology of the Darling Scarp. The walk was created by Mike Freeman (rtd). Mike undertook local tours which were increasing in popularity. The walk is now a self-guided tour. The walk features on GSWA ([here](#)) and TrailsWA ([here](#)). Well done to both organisations for such an excellent geotrail.

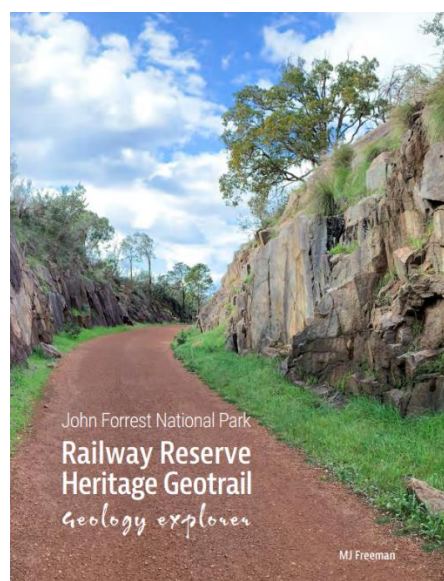


Image 3: Cover page of the John Forrest Geotrail booklet by GSWA.

Binjareb/Peel Geo-drive Trail

Peel Development Commission has recently funded the preliminary work to identify and establish a geotrail in the Mandurah, Pinjara and Waroona region taking in the coastal plains and darling Scarp. Geoparks WA is coordinating the project and has obtained the services of a McCusker Centre UWA Intern to assist with research and field work. This Summer project for the Intern has already yielded excellent indicators for the geodrive with a number of geosites identified and background geology gathered from researchers and published papers. The information for each geosites will be discussed with GSWA before preparing geosites descriptors. QR coding will enable geotourism to access additional information and podcasts from the Australian Geoparks Network website ([here](#)).



Image 4: Dr Alan Briggs (Geoparks WA, Jamie Van Egmond and Sebastian Jones (Salt and Bush Ecotours) and Wendy Muir (Peel development Commission)

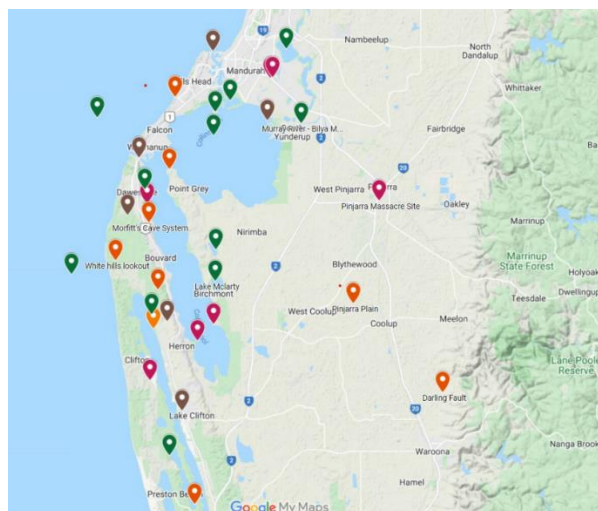


Image 5: Peel Region potential sites for the geodrive trail.

Speaking about Peel, work is continuing on the establishment of a geopark across the region. Keen locals are driving the project.

Nannup Geopark Inc.

The Nannup Geopark project has also been forging ahead. Following their incorporation as a not for profit organisation, and with a powerful local team, Nannup geopark presented the concept to the local Shire Council. The geopark appears to have been well received and now they will move on to further community consultation. The group has already developed plans for geotrails and a static display that will feature the regional geology including its connections to Gondwana.

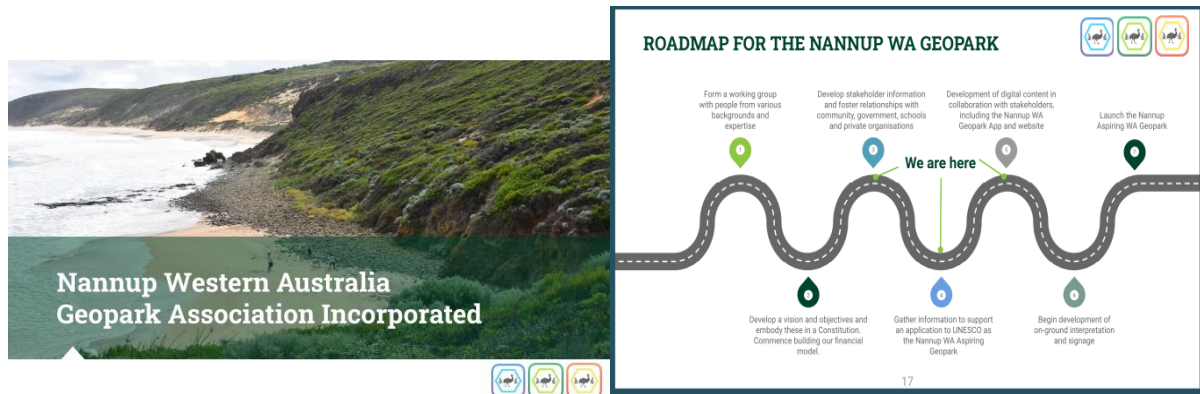


Image 6/7: Cover of Nannup Geopark Inc.'s presentation to Council and their roadmap.

Murchison Georegion

Murchison Georegion is also moving forward with a direction to incorporate the Steering group. The Murchison Georegion featured in the earlier released THRIVE 203 Report ([here](#)) as an aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark. Last year Geoparks WA was challenged by the Minister for Regional Development to produce a Geopark to be opened. Well, the Murchison Georegion is on track to achieve that. An App has been produced available for download.

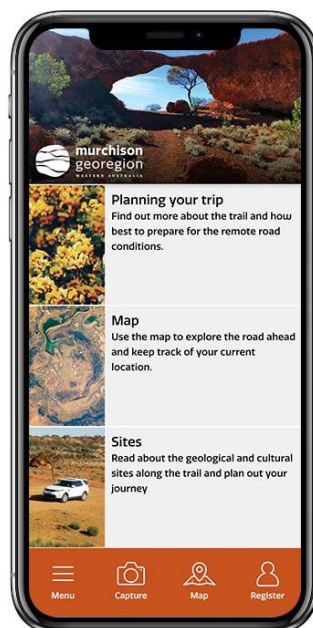


Image 8: Murchison Georegion App.

Joondalup/Wanneroo Geopark

The Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo have reconfirmed their commitment to establishing an urban geopark. With linear, circular lakes, karst topography and internationally known caves, they are on a great trajectory.



Image 9: Joondalup/Wanneroo sites for Abiotic, Biotic and Cultural interpretation

Forward into 2023

Geoparks WA is planning a Forum that will bring business, government, and the community together to grow geoparks in Western Australia.

Geoparks WA will continue to advocate and support community groups seeking geotourism and geoparks in their respective areas.

Geoparks WA with Mid West Development Commission support will develop a concept plan for a Drive Geotrail from Fremantle (the mouth of the Swan River) to Kalbarri (the Mouth of the Murchison River). While interpreting the geology of the Swan Coastal Plain up to the Yilgarn Craton, the geotrail will also highlight biotic and cultural aspects along the route, promote local businesses and provide safety opportunities for drivers to stop and take a break.

Consideration is also being given by Geoparks WA to developing a geo-drive trail from Fremantle to Augusta as there is so much potential for an extended geotrail along the coast with many exceptional geological features already recognised by our community and visitors.

And there is more! Watch this space.

So much happening in the work of geoparks in Western Australia.

Dr Alan Briggs

President – Geoparks WA