

Rottnest Foundation Summer Update 2017



Seasons greetings from the Rottnest Foundation.

It has been another busy six months for the Rottnest Foundation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the Foundation in our role in 'Conserving the Essence of Rottnest' and wish you all the very best for the Festive Season.



Wadjemup Bidi

It is with great pride that I can report that the Wadjemup Bidi is now fully walkable. The 45km trail that circumnavigates the Island and intersects some of the Island's salt lakes is a significant addition to the Island's recreational opportunities, in addition to protecting its fragile coastline and natural environment. We would like to take this opportunity to thank major partners, funders, the many volunteer groups and of course our members, who have all contributed to making this project happen.

Corporate partner BHP, whose contribution of \$559,100 together with staff who joined us in rehabilitation works, has seen the Karlinyah Bidi (northern beaches) and Wardan Nara Bidi (southern beaches) sections of the trail completed.

A successful Commonwealth Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure grant of \$210,000 managed by Tourism WA was directed to the development of the Ngank Wen Bidi (north section) of the trail.

We would also like to once again thank Rottnest Express who provided 500 ferry fares per year to allow volunteers to work on the trail.

Geordie's Café & Art Gallery – \$1,538 'Clean out the Coolroom' Donation

Each year Geordie's Café & Art Gallery hold a 'Clean out the Coolroom' Dinner, prior to closing for winter renovations, with all proceeds being donated to a charity. This year Café owner Samantha Howe chose the Rottnest Foundation as the recipient charity, with the event raising \$1,538.80. The dinner was held on Sunday 16 July and diners were thrilled to know that money raised was going directly to the Rottnest Foundation to help conserve the Island's natural, cultural and heritage assets.

A big thank you to Geordie's Café & Art Gallery and to all the locals and visitors who attended the event!



Rottnest Foundation Tree Planting Day – 22 July

A big thank you to those members who planted 1000 seedlings at Mabel Cove, along the Ngank Wen Bidi (northern section) of the Wadjemup Bidi. Volunteer support was a significant component in the development of the Wadjemup Bidi project and we thank all those members who participated in the Foundation's two planting days. Ferry fares are sponsored by Rottnest Express and bus transfers to-and-from the planting site and lunch is provided courtesy of the Rottnest Island Authority.



Rottnest Foundation Raffle - Closes 5 January 2018

'Win the Ultimate Week on Rottnest or 22 other great prizes'

Once again our annual raffle has been generously supported by the Rottnest Island Authority, Rottnest businesses and a number of WA wineries, restaurant and retail outlets. All monies raised from the raffle goes directly to the Foundation's environmental projects on the island. The Raffle will be drawn on 11 January and winners will be notified and published in the West Australian on 17 January 2018.

A big thank you to all Rottnest Foundation members who have purchased tickets and/or sold raffle ticket books and we wish you luck in the draw!



Rottnest Foundation 2018 Calendar - Perfect Xmas Gift!



Another important fundraising initiative for the Rottnest Foundation and promotional tool for the Island is our 2018 calendar. Thank you to the following Island businesses whose sponsorship funds the production of the calendar and allows all proceeds to be directed to environment and heritage projects on Rottnest; Adams, Geordie's Café & Art Gallery, Hotel Rottnest, Pelagic Marine Services, Programmed Facility Management, Reconciliation WA, Rottnest Bakery, Rottnest Express, Rottnest General Store, Rottnest Island Authority and Simmos Rottnest.

Thank you also to everyone who has purchased the calendar.

Rottnest Foundation Wildlife Monitoring

Long-term Rottnest Foundation Board member, Courtney Wheatley and his wife Trish have been busy monitoring and recording the island's osprey colony during their breeding season. Courtney reports, "Rottnest has experienced a bumper Osprey breeding season, with seven successful stacks (nests) in use rearing 8 nestlings (chicks) to fledging so far, with three more late-hatched nestlings yet to take off. The nest at Parker Point reared three very strong fledglings! These nestlings have been well fed this year, which is an indication of an abundant source of fish. The stack at Fish Hook Bay was severely damaged during the brooding season but the Osprey pair rebuilt the top section and laid two more eggs. However, the warm weather resulted in an increase of boats into the cove, disturbing the adults who then abandoned their eggs. This stack has now collapsed, but it will be interesting to see if these two adults return to rebuild the stack in the coming year." Working under the banner of the Rottnest Foundation Wildlife Monitoring, Courtney and Trish are passionate about the Island's flora and fauna and have supported important environmental research by monitoring and recording osprey, frogs and reptile activity on the Island.



Until our next communication, we hope you continue to enjoy Rottnest Island!
Best wishes to you all for the Festive Season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff King'.

Jeff King,
Chairman