

Member Update – Winter

Winter is a lovely time to visit and explore the Island, and Spring is just around the corner.

Once again the Foundation has been busy with our major projects and networking with relevant government and business stakeholders to raise the profile of our organisation and the important role it plays in **'Conserving the Essence of Rottnest'**.

A full outline of the Rottnest Foundation's activities throughout the year will be included in our Annual Report and circulated to members prior to the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on Rottnest on October 25.

Wadjemup Walk Trail

Experience the unique natural beauty of Rottnest Island by foot.

Rottnest Foundation Partners with Major Corporate

The Rottnest Foundation has partnered with BHP Billiton to roll-out the next stage of the Wadjemup Walk Trail Project on Rottnest Island.

This partnership valued at over \$500,000 will enable the Wadjemup Hill section to be implemented, measuring 10.6 km. This includes formalised beach access at Catherine Bay, Armstrong Point and Narrow Neck.

Interpretive signage will communicate stories and messages, with a focus on Aboriginal culture. Funding will be allocated to the creation of a sculpture depicting an Aboriginal Dreaming Story designed by a Noongar artist and an audio sign exhibiting a story told by a Whadjuk Aboriginal Traditional Owner. A mini surfing documentary focused on the popular surfing spot at Strickland Bay will also be developed.

The Wadjemup Hill section is due to open by October 2016.



Walkable Sections

Three of the five sections of the Trail are now walkable!

Bickley Bay Section (9.4km) starting in Thomson Bay settlement and finishing at Oliver Hill, this section moves through coastal headlands, lakes and woodlands and explores significant military sites along the way.

Lakes Section (9.2km) again starting in Thomson Bay settlement, this circuit meanders through the salt lakes including a stroll along the Lakes Boardwalk. The Rottnest Foundation was successful in receiving a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Sport & Recreation supported by Lotterywest to build the 100m boardwalk.

Salmon Bay Section (6.1km) This section allows visitors to walk from Porpoise Bay, past Parker Point, Little Salmon Bay, Fairbridge Bluff and Salmon Bay.

Rottnest Foundation donates a Ride-on Mower

The Rottnest Foundation recently purchased and gifted to the Rottnest Island Authority a ride-on mower to assist and improve the efficiency of ongoing maintenance of the Wadjemup Walk Trail (WWT).

Whilst undertaking a site visit to view progress of the WWT, following the Foundation's AGM held on the Island in October 2014, WWT Co-ordinator Eilidh Graham touched on the demands of maintaining the Trail with existing RIA equipment, being a push mower and whipper-snipper. Immediately members in attendance proposed that the Foundation use some of its funds to purchase a ride-on mower to improve and reduce costs associated with maintaining the Walk Trail.

Purchased from the Power Equipment Centre in Welshpool, who kindly sponsored a free set of blades, 5L of engine oil and free delivery to and from the barge for servicing, the mower arrived on the Island in January 2015.

Rodney Carmichael aka "Jimbo" (RIA Walk Trail Operations Officer) is enjoying the new WWT asset and making huge progress building and maintaining the Wadjemup Walk Trail. The Rottnest Foundation logo is displayed on the mower acknowledging the Foundation's support for the Wadjemup Walk Trail.



Rottnest Foundation Raffle Closes 11 September

Don't miss your opportunity to win the 'Ultimate Week on Rottnest'. First prize includes a week's accommodation in the beautifully restored Commanders Cottage overlooking Thomson Bay, ferry fares, tours, bikes, food & beverage vouchers, a game of golf at the recently refurbished Rottnest Island golf course, total prize value \$4,750. Nine other great prizes to be won, and all proceeds go towards environmental projects on the island. Once again the Foundation would like to thank members of the Rottnest Island Business Community, the Rottnest Island Authority and other supporters of Rottnest Island for their generous donations to the prize pool. Visit: www.rottnestfoundation.org.au/get-involved/rottnest-raffle/ for more information or to purchase your tickets. Please tell all your friends and help support the Foundation with this important fundraising event. Raffle drawn on 18 September. If you have already purchased your tickets, thank you and good luck in the draw.



Rottnest Foundation Tree Planting Day – 20 June

A group of enthusiastic Rottnest Foundation members planted 823 plants at the newly constructed Seal Viewing Platform at Cathedral Rocks. Due to this area being a significant rookery for the shearwaters, tree guards were not used and the area was heavily brushed instead, to protect the new plants from hungry quokkas. The Rottnest Foundation was successful with a grant from LotteryWest to undertake engineering works for the construction of the seal viewing platform. The platform enables visitors to safely observe and learn about the colony of New Zealand Fur Seals that inhabit the area, whilst protecting the fragile coastline.



Rottnest Foundation Membership

Your Rottnest Foundation membership is now due. Your membership supports the Foundation's work in 'Conserving the Essence of Rottnest' for future generations and provides you with an opportunity to give something back to Rottnest and make a real difference. Visit: <https://www.rottnestfoundation.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member/> or email: info@rottnestfoundation.org.au for a membership form.

2015 Rottnest Festival of Sail

The 5th annual Rottnest Festival of Sail held over the weekend 28-29 March, saw 30 yachts compete in a series of races to and around the Island. The weather was perfect for both sailors and spectators as waters around the Island became alive with yachts. Over 200 people (including sailors, their crews and families) attended the sailing party at Aristos. The Rottnest Foundation and event partner Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, would like to thank all participants, sponsors & supporters who helped to make this year's event a great success. Part proceeds of the event go towards Foundation projects on the Island.



Kind regards

Jeff King
Chairman

