

# **Chairman's Report**

## **25th October 2015**



*It is with great pleasure that I present my report for the period 20th October 2014- 25th October 2015.*

*I would like to commence by thanking our long term Patron Janet Holmes à Court, AC, who has kindly agreed to continue as our patron for the next 12 months.*

*A very special thank you to Pat Barblett, AM, our current Vice Chair. Pat served on the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) Board for 16 years (1977-1993) of which she was the Chair for 4 years. Pat Founded the Rottnest Foundation (RF) in 1985 (then called the 'Des Sullivan' Foundation) and has provided unfaltering activism and passion for Rottnest and the Foundation for 30 years. Pat was presented with an Inaugural Life Membership Certificate at the AGM to mark this milestone and honour her achievements and contribution to our Foundation.*

*Fondly called 'our two Paulines'- Pauline Casey, Treasurer and Pauline McMullan Executive Officer, your support is undeniably the glue that holds our organisation together and we appreciate all the hours you spend to keep our Foundation's back-of-house in smooth running order.*

*Due recognition must be given to Board members: Monica Radomiljac for keeping the Rottnest Foundation Facebook page updated; Alessio Capelli and Pat Barblett, for their time and effort in creating the Rottnest Foundation 2016 Calendar and Courtney Wheatley for his tireless contribution to conserving the flora and fauna of Rottnest Island.*

*It is with regret that I inform you that Laurie O'Meara is stepping down as a Board member and we thank him for the wisdom and input he has provided. We look forward to the release of his book "Rottnest: where to from here?"*

*Sadly, we also say goodbye to Rick Williams, who has stepped down from the Board due to moving interstate. We thank him for his contribution.*

*Welcome to Denise Hilsz who joined our Board mid-year and also to our newest Board Members who joined us in October, John Smoker and Giles Thomson. We look forward to the year ahead and invite their fresh ideas and active participation.*

*Thank you also to our full-time 'Grants & Sponsorship Coordinator' Rosalie Small, for all of her hard work and achievements over the past year. Our Foundation would not be in the thriving position it is currently without Rosie's commitment and tireless efforts.*

*I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Michael Sier, Chairman of the Rottnest Island Chamber of Commerce for his continual support of our initiatives and for aiding to strengthen partnerships between the Rottnest Foundation and Island Businesses.*

*We sincerely thank the RIA staff for their ongoing support, particularly the RIA Board and RIA CEO Paolo Amaranti, for their willingness to partner with our Foundation on major Island projects and for extending Rosalie Small's secondment position until February 2018.*

*Eilidh Graham, the RIA Rottnest Walk Trail Coordinator requires a special mention. Eilidh provides support to the Foundation on an almost daily basis. Her enthusiasm for the Wadjemup Walk Trail project is contagious and we truly value her professionalism.*

*Lastly, thank you to our members who support our organisation and especially those that participated in the Foundation's annual tree planting day, which saw 823 seedlings planted around the new Cathedral Rocks Seal Viewing Platform.*

*Thank you to everyone who has supported us. This report is our opportunity to show you what has been achieved and how you have helped us to reach these goals.*

*I invite you to continue to collaborate with us in whatever way you can, to achieve our mission in 'Conserving the essence of Rottnest.'*

**Jeff King**  
Chairman



## General Achievements

### **Rottnest Foundation Website**

Visit for project updates & current initiatives  
[www.rottnestfoundation.org.au](http://www.rottnestfoundation.org.au)

*Thank you to Future Ticketing who has provided pro-bono services to redesign and improve the Rottnest Foundation's website and set up our online payment systems.*

### **Rottnest Express (REX) Website**

Since October 2015, REX now provides the option to purchase a Rottnest Foundation Membership when buying ferry tickets through their website.



### **Major Projects on Online Giving Hub Giving West Website**

<https://www.givenow.com.au/rottnestfoundation>

<https://www.givenow.com.au/wadjemupwalktrailrottnestisland>

### **Quickbeds Grassroots Campaign**

Raise funds for the Foundation by using the code 1822 when booking accommodation in Australia through the Quickbeds website

<http://www.quickbeds.com/>

### **Google Connecting Up for Non- Profits**

Rottnest Foundation signed up to receive donated technology products & services from companies such as Microsoft & Adobe

### **Charitable Collections Licence**

Attained from the Department of Commerce; it allows the Foundation to collect money & goods via a range of methods (*i.e. crowd funding, raffles & silent auctions*) to support our objectives

### **Rottnest Foundation Constitution**

Updated to ensure that the work of the Rottnest Foundation is to support or improve the condition of Rottnest Island for the benefit of the community and is environmental, cultural or heritage focused. *Thank you to Chris Lalor who provided legal advice pro bono regarding amendments to this document.*

### **Rottnest Fast Ferries 25% Discount**

Rottnest Fast Ferries located at Hillarys Boat Harbour generously provided a 25% discount on ferry fares for Rottnest Foundation members for the 2015/2016 financial year. Offer ends 18/07/2016.



## Fundraising Initiatives

All funds raised support Rottnest Island cultural, heritage and environmental projects.

### **Rottnest Raffle 2015**

Thanks to the support of the Rottnest Island Authority, Rottnest Island businesses and a number of Western Australian Wineries; the Rottnest Raffle is now a major fundraising initiative. 1685 tickets were sold this year raising \$15,077 for the Rottnest Foundation.

[Click here to view Rottnest Raffle winners](#)



### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rottnest Festival of Sail 28-29<sup>th</sup> March 2015**



This event provides competitors and visitors to Rottnest with a weekend of spectacular sailing and raises community awareness of the work of the Rottnest Foundation.

30 yachts competed this year and 200 people (*sailors, crew & their families*) attended the sailing party at Aristos.



A Twilight Event was held at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club following the weekend of sailing. The Hon. Colin Barnett, MLA, Premier & Member for Cottesloe presented the prizes. It was a fun evening and the initiative will certainly be repeated.

The Rottnest Foundation and Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club would like to thank our sponsors & supporters who helped to make this year's Festival of Sail event happen.



## Rottnest Foundation 2016 Calendar



We are proud to have produced a 2016 Rottnest Foundation Calendar. The calendar boasts beautiful images of Rottnest and is an excellent year long promotional tool for the Island as well as raising much needed funds for our projects.

Thank you to Rottnest Island Authority Aaron McCreath, Peta-Anne Photography and Pat Barblett, AM, who provided photos for the calendar.

Thank you to our calendar sponsors, without their support, we simply could not have achieved the high-quality end product that we have.



## Rottnest Foundation Merchandise

Rottnest Foundation branded merchandise (*Polo Shirts, Adjustable Bucket Hats, Spray Jackets and Tote Bags*) is now available for purchase through the Rottnest Foundation website.



**Rottnest Foundation**  
Conserving the essence of Rottnest

## Major Projects

Two significant long-term projects that Rottnest Foundation has selected to partner with the Rottnest Island Authority to deliver are the implementation of the Wadjemup Walk Trail and the conservation of the Aboriginal Burial Ground. Both of these projects contribute to the preservation and improvement of the environment, biodiversity, cultural heritage, Aboriginal heritage and eco-tourism experiences on Rottnest Island.

## Wadjemup Walk Trail



- Rottnest Foundation raised \$532,800 this year.
- Rottnest Foundation has raised \$913,012.91 to-date

### 3 of the 5 sections are now walkable!

#### Bickley Bay Section

(9.4km one-way, 2-4hrs)

Starting in Thomson Bay Settlement and finishing at Oliver Hill, this section moves through coastal headlands, bays, lakes and woodlands and explores many significant historic military sites along the way.



#### Lakes Section (9.2km

loop, 2-4hrs)

Starting in Thomson Bay Settlement, this circuit meanders through the salt lakes including a stroll along the Lakes

Boardwalk, which provides the façade of "walking on water". You will also pass by popular beaches and the Bathurst Lighthouse.



#### Salmon Bay Section

(6.1km one-way, 1-3hrs)

If you would prefer to walk along the breathtaking coastline and feel the sand between your toes, take the Bickley Bay Walk and cut off at Porpoise Bay to follow the Salmon Bay Walk.



#### Wadjemup Hill Section (In-progress)

#### West End Section (Seeking funding)

# Wadjemup Walk Trail

## Ride-On Mower to Maintain the Walk Trail

The Rottnest Foundation purchased a ride-on mower (\$8180.91) and donated it to the RIA Walk Trail team to improve the efficiency of the Trail project and reduce costs associated with ongoing maintenance. Previously the team had been using a push mower and whipper-snipper. The mower was purchased from 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.



Rachel and her sons, Auston and Luke (*featured above*), won a trip to Rottnest for winning the RIA Facebook 'name the mower competition.' The mower is now fondly called "Ra-mow-na."

## Rottnest Express are Sponsoring the Trail

The Rottnest Foundation would like to officially say a huge thank you to [Rottnest Express](#) (REX) for their generous support of our organisation. [Since 2014](#), REX has supported the Trail project by providing up-to 500 free ferry fares annually for volunteers to help build the Trail and have agreed to continue their sponsorship until the Trail is completed in December 2018.

REX supports all Foundation fundraising initiatives, including but not limited to: Annual Rottnest Raffle, Annual Rottnest Calendar, Annual Festival of Sail Event, Rottnest Foundation Major Island Projects and Membership Drives.



## BHP Billiton Supports the Trail Project



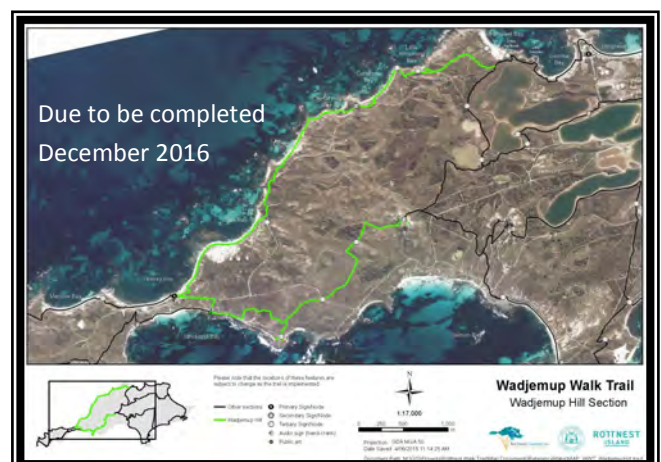
The Rottnest Foundation is excited to have such a significant corporate on-board in delivering this great initiative for the Island.

BHP Billiton's support worth over \$500,000 will build the Wadjemup Hill section of Trail, which includes:

- 6 km of walkable trail
- formalised access at four beaches
- installation of directional & interpretive signage
- installation of facilities (picnic tables, seats, shelters, bin enclosures & bike racks)
- creation of a sculpture by a Noongar artist
- creation of two audio signs exhibiting stories by Whadjuk Aboriginal Traditional Owners
- creation of a mini documentary depicting surfing history at Strickland Bay
- volunteer engagement programs for community groups to help build the Trail
- purchase of 6977 seedlings & materials to revegetate damaged areas
- Aboriginal consultation & engagement to obtain Aboriginal stories & illustrations for interpretative signage and:
- employment of one full time contract position dedicated to implementing the Trail

The partnership between Rottnest Foundation and BHP Billiton featured in an article in the online Coastlines Newsletter Spring Edition 2015

[http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop\\_pub\\_pdf/Coastlines\\_Spring\\_Edition\\_2015.pdf](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/Coastlines_Spring_Edition_2015.pdf)



# Wadjemup Walk Trail

## Steering Group

Thank you to all groups who participate on this Committee: Rottnest Island Authority and the volunteer groups Winnit Club, Rottnest Society, Conservation Volunteers Australia and our newest member, Rottnest Voluntary Guides Association. This Committee is Chaired by the Rottnest Foundation and provides a platform to openly discuss the project and find ways to collaborate and move the project forward.



## Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground Conservation Project

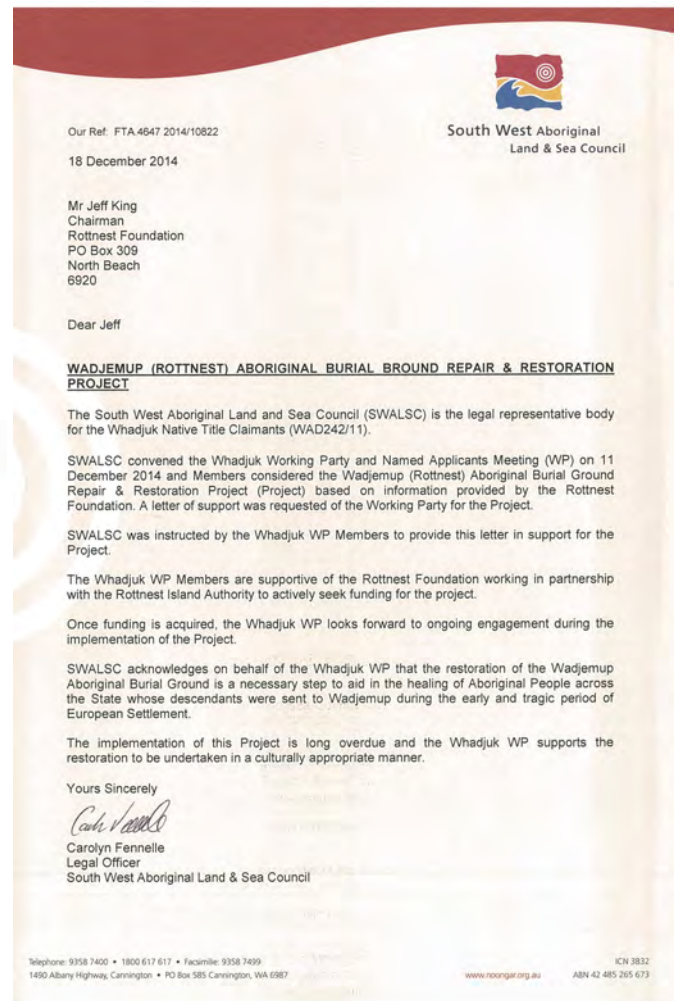
This project aims to conserve the existing burial ground by converting it into reflective parkland to enable the Aboriginal connection with the Island to be shared through arts, culture and education. It is about recognising and acknowledging an important part of WA's history and taking a necessary step towards reconciliation. Consultation with the Aboriginal community is ongoing.

## Meetings/Presentations

Rottnest Foundation have met with many people and organisations advocating for this project and seeking funding, including:

- Department of Aboriginal Affairs
- Minister for Tourism
- Collaborative Systemic Change
- Reconciliation WA
- Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council
- Country Arts WA
- Aboriginal Art Centre Hub WA
- Lotterywest
- Wesfarmers
- Fortescue Metals Group
- Rio Tinto
- 2015 Aboriginal Youth Channel Swim Team (Yokai Marmuns)
- Follow the Dream Coordinator (Kiara College)
- Whadjuk Working Party, facilitated by South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council

## Rottnest Foundation received a Letter of Support from the Whadjuk Working Party



## Community Spaces Lotterywest Grant



RF raised \$500,440 for the Aboriginal Burial Ground Conservation Project through a successful Community Spaces Lotterywest Grant which will contribute to landscaping (revegetation/planting), a range of interpretation and Aboriginal community engagement to create a simple reflection space that assists with enhancing the site and educating the community about the history of the site in a meaningful way. Works will begin during 2016.

## Steering Group

The Rottnest Foundation instigated the Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground Steering Group Committee in 2014 to provide a communication platform to keep RF, RIA and other interested stakeholders moving in the same direction to progress the project. The RF chairs and administers these meetings. Two meetings have been held to-date, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 & 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

## Rottnest Foundation Representation at Events

**Business After Dark**  
**27<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Hosted by: Rottnest Island  
Chamber of Commerce



A fabulous networking event that focuses on the Island as a tourist destination,

the issues it faces, positive progress that is occurring and new initiatives being implemented. The event was held at the Basin, with speeches occurring at Sunset, with everyone looking out over the bay. Jeff King (Chairman) was invited to speak at the event about the Foundation. The formal proceedings ended with Scooplight Theatre actors performing an ANZAC themed production that left us wanting to see more! It was a truly wonderful evening, well run and organised!

Attended by: Jeff King, Pat Barblett, Laurie O'Meara, Monica Radomiljac, Pauline McMullan & Rosalie Small

## **Revealed: Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia - Public Symposium** **17<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Hosted by: Department of Culture and the Arts, Department of Indigenous Affairs, Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program Central Institute of Technology, with support from the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority, the Art Gallery of WA, WA Museum and the State Library of WA.



'Revealed' links Aboriginal artists and arts centres from across WA with audiences

and opportunities in Perth. The free public symposium presented a line-up of speakers ranging from key industry figures through to remote area artists.

Attended by: Rosalie Small



**Wadjemup Walk Trail**  
**Ministerial**  
**Announcement**  
**14th August 2015**

**ROTTNEST IS**

Hosted by: Rottnest Island Authority



*(Jeff King- Chairman Rottnest Foundation, Richard O'Connell- Senior Manager of Community BHP Billiton, Hon. Kim Hames, MLA, Minister for Tourism)*

The Minister for Tourism, Hon. Kim Hames, MLA, announced the exciting new partnership between the Rottnest Foundation and BHP Billiton for the Wadjemup Hill section of the Wadjemup Walk Trail project at the new Seal Viewing Platform at Cathedral Rocks, Rottnest Island.

Attended by: Jeff King, Laurie O'Meara, Alessio Capelli, Pat Barblett & Rosalie Small.



## **WA State Trails & Outdoors Conference** **9th October 2015**

Hosted by: Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) with support from Trails WA and Outdoors WA



*(Free for not-for-profit community members)*

An inspiring and challenging set of presentations from national and international experts on the value of participation in the outdoors.

Attended by: Rosalie Small

