

# FACET

FORUM ADVOCATING  
CULTURAL AND  
ECO-TOURISM

## ANCIENT LANDS, DARK SKIES, ABORIGINAL CULTURAL TOURISM AND GEOPARKS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Wednesday 26 March 2025 - 12.15pm - 5.00pm

followed by networking and refreshments until 6.00pm

Venue: CSIRO – Australian Resources Research Centre (ARRC)

26 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, WA

[BOOK HERE](#)

Join FACET as we partner with Geoparks WA and Astrotourism WA to bring you a half-day workshop exploring the latest developments and opportunities provided by Western Australia's ancient lands, night skies, Aboriginal cultural tourism and geoparks.

WA is uniquely placed to bring these niche tourism sectors together to develop world-class tourism experiences that take advantage of WA's natural assets and add a new layer to regional tourism economies.



*With thanks to our major Partners,  
event Sponsors and Supporters*



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



GEOPARKS WA

**Tourism**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

**SOUTH WEST**  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Geological Society  
of Australia

**PEEL** Development  
Commission

**ASTROTOURISM**  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

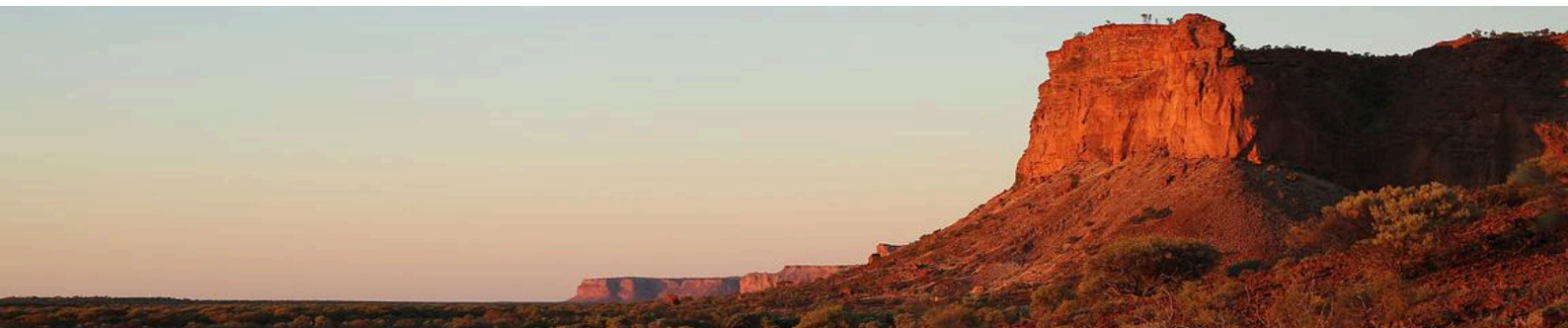


Black Point, D'Entrecasteaux National Park, Nannup WA Geopark



## FORUM PROGRAM – 26 MARCH 2025

- 12.15pm **Registration Opens**  
Coffee and tea will be available at the Registration Desk. Lunch can be purchased from the CSIRO cafe.
- 12.45pm **Welcome and Overview by MC**  
Dr Alan Briggs, President, Geoparks WA
- 12.50pm **Welcome to Country**  
Kerry-Ann Winmar, Principal Director of Nyungar Tours
- 1.05pm **Geoparks**  
Professor Ross Dowling AM, Chair of Australian Geoparks Network
- 1.25pm **Developments in Dark Sky Tourism**  
Carol Redford, Founder and CEO of Astrotourism WA
- 1.45pm **Advances in Aboriginal Cultural Tourism in Western Australia**  
Robert Taylor, CEO, Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC)
- 2.05pm **Status of Genestreaming Journey Sculptures and the Latest Program Across the South West and Regional WA**  
Ben Beeton and Mali Moir, SciArt and Genestreaming Journey Sculptures



*Celebrating the world's oldest living culture  
in one of the world's oldest lands*



## FORUM PROGRAM CONTINUED – 26 MARCH 2025

- 2.30pm **Afternoon Tea and Networking**
- 3.00pm **Wooramulla Journeys - Aboriginal Cultural Links from the Sky to the Earth**  
Rennee Turner, Owner/Operator, Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys - pre-recorded video
- 3.15pm **Nannup WA Geopark - from Whoa to Go!**  
Mark White, Chair, Nannup WA Geopark
- 3.35pm **The Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark, New Zealand:  
the Why and How of Achieving International Status**  
Keynote Speaker: Helen Jansen - Board Member and Immediate Past Chair,  
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust
- 4.20pm **Panel Discussion, Q and A with all speakers**
- 4.50pm **Networking and refreshments**
- 6.00pm **Finish**

The Granites near Mt Magnet, Murchison GeoRegion



*Celebrating WA's internationally-recognised dark skies*



## DATE AND TIME

Wednesday, 26 March 2025

12.15pm to 5.00pm

Followed by networking with refreshments  
served from 5.00pm-6.00pm

## VENUE

CSIRO – Australian Resources Research  
Centre (ARRC)

26 Dick Perry Ave, Kensington

## COST

- \$69\* FACET members
- \$59\* FACET concession members and students
- \$85\* Non-members
- \$70\* Non-member concession
- \$60 Online livestream via Vimeo

\*Ticket cost includes afternoon tea and networking refreshments, plus GST and Booking Fee.

## PARKING

Free parking at the venue.

## BOOKINGS

Register [here](#) by Tuesday 25 March 2025.  
Email [admin@facet.asn.au](mailto:admin@facet.asn.au) for assistance.

## IMAGES

Astrotourism WA, Tourism WA,  
Wendy Eiby and Geoparks WA

Kalbarri Skywalk, Murchison GeoRegion



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### **DR ALAN BRIGGS – PRESIDENT GEOPARKS WA**

After a career in forest and land conservation; land management; recreation and tourism, advisor for Forests to the Minister, and as manager of the Natural Heritage program of the National Trust WA, Alan established Natural Heritage and Culture consultancy. He also has interests in Eco-tourism, Geo-tourism and Geoparks, and Aboriginal engagement in land management, tourism and geoparks. While lecturing part time, Alan undertook a PhD at Murdoch University focusing on stakeholder perceptions of establishing a Geopark in the Wheatbelt (completed in 2020). During that period Alan incorporated Geoparks WA to introduce geoparks to Western Australia.



### **KERRY-ANN WINMAR – PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR OF NYUNGAR TOURS**

Kerry-Ann Winmar is a Whadjuk and Ballardong Traditional Owner and Elder with strong family connections across the Perth Metropolitan area and the South West of Western Australia. She has extensive knowledge to share about Nyungar language, heritage, and Culture which was handed down from her parents. Kerry-Ann continues to be an inspirational leader for her community and a strong advocate for empowering women through her Yorgars-only workshops and tours. She believes that Cultural education, awareness training and engagement are key factors in preserving traditions. With goals to continue growing Nyungar Tours in Perth, WA, Kerry-Ann plans to continue employing family members and encouraging people of all nationalities to engage with Indigenous Culture. Kerry-Ann is a Board Member of the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and the WA Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC).



### **PROFESSOR ROSS DOWLING AM – CHAIR, AUSTRALIAN GEOPARKS NETWORK**

Ross Dowling AM is Vice President of Geoparks WA, Chair of the Australian Geoparks Network, and a Trust Board Member of the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark, New Zealand. Ross was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Asia Pacific Geoparks Network from 2008 – 2016. In 2024 he was awarded a 'Certificate of Recognition' by the Global Geoparks Network for his significant contribution to the growth of geoparks around the world over the past twenty years. Ross is a former Chair of FACET and whilst Chair he convened the Inaugural Global Geotourism Conference in Fremantle in 2008. Ross is Emeritus Professor of Tourism in the School of Business & Law, Edith Cowan University and Chair of Destination Perth.



### **CAROL REDFORD – FOUNDER AND CEO OF ASTROTOURISM WA**

Carol Redford is the Founder of [Astrotourism WA](#). She is collaborating with Local Government to develop the Astrotourism sector of our Tourism Industry and increase overnight visitors to regional WA. Together, the communities are striving to protect WA's world-class dark night sky from artificial light pollution and brand WA the stargazing capital of the world. Carol also runs [Stargazers Club WA](#) that introduces beginners to astronomy. She is Co-Chair of WA's astronomy and space science community, [Astronomy WA](#) and is a "Dark Skies Ambassador" with the [International Astronomical Union](#), [DarkSky International](#) and the [Australasian Dark Sky Alliance](#).



### **ROBERT TAYLOR – CEO OF WAITOC**

Robert, a Nhanda Yamaji man from Western Australia, has worked for the past decade as Chief Executive Officer for the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Council (WAITOC). Robert has taken the organisation from a marketing and advocacy Aboriginal tourism organisation and introduced business development as a further arm of the organisation to build business leaders for the future and create a strong Aboriginal tourism sector for Western Australia. His drive to ensure the country understands the value of Aboriginal tourism has been rewarded through securing significant funding at a local, state and federal government level for Aboriginal tourism.





## **BEN BEETON AND MALI MOIR – GENESTREAMING JOURNEY SCULPTURES**

Along with Menang Elder, Aunty Carol Pettersen OAM, Ben Beeton is a co-founder of the Genestreaming Journey Sculptures initiative. His artistic collaborator is scientific illustrator Mali Moir. Ben and Mali, through their Art of Nature School, aim to connect communities to Nature Journaling. The public art project unites western science with traditional knowledge and seeks to bring both indigenous and non-indigenous artists from communities together. With sculptures from Singapore, Queensland, Northern Territory and a trail across the Gondwana Link in the South West, the expanding vision for the project is that the sculptures will form a national/international tourism trail which will increase awareness of the Tree of Life, ecological and cultural restoration, threatened species, and how, through deep time, all species are connected. The project in the South West is inspired by mapping of the journey trails by Dr Noel Nannup OAM, a leader of the Danjoo Koorliny Walking Together Project at the University of Western Australia. These unique sculptures are giant evolutionary trees featuring 15 local species plus humans that the viewer may walk inside of. Shaped like a flower they offer a space where science and culture are in bloom. Each sculpture features Nature Journaling work about the region on the inside and art from Aboriginal artists with connections to the region on the outside. The sculptures may be physical or Augmented Reality. To realise Aunty Carol's vision, the Genestreaming Journey Sculptures team seeks to work with communities across Australia to create networks of Genestreaming Journey Sculptures that celebrate conservation awareness through Nature Journaling and Indigenous art. To learn more please visit <https://sciart.com.au/genestreaming-journey-sculptures-national-wide-tourism-trail-an-introduction/>

## **RENNEE TURNER – OWNER/OPERATOR, WOORAMULLA ECO CULTURAL JOURNEYS**

I am a proud Yinggarda woman. Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys was born out of a lifelong dream and passion, a passion for my Yinggarda heritage and culture, a passion for my country... the landscapes, the plants and the animals, and most of all, a passion for sharing this connection to country and culture with visitors to the region. For as long as I can remember, I've been taking friends and visitors to the places that I love, the places that I feel most connected to my ancestors and country. Now I get to live out my dream every day.

## **MARK WHITE – CHAIR, NANNUP WA GEOPARK**

Mark White, Chair of the Nannup WA Geopark Incorporated, was honoured on Australia Day 2025 as Nannup's Citizen of the Year for his excellent work in initiating and guiding the establishment of WA's first geopark. Mark has been instrumental in coordinating a host of interested, involved and talented community members. Their efforts have been rewarded, having received significant grants to design and install an App and website, plus design the features for an amazing display and education facility in Nannup. Mark, along with his wife Leanne, owns and operates Wild Eyed Press, an independent publishing house focusing on Australian flora and fauna. Leanne also has a Gallery in Nannup "The Leanne White Fine Art Gallery" and together they own and operate the Wild Eyed Shop showcasing all their publishing products.

## **HELEN JANSEN – BOARD MEMBER AND IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR, WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK TRUST**

Helen completed her environmental science qualifications at the University of East Anglia in England and gained eight years working experience training guides in eco-tourism in Queenstown, and across New Zealand. She is the author of a winning New Zealand Eco-tourism award, and is a former manager of the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. Helen is currently a Trustee of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust and formerly Chair of the Trust overseeing the designation of the first UNESCO Global Geopark in Australasia – the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark in New Zealand.