



25 November 2016

### **Urban bushland on show as Whadjuk Trails expand**

The Western Suburbs Regional Organisation Councils (WESROC) continues to facilitate recognition of Perth's Noongar heritage and precious urban bushland with the official opening of two additional Whadjuk Walking Trails in the Western Suburbs last Friday.

On Friday 18 November, the Karda Bidi and Karak Bidi, linking trails in the Whadjuk Network of trails were officially opened to the public, adding an additional 21.9 km to the Whadjuk trails

Noongar Elder Neville Collard conducted the Welcome to Country and presented the iconic message stick to the City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins.

City of Nedlands Mayor Max Hipkins said the launch of the additional trails is a proud moment for WESROC councils and the community.

"This launch represents more than expanding the Whadjuk network; it recognises Perth's Noongar heritage and urban bushland.

This is also represented in the partnership and work that WESROC has carried out with Noongar Elder Neville Collard in capturing the history of the area and Noongar lore for walkers to enjoy on their smartphones as they walk the track.

Community members both in the western suburbs and across metropolitan Perth will be able to enjoy the tracks well into the future."

Councillors from WESROC member councils were on hand for the opening. Also present were WESROC executive staff, Friends and Community Groups, and representatives from Lotterywest, the Department of Sport and Recreation, and Perth NRM who have funded and facilitated the successful development of the trails.

Lesley Shaw of Friends of Allen Park lead attendees on a 1.4km walk showcasing the captivating views, heritage sites, and flora and fauna incorporated into the Karda and Karak Bidi.

An innovative QR code system enabled guests to listen to Noongar stories on their smartphones while in the midst of urban bushland.

WESROC organisers expressed pride in delivering this new asset to its communities which will foster an increased affection with the city's natural areas.

For more information on the Whadjuk Trail Network visit [whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au](http://whadjukwalkingtrails.org.au).

ENDS

**About the City of Nedlands**

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from Perth and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the edge of the Indian Ocean. A population of over 21,000 live in the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta, and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park.

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