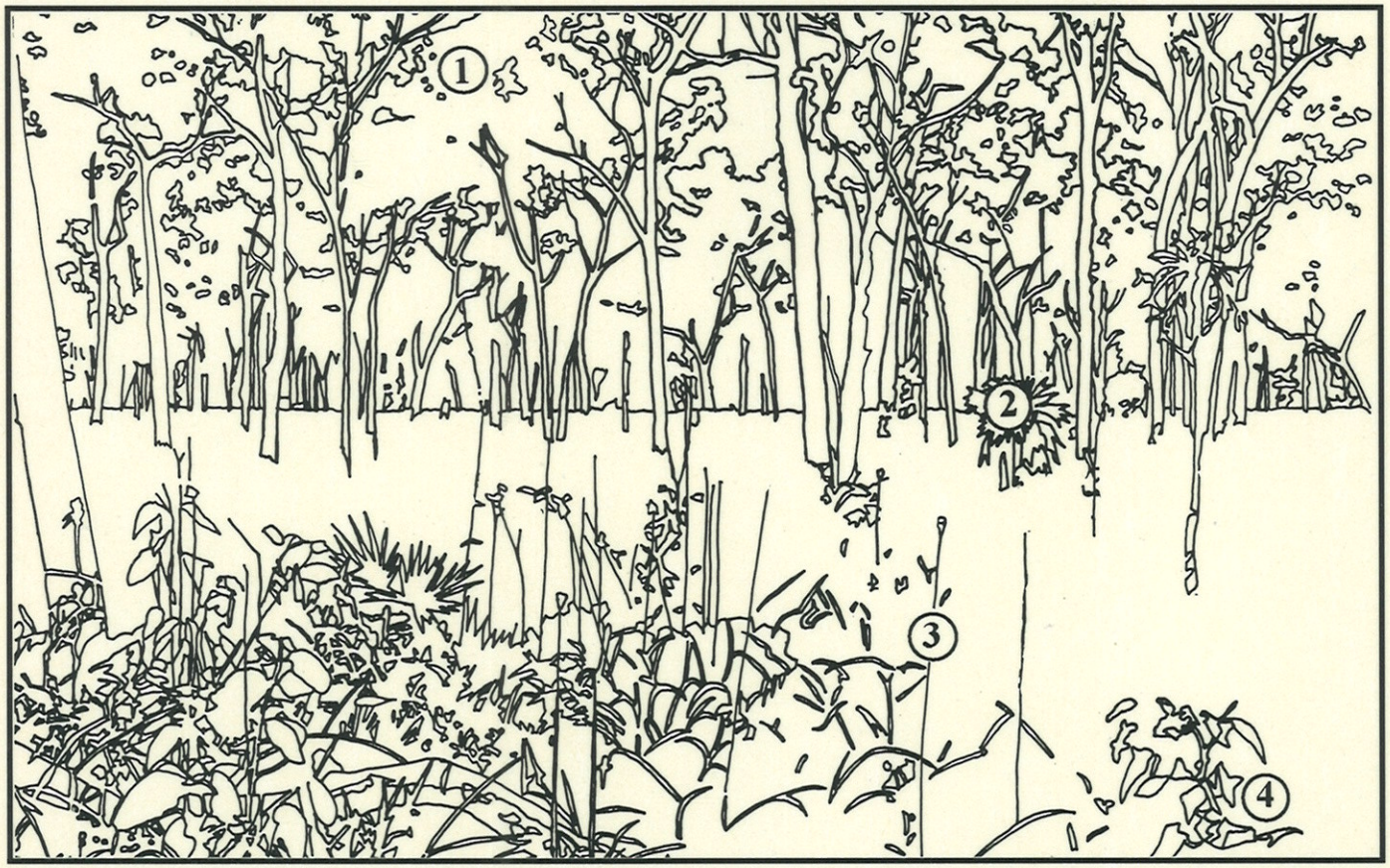
1. TROPICAL WOODLAND OVER GRASSLAND

The Mitchell Plateau Summer 1980 Photo: G J Keighery

1 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
TROPICAL WOODLAND OVER GRASSLAND



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Tropical woodland over grassland grows throughout the Northern Kimberleys. The eucalyptus trees, Northern Woollybutt and Darwin Stringybark grow in this area.

In summer, when the tropical monsoonal rains come, the tropical woodland has a lush understorey made up of many grasses and herbs.

In winter the grasses and herbs look like they are dead.

The Mitchell Plateau Fan Palm only lives on the Mitchell Plateau.

LEGEND

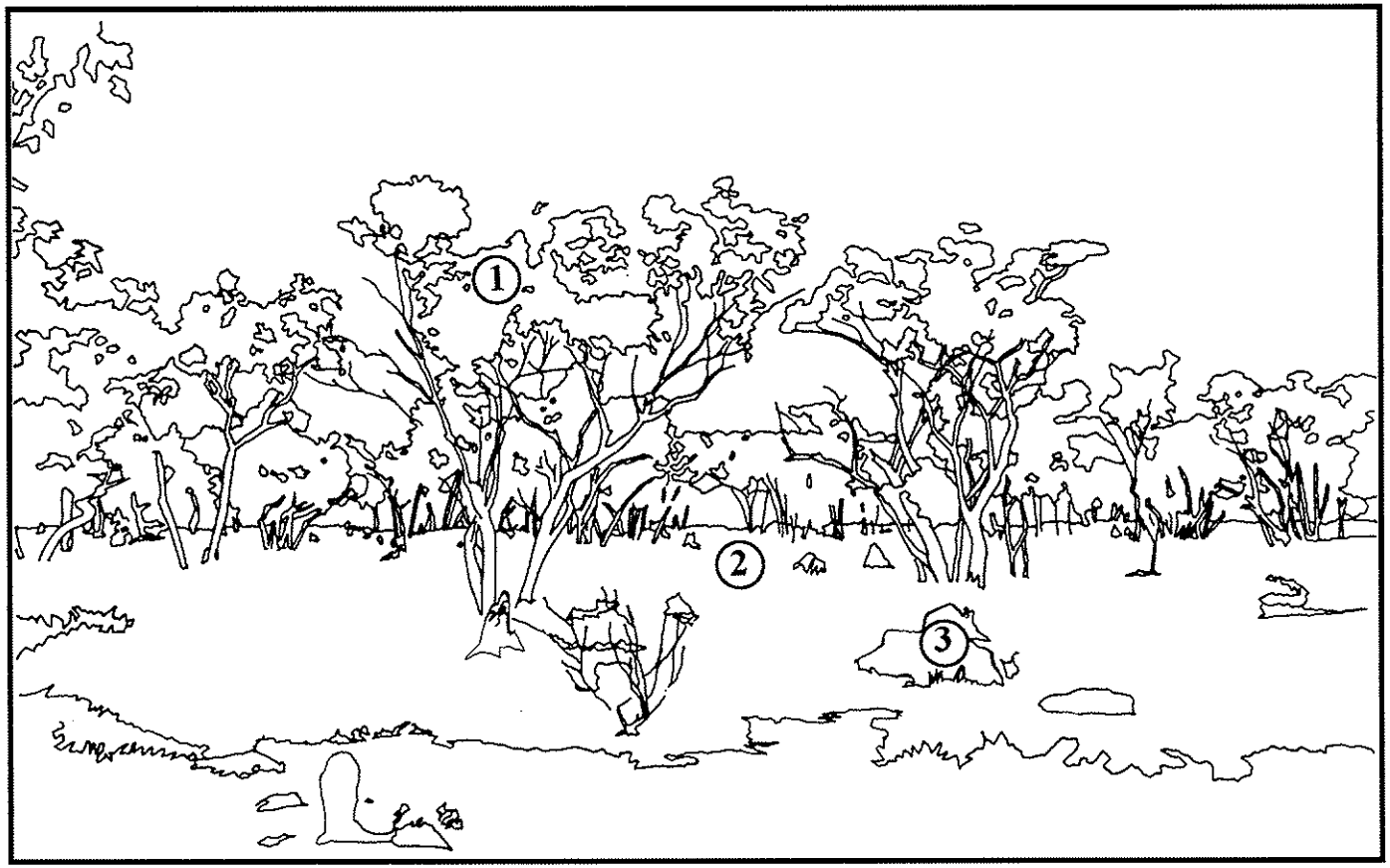
1. **Northern Woollybutt**
   Eucalyptus miniata
   you-cal-ipp-tus min-ee-ah-ta
2. **Mitchell Plateau Fan Palm**
   Livistona eastonii
   Liv-iss-toe-na east-on-ee-eye
3. **Langanggu**
   Tacca maculata
   Ta-ca mac-you-lah-ta
4. **Mitchell Plateau Cane Grasses**
   Sorghum species
   Sore-gum

2. WOODLAND OVER HUMMOCK GRASSLAND

Lamboo Station (East Kimberley) Autumn 1965 Photo: J S Beard

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2 WOODLAND OVER HUMMOCK GRASSLAND



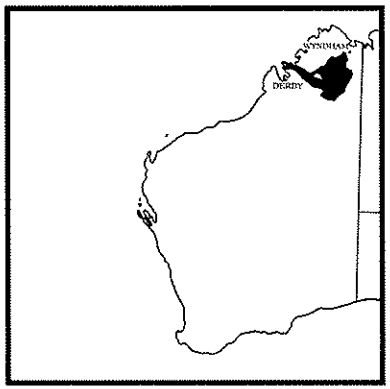
Stunted, white trunked Snappy Gums grow as an open woodland on the red gravel soils in the East Kimberleys.

Termite mounds are scattered through the understorey of hummock grasses called Winged Spinifex.

Termites play an important part in the local plant community because they eat the dead wood and spinifex leaves and recycle nutrients.

LEGEND

1. **Snappy Gum**
   Eucalyptus brevifolia
   you-cal-ipp-tus brev-i-foal-ee-a
2. **Winged Spinifex**
   Triodia intermedia
   try-oh-dee-a in-terr-mee-di-a
3. **Termite Mounds**



Focus Points for Discussion

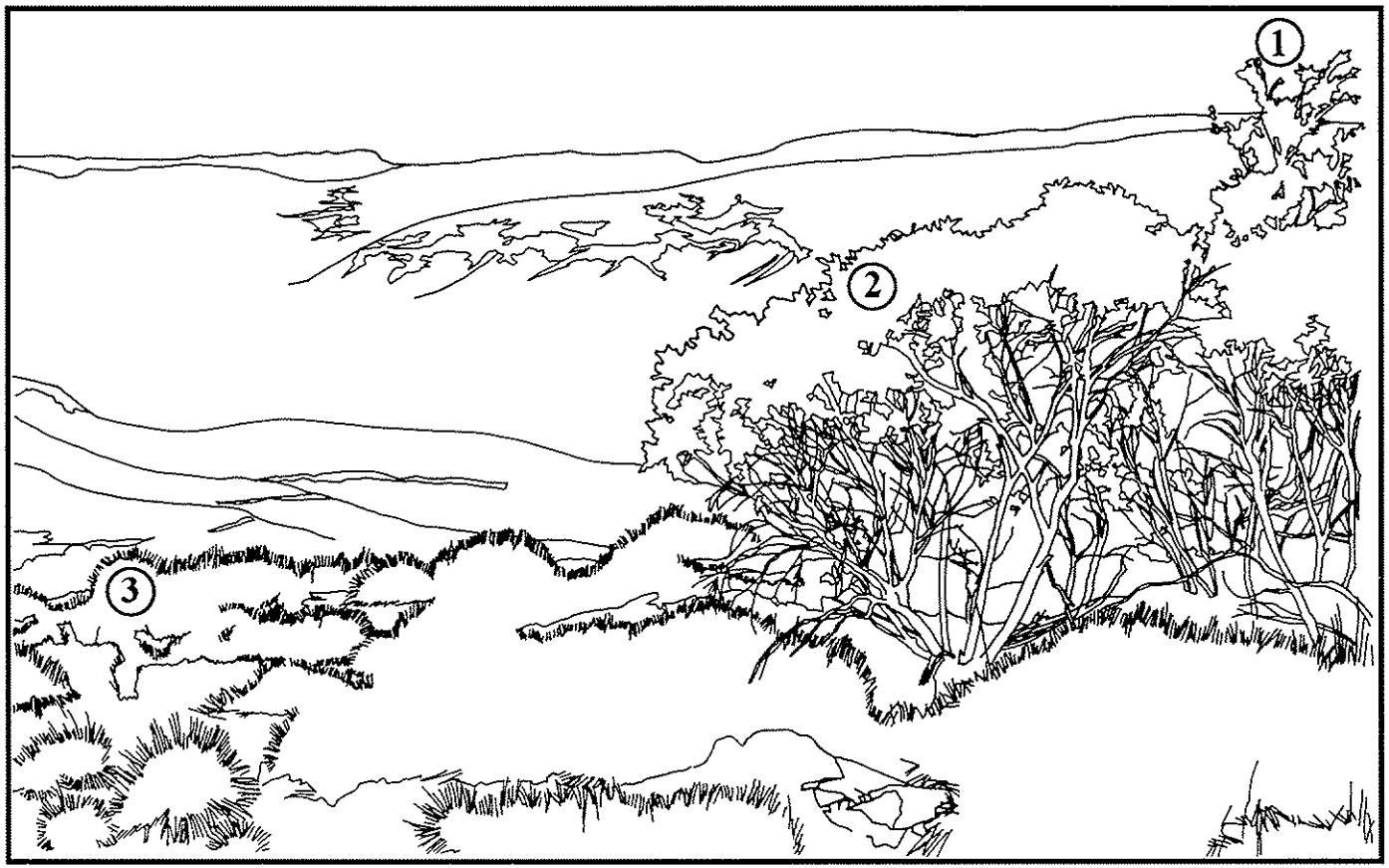
- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

3. HUMMOCK GRASSLAND

Mt Lois, Hamersley Range Winter 1991 Photo: S Hopper

3 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
HUMMOCKGRASSLAND

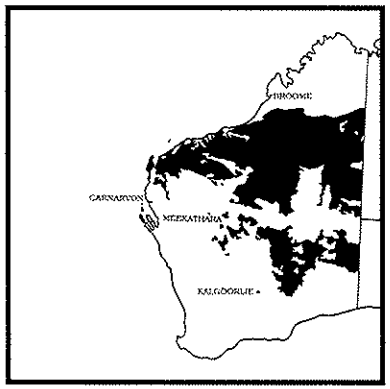


Throughout the Pilbara are seemingly endless areas of grassy hills and plains. Hummock Grasses grow on the red stoney soils.

Scattered through these grasslands are eucalypts, wattles such as Ranjii Bush and other small trees and shrubs.

LEGEND

1. **Ranjii Bush**
   Acacia pyrifolia
   A-case-ee-a pi-ri-foal-ee-a
2. **Pilbara Mallee**
   Eucalyptus pilbaraensis
   you-cal-ipp-tus pill-bar-ra-en-sis
3. **Wise's Spinifex**
   Triodia wiseana
   try-oh-dee-a why-zee-ah-na

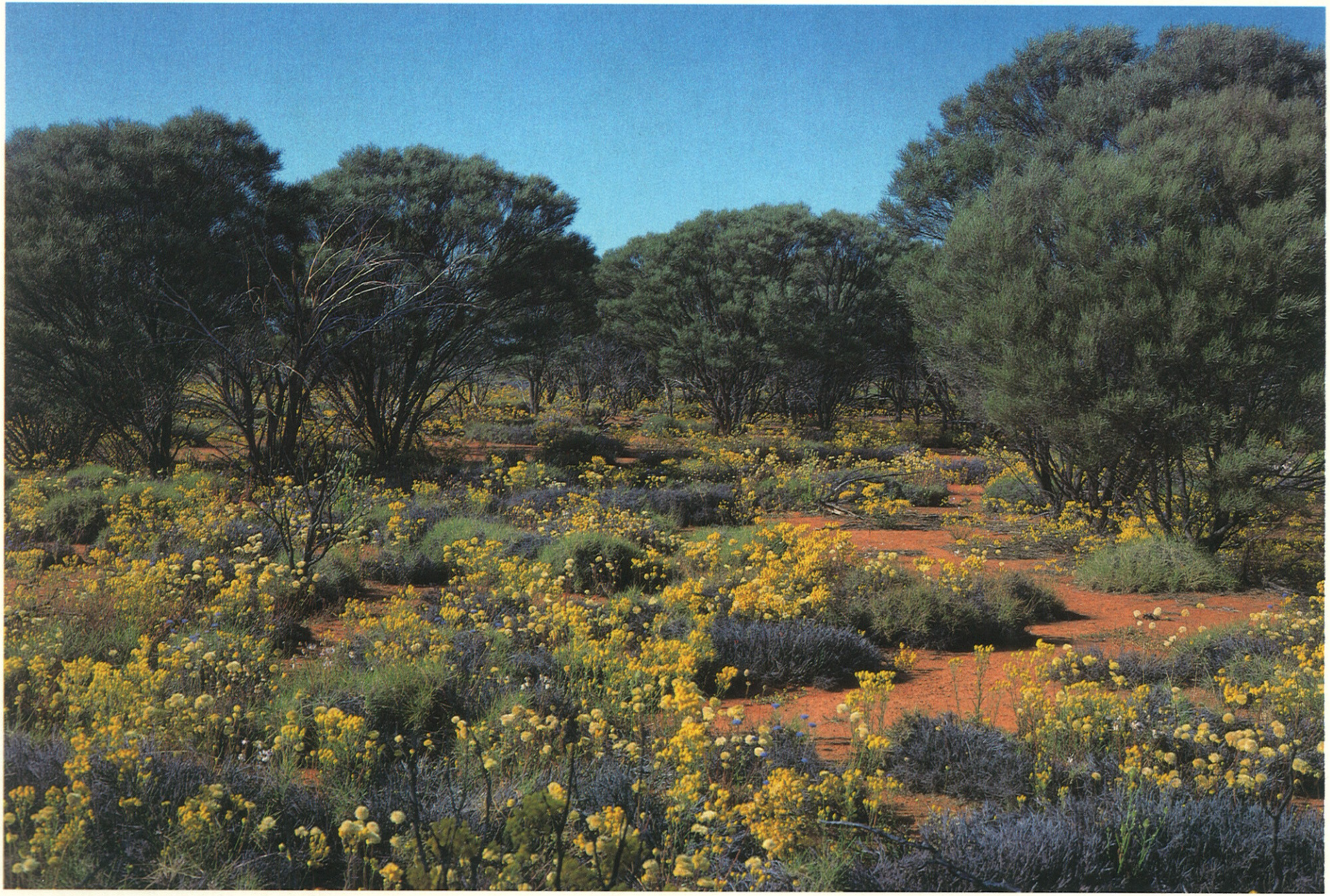


Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

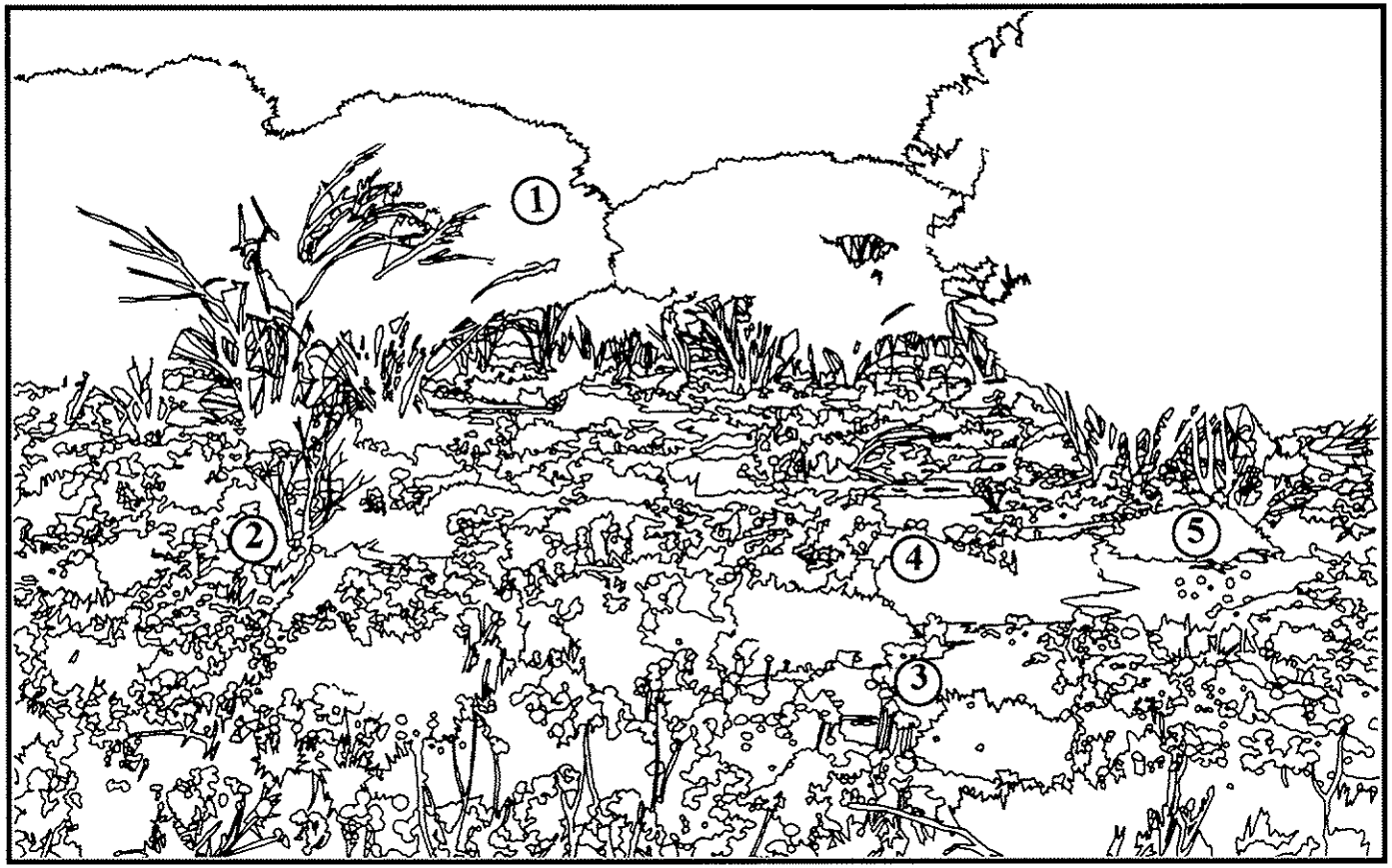
Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

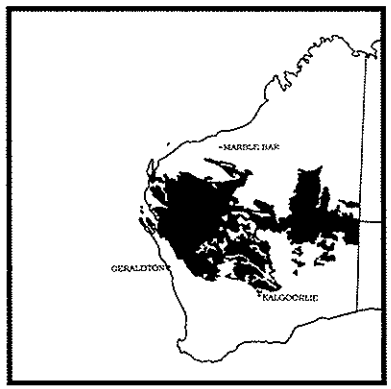
4. ACACIA LOW SHRUBLAND



Wanjarri Nature Reserve, Goldfields Spring 1992 Photo: G J Keighery

4 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ACACIA LOW WOODLAND





Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

In Wandjarri Nature Reserve Acacia Low Woodland is found on the clay soils of the wide valleys between the sand dunes.

Following heavy rains there is a rapid growth and flowering of yellow and white everlastings.

Normally the ground would be bare, except for the Mulga and Hummock grasses.

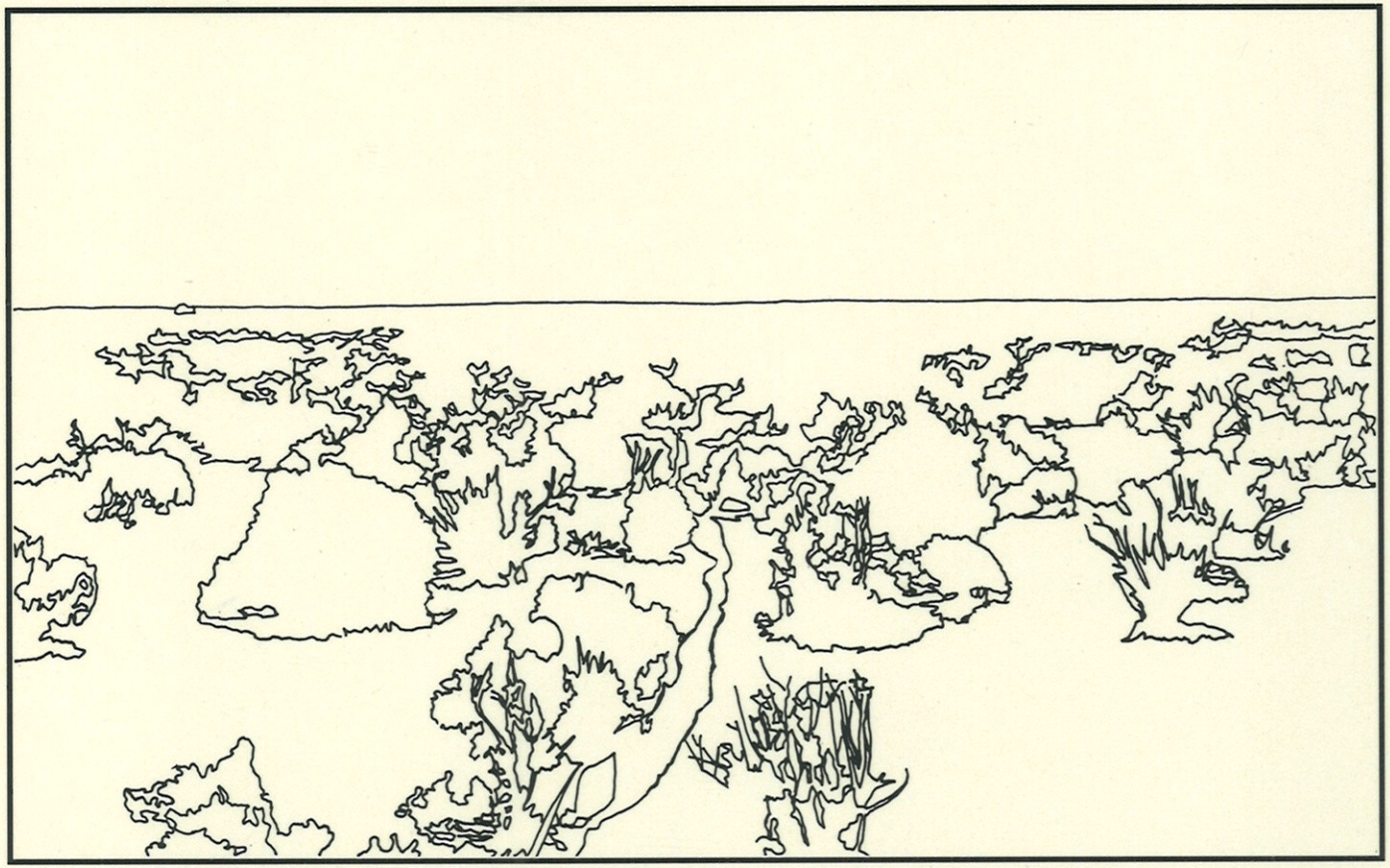
LEGEND

1. **Mulga**
   Acacia aneura
   A-case-ee-a a-new-ra
2. **Drummonds Everlasting (white)**
   Cephalipterum drummondii
   Seff-al-lip-ter-um drum-mon-dee-eye
3. **Native Cornflower (blue)**
   Brunonia australia
   Brun-oh-nee-a ost-rah-liss
4. **Golden Everlasting (yellow)**
   Waitzia aurea
   Wait-zee-a or-ree-a
5. **Lobed Spinifex**
   Triodia basedowii
   Try-oh-dee-a bays-dow-ee-eye

5. BLUE BUSH SHRUBLAND

Central Nullarbor, Haig Spring 1986 Photo: G J Keighery

5 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
BLUE BUSH SHRUBLAND



The vast, treeless plain in the centre of the Nullarbor is well named because "Nullabor" in Latin, means "No Tree".

Bluebush and Saltbush grow across the limestone plain.

The red-green crust covering much of the soil is made up of lichens and blue-green algae.

The plants and animals living in the Nullarbor were carefully studied from 1984-1986.

The "fence" in the photograph is a trapline to catch the animals in this study area.

LEGEND

Bluebush
Maireana sedifolia
Mare-ee-a-na sed-i-foal-ee-a

Saltbush
Atriplex vesiceria
Ay-tri-plex vess-i-ca-ree-a

(Shrubs not distinguishable)

Focus Points for Discussion

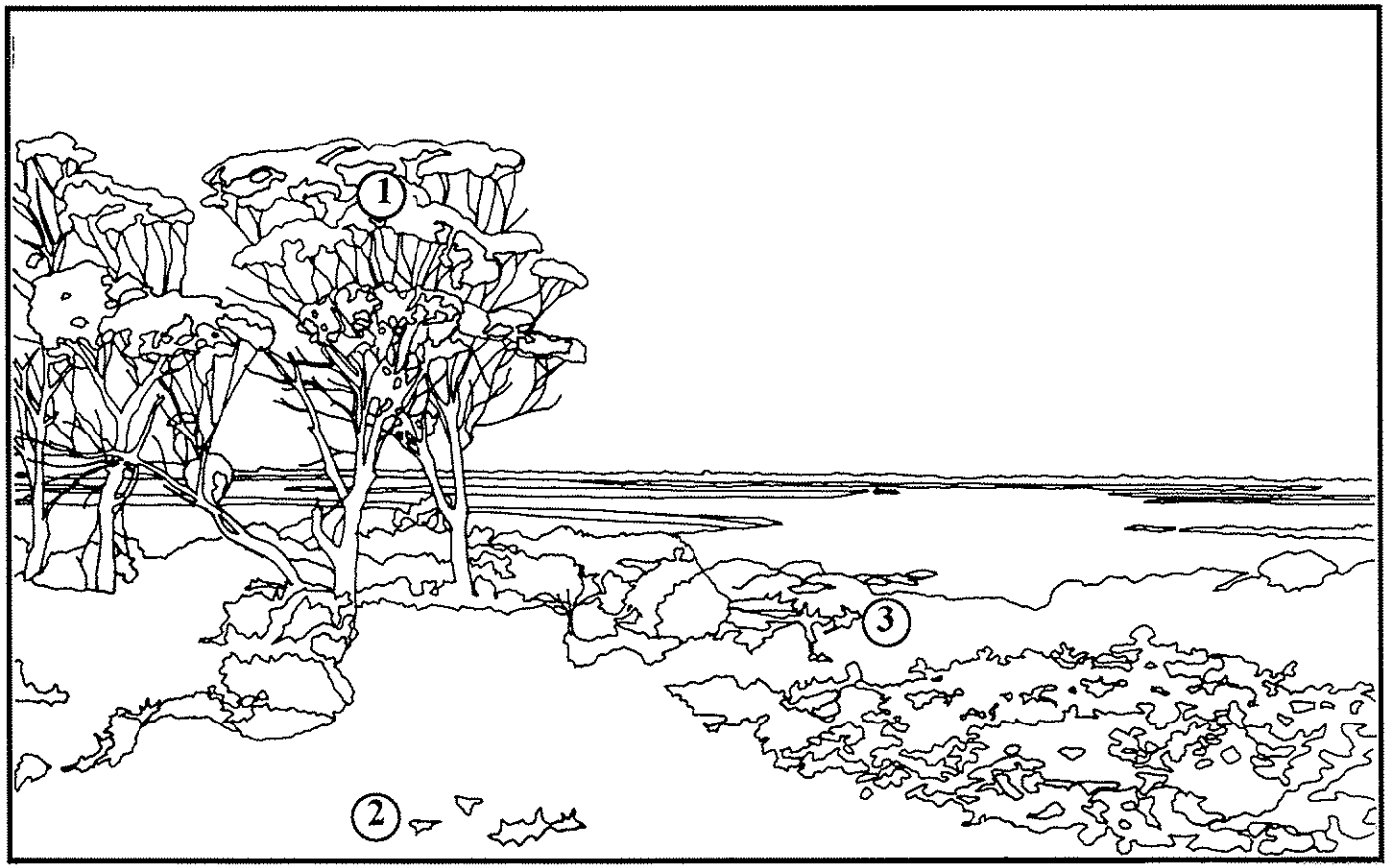
- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

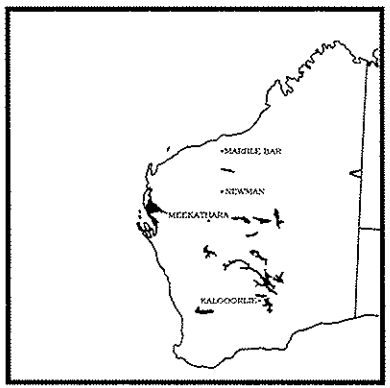
Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

6. SAMPHIRE LOW SHRUBLAND

Johnston Lakes, Western Australian Wheatbelt Spring 1963 Photo: J S Beard

6 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SAMPHIRE LOW SHRUBLAND





Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Salt flats are found around salt water lakes throughout the State. Samphire shrublands grow on all these salt flats.

Samphire plants are succulent shrubs that can live in very salty soils.

The Romans burnt samphires to make salt. The word "samphire" comes from the Latin words used to describe this process.

Some gum trees are also able to grow in salty soils. They grow in small groups on raised patches of sand on the flats.

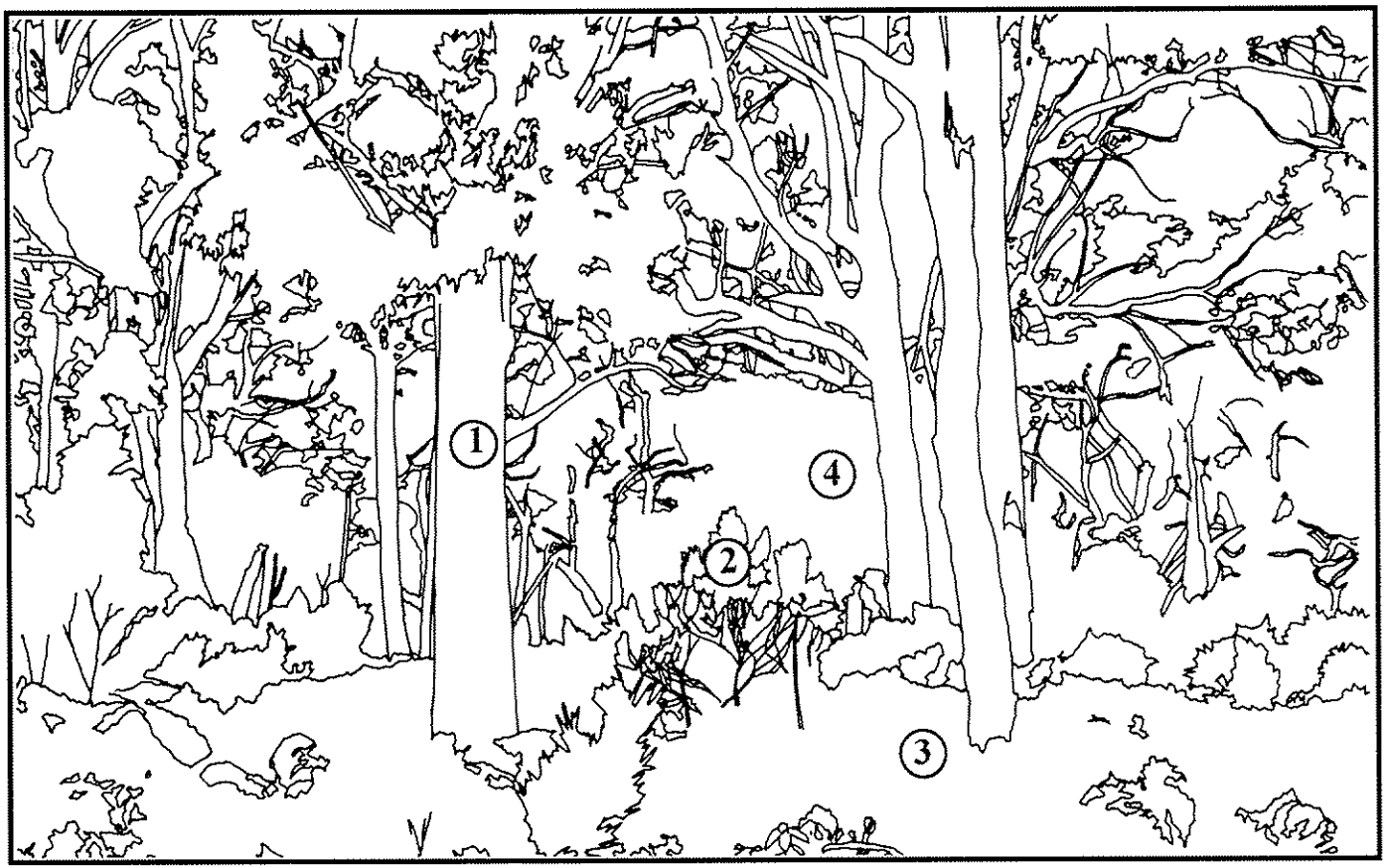
LEGEND

1. **Black Morrel**
   Eucalyptus melanoxylon
   you-cal-ipp-tus mel-an-ox-ee-lon
2. **Saltbush**
   Atriplex vesicaria
   ay-trip-lex vee-see-car-ree-a
3. **Red Samphire**
   Halosarcia indica
   hay-low-sar-kee-a in-di-ka
4. **Green Samphire**
   Halosarcia holocnemoides
   hal-oh-sar-kee-a ha-low-sne-moy-dees

7. KARRI FOREST

Boranup State Forest Spring 1989 Photo: G J Keighery

7 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
KARRI FOREST



Lake Cave in the Boranup Forest is surrounded by towering Karri Forest.

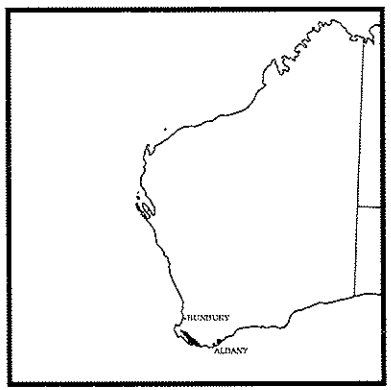
In spring the understorey of Augusta Bossiaea brightens up the forest floor.

Karri Forest is mainly found between Manjimup and Denmark, but patches of forest extend to Cape Clairault in the west and Mount Manypeaks in the east.

Some of the understorey species are not as widespread. Augusta Bossiaea only grows in the Karri Forest between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturalist.

LEGEND

1. **Karri**
   Eucalyptus diversicolor
   you-cal-ipp-tus dye-ver-si-coll-ore
2. **Broom Ballart**
   Exocarpus sparteus
   ex-oh-car-pus spar-tee-us
3. **Augusta Bossiaea**
   Bossiaea disticha
   boss-ee-a dis-tish-a
4. **Peppermint**
   Agonis flexulosa
   a-go-nis flex-you-low-sa



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

8. JARRAH FOREST

Yelverton State Forest, Yallingup Spring 1989 Photo: G J Keighery

8 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
JARRAH FOREST

Jarrah forest grows over much of the south-west of Western Australia.

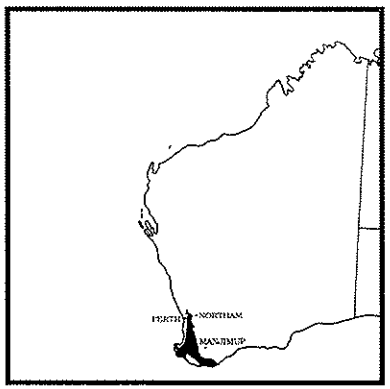
Jarrah trees form low forests when the rainfall and soil are not ideal.

These low forests have a dense understorey of many different shrubs, herbs and sedges.

During spring in the Yelverton State Forest, the understorey is bright with the flowers of the Bush Peppermint and the Water Bush. In wetter areas the strange Pineapple Bush is found.

LEGEND

1. **Jarrah**
   Eucalyptus marginata
   you-cal-ipp-tus mar-jin-ah-ta
2. **Bush Peppermint**
   Agonis parviceps
   a-go-nis par-vi-seps
3. **Water Bush**
   Bossiaea aquifolia
   boss-ee-a a-kwi-foal-ee-a
4. **Pineapple Bush**
   Dasypogon hookeri
   day-see-poe-gon hook-err-eye
5. **Yellow Flag**
   Patersonia umbrosa
   pat-err-zone-ee-a um-bro-sa



Focus Points for Discussion

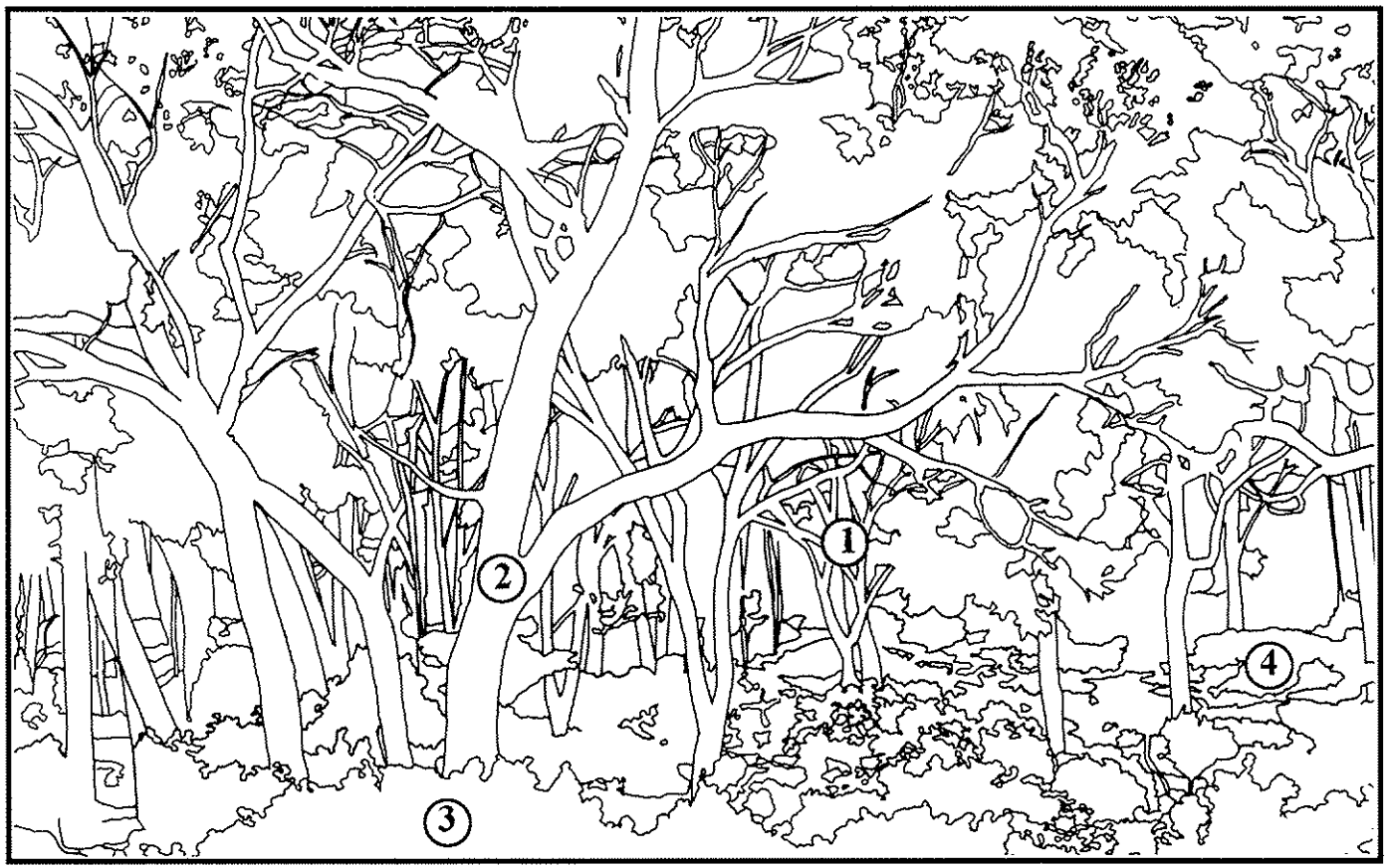
- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

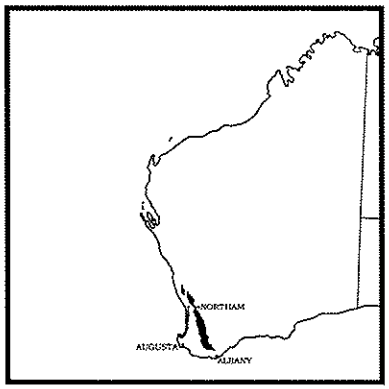
Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

9. WANDOO

Dryandra Forest Spring 1992 Photo: J Lochman

9 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WANDOO





Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Wandoo Woodland is most commonly found on the drier, eastern part of the Darling Plateau.

An open shrubland grows under the low branching Wandoo trees.

Poison Peas are common in the shrubland. The peas of the plant contain toxins similar to the poison 1080 used to control introduced animals such as rabbits and foxes.

Western Australian animals are tolerant to high levels of 1080.

It is thought that the thickets of poison peas may have stopped foxes and rabbits from living in the Wandoo Woodlands and may have helped the Numbat to survive in the Dryandra Forest.

LEGEND

1. **Wandoo**
   Eucalyptus wandoo
   you-cal-ipp-tus wan-doo
2. **Powderbark Wandoo**
   Eucalyptus accedens
   you-cal-ipp-tus ass-ee-dens
3. **Cone Bush**
   Petrophile divaricata
   pet-roe-file di-ver-i-car-ta
4. **Box Poison**
   Gastrolobium parviflorum
   gas-tro-low-bee-um par-vi-floor-um

10. GIMLET WOODLAND

Lake Johnston Autumn 1979 Photo: G J Keighery

10 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
GIMLET WOODLAND

Autumn in the Gimlet Woodland is marked by the falling of bark rather than the falling of leaves.

The new copper-coloured bark on the trunks of the Silver Topped Gimlet trees glows in the early morning light. This contrasts with the Greybush and Broombush scattered in the understorey.

Many types of eucalypt grow in the surrounding woodland area.

LEGEND

1. **Silver Topped Gimlet**
   Eucalyptus campaspe
   you-cal-ipp-tus cam-pass-pee
2. **Broom Bush**
   Eremophila scoparia
   err-eh-moff-i-la sco-pair-ee-a
3. **Greybush**
   Cratystylis conocephala
   crat-ee-sty-liss cone-oh-seff-ah-la.
4. **Goldfields Blackbutt**
   Eucalyptus lesouefii
   you-cal-ipp-tus lu-sweff-ee-eye
5. **Boree**
   Melaleuca pauperiflora
   mel-a-loo-ka paw-per-i-floor-a

Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features
- Links of vegetation to climate

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Greening Western Australia
BHP
Conservation and Land Management

11. BANKSIA LOW WOODLAND

Wandi Nature Reserve Autumn 1992 Photo: G J Keighery

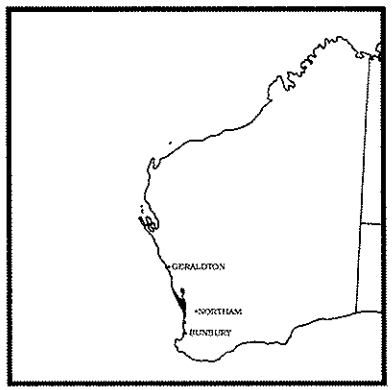
11 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
BANKSIA LOW WOODLAND

The low, twisted Banksia trees of Banksia Woodland look more like tall shrubs than trees.

Under the Banksias grow many shrubs, herbs and sedges. Some of these understorey plants only grow in the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain around Perth. One of these plants is the Globe Heath which flowers in the autumn.

LEGEND

1. **Candlestick Banksia**
   Banksia attenuata
   bank-see-a a-ten-you-ah-ta
2. **Young Firewood Banksia**
   Banksia menziesii
   bank-see-a men-zee-see-eye
3. **Globe Heath**
   Brachyloma preissii
   brack-ee-loam-a pri-see-eye



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Greening Western Australia
BHP
Conservation and Land Management

12. MALLEE WOODLAND

Heartbreak Ridge, South Norseman Winter 1978 Photo: G J Keighery

12 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MALLEE WOODLAND

The word mallee refers to low trees with many thick trunks which grow out of a fattened, lumpy stem that grows just under the ground. This underground stem is called a 'lignotuber'.

Mallee Woodland is only found in Australia. Under the Mallee trees is a dense understorey of shrubs containing a great variety of plants. Few of these flower in winter.

LEGEND

1. **York Gum Mallee**
   Eucalyptus loxophleba
   you-cal-ipp-tus lox-oh-flee-ba
2. **Mixed Shrubland of**
   Acacia jennerae,
   a-case-ee-a jenn-err-ee

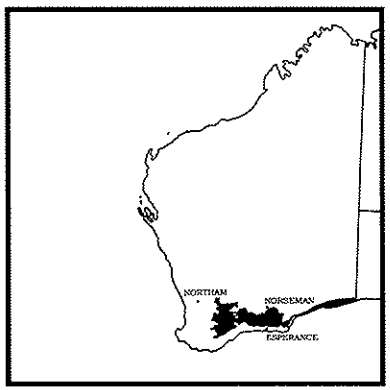
   Olearia revoluta
   ol-ee-air-ee-a rev-oh-loo-ta

   Rhagodia drummondii
   rag-oh-dee-a drum-on-dee-eye

   Atriplex vesicaria
   ay-trip-lex ves-i-car-ree-a

   Myoporum desertii
   my-oh-pour-um des-ert-ee-eye

   Pimelea microcephala
   pie-me-lee-a my-crow-seff-ah-la



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Greening Western Australia
BHP
Conservation and Land Management

13. MIXED SHRUBLAND

Badgingarra National Park Autumn 1970 Photo: G J Keighery

13 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
MIXED SHRUBLAND

The number of plant species packed into these Shrublands is so great that they are famous. People come from all over the world to see them. The Aboriginal word for Shrubland is "Kwongan".

In the spring and autumn the shrubland is bright with flowers. Some shrubs flower in each season of the year, enabling honey-eating birds to obtain nectar all year round.

LEGEND

1. **Hooker's Banksia**
   Banksia hookerana
   bank-see-a hook-err-ah-na
2. **Needles and Corks**
   Hakea obliqua
   hay-kee-a oh-blee-kwaa
3. **Sand Bottlebrush**
   Beaufortia squarrosa
   bow-fort-ee-a skwar-rose-a
4. **Summer Smokebush**
   Conospermum crassinervium
   cone-oh-sperm-um crass-in-erv-ee-um
5. **Candelstick Banksia**
   Banksia attenuata
   bank-see-a a-ten-you-ah-ta

Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

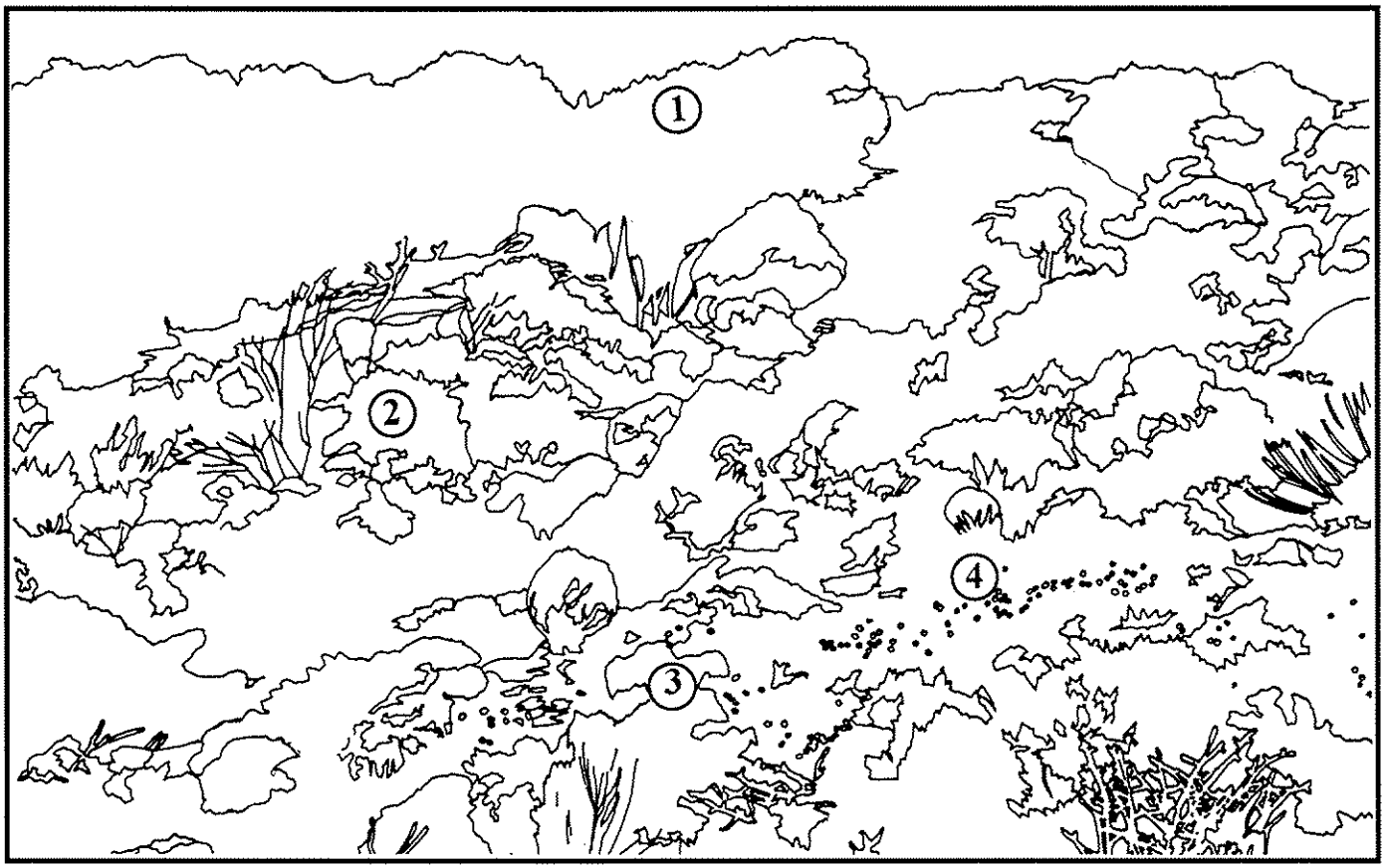
Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

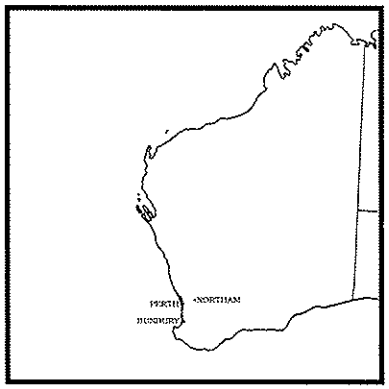
Greening Western Australia
BHP
Conservation and Land Management

14. COASTAL SHRUBLAND

Trigg Dune Reserve Spring 1989 Photo: G J Keighery

14 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
COASTAL SHRUBLAND





Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Much of the coastline of the south-west is sand-dune country. The white sands of the dunes are held together by the roots of the plants growing on these sandy soils.

These shrubs are found all along the coast. The low tree, Rottnest Island Cypress, is less common because of frequent fires. Cypress Forests grow in areas which have not been burnt recently, such as at Woodman's Point, on Garden Island and parts of Rottnest Island.

This area at Trigg Dune Reserve is recovering from a series of fires.

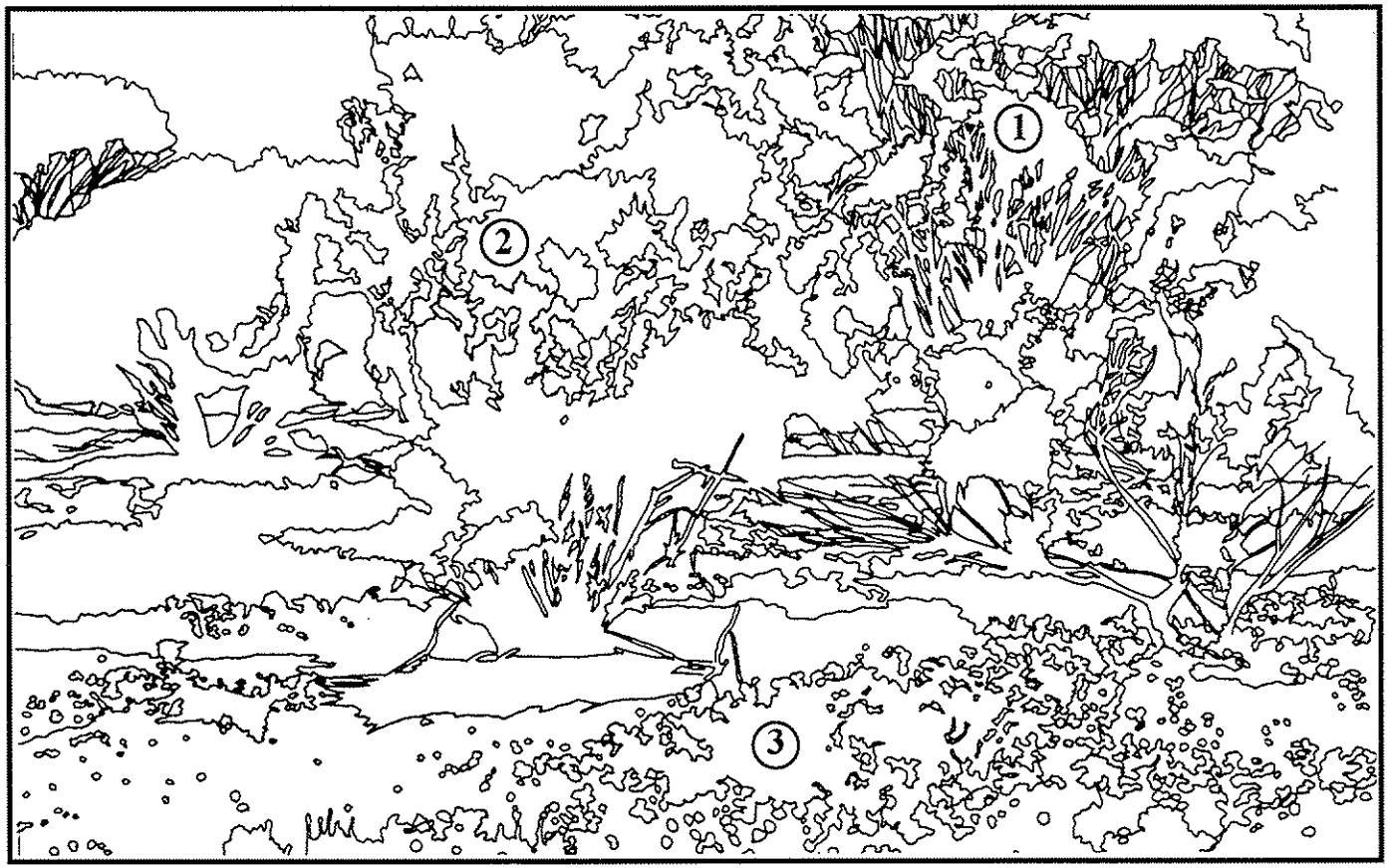
LEGEND

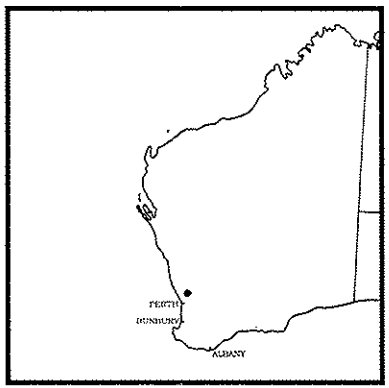
1. **Rottnest Island Cypress**
   Callitris preissii
   cal-ee-tris price-ee-eye
2. **Coastal Rosemary**
   Olearia axillaris
   oh-lee-ree-a ax-ill-ah-ris
3. **Quandong**
   Santalum acuminatum
   san-tar-lum acc-you-min-ah-tum
4. **Snakebush**
   Hemiandra pungens
   hem-ee-an-dra pun-jens

15. PINJARRA PLAIN SHRUBLAND

Pinjarra Plain Spring 1992 Photo: G J Keighery

15 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PINJARRA PLAIN SHRUBLAND





Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Plant communities can be rare and endangered just like individual plants and animals.

The Pinjarra plain near Perth was the site of early agricultural development. Today most of the original plant communities of those soils have been cleared.

These soils are low lying and very wet in winter. As the soils dry out in spring some of these open shrublands become carpetted with pink everlastings.

It is now rare to see these carpets of everlastings which used to grow extensively close to Perth.

LEGEND

1. **Mohan**
   Melaleuca viminea
   mel-a-loo-ka vim-in-ee-a
2. **Kunzea (white flowers)**
   Kunzea recurva
   kun-zee-a re-cur-va
3. **Pink Everlastings**
   Rhodanthe manglesii
   roe-dan-thee man-glee-see-eye

16. WETLANDS

Scott River Plains, Augusta Spring 1991 Photo: G J Keighery

16 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WETLANDS

Most of the wetlands in Western Australia are seasonal. Water collects in low lying areas after the wet season or after heavy rains.

Extensive wetlands are found along the south coast of the State, forming in winter and lasting into late summer.

Only plants that can live with their roots in water for a large part of the year can survive in these places.

In the deepest water are Sedges, *Melaleucas* and *Astarteas*. Paperbarks grow around the edges of the wetland in the shallow water.

LEGEND

1. **Freshwater Paperbark**
   Melaleuca raphiophylla
   mell-a-loo-ka raff-ee-oh-fill-a
2. **Swamp Astartea**
   Astartea fascicularis
   a-start-tee-a fass-ee-cue-lah-ris
3. **Twine Rushes (Jointed Sedges)**
   Leptocarpus species
   lept-oh-car-pus

Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!