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Heritage Trails Network

The **Keeping Track** Heritage Trails Schools Program is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee and funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program. It aims to establish by 1988 a coordinated network of Heritage Trails catering for a wide range of community interests and activities.

Funding

Lake Joondalup Wetlands Heritage Trail Project has been funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program.


The Schools involved in the project are:

East Wanneroo Primary
Edgewater Primary
St. Anthony's Primary
Wanneroo Junior Primary
Wanneroo Primary
Wanneroo Senior High

Further Information

Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs Branch of
the W.A. Naturalists Club
P.O. Box 35, Wanneroo 6065.

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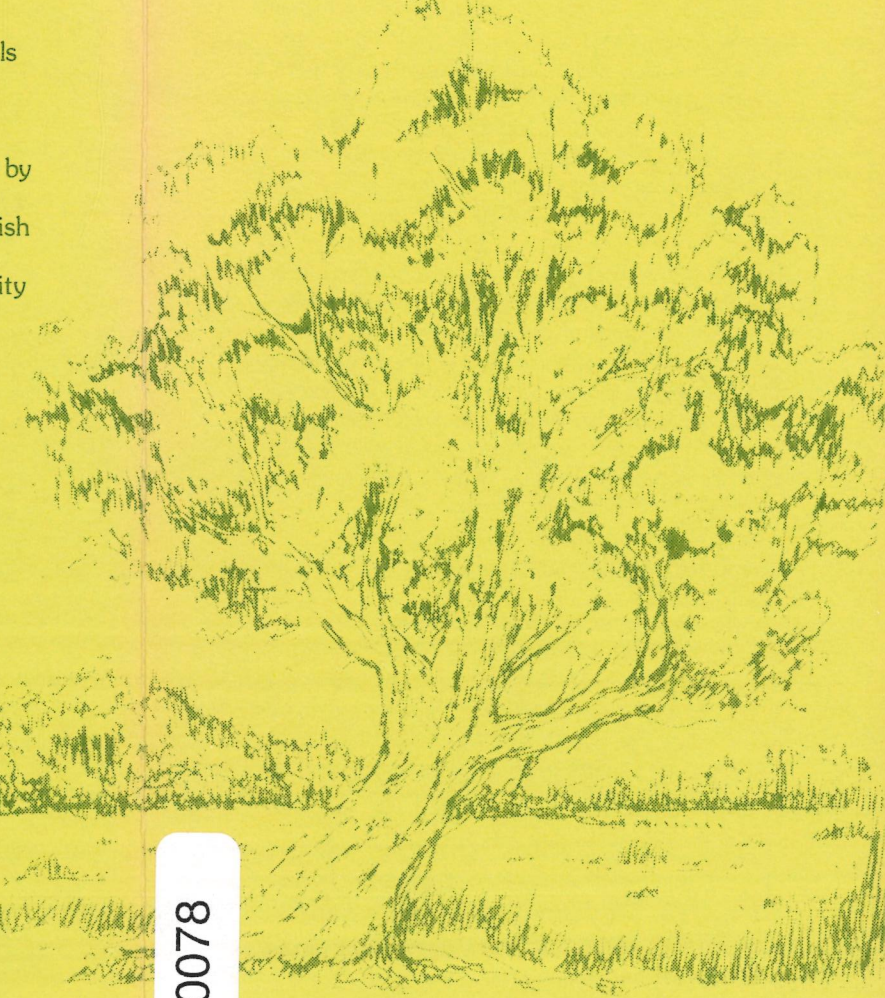


LAKE JOONDALUP
WETLANDS HERITAGE
WALKING TRAIL

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& LAND MANAGEMENT

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VEGETATION

Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Project



VEGETATION OF LAKE JOONDALUP

The vegetation of the Lake Joondalup area is diverse and interesting. There have been many changes take place since the arrival of the Europeans, as the area surrounding the lake must have appeared ideal for farming and agriculture. Consequently we see a lot of the lake foreshore now as well-cleared of the natural vegetation.

Our Wanneroo Shire History book tells us of the various farms and the endeavours of these pioneer people who came via the only route then available, which led them to the eastern shore of the lake. So, our vegetation of the eastern shore, where our Heritage Trail is sited, is mainly cleared and replaced by parklands. Scattered along this foreshore are remnants of the natural vegetation. In an effort to retain a natural environment for our trail, the children from the schools surrounding the lake have planted the three predominate trees which belong to the area.

Sections of the western shoreline show us how the lake once looked, so we aim to recreate small areas on our eastern shoreline to give people the opportunity to enjoy it and also to provide a habitat for the natural flora and fauna.

The Edgewater school on the western foreshore will eventually be interpreting a trail section which will add to the diversity of the overall picture of the lake.

As we walk the Heritage Trail begun by the school children we notice that there are many plants growing which do not look 'natural'. We see Castor Oil plants, Willow trees, Papyrus, Lantana, the Bulrush *Typha orientalis*, Pampus grass etc. It is inevitable that species such as these thrive in disturbed areas if conditions are right.

Here we present a small amount of detail on some of our local vegetation. If any further information is required the Wanneroo Primary School retains a detailed list of vegetation of the region.

FLOODED GUM (*Eucalyptus rudis*)

The Flooded Gum is one of the main trees we see around the lake. It has a long flowering season, so nectar is plentiful for a lengthy period during the year making it a popular tree for the nectar seeking birds. One such large tree is a home for a swarm of bees near the Edgewater foreshore. This tree also supports large numbers of insects which in turn are food for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians living around the lake. Indications of these insects are apparent in the form of blemishes on the leaves and also galls.

FRESHWATER PAPERBARK (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*)

This tree, as the name suggests has bark resembling sheets of paper. Unfortunately there is a temptation to strip the bark from them. Too much of this treatment and the tree will die. This particular species has needle-like leaves and has masses of lemon coloured blooms in the flowering season. Stands of these trees provide good areas for nesting for many of our waterbirds. There are a number of mature stands of the Freshwater Paperbark along our Heritage Trail.

WATTLE (*Acacia saligna*)

This wattle which we see in the area surrounding the lake is a common one around the Perth region. It is quick growing and has a profusion of yellow blossom in spring. Although it grows quickly it is often short-lived. If we take the time to inspect an older specimen of this wattle we will often notice the heavy growth of the gall-rust fungus, which is instrumental in reducing its lifespan.

SWAMP BANKSIA (*Banksia littoralis*)

We see the Swamp Banksia usually further back from the water than the Flooded Gum, Wattle and the Paperbark. It is obvious by its gnarled appearance. The leaves are long and narrow, being dark green on top and white underneath. The yellow flower spikes appear in autumn and winter. Most of the mature specimens have disappeared from the area surrounding the Heritage Trail but good examples can still be seen further along the lake shores.

JOINTED TWIG-RUSH (*Baumea articulata*)

The Jointed Twig-Rush is often seen growing together with the introduced Bulrush *Typha orientalis*. It has long slender cylindrical leaves which are sharp and pointed at the ends. When it grows without interference it creates dense tall thickets which are ideal nesting places for many of the birds which live at the lake. The leaves of the Jointed Twig-Rush are as the name suggests segmented, something like bamboo.

SWISHBUSH (*Viminaria juncea*)

A large shrub, the Swishbush is a member of the pea family. It does not have leaves as such but soft and flexible green stems, which as the name suggests, creates a swishing sound when the wind blows. The common name of Golden Spray is derived from the yellow-orange pea flowers which appear in late spring.