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BEASTIES IN THE BUSH...

SNAKES

Watch out for snakes. You are very unlikely to see one; most will sense your approach and move off into the bush before you see them. They will only attack if cornered. The two most common snakes in this area are the dugite and the tiger snake (generally found in wetland areas). They are poisonous.

Before seeking medical aid:

1. Remain calm and immobilise the walker.
2. Apply a bandage firmly above and below the bitten area. Do not wash the bite!
3. Lie the walker in the shade. Keep still until help arrives.

SPIDERS, SCORPIONS, AND CENTIPEDES

There will be pain around a bite from these creatures. The walker may suffer from nausea, swelling, muscle spasms, sweating and headaches.

Before seeking medical aid:

1. Loosen clothing.
2. Lie the walker in the shade.
3. Apply a cold wet cloth to the forehead.

TICKS

Pepper ticks are common in heathland areas. They are very tiny, often not detected by the human eye, and can leave an itchy bite. To prevent being bitten, wear long trousers and long socks, pulling the socks over the bottom of the trousers. Apply insect repellent around your belt area, on arms and around shirt collars. Do not sit directly on the ground. Sit on a log and hang your pack on the branch of a tree.

VISITOR FEES

Visitor fees apply to cars at Yanchep National Park. This helps maintain the park and the facilities.

TRAILS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Coastal Plain Walk Trail has been made possible by generous contributions from the following organisations:



Department of
**INDUSTRY,
SCIENCE**



Department of
Industry, Science
and Tourism



City of Wanneroo



North West Metro
Tourism Association

FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM officers and National Park rangers are always glad to assist you with any information about the trail and park facilities.

Perth District Office
5 Dundobar Road, Wanneroo
Phone: (08) 9405 1222
Fax: (08) 9405 0777



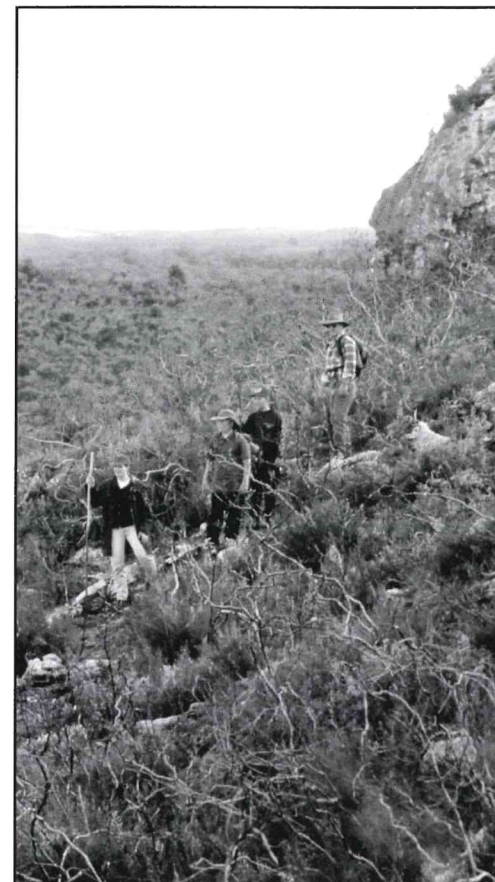
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK
Phone: (08) 9561 1004
Fax: (08) 9561 2316

STAGE ONE

COASTAL PLAIN WALKTRAIL

*Yanchep National Park
to Melaleuca Conservation Park*



MAP AND GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

COASTAL PLAIN WALK TRAIL

Welcome to the Coastal Plain Walk Trail, CALM's newest addition to walks in Perth's outdoors.

The northern section of the trail stretches a distance of almost 45km from Yanchep National Park to Melaleuca Conservation Park, traversing the natural wonders of our Swan Coastal Plain. It's easy to get to, crosses fairly flat terrain, offers low-impact camping facilities, and provides a unique natural experience in the great outdoors!

WALKSAFE

Bushwalking can involve physical exertion in remote locations. While CALM has made every effort to make walking along tracks and trails safe, you should be aware that the natural environment can be hazardous. To make your journey safer, a register has been provided at Yanchep National Park. Walkers can register at the McNess House Visitor Centre during office hours or fill out the card provided and place it in the WALKSAFE box at the front of the centre. Walkers are reminded to contact the Park on their return.

Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

ARE YOU READY?

Tell someone responsible about your walk, giving them details of your planned route and estimated time of arrival. Go in a group and wear appropriate clothing. If your group consists of 5 or more, please notify the CALM office at Wanneroo of your walk in case of emergency.

Check that you have . . .

- A map and compass.
- A broad-brimmed hat, sunscreen (SPF 15+) and sturdy walking shoes.
- Plenty of drinking water (2-3 litres per day).
- First Aid Kit, including insect repellent.

WATER

The coastal plain consists mainly of sandy soils and does not have any visible running water or streams. Rainwater tanks are provided at each campsite for emergencies, *but please take your own drinking supply*. If you are walking in a large group, arrange daily water drops.

Boil the water before drinking, or use purification products. When washing, avoid using a lot of water and detergents.

CAMPSITES

The campsites are a comfortable day's walk apart (between 15-18km). Please camp at designated sites to minimise impact on the environment.

Each campsite includes an overnight backpackers' shelter, tent sites, tables, a bush toilet, fire ring and rainwater tank. Groups of 8 or more are requested not to occupy the shelter unless it is vacant before 6pm. *In case there is no room in the shelter, please carry a tent*. Clean the site before you leave and respect the needs of others at the site. Share and enjoy!

FIRES

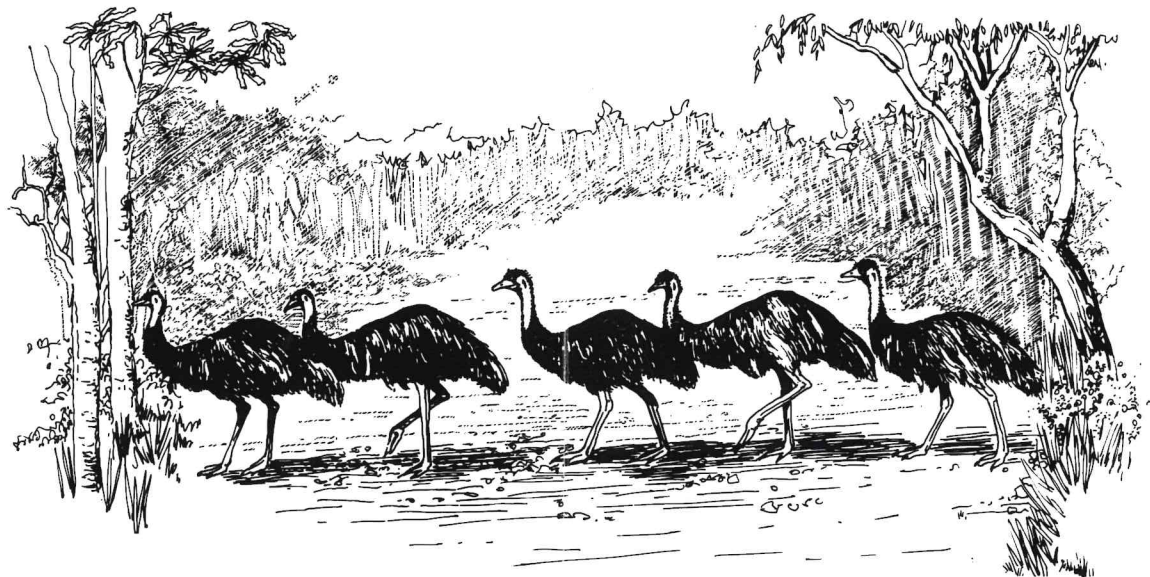
Please use a fuel stove. This is less likely to cause a wildfire and is faster and cleaner to use in the wet.

If you must light a fire, use the fire rings. Use only dead wood lying on the ground. *Don't use fire rings during days of high or extreme fire danger*. Contact your local CALM office to check for fire bans and weather conditions. Never leave a fire or burning embers unattended. Use soil to extinguish the fire before leaving.

SANITATION AND HYGIENE

A toilet is provided at each site. Please preserve the environment and use the facilities. Where there are no facilities, bury your waste at least 150mm below the ground and 100m from any water source.

Bins are not provided. Collect, crush and carry out with you any food scraps and rubbish (including tins, foil and glass).



TRAIL INFORMATION

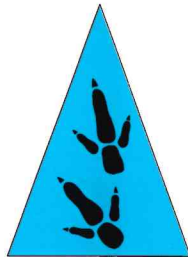
McNess House to start of Trail 5 km

Section 1: Yanchep National Park to Ridges campsite: 15.9 km

Section 2: Ridges campsite to Moitch campsite: 19.9 km

Section 3: Moitch campsite to Yongka picnic site (Neaves Road): 10.4 km

The trail is marked by sky-blue triangles with black emu footprints. The markers occur every 200m or so along the trail route. They are placed just above eye level on trees or pine posts at major track crossings and road intersections. The sharp point of the triangle indicates the direction of the trail and when it turns.



Please don't take the markers—walkers rely on them. Magnetic markers, T-shirts hats and trail certificates, can be purchased at McNess House Visitor Centre, Yanchep National Park.

TRAIL ACCESS AND USERS

The trail and the campsites have been built for walkers only. Horses, mountain bikes and motorcycles are not permitted on the trail.

The starting points for the trail are:

North: Yanchep National Park

South: The Yongka picnic site in Melaleuca Conservation Park (Neaves Road)

At Yanchep, start at the Yanjidi Trail (Loch McNess, southern end). Follow the limestone trail 1 km around the western side of the lake to the Ghost House Trail. Follow this trail for 5 km to starting point.

A backpackers' link to the trail is being developed from Lake Joondalup.

Bus no. 486 leaves daily from the Joondalup Train Station to Yanchep/Two Rocks. No direct bus service applies to the Neaves Road starting point.

DIEBACK DISEASE

Dieback is a plant disease caused by the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which thrives in moist soil and water. The fungus attacks the roots of plants, such as banksias and jarrah trees, causing them to die. To avoid spreading the fungus, remove any mud or soil from walking boots daily, and use the dieback cleaning stations positioned along the trail.

THE ENVIRONMENT

North of the river, between the coast and the Darling Scarp, is the northern section of the Swan coastal plain. Hidden beyond the suburbs are remnant pockets of national parks and nature reserves. These form one of the richest areas in native wildflowers in the southern hemisphere, and support a diverse range of flora and fauna. The wetlands and woodlands run parallel to the coast, and have served as a rich source of food and water for the Nyungar Aborigines who inhabited this area nearly 40,000 years ago.

SOIL

Two dune systems provide most of the soils on the Swan coastal plain. On the east side, the Bassendean system, of grey quartz more than two million years old, supports an extraordinary number of plant species under a low banksia forest. Sitting between the coastal dunes is the younger Spearwood system. These yellow and brown sands often cover a limestone core on their western edge. On the deeper soils grows an open woodland of jarrah and marri, while over the shallow limestone outcrops is low heath vegetation, providing colourful carpets of flowers in winter and spring.

COASTAL PLAIN PLANTS

The northern region has a diverse flora characterised by coastal dune communities (mostly heath and wattle scrub). Inland, tuart, marri and jarrah forests and woodlands predominate as far north as Yanchep. Within this wooded area are a group of wetlands which run adjacent to the coast. They are surrounded by rushes, paperbarks and flooded gum.

The Coastal Plain Walk Trail blooms spectacularly with its diversity of wildflowers almost all year round. Special features are the coastal smokebush and Morrison feather flower.

WILDLIFE ON THE TRAIL

In the undeveloped pockets of coastal woodlands, there still occur the western grey kangaroo, brush wallaby, echidna, quenda, western pygmy possum and honey possum. Some of these have fallen in numbers since the introduction of the rabbit, fox, and domestic cat. The birdlife will delight you; at early morning you may hear 'twenty-eight' parrots, magpies, ravens, wrens, honeyeaters, and spot the hovering kestrels. You will have no problem sighting the flocks of Carnaby's white-tailed black cockatoos, or tracing the emu prints in the sand.

Keep an eye and ear out for the white-striped mastiff bat, which dwells in the cave overhangs at Yanchep. It puts out a high piercing call.



Verticordia nitens
Morrison feather flower.