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CAPE LE GRAND COASTAL TRAIL— BOTANICAL NOTES

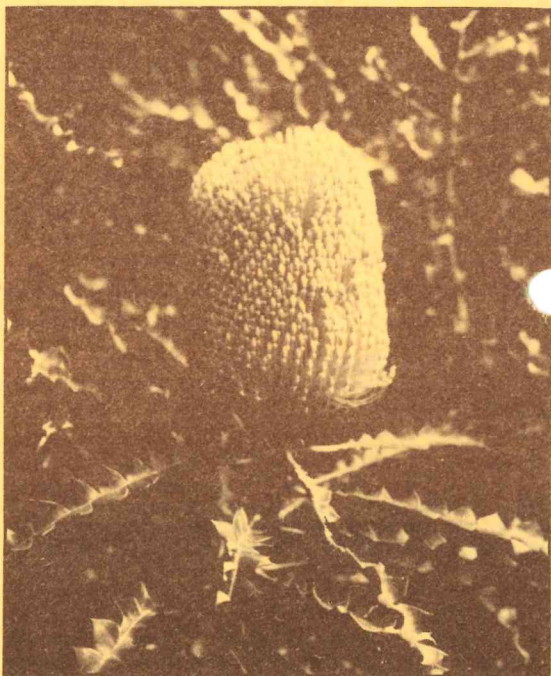
FLORA OF THE PARK

A rich variety of native plants, including many spectacular wildflowers, may be seen as the trail traverses such diverse habitats as granitic slopes and gullies, swamps, sand plains, beach dunes and strand.

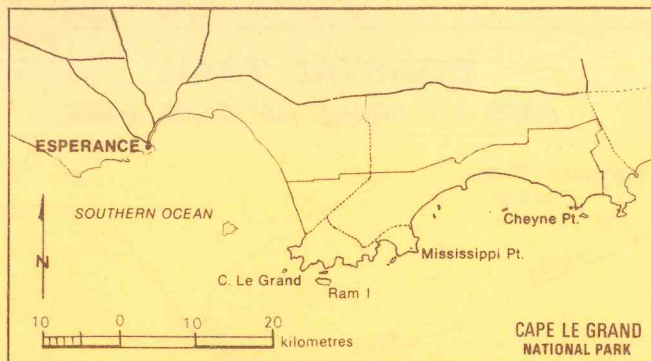
The Lucky Bay area is of interest to the historian since Flinders anchored there for five nights in January 1802. His botanist, Robert Brown, was thus able to explore the largely unknown flora, discovering about 100 new species, additional to those he had found earlier at King George Sound. Brown's species still make up a sizeable proportion of the 200 species recorded for the area.

The characteristic Australian plant families well represented, almost half falling into one of the following three families: Proteaceae (Banksia, Dryandra, Grevillea, Hakea, Lambertia), Myrtaceae (Melaleuca, Agonis, Eucalyptus, Calothamnus) or Leguminosae (Acacia, Bossiaea, Chorizema, Gompholobium, Kennedia).

Three vegetation communities which are well developed along the trail are the granitic complex, gully scrub and sand heath.



Banksia Speciosa (Showy Banksia)



Among the wildflowers found in the shallow soils of the granite slopes are *Hakea clavata* (with thick, cactus-like leaves), *Leptospermum sericeum* (Silver Teatree, with large, pinkish flowers), *Platysace compressa* (with intricate flattened stems), *Calothamnus asper* and *C. aciculis* (one-sided bottlebrush), several orchids, *Callitris baxteri* (native pine), *Anthocercis viscosa* (Sticky Tail Flower), *Pimelea ferruginea* and, here and there, several species of *Eucalyptus* including *E. lehmannii* (Bushy Yate) and *E. incrassata*.

In sheltered gullies a thick scrub is often found, with *Melaleuca globifera*, several species of *Agonis* (peppermint), *Hakea trifurcata* (with foul-smelling flowers), *Eucalyptus doratoxylon*, *E. tetragona*, a sweet-scented *Leucopogon* (bearded heath), *Casuarina trichodon* (a hair-leaved she-oak), *Acacia browniana* (with bipinnate leaves) and *A. subcaerulea* (with phyllodes and blue pods).

Extensive areas of low sand heath contain a wealth of small but interesting wildflowers, including *Melaleuca thymoides* (pale yellow, Acacia-like flower heads), *Beaufortia microphylla* (small, purple heads), *Lysinema ciliatum* (Curry Flower), *Conostylis setigera*, *Leucopogon* sp., *Dryandra nivea* and *D. obtusa* (honey pots), *Patersonia lanata* (a native Iris), *Darwinia vestita* (Pom Pom Darwinia), *Banksia repens* (a prostrate Banksia), *Isopogon teretifolius* (a Coneflower) and a variety of sedges and rushes including *Lepidosperma aphyllum* (with twisted or coiled leaves).

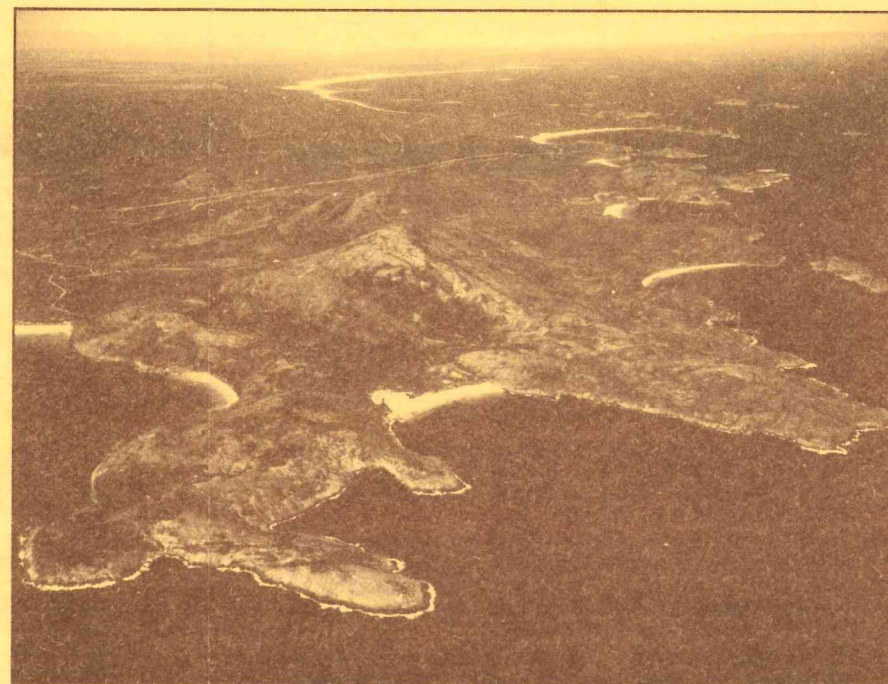
Within the sand heath area patches of taller shrubs occur, mainly *Nuytsia floribunda* (Christmas Tree) and *Lambertia inermis* (Chittick). Near granite tors various species of *Eucalyptus* may be found including *E. incrassata*, *E. uncinata*, *E. ligulata* or *E. tetragona*.

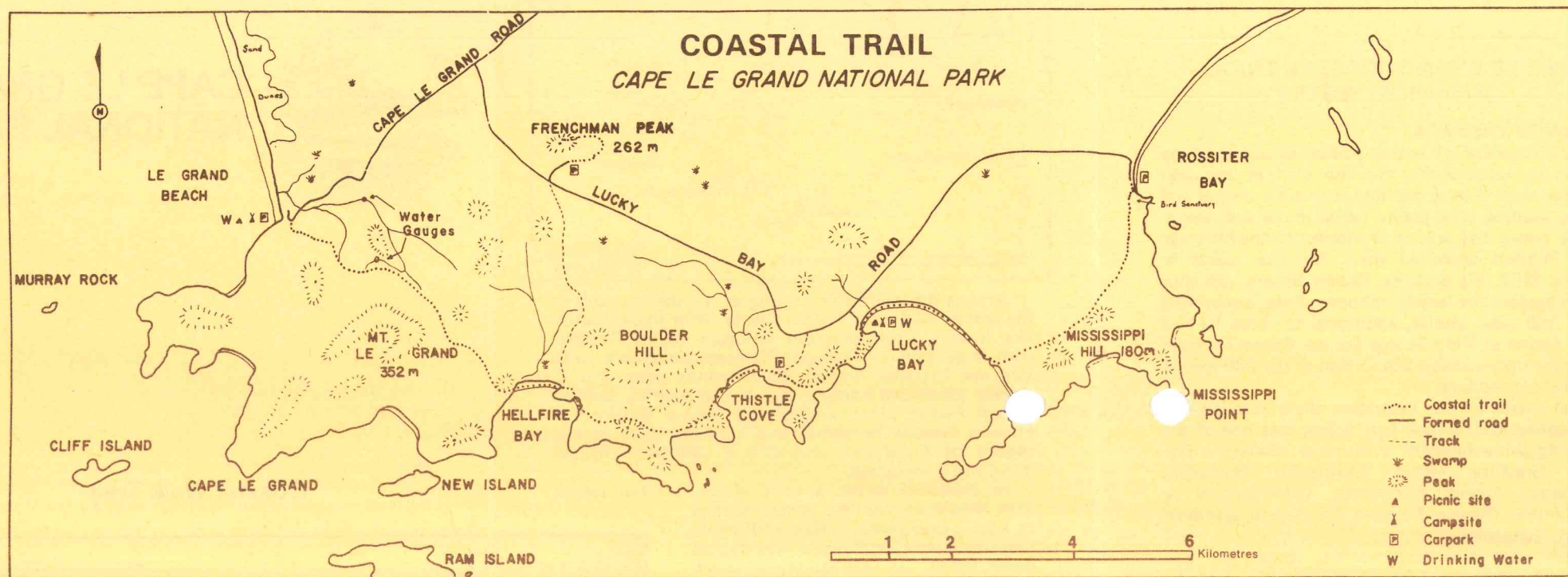
The beach trail around Lucky Bay reveals a closed scrub of *Melaleuca globifera* and *Agonis linearifolia* to the west (opposite deposits of dead sea grass) while a coastal extension of the widespread inland areas of *Banksia speciosa* shrubland is seen close to the north-eastern beach of the bay.



CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK

Coastal Walk Trail





The COASTAL TRAIL extends from Cape Le Grand Beach to Rossiter Bay via Hellfire Bay, Thistle Cove and Lucky Bay. For the experienced bush walker it provides a one day hike over 15 kilometres of alternating rocky headlands and wide sandy beaches. Provision is made for those who prefer an easy stroll over a short distance. The Trail can be walked in any direction from any point where a track leads to the coast, at the Bays mentioned above.

The rock out-crops are composed of pre-Cambrian granite and gneiss which rise above low undulating country covered with coastal scrub-heath and occasional thickets of low eucalypt trees.

CLIMATE is typically temperate coastal in nature, with wet winters and dry summers. Annual rainfall is over 700mm at Mount Le Grand with about 560mm over the rest of the coastline.

The best time for WILDFLOWERS is from September to November, but you will find many plants flowering at any time of the year. The granite hills have different floristic associations to the sandy coastline and undulating plains between the hills.

Native FAUNA is both abundant and diverse with the advantages of observing both sea and land-based animals. Birds in particular are plentiful with over 80 species having been recorded in the Park and over 120 in the region. Fourteen species of mammals and 36 species of reptiles and amphibians have been recorded as well, illustrating the richness of fauna in the Park.

GRADING of the trail is either HARD, MEDIUM or EASY. The sections LE GRAND BEACH - HELLFIRE BAY - THISTLE COVE are HARD. Boots are essential over rough country with sloping rock and this is for experienced walkers only. Carry water in summer.

The LUCKY BAY - ROSSITER BAY section is MEDIUM. Boots or stout footwear required. Carry water in summer.

The THISTLE COVE - LUCKY BAY section is EASY. A nice stroll for those who are not prepared with stout footwear.

TIMES of each section are as follows:-

LE GRAND BEACH - HELLFIRE BAY Allow THREE HOURS

HELLFIRE BAY - THISTLE COVE Allow TWO HOURS

THISTLE COVE - LUCKY BAY Allow ONE HOUR

LUCKY BAY - ROSSITER BAY Allow TWO HOURS

As SEASONAL CONDITIONS change, the nature of the trail alters, so allow yourself sufficient time to enjoy the vegetation in its seasonal splendour. Take care on slippery rock in winter and avoid dehydration in summer. Allow a sufficient margin on the above times for each section.

The Trail is marked by pruned vegetation, rock cairns or wooden pegs. Please consider the safety of others and do not interfere with any markers.

Adequate PREPARATION with the right type of FOOTWEAR and CLOTHING and WATER in summer is important.

CAMPING facilities are provided at Le Grand Beach and Lucky Bay for vehicles or tents. A small camping fee is charged for the use of the facilities but, as firewood is scarce, it would help if you brought your own stove.

We would like to provide the opportunity for all visitors to Cape Le Grand National Park, both now and in the future, to appreciate and enjoy the park without endangering the park environment or spoiling the enjoyment of the park for other people.

In order to help us protect your National Park please

- confine fires to the portable stoves or barbecues provided;
- drive only on signposted tracks;
- take your litter home with you or deposit it in bins provided; and
- leave your pets at home.

If we can assist you with further information on Cape Le Grand or other National Parks in Western Australia please contact either the Ranger at his office in the Park or the National Parks Authority, Hackett Drive, Nedlands. W.A. 6009. Telephone (09) 386 8811.