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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Access and Camping

The only good road into the Park runs from Hopetoun, over the southern shoulder of East Mt. Barren to Mylies Beach where a small camping area has been developed. Another fairly good road runs to the Twertup Quarry via Rabbit Proof Fence Road from the highway. From here one can gain a good impression of the Fitzgerald River valley and see the multicoloured spongolite cliffs alongside the quarry. All other tracks are recommended for four-wheel drive vehicles only and many of these can become impassible during extended wet periods.

Alternative access from the north is by the West River Road or by the \$200 road from Fitzgerald Townsite. Access from the west is from Devils Creek Road via Colletts Road and it is possible to enter the Park from Bremer Bay. This latter access not recommended as tracks are very rough and may be very muddy.

Camping is permitted throughout the Park but visitors are especially requested to take all precautions regarding fires. There are no established walking tracks but school parties have pioneered a hike from Point Anne to East Mt. Barren, giving superb coastal views and taking in much of the coast that is inaccessible to vehicles. This route is intersected by four-wheel drive tracks, no more than one day's march apart, offering a choice of

one or more hiking days according to taste. Hikers should carry sufficient water for their journey as fresh water is scarce - even the rivers are salty. Other rewarding hikes are along the river valleys, especially the Fitzgerald and the Phillips Rivers.

Beach and rock fishing is generally good but although king waves are not common, rock fishermen should be careful. King waves kill. Due to rapidly changing conditions boating is considered dangerous and most beaches are prone to rips.

Application of commonsense, particularly by visitors with children should minimise the risks.

Accommodation is available at the following locations. You are advised to book in advance.

Bremer Bay
Caravan Park (Tel: 37 4018) Caravan and Campsites
Onsite Caravans
Holiday Homes (Tel: 37 4024) Cottages

Hopetoun
Caravan Park (Tel: 38 3046) Caravan and Campsites
Onsite Caravans
Port Hotel (Tel: 38 3053) Rooms
Holiday Flats (Tel: 38 3035) Flats and Restaurant

Jerramungup
Motor Hotel (Tel: 35 1501) Rooms and Motel Units

Ravensthorpe
Palace Motor Hotel (Tel: 38 1005) Rooms and Motel Units
Ravensthorpe Motel (Tel: 38 1053) Motel Units
Caravan Park (Tel: 38 1050) Caravan and Campsites
Minibus tours operate from Ravensthorpe. Contact Doug McKinnon Tel: 38 1085 or P.O. Box 129.



PLEASE take particular note of the following points that apply to ALL NATIONAL PARKS in Western Australia.

1. Fires should be confined to the use of portable stoves or the barbecues provided. Open fires are dangerous. Always keep an eye on any fire or stove when it is alight.
2. All vehicles are required to remain on approved tracks, as shown on this brochures, or indicated by directional signs. All vehicles in the park are required to be registered and to comply with the requirements of the Road Traffic Act.
3. All native plants and wildlife are protected, and therefore no firearms or domestic animals are permitted in the park.

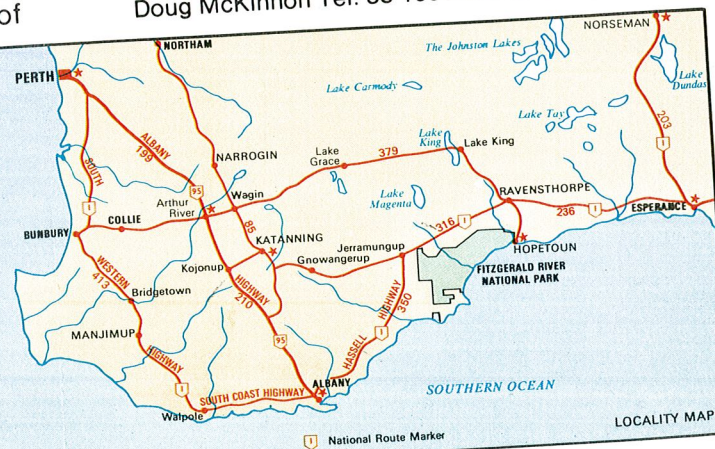
**NATIONAL PARKS AUTHORITY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.**
Hackett Drive NEDLANDS W.A. 6009
Phone 386 6961

Fitzgerald River national park

Western Australia



FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK



Fauna

Little is known of the fauna of the National Park, and Western Grey Kangaroos are the only native mammals commonly seen. One may encounter Brush Wallabies and Tammars probably live in some of the thickets. Other mammals that are probably common include Honey Possums, Pigmy Possums, Bush Rats, and Short-nosed Bandicoots, while Sea Lions may occasionally haul themselves out of the sea on to the coast.

Birdlife is very rich, ranging in size from Emus to tiny Emu-Wrens, so named because their long sparse tail feathers are reminiscent of Emu feathers. Colourful birds include the blue wrens, parrots, Rainbow birds and Golden Whistlers; majestic birds include the Wedge-tailed Eagle, White-breasted Sea-Eagle, Osprey and the ubiquitous Brown Hawk; curious birds include the Mallee Fowl which builds an enormous crater shaped mound, and buries its eggs in rotting vegetation in the centre. The process of decomposition produces heat and the birds maintain the correct temperature for incubation by adding to or removing from the rotting vegetation. Rarer birds include the Western Whipbird and the Crested Bellbird. Along the coast one can often see albatrosses, shearwaters and petrels, while on the inlets ducks and waders are often abundant.

Frogs, lizards and snakes are common in suitable areas, but they are seldom seen unless especially looked for, although you may be lucky and find goannas along the roads or while walking in the bush.



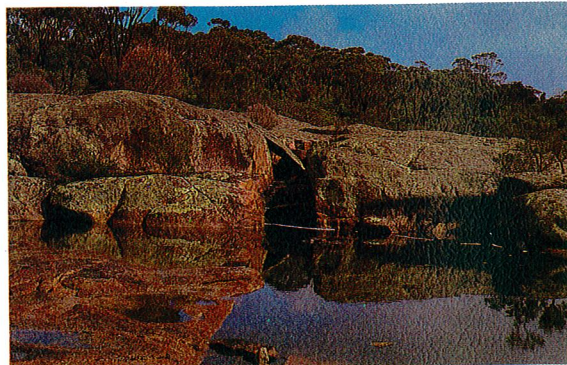
Barking Gecko (*Phyllurus milii*)

Climate

Lying so close to the south coast, the Park experiences a very mild climate. Summer temperatures are usually moderate with warm pleasant days and cool nights. Winter days are cool to cold with some overnight frosts away from the coast. Rainfall drops off markedly as distance from the coast increases, thus the coast may receive 630 mm per annum while the northern parts may not have more than 400 mm per annum. Most rainfall occurs in winter but occasional light summer showers can be expected and summer thunder storms are sometimes experienced.



Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*)



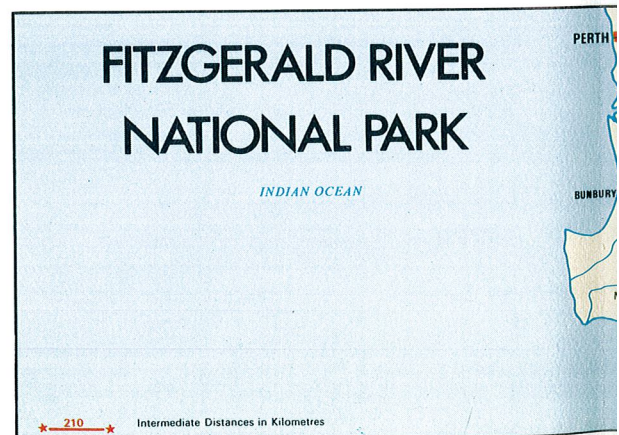
Fitzgerald River

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Fitzgerald River national park

This magnificent National Park occupies 242 727 hectares along one of the loveliest sections of the south coast of Western Australia. Much of the park is made up of an undulating sandplain, but during an earlier age of higher rainfall rivers such as the Gairdner, the Fitzgerald, the Hamersley and Phillips have carved great valleys across it. For the most part these valleys are wide and flat, filled by dense scrub in contrast to the open heathlands beyond their margins. Their edges are always distinct and frequently precipitous, sometimes forming spectacular cliffs. In places, though, the rivers pass through steep, narrow gorges; such is the case on a section of the Hamersley River.



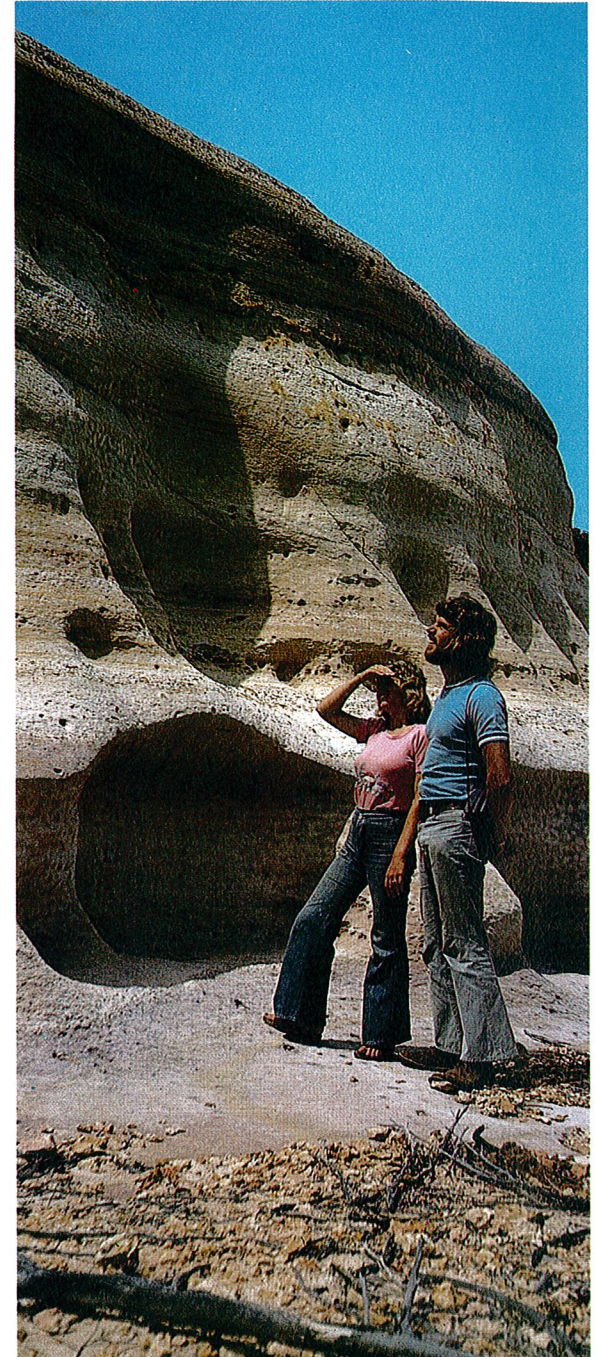
Twertup Creek



Mylies Beach and East Mt Barren

A series of rugged mountains is strung across the park from west to east. Collectively known as the Barrens they fall into three broad groupings. The western group is made up of two isolated peaks, West Mt. Barren and Mt. Bland. West Mt. Barren (371 m) is an easy climb, rewarded by spectacular views. The central group, which lies close to the coast between the Fitzgerald Inlet and the Hamersley Inlet, is dominated by Mid Mt. Barren (457 m). A very steep four-wheel drive track leads to a lookout on Toyota Hill, a 'must' for the intrepid, although you may prefer to walk the last section. The eastern group consists of the Eyre range and East Mt. Barren. A good road leads from Hopetoun over the southern shoulder of East Mt. Barren (450 m) and down to Mylies Beach.

East of the Fitzgerald Inlet the mountains lie close to the coast and, in places, fall directly to the sea. Thus this section of coast is made up of massive cliffs and steep scree slopes intermingled with small beaches, giving the park its superb coastal scenery. However, west of the Fitzgerald Inlet sandy beaches stretch as far as the eye can see, interrupted only by occasional rocky headlands such as Point Anne.



Spongolite Cliffs

Geology

Underlying the northern portion of the park are Archaean granites of the Yilgarn Block while Precambrian metamorphics of the Albany-Esperance Block underlie much of the remaining area. The granites rarely outcrop, one exception being near Roe's Rock, but the Barren mountains are massive outcrops of the metamorphics. These show considerable variation in their petrology from quartzites (e.g. West Mt. Barren and Mt. Bland) to phyllites schists and gneisses. The latter rock types frequently contain minerals such as garnet and kyanite (e.g. at West Beach).

Late Eocene sediments of the Plantagenet group lie as an unconformity over the older rock types except on the mountains. A number of distinct beds can be recognised in these sedimentary deposits, the principal one being the Pallinup Siltstones. Surface laterization has taken place over most of these beds, and towards the coast they are overlaid by quaternary windblown sands.

In many places on the margins of the valleys, rivers have cut deeply into the sedimentary beds exposing them as cliff faces. Interesting exposures include colourful cliffs of spongolite which is quarried on the Twertup Creek just above its confluence with the Fitzgerald River. In the same area the Fitzgerald River flows over a narrow seam of lignite which has attracted interest ever since its discovery by J. S. Roe (Surveyor General) in 1848. However, the deposit is small and of poor quality



Scarlet Banksia (*Banksia coccinea*)

Flora

This National Park is justly famous for its bewildering diversity of plants, so many of which are of outstanding beauty or restricted distribution. Late winter and spring are the best time to see the wildflowers, but there is always something of interest and many of the plants are noted more for their shape or foliage than for their blooms. For example the long slender stems of the Weeping Gums, *Eucalyptus sepulcralis* which stands like wisps high above the heathlands, often silhouetted against the skyline, or the Royal Hakeas, *Hakea victoriae* with their immensely rich red, yellow and green, scallop-shaped leaves which grow on gravelly soils.

Several distinct vegetation types are easily distinguished. The most common is a heathland which grows on the sandplains. This association contains a rich variety of low shrubs commonly including plants belonging to the Proteaceae (e.g. *Banksia* sp., *Grevillea* sp., *Hakea* sp., and *Isopogon* sp.) Myrtaceae (e.g. *Melaleuca* sp., *Calothamnus* sp., and *Verticordia* sp.) Mimosaceae (*Acacia* sp.) and Leguminosae (the pea family). Scattered throughout the heathlands are taller shrubs, commonly Mallees. The most widespread and most noticeable is the Tallerack, *Eucalyptus tetragona*, easily recognised by its silvery leaves and long straggling silvery stems, but the Four-winged Mallee, *Eucalyptus tetraptera* must rank amongst the most spectacular. Often there are patches of dense scrub, again commonly Mallees but on deeper sand one encounters taller Banksias such as the red and grey flower *Banksia coccinea* or the yellow flowered *Banksia baxteri*. In some areas trees such as the *Banksia attenuata* or the Christmas Tree, *Nuytsia floribunda* are fairly common.

The heathlands that grow on the Barren mountains contain a different association of plants from those on the sandplains. The Oak-leaved Dryandra, *Dryandra quercifolia* and the beautiful Bell-fruited Mallee

Eucalyptus preissiana with its large yellow flowers are common.

It is on the mountains that the greatest abundance of rare plants grow, many being known to occur on one or two of the peaks only

In the valley one encounters scrub which is often dense and is usually made up of Mallees, but sometimes of Acacias. Most of the smaller shrubs are shaded out and frequently the ground is almost bare. The scrub may consist of extensive stands of one species, e.g. the Round-leaved Mort, *Eucalyptus platypus* (a good example of a stand of this species can be seen where Colletts track descends into the Fitzgerald River valley from the west), however, it often contains a mixture of Eucalypts or Acacias. Another notable plant which grows in the mixed stands is the Pin-cushion Hakea, *Hakea laurina*.

A woodland dominated by Swamp Yates, *Eucalyptus occidentalis*, (tall trees with smooth grey bark on the upper branches and dark rough bark on the trunks and larger branches) grows along the rivers and some of their flood plains. A similar woodland is found on some of seasonal swamps, but other swamps may support paperbarks, or where the ground is very salty, they may only support samphire. Several of the swamps are so salty that no plant can grow on them at all.

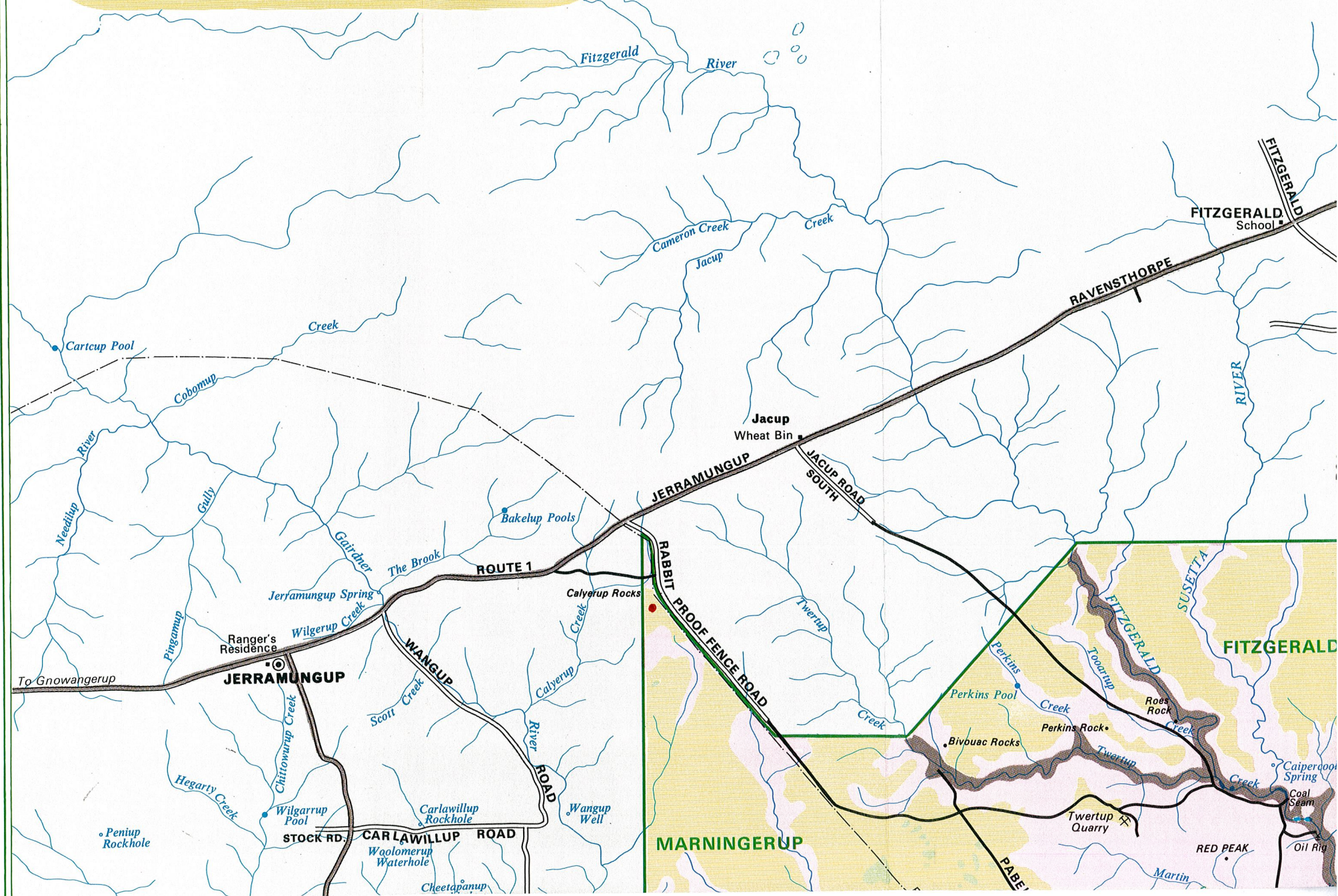


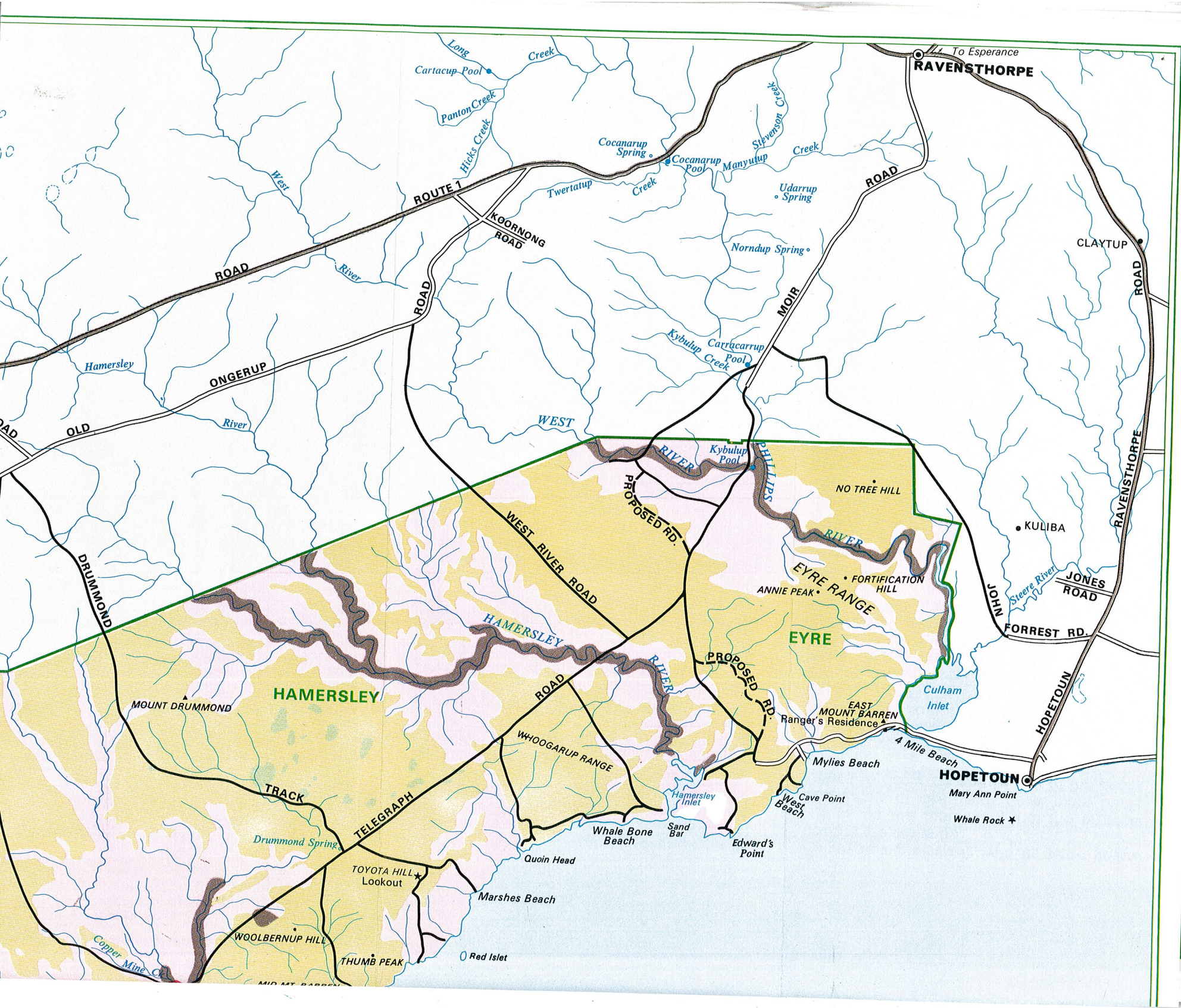
Royal Hakea
(*Hakea victoriae*)

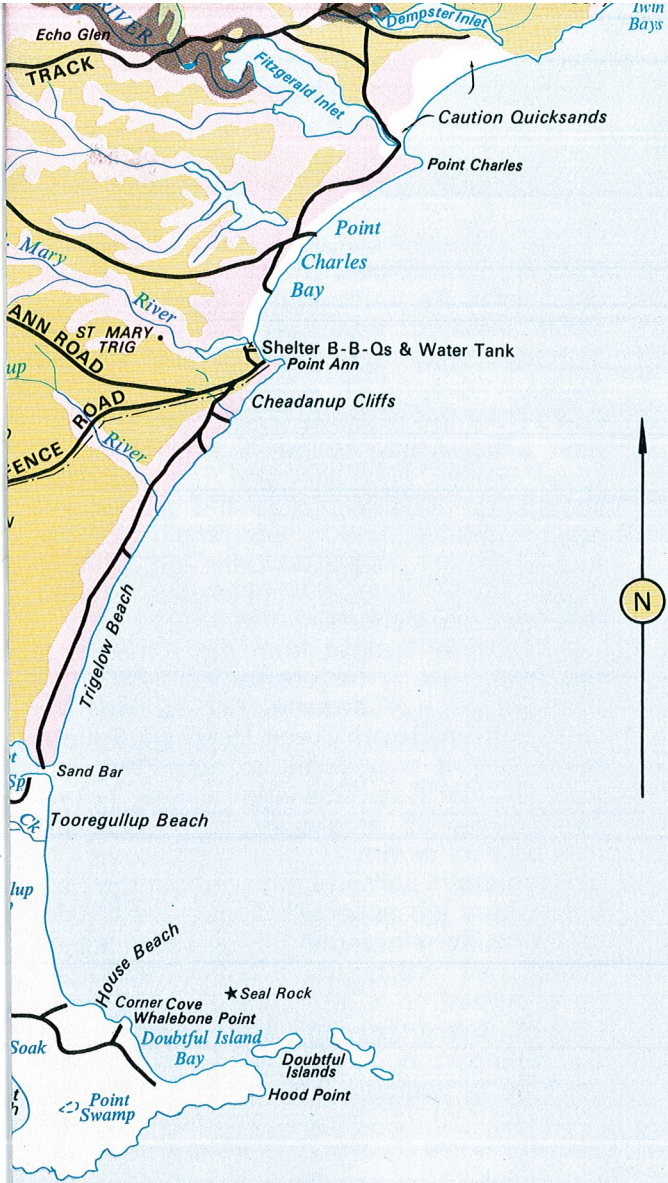


Four Winged Mallee
(*Eucalyptus tetraptera*)

Fitzgerald River National Park
















SOUTHERN OCEAN



LEGEND

-  National Park Boundary
-  Sealed Main Road
-  Formed Gravel Road
-  Tracks :— Four Wheel Drive Passable Dry Season Only
-  Swamp Yate woodland along rivers
-  Scrub, often dense mainly in valley systems
-  Heathland on higher ground with areas of scattered shrubs
-  Swamp may include Swamp Yate and paperbark woodland or samphire flats
-  Sand dunes

SCALE 1:250,000

