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a guide to

Southern Forest's

Visit our magnificent forests

You're going to see some of the most magnificent forest country in the world in WA's south-west. And whether it's the region's tall forests or rugged coastline, there's plenty for visitors to see and do.

You can literally walk through the treetops at the Valley of the Giants—or through the base of a tree trunk. If you want to work harder to take in the view, there are a number of fire lookout trees you can climb. Rungs fixed to the trunks let you climb to an amazing height.

There are dozens of scenic drives. Take the Great Forest Trees Drive in Shannon National Park or the Karri Forest Explorer Tourist Drive in Pemberton and tune your car radio into the park broadcasts. Some of the stories you'll hear are told by people who lived in the area when Shannon was a thriving timber town nearly half a century ago.

Nearly 30 species of native mammals are found in the southern forest region and most of them can be found in the national parks, many of which can be seen on a guided spotlighting tour.

Bushwalkers can try one of the many walktrails set out in the region's national parks and State forests, or the long distance Bibbulmun Track.

Come for the wildflowers in spring, catch marron and trout in season or watch the southern right whales as they migrate along the State's coastline.

With the protection of all our old-growth forest and the creation of 30 new national parks in the south-west in addition to the existing conservation estate, there is so much to see and do. You will need a guide... so read on, or call the Department of Conservation and Land Management for more information.

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AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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Tree Top Walk
Valley of the Giants
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Internet
www.naturebase.net



Welcome to Karri Country

The State's southern forest region is dominated by karri, a eucalypt that grows only in WA's wettest corner. Karri is one of the tallest forest trees in the world, reaching a maximum height of about 90 metres.

Many other forest trees grow in this diverse region, including the even rarer tingles, as well as jarrah, marri, bullich and blackbutt. There are also stunning wildflowers and the magnificent coastlines of D'Entrecasteaux and Walpole-Nornalup National Parks.

The main belt of karri forest runs south from Nannup through Manjimup and Pemberton to the Frankland River and then narrows as

it stretches through to Denmark and Torbay, near Albany. Island pockets occur towards the west at Boranup, near Margaret River, and to the east in the Porongurups, near Mt Barker and Albany.

These forests cover about 190,000 hectares. Most of the existing karri forest is on public land, including forests set aside in national parks, nature reserves and State forest. The forest is available for many community needs, including tourism, recreation, wildlife conservation, wood production and water catchment protection.

WA's south-west has been occupied by Aboriginal people for at

least 40,000 years. Shaped blades found near Walpole-Nornalup National Park have been dated to 6800 years ago. This makes some of them the oldest such artefacts discovered anywhere in Australia.

Today, thousands of people visit karri country each year to see its many natural attractions, including the old trees and regrowth forests at Big Brook. There's also great interest in the region's history, particularly its timber-town heritage and Aboriginal culture.

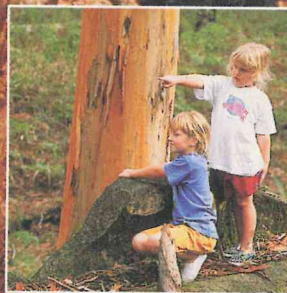
While there's plenty for visitors to explore on their own, there are also many guided tours. For more information please contact any Visitor Centre.

For further information:

Manjimup Visitor Centre,
(08) 9771 1831
Northcliffe Visitor Centre,
(08) 9776 7203
Pemberton Visitor Centre,
(08) 9776 1133
Walpole Visitor Centre,
(08) 9840 1111

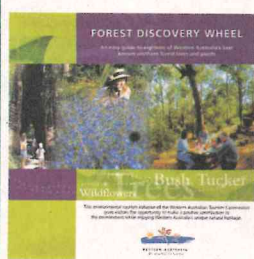
or visit the website
www.southernforest.com.au

For more information on
what to see and do in WA's
south-west purchase *Wild Places*,
Quiet Places—148 page full colour
guide available for \$21.95



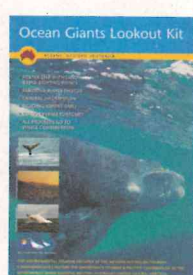
Five great new ways to be touched by nature

1. Forest Discovery Wheel



An easy guide to eighteen of Western Australia's best loved southern forest trees, bush tucker plants and wildflowers.

2. Ocean Giants Lookout Kit



A lookout kit to help you spot the majestic southern right and humpback whales along Albany's spectacular coastline.

3. On the Trail of the Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo



'Day walk and Red-tail spotting' map pack for the Bibbulmun Track locations of Dwellingup, Balingup, Pemberton and Denmark.

4. Adopt a Dolphin



A special package to help you interact with and protect the dolphins at the Bunbury Dolphin Discovery Centre.

5. Bibbulmun Walking Breaks Accommodation Packages

Self-guided, pack-free 2 days/2 nights in Balingup, Donnelly River, Pemberton, Walpole, Torbay or Denmark. Includes bed & breakfast or self contained accommodation, all food, walk transfers, Bibbulmun Track map, walk notes, day pack & water bottle PLUS 'On the Trail of the Red-Tail' OR Ocean Giants Lookout Kit OR the Forest Discovery Wheel only \$285 per person. (Two share B&B or four share s/c.)



Contact the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track on 9481 0551 or 9321 0649 or contact friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or check out the website on www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

For more information Contact: Western Australian Visitor Centre on 9483 1111



LOOKING after our NATURAL HERITAGE



Forests are constantly changing. There are seasonal changes, such as flowering, and dramatic changes caused by drought and wildfires.

Nature manages these changes very well; forests are remarkably resilient and will recover from almost any catastrophic event. However, nature can't cope with all the artificial changes introduced since European settlement.

This is the reason we now have formal management plans to ensure the health of forest ecosystems. For example, the forest would be at risk if there was no management program for fire. Strategically planned controlled burns aim to promote biodiversity conservation and reduce wildfires, which otherwise would be frequent, threatening lives, property and wildlife.

Forests are also under threat from feral predators and disease, particularly from the European fox and dieback. Research into both problems has led to comprehensive management strategies.

Fox control is managed under the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Western Shield campaign, which aims to expand predator control and allow the recovery of native animals, or, when necessary, reintroduce them to their former habitats. Western Shield is being implemented over approximately 3.5 million hectares of WA.

Like Western Shield, the strategy against the plant disease dieback includes on-the-ground operations and further research. Procedures are in place to help slow the spread of the disease by limiting the movement of soil infected with the fungus that causes dieback. There's also a

fungicide which can be applied to rare plants threatened by the disease, although it's not possible to treat the whole region.

The way in which people want to use the forests must also be managed. Forests can be used for a variety of purposes without damaging the ecosystem, as long as each use is regulated. Forests in this region are important sources of fresh water, are used by beekeepers, are a vital habitat for plants and animals which have disappeared from other parts of the State and are a major recreation source. All of these uses can coexist with each other and with the forests, if they are properly managed.

In 2001, the State Government ended logging in WA's old-growth forests, and a new initiative was introduced to create 30 new national parks in the south-west.

This initiative has enabled old growth forest areas including the Walpole Wilderness Area, Greater Kingston, Greater Beedelup, Jane, Easter, Hilliger and Gardner forest blocks to be set aside for reservation as national parks.

The seven new national parks, for which indicative boundaries have been announced, include:

- the proposed expansion of Beedelup National Park and proposed Strickland Nature Reserve. Just 15 kilometres west of Pemberton, this park includes dense karri forest, mixed forest of karri/marri, jarrah/marri and stands of pure marri. The Bibbulmun Track crosses the western portion of the proposed park;
- new national park around Mt Lindesay, an area between Denmark and Mt Barker, forming

the eastern section of the Walpole Wilderness Area. The park is defined by its rich flora species and also includes jarrah forest;

- new national park surrounding Mt Roe, north-east of Walpole. This is the largest of the seven parks in the Walpole Wilderness Area. The area contains rare flora and fauna species and forests of karri, tingle, jarrah and marri;
- new national park north of Mt Frankland, linking the existing Mt Frankland National Park and the proposed national park surrounding Mt Roe. Granite Peak is found in this area;
- new national park south of Mt Frankland, taking in a large proportion of the Deep River, which flows from Lake Muir to the western side of Nornalup Inlet. The park has diverse forest ecosystems, including mixed stands of jarrah/yellow tingle, karri/red tingle, jarrah/red tingle and karri/yellow tingle; and
- the proposed Greater Kingston National Park, in the jarrah forest and wandoo woodlands north-east of Manjimup, will cover nearly 21,000ha and link to the proposed 52,000ha Perup Nature Reserve which is proposed to become the Tone-Perup National Park.

WA's old-growth forests are an irreplaceable community asset that must be managed responsibly to ensure that they flourish in perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

An account of the conservation, significance and management of the Karri forest can be found in the publication *The Karri Forest*, widely available for \$27.45

EYE to eyewith the GIANTS



So you think you've seen a forest? How about standing inside a living tree trunk or high among the branches, watching birds fly below you?

You can do both at the Valley of the Giants in the tingle forest of Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

The multi award-winning Valley of the Giants includes a treetop walk rising almost 40 metres above the forest floor and a walk trail right through some of the natural hollows in the old tingle trees.

Opened in 1996, this major tourism attraction replaces an earlier picnic site which was literally being destroyed by the number of visitors coming to the area.

Twenty years ago, no tour of the south-west was complete without a photograph of your car parked in the giant hollowed out tingle tree at a picnic spot near Nornalup. Visitors would then follow a little path to see another dozen or so big tingle trees.

Like most eucalypts, tingles can't survive if the soil around their roots is compacted. The number of visitors trampling around the picnic area reached 100,000 a year by 1989 and the tree that featured in so many holiday photos collapsed. The little path to the other trees became just one of dozens of tracks and the car park expanded uncontrollably.

A solution had to be found and

this became one of the priorities when the Department of Conservation and Land Management began work on a management plan for Walpole-Nornalup National Park in 1990.

The tingle forest was always going to attract visitors. The national park has three species of tingle tree which grow only in the Walpole area. Tingles grow to a height of 60 metres and have thick, heavily buttressed trunks which reach five metres or more in diameter.

A way had to be found for people to enjoy the forest without damaging it. The result is an elevated walkway known as the Tree Top Walk and the series of boardwalks that make up the Ancient Empire walktrail.

The Valley of the Giants is about 300 metres away from the original site, where most of the tired old giants didn't have tall trunks and crowns.

The Tree Top Walk is made up of six lightweight bridge spans, each 60 metres long and four metres deep, supported between guyed pylons. The steel trusses rise slowly over terrain that falls to a deep valley. At its highest point, the Tree Top Walk is nearly 40 metres above the creek bed in the valley below.

The trusses were pre-fabricated in sections no longer than six metres and taken to the Valley, where they were bolted together before being hoisted into position. There was little disturbance to the forest and, amazingly, the 420 metre walkway occupies about three square metres of forest floor.

The Valley of the Giants has toilet facilities, a souvenir shop and information about the forest. During school holidays an activities program offers a range of special events including guided walks and a forest night tour.

The Tree Top Walk has won numerous awards for its design and contribution to tourism. These include the 1996 National Project Landscape Architect Award, the 2000 Tourism Award for significant regional attractions and in 2001 an induction into the West Australian Tourism Hall of Fame. Since opening in 1996 the site is one of the highlights of people's experiences in the southern forest and has attracted close to 1.5 million visitors.

The NEW exciting Walpole Wilderness Area

Imagine travelling through continuous national parks and experiencing endless forests. Well you can with the creation of the proposed Walpole Wilderness Area.

Covering an estimated 350,000ha, the area comprises four proposed new national parks and three existing national parks-the Shannon, Walpole-Nornalup and Mt Frankland national parks.

The area will link into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park to the west, creating a continuous conservation reserve of almost 500,000ha, from Black Point near Augusta in the west to Denmark in the east.

The forest area is part of the State Government's commitment to create 30 new national parks in WA's southern forests.

It is anticipated that the Walpole Wilderness Area will open up new opportunities for eco-tourism activities in WA's old-growth forests. The aim is to encourage the establishment of low-impact visitor attractions such as walk and cycle trails, canoeing facilities along the Deep River, picnic areas and low-level camping and cabin accommodation.

Plans are also underway for the development of a Karri-Tingle Discovery Centre and outdoor classroom in the proposed Wilderness Area.

This will provide an exceptional opportunity for visitors to recreate and learn about the flora and fauna of the south coast forests.

This unique conservation area will become a special place for WA forests.

New Visitor Facilities

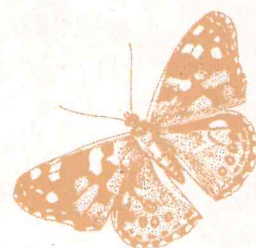
Visitors to WA's southern forests will soon be able to have unlimited views of the proposed Lake Muir National Park from an observation deck, picnics in the Valley of the Giants and learn about native fauna and flora at the environment education centre in the proposed Tone-Perup National Park.

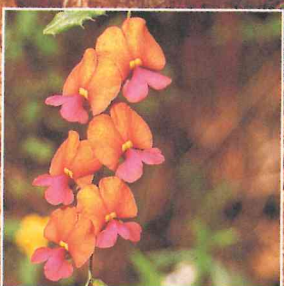
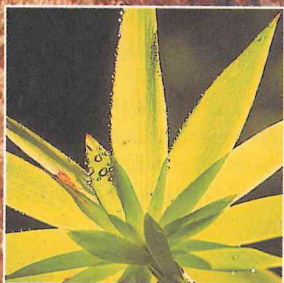
These are all due to a major new capital works program as part of the State Government's commitment to the creation of 30 new national parks and improving facilities at existing parks.

The improved facilities will have long-term benefits for local communities in terms of employment and a sustainable nature-based tourism industry and will provide visitors with an exciting and educational opportunity to experience the southern forests.

Key initiatives include:

- the development of a day-use area and interpretation facilities in the former Giblett forest block and upgrading the Cleave Road campground for the proposed Greater Beedelup National Park,
- the Karri Tingle Visitor Centre,
- a new walktrail for the proposed Greater Hawke National Park,
- the development of additional environmental education and interpretation facilities at the Perup Forest Ecology Centre for the proposed Tone-Perup National Park,
- an observation deck, interpretation facilities and day-use area for the proposed Lake Muir National Park,
- a walk trail, lookout and associated visitor facilities for D'Entrecasteaux National Park, and an upgrading of the Salmon Beach Road,
- completing new visitor facilities at Warren National Park as part of the Karri Forest Explorer Drive to link new and existing national parks,
- upgrading visitor and interpretation facilities at the Lane Poole Falls and Boorara Tree at the proposed Boorara-Gardner National Park,
- upgrading visitor facilities at Coalmine Beach, the Knolls and other sites at Walpole-Nornalup National Park,
- upgrading day-use facilities and improving visitor safety at Circular Pool, Hilltop and other sites in the proposed Walpole Wilderness Area,
- making modifications to the Valley of the Giants to allow longer stays and
- relocating the Nuyts Wilderness Trail head to Mt Clare.





Wildflowers of the south-west forests has full colour pictures of many other flowering plants found in karri country. This pocket-size book is one of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Bush Books series of practical field guides and is widely available for \$6.50

The BLOOMING Forest

More than 1500 native species of flowering plants have been found in the southern forest. Ninety nine, including karri, are found nowhere else in the world.

Two groups of plants stand out in this natural collection: orchids (particularly *Caladenia*) and triggerplants (*Stylidium*).

The southern forest's terrestrial orchids are among the best developed in the world, with more than 150 species in the Warren botanical sub-district alone. Among the most spectacular are the *Caladenia*, or spider orchids.

The triggerplant gets its common name from its method of pollination. When an insect lands on the plant, it triggers a hair. This releases the anthers, which tap the insect and drop pollen onto its back. This process is repeated as the insect moves from plant to plant, cross-pollinating them all.

The forest vines have some of the most spectacular wildflowers in spring. These include the purple of wild sarsaparilla or native wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*), red coral vine (*Kennedia coccinea*) and white clematis (*Clematis pubescens*).

The tassel flower (*Leucopogon verticillatus*) is typical of the karri forest even though it looks like a small bamboo, more at home in a tropical forest. *Crowea* (particularly *Crowea angustifolia*) and karri boronia (*Boronia gracilipes*), together with the water bushes (*Bossiaea aquifolia* and *Bossiaea webbii*) are also classic karri forest species.

One of the oddest flowers in this region is *Pilostyles hamiltonii*. Although a cousin to the world's biggest flower (*Rafflesia arnoldi*) the red calyx and white petals of the *Pilostyles* are only a few millimetres across. Both plants are parasites-their only 'body' is a chain of cells inside the host plant and their flowers burst through the host's tissue to the outside.

Another unusual plant, the pitcher plant, grows in moist wetlands. The plant is a passive trap: shaped like a jug of water, complete with handle, it even has a lid which closes to prevent evaporation in dry weather. Insects such as ants climb in, then are unable to climb out again past a row of 'teeth' on the rim of the jug.

If you're heading down south from Perth it's a six-hour drive to Walpole—or a six-week walk.

The 950 kilometres from Perth to Albany is the full length of the Bibbulmun Track—WA's only long distance walking trail.

But the Bibbulmun isn't just for walkers with six weeks to spare and a lot of stamina. The track is also suitable for day and weekend walks, or even if you've just got an hour. The trail is signposted with a stylised image of the Waugal, the rainbow serpent spirit from the Aboriginal dreaming, and there are brochures and maps showing where the track runs.

The Bibbulmun Track is named after a distinct Aboriginal language group which inhabited some of the areas on the south coast through which the track passes. The Bibbulmun people often travelled great distances for tribal meetings or to hunt, but the track doesn't follow any traditional route.

Begun in the 1970s by the Forests Department, the track was first upgraded in 1988. The Department of Conservation and Land Management began a major realignment in 1993 to make it safer and more enjoyable for walkers. The new route takes walkers through some of the most scenic parts of karri country, including the Donnelly River Valley, Shannon National Park, D'Entrecasteaux National Park and Walpole-Nornalup National Park.

Nearly 50 new campsites have been built, spaced between 10 and 20 kilometres apart, or roughly a day's walk. These campsites have timber-sleeping shelters, tent sites, rainwater tanks, bush toilets, picnic tables and fireplaces. The shelters are available on a first-come first-served basis.

The Department and Friends of the Bibbulmun Track have produced a number of informative publications on the Bibbulmun Track. Guides to the Bibbulmun Track are available for \$32.95 or Track maps for certain sections are also available from bookstores for \$6.00.

For more information visit www.naturebase.net

Take a HIKE

The old, the rare and the noisy



Southern forests have living links to Gondwanaland, the super-continent that Australia was part of 65 million years ago.

The Walpole-Nornalup region in particular is one of the last remaining dwelling places for Gondwana species, including many spiders and snails. Another relict is the Shannon mud-minnow, found in the Shannon River and Broke Inlet.

There are many less ancient species in the region, some of them found nowhere else. The famous norne (tiger snake) of Nornalup has several cousins in the region, including Mueller's snake, the little brown snake, the bardick, the dugite and the carpet snake. Of the 13 frog species that live in the area, one (*Geocrinia lutea*) is found only within 12 kilometres of Walpole.

D'Entrecasteaux National Park is considered critically important for the related *Geocrinia rosea* group.

The rare noisy scrub-bird and the Western bristlebird have been translocated to the area. The former was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered at Two Peoples Bay, near Albany, in 1961.

Some of the mammals found in

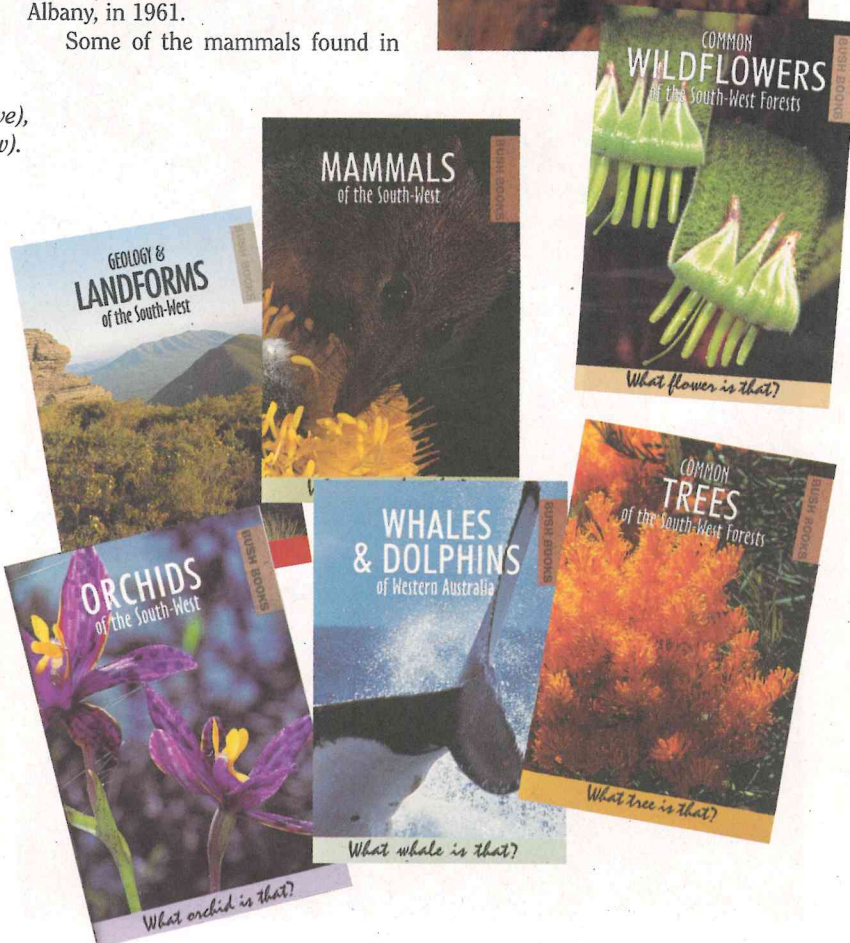
the Walpole-Nornalup region include honey and pygmy possums, southern brown bandicoots, dunnarts and phascogales.

Quokkas, chuditch, numbats, ringtail and brushtail possums, tamar and brushtail wallabies also occur, but their numbers have declined markedly this century, mainly because of introduced foxes. The Department's wildlife recovery program Western Shield has significantly helped populations of these native animals to recover.

Read about the Karri country mammals in the Department's Mammals of the south-west, another of the pocket-sized Bush Books available for \$6.50.

Animals found in the Walpole-Nornalup region include the honey possum (above), the Western bristlebird (left), the numbat (below left) and the tiger snake (below).

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Published June 2002 by the Department of Conservation and Land Management



SPOTLIGHT on Perup

Perup forest is home to some of the State's rarest mammals.

The Forest Ecology Centre, about 40 minutes drive from Boyup Brook and an hour's drive from Manjimup, was designed for community organisations, schools, tertiary institutions, nature-based tourism operators and private visitor groups.

The centre can cater for 10 people in private rooms, 20 in twin-share rooms or up to 35 in dormitory accommodation. The homestead buildings are built of rammed earth with pine over jarrah ceilings. The complex is solar powered and effluent is treated through a zero nutrient pollution disposal system.

The centre and the forest are an environmental and ecologically sustainable nature-based tourism experience in one of the great nature conservation areas in the south-west.

The centre is surrounded by the proposed Tone Perup National Park. It replaces an old fibro and iron farmhouse that was used as a base station for researchers carrying out programs in the jarrah forest.

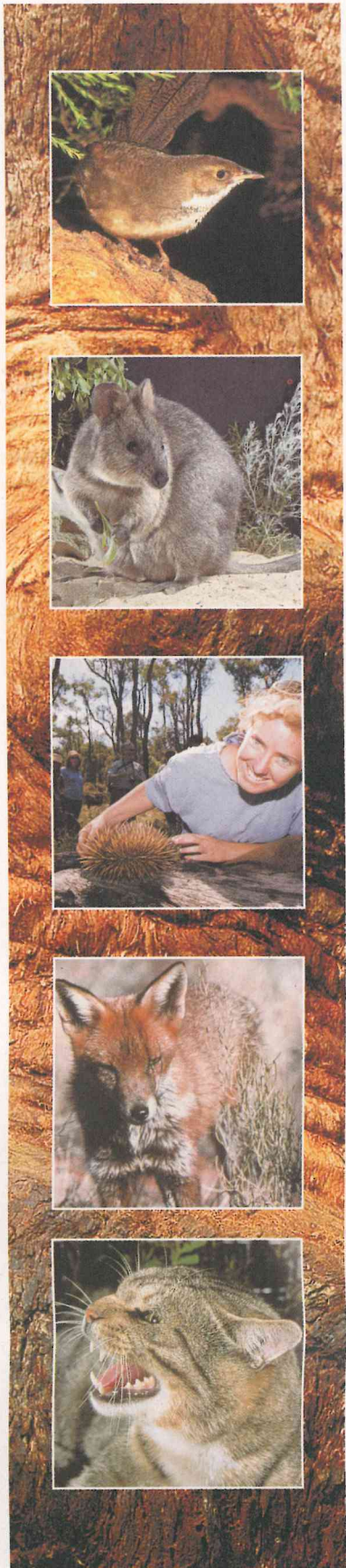
Significantly, much of that research laid the foundations for Australia's most extensive nature conservation program known as Western Shield (see below).

The Perup work centred on the effects of fire on woylies and tamar wallabies, rare species that occur in the area. The work in the 1970s pointed to the fox as contributing to the disappearance of many species of native fauna. A comprehensive fox baiting program was implemented as a result. It wasn't long before the researchers began to see numbats, a species thought extinct in the region. The tamar population boomed, sightings of numbats and woylies became more frequent and other rare species such as western ring-tail possums (right), chuditch and quenda began to appear.

Research confirmed that the re-emergence of these species could be attributed to the control of fox numbers.

The original aim of the study-the effects of fire on woylies and tammars-also showed that fire was necessary to regenerate the thickets of heartleaf poison which provided habitat for the animals.

It is one of WA's great natural advantages that the compound found in heartleaf is similar to 1080 poison, and so can be used to control introduced predators without harming native species, which is the foundation of Western Shield.



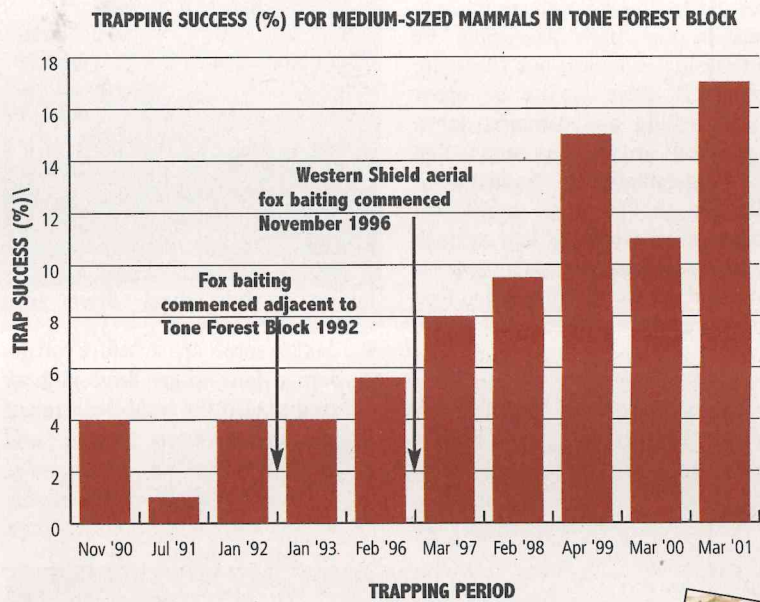
Western SHIELD

The aim of the Western Shield wildlife recovery program is to stop foxes and feral cats from making a meal of WA's native animals. Since the program began in 1996, significantly more native species are abundant and more widespread than they were before Western Shield began.

Western Shield has several elements. Fox baiting is being carried out on a scale never before attempted with about 3.5 million hectares under baiting programs. Research into controlling feral cats has increased significantly. This will allow

remaining populations of native animals to recover naturally and, in selected areas, allow the reintroduction of native animals to their former habitats.

Monitoring the impact of baiting shows that WA's fauna emblem, the numbat, has been brought back from the brink of extinction. Three species, the woylie, tamar and quenda have increased in abundance to the point where they have been taken off State and Commonwealth lists of threatened animals.



Read this and feel the magic

There's magic in every issue of LANDSCOPE magazine. It offers beautifully written articles about WA's flora, fauna and special places. A pleasure to read LANDSCOPE is scientifically accurate and accompanied by stunning photography from WA's leading photographers. LANDSCOPE has won more than 20 awards in the past 10 years. Find out why by subscribing! You can have this superb 56-page magazine delivered to your door quarterley-spring, summer, autumn and winter.

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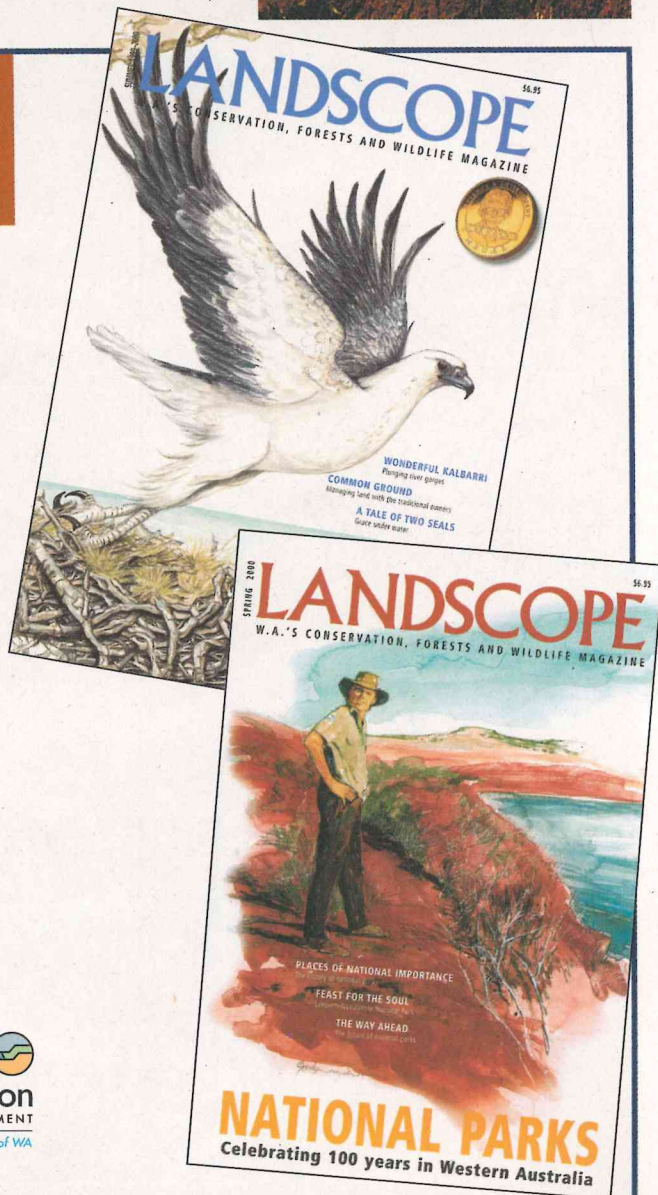
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Tel (08) 9334 0333



Although Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteaux didn't think it was worth coming ashore for a look at our land, thousands of visitors every year have since proved him wrong.

The French explorer sailed past what we now know as D'Entrecasteaux National Park in 1792 looking for land with a good water supply and agricultural potential. He reported that the area between Cape Leeuwin and Point D'Entrecasteaux was harsh and arid, with no sign of habitation.

Despite the admiral's verdict, Aboriginal people migrated through the area hunting and fishing and the area just inland is now the region's most productive farmland. The park itself is one of the most popular areas in the region for fishing, camping and bushwalking, attracting both residents and visitors, even though there is limited access for two-wheel drive vehicles.

D'Entrecasteaux National Park stretches 130 kilometres from Black Point near Augusta to Long Point west of Walpole. It's an area of spectacular limestone cliffs, white beaches, mobile sand dunes and extensive coastal heath and swamplands. This is still karri country, although the trees are smaller than those in the main forest belt and grow in scattered pockets among low woodlands of jarrah, bullich, yate and peppermint trees.

Lake Jasper, the largest freshwater lake in the southern half of WA, is also located in the park. The lake is thought to have been formed about 4000 years ago after a mobile sand dune blocked the path of a stream or river. The water covered ancient Aboriginal campsites and quarries that might not have been rediscovered had it not been for a severe drought in the 1980s. As the water level of the lake dropped, tree stumps, blackboy butts and dozens of flaked stone artefacts were revealed.

Staff from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the WA Museum began shoreline investigations in 1988 and carried out

Explore what the explorer missed



an underwater survey in 1989. It was the first successful use of underwater archaeological techniques in Australia and one of only a few such successes around the world.

Point D'Entrecasteaux, Broke Inlet and Mandalay Beach are the only areas in the park accessible by conventional vehicles, but there are four-wheel drive tracks to other coastal fishing and camping spots. Four-wheel driving has supplanted the long-established tradition of riding to the coast on horseback. Stockmen used to bring their cattle to the coast to graze on native grasses and scrub during summer, when feed was scarce inland. This practice began in the mid-1880s and continued well into this century.

The park's natural isolation has kept large areas free from human development. Protecting the park's

wilderness values, balancing the demands of local residents to continue using the area for recreation and managing the increasing number of visitors are the focus of the Department's management strategies.

Four-wheel drive, horseback riding and fishing clubs demanded unlimited access to the beaches while conservation groups argued that access to some beaches should be closed. This debate highlighted conflicting community demands. Local residents and visitors all agree that the main feature of the park remains its 'qualities of remoteness'.

Please follow these tips if you're taking a four-wheel drive into D'Entrecasteaux:

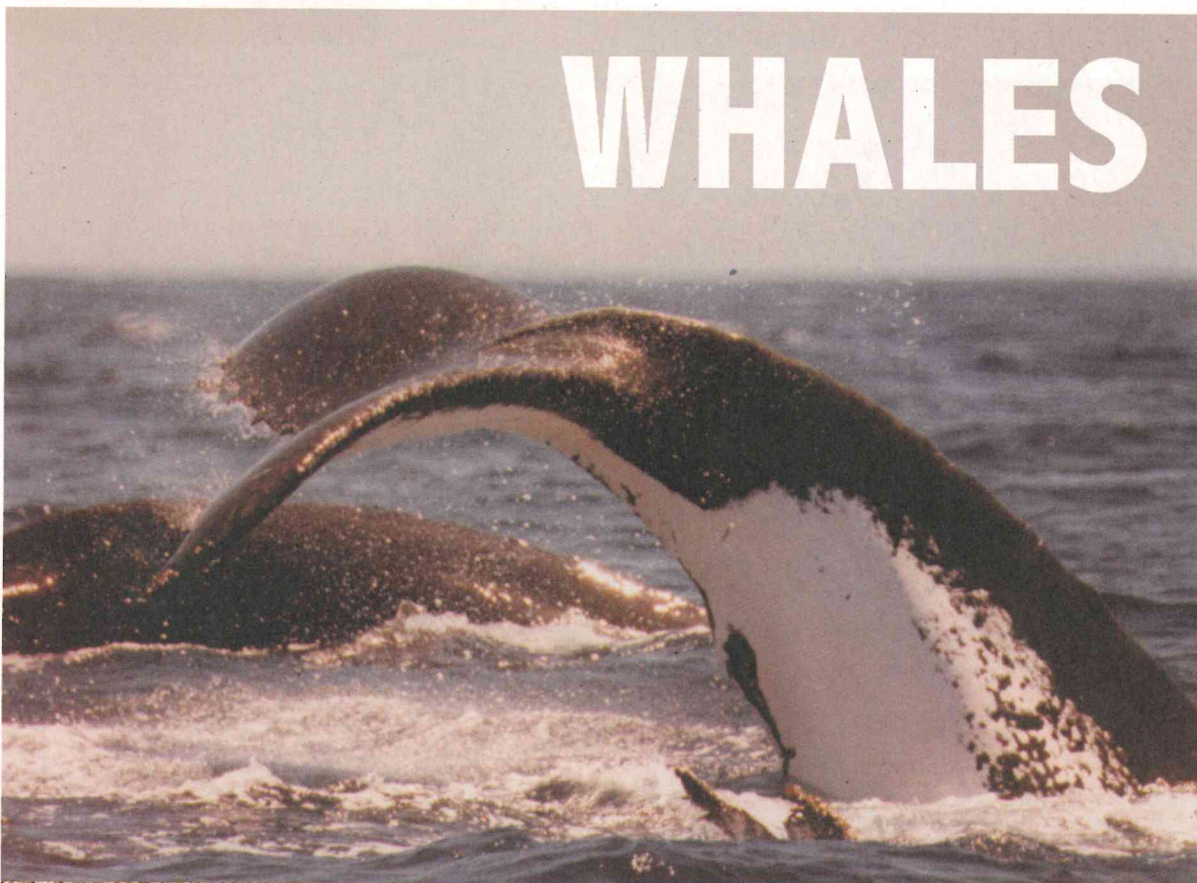
- Ask for some advice before you go. Join a four wheel drive club or ring or visit the local Department of Conservation and Land Management office.

- Only vehicles and motorbikes which are licensed for the road are permitted to enter coastal areas.
- Let your tyres down to the lowest pressure under manufacturers guidelines because even wide tyres need to be deflated in sand.
- Select the right gear. You may have to experiment a little, but low range third should keep you moving at a comfortable pace and have enough power not to stall when the going gets heavier.
- Keep to existing tracks: driving on the scrub destroys the plants and you can stake your tyres.
- Don't speed along narrow one lane tracks and do sound your horn when you come to blind corners and ridges.

- Always carry a small shovel, a tyre pressure gauge and a portable tyre pump when going sand driving.
- Please clean the mud and soil off your vehicle before entering the park. Soil infected with the microscopic fungi that cause the plant disease dieback is easily transported on tyres and under vehicles. Where possible avoid puddles and mud and obey the track closed signs. There is dieback in some areas already but you can help limit its spread.

Rangers regularly patrol the coast and can help with advice and information on local conditions.

WHALES



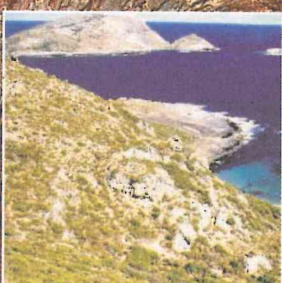
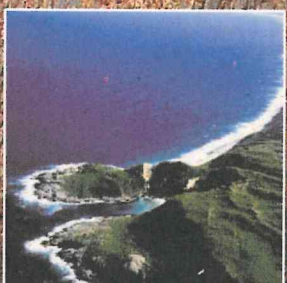
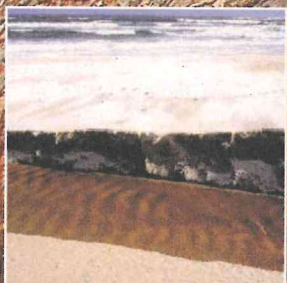
Humpback and southern right whales (pictured) can be seen from many coastal lookouts in the region as they migrate between Antarctica and the warm waters off WA.

The best time to see the annual migration here is August and September, but the lookouts at Pt D'Entrecasteaux and Mandalay Beach in D'Entrecasteaux National Park, and Conspicuous Cliff Beach in Walpole-Nornalup National Park, are worth a visit at any time of the year.

Humpbacks are one of the largest of the great whales and are noted for their haunting songs. Southern right whales are about the size of a bus, weigh up to 80 tonnes and are up to 18 metres long.

The southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) and its smaller cousin the pygmy right whale (*Caperea marginata*) were named by hunters as the 'right' whales to catch because they were slow moving and their oil-rich bodies floated after death. They were hunted almost to extinction, but their numbers have been increasing since whaling stopped.

Today, whale watching is a big attraction for visitors.



great FOREST, GREAT drives

Many people know Shannon National Park for its magnificent karri forest, but what's a snottygobble?

Why does the Shannon minnow spend summer in a mud burrow? Which trees will give you directions if you're lost? What are quokkas doing this far from Rottnest?

The Great Forest Trees Drive through Shannon National Park has been planned not only to show visitors some of the region's most magnificent forests, but to give an

insight into its natural and social history.

The 48-kilometre scenic drive has its own park radio broadcasts, as well as picnic stops and signposted walks. The Great Forest Trees Drive map and guide book provides even more details about the area and the plants and animals of the southern forest.

A snottygobble, for example, is a small tree found in south-west forests. It's thought to have got its

name because of the way its soft, fleshy fruit turns jelly-like when it drops on the ground and over-ripens.

The Shannon mud-minnow is a fish with a history dating back millions of years, making the species a survivor from the days when Australia was part of the giant continent, Gondwana.

Like many rivers in the southern forest, the 60-kilometre Shannon flows only after winter rains. During

the dry season, the water level drops and the river becomes a series of pools in a drybed.

The mud-minnow copes with this change in surroundings by burrowing into the river bed at the start of the dry season and forming a small water-filled chamber. It then seals the chamber and waits for the river to fill again.

Shannon doesn't have talking trees to help lost travellers, but the reference trees through the park speak volumes if you know how to read them.

Reference trees were a breakthrough in mapping WA's south-west forests when they were introduced in 1924. The system was based on a grid one mile by one mile: reference trees were surveyed and specially marked by cutting a shield into the trunk.

Anyone travelling through the forest could find a reference tree and pinpoint their location on a map. Many of the white-painted shields on reference trees in Shannon are still visible today.

Traces of the old Shannon townsites can also be found, such as exotic trees still growing in the cleared areas of the Shannon camping ground.

Shannon is still quokka country, despite many people's belief that they are found only on Rottnest Island, off Perth. These small wallabies were once common across the State's south-west before European settlement meant the loss of some habitats and the arrival of the fox.

Mainland quokkas are now found

only in isolated pockets, preferring densely vegetated areas around swamps and streams, which makes them hard to spot. Quokkas are one of the species benefiting from the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Western Shield program to control introduced predators.

A new tourist drive, the Karri Forest Explorer, was also recently completed. The new drive winds through some of the south-west's most magnificent forests.

Explore it at your own pace— stop for a picnic at Big Brook Dam, climb 58 metres to the Gloucester Tree lookout, see Beedelup Falls from the suspension bridge, go bushwalking, or fishing, or just sit and take in nature. You'll find trailside information to guide you through the forest, including a series of tourist radio stops.

You can also stop for a wine tasting, a coffee or a gourmet meal; visit a gallery or craft centre; or cast your rod for trout. Choose from the wide range of places to stay and give yourself longer to explore the 86-kilometre drive.

The Karri Forest Explorer starts just outside the historic timber town of Pemberton, but you can join it at several points along the way, depending on which way you're travelling, or where you're staying.



Pitch a tent...

Most camping grounds in the region have basic facilities such as bush toilets, fireplaces and tables. A small fee is usually charged at these sites in national parks, which can be paid at the self-registration post where provided, or to the ranger. You may camp for up to three nights.

Vehicle-based camping is permitted in much of State forest and at set campsites in national parks. Back-packing campers on foot are welcome in State forest, national parks and some nature reserves. No camping or caravanning is permitted at day visit sites and camping is not generally allowed in nature reserves. There are privately-operated caravan parks and campgrounds near national parks at Pemberton, Windy Harbour, Walpole, Nornalup and Northcliffe.

If you are camping at sites without facilities, follow the code of ethics for the bush:

- if you can, bring firewood. It is illegal to gather firewood in national parks;
- don't light fires on hot windy days. Better still, reduce the potential for a bushfire by using portable fuel stoves at all times;
- camp only in existing cleared areas.
- take your rubbish home with you.

...stay safe

Please take a few simple precautions when you're in forest areas.

Weather conditions here can change rapidly. In winter, bring a warm, waterproof coat and in summer, you'll need sun protection and drinking water. Carry enough water for your visit and an extra allowance in case you stay longer than expected.

On windy days, keep a careful lookout for falling branches, particularly in the karri forest. Avoid pitching your tent under forest canopies. Trees may drop heavy limbs to the ground, even on hot, still days.

When parking your car, make sure it's well off the road surface so other traffic can pass safely.

The forests of the south-west are friendly places, but be aware that in summer there will be snakes and insects such as mosquitoes and March flies.

Take care in coastal areas. Beware of treacherous rips in the sea and rogue waves which may rise several metres up the rocks. In limestone cliff areas keep to the paths and lookouts as the surrounding terrain may be unstable.

and ride the trail

Visitors are allowed on any road except those signposted as management access only. Other roads are closed because of the risk to the forest from dieback disease and erosion.

Dogs are allowed in State forests, but not in national parks and nature reserves. Please look out for signs warning that the area has been baited for foxes under the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Western Shield program. It's best to avoid taking your dog into these areas.

Horses are permitted on the same roads and tracks in State forest that are open to other public traffic, but not on walk trails.

Bicycles are allowed on public roads, vehicle tracks and bicycle trails, including dual use walk trails. Bicycles are not allowed on the Bibbulmun Track or other walk trails, or in dieback risk areas.

National park entry fees and camping fees apply at different locations around the State, to help maintain and improve visitor facilities, as well as general park management. You can buy one of four types of national park passes, depending on your needs. They are:

- a Gold Star Pass for \$73. This gives entry to all WA National Parks for 12 months and a subscription to the Department of Conservation and Land Management's award-winning *LANDSCOPE* magazine;
- a local annual parks pass for \$17. This gives unrestricted entry to a particular National Park;
- a holiday parks pass for \$22.50. This allows unlimited entry to all WA National Parks for four weeks; and
- an annual All Parks Pass for \$51. This gives entry to all WA National Parks for 12 months.

There is a fee of \$9 per vehicle entering Gloucester, Warren, Beedelup, Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux national parks. Concessions include \$3 for seniors, aged pensioners and DVA card holders.

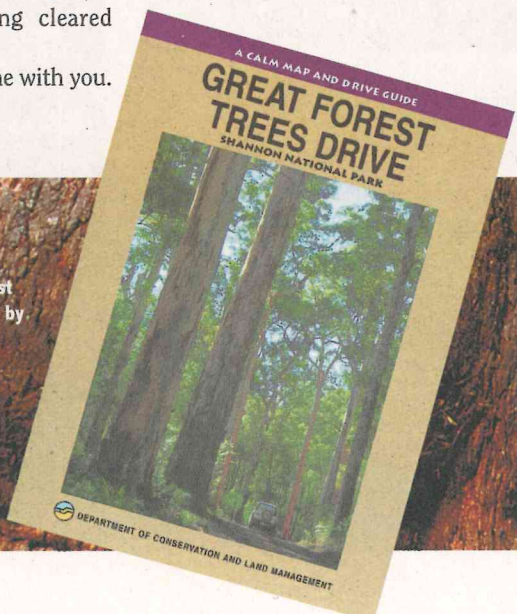
The fee for passengers on commercial tour buses is \$3.40 including GST.

Camping fees are \$10 for one to two people per site. Additional adults are \$5.50 each and school-age children under 16 are \$2 per night.

FEES



The 84-page Great Forest Trees Drive is published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and widely available for \$14.45





lookout!

Wildfire in the forest is unavoidable. Lightning is one of the major causes, especially during summer storms when the forest is dry.

Spotting a wildfire before it gets too big gives firefighters their best chance of bringing the blaze under control before it does too much damage. Before fire spotter planes were introduced in the early 1970s, looking out for fires was the job of men and women on a network of towers and lookout trees.

This system was begun in the jarrah forest, where specially built wood-framed towers were strategically located on high ground. As forestry operations expanded into the karri forests, there was an urgent need for similar lookouts, but there was a problem. It wasn't going to be easy to build towers taller than the trees, especially as there were few prominent hills in the region.

Local forester Don Stewart came up with a possible solution. Why not use the tallest of the tall karris for fire lookouts? His colleague Jack Watson designed his own climbing gear and later used it to scale 40 trees to check which would make the best lookouts.

Once a suitable tree was chosen, the rungs of a ladder were hammered into the tree trunk. The holes for these rungs were drilled by hand by a man sitting on the rung below, moving slowly up the tree as each new rung went in.

The top of the tree was then lopped by a single axeman more than 40 metres off the ground, to give the

lookout cabin a clear view, and then the timber to build the cabin was hauled up by rope and pulley.

The first lookout in the karri forest was the Alco Tree, built in 1936-37, 16 kilometres north-west of Manjimup. Its cabin floor was 24 metres above the ground.

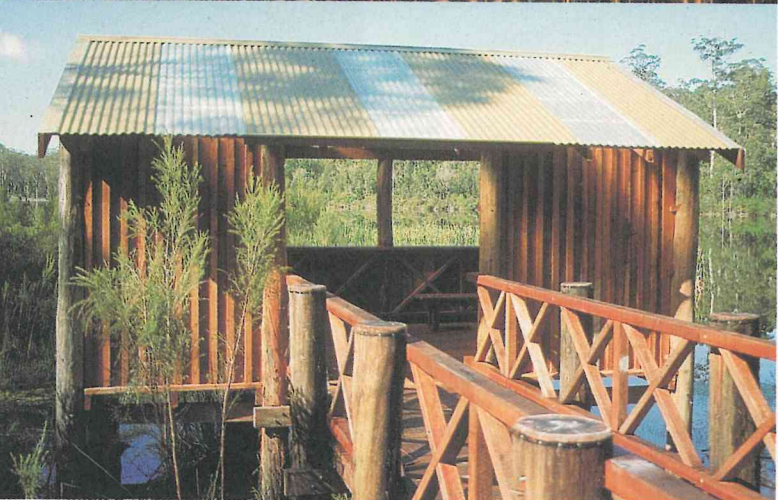
The tallest lookout cabin built between 1936 and 1952, known as Gardner 2, was 63 metres high. It replaced Gardner 1, just south of Pemberton, which was declared unsafe after only two fire seasons because the upper branches had deteriorated.

There were 13 towers built, most of them in tall trees although some were timber towers on top of hills.

Today, the three lookout trees open to the public are major attractions. There's the Gloucester Tree, just three kilometres from Pemberton, the Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree, eight kilometres south-west of Pemberton, and the Diamond Tree, on South Western Highway 10 kilometres south of Manjimup.

The lookouts at Gloucester and Diamond trees are about 60 metres off the ground while the Bicentennial lookout is more than 60 metres high, making it the highest treetop lookout in the world.

Lookout towers and trees still provide a useful backup for the Department of Conservation and Land Management's spotter planes, especially when wind conditions are unsuitable for the planes.



Explore **Big BROOK** Forest

Big Brook is a magnificent karri forest that attracts thousands of visitors every year, even though it was clearfelled earlier this century.

The whole forest was logged in the 1920s and regenerated by fire in 1930. It was one of the first tourist attractions developed in the karri forest after the Second World War.

Big Brook Dam, built in 1986 to top up the water supply to Pemberton and the local trout hatchery offers a range of activities, including swimming and trout and marron fishing in season. There is a popular walktrail around the dam accessible to wheelchairs and prams, with shelters and seats at rest points along the way.

Settlers around the turn of the century saw the beauty of the southern forests, but they also saw the promise of good farmland to grow food for the colony. Forest clearing began and many trees were ringbarked before the Forests Act was passed in 1919. Forestry became a more conservation-minded alternative to clearing and in 1925, Big Brook became the first State forest in karri country.

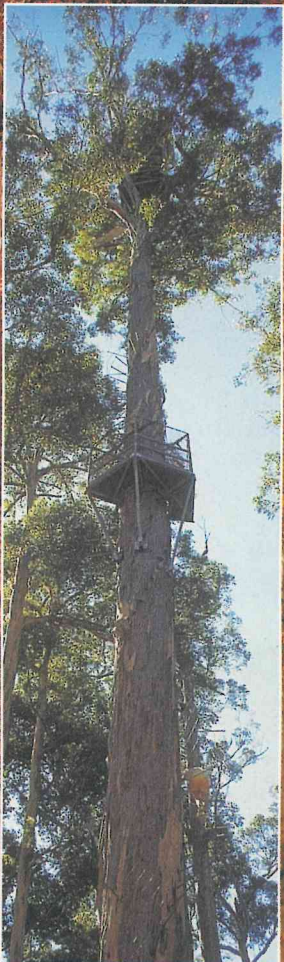
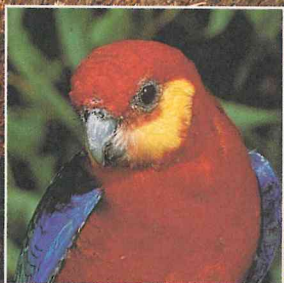
The first conservator of forests, Charles Lane Poole, saw the karri regrowth at an abandoned farm nearby and at Boranup, near Augusta. He noted that karri doesn't grow well under the shadow of remaining big

trees and that karri seeds are regenerated by fire. This was the basis for the practice of clearfelling and then using controlled burns to regenerate the logged area.

By the summer of 1930, about 2000 hectares of Big Brook karri had been clearfelled to produce logs for the Pemberton mill. A spark from a steam locomotive started a wildfire which swept down the valley. Accidental or otherwise, the fire had the required effect: the remaining karri dropped their seed on to the ashbed below and the seed germinated the following winter. Within two years, the karri regrowth was almost impenetrable. This was nature's way of dealing with an area of cleared forest.

Nature can also slow down prolific regrowth. Some trees become dominant and others gradually die out. After about 50 years Big Brook was thinned of nearly half its trees. These provided logs for veneer production, sawlogs for local mills, poles for power transmission and residue for woodchips to make paper. The trees that were left grew straighter and stronger.

Big Brook remains a tourist attraction because of its magnificent 50-70 metre high karri. It is also a beautiful demonstration of the resilience of the forests of the south-west.



Things to DO

KARRI FOREST EXPLORER (B3, B4, C3, C4)

This 86km self-guiding drive tour circumnavigates Pemberton taking in the best forest and farm scenery along the way. It can be done as one journey, or broken into several smaller adventures with stops at other attractions. The drive visits Gloucester National Park, Big Brook Forest, Beedelup and Warren National parks, and passes many other attractions such as wineries and cafes. Follow the signs from the east end of Pemberton, or join the drive anywhere along the way.



GLOUCESTER NATIONAL PARK

Best known for the Gloucester Tree and the Cascades, this park flanks the south-east side of the town of Pemberton. The park contains areas of fine karri and jarrah forests and is popular with day-walkers from Pemberton.

Gloucester Tree (C4)

The Gloucester Tree was the highest working fire lookout tree in the world. By climbing its 153 rungs to a height of more than 60m, you are rewarded with a commanding view of the surrounding forests and farmland. Information at the tree tells you more about its history.

Several walktrails start from the Gloucester Tree and vary in length from 400m to 10km. A guide to the bushwalks around Pemberton is available from Department offices or the Tourist Centre in Pemberton.

Where is it?: 3km from Pemberton.

Turn at the Post Office and follow the signs to the tree. Alternatively you can walk from town. Once you reach the park boundary, follow the walktrail signs to the tree. You can also take the Karri Forest Explorer Drive.

Travelling time: 5mins by car from Pemberton, 90mins return on foot.

What to do: Climb the tree, bushwalk, picnic or barbecue, photography. **Facilities:** Toilets, information, water, barbecues, picnic areas, walktrails, picnic shelter.

Best season: All year.

The Cascades (C4)

The Cascades lies at the southern end of Gloucester National Park, where the Lefroy Brook flows over a series of small rocky shelves. The brook changes from a gentle flow in midsummer to a raging torrent in winter. A walktrail and footbridges take you to the best viewing points. On-site information is available about the annual breeding run of the mysterious lamprey.

Where is it?: 6km from Pemberton.

Head towards Northcliffe and turn left at Gladders Road. Follow the signs to the Cascades. You can also take the Karri Forest Explorer Drive. Travelling time: 10mins by car. You can also catch the tram or walk from the Gloucester Tree.

What to do: Short walk, barbecue or picnic, photography, trout and marron fishing in season.

Facilities: Boardwalks and walktrails, information, barbecues, picnic tables, toilets.

Best season: Winter and spring.

BIG BROOK FOREST (C3)

Big Brook dam is one of the most picturesque places in karri country. When the dam was built in 1986, facilities were provided for picnicking, walking, swimming, nature study and fishing. An easy 3.5km trail circles the dam and is suitable for prams and wheelchairs. There are plenty of picnic and barbecue facilities, bird hides and a swimming 'beach'. Another walktrail takes you around Big Brook Arboretum.

Where is it?: 6km from Pemberton follow Karri Forest Explorer Signs, or take Golf Links Road from the east end of town, then Mulleneaux Road to the dam.

Travelling time: 10mins by car from Pemberton.

What to do: Walk, swim, canoe, picnic or barbecue, nature study, trout fishing and marroning in season.

Facilities: Toilets, picnic tables, barbecues, walktrails, information, bird hides, swimming area, Karri Forest Explorer scenic drive, picnic shelter.

Best season: All year.

BEEDELUP NP

Beedelup National Park surrounds the Beedelup Brook and features the Beedelup Falls. Covering 1500ha, the park includes dense karri forest, mixed forest of karri/marri and jarrah/marri and some beautiful strands of pure marri.

Beedelup Falls (B3)

Beedelup Falls are a small but attractive series of rocky cascades. Footbridges and a wheelchair and pusher accessible lookout gives good access to the area. Walktrails leave from the falls to the Karri Valley Resort and the Walk-through-tree. The Bibbulmun Track passes through the site.

Where is it: About 18km west of Pemberton along Vasse Highway.

Travelling time: 20mins by car from Pemberton.

What to do: Walk, picnic, view the falls, photography.

Facilities: Walktrails, boardwalks and bridges, picnic tables, shelter and interpretive stories.

Best season: The falls are pleasant all year, but to see them in full flow, visit in winter or early spring.

WARREN NATIONAL PARK (C4)

Warren National Park, only 11km from Pemberton, covers more than 3000ha of magnificent virgin karri forest straddling the valley of the Warren River. Heartbreak Trail winds its way through the park, giving excellent views of the Warren Valley and access to the river. Driving this road is the best way to see Warren National Park. Here you can wind your way down the river and find a quiet camping spot near the banks of the Warren River, or stop at the Warren Lookout to take in the view through the karri forest to the valley below.

Where is it?: 11km from Pemberton.

Head south towards Northcliffe and then follow Old Vasse Road until you reach Heartbreak Trail. Heartbreak Trail not suitable for mobile homes or caravans.

Travelling time: 20mins by car from Pemberton.

What to do: Camp, picnic or barbecue, swim, trout and marron fishing in season, walking and photography.

Facilities: All campsites have toilets, picnic tables and barbecues.

Best season: All year.

May be closed periodically in 2002/03 for renovation and restoration work.

Dave Evans Bicentennial Tree (C4)

One of the three fire lookout trees in the area which is open to the public. The tree was pegged in 1988 as part of Australia's Bicentenary celebrations. Today you can scale the tree and look out over Warren National Park and the surrounding farmland.

Where is it?: 11km from Pemberton.

Travel south from Pemberton towards Northcliffe, then follow Old Vasse Road. Look for the signs to the tree.

Travelling time: 20mins by car from Pemberton.

What to do: Climb the tree, picnic or barbecue, photography, walk to Warren Lookout.

Facilities: Toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, information, picnic shelter.

Best season: All year.

DIAMOND TREE (C3)

Set in the karri forest south of Manjimup, Diamond Tree is the only fire lookout tree still in use in which the tower structure is perched on top of a massive karri tree. This tower is used in conjunction with aircraft as part of the Department's fire surveillance system.

Where is it?: About 12km south of Manjimup. Follow South Western Highway and look out for the Diamond Tree signs.

Travelling time: 10mins by car from Manjimup.

What to do: Climb the tree, bushwalk, picnic or barbecue, photography, kids' adventure trail.

Facilities: Toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, information, shelter, walktrails, access for wheelchairs.

Best season: September to April.

ONE TREE BRIDGE CONSERVATION PARK

Four Aces (C2)

Conservation parks are similar to national parks except that they are usually smaller or may have been affected by past land use.

Four Aces is a good site to appreciate the immense size of karri trees. Two walktrails start at this site: the 700m Karri Glade Loop Walk, which passes through some very tall trees in the district; and the 2km One Tree Bridge Loop Track.



Where is it?: 23km west of Manjimup on Graphite Road.

Travelling time: 15-20mins from Manjimup.

What to do: Bushwalk, picnic, birdwatching, photography.

Facilities: Toilets, shelter, picnic tables, walktrails, information.

Best season: All year, although the wildflowers are best in October.

Greens Island (C2)

Greens Island is a small peninsula in Donnelly River. A camping ground nestles among riverside peppermints. The Bibbulmun Track passes through the site, making it the ideal base for some out-and-back day walks along the river. This stretch of river is also very popular with fly fishers for trout.

Where is it?: 2km west of One Tree Bridge (above). Turn off Graphite Road into Donnelly Drive. After 1km turn right into Greens Road. Camping ground is about 1km along Greens Road. Road not suitable for mobile homes or caravans.

What to do: Camping, fishing, walk the Bibbulmun Track to One Tree Bridge and Four Aces—or further.

Facilities: Campsites, toilets, barbecues.

Best season: All year.

Glenoran Pool and One Tree Bridge (C2)

These sites are situated side by side on the Donnelly River within One Tree Bridge Conservation Park, linked by walktrails to Four Aces. This area is a focus for visitors to the Donnelly Valley.

Where is it?: 22km west of Manjimup. Turn off South Western Highway in the town onto Graphite Road.

Travelling time: 15-20mins by car from Manjimup.

What to do: Bushwalk, barbecue or picnic, fish for trout or have a go at marroning in season, read the history of the area on the information panels provided.

Facilities: Toilets, shelter, barbecue, picnic tables, walktrails, information.

Best season: All year.

KING JARRAH (D2)

Situated east of Manjimup, this site is of historic interest as well as being home to one of the biggest jarrah trees in the south-west. A 650m walktrail starts at the foot of this majestic tree. It is a good spot to enjoy the wildflowers in spring and the trail is accessible to wheelchairs and prams.



Where is it?: About 4km east of Manjimup on Perup Road.
Travelling time: 5mins by car from Manjimup.
What to do: Bushwalk, picnic or barbecue, photography.
Facilities: Walktrail, barbecue, picnic tables, information.
Best season: All year.

CHINDILUP POOL (E3)

Chindilup is a pool on the Tone River, surrounded by jarrah forest. A walk connects it to the Department of Sport and Recreation's Tone River Wilderness Camp.

Where is it?: Travel east along Muirs Highway for 40km, turn right down Radburn Road, and just before the Tone Settlement, turn left onto Chindilup Road. Follow Chindilup Road for 5km to the river. You will see the site from the bridge.
Travelling time: 45mins by car from Manjimup.
What to do: Canoe, bushwalk, fish, picnic or barbecue.
Facilities: Barbecues, picnic tables, information walktrack.
Best season: August to December.

LAKE MUIR LOOKOUT (F3)

Situated at the northern end of the proposed Walpole Wilderness Area and the Southern end of the Kingston, Tone, Perup string of proposed national parks, this is a good place to orient yourself to the expanse of the new reserves. An elevated boardwalk takes you to the edge of the vast lake. The site is also a popular stop for travellers on Muirs Highway.

Where is it?: About 63km east of Manjimup on Muir Highway.
Travelling time: 40mins by car from Manjimup.
What to do: Picnic or barbecue and walks.
Facilities: Observation deck, toilet, shelter, picnic tables, barbecue, information.
Best season: Spring.

PERUP FOREST ECOLOGY CENTRE (By appointment only) (F2)

The Ecology Centre is in the heart of the proposed Tone Perup National Park. The proposed park is home to many threatened species of native marsupials, including the numbat, tamar wallaby and chuditch. Access to the Ecology Centre is by arrangement only. The centre is designed for group accommodation and bookings. For information contact the Department's Warren regional office on (08) 9771 7988.

Where is it?: About 55km from Manjimup. Head east along Perup Road for 18km, turn left on Corbalup Road for 22km, then right onto Kingston Road for 3km. This will bring you to the Boyup Brook-Cranbrook Road, which is bitumen. Turn right. After 12km a small access

track takes off to the right. Look for the sign.
Travelling time: About 1hr by car from Manjimup.
What to do: Bushwalk, photography, spotlighting, education activities.
Facilities: Accommodation, kitchen, toilets, barbecues, walktrails.
Best season: April to November. (May be closed periodically for renovation)

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK

D'Entrecasteaux National Park stretches 130km along the south coast between Augusta and Walpole and covers more than 114,000 ha with long white beaches, rugged cliffs and vast coastal sand dunes, backed by extensive coastal wetlands and islands of karri forest. While most of the access to the park is still rugged 4WD tracks, some parts of the park are accessible by two-wheel drive.

Yeagarup Lake (B4)

Yeagarup Lake is an entry point to the coast and Yeagarup Dunes, a vast mobile sand dune.

Where is it?: Turn onto Old Vasse Road (sometimes called Ralph Road) from Vasse Highway. Turn onto Ritter Road and follow it to the lake. If you travel further on to the dunes, stay within the markers.
Travelling time: 35-40mins by car from Pemberton.
What to do: Picnic or barbecue, head for the coast.
Facilities: Picnic tables, barbecue, toilets.
Best season: Autumn, spring and summer.
May be closed periodically in 2002/03 for renovation and restoration work.

Mount Chudalup (C6)

This granite outcrop rises 188m above the plains to reveal unobstructed views of the fringing karri and jarrah forest merging to heathlands. In ideal conditions, climbers have a 30km view over D'Entrecasteaux National Park and the coast. A 1.5km steep walktrail to the summit leads from the carpark.

Where is it?: 16km south of Northcliffe on Windy Harbour Road.
Travelling time: 15mins by car from Northcliffe.
What to do: Walk to the summit, photography, birdwatching, barbecue or picnic, see the orchids and other wildflowers in season.
Facilities: Barbecue, picnic tables.

Best season: All year - but avoid days with strong winds or storms.

Salmon Beach (C6)

A beautiful beach ideal for fishing, with spectacular coastal scenery. Swimmers should take care, as the beach can be unpredictable and subject to strong rips during windy weather or large swells.

Where is it?: 34km south of Northcliffe. Turn off Windy Harbour Road to Salmon Beach Road before entering Windy Harbour settlement.
Travelling time: 30mins by car from Northcliffe.

What to do: Fish, surf, swim (see note above), picnic, beachwalking, photography.

Facilities: Toilets, covered picnic area, picnic tables, coastal lookout.
Beware of treacherous rips in the sea



Point D'Entrecasteaux Drive (C6)

Spectacular high limestone cliffs front the wild Southern Ocean at Point D'Entrecasteaux. The D'Entrecasteaux Coast Drive winds up from Windy Harbour to the point and lighthouse with spectacular views in all directions. Whales can be seen in winter and spring.

Where is it?: 35km south of Northcliffe. Turn off Windy Harbour Road onto Salmon Beach Road, then follow the drive to the point.
Travelling time: 30mins by car from Northcliffe.

What to do: Scenic drive, walks, whale watch and ocean views.
Facilities: toilets, lookouts, sealed trails.

Cliff risk area. Keep to paths and lookouts. Unstable limestone cliffs and gusty winds.



Donnelly Boat Landing (B4)

A picturesque picnic site on the Donnelly River. It is the only powerboat launching ramp on the river. An 11km boat or canoe trip downstream takes you to the mouth of the river and the spectacular coastline of the Southern Ocean. Steep limestone cliffs and white sandy beaches greet you at journey's end. Care is needed as there are many underwater obstructions in the river.

Where is it?: About 25km west of Pemberton along Vasse Highway. Turn south from the highway onto Donnelly Boat Landing Road and travel 5km to the river.
Travelling time: 35mins by car from Pemberton.
What to do: Bushwalk, picnic or barbecue, canoe, fish or catch marron in season.
Facilities: Toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, launching ramp, shelter.
Best season: November to April.

BOORARA CONSERVATION PARK

Boorara Conservation Park is 610ha of virgin karri and marri forest. Not far from Northcliffe, the Boorara Tree and Lane Poole Falls are within this conservation park.

Boorara Tree & Lane Poole Falls (D5)

This historic fire lookout tree, was one of the last lookouts built in the southern forest in the 1950s. The tree crown with its cabin has been removed. You can still see the original wooden pegs climbing their way up the trunk.

In winter, Lane Poole Falls is one of the most spectacular waterfalls to be encountered in the karri forest. The 5km return walk meanders through the dense understorey of the forest and is a blaze of colour when the spring wildflowers bloom.

Where is it?: 17km east of Northcliffe. Follow Boorara Road from Northcliffe.
Travelling time: 20mins by car.
What to do: Bushwalk, picnic or barbecue.
Facilities: Picnic area, interpretation, table, barbecue, walktrail to lookout on Lane Poole Falls, toilets, shelter.
Best season: Winter or spring.

SHANNON NATIONAL PARK

Shannon National Park protects almost the total catchment of Shannon River, from its head waters to the Southern Ocean. The park covers 53,500 ha, including old growth and regrowth karri forests, and biologically rich heathlands and wetlands. You can listen to the park broadcasts at signposted stops around the Great Forest Trees Drive. There are camping facilities and walktrails.

Shannon Campground (E5)

This once-thriving mill town is the ideal campground base for exploring the riches of Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux national parks and surrounding attractions. Shannon Campgrounds can accommodate campers comfortably.

Where is it?: 33km east-north-east of Northcliffe, 53km south of Manjimup, 65 km north of Walpole.
Travelling time: Allow 30-45mins.
What to do: Great Forest Trees Drive, picnic or barbecue, camp, swim, canoe, fish for trout or marron in season at Shannon Dam. Base camp to explore adjacent D'Entrecasteaux National Park, bushwalk - Shannon Dam Walktrail (an easy 3.5km walk through the Shannon River Valley), Rocks Walktrail (a moderate 5.5km walk with some steep sections, climbing alongside karri forest to several lookouts).
Facilities: Toilets, huts and lodge with bunk beds and stove (book at Pemberton office). Walktrails, scenic drive, park radio. Campground hosts (Dec-April).
Best season: All year. Apart from January and Easter you can pick the site that suits you best.



MOUNT FRANKLAND NATIONAL PARK

Mount Frankland National Park contains some magnificent karri forest and is part of the proposed Walpole Wilderness Area. The park's 31,000ha contains a variety of vegetation including red flowering gums. Parts of the park are rugged and wild and have limited access.

Mount Frankland (G6)

On the upper slopes of a granite outcrop system, this recreation area includes a small campsite with a hut, toilet, barbecue and water supply. Explore the area by walking the two tracks, one around the base of the knoll and the other to the summit for panoramic views of the forest in all directions. To the east are the Porongurup and Stirling ranges. During summer the summit is also used as a staffed fire lookout tower.

Where is it?: Mount Frankland is reached by car from Walpole via North Walpole Road then east along Mount Frankland Road. From South Western Highway, turn east at Beardmore Road for 25km, perhaps stopping at Fernhook Falls.

Travelling time: 40mins by car from Walpole or 30mins from South Coast Highway.

Facilities: Toilet, water, small campsite, barbecue, hut, information shelter and walktracks.

Best season: Winter and spring for the orchids and other wildflowers.

FERNHOOK FALLS (F6)

This is near the upper reaches of Deep River, which is one of few rivers in the south-west with a completely forested catchment. The falls are spectacular in wet winters.

The site accommodates both day-visitors and campers. Visitors can reach the many river-viewing locations on walktracks and boardwalks which protect the vegetation. The boardwalks continue to the pool, where a canoe launch has been built. Tracks continue from here to the camping area.

Tent sites each have barbecues, tables and access to nearby toilets. One hut is set up for group camping, with sites for 6-10 tents. Wood is normally provided but large groups are asked to supply their own firewood (camping fees apply).

Travelling time: 40mins by car from Walpole via North Walpole Road or South Western Highway. Visitors often use both routes as a circular drive.

What to do: Picnic, view the falls, camp, swim, fish for marron in season, and in winter, white-water canoe to Deep River Bridge on South Western Highway (a two-day trip on a Class 2 river - not for novices!). **Best season:** All year round for camping, picnicking and photography.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX NATIONAL PARK (East end)

Mandalay Beach (E7)

Mandalay Beach takes its name from the Norwegian barque Mandalay wrecked there in 1911. It is one of only two places in D'Entrecasteaux National Park where you can reach the coast by 2WD vehicle. Mandalay is popular with fishermen with spectacular views of the Southern Ocean and Chatham Island, 3km offshore.

Where is it?: 18km west of Walpole. Turn off South Coast Highway at Crystal Springs and follow the winding road to the beach. Take extreme care.

Travelling time: 35mins by car from Walpole.

What to do: Fish, bushwalk, sightsee, photography (especially at dusk), beachcomb.

Facilities: Walktrail, boardwalk and stairway to the beach, interpretation, toilet, picnic tables.

Beware of treacherous rips in the sea and rogue waves, which may rise several metres up the rocks.



WALPOLE-NORNALUP NATIONAL PARK

Walpole-Nornalup National Park contains nearly 20,000ha of diverse vegetation and landforms, from towering karri and tingle forests to coastal heath and wetlands. The park, which surrounds the towns of Walpole, Nornalup and Peaceful Bay, includes many pristine forests and wilderness areas. The rugged coastline, inlets and rivers are a feature of the park's beauty. It is best known for the huge buttressed red tingle trees unique to the area.

The park's many attractions also include the award-winning Tree Top Walk, in the Valley of the Giants.

Coalmine Beach and The Knolls (F7)

Coalmine Beach is on the north shore of the beautiful Nornalup Inlet. An introduction to the area is provided at a shelter on Coalmine Beach Drive. A boardwalk leads to a high lookout above cliffs. The base of the cliffs contains a shallow seam of low-grade coal.

A carpark, jetty and boat ramp at the Walpole Yacht Club mark the start of a beach popular with fishermen, swimmers and sailors.

The Knoll is a peninsula that divides Nornalup and Walpole inlets and is accessible by the one-way sealed scenic drive, which follows the perimeter of the Knoll. Colourful swamp bottlebrush heathland, coastal blackbutt, peppermint and bullich woodland, majestic karri and yellow tingle forest grow down to the inlet.



Where is it?: Turn off 3km east of Walpole along South Coast Highway. **Travelling time:** From Walpole, 5mins by car, 15mins by bicycle or 30mins walk from Pioneer Park along the Coalmine Beach heritage trail.

What to do: Visit several lookout points, swim, fish from the beach, jetty, boat or rocky shoreline of the Knoll, windsurf, sail, beachcomb, bushwalk on the heritage trail or walktracks on the Knoll, picnic at a lookout vantage point or at the barbecue located near the channel. Stay at the Coalmine Beach caravan park.

Best season: All year. (Parts may be closed for renovation in 2002/03)

Coalmine Beach Caravan Park (F7)

Overlooking the sandy beach and the yacht club, the caravan park is nestled in shady peppermint and sheoak woodland. Accommodation includes self-contained chalets, a camp kitchen and ablution blocks for caravans.

Hilltop (G7)

Hilltop is the area to the north and east of Walpole. Access is via car or foot.

Hilltop Drive is a one-way gravel road (not suitable for caravans) 3km east of Walpole, leading through outstanding karri and tingle forest. From Hilltop Lookout you can look across the Frankland River and Nornalup Inlet to the Southern Ocean and Casuarina Isles.

The Giant Tingle Tree is the site of a huge fire-hollowed red tingle tree.

Where is it?: Turn off 3km east of Walpole along South Coast Highway. **Travelling time:** From Walpole, 10mins by car.

What to do: At an interpretation shelter near the carpark on Hilltop Drive find out about the tingle forest and the many walks available in the area. A short walk leads to the Giant Tingle site where a protective boardwalk has been built. An optional 300m return track follows an old access track alignment, part of the Bibbulmun track to Albany. There are toilets, picnic tables and benches.

Circular Pool (G7)

On the Frankland River, Circular Pool is an exciting place for its rapids in winter and the large, tranquil pool in summer.

Where is it?: Continue on from Hilltop. From Circular Pool the drive returns to Walpole via scenic national park and farmland on Allen Road and North Walpole Road.

Best season: All year. (Parts may be closed for renovation in 2002/03)

Valley of the Giants - Tree Top Walk (G7)

This famous area gets its name from the large red tingle trees found there. It is the easternmost occurrence of this forest type, which is only found within 15km of Walpole. It is the most popular destination for visitors to the Walpole area.

Experience the excitement of exploring the canopy of the magnificent tingle forest. Beginning at the Tingle Shelter, you can walk along a 420m steel-truss walkway which leads over a deep, red tingle gully. The walkway rises, with no steps, on a gentle grade suitable for children, wheelchairs and the elderly, up to 40m above the forest floor. A small admission fee is charged and family passes are available. A walktrail links the area to the Ancient Empire - protective boardwalks that take you around and through some of the giant tingles.

Where is it?: Travel along South Coast Highway past Nornalup townsite. Turn 13km east of Walpole to Valley of the Giants Road. This sealed road leads to the Valley of the Giants and Tree Top Walk. **Travelling time:** 20mins by car from Walpole. **Facilities:** Toilets, walks, souvenirs, interpretation. **Best season:** All year.

Conspicuous Cliff Beach (G7)

This is one of only three places around Walpole which offer car access to the coast (the others are Peaceful Bay townsite and Mandalay Beach in D'Entrecasteaux National Park).

Appreciate the fabulous coastal heathland featuring swamp paperbark and red flowering gum.

Where is it?: South Western Highway. Access is east of Valley of the Giants Road. Turn south on Conspicuous Beach Road and drive along gravel road to the coast.

Travelling time: 30mins by car from Walpole or 15mins from the Valley of the Giants recreation area.

What to do: Fish, bushwalk (Bibbulmun Track passes here), sightsee, beachcomb, watch for whales in spring.

Facilities: Carpark, toilet and stairs leading down to the beach via permanent freshwater springs. **Best season:** All year for fishing; winter and spring for whale watching and wildflowers.

Beware of treacherous rips in the sea, and rogue waves, which may rise unexpectedly several metres up the rocks.



WILLIAM BAY NATIONAL PARK

William Bay National Park is relatively small at 1867ha, but contains a great diversity of natural features from coastal dunes and heathlands to mature karri forest. The sheltered swimming beach at Greens Pool is particularly popular. Granite boulders extend 100m out to sea to create a reef that protects the beach.

Inland at Tower Hill, unusual granite boulders and a patch of 60m tall karri forest create a striking contrast.

Where is it?: 15km west of Denmark, via South Coast Highway and William Bay Road.

Travelling time: 15mins by car from Denmark.

What to do: Sightsee, photography, swim, marine study, nature study, Bibbulmun Track passes through. **Facilities:** Toilets at Greens Pool. **Best season:** Summer, autumn.

HAREWOOD FOREST (I7)

This block of forest was cleared for farming but abandoned and left to grow back. The forest is now an almost pure stand of karri. A carpark is located at Scotsdale Road, from where a walktrail follows Scotsdale Creek. A log bridge has been constructed to provide access to the walktrack. Trailside panels, including old photographs, provide an historic profile of land use in the area. Rest stops and picnic tables are provided.

Where is it?: 9km north-west of Denmark along Scotsdale Road. **Best season:** Late summer and autumn when the karri trees shed their bark, revealing beautiful shades of orange and grey, and winter.

