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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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SOUNDS OF DRYANDRA WOODLAND

This unique, 25-kilometre radio drive trail is the first of its kind in Western Australia. Short-range, solar-powered transmitters are used to broadcast commentaries as you move from site to site along the trail.

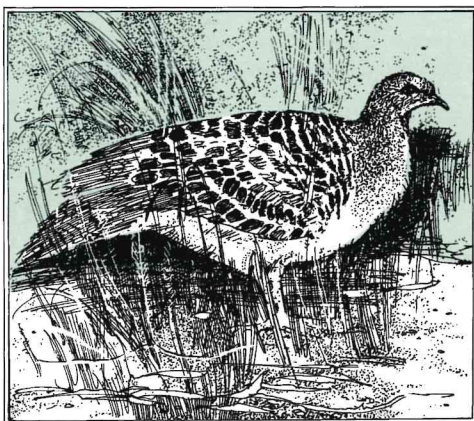
The trail will help you discover the relationships between people and Dryandra Woodland through the years. The sounds of the past come to life with tales of the local Nyoongar Aborigines, early forestry days, bush railways and some of Dryandra's unique wildlife.



Start from the information shelter at the Old Mill Dam and head west, away from the Settlement. Look for this symbol and tune in to the 'Sounds of Dryandra Woodland'.

Numbat symbols and numbers on your map correspond to the locations of sites along the trail. At each posted site, stop your car and tune your radio to 100FM.

Kangaroos, birds, numbats and reptiles cross the roads in Dryandra, so please travel carefully and give them right of way.



Mallee fowl

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM officers are always glad to help you. Do not hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

Narrogin District Office	State Headquarters
PO Box 100	50 Hayman Road
Hough Street	Como WA 6152
Narrogin WA 6312	Phone: (08) 9334 0333
Phone: (08) 9811 1113	



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

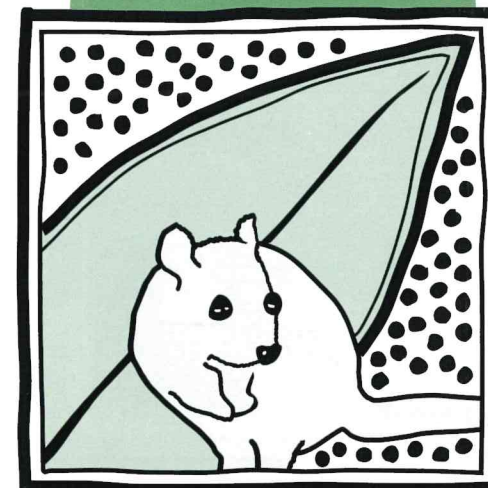
ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is available at the Settlement. For information contact Lions Dryandra Village (phone (08) 9884 5231). Campers are welcome at the Congelin Campground. Basic facilities are provided but please bring your own water. Fees apply.

REMEMBER

- ❖ **Be clean:** Put your litter in bins, or better still, take it out with you.
- ❖ **Be cool:** Take care with fires. Light fires in constructed fireplaces only. Use gas BBQs wherever possible.
- ❖ **Protect animals and plants:** Wildflower picking, pets and firearms are not permitted.
- ❖ **Stay on the road:** Normal road rules apply. Please stay on formed tracks and roads. Observe all closures.

DRYANDRA WOODLAND



VISITOR INFORMATION



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ANIMALS

Dryandra supports 13 species of native ground-dwelling mammals. These include the small kangaroo-like woylie, the tammar wallaby and the Western Australian animal emblem, the numbat, a small striped marsupial which feeds exclusively on termites. These three species have responded dramatically to fox control, although they are rare elsewhere, which has provided the inspiration for the Return to Dryandra project (see over). CALM is contributing towards the long-term recovery of these and other rare species, across the state through its ongoing predator control program.

Those who enjoy a quiet walk in the bush may be rewarded with a glimpse of the timid numbat, but to see woylies, tammar wallabies, brush-tail possums and most of the other mammals at Dryandra, you will need a torch—they only come out at night.

A hundred or so bird species, including the malleefowl, have been recorded in the area. You can hear more about malleefowl on the Sounds of Dryandra Drive Trail.

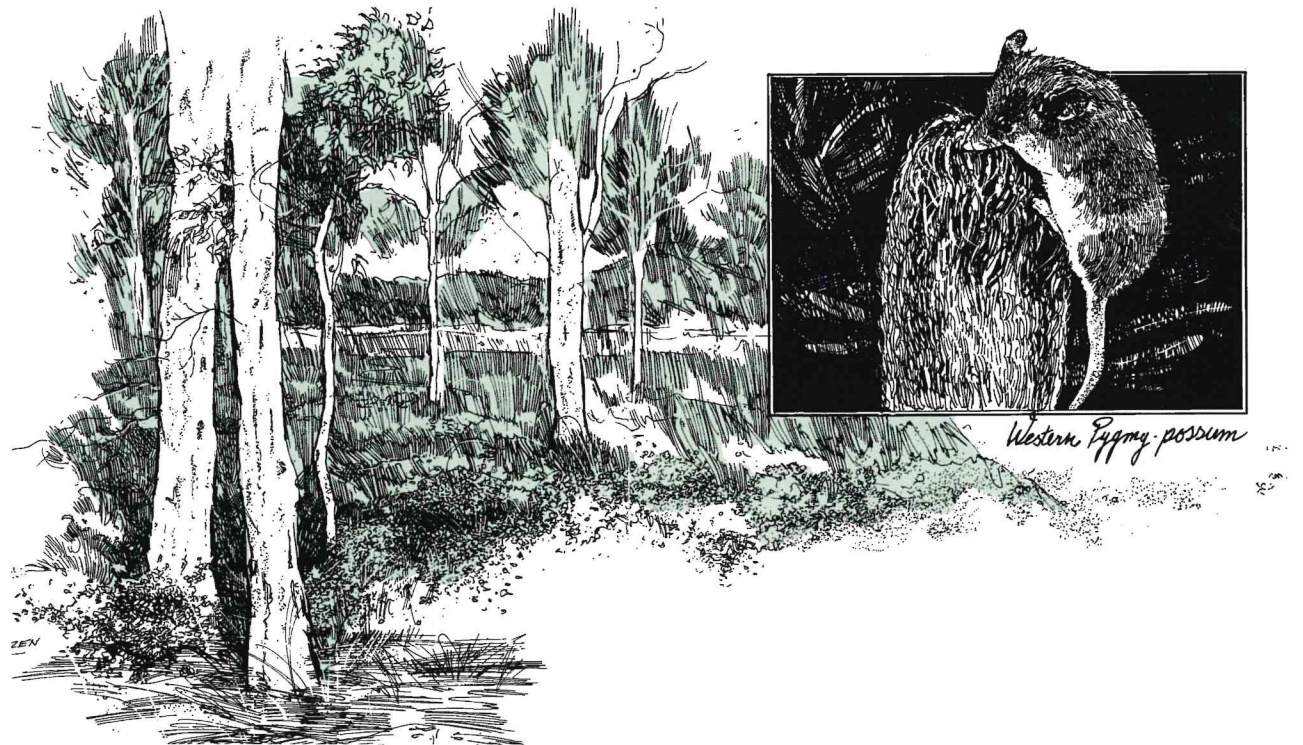


VEGETATION

Open woodlands of wandoo and powderbark, and plantations of brown mallet, predominate in Dryandra. The smooth, white-barked trees growing on the lower slopes are wandoo. Powderbark has larger fruits and thicker, rounder buds. It grows on the higher, gravelly slopes and plateaus, and its bark is powdery to touch.

The plateaus also contain pockets of jarrah, often associated with kwongan—the Aboriginal word for heath and shrublands. Kwongan is renowned for its brilliant spring displays of large and colourful blooms. The flowers provide food for a wide range of nectar-feeding animals, including insects, honeyeaters, honey possums and pygmy possums.

Isolated areas of mallee and rock sheoak also occur. Thickets of rock sheoak provide habitat for several of Dryandra's rare species, including tammar wallabies and red-tailed phascogales



DRYANDRA WOODLAND

The Wheatbelt is the most highly disturbed region of Western Australia. Extensive clearing of bushland for farming, and the introduction of exotic plants, diseases and predators such as the fox, have severely depleted the native plants and animals.

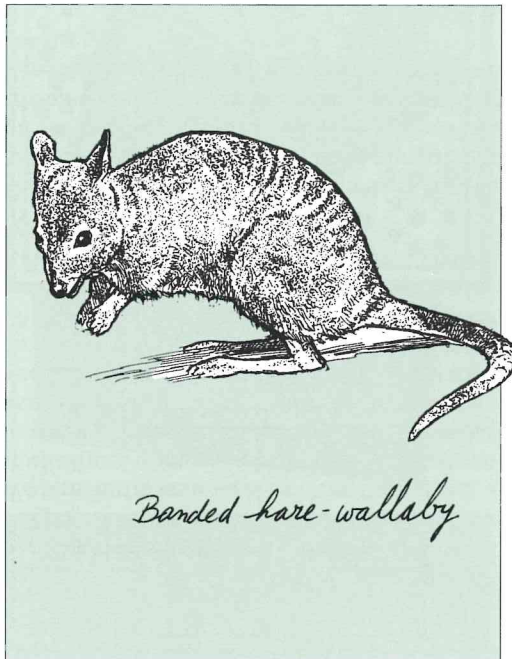
The 17 separate bush blocks that make up Dryandra Woodland are among the largest and most valuable for nature conservation in the central western Wheatbelt. Extensive fox control since the mid-1980s has resulted in large increases in the populations of several rare mammals.

Some of these species can now readily be seen by visitors, and this, coupled with the high scenic quality of the landscape, makes Dryandra an outstanding area for education and recreation.

RETURN TO DRYANDRA

Although Dryandra is unique in supporting a large number of animal species in comparison to the rest of the Wheatbelt, almost half of those originally found here have now disappeared. Fortunately, these species survived elsewhere.

The Return to Dryandra project involves the reintroduction of the bilby, the marl (western barred bandicoot), the boodie (burrowing bettong), the mala (rufous hare-wallaby) and the mernine (banded hare-wallaby). Populations of each species are bred in a specially constructed enclosure and later released into the broader Dryandra area and elsewhere in the south-west. Reintroductions are a valuable tool in ensuring the ongoing conservation of Western Australia's unique fauna and help to restore the ecological balance.



EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Settlement in the Williams-Narrogin area was first begun in the 1860s, when pastoral leases were first made available to early settlers. This was followed by closer settlement associated with Village leases. Many of the new settlers needed capital to develop their farms, and began harvesting mallet for the high-quality tannin found in the bark.

By the early 1900s a significant tannin industry had established itself. However, the mallet was so heavily cut that by the mid-1920s, the newly established Forests Department decided to set aside portions of Dryandra for the protection of existing stands and the establishment of new plantations. Forests Department staff were located at the Dryandra Settlement, as well as at outstations on high points at Contine, Congelin, Montague and Highbury. Each had its own firetower, tended by the overseers' wives during periods of high fire danger.

The 1960s saw the collapse of the mallet bark industry, due to increased royalties and production costs, an increase in the use of synthetic products and a general glut on the world market. Today the mallet plantations at Dryandra are utilised for the production of tool handles, fence posts and firewood.

Most of the European cultural sites at Dryandra are associated with the mallet industry. Other features include the Congelin railway siding and dam, the Lol Gray school site, and survey markers erected by John Forrest.



ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

Archaeological evidence indicates that Aborigines have occupied the south-west for at least the past 40 000 years. Thirteen different clans, collectively known as Nyoongars, were thought to live in the region. The Aborigines of Dryandra were from the Wiilman clan.

Very little is known about the Aboriginal use of Dryandra. However, five important cultural sites have been noted in the area, including an ochre quarry, which can be seen on the Ochre Trail. Ochre was highly valued for body decoration and rock art. Other sites include artefact scatters, stone arrangements and a scarred tree.

There are six Nyoongar seasons, which are related to food availability and weather conditions. During the dry, hot seasons of 'birak' and 'bunuru', water was scarce and Nyoongars retreated to the coastal areas.

However, during the wetter months, Dryandra would have supplied abundant food such as kangaroos, wallabies, and possums, as well as seeds, fruits, tubers, and nectars.



