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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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After leaving the trail head there is a steep set of steps and then a small lookout platform with views over Hamersley Inlet with the Whooagarup Range in the distance. The Hamersley Inlet Link Trail then meanders through sheltered woodlands, before breaking out into the coastal dunes and ancient *Melaleuca* groves (about 30 minutes). Head towards the ocean and then continue west along the beach with its unusual rock features and pink shells. After about 700m from rounding a sandy headland you reach a sandy bay backed on its west side by a line of creamy coloured cliffs about 5m high. The trail traverses the top edge of these small cliffs. After rounding the corner, the trail soon heads for a set of steps which lead up the vegetated hillside to the top of the main cliff line high above. There is a small bench seat at the top but it is only a few hundred metres further along the trail to reach the main Tamalia Karst Lookout platform and seat (about 30 minutes from Hamersley Beach). Return by the same route to Hamersley Inlet car park.

7.0km return – allow two to three hours
Tamalia Karst Lookout
Hamersley Inlet Carpark to

This is an excellent introduction to the Hakea Trail. The trail head is adjacent to the Cave Point car park toilets. Start down the crushed stone footpath and then branch right to follow the sign posted trail down to the beach. Once on the beach continue to the far end and walk around the small headland until you see two large rock pinnacles steeply angled slightly towards the inland about 100m ahead. A narrow squeeze through a crevice in the first rock gives access to a small path skirting behind the second rock. About 90m further along, the trail leaves the shoreline and enters the bush, climbing steadily up a heath covered hillside before entering low woodlands. Eventually it reaches the top of West Beach headland where there is a signposted resting point with a bench seat. Enjoy the views back to East Mount Barren, Cave Point and West Beach. Return by the same route.

6.6km return – allow two to three hours
Cave Point to West Beach Headland
Half Day Walks

Above Approaching Quoin Head (mid distance). *Photo – John Watson*

Remember

Don't light fires. Gas barbecues are provided free of charge to day visitors at Four Mile Beach picnic area and Hamersley Inlet picnic area.

Be clean. Rubbish bins are not provided in the park; please take your rubbish with you.

Save animals and plants. No hunting or wildflower picking is permitted in Fitzgerald River National Park. Drive slowly to avoid killing wildlife on the roads.

Stay on the road. Follow signs in the park and keep vehicles on the roads marked in this leaflet. Observe track closures and speed limits. To drive a four-wheel drive vehicle on sand, engage four-wheel drive and reduce tyre pressure. Don't forget to re-inflate your tyres when you leave the area. It is recommended that two-wheel drive vehicles are not driven on sand or other soft surfaces.

Be prepared. Always carry plenty of fresh water (at least three or four litres per person per day) as there are no reliable drinking water supplies within the park.

Take care

Keep your personal safety in mind at all times. Caution is required in any natural environment with potentially hazardous terrain. Fitzgerald River National Park is no exception.

Stand back from rocky headlands and cliff edges. Many areas within the park have steep, rocky slopes that can be unstable underfoot.

Choose fishing or swimming sites with great care. The Southern Ocean is unpredictable, making rock fishing and swimming especially dangerous. Huge waves and swells can suddenly occur even on calm days. Rocks become slippery when wet. Rip currents are common along the coastline.
Wear a lifejacket at all times when fishing from rocks.

No pets

Pets are not permitted in the park. Please leave your dogs, cats and other domestic animals at home as they can harm native wildlife and environment. Foxes and cats are predators to native animals, so the park is baited with 1080 poison to control the numbers of these introduced predators. Native animals are naturally resistant to 1080, but the baits will kill your pets.

Please heed visitor risk warnings shown on signs that display this symbol.



Below Dolphins. **Below right** Trail marker, West Beach. *Photo – John Watson*



Below. Approaching East Hamersley Beach from Edwards Point.

Your walk is a journey through billions of years of geological history, traversing outstanding features including a unique section of limestone karst cliff lines, as well as alternating between ancient wave cut platforms, about 90m above current day sea level, and much more recently formed beaches. These variations in the geology of the land forms have resulted in different soil types, which lead to variations in the vegetation and associated flora and fauna. Whilst

and is the trail's signature emblem. Hakea can be seen growing in many places along the trail include the iconic Royal Hakea (*Hakea victoria*). The Royal

The trail is named after one of the park's flora families which sections of the walk.

advisable to check tide conditions before commencing these

of the trail that may be affected by high tides, so it is

conditions and adequate water. There are also beach sections

moderate fitness, sturdy boots, appropriate clothing for the

This is a class 4 hiking trail requiring bushwalking experience,

central wilderness.

23km to the west near Quoin Head, on the edge of the park's

coastline, starting at Cave Point car park and finishing some

rugged walk along the Fitzgerald River National Park eastern

Welcome to the Hakea Trail, a spectacular, sometimes

Above Quoin Head (foreground) and central wilderness peaks in distance from Quoin Head Lookout. *Photo – John Watson*



HAKEA walk trail

Fitzgerald River National Park



Information and walk trail guide for Cave Point to Quoin Head

More information

National park rangers are available to provide information. Don't hesitate to contact them if you need assistance.

Rangers (West)
Jacup/Jerramungup
Tel (08) 9835 5043

Ranger (East)
Barrens Beach Road
Tel (08) 9838 3060

Department of Parks and Wildlife Office
13 Morgan Street
Ravensthorpe
Tel (08) 9838 1967

Department of Parks and Wildlife, Albany District Office
120 Albany Highway, Albany WA 6330
Tel (08) 9842 4500
Fax (08) 9841 7105
Email Albany@dpaw.wa.gov.au

Visit the Department of Parks and Wildlife's website www.dpaw.wa.gov.au for more information on the park.

Other Fitzgerald River National Park brochures include:

- Fitzgerald River National Park information and recreation guide*
- Eastern short walks*, which includes the short walks to Barrens lookout, East Mount Barren, Sepulchralis Hill and No Tree Hill
- Western short walks*, which includes the short walks to Mount Maxwell, West Mount Barren and the Point Ann Heritage Trail
- Mamang Walktrail*



For general information about the park, including a park map and details of access roads please refer to the *Fitzgerald River National Park information and recreation guide* brochure.

The brochures are available from park entry stations, walktrail heads or download copies online <http://parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/fitzgerald-river>. Park Podcast series can also be found at this site.



Department of Parks and Wildlife



PARKS PEOPLE

Front cover Hakea victoria (Royal Hakea)

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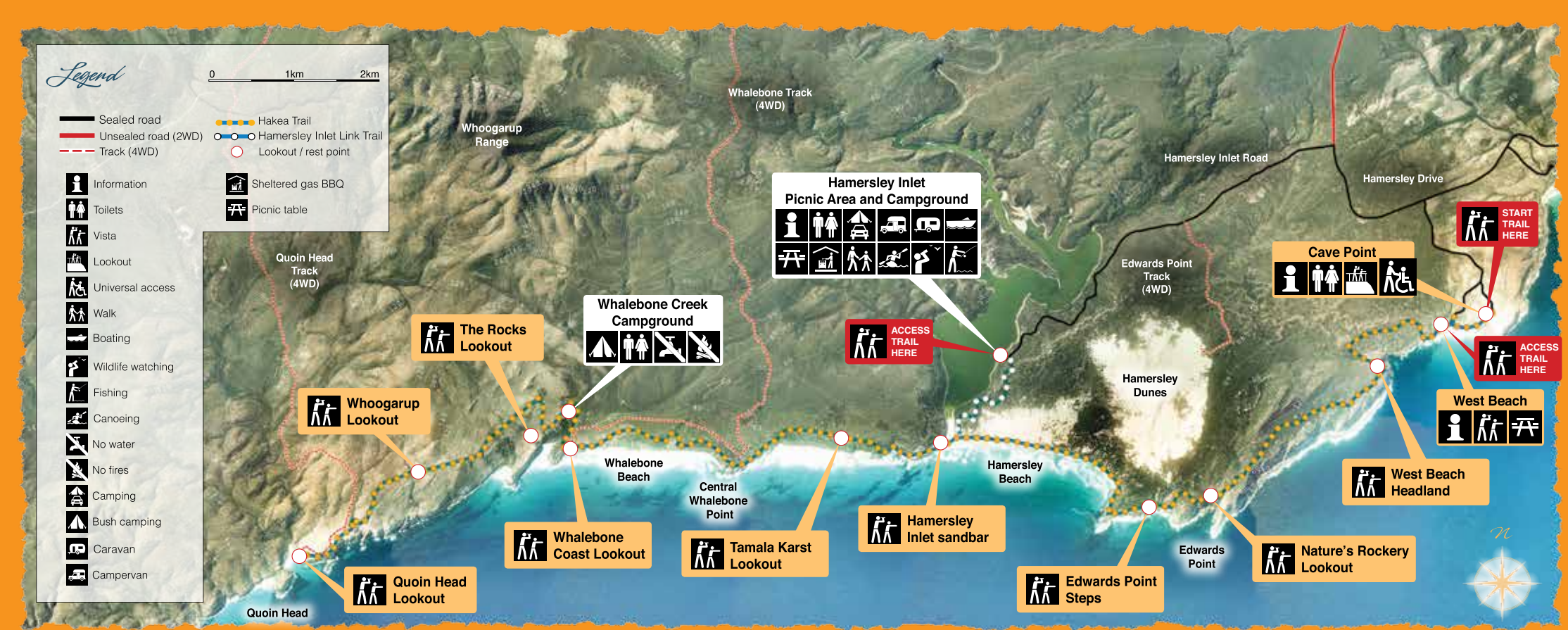


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Above Small zawn, Edwards Point steps. **Above** Whalebone Cove.

Full Day Walks

Cave Point to Edwards Point Steps

13.8km return – allow five to six hours

This is a longer class 4 day walk from Cave Point for which you should allow 5-6 hours return. Follow the trail as described for the half day walk to West Beach Headland (3.3km, about 1 hour) continue to Nature's Rockery Lookout platform, which has an almost 360 degree view of the central wilderness peaks and the rugged western coastline.

From here to the Edwards Point Steps takes about 20 minutes. A superb view of the rocky beach shore below opens up from the top of the steps. At the base of the steps, visit the small zawn about 15m to your left. The word zawn is derived from the Cornish word 'sawan' meaning chasm and is a deep and narrow sea-inlet cut by erosion, with steep or vertical walls. This zawn is relatively small compared with others along the Fitzgerald River National Park coastline. Return by the same route to Cave Point.

Hamersley Inlet to Whalebone Point and Whalebone Creek campground

17.6km return – allow six to seven hours

This is a longer walk from Hamersley Inlet to Whalebone Creek. Follow the trail as described for the half day walk to Tamala Karst Lookout. It continues along the edge of the limestone scarp and gradually descends to Central Whalebone Point. Walk around the point and pass below a short section of low *Melaleuca* woodland where the small trees have been blown by the prevailing winds into an almost horizontal form. Allow 30 minutes from Tamala Karst Lookout.

The trail heads towards Whalebone Point in the distant west. After passing an unusual boomerang shaped limestone edge the trail skirts inland and then curves around the head of a dry stream valley before swinging back parallel to the coast.

Eventually you will emerge onto the final coastal karst section where the trail parallels the edge of the cliff line with spectacular ocean views in both directions. In windy or gusty conditions you are advised to stay well back from the cliff edge. Another viewing platform (Whalebone Coast Lookout) on the final knoll before you descend towards Whalebone Point – about 2½–3 hours from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

If you are short of time you can go past the Hakea Trail turn off 80m on your right beyond the carpark and continue a further 70m up the hill to visit a fine viewpoint which looks back east – down into Whalebone Cove and along the coast beyond. You can then start your return journey without visiting the campground. Otherwise follow the Hakea Trail turn off, which descends to the Whalebone Creek valley and the Whalebone Creek campground in a few hundred metres (10 minutes) and commence your return walk from there. You will pass a short path on your left as you near the creek and this leads down to the nearby inlet beach. This is the last accessible beach area along the trail all the way to Quoin Head.



Above Whoogarup Range from Edwards Point. *Photo - John Watson*

Two Day Walk

Cave Point to Quoin Head

46.8km return – allow 12 to 14 hours actual walking

This class 4 walk takes you the entire length of the Hakea Trail. Allow 7-8 hours walking one way from Cave Point and 5-6 hours one way from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

Starting from Cave Point follow the full day walk description to the Edwards Point Steps. The trail now follows the spectacular rocky beach around to the west and in about 20 minutes you will round the point and reach the east end of Hamersley Beach. This area is accessible by 4WD vehicles, so take care as you continue westwards. Also take care if tides are high as there are some places where the broken waves may lap right up to the base of steep dune slopes. After about 30 minutes you will pass the Hamersley Inlet sand bar on your right and the Hamersley Inlet Link Trail entry. Continue all the way to Whalebone Creek campground as described above for the half day and full day walks from Hamersley Inlet carpark.

On leaving the campground cross over Whalebone Creek using the walkway. Please use the dieback brushdown provided and then climb quite steeply up part of an old 4WD track to the next section of old wave cut platform. The trail now leaves the old track on the left and swings back toward the coast. In a few hundred metres you will reach another resting point where you can sit on the natural rocks and look down across the Whalebone Creek Beach. You can also see distant views of the central wilderness coast and Red Islet just off shore to the south-west. This is an ideal 15 minute (one way) stroll from the campground and a good turn around point if you are not continuing all the way to Quoin Head.

The trail now swings back inland and uphill passing through a stand of the rich crimson coloured Barrens *Regelia*, eventually returning to the old 4WD track (10 minutes) at which point this is followed west to the Whoogarup lookout point at the foot of the southern outlier peak of the Whoogarup Range about 1.8km ahead (one hour from Whalebone campground). This is the only place on this section of trail where you can see back along the eastern coast as well as ahead toward the central wilderness.

After another 800m you will turn off the old 4WD track and walking gently downhill, you will reach a great vista into a deep valley with a gorge which extends to sea level. The trail then swings back to the west descending steeply into the valley to cross the creek on some large rocks above a

Below Quoin Head Beach and Hakea Trail terminus above.



waterfall before rising diagonally up the other side of the valley and then flanking round toward the coast again. The trail then runs parallel between Quoin Head 4WD track and the ocean, with spectacular coastal views to the Quoin Head terminus lookout. (1 hour from Whoogarup Lookout Point). Here there is a stunning view of Quoin Head in the foreground with views beyond into the central wilderness area, taking in glimpses of Thumb Peak, Mid Mount Barren, the western park peaks and Red Islet off the coast. On a clear day you can see the Doubtful Island peninsular near Bremer Bay. This marks the end of the Hakea Trail.

Return to Cave Point (or other entry points) by the same route.

Quoin Head Beach

If you have time to visit Quoin Head beach and headland, return about 90m to the small car park then descend the steep four-wheel drive track down to the beach and small recreation area.

Remember before descending that you will need about 2 hours from here to return to Whalebone Creek campground, and from there another 3-4 hours to Hamersley Inlet trail head or another 5-6 hours to Cave Point trail head, longer if you are tired.

Facilities and Campsite

Occasional resting areas with small seats or platforms are provided to rest your legs and take in the wonderful views. There are trail markers and directional signs. There are no toilet facilities along the trail.

There are simple composting toilet facilities and raised sleeping platforms at Whalebone Creek campground. There is no potable water at this site. All water, food and camping equipment will need to be carried in. Bring your own toilet paper and please take all your rubbish back with you.

Dieback

Dieback is caused by a pathogen, known as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, which is lethal to hundreds of plant species. This disease kills plants by destroying their root systems, and threatens many of the park's plant species. The climate of the south coast favours the spread of dieback, which thrives in warm, moist soil and can easily be spread in mud or soil that adheres to vehicle tyres or bush walkers' footwear.

It is therefore sometimes necessary to close roads and tracks or temporarily restrict access to certain areas.

Fitzgerald River National Park is one of the parks least infected by dieback in south-western Australia. With your help it has a chance of remaining so. Bush walkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve, or at the boot-cleaning stations provided at trailhead sites in the park.

When driving in the park, it is essential to keep to established roads and tracks and obey all 'ROAD CLOSED' signs. By washing the tyres and under-body of your car before and after a trip to a park or reserve, you can help preserve WA's natural areas.