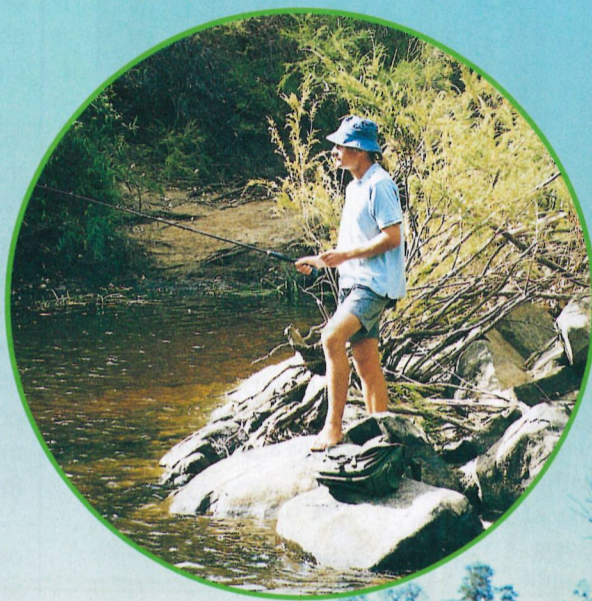


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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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A GUIDE TO LANE POOLE RESERVE DWELLINGUP



WAKE UP IN THE JARRAH FOREST

Pitching tent in the jarrah forest by the Murray River is an experience that draws thousands of visitors back to Lane Poole Reserve every year.

Just 100 kilometres from Perth, the Reserve covers nearly 55,000 hectares, ranging from the steeply forested valley slopes and rock-rimmed pools of the Murray River near the Darling Scarp to the more open, undulating jarrah and wandoo woodlands further east.

Tall blackbutt, jarrah and marri forest shades the river valley, and on either side of the river gravel roads lead to recreation areas. Popular camping spots include the site of the old jarrah mill at Nanga, burnt in the Dwellingup fires of 1961, and now sheltered by a grove of tall pines. Nearby Nanga Brook flows down a trout ladder and into the Murray River. The Murray is the largest river in the Darling Plateau undammed for water supply. The river forms rapids, small waterfalls and deep still pools along its course. In winter, it can be a raging torrent, and in summer, a limpid stream for swimming, canoeing, or fishing.

In spring, the forest fills with wildflowers and in autumn you can hear the calls of brilliant parrots and magpies echoing through the early morning mist along the valley floor.

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DWELLINGUP WA 6213
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LANE POOLE RESERVE

Lane Poole Reserve was declared in 1984 to protect the conservation and recreation values of the northern jarrah forest and the Murray River - the longest permanent river in the jarrah forest.

Jarrah tends to dominate the dry upland areas within the Reserve. On the lower slopes of the Reserve, marri occurs in greater numbers and may predominate in moist gullies.

In the western portion of the Reserve where the valleys are relatively narrow and steep, the soils are usually more fertile red loams, the lower slopes of the valleys support yarri, or Western Australian blackbutt, and floodedgum.

In the eastern part of the Reserve, the landscape flattens out into a series of broad undulating valleys and low ridges. Here wandoo forms an attractive woodland on the clay flats. Still other areas of the Reserve support bullich, a striking white-barked eucalypt that occurs in pure pockets in gullies near the western fringes of the Darling Range.

Apart from the dominant eucalypts, a variety of smaller understorey trees occur in various mixtures throughout the Reserve. These include bull banksia, which often grows in pure stands on disturbed areas; sheoak, which occupies sandy sites; and snottygobble, a graceful tree with dark, flaking bark and long, narrow leaves.



The lower layer of forest vegetation is formed by shrubs and herbaceous plants, of which there are some 500 species within the Reserve. They include many of the better known wildflowers, such as blue leschenaultia, pink boronia and native wisteria.

Twenty one species of native mammals, 21 species of reptiles and amphibians, 10 species of fish and 78 species of birds are either known inhabitants or occasional visitors to Lane Poole Reserve.

This includes marsupials such as the mardo, the short-nosed bandicoot, the brush-tailed wambenger, the chuditch and the quokka. Few people realise that

the quokka, better known as a resident of Rottnest Island, is also found in swamps and valleys in the jarrah forest.

Above: Jarrah forest in Lane Poole Reserve.

Photo - Dennis Sarson/Lochman

Transparencies

COVER (main): The Murray River at

Stringers.

Photo - Jiri Lochman

Insets (left to right): Tawny Frogmouths.

Photo - Brett Dennis/Lochman

Transparencies

Fishing on the Murray.

Photo - Gitta Seidel

Pincushion coneflower.

Photo - Jiri Lochman

WHO WAS LANE POOLE?

The Reserve is named after C.E Lane-Poole, Western Australia's first Conservator of Forests and a devoted conservationist.

Before the Forests Act was passed in 1918, there was no legislation to control the amount of timber cut, or where and how it could be cut, or to provide for regeneration of the forest after the mills had finished in an area.

No information had been gathered on the extent of the forest, or the amount of timber that could be taken without reducing the size of the forest. Exploitation was the cry of the day, and land cleared by the sawmills was generally turned over to agriculture.

In 1918 Lane-Poole saw the disastrous consequences of 70 years uncontrolled felling and realised that, without regulation, the forest would be devastated within a generation.

He then set about formulating forest management regulations to reduce the amount of cutting to a level the forest could withstand. To make his plans a reality it was essential that all remaining forest areas be dedicated as State Forest by Act of Parliament, and that forest officers were given the legal power to enforce management regulations on the mill owners.

Against powerful opposition from sawmilling and commercial interests Lane-Poole pushed for legislation, laying the foundations for management aimed at conserving rather than exploiting the forest. Without his efforts, and those of his successors, it is highly likely that there would be little forest for any purpose left to us today.



CAMPING NOTES

There's a total fire ban in Lane Poole Reserve from 15 December to 15 March, inclusive, under the Prohibited Fire Regulations set by Murray and Waroona Shires.

Campers are encouraged to bring their own gas stoves during the total fire ban period (see above). Wood fires in the fire rings provided are permitted during the rest of the year. Please bring your own wood.

Camping fees are \$5 per adult, children up to 16 years old are \$2 each.*

Facilities include toilets, barbecues and tables. Activities include swimming, bushwalking, canoeing, fishing, bike riding.

Dogs are allowed, but only on a leash. Unrestrained pets are at risk from fox baiting carried out in the reserve under the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Western Shield program.

Roads are gravel, maximum speed 40 km per hour please. Nearest towns: Dwellingup (7.5 km) and Waroona (32 km).

Campers code: respect other campers, please keep all noise to a minimum after 9pm and please place all rubbish in the bins provided at each camp site.

Rangers, departmental officers and fee collectors work in Lane Poole Reserve and are happy to answer inquiries.

If camping sites are full, contact the Department's Dwellingup office on 9538 1078 for advice on possible alternatives. Sites cannot be booked.

If you have any problems within the Reserve, telephone:

- the Department's Dwellingup office on 9538 1078,
- the Entry Station on 9538 1536, or
- the Police on 9538 1057 or 000.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO LANE POOLE RESERVE

Visitors to Lane Poole are welcome as long as they do not disrupt other visitors, and they are not intoxicated.

As a condition of entry into the reserve, the Department reserves the right to inspect vehicles and containers for excessive quantities of liquor. Liquor may be off-loaded and collected on departure, or entry to the Reserve may be refused.

Entry to the Reserve will also be refused if you or any of your passengers are intoxicated.

The following behaviour will not be tolerated and may lead to eviction from Lane Poole and/or to legal proceedings:

- Ⓢ abusive, offensive language;
- Ⓢ threatening behaviour, both to the Department's staff or other campers;
- Ⓢ any behaviour which disturbs the proper use of the Reserve by other campers, including the excessive use of amplified music;
- Ⓢ erratic driving of motor vehicles;
- Ⓢ failing to obey the directions of the Department's staff;
- Ⓢ failing to obey fire restrictions during prohibited times;
- Ⓢ damage to property or wildlife or vegetation.

Visitors who fail to leave the Reserve when requested will be prosecuted and face a maximum fine of \$1000.

Unlicensed off-road vehicles are prohibited in Lane Poole Reserve.

*All information and fees/prices correct at time of publication.



SERVICES

POLICE - 9538 1057
AMBULANCE - 9538 1111
HOSPITAL - 9531 1144

FIRE - 9531 1998
SES - 9531 3668
NURSING POST - 9538 1052

Editor: Caris Bailey
District Manager: Mike Meinema
Design and production: Sue Marais
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PLACES TO GO

BADEN POWELL CAMPGROUND

Where is it? 9.5 km from Dwellingup and 2 km from entry station on Park Road.
Facilities: Campground (group), toilets, tables, barbecues, bins, drinking water.

BADEN POWELL DAY USE AREA

Facilities: Toilet, tables, barbecues, bins, steps down to the water.
What to do: Swimming, fishing, canoeing, picnic, bushwalking. No camping.

BOB'S CROSSING

Where is it? 12.6 km from Dwellingup and 5.1 km from entry station on River Road.
Facilities: Concrete river crossing, providing access to Nanga Mill and Stringers, except when the river floods.
What to do: Swimming, fishing. Canoe pickup/drop-off—10 min parking area. No camping.

CHARLIE'S FLAT

Where is it? 14.3 km from Dwellingup and 6.8 km from entry station on River Road.
Facilities: Individual camp sites, barbecues, tables, toilets, car bays, bins. Not suitable for large groups.
What to do: Camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing.

ISLAND POOL DAY USE AREA

Where is it? 16.5 km from Dwellingup and 9 km from entry on River Road.
Facilities: Barbecues, tables, toilet, steps down to water, walk trail.
What to do: Swimming, fishing, canoeing, bushwalking, picnic. No camping.

TONY'S BEND

Where is it? 16.9 km from Dwellingup and 9.4 km from entry on River Road.
Facilities: Individual camp sites, barbecues, tables, toilets, car bays, bins. Not suitable for large groups.

What to do: Fishing, swimming, camping, canoeing.

NANGA MILL

Where is it? 18.4 km from Dwellingup and 10.9 km from entry on Park Road via Bob's Crossing.
Facilities: Barbecues, tables, toilets, bins, drinking water, walk trails.
What to do: Camping, bushwalking (short walk to river).

NANGA TOWNSITE

Where is it? 13.5 km from Dwellingup and 6 km from entry via Nanga Road.
Facilities: Campground, barbecues, tables, toilets, bins, walk trail.
What to do: Camping, bushwalking.

STRINGERS

Where is it? 19 km from Dwellingup and 11.5 km from entry on Park Road via Bob's Crossing.

Facilities: Campground, barbecues, tables, toilets, bins, canoe launch.

What to do: Camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing.

YARRAGIL

Where is it? 19.8 km from Dwellingup and 12.3 km from entry on River Road.
Facilities: Camp sites, canoe launch site, barbecues, tables, toilet, bins, steps to water.
What to do: Camping, swimming, canoeing, fishing.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Goldmine Hill (23 km north west of Dwellingup, off Del Park Road)
Oakley Dam (14 km north west of Dwellingup, off North Spur Road)
Scarp Pool D2
Scarp Lookout C1
Whittakers Mill (20 km north of Dwellingup, off Del Park Road)
Dwellingup History and Information Centre B4
Icy Creek Environmental Education Camp—bookings only E4

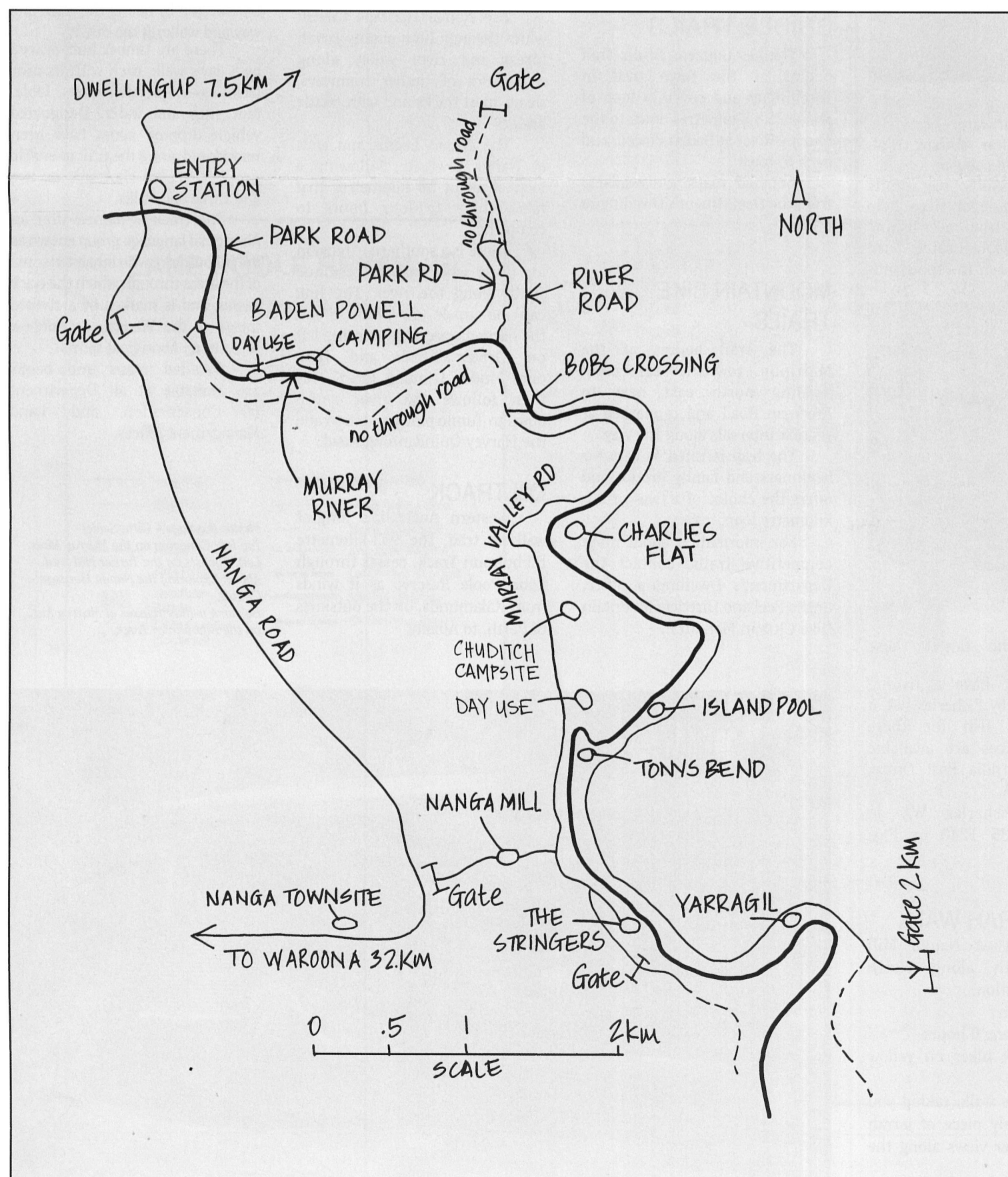
CHUDITCH

Where is it? 15.9 km from Dwellingup and 8.4 km from entry on Park Rd and over Bobs Crossing.
Facilities: Tables, toilets, camping and day-use facilities. There are no fire rings provided at Chuditch. Please bring gas cooker.
What to do: Camping, bushwalking, short walk or drive to river.

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN FIREWOOD

Dead twigs, leaves and branches are important habitat for many species, including spiders, reptiles and insects. These in turn support animals such as echidnas and small marsupials.

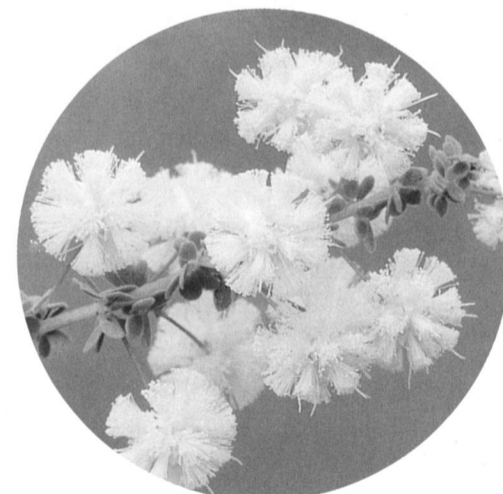
Areas of this habitat in Lane Poole Reserve are under threat because some campers are collecting dead wood for their fires faster than it can accumulate naturally. Please bring your own firewood to use in the reserve on days when open wood fires are allowed (see page 7).



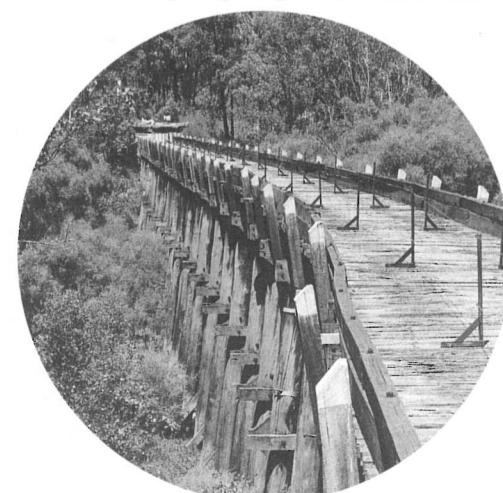
Nanga walktrail. Photo - Gitta Seidel



Murray River. Photo - Department of Conservation and Land Management



Long Gully Bridge. Photo - Gitta Seidel



Getting around



CANOEING / RAFTING

Canoeing is best in spring when water levels are high enough for easy passage, wildflowers are out and the weather is warming up.

All sections of the Murray

delicious freshwater crayfish, marron, as well as rainbow trout, redfin perch and cobbler.

Closed seasons, bag limits and minimum legal sizes help protect stocks from over-fishing so the available catch can be shared between the thousands



River are suitable for canoeing, but rafting is limited (see map on page 5). Conditions on some sections of the river will vary according to the season.

Protective safety equipment is recommended, as well as notification of where you plan to go canoeing.

Always use one of the many canoe launch sites marked on the map to keep bank erosion to a minimum.

Canoeing brochures are available from the Department of Sport and Recreation, or Department of Conservation and Land Management offices.

FISHING ON THE MURRAY

The Murray River, and some of its permanent tributaries, are home to Western Australia's

of fishers who target these species.

You must have a fishing licence, issued by Fisheries WA, if you wish to fish for these species. Licences are available from any Australia Post Office, or Fisheries WA.

Phone Fisheries WA in Mandurah 9535 1240 or Fax: 9581 5115.

KING JARRAH WALK

Where: Starts at Nanga Mill running south along North Junction formation.

Distance: 18 km

Time to complete: 6 hours

Markers: Black hiker on yellow triangle.

Why: Enjoyable walk, taking you through a lovely piece of jarrah forest with river views along the way.

CHUDITCH WALK TRAIL

Where: Starts at Nanga Mill and runs through to Nanga townsite and back again.

Distance: 1.5 km

Time to complete: 1.5 hours

Markers: Black triangle inside yellow triangle.

Why: Provide a picturesque walk through the old mill and townsite areas of Nanga.

MURRAY VALLEY CIRCUIT

Where: Three starting points at various sections along the walk circuit—railway crossing in Dwellingup; Scarp Pool; and Nanga Mill opposite the trout ladder on Murray Valley Road.

Distance: 46 km

Time to complete: 3 days

Markers: Green hikers on yellow triangle.

Why: Excellent opportunity to see beautiful scenery, heritage and cultural locations, the Murray River, and to view the native flora and fauna of the area.

BRIDLE TRAILS

The Les Couzens Bridle Trail begins at the town oval in Dwellingup and covers a loop of about 26.8 kilometres down to the Murray River at Baden Powell, and back to town.

Detailed maps are available from the Department's Dwellingup office.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

The trail begins at the Marrinup townsite car park, heading north east next to Freeman Road and is marked at regular intervals along the way.

The trail is rated as easy for beginners and family groups and offers the choice of a five- or 10-kilometre loop.

For information about more competitive trails, contact the Department's Dwellingup office, or the Peel and Districts Mountain Bike Club in Mandurah.

MARRINUP TOUR

A unique, 16 - kilometre vehicle and walk tour through the jarrah forest, including the site of Western Australia's only prisoner of war camp.

You can also inspect bauxite mining and rehabilitation work, learn about dieback and see the natural beauty of the Marrinup and Oakley Brook catchments.

Ask at the Department's Dwellingup office for a guidebook to the tour.



NANGA HERITAGE CIRCUIT

The Nanga Heritage Circuit winds through high quality jarrah forest and river valley along a network of timber tramways, steam train tracks and with trestle bridges.

The circuit begins and ends at Nanga townsite, following a loop of about 50 kilometres that takes three to four hours to complete.

There is a southern extension for those who want to continue south along the river. The link can be made at point 8 on the heritage circuit by turning left on Driver Road, and then onto Muddy Landing Road. This then follows the river south down to Tumlo pine plantation and the Harvey/Quindanning Road.

ON TRACK

Western Australia's longest walking trail, the 963-kilometre Bibbulmun Track, passes through Lane Poole Reserve as it winds from Kalamunda, on the outskirts of Perth, to Albany.

The Dwellingup section is 140 kilometres from north of Albany Highway to Dwellingup itself and on to the Harvey Quindanning Road. It takes in some spectacular views along the way, from the rocky outcrops of the White Horse Hills in the north, to the Murray River in the south.

Just north of Dwellingup, the track follows the largely disused Dwellingup to Boddington rail line. The rail line from the Etmilyn Siding to Dwellingup is used

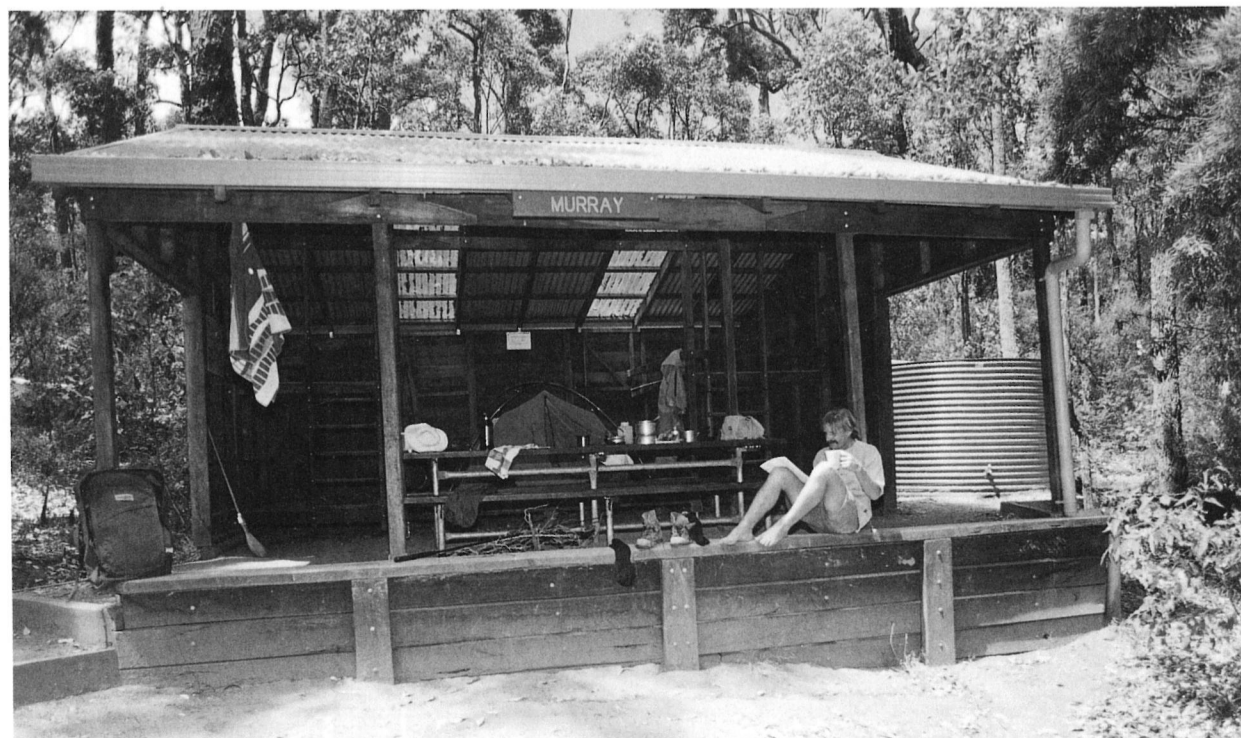
occasionally by the Hotham Valley Tourist Railway, and it's possible to make a day's outing from Dwellingup by taking the train one way and walking the other.

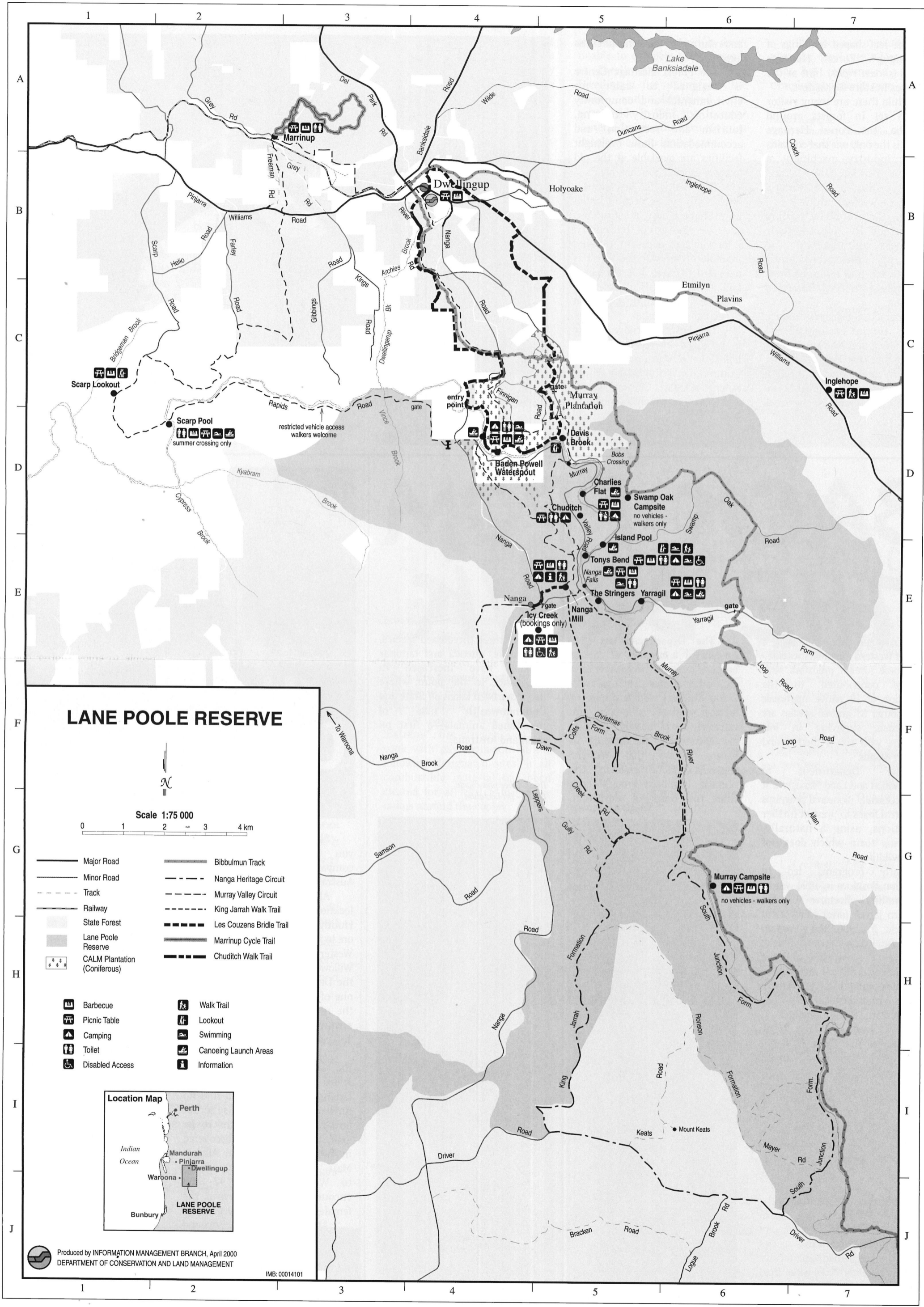
There are timber huts spaced by a day's walk, each with its own facilities—barbecue, toilets, table, tent sites and water. Designated vehicle drop-off zones have been nominated along the trail to enable people to enjoy shorter one, two and three day walks.

The track is named after an Aboriginal language group known as the Bibbulmun, who inhabited some of the areas through which the track passes, and is marked by a stylised image of the Waugal, or rainbow serpent, an Aboriginal spirit.

Detailed maps and books are available at all Department of Conservation and Land Management offices.

*Photos this page — Gitta Seidel
Top left: Canoeing on the Murray River.
Left: Cyclists on the Turner Hill trail.
Above: Exploring the Nanga Heritage Circuit.
Below: A walker relaxes at Murray hut, on the Bibbulmun Track.*





LANE POOLE RESERVE

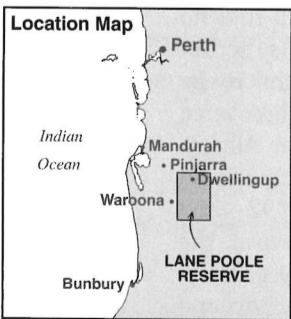


Scale 1:75 000

0 1 2 3 4 km

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Major Road | Bibbulmun Track |
| Minor Road | Nanga Heritage Circuit |
| Track | Murray Valley Circuit |
| Railway | King Jarrah Walk Trail |
| State Forest | Les Couzens Bridle Trail |
| Lane Poole Reserve | Marrinup Cycle Trail |
| CALM Plantation (Coniferous) | Chuditch Walk Trail |

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Barbecue | Walk Trail |
| Picnic Table | Lookout |
| Camping | Swimming |
| Toilet | Canoeing Launch Areas |
| Disabled Access | Information |



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

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A NEW LEAF FOR DWELLINGUP

The leaf-shaped buildings of Dwellingup's Forest Heritage Centre (shown right) hint at the surprises in store for visitors.

While there are many visitor centres set in forests around Australia, the Forest Heritage Centre is the only one that contains timber industry machinery, a museum of social, industrial and natural history, and a working school of finewood crafting.

The Centre gives visitors the chance to increase their awareness and understanding of Western Australia's forest heritage and how it can be most effectively conserved, managed and used.

Interactive displays introduce visitors to the ecology of the jarrah forest and lead into a self-guiding tour that includes timber platforms and stairways through the tree tops, where greenhouse gases are processed by the trees

and returned to the atmosphere as oxygen.

The Forest Heritage Centre is designed to cater for environmental and community education, industry training, tourism and recreation, and accommodation. Basic overnight facilities are available at the old forestry cadet school nearby.

The Centre is 90 minutes from Perth by car, deep in jarrah forest that has been in continuous use since the turn of the century. It provides an excellent working example of the way the forest is managed to meet different needs and a major tourism asset for Western Australia, and in particular Dwellingup.

The Forest Heritage Centre is managed by an independent board as a non-profit making venture and is funded by private enterprise, State, Commonwealth and local government agencies.



BACK FROM THE BRINK

Foxes and cats are making a meal of Western Australia's wildlife.

These foreign predators have already contributed to the extinction of 10 native mammals and another 31 animal species are threatened, surviving in low numbers with six of them found only on islands.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management has successfully pioneered programs to control foxes to prevent further extinctions, using a naturally-occurring toxin which does not harm wildlife.

Early programs led to Operation Foxglove in 1994, where half-a-million hectares of the northern jarrah forest were baited regularly. In 1996, this program was expanded as Western Shield, creating the world's biggest campaign against feral predators to save native animals and return them to their former habitats.

Western Shield operates in areas as diverse as Cape Range National Park near Exmouth, Peron Peninsula at Shark Bay, the south-west forests, the south coast, the edge of the wheatbelt and inland arid regions.

Western Shield has several elements. Fox baiting is being carried out on a scale never before attempted and research into feral cat control has been substantially increased.

This is already resulting in the natural recovery of native animal populations and, as predators are controlled in target areas, species are being returned to former habitats. By early 1999, more than 800 native animals had been returned to their former ranges because of the success of fox control under Western Shield.

The Department has also established a number of captive breeding programs, in collaboration with other agencies such as Perth Zoo and private wildlife carers, for animals whose numbers are extremely low in the wild.

Monitoring the impact of baiting shows that Western Australia's fauna emblem, the numbat, has been brought back from the brink of extinction.

Another three threatened species, the woylie, quenda and tammar wallaby have increased in abundance to the point where they have been taken off State and Commonwealth lists of threatened animals—a first on mainland Australia.

*Brush-tailed phascogale.
Photo - Jiri Lochman*



Sharing the forest in this area you will find two unlikely companions, Alcoa World Alumina Australia and the noisy scrub-bird.

Alcoa mines bauxite in two locations in the Darling Range, Huntly and Willowdale, to supply ore to its three alumina refineries in Western Australia. In bushland at Willowdale, not far from the crusher, the Department has reintroduced one of the State's rarest animals, the noisy scrub-bird. It is in an area where it was first discovered 150 years ago by John Gilbert.

The sudden disappearance of the scrub-birds in the early 1900s concerned ornithologists. Extensive searches could find no further record of the noisy scrub-bird and it was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in Two Peoples Bay near Albany. Male birds were reintroduced to Willowdale in 1997 and encouraged by their survival, the females were released a year later.

At Willowdale, excavators and loaders fill 85-tonne trucks which carry ore to a mobile crusher prior to the 19-kilometre conveyor belt journey to the Wagerup refinery. After mining the area is reshaped, topsoil is replaced and contour ripped to ensure good tree root

penetration, water infiltration and erosion control.

Alcoa's aim is to return a self-sustaining jarrah forest ecosystem to mined areas and achieve the same number of plant species that were there prior to mining. This can be achieved by returning fresh top soil, maximising the number of plant species in the seed mix, and hand planting species that produce little or no viable seed.

Alcoa employs more than 5000 people around Australia and more than \$13 million is spent annually on research, planning, environmental operation and rehabilitation. Since 1988, Alcoa's net contribution to Australia's balance of payments has averaged \$3.9 million every day.

Funds generated by bauxite mining bring a wide range of benefits to the region. Alcoa is a major sponsor of the Department's Operation Foxglove baiting program. Reduced numbers of feral foxes in this forest area make the return of the noisy scrub-bird possible. The company has also contributed to the monitoring program that is keeping tabs on this rare bird—a noisy but elusive forest inhabitant.

A TOWN LIKE NANGA

The once-thriving timber town of Nanga is now a quiet camping ground.

The remains of Nanga's past are still visible, despite the 1961 bushfire that destroyed the town—a tennis court and cricket pitch, rose bushes, bouganvillias, poplars, railway formations and a mill landing to receive timber.

Timber was taken from the Nanga Brook region from as early as 1898. In 1902 a lease was granted to Millars Karri and Jarrah Company to establish a mill on the banks of the Murray River. The Nanga Mill was the biggest timber centre in the area for many years, employing more than 100 men.

The Nanga townsite came into existence in 1909. There was a store, butchers shop, hall, billiard room and school, although only six children attended in 1923. By 1940 this had increased to 100 and the town had acquired three tennis courts and a sports oval.

Millers company virtually owned everything, even the houses. Nanga had 56 homes in the main town along with 12 single men's huts and a boarding house.

Nanga Brook, along with other Western Australian milling communities, was severely affected by the First World War. Production dropped off and with only five people left to operate the mill, it was forced to close between 1914 – 1919. After the war and throughout the 1920s, production improved until the Depression.

Life was difficult during this period. Food was expensive and people had to survive on seven shillings (70 cents) a week per family. Many of the mill hands left Nanga never to return and production was reduced to one sixth of its former level. The Second World War saw mass enlistment and the mill was forced to function on half crew. In 1941 the mill burnt down; arson was suspected.

A much smaller mill was built which needed only 16 people to work it. This considerably reduced employment prospects and very few mill workers returned to Nanga.

Nanga Brook continued to function throughout the 1940s

and 50s, but was slowing down unable to compete with the mill at Dwellingup. In 1961, the Dwellingup fire incinerated the town and devastated the countryside. In 1962, the Governor General declared the town of Nanga Brook would no longer exist.

The area was replanted with pines by the Forests Department and has become a popular camping and picnic spot.

*Nanga townsite.
Photo – Courtesy Dwellingup History and Visitor Information Centre*



DOG OWNERS BEWARE



The Department of Conservation and Land Management carries out 1080 fox baiting operations on around 3.5 million hectares of land it manages under the wildlife recovery program Western Shield. This program is working to bring native animals back from the brink of extinction by controlling introduced predators such as the European Red Fox. The baiting operations extend from Karratha to east of Esperance.

1080 is poisonous to humans and will kill domestic cats and dogs.

Dog owners please be aware that all State Forest, national parks and nature reserves are baited four or more times a year and must be considered dangerous areas for pet dogs and cats at all times.

Please leave your pets at home or prevent them from entering baited areas. Pets are not allowed in national parks. 1080 baits are made of meat and are extremely attractive to dogs. The baits will tempt both well-trained dogs and fussy eaters. If you suspect your dog has taken a bait, induce vomiting and immediately seek veterinary attention.

Neighbours please be aware that it is legal for the Department or other neighbours to bait as close as 20 metres from your boundary and as close as 100 metres from your dwelling. Dogs can travel these distances very quickly.

All baited areas are signposted and advertisements are placed in local newspapers - please observe 1080 warning signs.

For further information please contact your local Department of Conservation and Land Management office.

Why can't I light a fire, and what's that plane doing?

Open wood fires are not permitted during the prohibited fire season (15 December to 15 March). A 24-hour total fire ban may also apply on any day outside this period when the forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology is Very High or Extreme.

On days of 'Very High' or 'Extreme' fire danger, you can cook with gas appliances at the following designated sites, if all combustible material has been cleared for at least a five-metre radius around the cooker:

- ☉ Nanga townsite
- ☉ Nanga mill site
- ☉ Charlie's Flat
- ☉ Tony's Bend
- ☉ Stringers
- ☉ Baden Powell day use area and campsite

- ☉ Whittakers mill site
- ☉ Marrinup townsite

Fire weather forecasts are issued daily by the Bureau of Meteorology and broadcast on radio. Roadside fire hazard signs also indicate the daily forecast. During the summer, check with the local Department of Conservation and Land Management or Shire office before lighting a fire.

Each summer, wildfires started by lightning strikes and people (either accidentally or deliberately) cause varying degrees of damage to our forests.

The Department has a program of early detection to help control wildfires and minimise damage, based on lookout towers and spotter aircraft.

One of the first fire lookout towers built after the Forests Department was established in 1919 was located at Dwellingup. A network of towers and lookout trees eventually extended across the south-west forests.

The first trial using aircraft to spot fires was carried out in the summer of 1972–73 and aerial surveillance is now a regular part of the Department's fire detection operations. You'll certainly hear the planes if you visit Lane Poole during the summer.

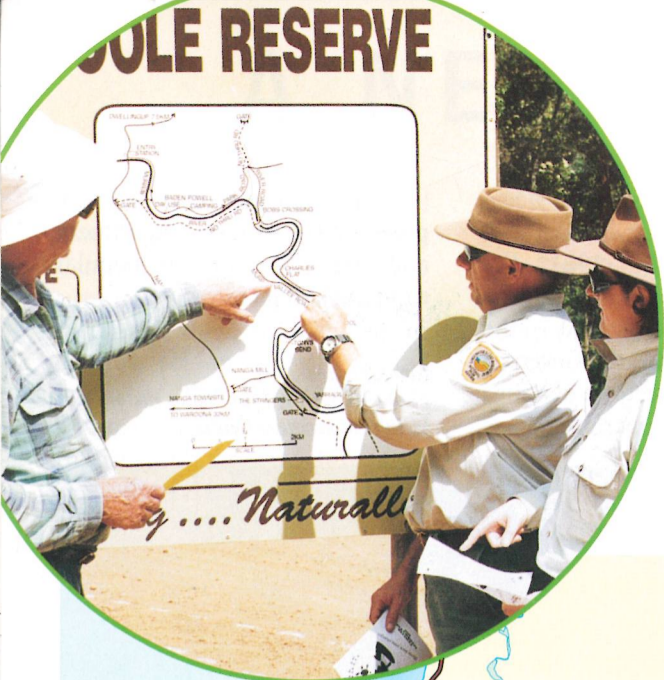
*A reminder of the threat posed by wildfires—the remains of Dwellingup after the devastating 1961 wildfire.
Photo – Department of Conservation and Land Management*



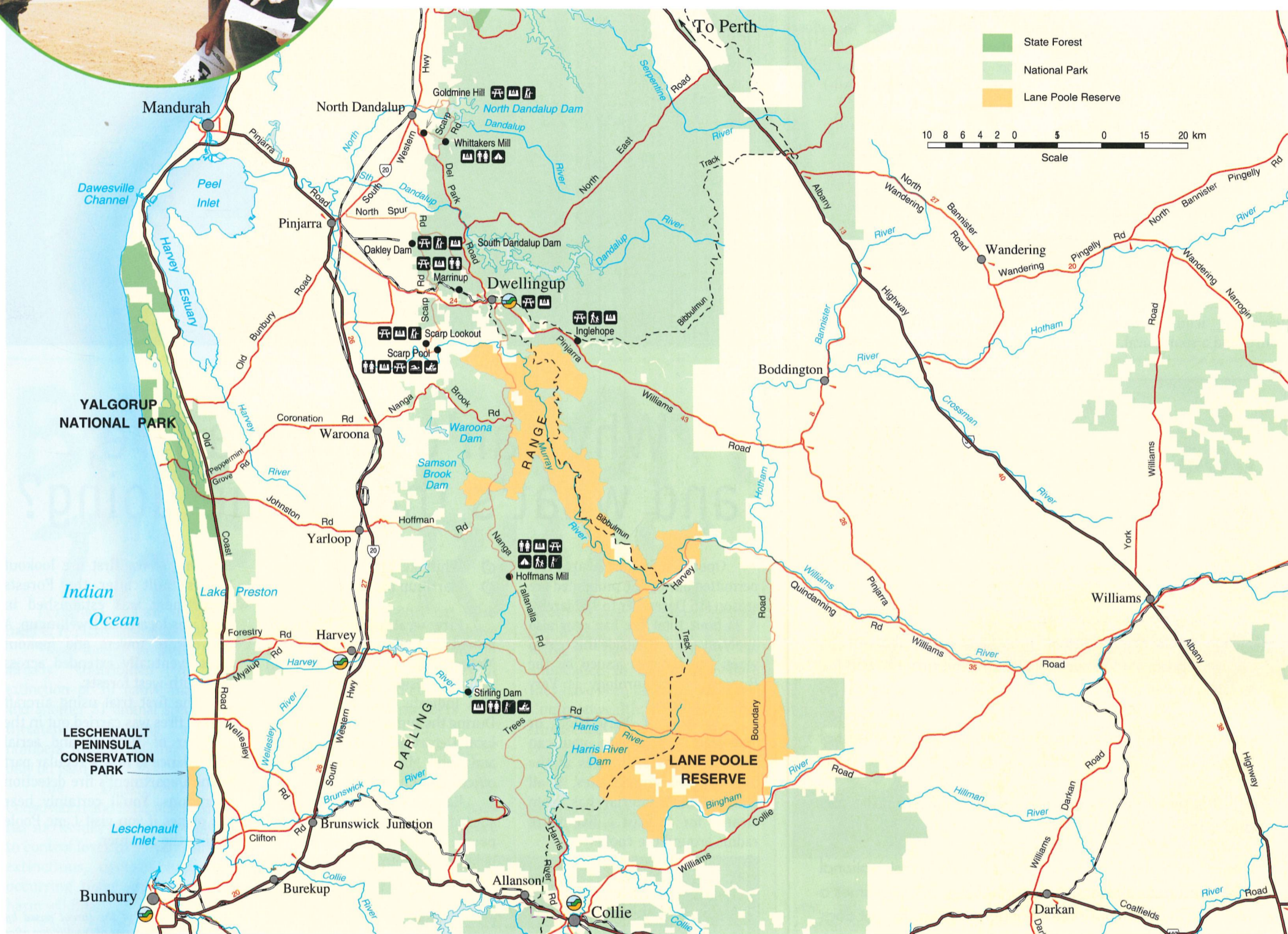
western
shield



DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
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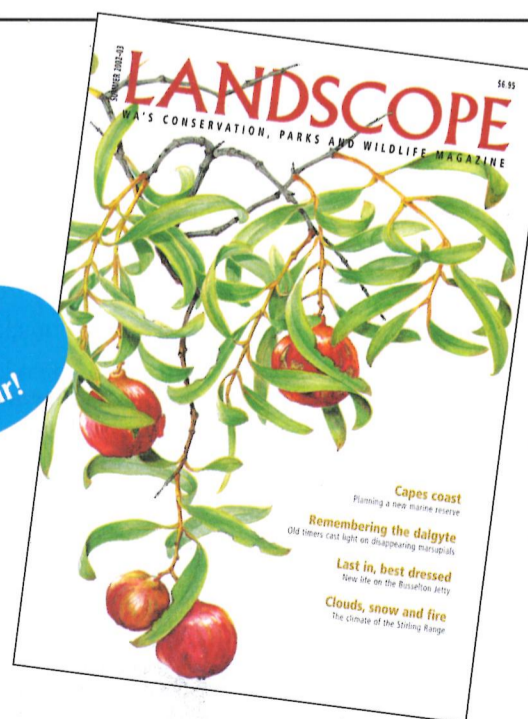
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