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Left Galah. Photo – Mic Payne

Above Mistletoe bird. Photo – Mike Clarke

Fauna

You can see a range of birds at Coalseam Conservation Park. Look for both the singing and the spiny-cheeked honeyeaters in areas with flowering trees and shrubs. Wedge-tailed eagles soar overhead and peregrine falcons can be seen along the cliff face at the Irwin Lookout. Galahs nest in tree hollows near Miners Campground and red-capped robins flit around at ground level. Port Lincoln parrots are common in the park as are nankeen kestrels, black-faced woodswallows and cuckoo-shrikes, crested and common bronzewing pigeons.

Other animals are not so easily observed as mammals are mostly nocturnal and many reptiles are cryptic. With patience and a sharp eye, you may spot an echidna, euro or red kangaroo. Reptiles such as the blue tongue and bobtail skink, Gould's sand goanna, fence skink and western netted dragon may be seen as well as mulga and gwardar snakes.

Look carefully and quietly to discover some of the animals within the park. Please do not disturb them or damage their habitat.

Below Blue tongue lizards are a common reptile in the park. Photo – Mic Payne



Caring for the park

- **Campfires are not permitted.** Dead wood is habitat for wildlife, not fuel for fires. Use the barbeques provided at Riverbend or use your own gas stove.
- **Dogs and domestic pets are not permitted.** Pets can harm native fauna and disrupt visitor's enjoyment of parks and reserves. The sight, sound and smell of pets (even when on leads) can cause native animals great stress.
- **Be kind** – it is an offence to disturb or remove cultural artefacts, animals, plants, fossils or rocks. Leave them as you find them for others to see. No firearms are permitted in the park.
- **Be clean** – take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.

Stay safe

- **Always carry ample drinking water** – one litre per person, per hour - when walking. To avoid dehydration, drink small amounts regularly.
- **Stay on track** – follow the signs and stay on marked trails at all times.
- Visit emergency.wa.gov.au for bushfire and smoke alert information.
- Visit alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au for park, road and site closures.



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More information

Parks and Wildlife Service - Midwest Region Office

1st Floor, The Foreshore Centre
201 Foreshore Drive, Geraldton WA 6530
Ph. (08) 9964 0901
dbca.wa.gov.au

Front cover Riverbend.

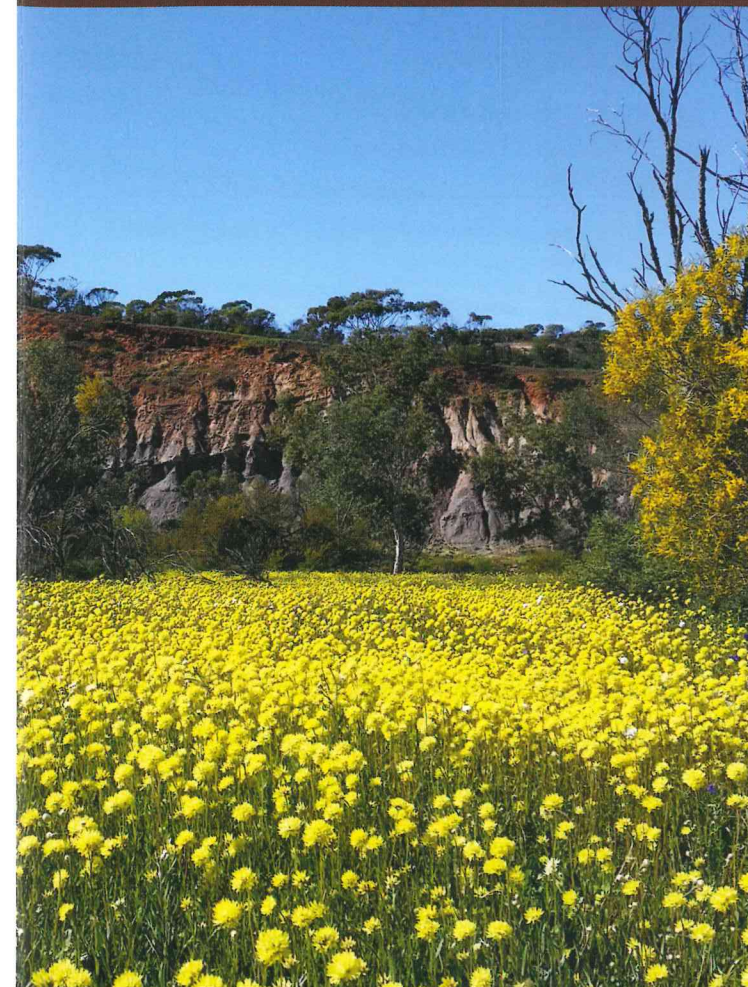


Department of Biodiversity,
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Information current at February 2023.
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Coalseam Conservation Park



Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,
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Above Coal seams are evident at sites along the banks of the Irwin River.

Coalseam Conservation Park

Coalseam Conservation Park encompasses 754 hectares and is renowned for spectacular spring wildflower displays. It is an important refuge for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt threatened ecological community.

Geology

Coalseam Conservation Park is one of the few areas where coal can be seen at the Earth's surface. It is also where coal was first mined in Western Australia. The Irwin River has cut through the local rock to display a striking cross-section of sedimentary layers representing millions of years of Earth history. Exposed layers include coal, siltstone and sandstone.

An ancient landmass

Formation of Coalseam Conservation Park's landscapes began when Australia was part of the supercontinent Gondwana when huge glaciers covered the land and crushed underlying rocks to create the sediments forming much of the rock you see in the park today. About 265 million years ago, masses of early non flowering plants growing on these sediments became coal deposits. Visit the park's Riverbend site for views of the exposed layers and more information about the geological history. South of Riverbend, you can see coal lining the creek adjacent to Miners Campground.

Aboriginal history

The area holds significance and strong traditional value for Yamatji people. A variety of plants and animals found in the park are important for food and medicinal purposes. Those with a keen eye may see artefacts such as stone flakes, scar trees and grinding stones. Please help protect the cultural history of the park by leaving these items as you find them.

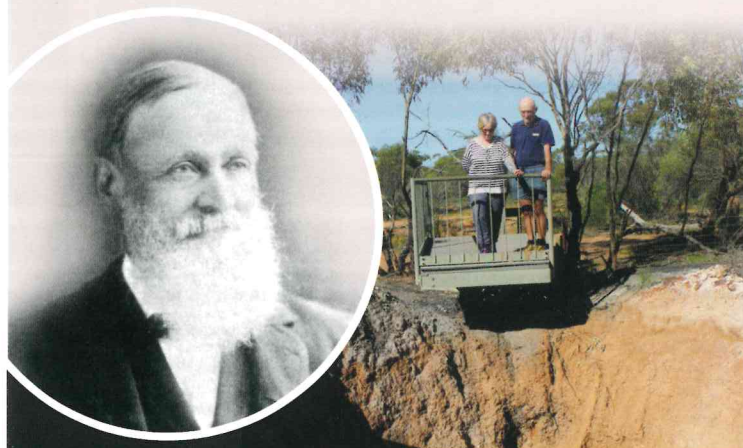
European history

In 1839, a financially ailing Swan River Colony began the search for coal to support industrial development. On a survey expedition in 1846, the Gregory brothers Augustus, Frank and Henry discovered Western Australia's first coal in seams along the banks of the Irwin River. This resulted in the area being declared a reserve for mining purposes. The coal however, was of poor quality and deposited in such narrow seams that mining was untenable. One remaining mine shaft can still be seen from a viewing platform across the river from Miners Campground.

The Gregorys' exploration of the area made way for pastoralists and farmers, who developed the farming properties that now surround the park and brought permanent change to the lives of the local Aboriginal people.

The park's rugged terrain, being unsuitable for sheep and wheat, made it a vital refuge for native plants and animals. In time, the area's natural heritage values were recognised and in 1978, the park was vested in the Shire of Mingenew for the "preservation of natural features" before finally becoming a Conservation Park in 1994.

Below (inset) Augustus Gregory, Johnson shaft viewing platform along the Miners Walk Trail.



Above Coalseam comes alive in spring with an explosion of wildflowers.

Flora

Coalseam Conservation Park is among the most floristically spectacular areas in the northern Wheatbelt region of Western Australia. On the plateau, a thin sandplain covers the hard, iron-rich laterite capping. These low nutrient, dry, sandy soils support a variety of shrubs including the needle tree (*Hakea preissii*), kurara (*Acacia tetragonophylla*), shrubby riceflower (*Pimelea microcephala*) and hopbush (*Dodonaea inequifolia*).

On the slopes and valley floor are reddish loams formed from silt and sand washed from the slopes and upper reaches of the river. These soils are relatively rich in nutrients and support a scattering of York gums (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) over wattle-dominated scrub that includes jam (*Acacia acuminata*) and orange wattle (*Acacia saligna*). Look for mistletoes on the wattles. These semi-parasitic plants include the pincushion mistletoe (*Amyema fitzgeraldii*), and produce berries eaten by mistletoe birds (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).

The riverbed supports tall river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and swamp sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*).

A carpet of everlastings transform the park in spring and showcase WA's high daisy family (*Asteraceae*) diversity. Everlastings are named for their papery petals with each flowerhead made up of hundreds of individual flowers which give the appearance of a single flower. Everlasting flowers close at dusk and open again at dawn. They avoid the harsh summer conditions by growing only in winter. Before dying in late spring, everlastings produce abundant seed that germinates with the following year's winter rain.

Coalseam wildflower guide

Everlastings

Pompom head

Cephalopterum drummondii

Forms carpets of pompom-like yellow (and occasionally white) flowers.

Schoenia

Schoenia cassinianna

A common pink wildflower in the region.

Sticky everlasting

Lawrencella davenportii

This common pink to white annual has its leaves clustered at the base of the stem.

Pink everlasting

Rhodanthe chlorocephala (subsp. *rosea*)

Look for native bees and other insects that seek shelter in the flowers as they close up for the night.

Orange immortal

Waizia acuminata

A distinctive late season yellow/orange annual flower.

Herbs

Fringed lily

Thysanotus manglesianus

This twining plant produces delicate purple flowers during spring.

Blue heronsbill

Erodium cynorum

The small blue or purple flowers of this plant are thinly scattered throughout the park.

Bright podolepis

Podolepis aristata (subsp. *aristata*)

The tuber of this plant was baked in hot ashes and eaten by Aboriginal people.

Myriocephalus gueriniae

Bright yellow annual, usually less than 40cm tall.

Parakeelya

Calandrinia polyandra

This springtime annual stores moisture in its leaves making it a tasty morsel for wildlife.

Weeds

Paterson's curse

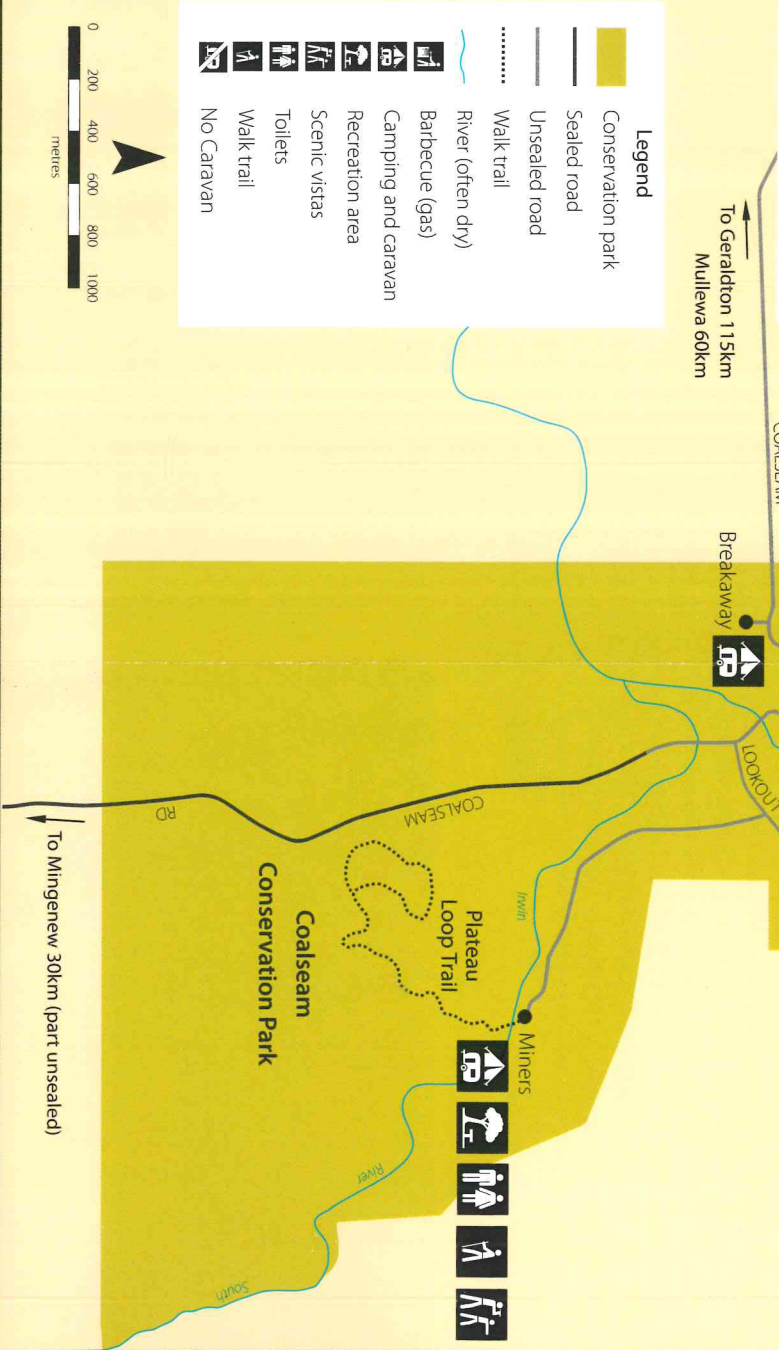
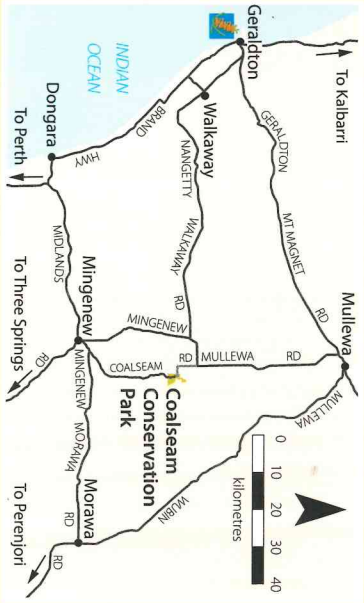
Echium plantagineum

Common in disturbed areas in the park. Control measures are in place to manage this weed.

Cape weed

Arctotheca calendula

Widespread and common, this weed originally came from Southern Africa.



Fees

Camping fees are paid online at parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au. Bookings are essential. There are no park entry (day use) fees.

Access

Coalseam Conservation Park is 115km east of Geraldton, 30km north-east of Mingenew and 60km south of Mullewa. Well-formed gravel roads are accessible year round for all vehicles although the Irwin River may flood and be impassable after heavy rain. Check road conditions with the Shire of Mingenew after significant rainfall. Please take notice of water depths before crossing the Irwin River and drive within your capability. Due to steep slopes and narrow roads, caravans are not recommended at Irwin Lookout or the Fossil site. Please leave your caravan at Miners or Breakaway.

Camping

The main campground is at Miners which has unpowered sites suitable for caravans. Note the ground is hard and driving tent pegs is difficult. Camping is permitted for a maximum of three consecutive nights during the peak season (July to September) allowing everyone the opportunity to enjoy the park's wildflowers. Volunteer campground hosts are located at Miners campground at this time. There is also camping available at Breakaway.

You must have a chemical cassette toilet to camp at Breakaway as no toilets are provided. Dump points for chemical cassette toilets are located at Mingenew and Mullewa.

Online bookings

It is essential to book your campsite for Miners and Breakaway campgrounds online prior to arrival. Booking is year round and can be done up to six months in advance. Visit parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au

Check-in at 11am on the day of arrival and **check-out at 10am** on the day of departure.

Generator use is permitted between 9am to 11am and between 4pm to 6pm.



Above The Irwin River has carved out spectacular cliffs, visible from Riverbend.

Things to do

Johnson Shaft Viewing Platform
Class 3, 700m return

Take the Miners Walk Trail from the Miners picnic area across the creek line to view the disused Johnson coal shaft. Look out for the black coal bands in the creek banks.

Plateau Loop Trail
Class 3, 3.2km loop

This walk through York gum woodland has sweeping valley views from the plateau ridge.

Riverbend

Close to the usually dry Irwin River, this recreation area has information about the area's geology, flora and fauna. Riverbend gets its name from a section where the river has carved a striking cliff face into the Victoria Plateau. The layers of rock visible in the cliff face reveal how the local landscape was formed.

Irwin Lookout
Class 2, 560m loop

Enjoy dramatic views of the Irwin River valley from high cliffs above the river. You may find yourself level with soaring wedge-tailed eagles and peregrine falcons.

Fossil

Enjoy a picnic on the bank of the Irwin River.



Above Blue-breasted fairy wren. Photo – John Lawson

Caring for Dryandra Woodland National Park

Protect our wildlife Many species of birds, mammals and reptiles live within Dryandra Woodland. Please take care while driving and slow down, especially at night. Call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055 if you find injured animals or visit www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/wildcare-helpline



Be wise Leave the natural area as you find it, for all to enjoy. Leave rocks and cultural artefacts as you find them.

Be cool Take care with fire. Light campfires only in fireplaces provided. Use gas barbecues wherever possible. Campfires are prohibited on days of 'extreme' or 'catastrophic' fire danger or during total fire bans.

Be clean Take your rubbish with you. Remember, cigarette butts are litter too.

Be careful Your safety and enjoyment in the woodland are our concern but your responsibility. Make sure you carry sufficient drinking water while walking, especially in summer (at least 2L per person).



Be aware Please do not bring dogs into Dryandra Woodland. Many reserves are baited with 1080 poison baits to control feral animals and these baits may kill your pets. Please leave your pets at home.

More information

The pocket-sized Bush Book Wildflowers of Dryandra Woodland is recommended and can be purchased from the Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience, Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, the Parks and Wildlife Service Narrogin office or, before your visit, from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions online shop at shop.dbca.wa.gov.au.

For information about other parks and camping areas visit exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Parks and Wildlife Service

Wheatbelt Region
Wald Street, Narrogin WA 6312
Phone (08) 9881 9200
Email: narrogin@dbca.wa.gov.au

dbca.wa.gov.au

Front cover Golden Dryandra Ochre Trail. Photo – DBCA
Numbat with nesting sticks. Photo – John Lawson.



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Information current at June 2023.
Information available in alternative formats on request.

Dryandra Woodland National Park

A gateway to the Wheatbelt



Visitor guide



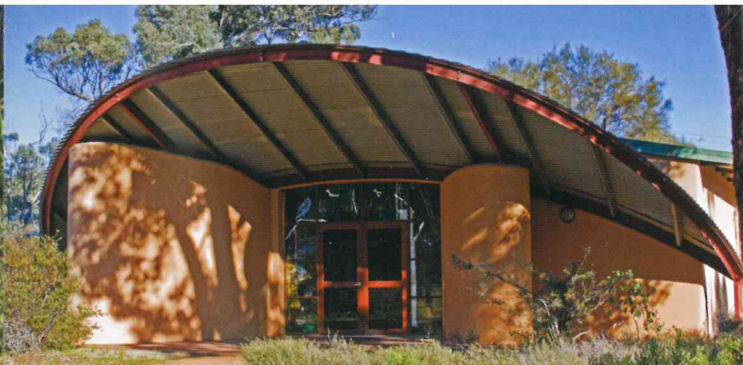
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Above Communities and adaptations. Photo – DBCA

Above Barna Mia Nocturnal Animal Sanctuary building. Photo – John Lawson

Above Barna Mia tour, mala chases bilby. Photo – Gary Tate.

Welcome to the delights of Dryandra Woodland

Dryandra Woodland National Park, 30km north of Narrogin and less than two hours south-east of Perth by road, is a valuable nature conservation area. Although fragmented, it comprises 17 blocks of woodland totaling 28,000ha with a main block of 12,000ha. It features the largest area of remnant vegetation in the western Wheatbelt and forms part of an international biodiversity 'hotspot' where more than 850 species of plants can be seen. With less than seven percent of this original vegetation remaining in the western Wheatbelt, Dryandra Woodland is of critical conservation importance and offers fantastic recreation opportunities.

The woodland of wandoo, kwongan (the Aboriginal word for heath and shrublands), mallee, sheoak thickets and plantations of brown mallet is home to the numbat, Western Australia's state fauna emblem. It is also home to other threatened and remarkable fauna such as the red-tailed phascogale, woylie, western grey kangaroo, tammar wallaby, brushtail possum and echidna as well as a diverse variety of reptiles and insects.

Birdwatching is a popular activity at Dryandra with spectacular birds such as Carnaby's cockatoo finding the woodlands to be the perfect habitat as well as rare or uncommon birds such as bush stone curlew and rufous tree creeper.

The Dryandra Woodland ecology centre (Irabina), situated next to the historic Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, is the perfect base for classroom activities. School-based activities are available during school terms and aim to increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity. Bookings for activities are essential: (08) 9881 9200 or email narrogin@dbca.wa.gov.au.

Other activities include camping, picnicking and walking. There is a network of walk trails, a 23km drive trail and with more than 25 mammal, 100 bird and 50 reptile species there is plenty of wildlife to encounter while exploring the woodlands.

Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience

Nestled in the heart of Dryandra Woodland National Park, Barna Mia is a native animal sanctuary where threatened animals can be seen in a natural habitat.

Take an unforgettable guided tour after dusk and learn about the natural, cultural, historical and forest industry aspects of the woodland followed by an exciting close-up encounter with nocturnal native animals. Using special red-filtered torches in the 4ha enclosure you may see marsupials such as the bilby, boodie, mala, woylie, quenda, marl and possum.

Above Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience building. Photo – John Lawson

Below left Woylie. Photo – John Lawson **Below right** Bilby. Photo – Gerald Lorenz

Bottom left Mala. Photo – Gerald Lorenz.

Bottom right Boodie and Joey. Photo – John Lawson



Tour information

April to November: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (except for public holidays).

December to March: Friday and Saturday (except for public holidays).

Group bookings: can be organised by prior arrangement.

Tour duration: 1½ - 2 hours.

Start times vary seasonally and admission charges apply. For current fees go to exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/site/barna-mia-nocturnal-wildlife-experience

Bookings are essential. Contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Narrogin office on (08) 9881 9200 before 4.30pm Monday to Friday or, for a same-day tour on Saturday, call Dryandra Country Visitor Centre on (08) 9881 2064 or consult the information panels at Old Mill Dam, Congelin or Gnaala Mia campgrounds.

Many of Western Australia's native mammals have been lost from their former habitats due to predation by cats and foxes, cleared vegetation and changed fire regimes. Preservation of Dryandra Woodland enables several native species to survive.

The Parks and Wildlife Service's Western Shield conservation program aims to eliminate introduced predators, thereby protecting and conserving remnant indigenous animal species.

Barna Mia is home to six species of marsupial; bilby, boodie, mala, quenda, woylie and marl, which live in two 4ha enclosures that keep out introduced predators.



Above Lions Dryandra Woodland Village accommodation. *Photo – John Lawson* **Above Sign, Far right** Gnaala Mia campground. *Photos – DBCA*

Below Gnaala Mia campground. **Right** Congelin campground. *Photos – DBCA*

Camping, accommodation and picnic areas

Congelin and Gnaala Mia campgrounds are situated in tranquil bushland settings within Dryandra Woodland National Park with designated sites for caravans, campervans and tents. The basic facilities include a camp kitchen, open fire barbecue rings and picnic tables. Please bring your own drinking water. Camping fees apply, visit parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au for details.

Affordable and comfortable accommodation is available at the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village. For information contact the caretakers at Lions Dryandra Woodland Village on (08) 9884 5231 or visit dryandravillage.org.au/accommodation.

There are picnic areas at Old Mill Dam, the Arboretum, Congelin Dam, Contine Hill and Lol Gray.

Mobile phone reception is limited.

Supplies and fuel are available from Narrogin or Cuballing.



Below Contine Hill lookout. **Right** Darwinia Drive Trail Powder Bark. *Photos – DBCA*



Other sites in the western Wheatbelt

Toolibin Lake

Toolibin Lake is located approximately 2.5 hours south-east of Perth by road and 20km south-east from the town of Wickiepin. The lake is situated in the upper reaches of the Blackwood River.

The cycle of wetting and drying has formed a wooded wetland with large stands of paperbarks and sheoaks across the floor of the lake. This type of vegetation association is listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

Toolibin Lake provides an excellent breeding and feeding habitat for waterfowl when filled with water and is recognised as a Wetland of International Significance under the Ramsar convention.

A recreation site with toilets, barbecue and seating is the starting point for the walk that winds across the lake floor with interpretive panels providing information about the lake along the way. On the walk you will see the sheltered beauty of the lake floor vegetation, the stark reality of the impact of salinity on biodiversity and the actions being implemented by the Parks and Wildlife Service to conserve this internationally recognised lake such as groundwater pumping and the installation of a channel to divert highly saline water away from the lake.

Also within the catchment are the Dingerlin, Dulbining and Walbyring nature reserves where you can see acacia and eucalyptus woodlands, melaleuca shrublands and heathland vegetation.

Spring is the best time to visit Toolibin Lake for the annual explosion of colourful wildflowers and for birdwatching.



Left Toolibin paperbark and sheoak. *Photo – DBCA.*

Above Echidna. *Photo – John Lawson*

Boyagin Nature Reserve

Boyagin Nature Reserve is located approximately two hours south-east of Perth by road and 25km to the west of Pingelly township. The reserve is dominated by an imposing granite outcrop known by the Noongar people as Boodjin. The surrounding landscape is spectacular and comprises remnant bushland, heath, sheoak thickets and open woodlands with a wide variety of eucalyptus species such as wandoo, marri and york gums. This 'rock' has significant cultural and spiritual meaning for the local Noongar people.

Boyagin Nature Reserve provides an important refuge for a variety of wildlife including numbats, echidnas, tammar wallabies, goannas and other reptiles. It is also a place of great beauty in spring with unique wildflowers tempting bushwalkers, photographers, bird watchers and picnickers to escape, experience, encounter and explore.

Below Boyagin rock. *Photo – DBCA*





Above Ochre Trail. Photo – DBCA

Trails

Parks and Wildlife has developed a series of bush walks and a drive trail within Dryandra Woodland.

Walk trails range from easy to medium, with distances from 1km to 12.5km. A night walk trail with reflective markers offers visitors the chance to see woodland mammals and birds that are active at night, such as woylies, tamar wallabies, brushtail possums, tawny frogmouths and owls.

Refer to the walk trail guide to help select a walk suitable for you.

Walk trail classification guide



This symbol indicates an easy well-defined walk trail with a firm surface. You may encounter gentle hill sections and occasional steps.



This symbol indicates a moderate walk trail with clear directional signage. You may encounter minor hazards such as short steep sections, steps, shallow water crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces.



Ochre Trail
5km return 2 hours Class 3
Discover the Aboriginal heritage of Dryandra with interpretive signs explaining aspects of the local Noongar culture, including an ochre pit. Start near the Arboretum on Tomingley Road.



Woylie Walk
5.5km return 2 hours Class 3
This walk takes you through woodlands of wandoo, powderbark, kwongan heathlands, jarrah and stands of rock sheoak. Look for signs of woylie diggings in the area and numbats searching for underground termites. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.



Wandoo Walk (night walk)
1km return 30 minutes Class 2
(1.5 hours for extended walk)

A short night walk with markers that reflect torchlight. Look for nocturnal animals such as woylies, tamar wallabies, brushtail possums, tawny frog-mouths and owls. During the day this walk can be extended and offers bird-watching opportunities in woodland and heath vegetation. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.



Lol Gray Loop
3.2km return 1.5 hours Class 3

Walk through kwongan heath where pygmy possums and honeyeater birds find the flowers irresistible. Start from the Lol Gray picnic area and follow the old telegraph line.



Kawana Walk
3.3km return 1.5 hours Class 2

A short walk ideal for families. Crossing from brown mallet plantation to kwongan heath and back offering great opportunities for spotting birds, echidnas and beautiful dryandras. Start opposite the playground in the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village settlement.



Congelin Siding Walk
1.6km return 40 minutes Class 2

Follow the old Pinjarra to Narrogin railway line that was constructed in 1925 and known as the Hotham Valley Branch (Dwarda line). Signs interpret many of the remaining features still visible along the line. Start from the Congelin Dam picnic site or Congelin campground.



Fire Tower Walk
450m 15 minutes Class 2

This short walk meanders around east Contine Hill, a laterite breakaway that was the ideal site for the lookout towers used during the summer fire season by Forestry staff known as 'spotters'. The remains of two historical fire lookout towers can be found along this walk and in spring diverse floral displays enjoyed. Start from the Contine Hill picnic area information shelter.



Breakaway Walk
1km return 30 minutes Class 2



Above Ochre Trail, Photo – DBCA

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Wandoo Walk (day walk)

2.7km return 1.5 hours Class 3



During the day the night walk can be extended and offers bird-watching opportunities in woodland and heath vegetation. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.



Lol Gray Trail

12.5km return 4 hours Class 3

See the diverse vegetation types and enjoy spectacular views over Dryandra near the old Lol Gray tree fire tower, which was built in 1930 and used by the Forest Department as a lookout for fires. The trail leads to the Lol Gray picnic area where the foundations of the Lol Gray School can be located nearby. Start in the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, opposite the playground.



Lol Gray Loop

3.2km return 1.5 hours Class 3

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Breakaway Walk

1km return 30 minutes Class 3

Enjoy spectacular expansive views revealing the contrast between nature conservation and agricultural areas while walking along the edge of this small eroding escarpment that reminds us of the landscape that existed before it was cleared. After a short descent the loop trail meanders through various plant communities, granite outcrops and soft sheoak thickets before ascending the hill. Start from the Contine Hill picnic car park.



Darwinia Drive

23km drive

Interpretive information at the five pull-over bays in the heart of Dryandra Woodland reveals the complexity and interdependence of natural systems, including specific relationships such as woylies and sandalwood. Bring a picnic lunch and at stop five take a short walk to search for orchids near the granite outcrop. Start from the Old Mill Dam information shelter and turn on to Gura Road. Look for the symbol along the drive.