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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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DIEBACK - HELP STOP THE ROT

Dieback is a plant disease caused by a fungus group called *Phytophthora*. The fungus is microscopic and lives in the soil. Plants die when the fungus attacks their roots. The roots rot and cannot take up water or nutrients.

Vehicles spread this fungus, so it is essential to keep to formed roads and follow road signs in national parks.

Bushwalkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve.

STIRLING RANGE WALKS

All walks are steep so allow yourself plenty of time. Times given are rough estimates only. Distances are there and back.

- ❖ Bluff Knoll, 3 hrs, 6 km
- ❖ Toolbrunup Peak, 3 hrs, 4 km
- ❖ Mt Trio, 2 hrs, 3 km
- ❖ Mt Hassell, 2 hrs, 4 km

PORONGURUP RANGE WALKS

- ❖ Millinup Pass, 2 hrs, 3.3 km. One way.
(Access from Porongurup Rd only)
- ❖ Castle Rock, 2 hrs, 1.5 km.
- ❖ Wansbrough Walk, 2 hrs, 4 km. Across the Range.
- ❖ Devil's Slide and Marmabup Rock, 3 hrs, 2.5 km. Follow Wansbrough Walk from Tree-in-the-Rock, then turn off to the right.
- ❖ Hayward and Nancy peaks, 3 hrs, 5.5 km. A loop trail leaves from Tree-in-the-Rock and climbs steeply to the crest of the Range. Return via Wansbrough Walk.

REMEMBER

- ❖ **Be careful:** Your safety in natural areas is our concern, but your responsibility.
- ❖ **Be clean:** Put your litter in the bins, or better still, take it with you.
- ❖ **Protect animals and plants:** No firearms or pets, please. All native plants and animals are protected.
- ❖ **Stay on the road:** Follow signs and stay on the roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply.
- ❖ **Be prepared:** Always carry water.
- ❖ **No vehicle or foot access** to special conservation areas without a permit from the Ranger.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Officers from the Department of Conservation and Land Management are always glad to help. Don't hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

Stirling Range National Park,
Chester Pass Road,
R.M.B. 557, Borden 6338.
Tel: (08) 9827 9230 or (08) 9827 9278

Porongurup National Park,
Bolganup Road RMB 1310,
Mt Barker 6324.
Tel: (08) 9853 1095

South Coast Regional Office,
120 Albany Hwy,
Albany WA 6330.
Tel: (08) 9842 4500

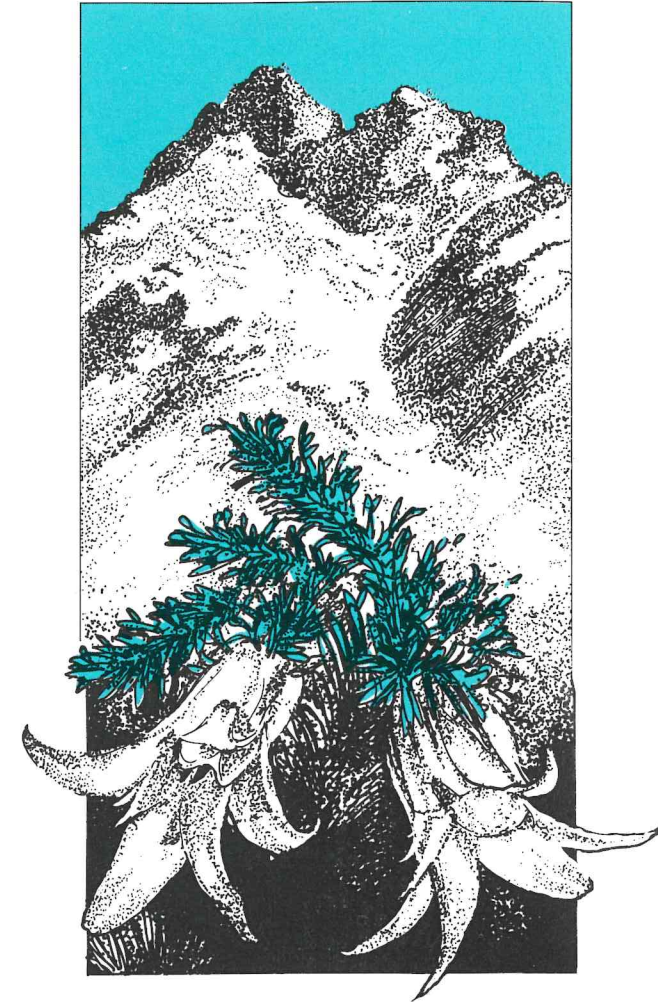
State Headquarters
17 Dick Perry Avenue,
Kensington WA 6151.
Tel: (08) 9334 0333

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STIRLING RANGE AND PORONGURUP

National Parks



From the rolling plains of WA's Great Southern agricultural district, two mountain ranges rise like islands from a flat sea-floor. The Stirling Range and Porongurup National Parks protect these two extraordinary landscapes and their inhabitants.

The ranges are islands in more than just the descriptive sense. They are also ecological islands which provide a climate and conditions very different from that of the surrounding lowlands.

Each range has its own distinctive character and unique set of animals and plants.

About 80 km north of Albany, the rugged peaks of the Stirling Range rise abruptly to more than 1 000 m above sea-level. East-west they stretch for more than 65 km. Stark cliff faces, magnificent views, and a plant-life which varies from tiny orchids and heathland to beautiful flowering gums are all part of the Stirlings.

Forty kilometres south of the Stirlings, the Porongurup Range rears its granite domes. Although only 12 km long, and 670 m at its highest point, the Porongurup Range is renowned for its beauty. The range is clothed in a luxuriant forest of giant karri trees, and the forest understorey puts on a brilliant display of wildflowers during spring and early summer.

Winter (June-August) is cold and wet, and visitors should come prepared. Even in spring the weather can be unpredictable, particularly higher in the ranges. Sudden cold changes can cause the temperature to drop and rain or hail to set in. The Stirlings are one of the few places in WA where snow occasionally falls.

An ideal time to visit is late spring and early summer (October-December) when days are beginning to warm up, and the wildflowers are at their best.

MOUNTAIN BELLS AND THE STIRLING RANGE

Bluff Knoll, the highest peak in the Stirling Range, is 1073 metres above sea level. Because of its height, and proximity to the south coast, the climate in the range differs from that of the surrounding district. As a result a great variety of wildflowers thrive here.

More than 1500 species of flowering plants occur naturally in the range, and of these 82 are endemic.

The most beautiful and unusual plants in the area are the Darwinias, or mountain bells. Ten species of mountain bells have so far been identified in the Park, only one of which is known to grow outside the Stirling Range. Mountain bells are usually found above the 300 metre contour level on acid sandy clay soil. Each species occurs in a well defined area, either on one particular peak, on several peaks, or in the valleys between them.

The range was formed more than 1000 million years ago when this area was a shallow sea and sediment was deposited on the granite lowland. After the sea receded, the area of the range sank. The surrounding area gradually eroded back to basic granite and the Range was slowly uplifted, eventually weathering to its present form. The Chester and Red Gum Passes mark the courses of rivers that flowed south during the early stages of formation. Ripple marks can still be seen on the exposed rock.

Information shelters in the Park will tell you more about the plant and animal life of the area, and help guide you to sites of interest.

PORONGURUP RANGE - AN ISLAND OF KARRI

The granite from which the Porongurup Range is formed is more than 1 100 million years old, and has been exposed by the slow weathering of the softer rocks surrounding the Range.

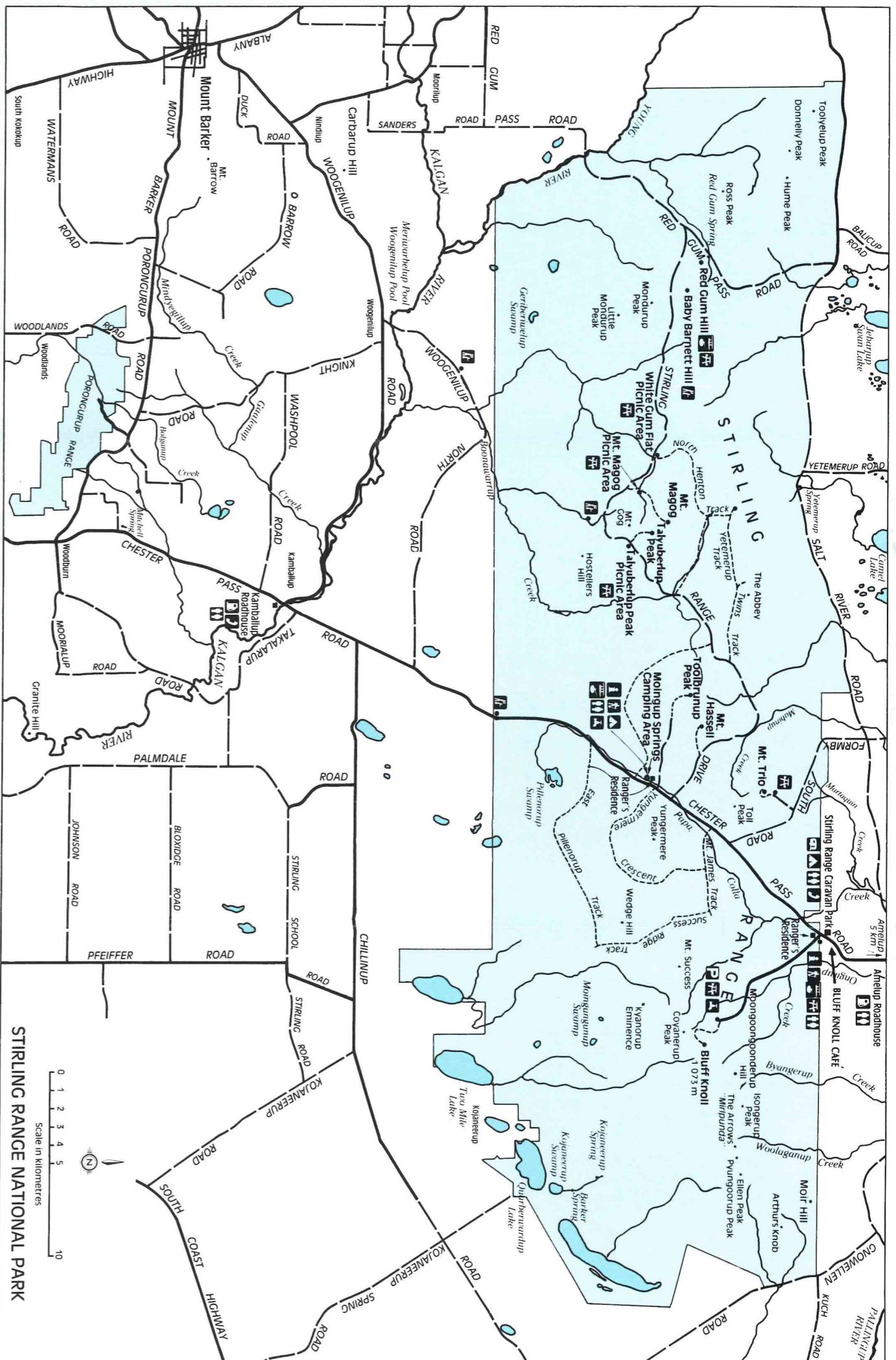
The karri trees which cover the upper slopes of the Range grow exclusively on a deep red soil known as karri loam, but they also need at least 700 mm of rain a year.

Fossil pollen found in many places throughout the South West indicates that in an earlier, wetter era karri forest grew far beyond its present extent. As the climate became drier the forest gradually retreated west to its present stronghold between Manjimup and Walpole. In places where the soil was right, and the rainfall remained high enough, small outliers survived. The Porongurup Range is one such island of karri forest.

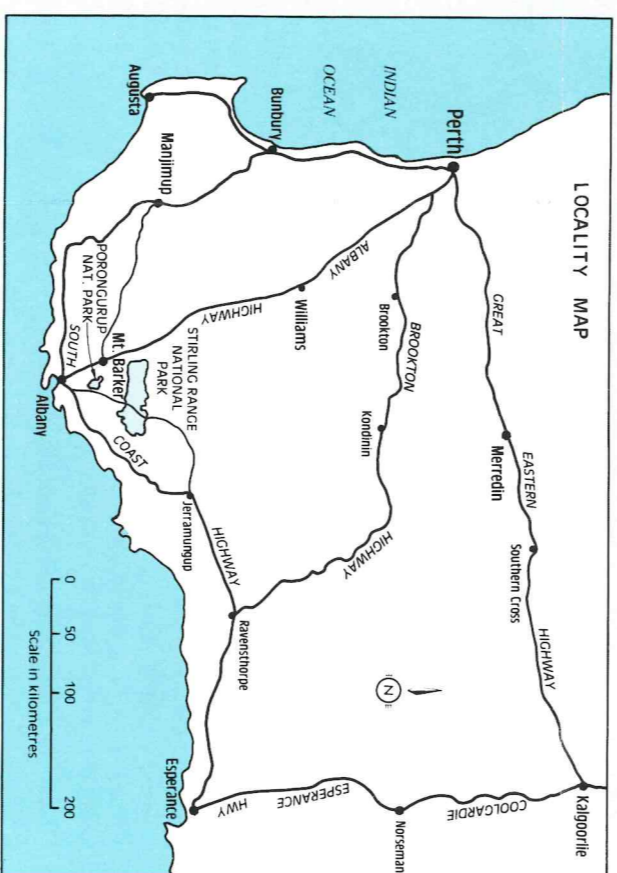
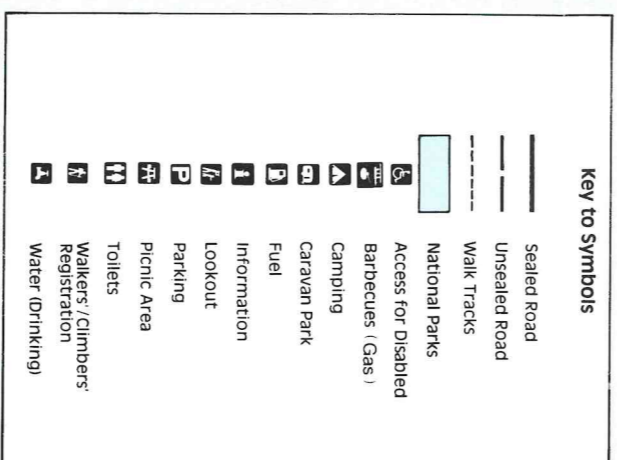
Many of the understorey flowers and shrubs and their dependent fauna, typical of the main belt of karri forest, have also survived here.

Most native animals are nocturnal, but while in the Park you may see western grey kangaroos and brush wallabies. Common near the picnic sites are birds such as the rufous tree-creeper, and brilliant scarlet and yellow robins.





STIRLING RANGE NATIONAL PARK



LOCALITY MAP

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Basic facilities such as bush toilets, tables, and tap water are provided at places shown on the maps. Information shelters on site will tell you more about the parks.

Entry fees apply.

CAMPING

In the Stirling Range, camping is permitted at Moingup Springs only (see map). Camp fees can be paid to the Ranger. Outside the National Park, the Stirling Range Caravan Park on Chester Pass Road provides full facilities.

Camping is not permitted in the Porongurup Range. There are other facilities, including a caravan park, outside the park. Other accommodation is available in towns nearby. Contact Holiday WA centres and visitor information centres.

BUSHWALKS

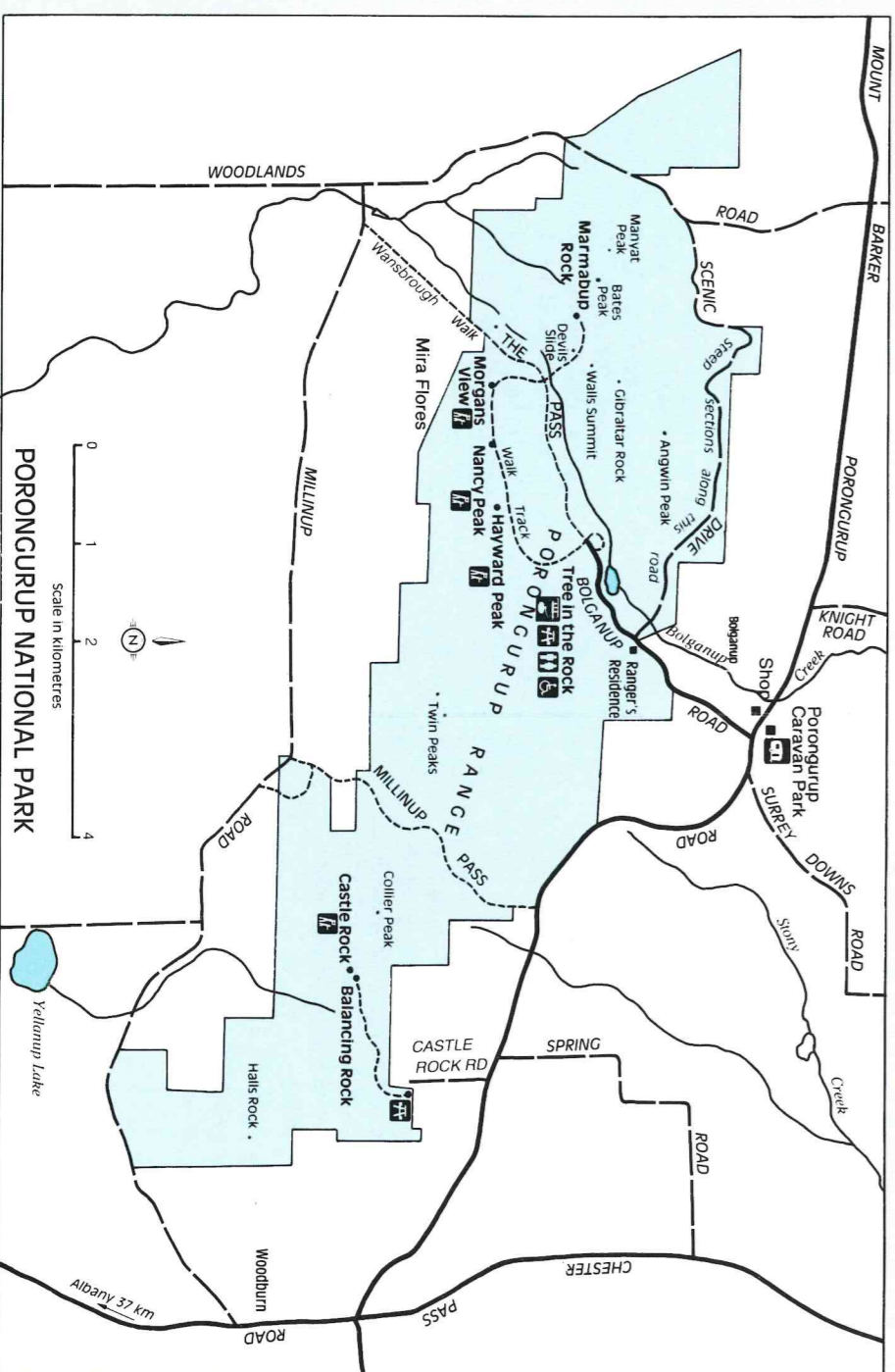
Walking is a great way to discover the parks.

To help you explore the Porongurup Range, walks start at both picnic areas. Features include views over the range, karri forest and spring wildflowers.

In the Stirling Range some peaks have paths leading from parking areas to the top. Breathtaking views and a close look at an intriguing environment will be your reward.

- ❖ Always carry drinking water.
- ❖ Be prepared for sudden changes in the weather.
- ❖ Long trousers, stout shoes, and long-sleeved shirts are recommended: the bush can be very prickly.

If you intend to walk long distances or hike overnight, there are log books at Moingup Springs camping area and Bluff Knoll picnic site. Enter your name, the number in your party, your destination and route, and your estimated time of return. In case of trouble this information will assist search parties.



PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK