

BADGINGARRA NATIONAL PARK

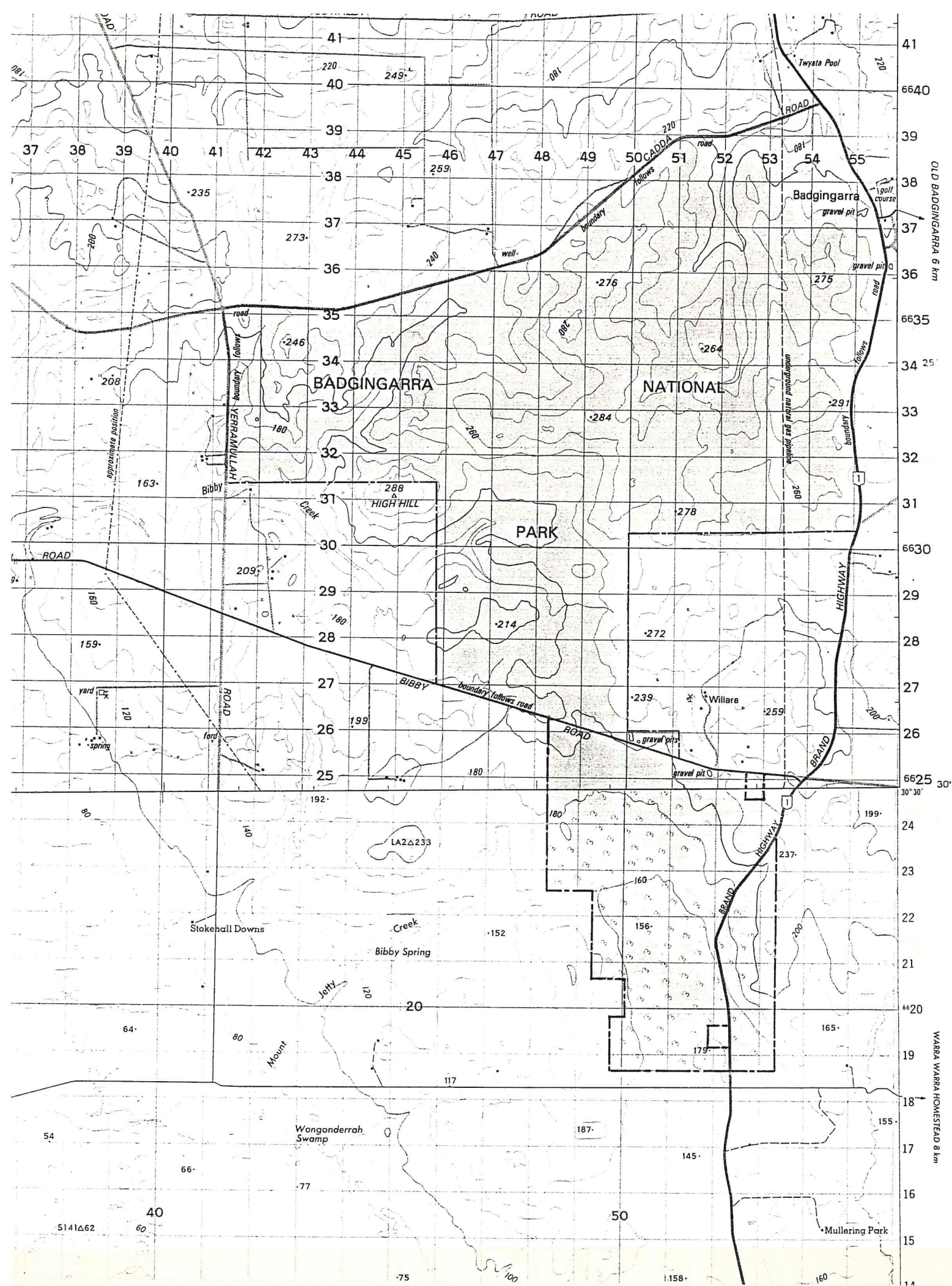
This Park is an A Class Reserve No. 31809, of about 13,121 hectares for National Park, under the control of the National Parks Authority of Western Australia. It consists of undulating lateritic hills and sandy valleys in one of the best wildflower areas in the State. The flora includes excellent populations of Black Kangaroo Paw (Macropidia fuliginosa), and their protection is an important purpose of the reserve.

The banksia family, Proteaceae, is especially well represented here by many species of Banksia, Dryandra, Hakea, Grevillea, and other genera. One Banksia species is at present unnamed. Two species of unusual interest are Hakea flabellifolia and Strangea cynanchicarpa; the latter is one of two southwestern species of Strangea whose nearest relatives occur in north-eastern Queensland and New South Wales.

The flora includes the main population of a rare mallee, Eucalyptus pendens. This is a slender, graceful species very different from other eucalypts in the region and it is important that a natural seed source be preserved.

At the southern end of this area, on the east side of the highway, is Reserve No. 27216 for Recreation, Conservation of Flora. Within it is a smaller Reserve No. 12473 for Water. Mullering Brook passes through both reserves. It is a shallow valley with swampy floor rather than a distinct streamline, and contains swamp-loving species which do not occur on the surrounding higher ground. Among these is an isolated outlier of an as yet unnamed Banksia species, the northernmost record of the species.

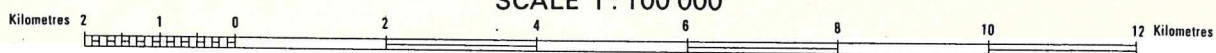
The Brand Highway from Perth through Eneabba to Geraldton passes through the area. The Badgingarra National Park provides almost 80 km of readily accessible and spectacular wildflower country along and near the highway.



OLD BADGINGARRA 6 km

WARRA WARRA HOMESTEAD 8 km

SCALE 1 : 100 000



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BADGINGARRA NATIONAL PARK

1. Badgingarra National Park as part of a system of National Parks.

The sandplains north of Perth being between the Darling scarp and the coast support a very diverse and rich fauna and flora assemblage with many elements restricted to the area. There is a marked east-west transition from woodlands through various heathlands to coastal type communities. The north-south transition is less marked but is also important. Much of the area has been cleared and clearing continues.

A system of eight National Parks conserves selected areas representing a range of the communities of the sand plains covering both the east west and the north south transitions. Thus each of these National Parks is important as a self contained unit and as part of a system of parks. Badgingarra National Park is a key reserve in this system.

As a result of the Conservation through Reserves Committee recommendations to the Environmental Protection Authority, that Authority recommended to Cabinet that the area of Badgingarra National Park should be substantially increased. This recommendation was endorsed by Cabinet on 20th October 1976.

2. The significance of Badgingarra National Park, and especially the area in the vicinity of High Hill.

Badgingarra National Park consists largely of heathlands on laterite hills and sandy valleys. It is noted for its large number of wildflowers species, many of which are rare including excellent populations of the Black Kangaroo Paw, *Macropidia fuliginosa*. It also contains an important population of *Banksia sphaerocarpa*. Although the latter species is widespread it is very variable and Badgingarra National Park contains a number of diverse forms. The study of these forms will be important in the study of the species. Both species grow on the claim area.

The claim area includes near its centre a series of valleys containing Eucalypt/Banksia woodlands. This woodland is rare in the area. At the lower end of the claim area, these valleys coalesce and support swampy vegetation including Flooded Gum, *Eucalyptus rudis*, Swamp Banksia, *B. littoralis*,

Golden spray, *Viminaria juncea* and Paper barks, *Melaleuca* spp. (probably *M. preissiana*) as well as other species that are restricted to swampy situations. This swampy area is unique in Badgingarra National Park and of considerable regional significance.

There have been very few detailed studies of the fauna of this Park but recent studies of the reptiles have shown an unusually rich assemblage and some very rare species in the vicinity of High Hill. One study area of 100 m x 100 m contained no fewer than 22 species of lizard, making it one of the richest assemblages outside the tropical and desert regions. The two species, *Aclys concinna* and *Pletholax gracilis* are considered very rare elsewhere and one species, *Lerista christinae* was new to science and is still known only from the one specimen collected during this study.

No fewer than seven Honey-eaters (and their allies) and twelve other species of birds have been recorded near High Hill. This list is doubtless far from complete but is indicative of the diversity of birds. Several of the species requires large areas of uncleared land. Bustards have become increasingly rare as clearing has reduced their habitat. Badgingarra is probably a sufficiently large area to support this species but any reduction could affect its survival in the region.

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SPECIES OF LIZARDS AND BIRDS RECORDED IN THE VICINITY
OF HIGH HILL, BADGINGARRA NATIONAL PARK

LIZARDS

Aclys concinna
Amphibolurus minor
Amphibolurus adelaidensis
Cryptoblepharus plagiocephalus
Ctenotus fallens
Ctenotus impar
Ctenotus pantherinus
Delma sp.
Diplodactylus spinigerus
Diplodactylus "vittatus"
Egernia multiscutata
Egernia napoleonis
Gehyra variegata
Lerista christinae
Lerista elegans
Phyllodactylus marmoratus
Menetia greyii
Morethia obscura
Lialis burtonis
Pletholax gracilis
Pygopus lepidopodus
Tiliqua occipitalis
Tiliqua rugosa
Varanus gouldi

BIRDS

<i>Phylidonyris melanops</i>	Tawny-crowned honeyeater
<i>Phylidonyris nigra</i>	White-cheeked honeyeater
<i>Lichenostomus virescens</i>	Singing honeyeater
<i>Lichmera indistincta</i>	Brown honeyeater
<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>	Brown-headed honeyeater
<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>	Red wattlebird
<i>Acanthorhynchus superciliosus</i>	Western spinebill
<i>Melanodryas cucullata</i>	Hooded robin
<i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i>	Horsefield bronze cuckoo
<i>Acanthiza inornata</i>	Western thornbill
<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	Yellow-tailed thornbill
<i>Epthianura albifrons</i>	White-fronted chat
<i>Eupodotis australis</i>	Bustard
<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>	Rufous whistler
<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Pipit
<i>Petroica multicolor</i>	Scarlet robin
<i>Lalage sueurii</i>	White-winged triller
<i>Gerygone fusca</i>	Western warbler
<i>Corvus coronoides</i>	Raven