

THE FLORA OF THE YALGORUP NATIONAL PARK

The Yalgorup National Park is the only National Park which includes the transition zones from coastal fore-dunes to the mature tuart forest, and because of this it occupies a unique place amongst our Parks. It was created especially for the protection of this environment.

The northern section of the Park embraces some four miles of coastline. The adjacent fore-dunes are covered with Spinifex and rushes, and merge into the more consolidated areas carrying shrubs and annual herbs. Prominent amongst the perennials are rosemary (Olearia axillaris), Scaevola nitida, Spyridium globulosum and several species of wattles. Smaller plants such as prickly salt wort, sea spinach, evening primrose and pigface occupy the spaces between the shrubs, and together these plants provide an almost complete cover over the ground.

The most significant aspect of this dune vegetation is the very close association which it has with the flora of the drier desert areas. A number of plants which are normally found in the interior also occur in a narrow strip of coastal dune country. Amongst these species are the quandong, Pittosporum, Leschenaultia, ruby saltbush and camel bush. The occurrence of these plants in this unusual environment is of very great scientific interest and it is only in this reserve that they are likely to be preserved for future study.

To the east, the dune vegetation merges into the banksia and tuart woodland. These areas are dominated by trees with an understorey principally of Acacia, but including many other shrubby species.

Within the area of the Park are several large lakes surrounded by dense beds of reeds which extend out into the low lying swampy surrounds. Flooded gum and species of tea trees form thickets around the reedy areas, creating an ..

...environment which is of particular significance for water fowl.

The area generally contains a great number of wildflowers, and in season it is as attractive as any other of our noted wildflower areas. The best known of the flowers are wattles, Pimelea, native buttercup, Rottnest daisy and tangle daisy, together with a number of orchids.

As a reserved area this Park provides a considerable tourist attraction, and in years to come it will probably be the only extensive area of this particular environment left for the enjoyment of the people.

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