W.A. Heritage Trails Network
A Bicentennial Project for Community Participation

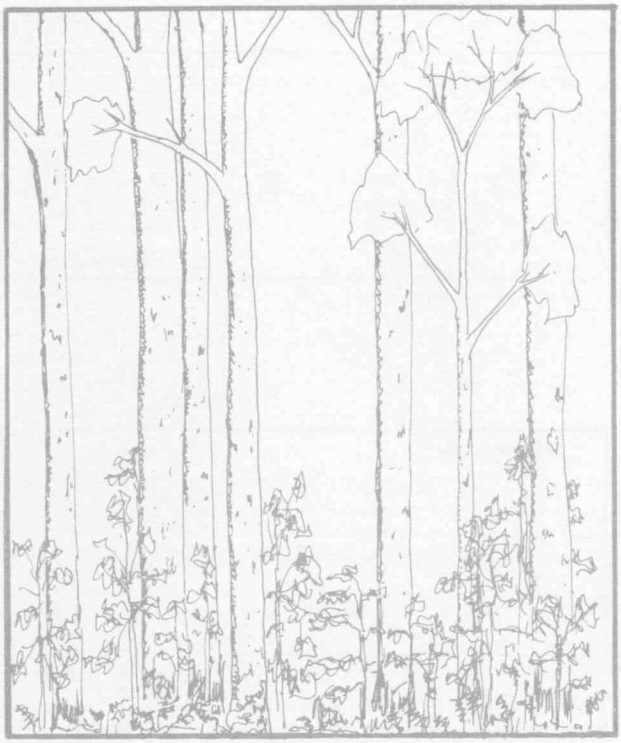
The Bolganup Heritage Trail is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee. To commemorate the 1988 Bicentenary, the project established a statewide network of Heritage Trails - routes designed to enhance awareness and enjoyment of Western Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

The Heritage Trails Network was jointly funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program.

Bolganup Heritage Trail is one of nine trails in the South Coast Network. A guidebook with detailed information on the history and natural heritage of the South Coast is available from the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the Heritage Trails Committee.

Bolganup Heritage Trail

PORONGURUP NATIONAL PARK



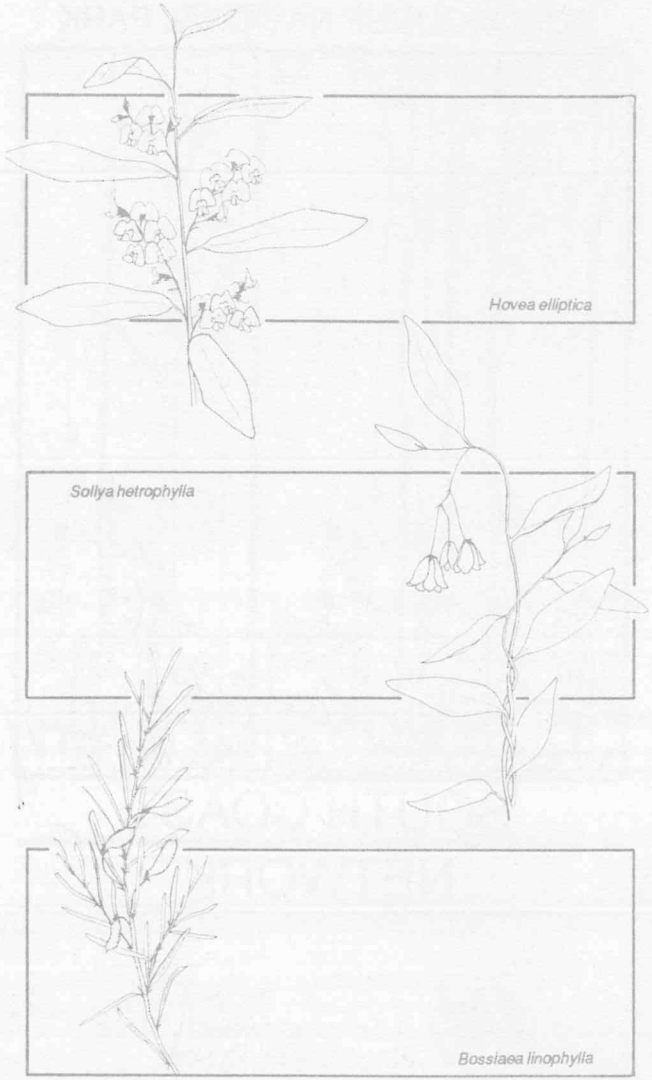
SOUTH COAST NETWORK

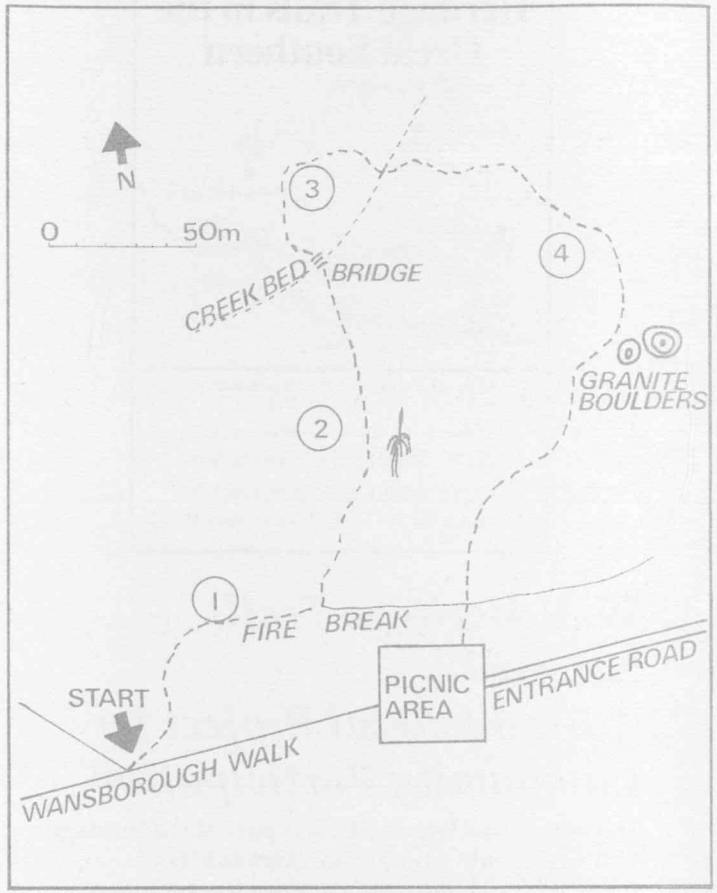
Australia 1788-1988
A Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Project

Bolganup Heritage Trail

Welcome to Bolganup Heritage Trail, and forests that are unique to the south-west of Australia.

This well-graded 800 m loop leaves from the picnic area. Allow at least 30 minutes. You will make many discoveries by sitting quietly, listening and looking.





Further reading

A.B. & J.W. Cribb — Useful Wild Plants in Australia Collins (1982).

Erickson et al. — Flowers and Plants of Western Australia Reed (1979).

P. Slater et al. — Slater's Field Guide to Australian Birds Rigby (1986).

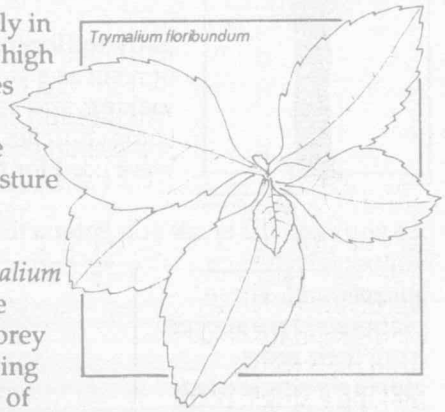
ONE-Birds abound here.

One of the most striking is the Rufous Treecreeper, easily identified by its colour and its habit of jumping up tree trunks. Other common birds in the area are illustrated on the middle pages. Some of the smaller birds may respond inquisitively to sucking noises.

Look up! It is easy to see why karri *(Eucalyptus diversicolor)* is an important timber, and once favoured for large structures like bridges and wharves.

Early settlers used the bark as a source of tannin for curing leather, a material that was indispensable in the days of horse travel.

Karri is the tallest tree in Western Australia, sometimes reaching 80 m. The trees here are about 40 m. Though karri usually occurs only in areas with a very high rainfall, it survives here in sheltered gullies and where there is more moisture from runoff.

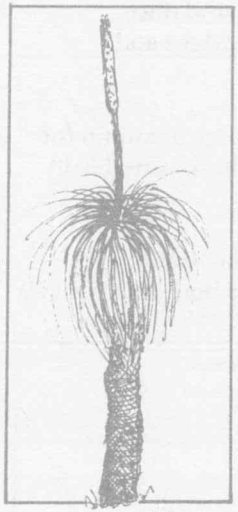


Karri hazel *(Trymalium floribundum)* is the common understorey shrub here. In spring the area is a blaze of colour with the purple of the tree hovea *(Hovea elliptica)*, blue of Australia bluebell *(Sollya heterophylla)* and yellow of the pea flowering *Bossiaea linophylla.*

TWO-Firebreak to bridge

As you leave the firebreak you'll notice the appearance of some different plants, such as the beard heath *(Leucopogon revoltus)*, so called because of the hair-like fringes inside the petals. You are at the edge of the karri forest and plants common to drier areas are appearing.

Leucopogon revoltus



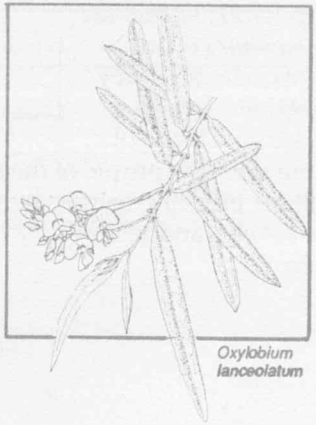
Xanthorrhoea preissii

Nature's Superglue

Look at the trunk of the blackboy *(Xanthorrhoea preissii)*. These globules of resin were an important item of trade for the local Aborigines. They used it as an adhesive for spear tips and axe heads. When heated the resin is pliable, but sets very hard when cooled.

Early settlers used the globules of resin as a varnish, in soap making, and as an incense in some churches. Blackboy leaves were used for thatching roofs.

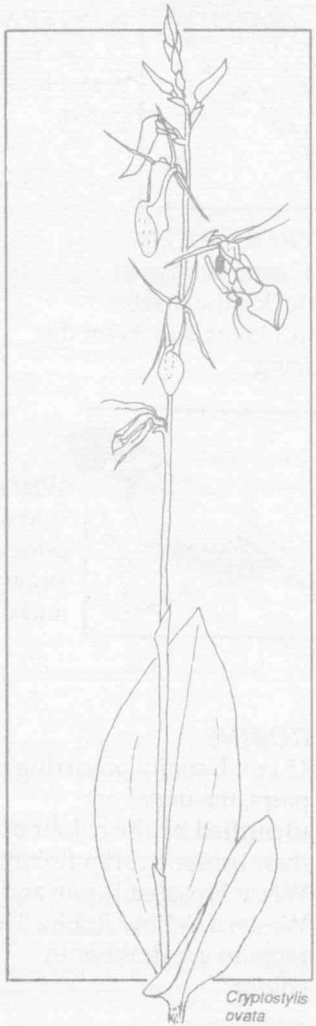
As you near the creek you enter a thicket of native willow *(Oxylobium lanceolatum)*. These plants send up suckers from their roots, making a single plant look like several.



Oxylobium lanceolatum

Have you noticed there are fewer plant species here? The tall saw sedge *(Lepidosperma gladiatum)* is one of the few plants that can tolerate the low light.

Another plant that thrives in the dim light of this thicket is the slipper orchid *(Cryptostylis ovata)*. Identifiable by its large leaf with a purplish underside, this plant may flower for up to seven months.



Cryptostylis ovata

A Confidence Trickster

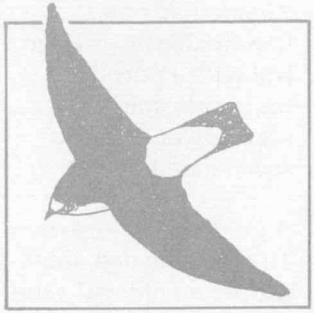
To get pollinated, the slipper orchid tricks the male ichneumon wasp *(Lissopimpla semipunctata)* into thinking the flower is a female wasp. The deception lies not in looks but in smell. The flower produces a chemical attractant similar to that of the flightless female wasp. Males, by alighting and embracing many flowers, transfer pollen from one plant to another.

Do you see any wasps being fooled?

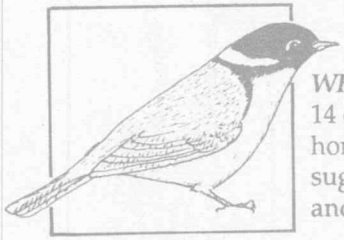
This isn't the only surprise the slipper orchid has. The seed of all orchids are so small that there are not enough food reserves for further development. Instead, the orchid joins partnership with a fungi, and these fungi provide nutrition until the leaves are large enough to produce their own food through photosynthesis.

Common birds

WESTERN ROSELLA
28 cm. The male has a bright red breast and head, the female is a duller green.

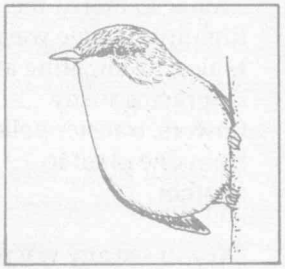


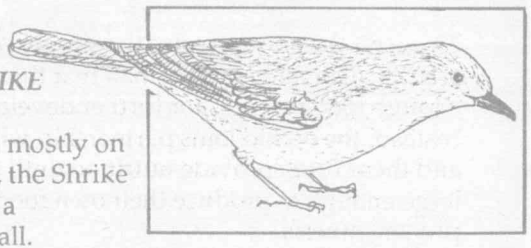
TREE MARTIN
12 cm. Always in flocks, the martin hunts for insects on the wing.



WHITE NAPED HONEYEATER
14 cm. Crumbs aside, this honeyeater feeds mainly on the sugary secretion of leaf insects and damaged leaves.

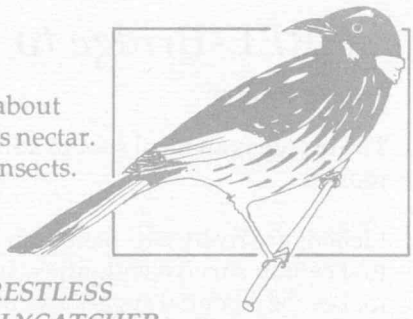
ROBINS
15 cm. Usually occurring in pairs, the males are identified by the colour of their breast: Scarlet Robin, White Breasted Robin and Western Yellow Robin. The females are drabber in colour.





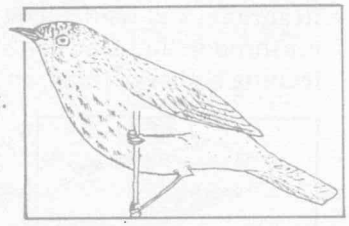
GREY SHRIKE THRUSH
22 cm. Seen mostly on the ground, the Shrike Thrush has a delightful call.

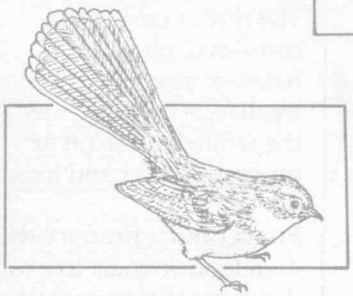
NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATER
18 cm. Found just about everywhere there is nectar. They also feed on insects.



RESTLESS FLYCATCHER
20 cm. Also called a scissor grinder - referring to one of its calls. More commonly heard is a loud quirking noise.

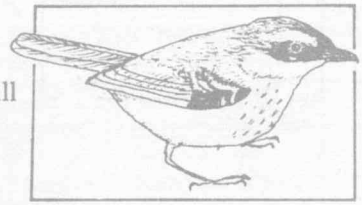
BROAD TAILED THORNBILL
10 cm. Occurring in flocks, this Thornbill frequents the mid to upper areas of the forest.





GREY FANTAIL
16 cm. A very friendly bird that will frequently follow you, catching the insects you disturb.

WHITE BROWED SCRUBWREN
13 cm. See if you can call this inquisitive bird up by making sucking or squeaking noises.



THREE-Bridge to Creek crossing

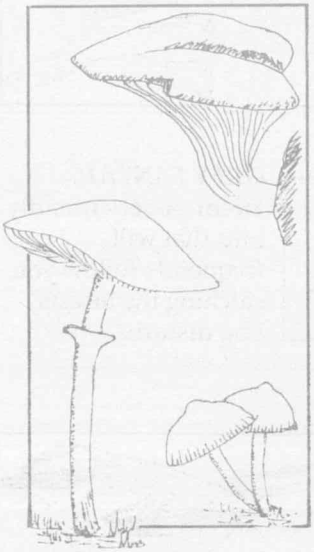
The bridge is an ideal spot to admire lichens and mosses.

Lichens are really two plants: an algae and a fungus that cannot survive without each other. The algae makes the essential sugars and the fungus provides a foothold, and prevents the algae from drying out.

Lichens come in many shapes and were once used as a natural dye for shades of orange and brown.

Look in this area for the more secretive White Browed Scrubwren, Broad-tailed Thornbill and White Breasted Robin.

In autumn and winter look for fungi. The mushrooms and toadstools you may see are the fruiting bodies of fungi, and usually appear only after wet and warm weather.



The rest of the fungus consists of microscopic hair-like structures called hyphae, sometimes seen as the whitish mesh on or under leaf litter and logs.

Fungi cannot produce their own food so must live off dead material or parasitise living hosts. Some can only survive on animal dung.

FOUR-Creek crossing to picnic area

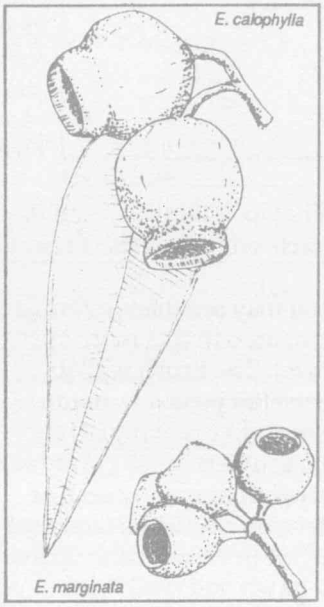
As you enter the more open marri *(E. calophylla)* forest, look across the valley to the karri forest. Do you see the dead branches above the canopy? These stags are a result of past fire. Regrowth occurs from buds hidden beneath the bark, where they are protected from all but the most severe fires.

Listen to the sounds of the bush. When karri is in bloom the cacophony of calls is almost deafening as Purple Crowned Lorikeets screech whilst they feed amongst the flowers. You'll be lucky to get more than a glimpse of these birds as they rocket through the tree tops.

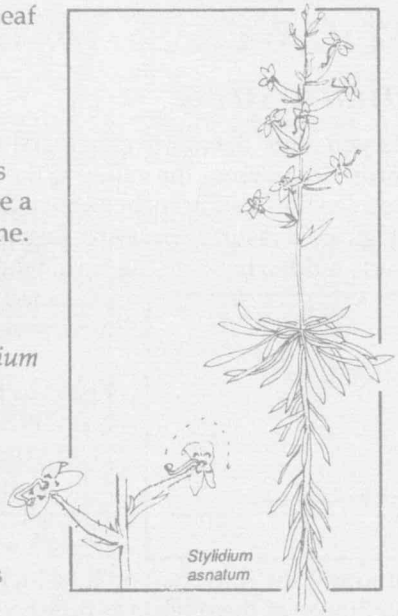
Common trees here are marri and jarrah *(E. marginata)*. Marri has a larger, urn-shaped fruit, denser canopy of leaves and a darker scaly bark than jarrah.

Like karri, marri bark was used as a tannin source. Today, its blossoms are important in the production of honey.

Jarrah is the principal timber tree of Western Australia. Its resistance to fungi and termite attack and its hardness led to many of the streets of Perth, Melbourne and London being paved in jarrah blocks - now covered in bitumen.



Look amongst the leaf litter for the neatly lined homes of trapdoor spiders. Contrary to its common name, this spider doesn't make a trap door to its home.



In spring the pink, common, beaked triggerplant *(Stylidium adnatum)* flowers. Take a closer look! Insects probing for nectar trigger the sensitive column which shoots over, tapping the insect's shoulder and depositing or receiving pollen. As the insect moves from one flower to another it transfers the pollen.

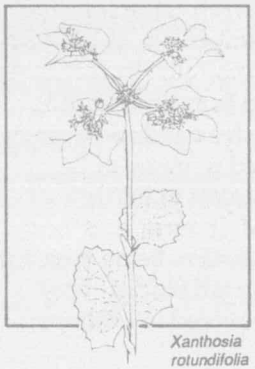
Can you set the trigger off with a small grass stem?


Acacia pulchella

Other common shrubs here include the aptly named southern cross *(Xanthosia rotundifolia)*, prickly moses *(Acacia pulchella)* and *Tremandra stelligera.*

What look like petals on the southern cross are really bracts with clusters of minute flowers in the middle.

You may see the western grey kangaroo in this more open forest. The brush wallaby, brushtail possum, mardo (a mouse-like marsupial) and the southern bush rat are also here but are rarely seen as they are nocturnal (active at night) or crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk).


Xanthosia
rotundifolia

Look for the termite mound on your right. Made of soil and termite saliva, the outer casings of these mounds were commonly crushed and rolled for use as a floor by the early settlers. Please do not disturb the mound - it is fragile.

The granite boulders further on are over 1 100 million years old, formed when molten rock rose toward the earth's surface and cooled. Erosion has since exposed these rocks.

A closer look will reveal the three main minerals of granite:

- mica (dark flecks)

- feldspar (opaque whitish spots)

- quartz (clearish, hard crystals)

No Pollution Here

Lichens, the flat, pale green splashes on the rocks, slowly release weak acids which weather these rocks.

Most plants absorb their nutrients from the soil. Lichens absorb and accumulate them from the air and rain, so they can only grow in relatively clean air. Check the freshness of the air where you live by looking for lichens.

Please do not disturb the lichens - their growth may be as little as 0.1 millimetre per year.

Remember

Be careful: Your enjoyment and safety in natural environments is our concern but your responsibility.

Be clean: Put your litter in bins, or better still take it with you.

Stay cool: Don't light fires.

Protect animals and plants: No firearms or pets please.

Be aware: Persons using this Heritage Trail do so at their own risk.

For further information

The Department of Conservation
and Land Management,
South Coast Region,
44 Serpentine Road,
ALBANY
Ph: (098) 41 7133

W.A. Heritage Trails Committee (09) 322 4375

Department of Conservation and Land Management
P.O. Box 104, COMO WA 6152
Phone: (09)367 0333

We hope you have enjoyed this Heritage Trail. Keep this pamphlet if you wish, but if you have no further use for it please return it to the box for other visitors to use.