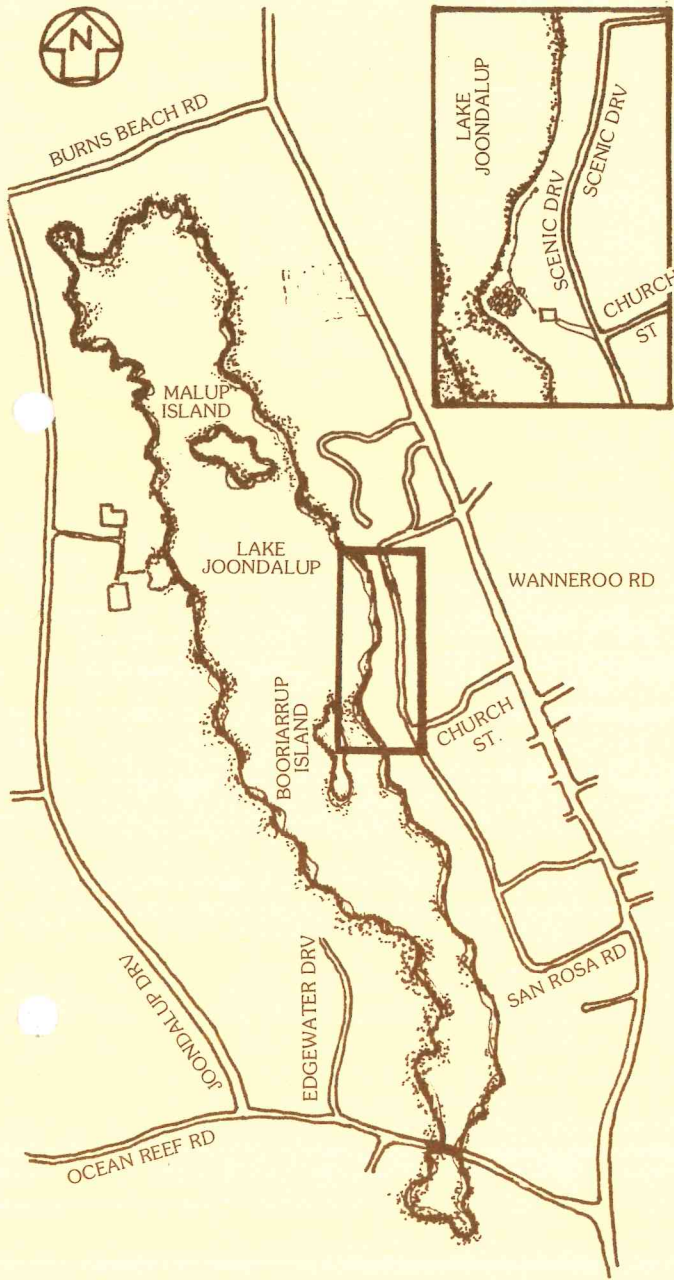


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**LAKE JOONDALUP
WETLANDS HERITAGE
WALKING TRAIL**

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Liz Fitzpatrick — Artwork



**LAKE JOONDALUP
WETLANDS HERITAGE
WALKING TRAIL**

Heritage Trails Network

The **Keeping Track** Heritage Trails Schools Program is part of the Heritage Trails Network, a project for community participation devised by the Western Australian Heritage Committee and funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program. It aims to establish by 1988 a coordinated network of Heritage Trails catering for a wide range of community interests and activities.

Funding

Lake Joondalup Wetlands Heritage Trail Project has been funded by the Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Commemorative Program.

The Schools involved in the project are:

- East Wanneroo Primary
- Edgewater Primary
- St. Anthony's Primary
- Wanneroo Junior Primary
- Wanneroo Primary
- Wanneroo Senior High

Further Information

Wanneroo and Northern Suburbs Branch of the
W.A. Naturalists Club
P.O. Box 35, Wanneroo 6065.



Our aim in presenting this pamphlet is that visitors and local people alike will gain an appreciation of what a special place we have here.

Lake Joondalup (Aboriginal meaning — the lake that glistens) is one of the remaining wetlands in the south west still being used as a breeding ground for numerous species of birdlife. It is especially important because the majority of our metropolitan lakes have become engulfed within the confines of suburbia. We want to demonstrate the importance of retaining our lake in its present natural state without infringing upon its environment or by trying to make it into a lake with artificial recreational facilities which will destroy the habitat of the very flora and fauna which give the area its beauty.

At this stage we are at a beginning. A beginning which we hope will grow over the years, to be a pleasant, natural, walking trail around the foreshores, where people can wander at leisure and enjoy the sounds and sights of the lake.

Our trail is easy to follow and not very long, so everyone can follow the five numbered posts and read about what you can see as you pause at each one.

Begin at our main signpost which is located at the lake end of Rotary Park on Scenic Drive. Entrance to Rotary Park is almost opposite the bottom end of Church Street. On our sign you will see photos of representative samples of the flora and fauna surrounding our lake. The survival of this flora and fauna relies on its natural environment being retained.

Proceed to the right, going north, along the cleared edge of the playing field for approximately 100 paces. Here you will find Post No. 1. Take the small track to the left leading to the lake edge. Please remember that the foreshores of our lake are very fragile, once destroyed can not be

replaced as they were. From here you may be lucky enough to hear the distinctive 'pinging' calls of the Musk Duck or see the Great Crested Grebe carrying their young on their backs. An interesting feature is that they also dive to feed, still carrying their young. Gambusia, the small fish we see in many of our lakes are plentiful at the lake edge. Looking slightly to the left from this vantage point we see Booriarrup Island, commonly called Lake Island. After you have taken time to enjoy this view return to Post 1 and proceed north along the lake to Post 2.

Post 2

Here we see a fine stand of the Freshwater Paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*). Note the needle-like leaves and the interesting texture and

BEWARE OF SNAKES
Snakes occur in the area but are more frightened of you, than you are of them.
Please take care.

colours of the paper-like bark. This particular stand of trees has taken many years to attain this height. Also here we see two large Flooded Gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*). We have planted many of these same trees along our trail. Continue along the cleared area to Post 3.

Post 3

A broader view of the lake is seen from here. Booriarrup Island to the left. The heights of Edgewater townsite are seen on the distant rise to the left. Hawkins Park is on the western shoreline, slightly to the right and Malup Island (Aboriginal meaning — where the mouse lives) to the far right. From this point on a fine day the lake really does glisten.

Carry on to Post 4 where we have a higher vantage point to view the lake. Below us we see bullrushes in profusion. The Bullrush *Typha orientalis* is mixed with Jointed Twig-rush (*Baumea articulata*). *Typha orientalis* is an introduced species and spreads rapidly in response to disturbances such as fire, displacing the native Jointed Twig-rush, which provides nesting sites for birds which could use the lake if the native Jointed Twig-rush was flourishing. The Bullrush is easily identified by the flat strap like leaves. The Jointed Twig-bush has long cylindrical stems which are segmented, something like bamboo. Proceed north to Post 5 still following the edge of the mown area

Post 5

This is the end of our present trail. Ahead of us, going north along the lake is a "Sunkland". This is a dense area of Paperbark, created by the landfill and bulldozing of dumpfill to cover a low area of the lake once infested by noxious weed. In the future we intend to create a feature of these secluded "Sunkland" areas with their ever-changing patterns of sunlight filtering through the leaves. Perhaps an artists hideaway? In the meantime they provide a happy hunting ground for snakes, so beware.

As you retrace your steps back along our trail return to the Rotary Park reflect on what you have seen. We hope that you have enjoyed the trail and that we have helped you to appreciate the lake in a different way. It is your heritage. Please help us protect it.

