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Department of Conservation
and Land Management



DRYANDRA WOODLAND

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Dryandra is a scenic area with magnificent woodlands of wandoo, powderbark, brown mallet plantations and bushland thickets which shelter large numbers of native mammals and birds.

The wheatbelt is the most highly disturbed region of Western Australia. Extensive clearing of bushland for farming and the introduction of exotic plants, diseases, and predators such as the fox have severely depleted the native flora and fauna. Dryandra is the largest area of remnant woodland in the western wheatbelt, and as such has outstanding nature conservation, education and recreation value.



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Powderbark tree illustrations are by Margaret Pieroni and Susan Patrick. They are reproduced, with permission, from Robert Powell's *Leaf and Branch: Trees and Tall Shrubs of Perth* (CALM, 1990).



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

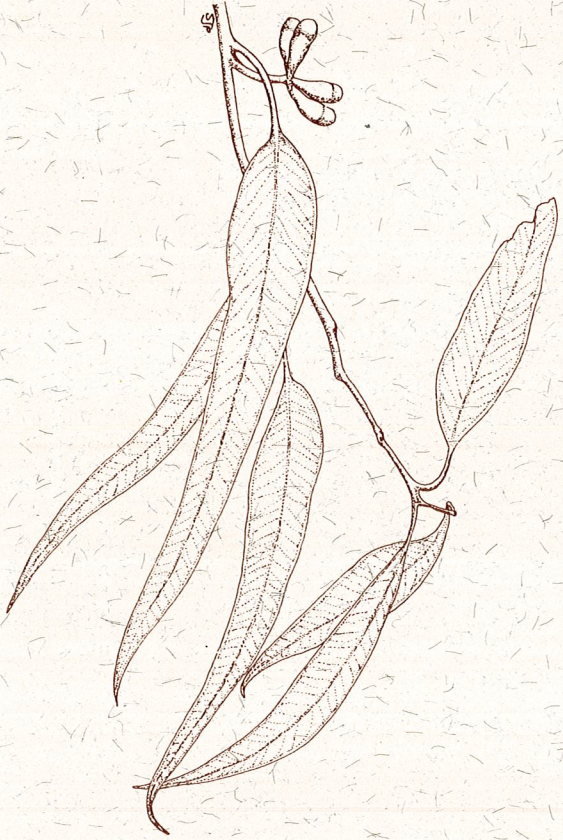
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VEGETATION

Open woodland of wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), powderbark (*Eucalyptus accedens*) and brown mallet plantations (*Eucalyptus astrigens*) predominate in Dryandra. The smooth, white-barked trees growing on the lower slopes are wandoo. Powderbark has larger fruits and thicker rounder buds, and grows on the higher, gravelly slopes and plateaus. Its bark is powdery to touch.

The plateaus also contain pockets of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), often associated with kwongan, the Aboriginal word for heath and shrublands. Isolated areas of marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*), mallee (*Eucalyptus* species) and rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegelliana*) also occur.



REMEMBER

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

Be clean: Get into the habit of taking litter away with you.

Stay Cool: Don't light fires.

Conserve: Retain the area as you find it. Firewood for you is home and food for wildlife.

FAUNA

Dryandra has populations of 14 species of ground-dwelling mammals. These include the small kangaroo-like woylie (*Bettongia penicillata*) and tamar (*Macropus fasciatus*). The numbat is a small marsupial which feeds exclusively on termites and is the West Australian mammal emblem. The numbat and woylie are very rare with only a few known populations still remaining. Those who enjoy a quiet walk in the bush may be rewarded by a glimpse of the timid numbat, but the woylie won't be around. It sleeps during the day.

One hundred or so bird species have been recorded using the area. One of the most interesting is the mallee fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*). This "incubator bird" builds a large mound of leaf litter and soil in which to incubate its eggs. The heat generated by the rotting vegetation is sufficient to hatch them.



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RECREATION FACILITIES

The Ochre Trail, a walk of 5km, will introduce you to the natural and cultural heritage of Dryandra. It begins in wandoo woodland and continues through upland powderbark and kwongan (heath) vegetation types. Keep an eye out for the ochre pit which was once quarried by local Aborigines.

THE ARBORETUM

A range of Australian native tree species are growing here.

THE FIRE TOWER

The Ochre Trail will take you past the fire tower which is still in use today. Fire control is important to help protect the forest, especially the mallet plantations, and the fire sensitive habitats which provide food and shelter for many native animals.



LOL GRAY

Early this century, wives of forest workers climbed this and similar local tree lookout towers to help locate bush fires. The Lol Gray Tree Lookout has been restored and a picnic site provided. *(Lol Gray was the name of a shepherd employed in the area, after whom surveyor J. Hore named a soak in 1896. The soak was used as a stock reserve and resting place for travellers.)*

CONTINE HILL

Another old lookout site where picnic facilities are provided.

THE OLD MILL DAM

Picnic facilities are provided here, and the dam and surrounding woodland provide many opportunities for bird watchers.

CONGELLIN DAM

Picnic facilities are provided next to the old railway dam.

THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Archaeological evidence indicates that Aboriginal people occupied the south-west of Western Australia for about 40 000 years.

At least 13 different Aboriginal clans, known collectively as Nyungars (pronounced 'noong-ars'), were thought to live in the south-west. Nyungar means Aborigine (or person) in many of the local vocabularies. The Nyungars from the Dryandra district belonged to the Wilman clan.

Little is known about Nyungar use of Dryandra. However, the Western Australian Department of Aboriginal Sites has recorded five archaeological sites within the Dryandra complex, including artefact scatters and an ochre quarry on the Ochre Walk Trail. The ochre pit beside the trail was quarried by local Nyungars before the arrival of Europeans.

The clay ochre was highly valued for body decoration and rock art, such as the hand paintings found in Bates Cave near Hyden. Nyungars probably found abundant food in the Dryandra area, including kangaroos, wallabies, emus, possums and edible plant material such as seeds, fruit, tubers and nectar.

ACCOMMODATION

Camping is not permitted in the forest, but the Dryandra settlement, or the nearby town of Narrogin, provide a base for you to stay. The Dryandra settlement, situated within the forest, provides basic accommodation and is managed under a lease from CALM by the Lions Club of WA. Six weatherboard houses, complete with gas stove, fridge, beds and hot water, are available for rent. A Nissen hut complex can accommodate up to 80 people. Bookings and further information are available from the booking office on (098) 84 5231 after hours.

ACCESS

There are signposted entrances to the main Dryandra area off the York-Williams Road to the west, and the Narrogin-Wandering Road to the east. Signposts to Dryandra are located on the Albany Highway at North Banister, on the Great Southern Highway at Yornaning and Cuballing, and at Narrogin. Where is it? 160km south east of Perth, 20km north-west of Narrogin.

Travelling time: 30 minutes from Narrogin. Facilities: barbecues, tables, rubbish bins. Best Seasons: any time for nature study. August to mid-November for wildflowers.

