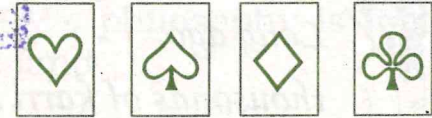


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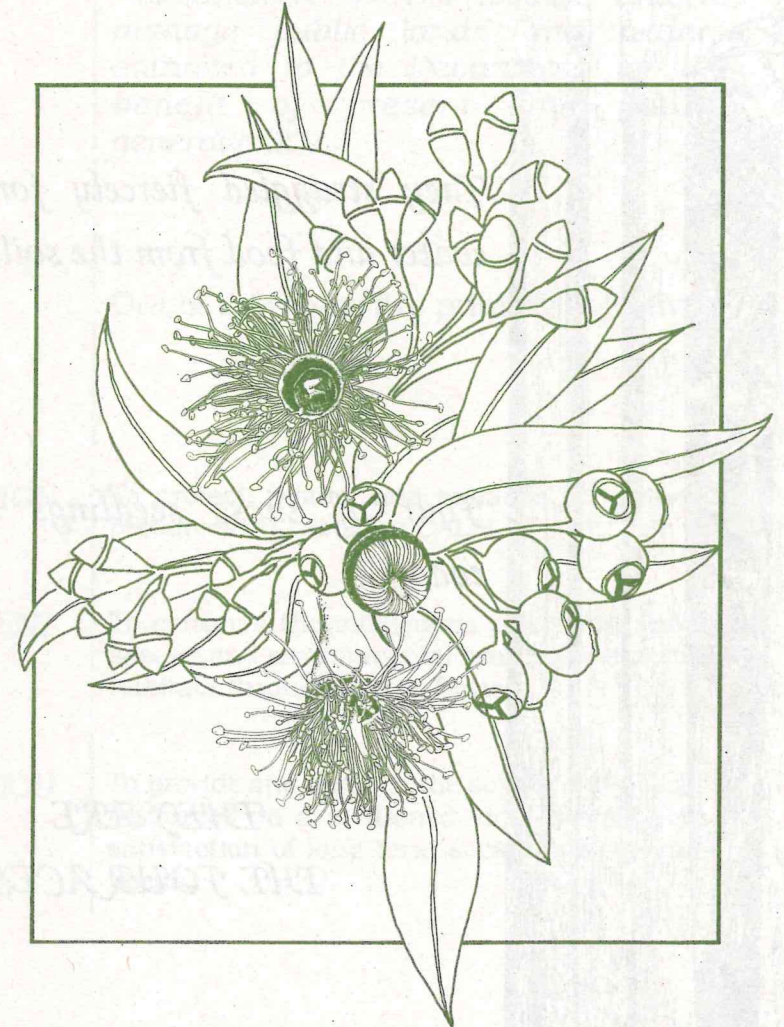
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE  
NOT FOR LOAN




# THE FOUR ACES



PAM00203





*Long ago,  
thousands of karri seeds sprouted in  
the ash of a burnt out log...*

*They struggled fiercely for sunlight,  
water and food from the soil...*

*Four of those seedlings are living  
today...*

*THEY ARE  
THE FOUR ACES*



CALM's philosophy is to care for  
the land.

Our charter is

*"To conserve W A's wildlife and to  
manage public lands and waters  
entrusted to the Department for the  
benefit of present and future  
generations"*.

Out of this come five primary objectives:

#### CONSERVATION

To protect, restore and enhance the value of  
resources entrusted to CALM.

#### MANAGEMENT

To conserve the indigenous plant and animal  
species and environmental processes in natural  
habitats throughout the State.

#### PRODUCTION

To provide and regulate the supply of renewable  
resources on a sustained yield basis for the  
satisfaction of long term social and economic  
needs.

## RECREATION

To provide quality recreation opportunities and facilities on the CALM estate in a manner that does not compromise conservation and other management objectives.

## KNOWLEDGE

To seek a better understanding of the natural environment and to promote awareness and appreciation of its value.

These are applied to the seven categories of Crown Land entrusted to CALM's management:

- ◆ Nature Reserve
- ◆ National Park
- ◆ Conservation Park
- ◆ Marine Park
- ◆ State Forest
- ◆ Timber Reserve
- ★ Miscellaneous reserves and land held freehold in the name of the Executive Director.

Today we are here to celebrate the opening of the facilities at the Four Aces, a site within the proposed One Tree Bridge Conservation Park.

## WHAT IS A CONSERVATION PARK?

### Vesting:

National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority.

### Tenure:

A Class

### Purpose:

Identical to national park  
Wildlife and landscape conservation, scientific study, preservation of features of archaeological, historic or scientific interest, together with recreational enjoyment by the public.

### Comment:

Conservation parks differ from national parks only in their significance, size or condition. They are managed as if they were national parks. The difference is that these areas do not have major national or international significance, are relatively small in size or the landscape or biota has been affected by past land use. Conservation parks in forest areas will not be zoned to include areas where commercial timber production may occur.

NOTE: The legislation to establish the category of Conservation Park in the CALM Act is expected to be presented in Parliament soon.

## PROPOSED ONE TREE BRIDGE CONSERVATION PARK

### Description

Located twenty one kilometres west of Manjimup along Graphite Road, this 640ha area is a major tourist and local recreation attraction for the Manjimup district.

Topography is slight to moderately undulating. The forest is predominantly Karri with small Jarrah pockets to the west. A large river, the Donnelly, fringes the eastern border making fishing and marroning popular attractions.

The area is pristine or regenerated karri, jarrah and marri forest, river and road zones.

Popular recreation activities include:

picnicking, short walk trails, hiking, scenic drive, swimming, canoes, fishing, nature study, educational tours, horse riding, camping, sight seeing, artistic ventures, solitude, wildflowers and historic appreciation.

### Visitors and Their Needs

Visitor surveys were done 1978, 1979-82, 1983, 1986. The numbers of people visiting the sites within the Park increase from 7-22% annually. Today we estimate at least 70,000 people visit this area every year.

The increased recreation use led to a reduction in the overall recreation experience. They included:

- ◆ Environmental/site carrying capacities exceeded -

*leading to*

- trampling of vegetation
- erosion
- undesirable usage patterns.

- ◆ Social carrying capacity exceeded -

*causing user*

- conflict
- congestion at sites

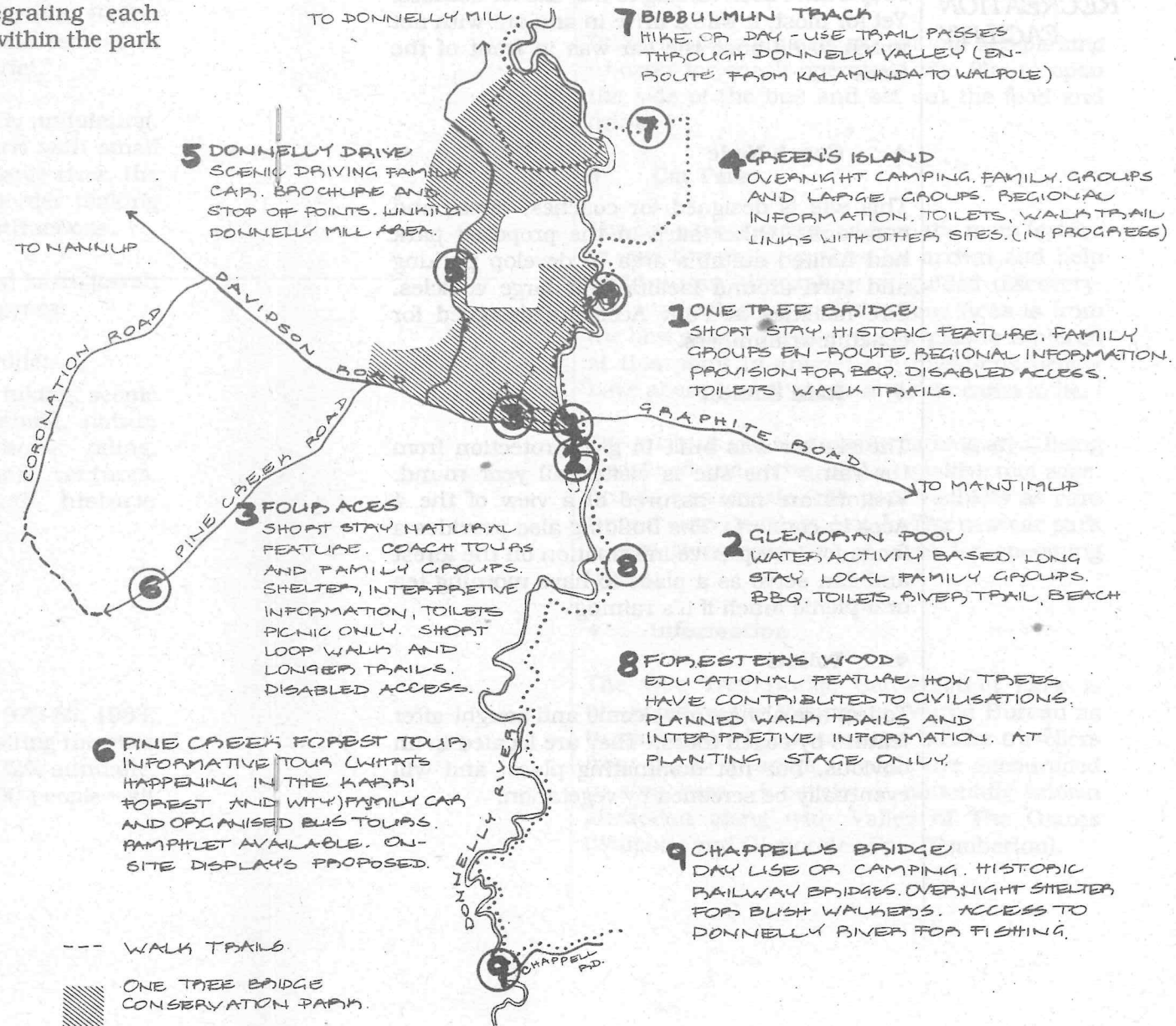
- ◆ The outcome was a need for improved:

- carparking facilities
- ablution and recreational facilities
- provision of camping areas - both vehicle based and tent based
- information and access points along Donnelly Drive
- information and interpretation mediums
- directional signs
- maps
- trail/drive interpretive information
- brochures
- information shelters identifying recreation areas in Manjimup

In 1987 a development plan addressing these demand expectations and supply problems was written. The plan catered for a range of users and their needs while integrating each recreation site and opportunity within the park and adjacent recreation areas.

The map shows broad zones and development nodes.

## LOCATION OF RECREATION SITES IN THE DONNELLY VALLEY



## **FOCUSING ON THE FOUR ACES RECREATION FACILITY**

The name, the Four Aces, is a "drawcard" in itself. It suggests excellence and magnificence. People have been coming to this site for decades. Yet for most, it was a drive in and out with not much to do once the car was in front of the trees.

### **◆ Coach Node**

This site is designed for coaches, buses and caravans. Other sites in the proposed park had limited suitable area to develop parking and turn around facilities for large vehicles. Site facilities at Four Aces are designed for coach tour numbers.

### **◆ Rain Shelter**

The shelter was built to give protection from the rain. The site is visited all year round. Visitors are now assured of a view of the 4 Aces in comfort. The building also provides a focus for interpretive information on the forest and can serve as a place to have morning tea or a picnic lunch if it's raining.

### **◆ Toilets**

Toilets are always a welcome and sought after feature by coach tours. They are located in an obvious, but not dominating place, and will eventually be screened by vegetation.

### **◆ Picnic**

Picnic facilities are near the car and bus parking to cater for coach operators who like to open the side of the bus and set out the food and drink.

### **◆ Car Park**

The car park is separated from the main feature to give the visitor a sense of arrival and help build up an atmosphere of guided discovery. A visitor's first view of the Four Aces is from the best angle. An interpretive plaque is placed at this point to answer the questions people have about how these four giants came to be.

The previous site was mostly parking area, being undefined and on top of the sensitive root zone. Access was unsafe with poor visibility as cars turned onto Davidson Road. The new car park access gives good line of sight for oncoming traffic.

### **◆ Information**

The One Tree Bridge Conservation Park is promoted by the Manjimup Tourist Bureau as the first major Karri recreation site for travellers from northern areas. People are encouraged to stop here. It is also a nationally known attraction along with Valley of The Giants (Walpole) and Gloucester Tree (Pemberton).

The levels of information concerning the Park are

**Level 1 Pre Visit :** CALM brochure : Parks (Expectations)& directions and Forests of Manjimup/Pemberton. Manjimup Tourist Bureau: Staff advice, brochure display introduction, how to get there setting expectations, menu.

**Level 2 On-site :** 10 Display Panels at One Tree Bridge Regional overview and historic information.

**Level 3 :** 4 Display Panels and Walk trail at Four Aces.  
(Options - What to do and where Focusing on one aspect of the Karri story - "from germinant to giant" and reinforcing the Four Aces interpretive panel

In this way, each site has a special story to tell, and a different facet of the karri region. Put together, they make up the gem that is the southern forests, Karri forest - and much more....

#### ♦ **Short Stay**

Most visitors will stay for half to two hours. Our goal is to get people away from their vehicles and into the forest. We offer a loop walk that bus visitors will feel comfortable and safe about walking in a short time. The 800m Karri Glade Path is a twenty minute leisurely stroll. Longer loop trails also leave from the site.

#### ♦ **Integrated**

As an integrated part of the One Tree Bridge Conservation Park the Four Aces is linked to the other sites by walk trails and well sign-posted roads.

#### ♦ **Wheel Chair Accessible**

The site has been designed to be wheelchair accessible from the car park to the Four Aces, the information shelter, and the toilets. At present, the budget did not allow the trail to be built to disabled access standards. Walk trail experiences for the disabled have been provided at King Jarrah (Manjimup), Big Brook Dam, Pemberton and Shannon National Park.

#### ♦ **Monitor**

Sites will be monitored for CALM recreation user statistics. This information will help refine our design and management.

**CALM CARING NATURALLY**

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THE FOUR ACES

### ❖ Measurements

TREE	1	2	3	4
Diameter(cm)*	162	162	162	215
Height (m)	68	69	81	77
Volume (m3)	30	43	47	63

\* These have not changed since the last measurement in 1967.

- ❖ Aged 220, they are in the twilight, elderly years as far as a karri tree grows. They began life just after the French revolution at the time of the Boston Tea Party and when Capt. Cook made his first sighting of Australia.
- ❖ In a natural setting they are the sole survivors of 10,000 germinating seeds in the ash bed of an old karri. It has been a struggle of the fittest, most magnificent and the strongest.
- ❖ Annually they replace leaves and shed the bark. This can mean a build up of dry forest litter of 8 tonnes per hectare per year. In an unburnt state this can get to be 50 tonnes per hectare, up to your neck in dead stuff.

❖ Each tree uses 170 litres of water per day and can yield 1Kg honey in a good season.

❖ The retail timber value of the trees is probably \$36 000, not that we're thinking of cutting them down. The amount of timber would build 10 average family homes today.

❖ The cost of redeveloping this site to the standard you see today was \$65 000

❖ The annual cost to maintain this site, rubbish, wood, protective burning, toilets, trail and signs is \$7 000

❖ This 640ha Conservation Park is part of many Regional Conservation Reserves in the karri forest. 35% of the of the karri forest is in National Parks or Conservation Reserves and another 8% is managed with a priority for conservation and visual quality at the local level.

❖ 70 000 people, a conservative estimate, will enjoy the Four Aces and surrounding forests every year.

