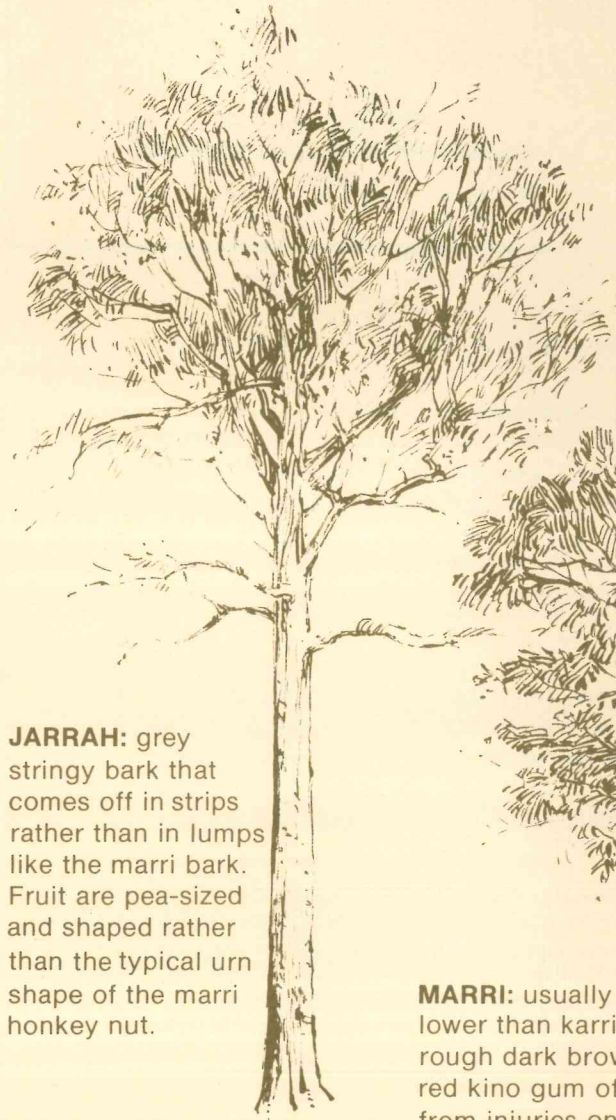


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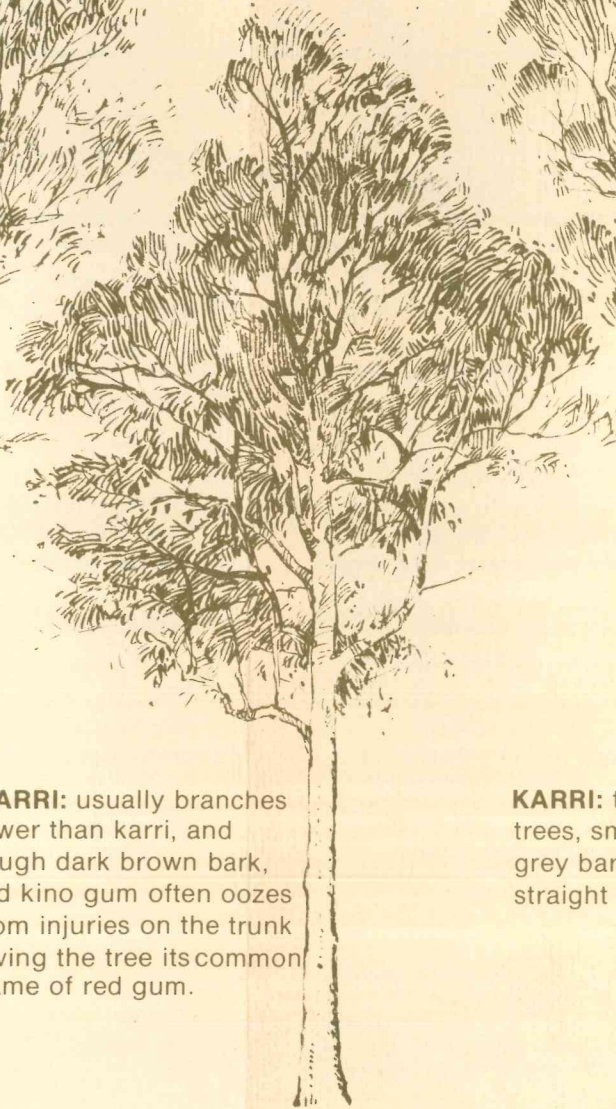
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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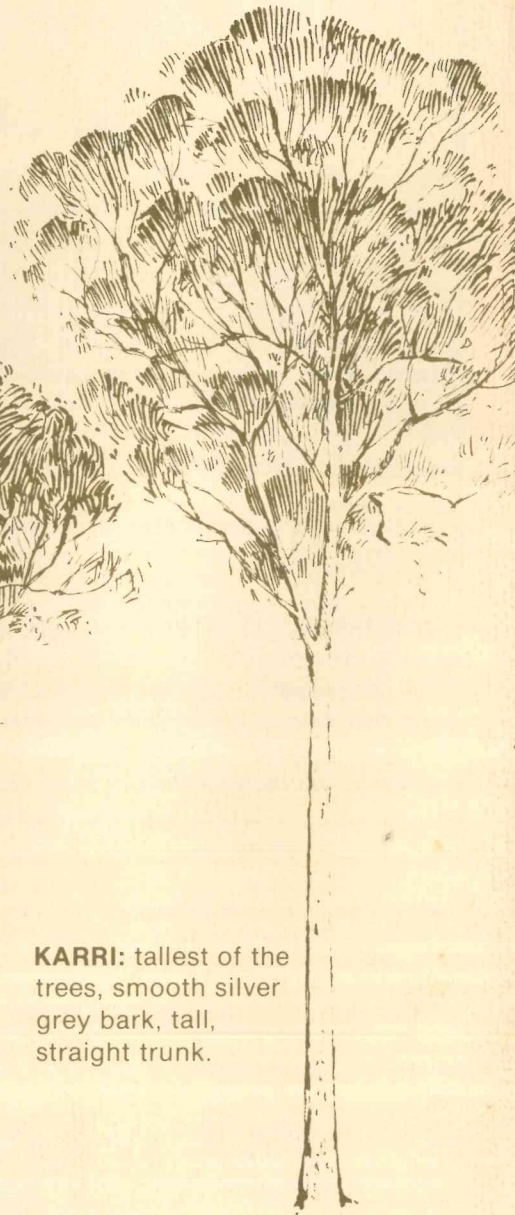
The tour takes you west of Donnelly River through some of W.A.'s most beautiful forest. Some of the trees you will see are:



JARRAH: grey stringy bark that comes off in strips rather than in lumps like the marri bark. Fruit are pea-sized and shaped rather than the typical urn shape of the marri honkey nut.



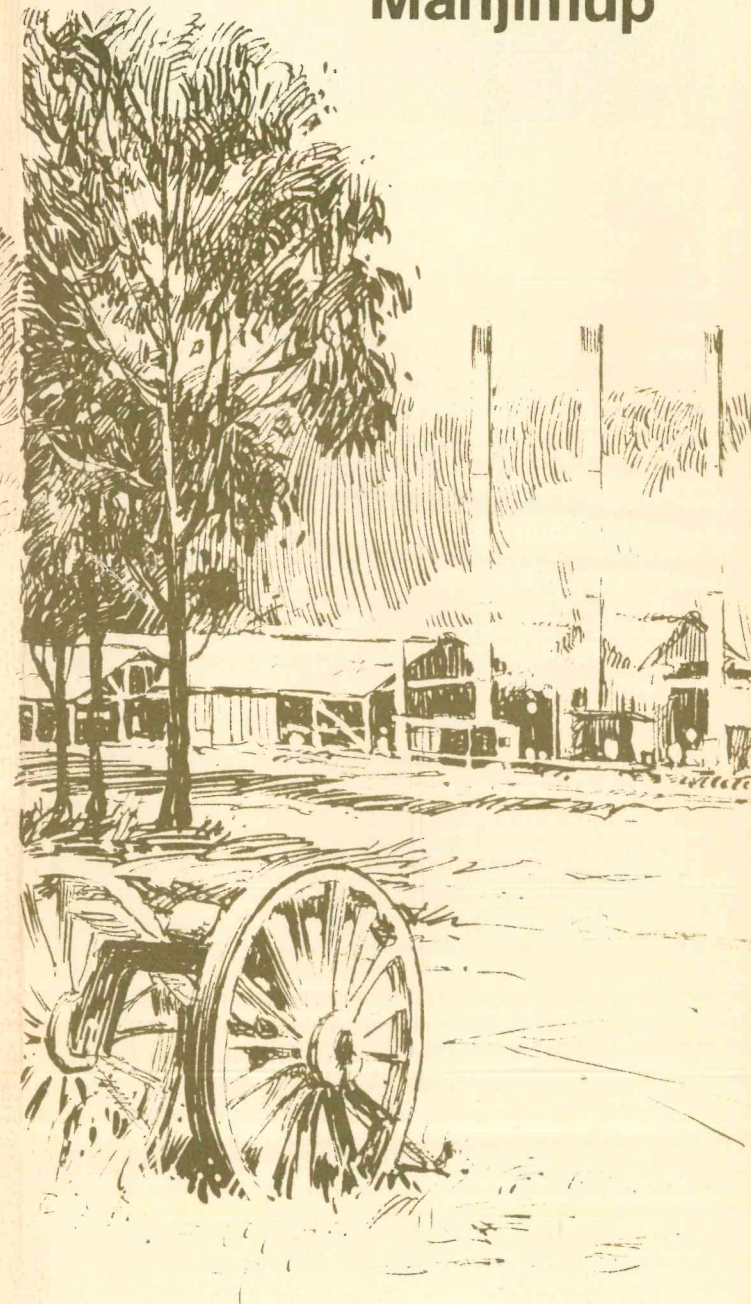
MARRI: usually branches lower than karri, and rough dark brown bark, red kino gum often oozes from injuries on the trunk giving the tree its common name of red gum.



KARRI: tallest of the trees, smooth silver grey bark, tall, straight trunk.

Donnelly Drive

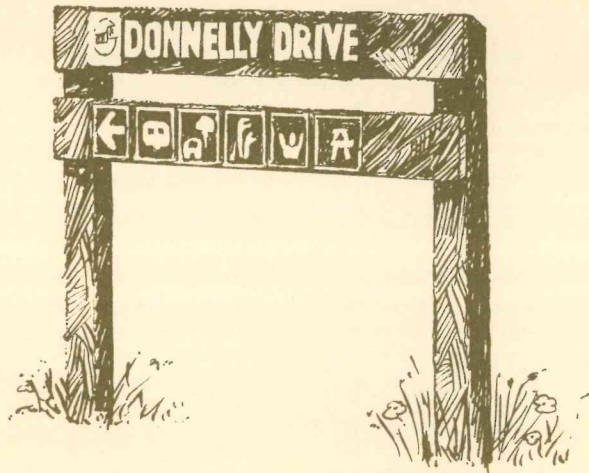
Manjimup



Donnelly Mill & Wheatley Townsite

This self-guiding drive will take you through the beautiful karri, marri and jarrah forests of the Donnelly River. Follow the map and the road signs for a journey through a living forest.

Road signs look like this:



Before you go:

- Keep to the signposted route.
- Drive carefully: at any time during the year, but especially during storms, trees may drop branches across the road or even blow down.
- Roads are not suitable for caravans.
- You can pull off the road at certain points on the tour.

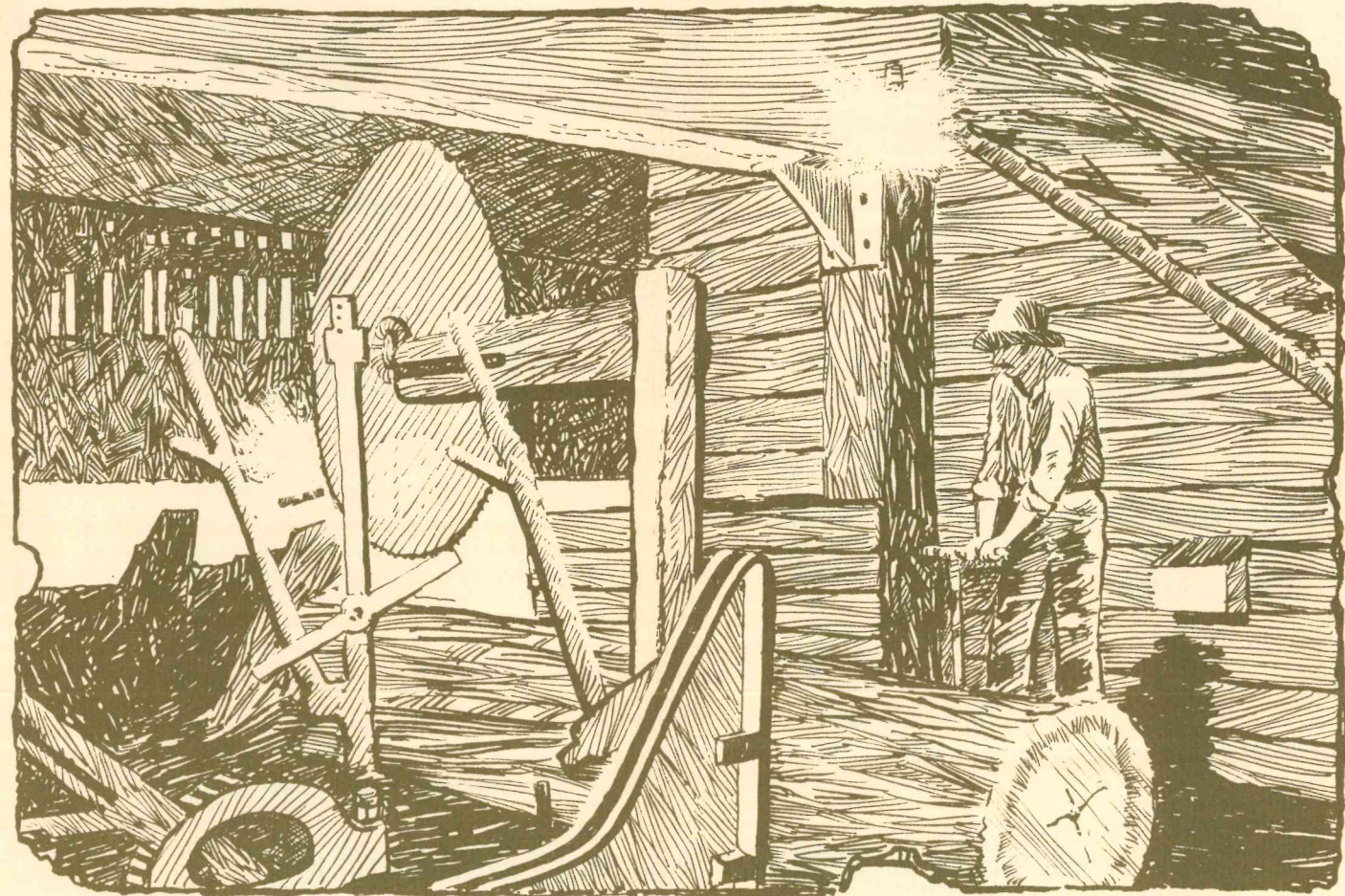
It usually takes about 1½ hours to reach One Tree Bridge. From there you may return to Donnelly or go to Manjimup via the routes suggested on the map.

ENJOY YOUR TOUR!

Built by Bunning Brothers Pty Ltd in 1948 and commissioned in 1951, the Donnelly Mill was considered in its era to be one of Australia's most efficient sawmills. Entirely powered by steam it was capable of producing enough sawn timber each day to build about four houses.

The mill became redundant and was closed in 1978. It has been preserved because it is the only example in W.A. of a completely steam powered

sawmill. The townsite around the mill which is commonly known as "The Donnelly", but more properly, Wheatley, was the home of a hundred or so mill employees and their families. The facilities included a general store and a primary school and were also used by Forests Department personnel and families, who lived in the "forestry settlement" beside the dam. The Forestry settlement closed in 1979 and the houses, office and workshop were relocated or demolished.

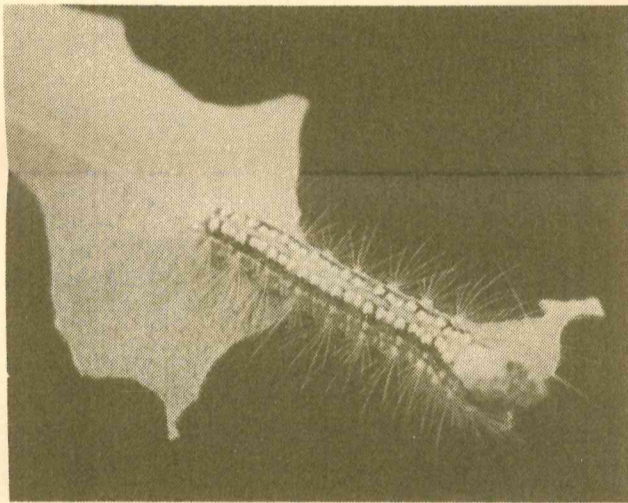


Donnelly Scenic Drive

All natural systems change and adapt over both time and space in a constant struggle for survival. The karri forest at the start of the tour (which grows here because of the deep soil and high rainfall) is constantly changing. Trees fall down or are burnt by fire causing a space in the leaf canopy through which light can penetrate. This direct light is essential for karri seedlings to grow. The young trees grow straight up to the light (thus their tall straight trunks) and compete with each other for the available light, and soil moisture and nutrients. The competition thins out the young trees naturally until the mature forest consists of widely spaced trees with dense scrub understorey.

Jarrah and marri trees adapt to gravelly soils better than karri, and often the karri forest gives way to a mixture of jarrah/marri. You may notice in the mixed forest that there are many small bushes underneath the mature ones. These young trees as not as dependent on full light as karri for their germination and young growth, and may stay in this condition for many years. When a gap appears in the forest canopy they will grow rapidly.

If it is summer or early autumn, you may also notice that many of the trees are stripped of their leaves. This is caused by the grub of the "Gum Leaf Skeletoniser" — a native moth which is currently causing widespread defoliation of blackbutt, marri and jarrah trees. Research is being carried out to discover why the numbers of these insects have risen so dramatically since 1980. The balance between the moth, its predators and other environmental factors which previously kept the populations under control needs to be restored.



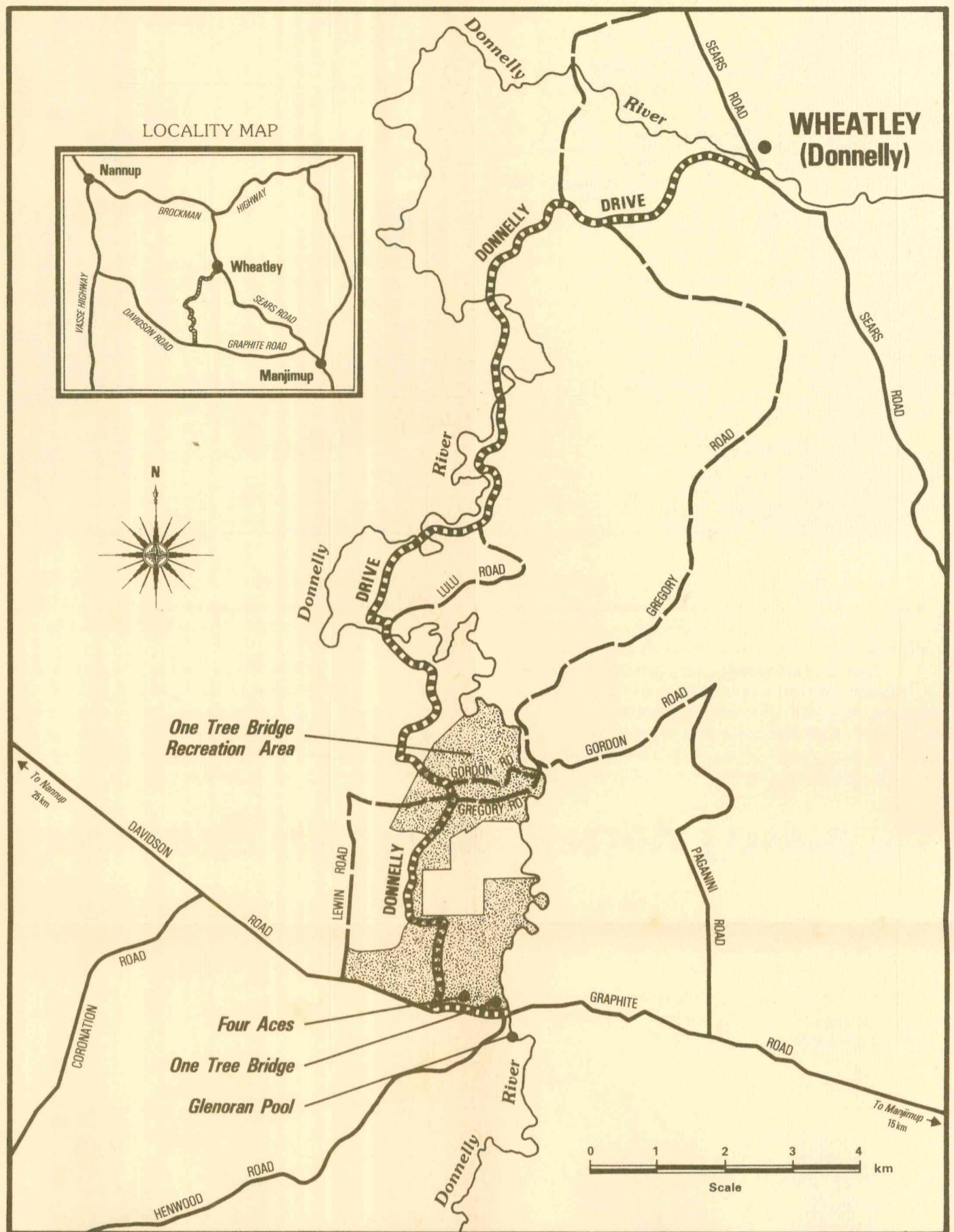
Turn right onto Gregory Road. Take extra care because this section of road is shared by log trucks.

As you drive you may notice a number of dead trees standing amongst the living forest. Once these untidy looking "stags" were living trees providing animals with oxygen, food, and shelter. However, even now they are essential for the survival of the forest and its inhabitants. The hollows formed by branches breaking away from the trunk provide homes for cockatoos, parrots, possums and mardos. Termites and fungi also feed on the dead wood. Gradually the actions of these "decomposers" will cause the stags to fall, where as logs, they'll continue to rot and be broken up by bacteria and the roots of mosses and plants. Eventually the one-time trees will be returned to the soil where they will support many more seedlings. The cycle of life thus continues.

At one point along the road a wooden lookout has been constructed to provide views of the forest valley. From this vantage point it is easy to see the different plant layers of the forest.

Different animals characteristically frequent the different layers. For example lorikeets and cockatoos live and feed high in the crowns of the trees, while robins and wrens live in the scrub layer. You may see some of these forest inhabitants while you are here.

During this section of the drive, you will cross over several streams. You may wish to stop and refresh yourself at one of these.



Water courses and their banks provide a fascinating new world to explore. The thick vegetation of these wet areas forms a home for such animals as bush rats and quokkas. The water itself is both a breeding and feeding area for a large number of different animals. The tracks of the land dwelling animals which come to the water to drink can be useful in discovering what lives in the area.

Remember that along with air, light and soil, water is an essential ingredient for life. That is why great care must be taken to protect the quality of water that comes from such streams as this. For this reason, when parts of the forest are being logged, 200 m wide bands of land are left uncleared as "stream reserves" on each side of rivers and streams.

Tree roots exposed by rushing water in the stream show the delicate nature of another of those life ingredients — soil. Plant roots help bind the soil and protect it from wind and water erosion. We need soil to support the plants upon which we all ultimately depend.

Continuing along Donnelly Drive, you will shortly enter an area of forest clearfelled in 1982. The original tree species composition was then regenerated and the small trees you now see will be the forest giants of 2100 A.D.

Cross Gregory Road onto Adam Road.

This was named in honour of one of the most famous settlers in the One Tree Bridge area. Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833-1870) is now recognised as Australia's first great poet. He and his partner were the first settlers in the Donnelly River district and ran nearly 5000 sheep around the present recreation site at One Tree Bridge.

The drive leads you past The Four Aces and to One Tree Bridge, which are both part of a Management Priority Area set aside for recreation. Both areas have information displayed which you may find interesting.

You can return to the Donnelly along the route marked on the map, or via Manjimup which has many points of interest.

We hope you have enjoyed your drive.

Further Information

Department of Conservation and Land Management
Brain Street
MANJIMUP. Phone (097) 71 1988