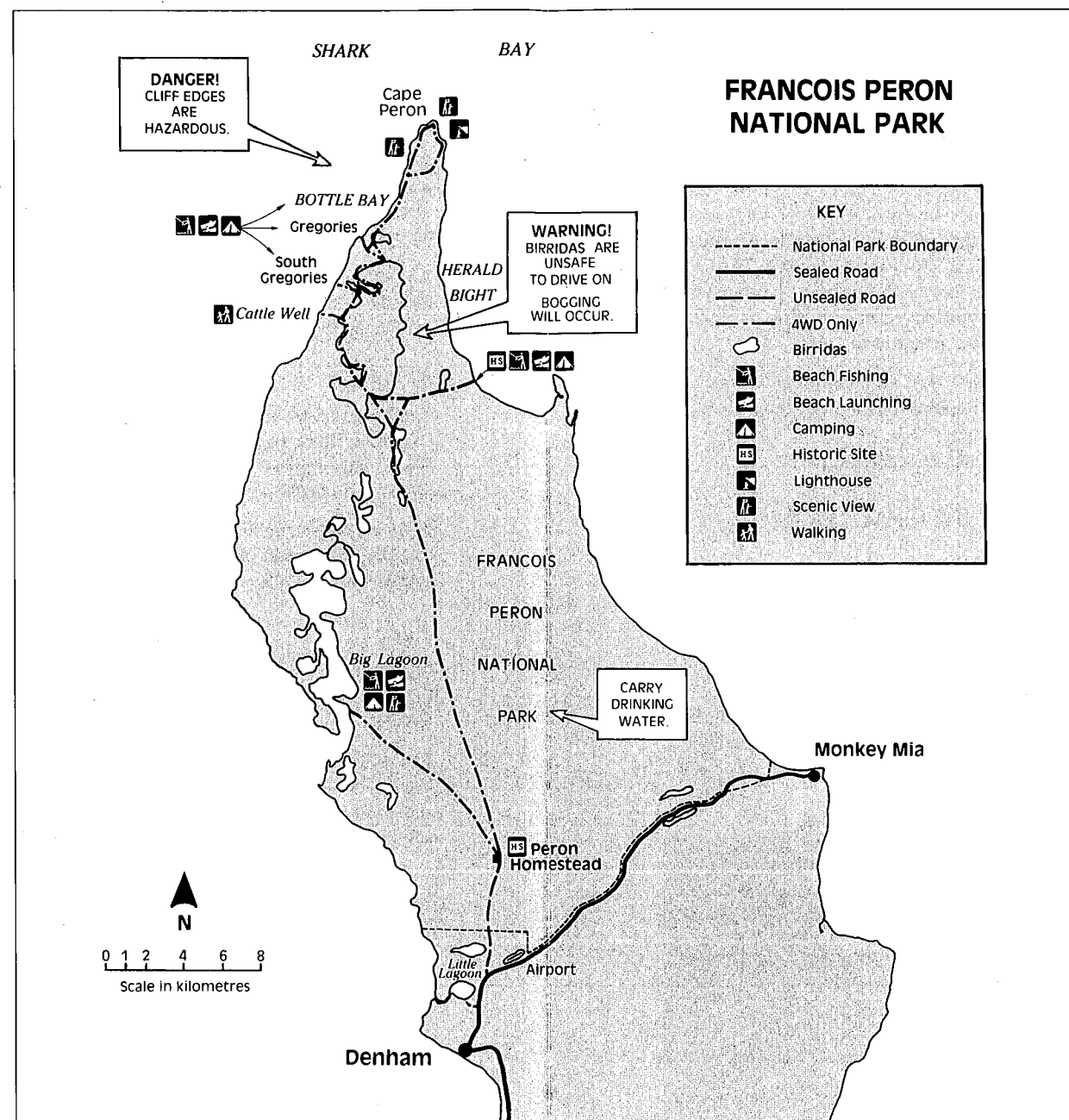


# LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## WATER

Drinking water is not available within François Peron National Park. Always carry your own supplies.

## CLIFFS

The cliff area at Cape Peron is unstable and should be approached with caution. Be wary of crumbling edges and strong winds. Your safety is our concern but your responsibility.

## BIRRIDAS (SALT PANS)

Vehicles will get bogged if they attempt to cross the claypan. The geological structure consists of a thin surface crust over a bog mire, which is caused by groundwaters.

Degradation also occurs from vehicle tracks, and the birrida's samphire and other salt-tolerant vegetation is difficult to rehabilitate.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

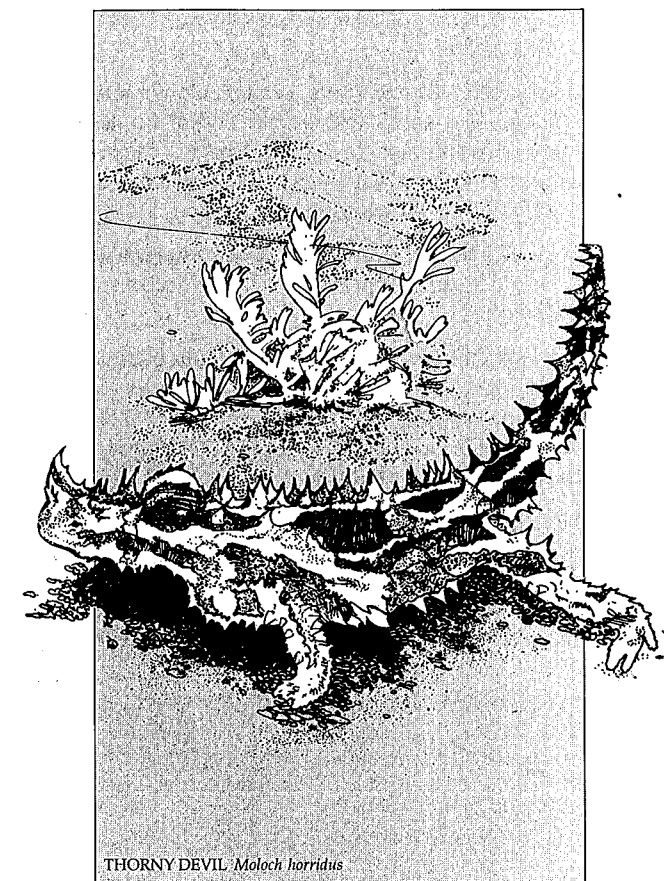
CALM District Office  
Knight Terrace  
Denham WA 6573  
Phone (099) 48 1208

Ranger-in-Charge  
Capewell Drive  
Denham WA 6537  
Phone (099) 48 1076

Peron Peninsula is locally regarded as a national park, and has been named after the French explorer François Péron. The Park had not been officially created or named as at 1 September 1992.

FRANÇOIS PERON

National Park



THORNY DEVIL *Moloch horridus*



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND LAND MANAGEMENT



WORLD HERITAGE

## FRANÇOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

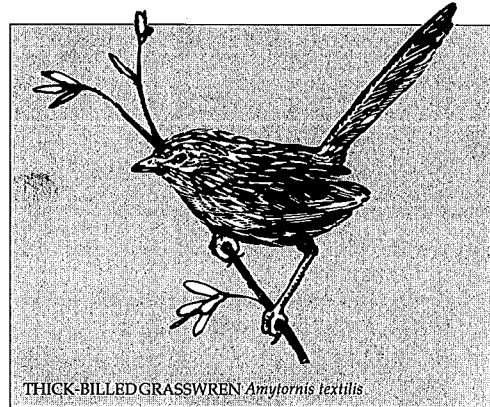
François Peron National Park is named after the French naturalist who visited Shark Bay with the *Géographe* expedition in 1801 and 1803. In his journals Péron describes the wildlife he collected, the Aborigines he encountered, and their dwellings at Cape Peron.

Developed in the late 1880s, Peron Peninsula was managed as a sheep station until bought by the State Government in 1990. Today, Peron homestead offers visitors a taste of what life was like during the pastoral era.

In the late 1800s a pearling camp was established at Herald Bight, where old pearl shells still litter the beach.

The Park protects rare wildlife, spectacular coastal scenery and arid shrublands, and offers visitors a wilderness experience. It covers about 40 000 ha of undulating sandy plains interspersed by gypsum claypans known as birridas.

Most birridas were landlocked saline lakes when sea levels were much higher than at present, and gypsum was deposited on the lake floors. Where the sea has access to the claypans, such as at Big and Little Lagoons, shallow inland bays are created.



THICK-BILLED GRASSWREN *Amytornis textilis*

## WILDLIFE

### PLANTS

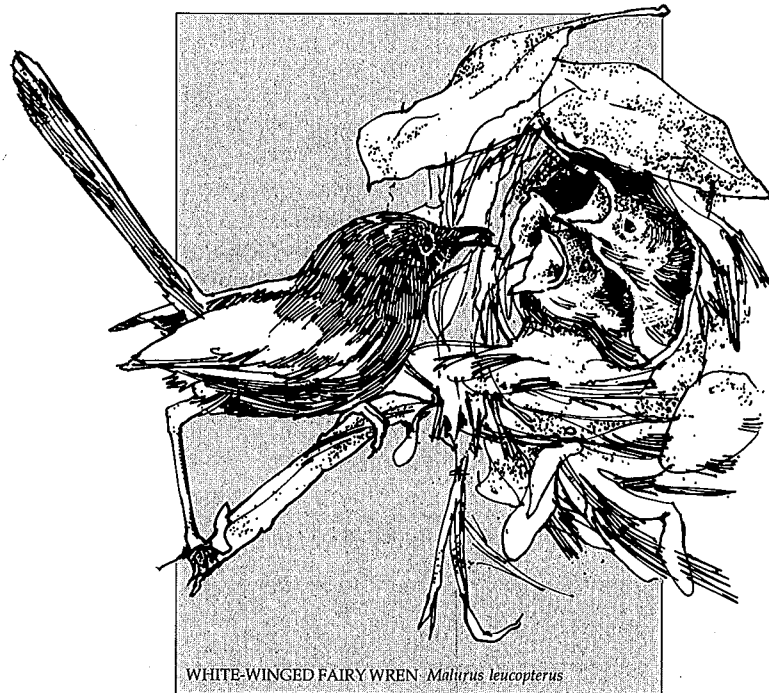
Two distinct arid-vegetation types are found in the Park.

Wattles dominate the red sandy plains and are typical of the region. Hakeas and grevilleas, flowering plants of the south-west, reach their most northern range at Peron Peninsula.

One of the most striking and abundant flowers is the Shark Bay daisy, a creeper that grows over shrubs and covers them in purple daisies.

Navigator William Dampier (1699) was impressed by the area's blue flowering plants, species such as Dampiera, the wild tomato bushes and halganias.

Along with white myrtle, yellow wattles and purple peas, they form a colourful display in spring.



WHITE-WINGED FAIRY WREN *Malurus leucopterus*

### ANIMALS

A variety of seabirds and land birds are found on Peron Peninsula, including fairywrens, scrubwrens, finches and wedgebills. The thick-billed grasswren was once widespread on the mainland, but is now restricted to a small area that includes François Peron National Park.

Wildlife is not often seen. However, the tracks of euros and other small wallabies, small rodents and lizards are everywhere. Thorny devils are abundant and feed on the ants that are common in the Park. Several snake species, such as the gwardar and mulga, are found in the Park.

From the cliffs at Cape Peron visitors may see bottlenose dolphins playing, dugongs feeding, green and loggerhead turtles surfacing for air, and large manta rays gliding past.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

### ACCESS

Access to the Park is from the Monkey Mia Road, about 4km from Denham.

The road to the Peron homestead is suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles, but a four-wheel-drive is necessary for travel further into the Park. Low clearance four-wheel-drives are not suitable for the Peninsula. Follow the signs and stay on the roads.



WEST COAST BANDED SNAKE *Vermicella littoralis*

Many tracks were created when the Peninsula was a station, but these are no longer useful and are being revegetated.

### FEES

An entrance fee applies to visitors - \$3 a vehicle for a day visit and \$20 a vehicle for four passengers to camp for seven nights. Additional passengers pay \$3 each for seven nights.

An honesty box is located at the Park entrance near the homestead. Your entrance fees are used to develop the Park.

### CAMPING

Camping areas are located at Big Lagoon, Gregories, Bottle Bay, South Gregories and Herald Bight. Only limited facilities are provided. No provision is made for caravans.

Carry all of your rubbish with you when leaving the Park. To protect plants and animals, firearms and pets are not allowed.

### FIRES

Light fires only in the fire rings provided. Limited firewood is supplied, so use it sparingly and where possible cook with gas.

The collecting of firewood in the Park is not allowed because it causes degradation of vegetation and sand dune systems and removes animals' habitats.

### BOATING, FISHING, SWIMMING

Fish bite all the year round. They include snapper, kingfish, bream and crabs. Small boats can be launched from the beach at Big Lagoon, Gregories, Bottle Bay and Herald Bight.

Remember, Shark Bay is in sub-tropical waters, and poisonous animals, like stonefish, are common. Be aware of these dangers.