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LEEUWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL

PARK



Department of Conservation and Land Management

WA's cape crusaders

Archaeologists believe the south-west of Western Australia has been occupied by humans for at least 40,000 years.

The earliest European account of the area now known as Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park was made in 1622, when the *Leeuwin* of the United East India Company recorded the presence of "Leeuwin's Land".

A second recording was made in 1685 by J.P. Poereboom, who anchored in what is thought to be Flinders Bay and wrote the first description of Aboriginal culture.

Later explorers included Matthew Flinders who named Cape Leeuwin in 1801, and Nicholas Baudin, who gave us the names Hamelin Bay, Cape Naturaliste and Geographe Bay. He also named the Busselton region, Vasse, after a crew member who was believed to have drowned.

The area has been known at different times for its pastoral and grazing leases, whaling, timber industry and world class vineyards.

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is now one of most popular coastal recreation areas in the south-west stretching along the coast from the eastern side of Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin.

It's one of more than 60 national parks in Western Australia managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

CALM works to conserve the State's wildlife and manage lands and waters entrusted to the Department for the benefit of present and future generations.

At the end of June, 1992, the total area under CALM's care was 20 million hectares. National parks make up about five million hectares of this conservation estate.

The park rangers on duty in Leeuwin-Naturaliste are happy to answer any questions and can direct visitors to the best fishing spots, or where to see the most spectacular wildflowers. For further information, contact the CALM offices at -

Regional Office
North Boyanup Road,
PO Box 733, Bunbury 6230
(097) 254 300

Busselton District Office
14 Queen Street
Busselton 6280
(097) 521 677

Margaret River Outstation
Bussell Highway
Margaret River 6285
(097) 572 322

Head Office
50 Hayman Road,
PO Box 104, Como 6152
(09) 334 0333

Unique forest branches out

Boranup forest has branched out on its own.

The karri here are the farthest west these unique West Australian trees are found - 100 kilometres away from the main karri forest, where the trees are usually found growing in red clay loams.

Boranup is also the largest karri forest growing in limestone sands and the latest addition to the national park.

Just south of Margaret River, Boranup karris are less than 100 years old. The area was clearfelled by one of the State's first big timber companies.

Maurice Coleman Davies was granted a timber lease at Boranup in 1882, nearly half a century before the era of controlled cutting, log quotas and planned regeneration of the forest.

Davies, a South Australian businessman, was first attracted to Boranup when looking for suitable

timber to cut sleepers for a contract he had to build part of the Adelaide to Melbourne railway.

He developed four timber mills in the area, built harbours at Flinders and Hamelin bays, installed 65 kilometres of railway line and introduced steam trains to Western Australia to haul logs and timber.

At its peak, his company employed more than 1,000 people. Davies developed the Karridale settlement, where he built a store, hospital, town hall, church, library, sports ground and race course.

There was no rent for employees, taxes weren't collected and the settlement had its own currency.

The development of the timber industry in this area was important to the State's economy and growth, though the company's life was short-lived.

By 1913, the timber resource close to Karridale was exhausted and the last mill closed.

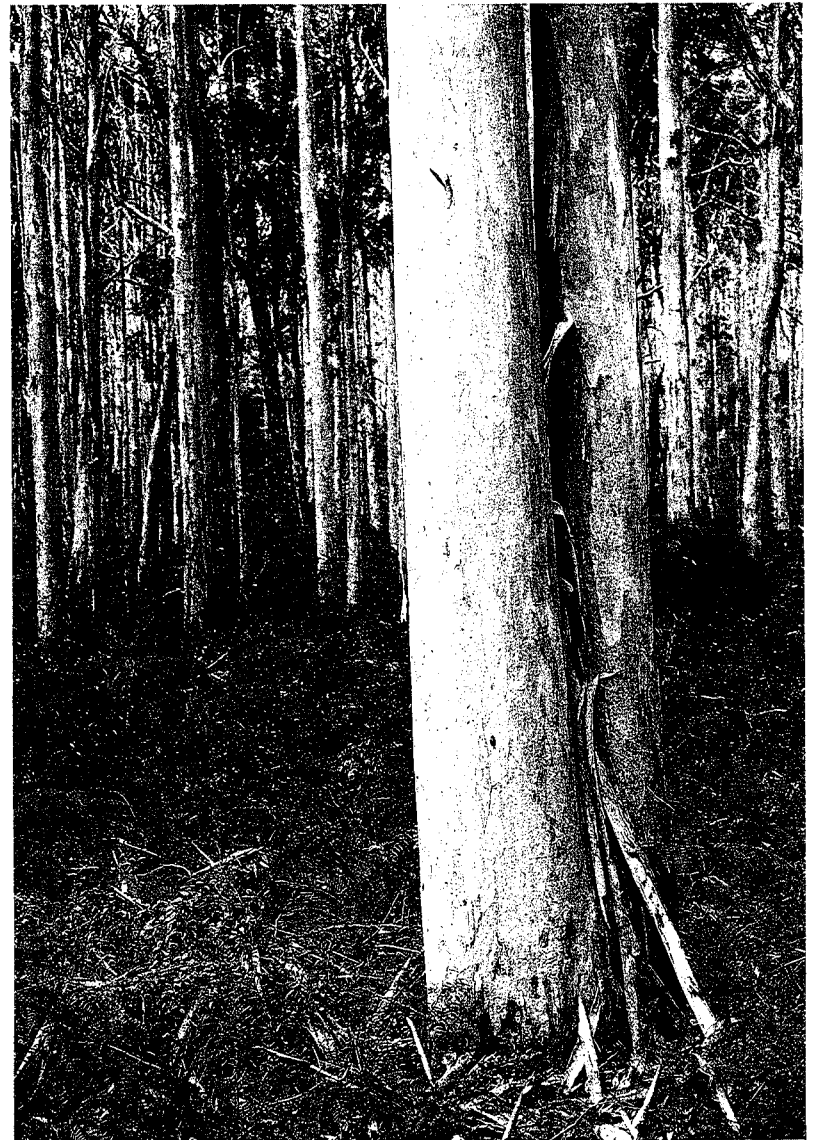
Wildfires swept through the Boranup-Karridale area in 1961, destroying most of the evidence of the once-thriving timber industry.

At Karridale today, only the remnant foundations and the chimneys remain of the mills that once produced nearly 300 cubic metres of timber a month.

At Hamelin Bay, rotting stumps rising out of the water are all that are left of the port and the timber yard is now a camping area.

Today's Boranup forest is testimony to the regenerative powers of karri. It has a dense understorey and the karris themselves are more than 50 metres tall and renowned for their beauty, especially in late summer and autumn when the bark turns salmon-pink.

Mammals such as the bandicoot, brush-tail possum and phascogale are common and Boranup's birdlife is prolific with more than 70 species recorded.



Above: The distinctive karri of Boranup forest. Photo - Cliff Winfield.

Loitering within tent

Anyone planning to enjoy the park's peaceful surroundings should consider pitching tent at Conto's campground - a finalist in the 1992 Sir David Brand Tourism Awards.

The campground offers secluded sites for individuals and families, and larger areas for groups. Facilities include separate barbecues with firewood and drinking water.

Set among peppermint woodlands that protect campers from the strong, onshore winds, the campground is former farmland acquired by CALM and added to the national park.

The open areas provide space for kite flying and team games such as football, cricket and netball.

Campground hosts look after

visitors on weekends and public holidays, providing security, information and friendships to campers on behalf of CALM.

Local agencies, including the Margaret River Shire Council and tourist bureau, helped CALM with the design of the campground, which aimed to reduce the impact of camping on the environment while providing a quality natural experience.

Firewood is supplied from a central wood bin to discourage campers from gathering fallen timber, which provides shelter for native animals.

Bins are not provided in the campground and campers are asked to take all their rubbish with them

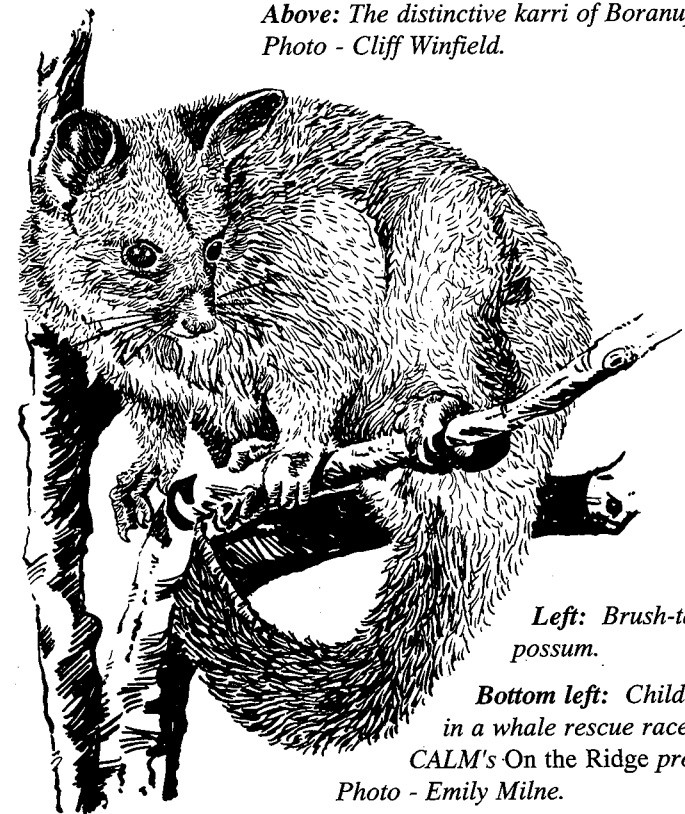
and dispose of it later.

At the site, CALM provides visitor information ranging from area guides, park pamphlets and brochures, information boards and interpretation displays to inform and inspire visitors.

Future plans include building small car parks at popular fishing spots and upgrading the existing track from Caves Road to Boranup to create a scenic drive to the campground, day use area and forest.

Other camping areas are found at Point Road and Boranup forest. Basic facilities are provided, including tables, barbecues, firewood and toilets, but not water.

Small camping fees are charged at all sites in the park.



Left: Brush-tail possum.

Bottom left: Children join in a whale rescue race during CALM's On the Ridge program.

Photo - Emily Milne.

Cover: Underwater wall at The Indicators, Canal Rocks. Photo - Jiri Lochman.



On the ridge

The secrets of making perfect campfire damper, dough boy and sweet tooth are just some of the skills passed on by CALM rangers in school holiday activities.

The *On the Ridge* program also includes adventure caving, bird watching, campfire cooking and night time spotlight walks to see birds and animals which come out only at night.

As well, CALM officers run a whale stranding exercise, teaching parents and children how to help in the real situation with just a few

plastic buckets and a little knowledge.

All activities are provided free of charge and usually run between one and a half and two hours at different locations throughout Leeuwin-Naturaliste.

To find out when the next holiday program is on, call CALM's Busselton office on (097) 521 677. Suggestions and comments on the program and ideas for new activities should be sent to CALM's Regional Manager, North Boyanup Road, Bunbury, 6230.

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Waves and caves on the limestone coast

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park lies between the fertile vineyards of Western Australia's south-west and the Indian Ocean.

The park stretches 120 kilometres between the State's two most prominent capes - Leeuwin and Naturaliste - about 280 kilometres south of Perth, covering an area of 19,700 hectares.

Towns like Busselton, Margaret River and Augusta are within easy reach of the park, and the region is becoming famous for its locally grown wines.

The rugged coast between the two capes has long been a popular holiday destination for West Australians. Its long beaches, sheltered bays, good fishing, world-class surfing and the dramatic coastal cliffs combine to give Leeuwin-Naturaliste its character.

Much of the coast faces due west and bears the brunt of giant swells generated across thousands of kilometres of ocean by the prevailing westerly and south-westerly winds.

Even on summer days after 24

hours of prevailing easterlies, the ocean swells can be dangerous and there's a history of ship wrecks along the coastline.

From its sandy bays surrounded by coastal heathland, the park extends into dense jarrah, marri and karri forests, covering fascinating caves containing fossils of now extinct Australian animals.

Surfing, swimming, fishing and other water activities are popular at Leeuwin-Naturaliste. CALM has installed steps down sand dunes and coastal walk trails in many places to help prevent erosion.

Salmon run

Huge schools of Australian salmon make their way up the coast to Perth from May to June on their annual spawning run. The four to eight kilo salmon draw many fishing enthusiasts to the park, but daily bag limits apply. Details are available from the Fisheries Department.

Other fish bite all year round, whether it's off the beach or from

the rocks. Check with the nearest CALM office, or ask the ranger for information about access and coastal hazards.

Bushwalking attracts people deep into the heart of the park. Trails reveal the charm of hidden gullies, springs, forested slopes and rolling views, and apart from mid-summer, the park's climate is mild enough to walk in comfort.

The park is home to a diverse range of wildlife, including the red-tailed tropic bird, western ringtail possum, honey possum, fat-tailed dunnart and western water rat.

Most animals are nocturnal and visitors should be particularly careful driving at dawn and dusk - grey kangaroos are also common and likely to leap in front of vehicles without warning.

The noisy scrub-bird was once found here, but is now restricted to an area farther south at Two Peoples Bay and a few other locations where it has been reintroduced.

Altogether, there have been more than 200 bird species

recorded in the national park.

A tiny, rare snail found only in Leeuwin-Naturaliste lives in cool, moist areas by the small soaks and springs formed where fresh water seeps from the limestone.

Ancient ridge

Leeuwin-Naturaliste's 600 million year old granite-limestone ridge is described in the Register of the National Estate as 'one of the most important areas of conservation in Australia'.

Composed of a bed of granite and capped with limestone and sand dunes, the ridge dominates the landscape and determines many of the park's features.

At its western edge, the ridge's rounded but prominent summits rise 200 metres above the sea, a feature of the coastline that is recorded in the journals of early maritime explorers.

At its eastern edge, some two to five kilometres inland, the ridge transforms into gentle, rolling hills and there is a dramatic

change in the vegetation.

The eastern and western edges are in stark contrast: coastal granite monoliths, limestone cliffs, sandy beaches, sheltered bays and rugged heathlands that bind the fragile coastal soils from the erosive forces of ocean-swept winds, give way to peppermint-banksia woodlands and jarrah-marri forests.

Along the heath-dominated coast, thickets of vegetation are found in wind-protected swales and depressions.

The park's climate is cold and wet in winter, with rainfall averaging 838mm a year at Cape Naturaliste and 994mm at Cape Leeuwin. Rainfall is heaviest on the highest point of the ridge.

Temperatures are relatively low for much of the year; August is the coldest month with averages of 11 degrees, while summer temperatures rarely exceed 30 degrees. As a consequence, the park's climate is cool and moist - ideal conditions for the growth of dense forests and heavy undergrowth.



Lions and tigers

Beneath the sweeping landscapes of Leeuwin-Naturaliste lies an underground world of stalagmites and stalactites - moist caves where the fossils of long-extinct marsupial lions, Tasmanian tigers and koalas have been found.

So far more than 360 caves have been discovered in the park, ranging from narrow tunnels and potholes to enormous caverns more than 14 kilometres long.

The caves are formed when carbon dioxide from the atmosphere dissolves in groundwater to become carbonic acid and seeps through the porous limestone. It dissolves in calcium carbonate to form caverns.

The acid slowly redeposits the calcium carbonate as it drips through the caverns, creating stalactites and stalagmites.

While most of the caves are accessible only to experienced

speleologists, four of the more spectacular caves between Margaret River and Augusta are open to the public and guided tours are run daily in summer.

These are the Yallingup Cave near Caves House, Mammoth Cave, Lake Cave in Boranup forest and Jewel Cave near Augusta.

No lights are provided in the adventure caves and there are few handrails. Strong footwear, protective clothing and a good torch are needed.

Leeuwin-Naturaliste's caves are significant because of the relatively young age of the limestone in which they have formed, the quality of their formation and the significant cultural and fossil remains.

Evidence of human habitation dating back 40,000 years has been found in the caves, as well as the fossil remains of extinct animals.

These give an insight into the park's past climate and different

vegetation types.

To protect the caves, a permit system has been introduced, classifying them into three broad categories - tourist, adventure and restricted access.

Fees apply to each of these categories except adventure caves, class one.

Adventure caves are graded to accommodate all levels of caving experience. All of the caves in this category require trip leaders.

Restricted access caves include those known to be hazardous; reference caves used for monitoring; scientific caves set aside for study; wilderness caves which are left relatively undisturbed; and locked caves which require special approval to gain access.

For further information on caves contact the local CALM office. All cave bookings should be forwarded to the Margaret River Tourist Bureau.

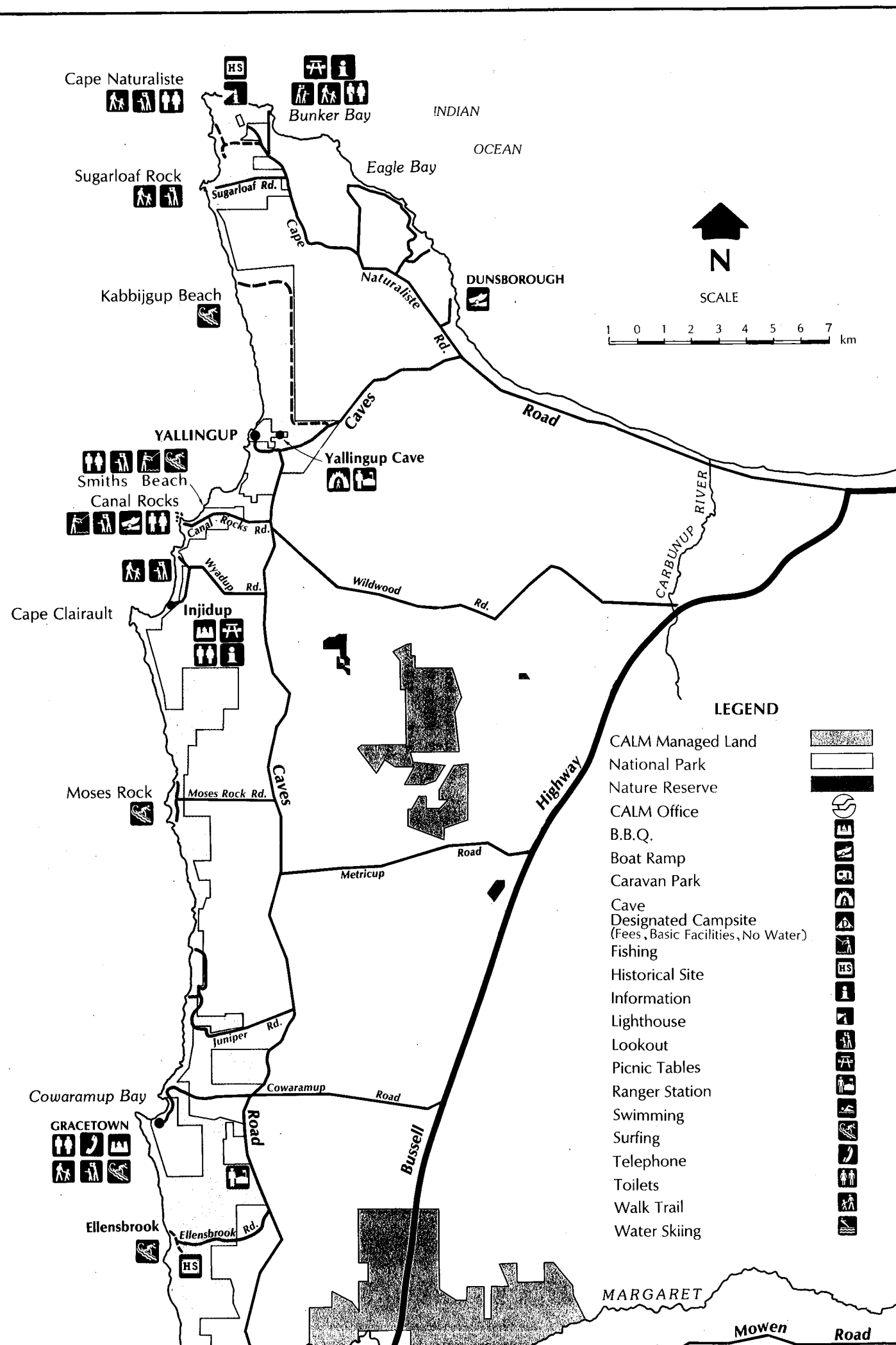
Top left: Surfing is a year-round attraction. Photo - Cliff Winfield.

Top centre: Part of the park's 120 km coast. Photo - CALM.

Top right: One of the dhufish that didn't get away. Photo - Neil Wehlack.

Above: Helictites in Yallingup cave. Photo - Jiri Lochman.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



CAPE NATURALISTE

Where is it?
36 kms from Busselton and 261 kms from Perth

Travelling time
25 mins from Busselton

Facilities
Toilets, tourist gift shop, walk trails and lookouts

What to do
Bushwalk, nature observation, commercial lighthouse tour

Walks

Bunker Bay trail: a series of marked trails each of about 3 kms return links the lighthouse with Bunker Bay and the west coast and each spring it's possible to spot whales rounding the cape

Nearest CALM Office

Busselton District Office
Ranger at Yallingup

BUNKER BAY

Where is it?
36 kms from Busselton and 261 kms from Perth

Travelling time
25 mins from Busselton

Facilities
Toilets, table, information shelter, walk trail

What to do

Swim, fish, bushwalk, picnic
Walks
Bunker Bay trail: see above

Nearest CALM Office

Busselton District Office
Ranger at Yallingup

INJIDUP

Where is it?

42 kms from Busselton and 267 kms from Perth

Travelling time

30 mins from Busselton

Facilities

Toilets, barbecues, tables, information shelter

What to do

Surf, swim, picnic

Nearest CALM Office

Busselton District Office
Ranger at Yallingup

ELLENSBROOK

Where is it?

65 kms from Busselton and 290 kms from Perth

Travelling time

45 mins from Busselton

Facilities

Toilets, walk trail, information shelter and historic house

What to do

Walk, swim, fish, surf
Walks

Retrace the footsteps of local pioneers on a 2 kms circuit to a place of waterfalls, caves and historic homestead

Nearest CALM Office

Busselton District Office
Ranger at Cowaramup

BORANUP FOREST

Where is it?

25 kms from Margaret River and 298 kms from Perth

Travelling time

15 mins from Margaret River

Facilities

Camping area, toilets, barbecues, tables, scenic drive, information shelters

What to do

Camp, picnic, bushwalk

Nearest CALM Office

Margaret River Outstation
Ranger at Lake Cave

BORANUP LOOKOUT

Where is it?

30 kms from Margaret River and 303 kms from Perth

Travelling time

20 mins from Margaret River

Facilities

Toilets, barbecues, tables, lookout and walktrail

What to do

Picnic, walk, nature observation
Walks

600 m to views over Hamelin Bay and inland

Nearest CALM Office

Margaret River Outstation
Ranger at Lake Cave



REDGATE

Where is it?

13 kms from Margaret River and 286 kms from Perth

Travelling time

10 mins from Margaret River

Facilities

Toilets, historic information

HAMELIN BAY

Where is it?

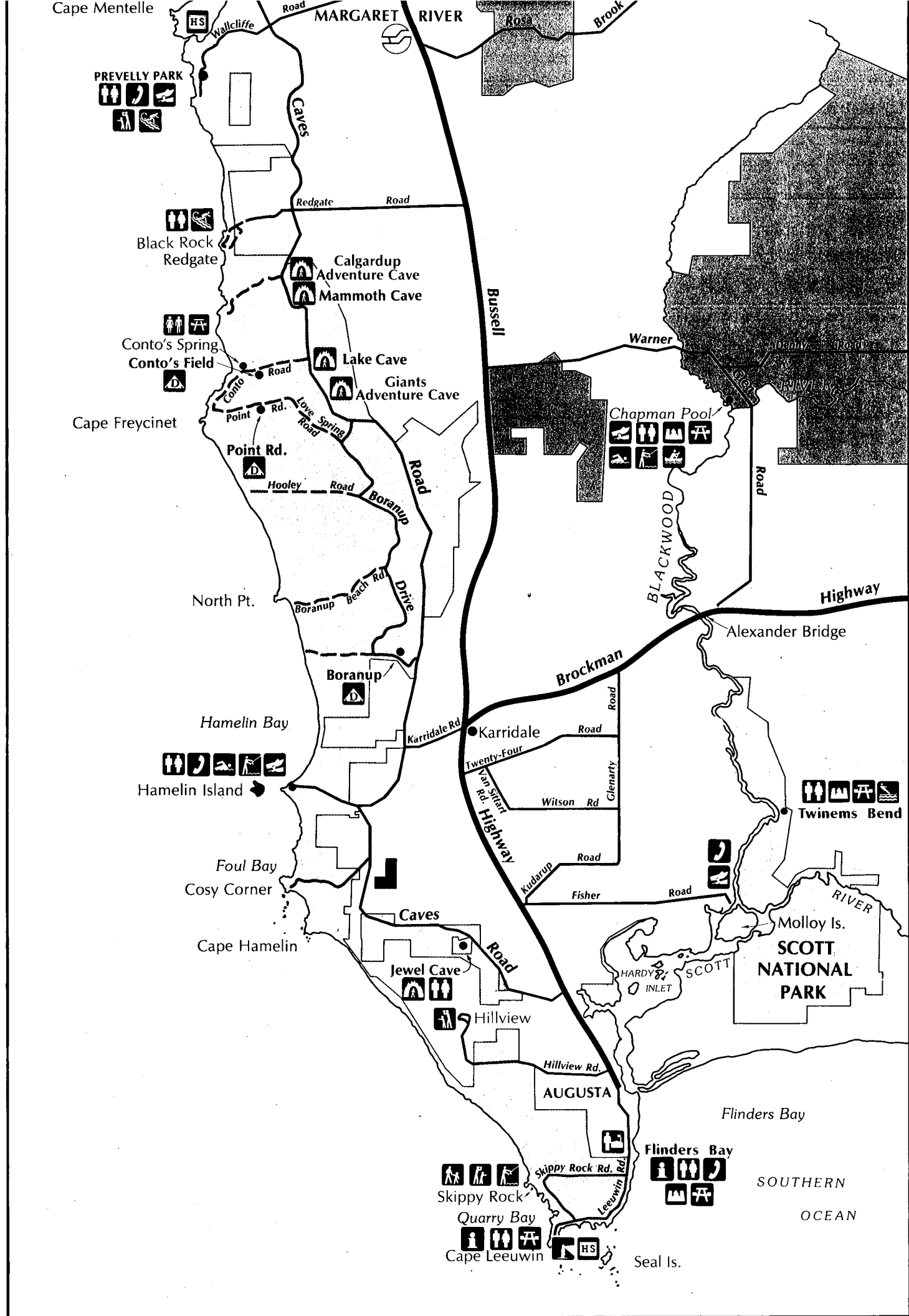
19 kms from Augusta and 309 kms from Perth

Travelling time

15 mins from Augusta

Facilities

Toilets, boat ramp, commercial caravan park



SUGARLOAF ROCK

Where is it?
36 kms from Busselton and 261 kms from Perth

Travelling time
25 mins from Busselton

Facilities
Lookout

What to do
Fish, swim, surf, nature observation

Nearest CALM Office
Busselton District Office
Ranger at Yallingup

CANAL ROCKS

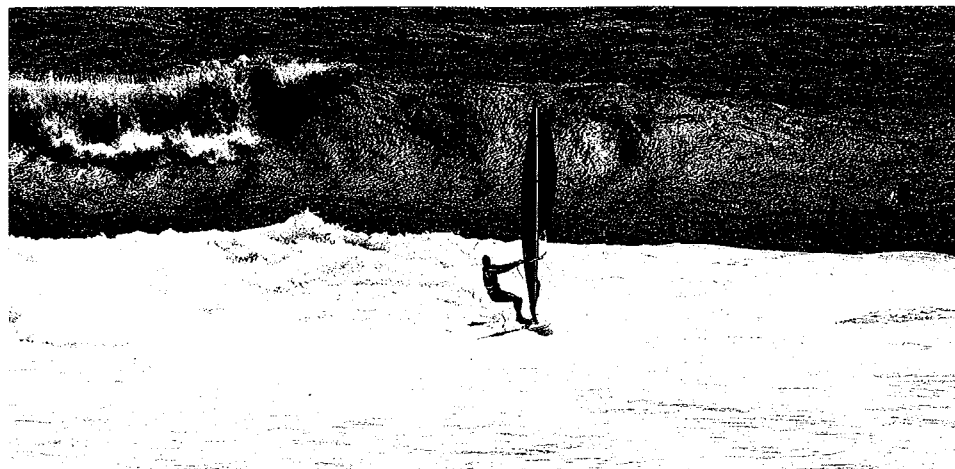
Where is it?
37 kms from Busselton and 262 kms from Perth

Travelling time
25 mins from Busselton

Facilities
Toilets, boat ramp, walk trail, lookout

What to do
Boating, bushwalk

Nearest CALM Office
Busselton District Office
Ranger at Yallingup



CONTO'S FIELD

Where is it?
18 kms from Margaret River and 291 kms from Perth

Travelling time
15 mins from Margaret River

Facilities
Camping area, toilets, barbecues, tables, information shelter

What to do
Camp, picnic

Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger at Lake Cave

CONTO'S SPRING

Where is it?
20 kms from Margaret River and 293 kms from Perth

Travelling time
15 mins from Margaret River

Facilities
Toilets, tables and barbecues

What to do
Picnic, swim, fish

Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger at Lake Cave

POINT ROAD

Where is it?
21 kms from Margaret River and 294 kms from Perth

Travelling time
20 mins from Margaret River

Facilities
Camping area, toilets, barbecues, tables

What to do
Camp, picnic

Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger at Lake Cave

Surf, swim, fish
Nearest CALM Office
Busselton District Office
Ranger at Lake Cave

Boat, swim, fish, camp
Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger near Cape Leeuwin

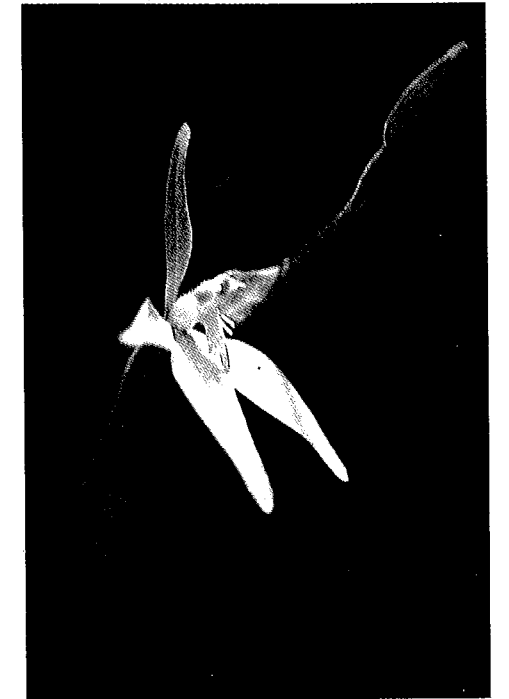
COSY CORNER

Where is it?
18 kms from Augusta and 312 kms from Perth

Travelling time
15 mins from Augusta

What to do
Swim, fish, snorkel/scuba dive

Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger near Cape Leeuwin



CAPE LEEUWIN

Where is it?
8 kms from Augusta and 324 kms from Perth

Travelling time
10 mins from Augusta

Facilities
Toilets, tourist gift shop, information shelter

What to do
Commercial lighthouse tours, visit historic waterwheel

Walks
Turner Brook trail: 1.3 kms

Nearest CALM Office
Margaret River Outstation
Ranger near Cape Leeuwin

From top to bottom:
Inside the lens of Cape Naturaliste lighthouse. Photo - Jiri Lochman.
The ruins of Hamelin Bay jetty. Photo - Cliff Winfield.
Young western grey kangaroo. Photo - Wade Hughes.
Caladenia orchid. Wind surfers at Margaret River. Photos - Cliff Winfield.

Making light work of it

Cape Leeuwin lighthouse, on Australia's most south-westerly point, was officially opened in 1896.

It was a ceremony delayed first by arguments about whether the colonies in eastern Australia should share the cost and then by construction problems. The foundations had to be built three times deeper than planned - 22 feet or nearly seven metres - because of loose boulders on the site.

The lighthouse guards one of the busiest sea traffic routes on the Australian coast. This was especially so when most Australian-bound ships travelled via the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Leeuwin was often the first Australian landfall.

Today the lighthouse is maintained as one of a series of navigation aids around the coast by the Commonwealth Department of Transport, although its future is unsure in these days of satellite navigation.

The lighthouse was built of local stone and was originally designed to show two lights - the higher white light and a lower red light, which was never installed. Its present automatic white electric light has an intensity of one million candlepower and a range of about 25 nautical miles.

The Augusta-Margaret River Tourist Bureau runs daily tours of the lighthouse, which gives sweeping views of the Indian and Southern oceans.

The lighthouse is open from Tuesday to Sunday - 9.30am to 3pm. However, the Department of Transport occasionally closes the lighthouse tower, without notice, for maintenance.

The waterwheel built to supply the lighthouse's fresh water from a nearby stream is still standing and is registered by the National Trust.

The wheel was used until the late 1920s and restoration work is planned to remove the layers of sediment encasing it.

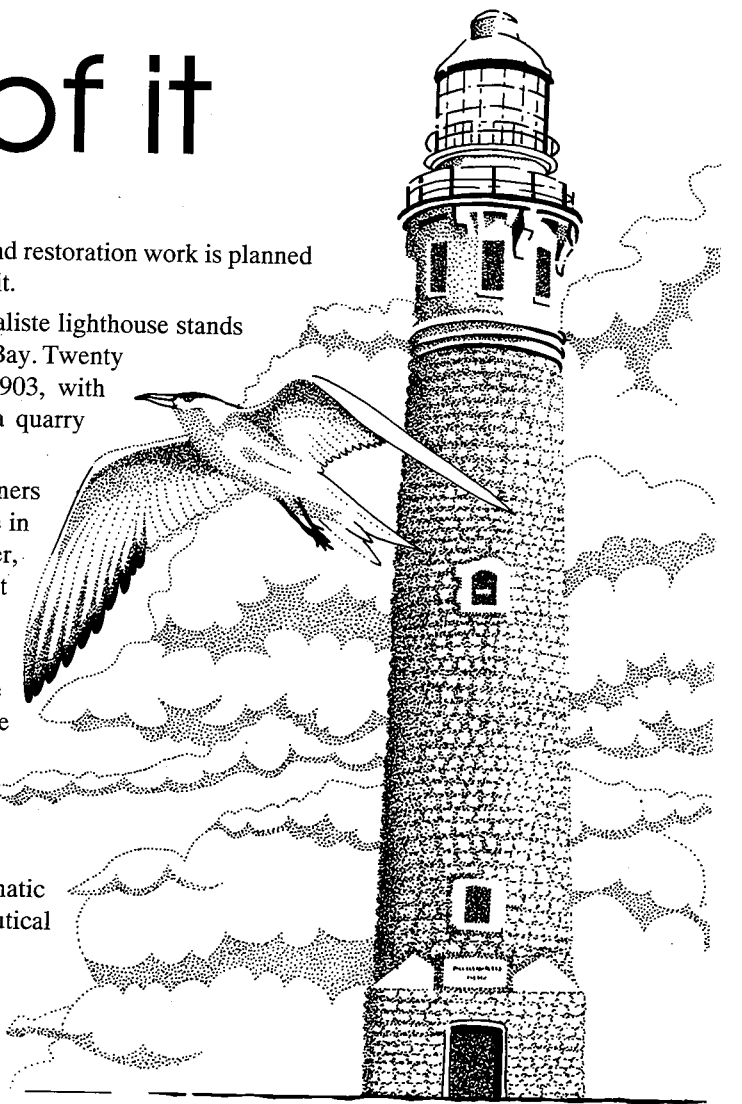
At the other end of the park, Cape Naturaliste lighthouse stands on a 100 metre bluff overlooking Geographe Bay. Twenty metres high, the lighthouse was built in 1903, with limestone carted by bullock wagon from a quarry about a mile away.

Before the lighthouse was built, most mariners depended on a barrel on top of a 30 foot pole in Busselton to mark the best landing place. Later, a lantern hung from the top of the pole so it could be seen at night.

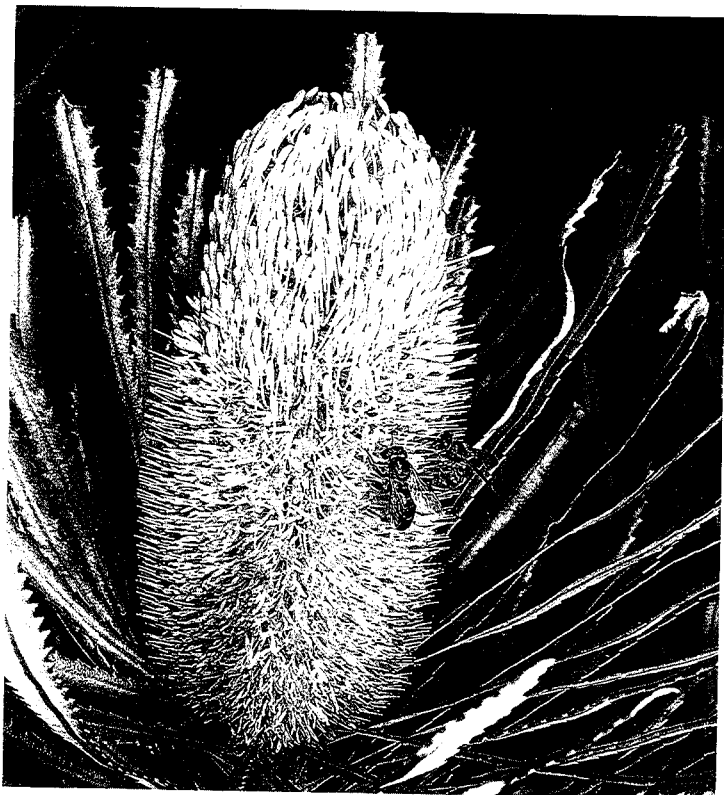
The lighthouse's three original keepers' quarters are still standing. Life for these people revolved around night watches which were divided into three periods, one for each man. During each watch the keeper had to wind the clockwork and pump kerosene to the burner.

Cape Naturaliste lighthouse is now an automatic operation, with its white beam visible for 26 nautical miles, flashing twice every 10 seconds.

Regular tours are run through both the lighthouse tower and adjacent museum from Thursday to Tuesdays - 9.30am to 4pm.



Tiny orchids, giant karri, ancient blackboys and at least six rare plants are all to be found in Leeuwin-Naturaliste. But one of the greatest threats to conservation in Western Australia is on the loose in the park. The threat comes from the plant killer, dieback disease.



Rare plants and tall trees

Two distinctive vegetation types dominate the park: low windswept open heath communities on the thin soil layer on top of limestone cliffs and open peppermint scrub on the coastal sand and limestones.

Common to the heaths is a prickly shark-toothed wattle, *Acacia littorea*, and the aptly-named cockies tongue, *Templetonia rufosa*. Closer to the coast, the delicate smoky-grey foliage of the coastal daisy bush, *Olearia axillaris*, becomes abundant.

Peppermint trees, *Agonis flexuosa*, named for its scented leaves, grow among a variety of other shrub species.

Where limestone is present, parrot bush, *Dryandra sessilis*, and melaleuca, *Melaleuca huegelii*, occur. Near Cape Naturaliste, the hardwood tree jarrah, *Eucalyptus marginata*, grows as a tall shrub.

There's also the strange broomrape, *Orobanche australis*, a leafless parasite on the roots of other plants. It stands up to 30 cms tall,

with brown, hooded flowers and a bulbous stem base and is widespread both in natural and cultivated areas.

Pineapple bush, *Dasypogon hookeri*, is restricted to Leeuwin ridge, the Whicher Range, south of Busselton, and the coast south of Pemberton. A one-sided bottlebrush, *Calothamnus* species, has been found only in Leeuwin-Naturaliste.

Plant killer

About 70 hectares of Leeuwin-Naturaliste are known to be infected by dieback disease. This area could be much larger, but much of the park's vegetation is not easily assessed for the disease.

The disease is caused by microscopic, soil-borne fungi which attack the roots of hundreds of different plants, starving them of water and nutrients.

As affected plants die, the food and shelter they provide to birds and animals also disappear.

Dieback disease has long been associated with the jarrah forest,

where its effects were first noticed in the 1920s. However, the fungi attack a range of plants from native wildflowers to avocados and camellias.

People unknowingly carrying infected soil have spread dieback disease from Kalbarri in the north to Cape Arid, east of Esperance, and inland to Boyagin Rock, near Pingelly.

Even damp soil and mud carried on car wheels can be enough to infect a healthy area, so some restrictions are necessary for people travelling and working in natural areas.

In Leeuwin-Naturaliste, vehicles can use only designated roads and tracks and management operations, such as building firebreaks, are carefully controlled.

Please don't drive off-road in the park and observe any road closed signs you come across and help stop the spread of dieback disease.

Above: Candle banksia, Banksia attenuata. Photo - Jiri Lochman Illustration - Sandra Mitchell

Dive trail to check four wrecks

Off the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park lie the wrecks of explorer ships that came to grief early this century and late last century.

About 14 ships wrecked themselves around Hamelin Bay, Cape Hamelin and Cape Mentelle west of Margaret River, with the remains of three yet to be found.

A dive trail has been established to encompass four visible wrecks at Hamelin Bay.

These include the British ship *Agincourt*, wrecked in 1882, the remains of which are found about 200 metres offshore, and the *Chaudiere*, wrecked in 1883.

The Hamelin Bay Wreck Trail is part of the Heritage Trails Network, and was developed by the

Cowaramup Lions Club and the WA Maritime Museum.

Last century Hamelin Bay was used as a port for exporting karri timber.

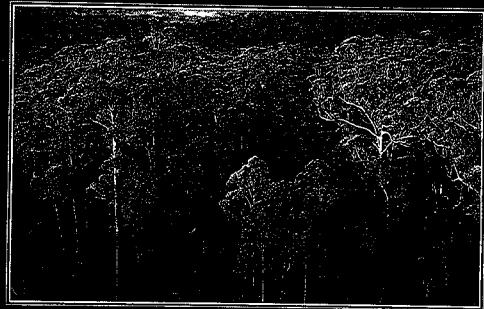
In its heyday, the port had a jetty catering for five ships, with moveable steam cranes. There were four heavy ship moorings set away from the jetty in the bay with chains and anchors and about 10 vessels a year used the port between 1882 and 1885.

In 1900 five ships were lost in the port - three in one storm. These tragedies forced a reassessment of the future use of the bay, and it was abandoned as a timber port a few years later.

- Information supplied courtesy of the WA Maritime Museum.

DISCOVER

wild places, quiet places



A guide to the natural highlights of the South-West

THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIRI LOCHMAN

The south-west of Western Australia is a magnificent place. *Wild Places, Quiet Places* gives you a comprehensive guide to beautiful eucalypt forests, quiet streams and the rugged coastline.....300 different spots are listed in all. This superb book is illustrated in full colour, with maps, descriptions and helpful information to help you find that perfect place.

\$14.95 from newsagents, bookshops and CALM

One of the best days out in history

Leeuwin-Naturaliste has a number of historic and pre-historic sites, some of them Australia's oldest Aboriginal sites, dating back 40,000 years.

The area was also one of the first in Western Australia to be settled by Europeans.

Ellensbrook and Meekadarrabee, near the mouth of Margaret River, are reminders of this dual history.

Two couples made their homes here - Alfred and Ellen Bussell in the house named after the young bride and, long before them, Nobel and Mitanne, whose elopement ended in tragedy.

The local Aboriginal people who once lived here tell the story of a young girl called Mitanne, who spent her time exploring caves and strange places. Others were afraid to go these places because Neurleem, the devil, was said to live there. Sometimes Nobel, a boy her own age, would explore with her.

Moon's bathing place

One evening Mitanne hurried back to camp and told her mother she had found Meekadarrabee, the moon's bathing place. "I have seen Meeka shimmering silver and white in the water."

Mitanne's grandmother was angry: "You foolish girl, you should have turned your eyes away. To gaze upon Meeka in the water brings death and sorrow."

Mitanne had been promised to the elder as his second wife, but didn't want to marry him.

Instead, Nobel crept into camp and he and Mitanne eloped, travelling for many hours until they reached Meekadarrabee. There they lived happily, hunting at night for fear of being found.

When the elder heard of this he was angry and sent warriors to find Nobel and kill him. One night Nobel stayed out hunting much longer than usual. Mitanne grew worried and went to look for him. She found Nobel speared through the body - he died in her arms. Before long the hunters returned and dragged her back to the elder. She was forced to do all the hard work around the camp until one day she collapsed and died.

Waiting in the peppermint trees was the spirit of Nobel. Together they made their way to the cave behind the waterfall at Meekadarrabee. It's said that if you listen carefully you can hear their happy voices and laughter over the water.

CALM has installed facilities to allow more visitors to explore Ellensbrook house and Meekadarrabee with minimum disturbance to the area's high



conservation and scenic values. Work at the site includes an 800 metre walk trail, with jarrah boardwalk and stairs, from beside the house to Meekadarrabee. The road into Ellensbrook has also been upgraded from a 4-wheel drive track, information bays installed and a carpark and toilets built.

Ellensbrook house, which is listed and managed by the National

Trust, was built by Alfred Bussell in 1857. He and his 16-year-old wife, Ellen, set off from Busselton on their honeymoon through the then trackless scrub of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste peninsula.

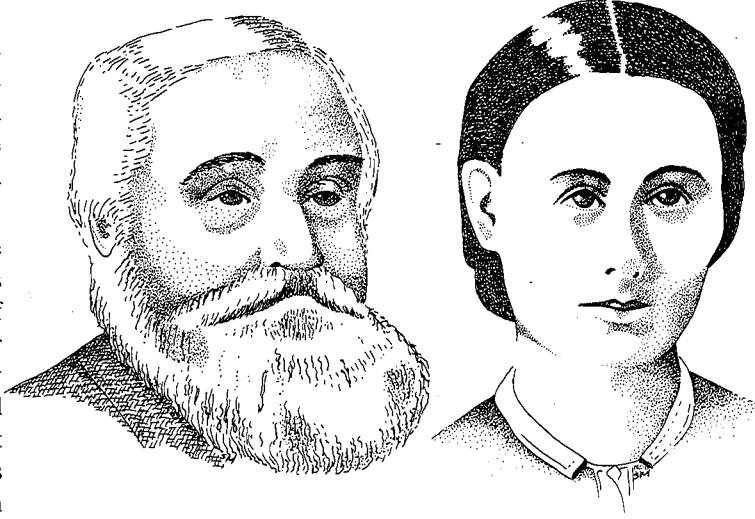
Ellen's house

Alfred named the crushed shell and limestone farmstead Ellensbrook, in honour of his young love. They lived here until 1865, when they moved to Wallcliffe House at the mouth of the Margaret River.

Two of the couple's children died as infants and are buried near Ellensbrook, along with a convict helper and Alfred's brother, Charles Bussell. The family lived a meagre existence, which gradually improved as they managed to sell some of their produce and build onto their one-room hut. This meant

adding a kitchen for the first time so Ellen no longer had to cook outdoors.

The house has been restored and opened to the public by the National Trust and is in the final stages of a landscape and conservation management plan.



Alfred led her to the site he had

The south-west is one of the most populated areas outside the metropolitan region, yet some places are still wild and remote.

Planning is essential to any trip - contact the local police station or CALM office to get up-to-date information on local conditions.

Tell someone where you're going and when you plan to be back and let them know when you arrive.

If your car breaks down, don't leave it - it's always easier for rescuers to spot a car than a person.

Playing it safe

The right maps are vital. RAC road maps are enough if you plan to stay on recognised roads, but if you get off the beaten track, you'll discover the bush is crisscrossed with tracks which can confuse you.

If you do get lost, systematically follow the well-travelled tracks and you will eventually find help.

Permanent water sources are marked on CALM maps, but much of this water needs to be boiled or sterilised before drinking.

One of the best things for campers and bushwalkers in the cool south-west is a space blanket. Light, portable and inexpensive, it can be used to keep warm or cool.

Bushfires are a constant summer threat and if you're caught in one, remember your car is a safe refuge. Don't drive blindly through smoke,

but switch on your headlights and park on a bare area beside the road on the opposite side to the fire.

The main cause of death in a wildfire is heat radiation, rather than direct contact with flames.

Wind up the windows and shelter from the heat beneath the dashboard with a rug, floor mat - anything covering your body.

The petrol tank won't explode and even in the worst situations it will be some moments before the vehicle catches alight. If the car does catch fire, get out after the peak fire has passed, but keep your skin covered as much as possible.

For further information on bush skills, read *LANDSCOPE*, Vol.3 No.1 and Vol. 7 No.3 from CALM, or *AIDS TO SURVIVAL*, free from the WA Police Department.



Helping hands

CALM boasts a silent workforce of nearly 1,000 volunteers, without whose help many tasks wouldn't get done.

In 1989, the Department formalised earlier volunteer programs and appointed a full-time coordinator. More than 150 projects have since been established.

What sort of work do volunteers do? Some provide visitors with information on what to do and see during their visit.

Others help CALM with historical, botanical, wildlife and disease control research.

Counting nesting sea turtles on Barrow Island, helping to fence off remnant rainforests in the Kimberley and rehabilitating the badly burnt Fitzgerald River National Park are just a few of the successful CALM projects already carried out.

Volunteers may also work on visitor surveys, park planning, fire management, erosion control and

rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife.

Then, of course, there's the campground host scheme that operates in Leeuwin-Naturaliste and other parks and reserves during peak times.

Campground hosts provide information, help rangers, allocate campsites and generally help visitors enjoy their stay.

Added to this is the work done by other volunteer groups, such as WA's 800 Bushfire Brigades; marine mammal rescue groups; the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union and the Wildflower Society.

Local communities and concerned people also play an essential role - especially in the aftermath of an emergency.

To find out more, call CALM's volunteer coordinator on (09) 364 0777.

Above: Interpreting the seashore. Photo - Rod Annear.

A whale of a view



A humpback whale off the WA coast - Photo Mike Osmond.

The annual whale migration to and from Antarctica makes a spectacular show off Leeuwin-Naturaliste.

Humpback and southern right whales swim past the park on their way north to breeding grounds in July and southwards in October/November, the southern right whales lolling about in the park's shallow bays.

The best vantage points to see humpback whales are Cape Leeuwin, Cape Naturaliste, Gracetown, Cowaramup and Sugarloaf carpark.

Others go out whale watching by boat, which can be very successful provided the boats stay at least 100 metres from the whales. Any closer and the animals can become distressed and there's a risk that calves can be separated from their mothers.

Ironically, this coast was once popular with whaling companies which operated until the 1880s.

Whale populations have increased off our coast since whaling finally stopped in 1978. Hunting humpbacks was banned in 1963 - at that time, their numbers

had dropped from possibly more than 15,000 to only 600.

An aerial survey in July 1991 recorded 28 humpback whales per day and it's estimated three to four thousand humpbacks now make the long migration each year.

As southern right whales come in close to the surf, people often report them as animals about to strand on the beach. But in fact they are behaving quite normally, swimming close to the coast so the adult females can give birth and then nurture their young in the shallows.

Each year there are strandings of whales and dolphins along the West Australian coast - the biggest stranding of false killer whales was recorded at Augusta in 1986.

It was followed by one of the world's largest and most successful whale rescues.

Townpeople, tourists, CALM officers, surfers, forestry workers and many other volunteers worked for two days and nights in the cold surf of Augusta's town beach to relaunch a school of 114 stranded false killer whales.

Altogether, 96 of the whales

were successfully herded out of the bay.

A memorial to the rescue and an information shelter have been built overlooking the town beach.

CALM is responsible for conserving Western Australia's wildlife, and CALM wildlife officers are the first people called to a stranding.

If you do find a stranded whale, or dolphin or sea lion, please contact the Bunbury CALM office on 254 300, or call the stranding emergency after hours numbers: (09) 448 1109, or (09) 401 8183.

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