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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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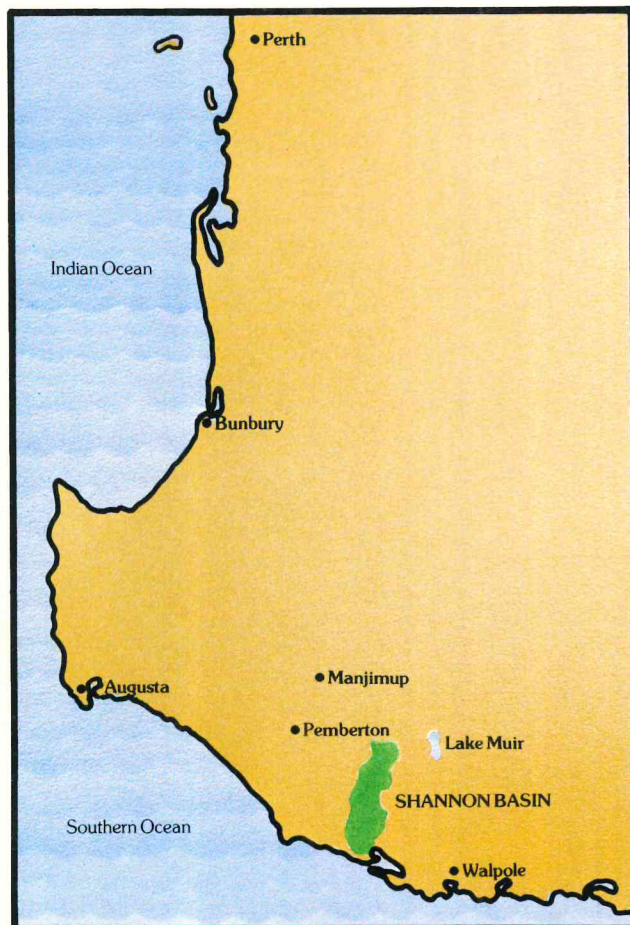
Shannon Forest

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Shannon Forest covers nearly 60,000 hectares and the entire drainage system of a river. This area is a reserve for the conservation of native plants and animals, and for public recreation.

WHERE IS IT?

Between four and six hours drive south of Perth (358 km). Sealed road all the way. Take the South-Western Highway, turn left at Bunbury (follow the signs to Manjimup). Half an hour (53 km) south of Manjimup you arrive at the abandoned mill townsite of Shannon.

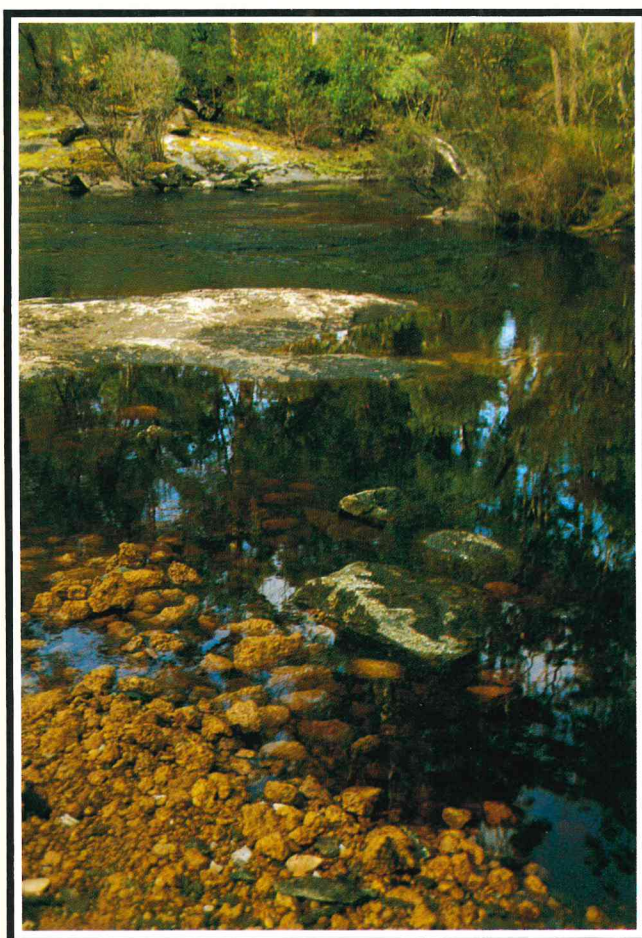


WHAT'S THERE?

You are entering the cool south-west of Western Australia. Be prepared for a change (of weather, clothes, tyres, outlook.)

The Shannon is: towering karri forest; gnarled jarrah forest; looming marri forest. The Shannon is also: wild coastal wetlands; paperbark swamps; river; sand dunes; granite monadnocks that rise above the flat lands near the coast like enchanted islands; cliffs; and more...

Arriving at Shannon townsite is your first step into a different world.



WEATHER:

Summer (November – March) is warm and dry. Don't forget your insect repellent.

Autumn (April – May) is cool, moist, and misty. Be prepared for changes in the weather.

Winter (May – October) is cold and wet. Wet weather gear and wellies are essential.

Spring (October – November) is warm, moist, and misty. The season for wildflowers, when the whole forest from the coastal flats to the karri puts on an amazing display.

SUPPLIES AND ACCOMMODATION:



Quininup, 20 km.

Northcliffe, 32 km.

Pemberton, 54 km.

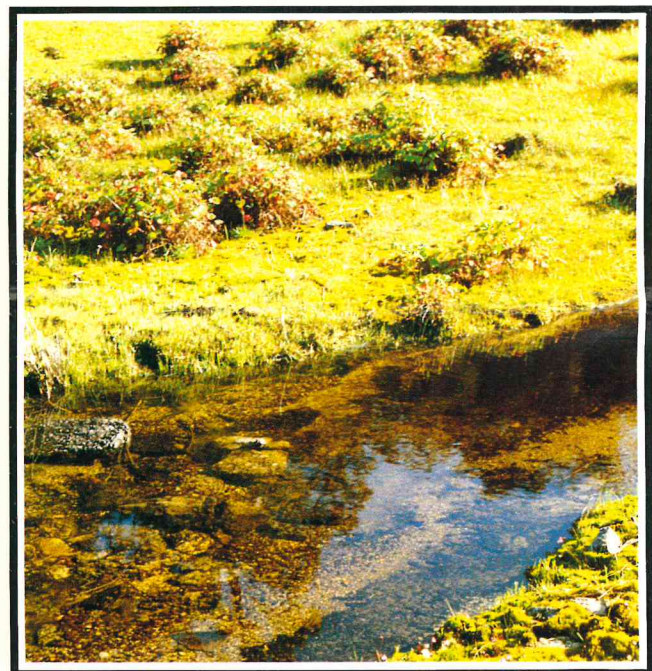
Manjimup, 53 km.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Westrail buses leave Bunbury at 9.00 am every Wednesday. Enquiries to Westrail, ph. (09) 326 2811. Once inside the Shannon it's either your own car, or shoulder your backpack.

TIME TO EXPLORE:

One day for the townsite and immediate surrounds. 3-5 days minimum for the whole reserve.



ABOUT THE SHANNON

The southern forests are a living, growing maze of changing plants and landscapes. These changes occur in both space and time. In one small area, maybe less than half a hectare, orchids, mosses, liverworts, clematis, and hovea, will thrive. Then, two hundred metres away, on the other side of a hill, a completely different set of plants will crowd the soil beneath the forest trees.

The Shannon is a forest typical of most of south-west Australia: not an endless landscape of giant karri trees, but an ever-changing kaleidoscope of "ecotypes" (a combination of plant species, type of soil, and situation).

This forest has been made a reserve because it contains a fair representation of the "ecotypes" that form the southern forests.

Parts of the karri forest in the basin have been logged, although there are still many areas in a "virgin" state; but the southern part of the river basin contains one of the last sizeable tracts of coastal country in the south-west relatively untouched since European settlement.

The Shannon is also the only conservation reserve in Western Australia which consists of an entire river basin. This has important implications for its value as an effective conservation area. To a large extent the reserve is self-contained, that is, the river system and the underground water flowing through the forest will be fairly free of disturbing factors such as: salinity, seeds of imported weeds, turbidity, and other influences which may affect the ecology of an area.

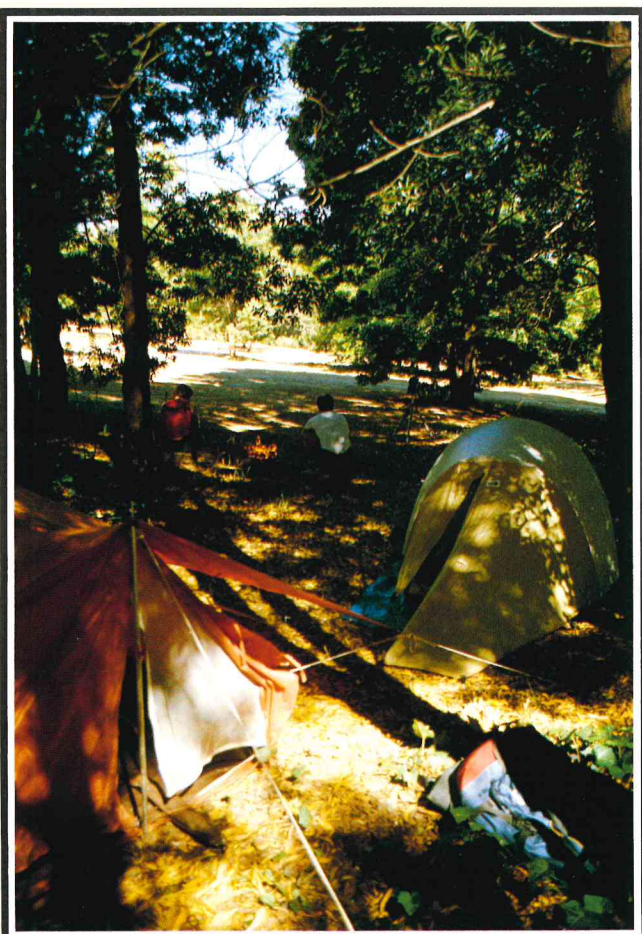


Department of Conservation and Land Management, W.A.

SHANNON TOWNSITE



This was once the timber milling town of Shannon. Its now your base for exploring the forest. To the north of the highway is a display shelter which will tell you more about the reserve. To the south is the main camping and caravan area. The mill town of Shannon opened in 1948, and closed in 1970. Between these years much of the northern part of the basin was logged for karri, and later regenerated by the Forests Department. Traces of the mill town and forestry settlement can still be seen in the ornamental and fruit trees surrounding the camping area.



CAMPING



These signs show where camping is permitted.

If neither of these signs appears near a site, then the area is intended for use by day visitors only. Please do not camp in day-use areas.

Backpack camping is permitted throughout the Shannon.

PLEASE, leave no trace of your visit.



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

WATER: Always carry your own drinking water. If you do have to use water from the few permanent water points it should be boiled before use.

FIREARMS: No firearms in the forest please.

FLORA AND FAUNA: In order to protect the forest environment please do not disturb native animals, and do not pick wildflowers.

BUSHFIRES ARE A REAL DANGER



When lighting fires make sure that you:

- Always use fireplaces, when they are provided.
- If no fireplace exists, build a stone ring, or dig a shallow pit to contain the embers.
- Clear all leaf litter, dead branches, and anything else that may burn, for at least 3 metres around the fire. (This also applies to portable stoves).
- **DO NOT LEAVE THE FIRE AT ANY TIME WHILE IT IS BURNING.**
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving. Use soil and water to extinguish the embers, and bury the ashes.

On certain days the fire risk is **VERY HIGH** or **EXTREME**: neither camp nor cooking fires are permitted. Country radio stations broadcast fire risk warnings, but please check with Shire Authorities, the tourist bureau, or the nearest office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management for advice on the fire risk before entering the forest.

ROADS AND VEHICLES: All roads in the basin except the South-West Highway are gravel or sand tracks. All vehicles used in the Shannon must be registered and roadworthy. While in the forest please keep to the major formed roads, and designated 4WD tracks.

In winter tracks in the southern part of the basin often flood – take care.

Several roads for use by log trucks still run through the Shannon from logging areas to the east of the reserve. These roads will usually be marked NO ENTRY. For your own safety do not drive on log haul roads.

RUBBISH: Place all litter in the bins provided. If there are no bins operate on the principle of taking out what you take in. Bury organic waste at least 30 cm deep.

A PARK FOR THE PEOPLE

Public participation in planning for the use of the Shannon Forest and D'Entrecasteaux National Park is the key to the future of this reserve.

To this end submissions from many sections of the community are being incorporated into the final management plans for this area.

The future of the reserve, and the conservation of this unique and stunningly beautiful environment are in the hands of the people of Western Australia ... It is part of your heritage, and your legacy to your children.

THINGS TO DO

BUSHWALKING: Old logging and management tracks run throughout the reserve. These provide an easy path through the undergrowth of the karri forest. Before setting off into the wilderness obtain a large scale (1:50,000) map of where you intend to go (available from the Department of Conservation and Land Management).

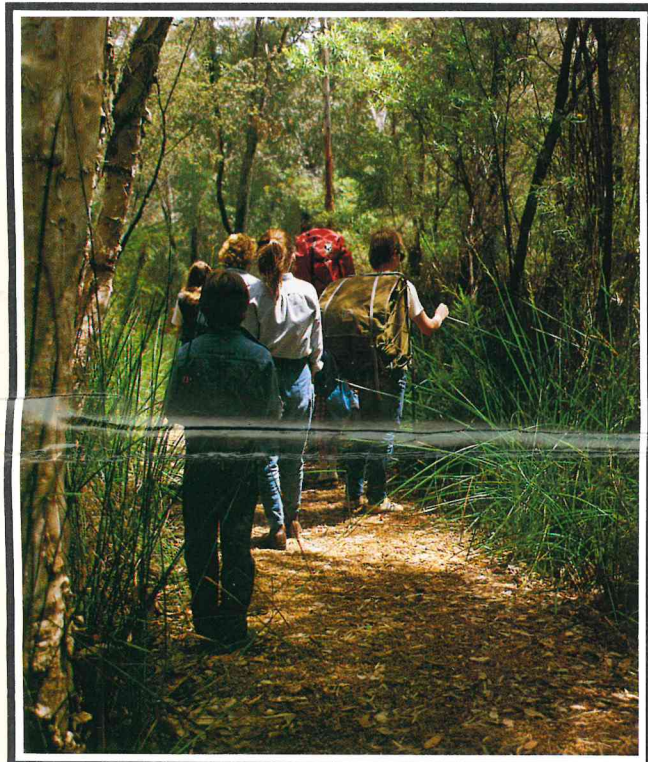
REMEMBER: Carry drinking water. Tell someone where you are heading, and when you expect to be back.

Two sign-posted trails lead north, and west of the display shelter:

The Shannon Dam Trail is 3.5 km, and for the first 1.5 km suitable for wheelchairs. The trail winds through the valley of the Shannon River, beneath towering karri and huge gnarled marri trees. On either side of the track the understorey of waterbush and hazel grow in dense thickets, and as you enter a peat swamp watch carefully for signs of wild Quokkas that live in the dense reeds.

The Rocks Trail is 5.5 km, and wanders up the rim of the valley to a granite outcrop which overlooks the town site.

The Bibbulmun track, named after the Aboriginal peoples of the south-west, runs from here to Perth (500 km), through almost the entire length of Western Australia's southern forests. A guidebook to the track is available from the Department of Conservation and Land Management.



GOLF:

Part of the Shannon Townsite has been the local golf course for Northcliffe and the surrounding area for many years.

Visitors are welcome to use the course, but bring your own clubs, and plenty of spare balls.

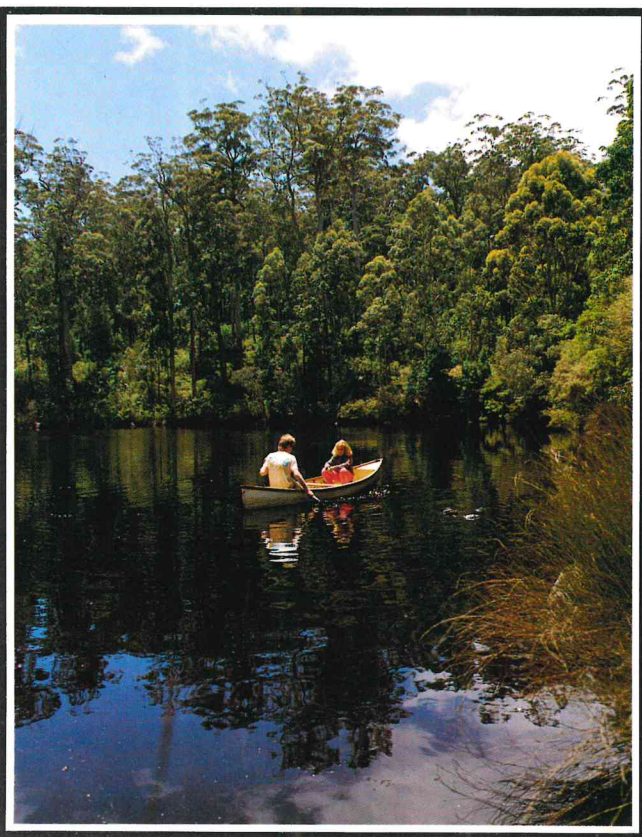


BOATING:

Broke Inlet, at the mouth of the Shannon River, offers some excellent water for canoeing, sailing and windsurfing.

For ten months of the year the inlet is closed from the sea by a sand bar, which only dissolves when the winter rains flush down the Shannon.

Most of the Shannon River is not suitable for canoeing, but the Shannon Dam provides a spot near the camping area where you can take to the water.



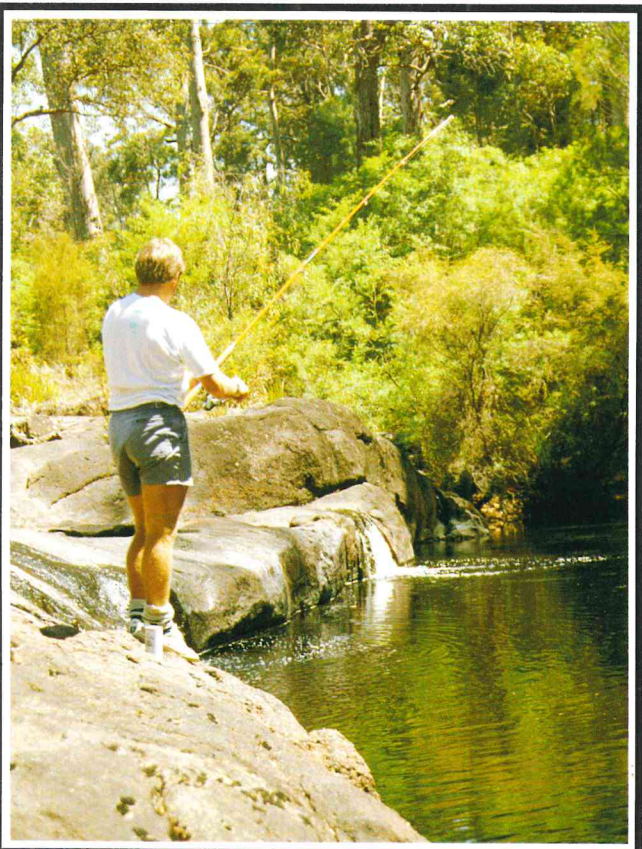
FISHING

Freshwater: Shannon Dam and the Shannon River both contain trout and marron (the native freshwater crayfish).

A licence is necessary, and can be obtained from the Department of Fisheries for an annual fee of \$6.00. Full details of the regulations are available from the Department of Fisheries when you buy your licence.

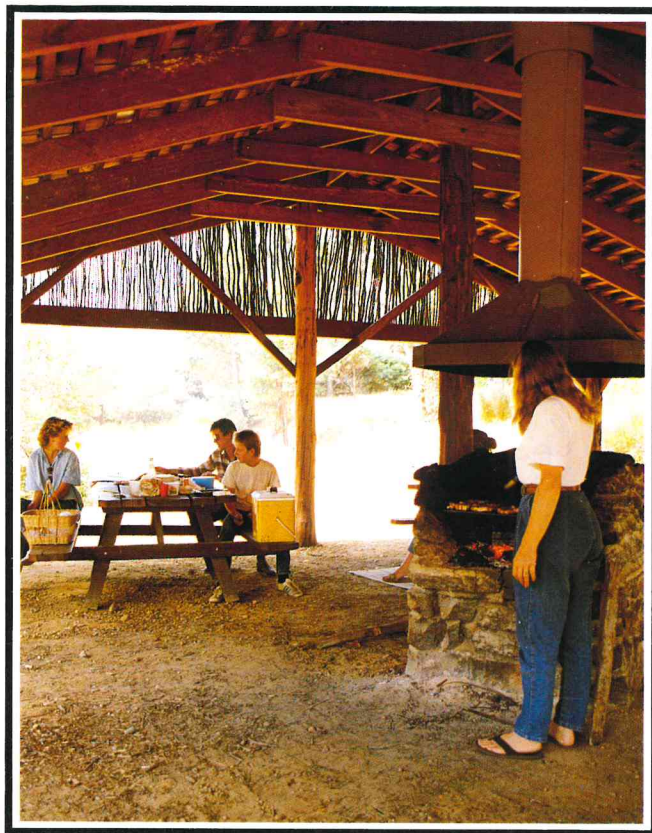
Sea Fishing: Broke Inlet and the D'Entrecasteaux beaches offer superb shore fishing for amateurs, but please, keep your cars and 4WDs on the marked tracks.

Net fishing is prohibited in Broke Inlet and all waters that flow into it between 1st November, and 30th April. At any other time a licence is needed.



HORSE RIDING:

Contact the nearest office of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.



SIGNS IN THE FOREST



ACCOMMODATION



BARBECUES AND TABLES



BUSH WALK



CAMPING



CANOEING



CARAVAN PARK



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



HANDICAPPED FACILITIES



HORSE TRAIL



INFORMATION



MEALS



MEDICAL AID



NO PETS



PETROL



POST OFFICE



SHELTER



SWIMMING



TELEPHONE



TOILETS



WATER (Drinking)

FURTHER INFORMATION

On forest recreation, and national parks is available from:

Department of Conservation and Land Management

50 Hayman Road,

COMO. WA 6152 ph: (09) 367 6333

Brain Street,

MANJIMUP. WA 6258 ph: (097) 71 1988

Kennedy Street,

PEMBERTON. WA 6260 ph: (097) 76 1207

South Western Highway,

WALPOLE. WA 6398 ph: (098) 40 1027

