

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

History

The name Yanchep is derived from the Aboriginal word "yanget", meaning bulrush.

In the long ages before white settlement the Aboriginal people lived on the coastal strip between Albany in the south and the Northern Swan Coastal Plain, moving inland as far as York and Toodyay.

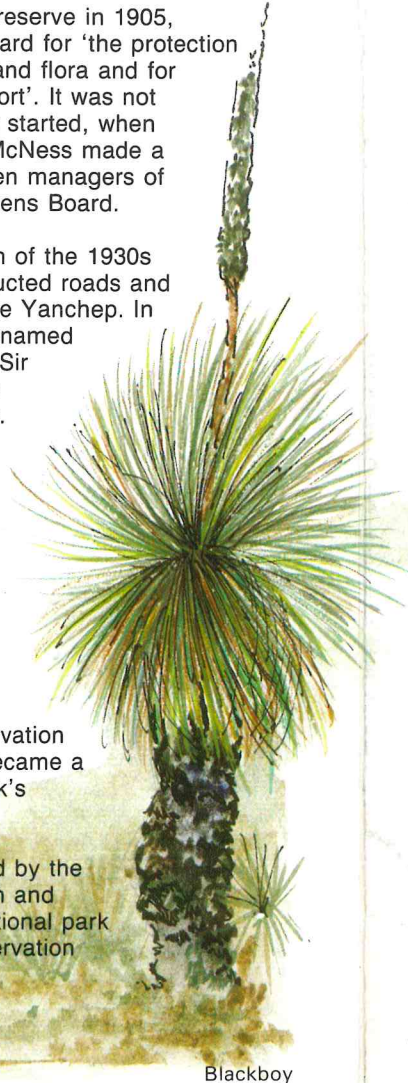
Coastal wetlands, such as Loch McNess, were a major source of both food and water.

Yanchep was first made a reserve in 1905, vested under the Caves Board for 'the protection and preservation of caves and flora and for a health and recreation resort'. It was not until 1930 that any building started, when philanthropist Sir Charles McNess made a grant of £11,600 to the then managers of the reserve, the State Gardens Board.

During the great depression of the 1930s sustenance workers constructed roads and buildings, and dredged Lake Yanchep. In 1935 Lake Yanchep was renamed Loch McNess in honour of Sir Charles' contribution to the development of the reserve.

The National Parks Board was established in 1956, and at Yanchep six staff houses, a machinery shed, change rooms and a plant nursery were built to cater for public demands on the reserve. In 1969 Yanchep was finally given full status as a national park, and conservation of native flora and fauna became a significant factor in the Park's management.

Today Yanchep is managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management as a national park which caters for both conservation and public recreation.



Blackboy

REMEMBER

BE CAREFUL: Your safety in natural environments is your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in bins, or better still, take it with you.

STAY COOL: Don't light fires. Bring your own portable gas stove.

SAVE ANIMALS AND PLANTS: No firearms or pets . . . please.

STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow signs in the Park, and stay on the roads marked in this brochure. Speed limit is 40 kms per hour and normal road rules apply.



Limestone Cave
Boomerang Gorge

Further Information

Department of Conservation and Land Management

Yanchep National Park
Information Office (09) 561 1004
Senior Ranger (09) 561 1661

Wanneroo District Office
980 Wannero Road. (09) 405 1222

Northern Forests Region Office
3044 Albany Highway, Kelmscott (09) 390 5977



Department of Conservation
and Land Management,
50 Hayman Road, Como, W.A. 6152
(09) 367 0333
1989

001523/3

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE
NOT FOR LOAN



Yanchep National Park, only 51 km north of Perth, has been one of the city's most popular recreation areas for over 50 years.

In Yanchep's 2,799 ha you can see native bush, wild kangaroos, and a stunning array of spring wildflowers, side by side with manicured lawns, Tudor-style buildings, cultivated native gardens, and a colony of koalas originally imported from Victoria in the 1930s.

Included in the Park are beautiful caves, picnic and barbecue areas set amongst shaded lawns, self-guiding walktrails through native bushland, a hotel, and the Gloucester Lodge museum.



Yanchep Inn



Koala

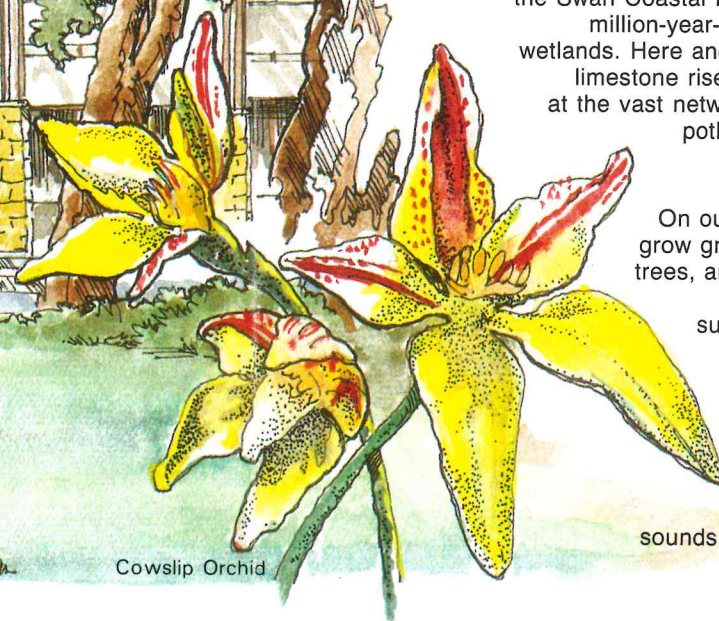
The Environment

Away from the 'developed' area of the Park, Yanchep is a fascinating reminder of how Perth would have looked to the first settlers. This is the Swan Coastal Plain, a flat land of two-million-year-old sands and low-lying wetlands. Here and there crags of eroded limestone rise above the soil, hinting at the vast network of limestone caves, potholes, and underground streams that lies under the park.

On outcrops of the limestone grow gnarled grey-barked tuart trees, and under them an open woodland of banksias surrounded by heathland.

Lower still grow the annual and perennial flowering shrubs of the plain: between August and November

a sea of sounds and scents.



Cowslip Orchid

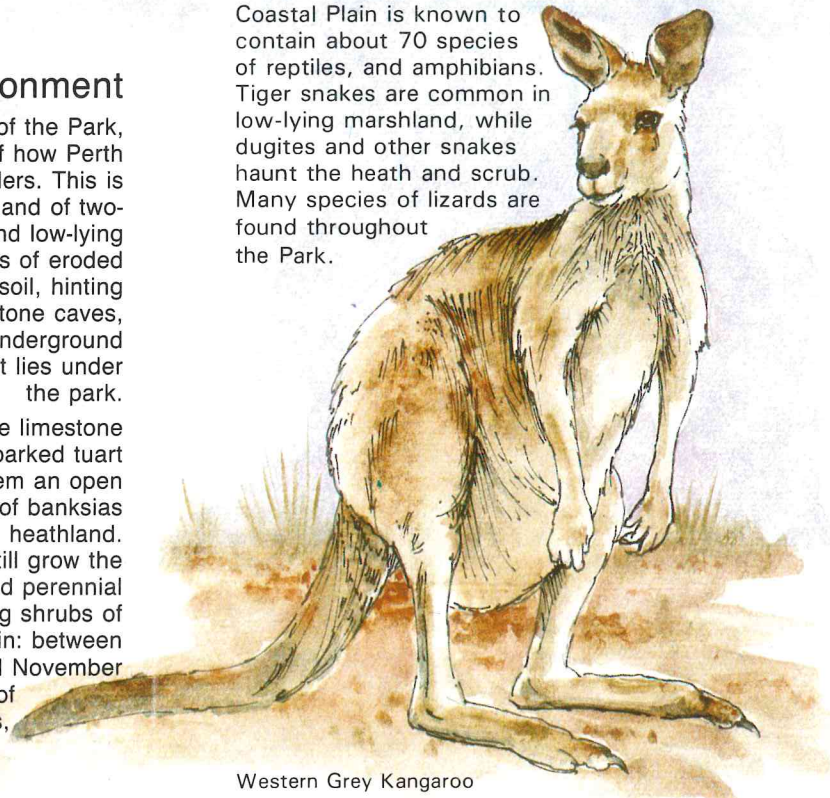
Fauna

Grey kangaroos are common, and can often be seen grazing on the lawns and ovals surrounding Yanchep Inn, particularly in the early morning and just before dusk.

Most other native mammals are nocturnal, and seldom seen during the day. Amongst those in the park are the tiny honey-possum, which feeds on nectar, pollen and small insects from the flowers of the banksia and tuart trees; and the short-nosed bandicoot, whose distinctive cone-shaped diggings, left as it forages for grubs and worms, can be spotted by sharp observers in sandy areas under low scrub.

Yanchep includes a variety of bird habitats, and each one has its own particular group of residents or visitors. Habitats range from open banksia woodland to marsh and open water. Bird check-lists are available at the information office.

The Northern Swan Coastal Plain is known to contain about 70 species of reptiles, and amphibians. Tiger snakes are common in low-lying marshland, while dugites and other snakes haunt the heath and scrub. Many species of lizards are found throughout the Park.



Western Grey Kangaroo

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Loch McNess

Loch McNess forms the centre-piece of the park and a fleet of rowing boats is available for hire each day.

Monday — Saturday: 9.00 am — 3.30 pm
 Sunday: 10.00 am — 4.00 pm

Gas barbecues, operated by 20c coins, are provided on the lake foreshore. Change is available at the Park information office.



"The Shawl"
Crystal Cave

Caves

Guided tours through the Crystal Cave are available. Ask about tour times at the information office.

Bushwalks

Walk 1: The Yanjidi Trail — 2 km (allow 1 1/2 hours)
 Yanjidi is another variation on the Aboriginal word for bulrush, and the Yanjidi trail takes you through the heart of the Loch McNess wetland. Huge old paperbarks surround the path as the trail winds its way round the western rim of the lake. Signs en-route explain features of the wetland ecology.

"Paperbarks"
Yanjidi Trail

Honey Possum



Walk 2: Boomerang Gorge Nature Trail — 500m (allow 1/2 hour)

The Boomerang Gorge trail is suitable for wheelchairs, and follows a level route along the bottom of a steep limestone gorge. Signs along the way explain some of the features on the trail. Booklet in braille and large print interpreting the trail may be borrowed from the information office.

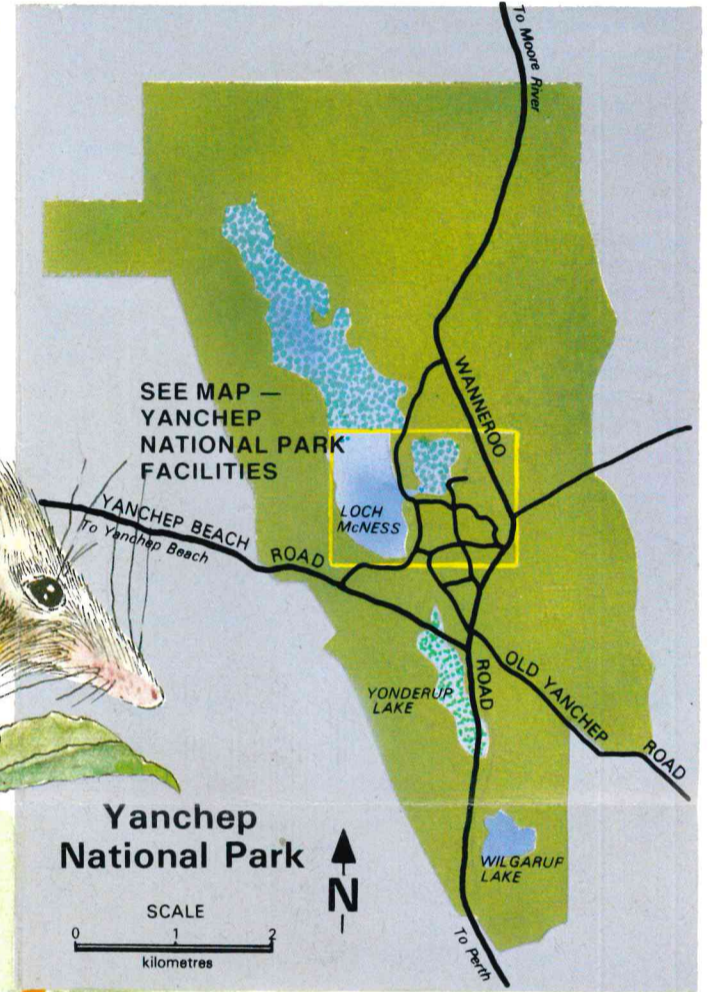
Other tracks run through the Park, and walkers can explore the rich plant and animal life of the coastal plain by following these. Ask at the information office for more details.

PLEASE NOTE: Wear long trousers and boots when bushwalking in the Park.

All animals in the Park are wild, and should be approached with appropriate caution.

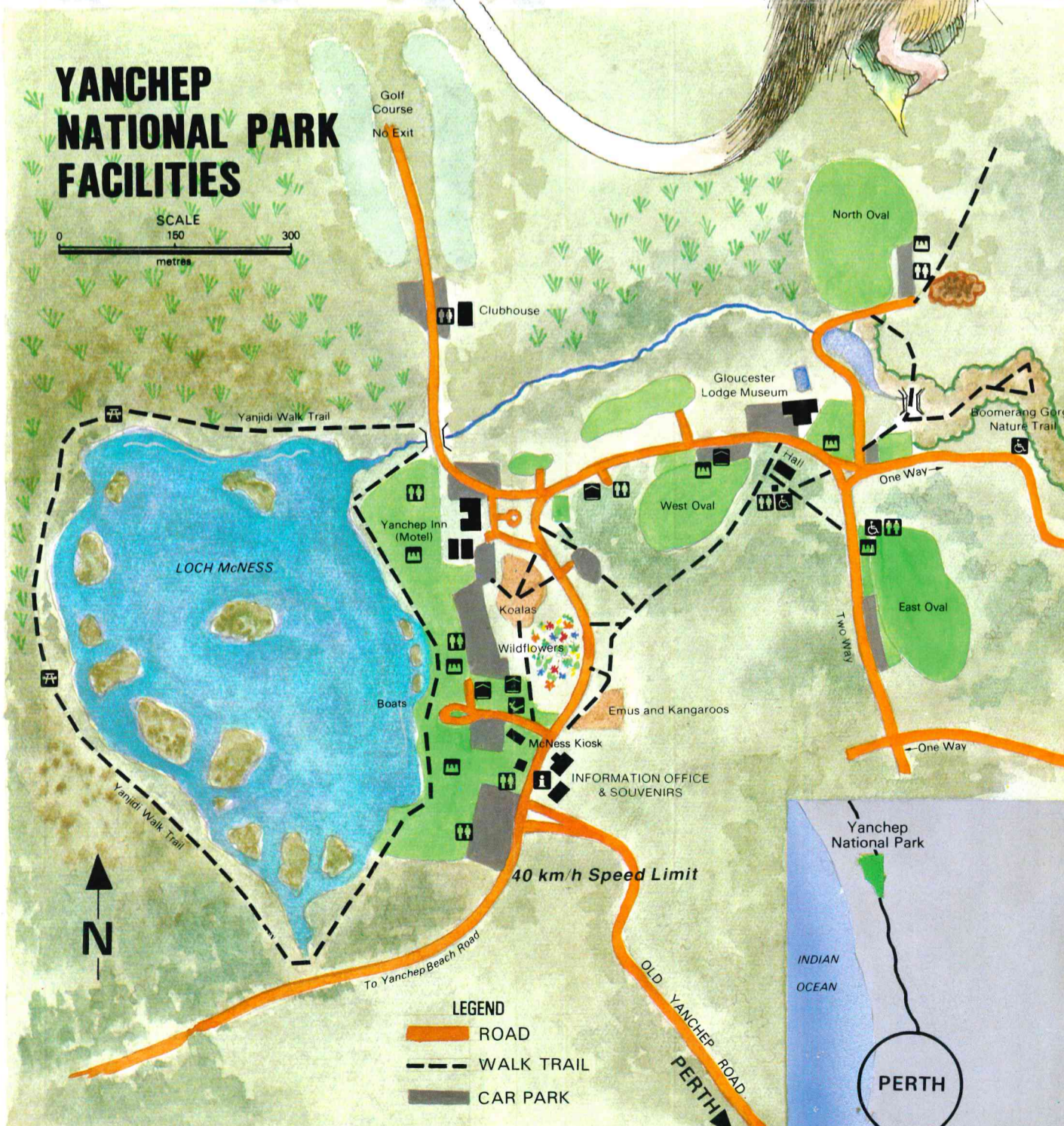
Other Activities

A range of other activities is available including picnic areas for hire for group outings. Ask at the information office.



YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK FACILITIES

SCALE
 0 150 300 metres



LEGEND
 ROAD
 WALK TRAIL
 CAR PARK

Yanchep National Park

SCALE
 0 1 2 kilometres

National park rangers are always glad to help make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you require any information or assistance.

