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Conservation and Attractions

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BUSH CODE OF ETHICS

- ❑ Stay on established paths wherever possible - take care not to damage surrounding bush;
- ❑ Please use only fuel stoves at bush campsites;
- ❑ Where toilets are not provided, bury toilet waste more than 150mm deep and at least 100metres away from any water supply;
- ❑ Clean, crush and carry out all rubbish;
- ❑ Respect private property by not straying onto land adjacent to the National Park;
- ❑ Be courteous to other track-users, and be prepared to assist if required;
- ❑ Enjoy the wildflowers, but please do not pick them;
- ❑ Please report any damage or problems to CALM, Busselton Office, 14 Queen Street: Ph (08) 9752 1677.

HELP US TO MAINTAIN YOUR TRACK!



Hibbertia cuneiformis: Equally at home amongst coastal heath or karri forest

WALK SAFE!

- ❑ Suggest walking parties min 3, max 12.
- ❑ Carry a first-aid kit.
- ❑ Take adequate drinking water. 2 litres per person per day; on a hot day you may need at least 3 litres.
N.B. When overnighing you will need to carry extra water or plan a water drop.
- ❑ Take appropriate clothing (hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, waterproof etc.) - remember, weather conditions can change rapidly.
- ❑ Tell someone where you are going, and how long you expect to be.
- ❑ Take great care when swimming - many beaches have dangerous rips and undertows.
- ❑ Do not walk on black, wet rocks as these can be unexpectedly slippery. Watch out for extra large waves.
- ❑ In the event of a wildfire, move to or stay on the coast for your safety.
- ❑ Snakes are common, but rarely seen. Watch where you walk and keep your distance!
- ❑ Coastal limestone cliffs are fragile at their edges. Never camp or light fires in caves or overhangs, especially under wet, windy conditions.
- ❑ Beware of deep water at creek crossings during winter and after heavy rain.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

Dunsborough Police: (08) 9755 3744

Yallingup Ranger: (08) 9755 2144

(Telephones at Yallingup, Smiths Beach, Naturaliste Lighthouse.)

FURTHER INFORMATION:

The CALM office in Busselton,
14 Queen Street,
Ph. (08) 9752 1677.

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Section 2

CAPE TO CAPE WALK TRACK

Cape Naturaliste to Wyadup
- 20 km

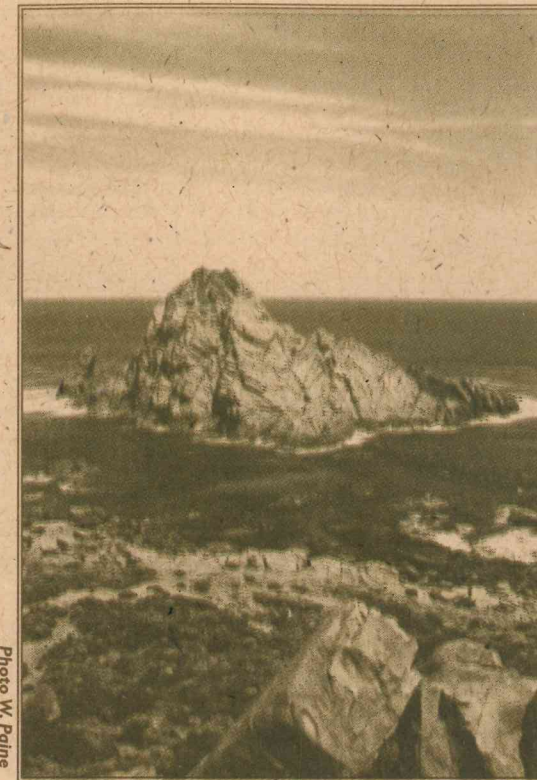
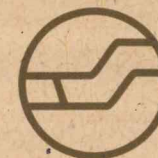


Photo W. Paine

Sugarloaf Rock



Conservation and
Land Management



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THE LEEUWIN-NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK

The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park had its beginning in the early 1930's. More land has gradually been added and today it comprises nearly 16,000 hectares of coastal grandeur, stretching from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin. Nearly all of the coastline between the capes, excluding the townsites of Yallingup, Gracetown and Prevelly Park, is included in the park. Its width varies from a narrow strip of only 100 metres in places, to over 5 kilometres in the Boranup Block. Parts of the Boranup Block and some sections of the coastline are still relatively inaccessible and wild, but much of the park is easily visited by road or 4WD track. The Leeuwin-Naturaliste has the highest visitation of any national park in the State, with over one million park visits per annum.

We hope there will be ongoing opportunities to add more land to the park through acquisition, transfer of unvested crown land and other means. This may provide opportunity for track re-alignments in the future. The current management plan for the park is due to expire in 1999, and will then be subject to public review.

The recreational opportunities within the park are numerous: boating, surfing, fishing, camping, climbing, abseiling, caving and of course, bushwalking.

The Cape to Cape Walk Track was conceived out of a Bicentenary Grant opportunity. The management plan for the park lists as an action item that "A long distance walk track from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin will be developed." With its largely undisturbed and

PARK MANAGEMENT AND BACKGROUND TO THE WALK TRACK

magnificently scenic coastline, the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park offers a wonderful opportunity for this to be constructed. Along it, walkers will be able to experience a hike of several days' duration away from civilization if they wish, but will also be able to choose from a multitude of alternative shorter walks of varying distance and difficulty.



Red-Tailed Tropic Bird

The walk track is being built with the following aims:

- ☐ to encourage park visitors to enjoy the natural environment on an accessible, safe and well sign-posted track;
- ☐ to provide a variety of bushwalking opportunities with some easy and some more challenging sections. Wheelchair access is being planned for some sections;

- ☐ to provide access, while ensuring minimal impact on the environment by means of well graded, well drained paths and visually unobtrusive steps off beaches and on steep slopes;
- ☐ to route the track via road access points, allowing the track to be completed in stages if desired;
- ☐ to provide remote campsites - at least 1 km from vehicle accessible points;
- ☐ to provide rest areas and viewpoints to take advantage of scenic vistas, shade and particularly attractive spots.

Aims for the future are:

- ☐ to continually improve the track over time;
- ☐ to encourage track users to become involved in the management and maintenance of the track;

The Cape to Cape Track is a long term project. This is the first of a series of 5 brochures. As sections are completed a brochure will be prepared. They are being sold to recoup funds, ensuring that reprints/updates will happen rather than be subject to budgets.

A Friends Group of the Cape to Cape Track has been formed. Contact can be made via CALM's Busselton Office on (08) 9752 1677

For ease of reading, the track is described from North to South, but may be enjoyed equally walking the opposite way.

For map and track notes, see overleaf

TRACK OVERVIEW: SECTION I

Much of this northern end of the track follows an undulating but fairly level cliff top path, typically 50-60 metres above sea-level. There are spectacular coastal views but limited beach access except at Yallingup and Smiths Beach where the swimming and surfing are excellent. South of here the path winds up and down around the broken, rocky coast and then follows a route high above Canal Rocks and over the ridge to Wyadup, taking advantage of panoramic views of the Rocks and then south towards Cape Clairault.

Cape Naturaliste at the northern tip of the peninsula, was named after the French corvette "Naturaliste" which, in 1801, together with the "Geographe", explored and mapped much of the West Australian Coast, under the command of Captain Nicholas Baudin. The Cape itself can be explored via the "Cape Naturaliste Walk Tracks" network, (see separate brochure, and on-site maps).

Naturaliste Lighthouse. Built of limestone quarried nearby, its powerful light still warns passing ships to steer clear; but in daylight the 100 m high headland on which it stands is a superb vantage point for whale watching. Humpback whales often swim close to shore as they round the Cape on their annual migration south (Oct - Dec), while southern right-whales sometimes venture this far north in winter to calve (June -Sept). N.B. The Cape to Cape Walk Track starts at the lighthouse carpark.

Willanup Spring

This was used to supply the lighthouse residences with water up until the late 1980's, when the spring stopped flowing. This is a great vantage point to enjoy the scenery.

Sugarloaf Rock

Looking like the remains of a cone of sugar (the form in which sugar was once sold), this granite island plays host to small numbers of red-tailed tropic birds in spring and summer when they come here to nest. These birds are usually solitary, roaming the tropical waters between the western Indian Ocean and the mid-Pacific, only forming loose communities at nesting time. Sugarloaf Rock is their most southerly known breeding site.

Approximately 1 km south of Sugarloaf, a worthwhile diversion allows beach access down an old track to a low headland. When the tide is right, several small natural pools are enclosed by the rocks - ideal for a quick dip in summer! Just south of this headland is a prominent, mushroom-shaped rock, poised on the limestone reef. It has been undercut by wave action to leave only a narrow pedestal as its base. In summer, the beach here is usually covered by a thick layer of sand. Come back in winter and it may all be washed away by the heavy swells, exposing bare rock and reef instead. Retrace your steps to rejoin the track.

The narrow path south of here for 2 or 3 km has breathtaking views, being cut close to the near vertical cliffs. **Caution:** These loose, limestone cliffs are very fragile, and can be dangerous. Please do not try to climb down to the shore along this section or stand too close to the edge. Children must be closely supervised.

Three Bears (Kabbijup - a bleak, exposed place)

This popular surfing spot was named in the 1970's after the 3 breaks. Standing on the beach, "Mummy Bear" break is in front of you, "Baby Bear" to the north, and "Daddy" to the south! The track makes use of the beach here before returning to the cliff. The path drops down to the beach for a short distance, then climbs to the Three Bears 4WD track which it follows for half a kilometre. (N.B. Watch for the markers where it turns off the 4WD track.)

The path moves away from the cliff-top for 2-3 km, passing through tea tree thickets before joining the "Wardanup Loop" trail, part of the Yallingup-Smiths Beach Tracks network (separate brochure available).

Campsite (11 km from Naturaliste Lighthouse, 3 km from Yallingup).

Set back from the track, the campsite nestles amongst a stand of Rottnest tea tree (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) beneath a section of limestone cliff. This may represent an old beach level, formed at a time when sea-level was 60 m or so higher than it is today. (N.B. Take great care with fire. Use only fuel stoves).

South of Yallingup, after following the "Quenda Track" above Torpedo Rocks, the track drops down to Smiths Beach. An interesting rock formation is sometimes exposed here, formed from an ancient boulder beach, later cemented together with limestone. Conglomerate rocks such as this may be found along many local beaches, eg. south of Cape Clairault and Gracetown. Take care in crossing Gunyulgup Creek - it may become impassable, particularly after heavy rain.

Canal Rocks (Winjee Sam Rock)

It is thought that about 600 million years ago, the original rocks here were subjected to a period of intense heat and pressure, causing changes in their structure and mineral composition. They became layered and folded, forming bands of varying hardness which tend to lie parallel to the present coastline. Bands of weaker rock have been eroded more easily by the sea, creating this spectacular "canal" formation. The canal is best viewed on the clifftop, closer to Wyadup.

Rotary Walk and Lookout

The short walk to the lookout from the Canal Rocks Road, originally constructed in 1972, has now been upgraded to form part of the long distance walk. From the lookout a narrow path continues over the ridge and descends via well-hidden steps to Wyadup.

SHORT WALK SUGGESTIONS

Naturaliste Lighthouse to Sugarloaf Rock - 3 1/2 km.

Easy grades, superb views and spectacular displays of wildflowers in spring, especially on granite outcrops just north of Sugarloaf Rock. The best direction for this walk is downhill from the lighthouse to the rock. Arrange to be met at Sugarloaf Rock if possible, to avoid the return uphill trek!

Smiths Beach to Canal Rocks - 2 km.

Excellent little walk amongst coastal heath and tea-tree, behind granite headland and past a bubbling spring. Organise a car to meet you or retrace your steps.

Canal Rocks to Wyadup - 2 km.

The clifftop views along this short stretch of coast are outstanding.

FULL DAY WALK SUGGESTION

Naturaliste Lighthouse to Yallingup - 14 km.

(N.B. No accessible water in this section - carry at least 2 litres per person).

