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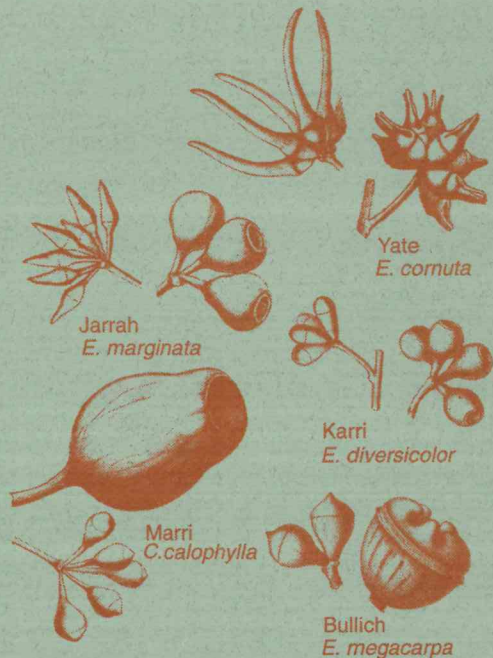
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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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 a 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 lend assistance if need be;
- ❑ Enjoy the wildflowers, but please do not pick them;
- ❑ Please report any damage or problems to CALM, Busselton Office:  
Ph (08) 9752 1677.

### HELP US TO MAINTAIN YOUR TRACK!



Gum nuts and buds - descriptions overleaf

## 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:

Margaret River Police: (08) 9757 2222

Margaret River CALM: (08) 9757 2322

(Telephones at Hamelin Bay, Lake Cave)

### FURTHER INFORMATION:

The CALM office in Busselton,

14 Queen Street,

Ph. (08) 9752 1677.

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Section 4

# CAPE TO CAPE WALK TRACK

Redgate Beach to  
Hamelin Bay - 29 km

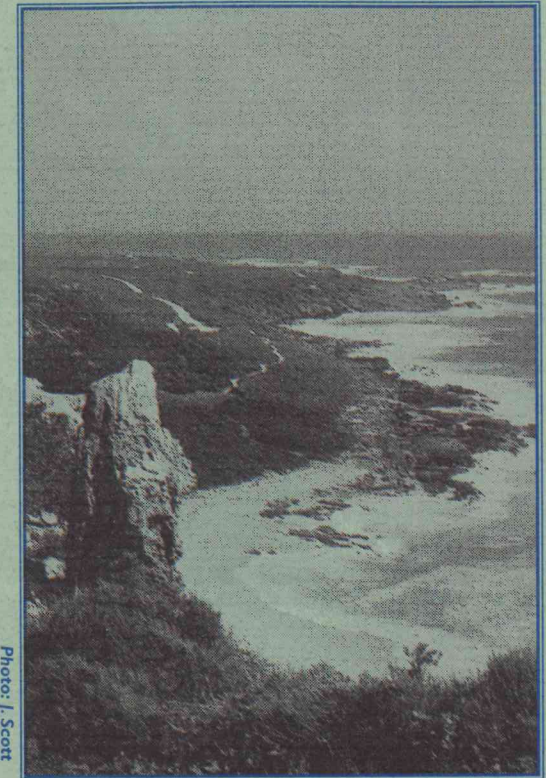


Photo: J. Scott

Cape Freycinet



Conservation and  
Land Management



PAM00825

Plants that colonise the dunes of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge have to be tough! Throughout winter, storms from the southern Indian Ocean lash this coastline bringing gale-force winds, drenching rain and hail. Heavy surf pounds the coast, tearing away loose sand and rearranging the beaches. After this onslaught of winter weather, the ridge's vegetation has to endure 6 or 7 months of dry heat through summer, relieved only by an occasional thunder-storm.

At the front line of this battleground, along the primary dunes behind the beach, are plants which have deep root systems with which to anchor themselves to the ground and to find fresh water (eg. sea spinach, *Tetragona sp.*), tough leathery leaves (eg. blue fanflower, *Scaevola crassifolia*), or covered with thick, downy hairs (eg. dune cabbage, *Arctotheca populifolia*). Further back from the coast, where the vegetation has gained a stronger foothold, many of the plants have small, narrow leaves to help prevent water loss (eg. chenille honey-myrtle, *Melaleuca huegii* - white bottlebrush flowers with pink buds in summer) or the aromatic native rosemary, *Olearia axillaris*. Coastal wattle, *Acacia littorea*, with its spectacular shows of yellow pom-pom flowers in spring, has lost its leaves altogether. As with most of the wattles, what look like leaves are actually flattened stems. These lack the leaf-pores which allow water to escape. In late summer the leaves of many plants are rolled tightly back, or become yellow from water stress - they look as if they have suc-

cumbed to the drought. Come back in a few weeks however, after the first autumn rains, and they have sprung back into life, vigorous and green.



Ground-hugging bushes of *Pimelea ferruginea*

The heath plants that cover much of the westerly, windward slopes of the Ridge grow low and dense, crowding together for mutual shelter. Some, like *Pimelea ferruginea*, have a cushion-like growth habit. Its clusters of tiny pink flower heads bunch together forming low mounds over which the wind can flow smoothly, causing minimal disturbance. Everything is pruned to an even height - including species which grow to be tall shrubs or trees in more sheltered situations. Look out for "bonsai" jarrah or marri trees less than 2m tall. Peppermint, *Agonis flexuosa* - one of the most common shrubs of the heath - may be less than 1m high near the coast, whereas it is a common tree, up to 10m tall, in the karri forest on the lee side of the Ridge.

The wind and salt-spray take their toll, and the living bush is interspersed with frequent dead

shrubs and trees, especially along the coastal edge. These still have their part to play, however, their tangled skeletons providing protection and shelter to new growth and other smaller plants underneath. Please remember this when camping along the coast, and do not remove dead wood for camp-fires - it's precious! On the leeward slopes, particularly tall branches are killed off by salt-laden winds, maintaining the even height of the forest canopy.

Paradoxically, despite the harsh environment, the coastal bush contains many fragile species which take advantage of the shelter and moister atmosphere that exists beneath the woody shrubs. Delicate orchids can be found beside the paths: white bunny orchids after the first rains, autumn leek and shell orchids, greenhoods, mosquito and bird orchids. There are several types of spider orchid, some being restricted to only a few locations, while pink fairies and donkeys are common. Orchids survive by dying back over summer to dormant bulbs. These lie deep beneath the surface and thus escape the summer heat. On parts of the Ridge, carpets of small everlastings and lobelias colour the ground in late spring. They soon die off in the heat, but only after setting a multitude of seed which readily germinates when the rain falls again.

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

## OVERVIEW: SECTION 4

This section of the walk is full of surprises: from beach to easy cliff-top track, to breathtaking exposure above Conto's cliffs; through cool, shady forest to the wild, sandy expanse of Boranup Beach. All along this section, the Ridge is seen from different angles, different perspectives. Here the National Park is at its widest, and a satisfying sense of remoteness can be felt, although the track is never far from vehicle access and civilization.

The plaques at the lookout above **Redgate Beach** tell the story of the wreck of the "Georgette" in 1876, and the courageous rescue of passengers and crew by Grace Bussell and Sam Isaacs. Less well-known is the part played by that small coastal steamer earlier the same year when six Irish prisoners escaped from Fremantle Gaol. The "Georgette" was commandeered to give chase - unsuccessfully - as the Fenians rowed to safety on the American ship, "Catalpa". The "Georgette's" shadowy skeleton is sometimes just visible beyond the rocks on clear, calm days.

The track crosses **Calgardup Brook** at the south end of Redgate Beach - wet feet are unavoidable here in winter, but the crossing is generally shallow. A path leads up to the top of a short rise, crossing an old fence-line. As on many parts of the Ridge, cattle leases extended right to the coast as late as the 1970's. The track continues through a Melaleuca thicket and up to the cliff-top which it follows for 2 km, nearly to **Bob's Hollow** - an easily recognisable landmark with its sheer limestone cliff and caves. Walk quietly as kangaroos are often spotted along this stretch. The deep gully at **The Ledges** is a spectacular sight when a high sea is running **but take great care - lives have been lost here.**

Just north of Bob's Hollow the track negotiates an easy scramble down a small cliff above a sheltered bay fringed by Rottneet Island tea-tree. A little further along is the spring at the base of Bob's Hollow cliffs. This water and the stream further on at Conto's Beach have found their way right through the Ridge, and have been traced back to Mammoth and Lake Cave. They are valuable water sources in summer.

The next section is one of the most scenic stretches along the whole of the Cape-to-Cape Walk. A narrow path has been cut above the high cliffs between Bob's Hollow and Conto's (approx. 3km), and the views south to Cape Freycinet and north to Redgate are stunning. **NB. In order to maximise these views, the path runs close to the cliff-top in places, and it is rough and rocky. Great care is needed along this section. Children must be closely supervised.** A 360 degree view on the ridge just west of Conto's Field campground is an opportunity to appreciate the dimensions of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge.

**Cape Freycinet** was named after the French commander of the "Casuarina", which together with Hamelin's "Naturaliste" and Baudin's "Geographe" first came to WA in 1801 to explore and survey the coastline. Captain Freycinet returned in 1818. The rounded, weathered granite-gneiss rocks of the Cape make a sharp contrast to the pale, jagged-edged limestone.

South of Conto's, the track has quite a different character, following easy-to-walk vehicle tracks for 8 km through **Boranup Forest**, until it climbs westwards again to **Trig Hill**, a high point on the Ridge at 190m. The short diversion to the summit is well worth-while - a constructed, raised platform here gives access to panoramic views. **NB.** A bush campsite is planned nearby in the future.

After continuing around Trig Rd and down Boranup Beach Rd to the sea, the last 5km to Hamelin Bay is sometimes a slow trudge through soft sand, but may be delightfully easy if the going is firm. Whatever the conditions, take off your boots, feel the sand between your toes and enjoy! **N.B.** If walking from Hamelin Bay, look for the 4WD track off the beach. Be aware of vehicular traffic on Boranup Beach Rd.

### Spot Check: Eucalypts of the Ridge

**Karri, *E. diversicolor*:** Large tree; pale grey bark, peeling to pink, orange and brown in autumn; lower parts of the sheltered east side of the ridge. **NB.** Section of young regrowth - cut in the '70s - between Donovan and Hooley Rds.

**Marri, *C. calophylla*:** Large tree; rough, chunky bark, oozing resin from any scars; large leaves; flowers late summer and autumn.

**Jarra, *E. marginata*:** Tall tree; grey, fibrous, striated bark often twisting up the trunk; marri and jarrah found on higher lee slopes, and in stunted form on exposed westerly slopes.

**Bullich, *E. megacarpa*:** Similar bark to karri, but a much smaller tree - tall and spindly (eg. just south of Hooley Rd) or mallee form (eg. along Trig Rd on higher, more exposed ground).

**Yate, *E. cornuta*:** Slender tree or tall mallee; shaggy, grey bark at base, often shed in strips from upper trunk; sheltered pockets along Trig Rd.

**Hamelin Bay Mallee, *E. calcicola*:** Small tree or mallee with distinctive, ridged fruits; tends to grow in thickets; a rare species restricted to a very small area on the west side of the Ridge between Hamelin Bay and Cape Freycinet; patches down Boranup Beach Rd. See also drawings of buds and fruit overleaf.

### SHORT WALK SUGGESTIONS

#### Redgate to Conto's - 8 km.

Rewarding half-day hike any time of year, combining short beach sections with breathtaking views. One or two steep scrambles. Vehicle pick-up necessary.

#### Conto's Circuit - 9 km.

Spectacular circular option for a long half-day. Follow the cliff-top track from Conto's campground to Bob's Hollow (4 km) then drop down to the spring and return along the beach (NB. A fair distance of soft sand). Having a car parked at the road-end saves the long haul up the road to the campsite.

#### FULL DAY WALK SUGGESTION Boranup Lookout to Conto's - 17 km

A longish, but easy walk along forest tracks. Access to the Cape-to-Cape Track from the Lookout is via Arumvale and Boranup Beach Rds, or Arumvale and Davies Rd (slightly shorter but misses Trig Hill - a spectacular lookout). (See map - these tracks are not marked on the ground).

LEGEND	
+++++	Cape to Cape Walk Track
⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙	Beach Sections
—	Sealed Road
- - -	Gravel Road
- - - - -	4WD Road
	Cliffs
—	Contour (50 m interval)
⊙	Water
⊙	Viewpoint
⊔	Picnic Area
△	Camp Site
○	Car Park
⊙	Blowout Area
	Private Property
* * * * *	Campground fees apply

Services: Hamelin Bay, Lake Cave Tearooms

