

# LIBRARY

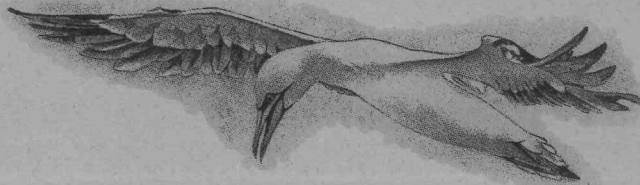
Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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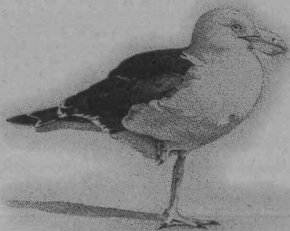
## BUSH CODE OF ETHICS

- ❑ 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, or write to 14 Queen Street, Busselton, 6280.

### HELP US TO MAINTAIN YOUR TRACK!



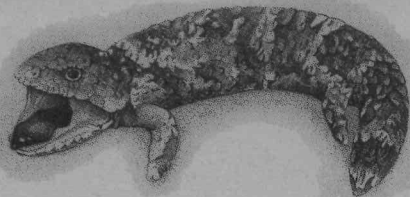
above: Australasian Gannet



left: Pacific Gull

below: Bobtail Lizard

All illustrations: P. Negus ©1999



## 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/person.  
**N.B.** When overnighing you may 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  
(Telephone at Gracetown)

### 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

Wyadup to  
Cowaramup Bay - 27 km

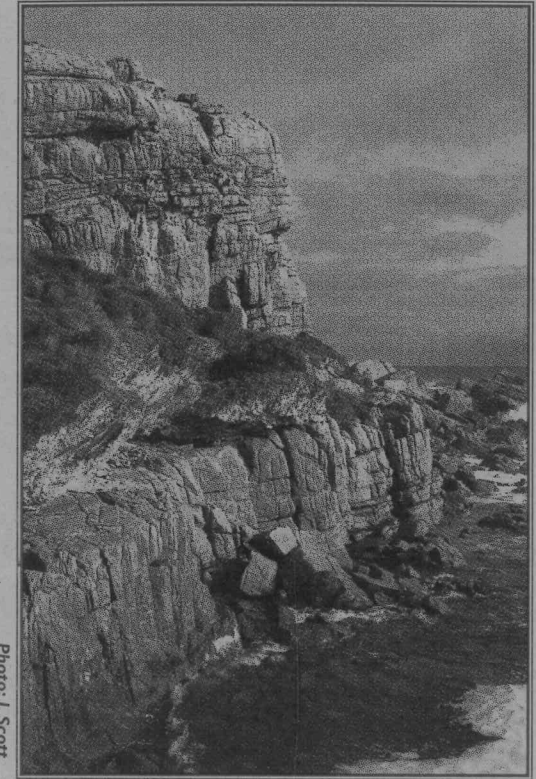


Photo: J. Scott

Willyabrup Cliffs

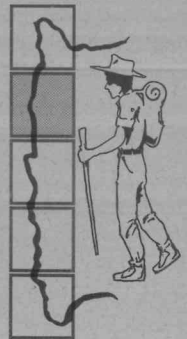
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Conservation and  
Management



Western Australia  
Millions Won. Thousands Helped.

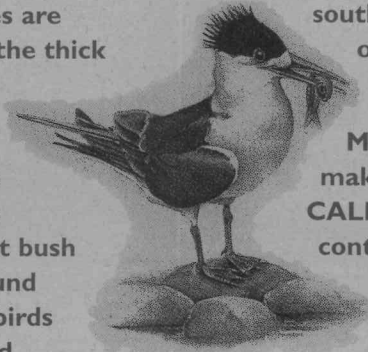


When walking along the Ridge in the middle of the day, you may be forgiven for thinking that it is a quiet place, with little animal life around, apart from a few birds singing, and an occasional rustle as a small skink scurries away. But this is far from the truth. Many of its creatures are nocturnal, or hidden carefully amongst the thick vegetation.

Birds are, indeed, the most noticeable and colourful residents, especially in the early morning, or where there is a mass flowering of karri, for example, or parrot bush (*Dryandra sessilis*). The cacaphony of sound can be quite overwhelming! The small birds of the coastal heath can usually be heard much more easily than they are seen, but be patient for a while and you may be rewarded with glimpses of a white-browed scrub-wren, the elusive southern emu-wren or a red-eared firetail. Families of curious splendid blue wrens will usually show themselves if you imitate their call. Honeyeaters are drawn to large blossoms such as *Dryandra* or *Banksia*, and the screeching of purple-crowned lorikeets overhead usually means that the karri is in flower.

Parrots found on the Ridge include the twenty-eight, western rosella and less common red-capped parrot. Look along the beaches for small groups of rock parrots, and in the forest and bush for the large and magnificent red-tailed and long-billed black-cockatoos. There are many birds of prey to watch for along the cliffs, such as the small nankeen kestrel, and the osprey, a familiar sight around Cape Mentelle. On the beaches, common shore birds include

red-capped and hooded plovers, sanderlings and oystercatchers, sooty and pied. But keep your eyes open for all sorts of unexpected visitors, which may touch down for a rest on our south-west beaches on their migrations north or south. For a more complete bird checklist of the area, ask at local CALM offices and Tourist Bureaus.



Crested Tern

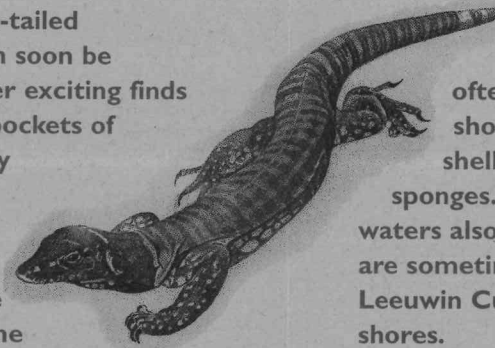
Many small mammals on the Ridge are making a comeback due to the success of CALM's Western Shield program which controls introduced foxes by baiting with 1080, a poison which occurs naturally in certain native peas. Your chances of spotting a southern brown

bandicoot, or quenda, along the track during the day are increasing, and at night, keep a look out for the delightful wambenger, or brush-tailed phascogale. Chudich may again soon be resident on the Ridge, and other exciting finds could yet be made in isolated pockets of dense vegetation. Western grey kangaroos are plentiful, and brush-tail possums are regular visitors to forest camp-sites, especially to Point Road. These gorgeous creatures have become very accustomed to campers and their food treats, so enjoy opportunities for close encounters, but be careful to stow your provisions securely at night!

On warm days the open track makes an ideal sunning spot for lizards and snakes. They generally feel your vibrations and scuttle away well before you see them, but do watch the path

ahead, especially in early spring when snakes may be sluggish. Dugites and tiger snakes are common on the Ridge and should be given a wide berth. The non-venomous carpet python, however, recognised by its beautiful mottled markings and very slow movement, is a rare treat for walkers. The Ridge is home to a wide variety of lizards. Bobtails are often encountered, and the large southern heath monitor is common, though less often seen. The shiny black King's skink, often seen basking on coastal rocks, the Western bearded dragon, grey with a spiky body, and a legless lizard with a distinctive striped pattern, the common scaly foot, are others that you may find.

The marine life off-shore from the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is also rich and fascinating. Huge humpback and southern right whales, best viewed from cliff-top vantage points, are often glimpsed out to sea, while the shore-line yields finds for beachcombers: shells, fish or sea-bird skeletons, urchins, sponges. Unusual creatures from northern waters also, such as baby turtles and sea snakes, are sometimes swept south by the warm Leeuwin Current to be washed up on our shores.



Southern Heath Monitor

Check out CALM's pocket-sized Bush Book series for a further wealth of information about our south-west flora and fauna.

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



**OVERVIEW: SECTION 2**

The National Park between Wyadup and Gracetown is mostly limited to a narrow coastal strip, and the Track is confined to this corridor. However, it traverses some magnificent coastal scenery, as it winds along rugged cliff-tops, with only brief forays onto the beach below. Although this stretch of the Park is not very wide, some of its most isolated coastline is found here, and the views are stunning, it will be a memorable walk.

The track winds between granite boulders along the cliff-top for 1 km, with superb views of Cape Clairault, before descending to **Injidup Beach**, a popular surf and fishing location. This beach is usually characterised by soft sand and heavy swells, and the beach may sometimes be washed away in parts. **Injidup** comes from the Noongar word, Inji, for the lovely red pea-flower, *Templetonia retusa*, which is common along the limestone cliffs here in spring.

**Cape Clairault** is a prominent feature topped by impressive dunes which can be seen for a long way up and down the coast. The track leaves the southern end of the beach some 300m before the blowout, skirting up through peppermint and tea-tree thicket behind the Cape, to join an old vehicle track along the cliff-top again. This is followed for 4 km along the top of high limestone cliffs which are an excellent vantage point from which to watch whales and dolphins. Several lookouts along this section make the most of the spectacular views.

Near the end of the vehicle track, a path drops down to the beach, avoiding the unstable dunes. **Quininup Blow-out** has suffered badly in recent years from damage by 4WD vehicles, and is the focus of a major rehabilitation project which aims to revegetate the area, and prevent sand from blowing further inland.

After crossing **Quininup Brook**, the way on is up through the dunes to the cliff-top again. The bare red sandy area south of the stream was an important meeting place and holds great significance for aboriginal people. **Quininup Falls**, an attractive 17m winter waterfall flowing over a natural granite wall, is located away from the track, 1/2 km inland from the beach. Walkers may choose to make the small deviation to take a closer look.

The next section crosses an area of flat, boggy heath which becomes waterlogged in winter, and is home to a distinctive community of plants, only found in one or two similar places along the Ridge. The path continues over the cliff-top and then heads up to a superb lookout, with magnificent views south to Gracetown, and north to Cape Clairault. The track keeps high, above the dunes and limestone cliffs, before regaining an old vehicle track, which is followed to Willyabrup Beach.

**Willyabrup Brook** is the largest of several streams that reach the ocean along this section of Track. It can be tricky to cross in winter, but like all the streams on this coast, its flow diminishes greatly, and a sand bar forms across its mouth in summer. **NB. All the streams north of the Margaret River flow mainly through vineyards and agricultural land. Their water should be treated or boiled thoroughly before drinking.**

The Track makes use of a short section of 4WD track here, to avoid an awkward cliff, then heads south again over the cliffs. This 1 1/2 km stretch north of the main Willyabrup Cliffs was grazed down to the water's edge until recently by cattle, and is fairly open in places. Parts have suffered badly from erosion, and future work will be needed to protect the area from further damage. There are magnificent views south to the main cliffs along this section.

The massive **Willyabrup Cliffs** are composed of well-jointed granite-gneiss. They rise to over 40m, and have been a mecca for climbers and abseilers since their 'discovery' by the climbing fraternity in the early 1970's. The waves crashing onto the rocks below make an impressive backdrop to this unique spot. **NB. The Cape to Cape Track follows a route well back from the climbing cliffs. This alignment has been selected for walkers and climbers safety. If walkers deviate off the track to the cliff edge, please avoid all ropes and never throw stones over the edge!**

The track continues through low heathland along the western side of the Ridge for 1 1/2 km and then drops to the beach for 1/2 km. South of this beach, the limestone cliffs become impassable, except in very calm conditions in summer, and the track follows the cliff-top again, mostly along a narrow path, which joins a 4WD fishing track 2 km further south.

When the fishing track veers inland, the walk-track continues along the coastline above a boulder beach, and over flat granite outcrops below some low cliffs. This is a very picturesque area, especially in winter, when the thin soil is green with grasses and moss, and small waterfalls cascade down the granite slopes. There is access to a small sandy beach just north of Gracetown's rugged North Point. **NB. Try to avoid wet areas and walk on the rocks where possible, to minimise erosion.**

The path winds up through a poison pea (*Gastrolobium bilobum*) thicket, around North Point on a wide rocky ledge, and down past the Gracetown boat ramp and main beach.

**SHORT WALK SUGGESTIONS**

**Cape Clairault - 7 km circuit**

Take the Track south from Injidup Beach, along the cliff-top for approx. 2 km, find a path dropping down to the beach. Complete the loop, following the coast back along soft, sandy beaches and easy rock scrambles around the Cape.

**Moses Rock Lookout - 1 km return**

A short gentle climb from where the Track crosses the south branch of Moses Rock Rd. to a constructed lookout. Panoramic views south to Gracetown and north to Cape Clairault.

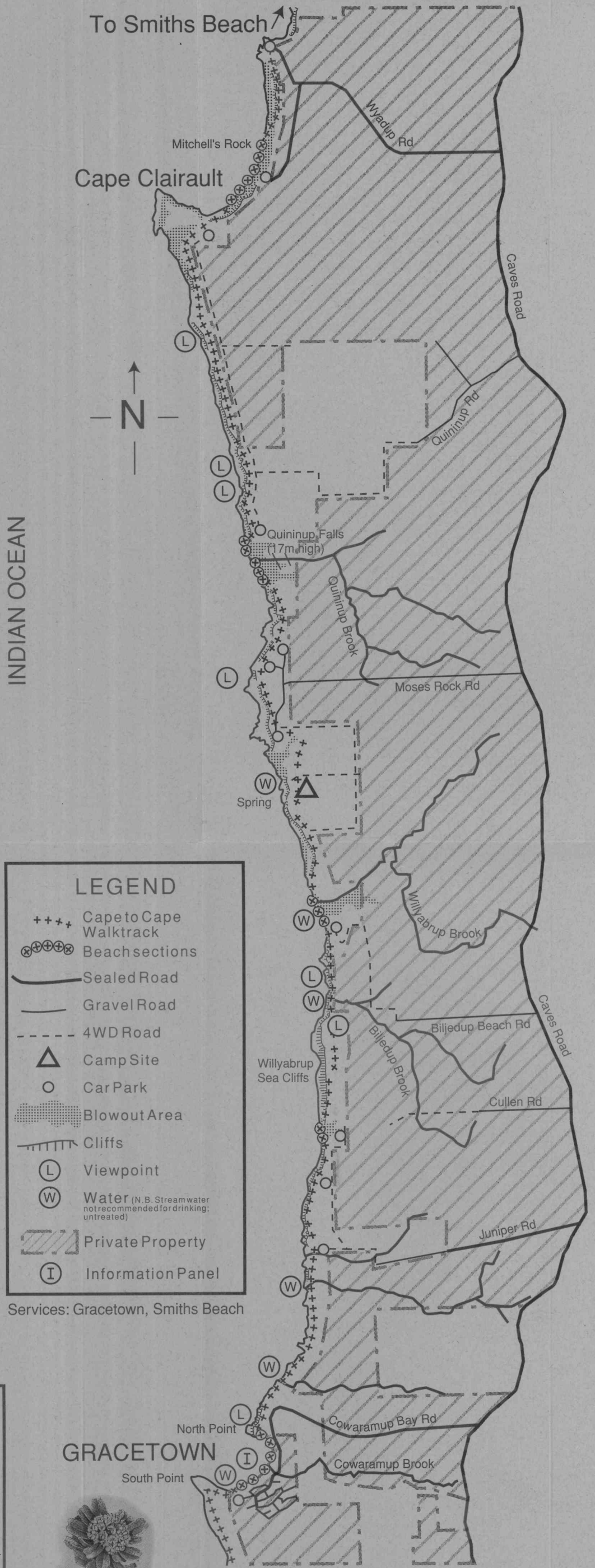
**Wyadup/Mitchells Rock circuit - 4 km**

Follow the track south from Wyadup carpark. When you reach the beach at Mitchell's Rock, head back to the carpark along the shore. A good summer suggestion, as it entails a scramble over rocks back to the path and carpark.

**LONGER WALK SUGGESTION**

**Willyabrup to Gracetown - 11 km**

This one-way walk mostly follows the cliff-top, and includes some of the most spectacular coastal scenery along the Ridge. Access at the northern end is via Biljedup Beach Road and the climbers' path which intersects the Track above Willyabrup Cliffs.



**LEGEND**

- ++++ Cape to Cape Walktrack
- ⊗⊗⊗⊗ Beach sections
- Sealed Road
- Gravel Road
- - - 4WD Road
- △ Camp Site
- Car Park
- ⊞ Blowout Area
- ▄ Cliffs
- (L) Viewpoint
- (W) Water (N.B. Stream water not recommended for drinking; untreated)
- ▨ Private Property
- (I) Information Panel

Services: Gracetown, Smiths Beach



Heart leaf poison  
*Gastrolobium bilobum*

