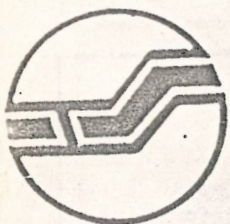


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Department of Biodiversity,  
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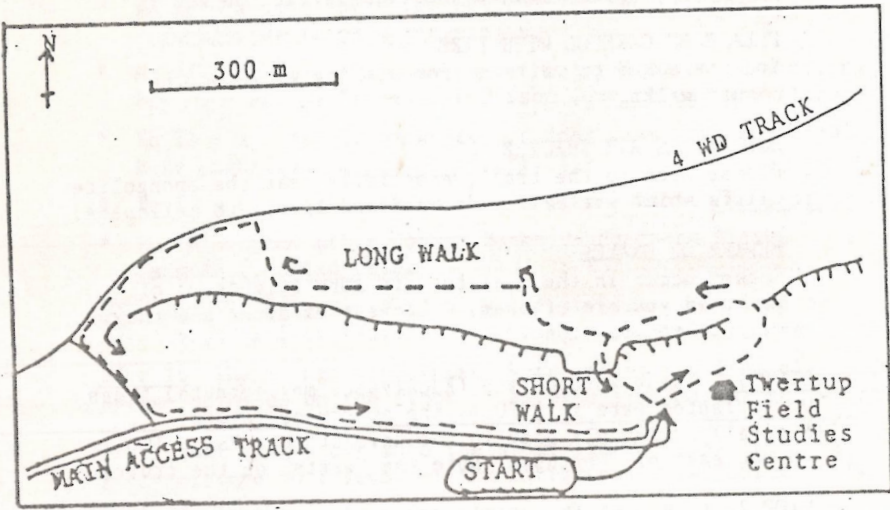


Conservation and Land Management

# FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

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## TWERTUP NATURE WALK



PAM00831

We sincerely hope you enjoy your walk which has been designed by the Fitzgerald River National Park Association in liaison with CALM. Details of other features of the Fitzgerald River National Park are available from the park rangers and from members of the Association. Keep this pamphlet if you wish, but if you have no further use for it please return it to the box for another visitor to use. Thank you.

BEGINNING near the Twertup Car Park, the short nature walk takes a circular path of approximately 700m, returning to the starting point. This walk takes about 30 minutes to complete but many visitors take longer... it is up to you. It provides you with a quick introduction to the area and also brings you back through Twertup Quarry.

The long circuit leaves the short walk near the end and provides an approximately 2 km route along the base of the scarp line. This walk takes about 1½ hours to complete, or longer if you pause awhile to observe the bird life and other features of interest along the way.

Wooden pegs indicate both trails. The large numbered pegs show stopping places of interest.

NOTE! Ants are numerous along both trails. The ants may enjoy thongs or bare feet...but you won't.

#### PLEASE BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

You are asked to refrain from smoking while on the nature walks.

#### BUSH AREAS ARE FRAGILE

Please keep to the trail, especially near the spongolite cliffs which are easily damaged and liable to collapses.

#### BEWARE OF SNAKES

Snakes occur in the area but are more frightened of you than you are of them. Leave them alone and they will leave you alone.

STOP 1 These Warted Yate (*Eucalyptus megacornuta*) trees were planted here in 1970 by the quarry operators. Naturally they only grow in the Ravensthorpe Range 100 km to the east of Twertup. Note the "warts" on the fruits.

STOP 2 Sit in the picnic area for a few minutes. How many different eucalypts are growing here? How many birds can you hear calling? The record so far is 15.

STOP 3 In this pile of rubble two species of gekko live - the Barking Gekko (*Phyllurus milic*) and the Warbled Gekko (*Phyllodactylus marmoratus*). The Spotted Thighed Tree Frog (*Hitoria cyclorhynchus*) has also been found here.

STOP 4 You now commence a section of the walk primarily concerned with plants. See if you can identify the following plants from the given clues. Each plant is numbered along the trail.

- \* No 5 - a small, weeping tree, red berries in summer - Native Cherry (*Exocarpus sparteus*)
- \* No 6 - one of Australia's native pines - Native Pine (*Callitris preissii* var *verucosa*)
- \* No 7 - flowers like a pin cushion - in Autumn - Pin Cushion Hakea (*Hakea Raurina*)
- \* No 8 - used by pioneers to sweep the floor - Broombush (*Melaleuca acuminata*).
- \* No 9 - a mallet tree - Gardner's Mallett (*Eucalyptus gardneri*).
- \* No 10 - a eucalypt which occurs right across Australia - *Eucalyptus transcontinentalis*.
- \* No 11 - disliked by farmers but enjoyed by the Bronzewing Pigeon - Narrow leaved Box Poison (*Oxylobium parviflorum*)
- \* No 12 - a climbing parasite - Dodder (*Cassytha melantha*) here parasitizing *Euc. gardneri*.
- \* No 13 - a common eucalypt hereabouts - Moort (*Euc. platypus*)
- \* No 14 - named after Joseph Banks - Southern Plains Banksia (*Banksia media*)

STOP 15 The holes in this bank are probably inhabited by Rosenbergs Monitor (*Varanus rosenbergi*), a small goanna.

STOP 16 The spongolite exposed here was formed from clay and sponge spicules on the floor or an extensive marine sea which covered the area about 40 million years ago. When the sea level fell rivers cut into the spongolite to give the wide gorge systems so typical of the Fitzgerald River National Park.

STOP 17 At this point consider the difference between the vegetation you saw on the top of the cliffs and that you are now passing through. The changes reflect different soil base, different water regimes and greater protection from winds at the base of the cliffs. Also note the small, well vegetated valley which cuts through the scarp at a slightly lower point.

point.

From here the Short Walk returns to the car park via Tvertup Quarry.

#### LONG CIRCUIT

STOP 18 This section of the walk follows the old boundary line of the Tvertup Quarry lease area. The line was hand cut and linked the corner pegs of the lease. It now provides a quiet avenue, well frequented by birds at the right time of day.

STOP 19 Note burrow system of Southern Bush Rats (Rattus fuscipes).

Once you come out into the more open vegetation on sandier soils and if the weather is warm, you will probably see Military Dragons (Amphibolurus mecalatus griseus). They are small, grey lizards to 13 cm long with distinctive orange shoulder stripes.

When you reach the 4WD track turn left (west) and left again (south) at the junction a few hundred metres later. You will shortly rise up to the top of the scarp and meet the main Tvertup access road. Turn left again (east) to reach your starting point at Tvertup.

#### TWERTUP QUARRY

The Tvertup Quarry is of recent origin being worked by Mr Horace Worth (now deceased) between 1967 and 1973.

The operation involved cutting spongolite blocks from the cliffs, using metal saws. The stone was used for building and the small cottage built at Tvertup by Mr Worth provides an on-site example. Unfortunately the spongolite blocks are very brittle and easily broken, and they are also more prone to water and wind erosion than heavier stone.

In the late 1970's the old quarry lease expired and the area became part of the surrounding Fitzgerald River National Park. Fortunately the cottage had remained in reasonable condition and in 1981 the Dept of Conservation and Land Management offered use of the building as a Field Studies Centre to the Fitzgerald River National Parks Association. The Association is a voluntary organisation of local residents from around the National Park who wish to see it protected and managed on the basis of sound ecological knowledge.

FEBRUARY 1986