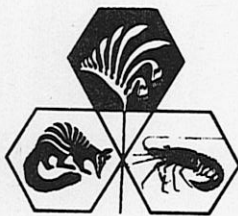


LIBRARY

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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



TWO PEOPLES BAY NATURE RESERVE

DEPARTMENT OF
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,
108 ADELAIDE TERRACE,
PERTH

1978

TWO PEOPLES BAY NATURE RESERVE

This pamphlet is designed to provide information on the Nature Reserve and its flora and fauna so that people will better understand the role of this and other Nature Reserves in the conservation of our indigenous plants and animals.

published by

Extension and Publicity Service,
Department of Fisheries and Wildlife,
108 Adelaide Terrace
Perth, W.A. 6000.

1978



Noisy Scrub-bird
(*Atrichornis clamosus*)

INTRODUCTION

The Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve is a Class A Reserve for the Conservation of Fauna, vested in the Western Australian Wildlife Authority. It is administered for the Authority by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Reserve, of 4 639 hectares, contains the only known population of the Noisy Scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*).

HISTORY

The Reserve takes its name from Two Peoples Bay which was named "Baie des deux Peuples" ("Bay of Two Nations") by Louis de Freycinet in 1803 because he met an American brig, the "Union", which was anchored in the Bay.

A small whaling station was located in the Bay in the 1850s and the cranium of a Right Whale, believed to date from this period, is displayed at the western end of the picnic area near the Ranger's office.

The Noisy Scrub-bird had not been seen since

1889 and was generally believed to be extinct. Then, in 1961, the species was first seen at Two Peoples Bay by Charles Allen and P.J. Fuller and its presence was confirmed by H.O. Webster.

Following the rediscovery of the species there were long deliberations as to the future of the area which had been proposed as a townsite to be named Casuarina. Eventually, the Government decided to set the area aside as a Nature Reserve and the present reserve was gazetted in April 1966.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Mt Gardner (408m) dominates the eastern part of the Nature Reserve and forms a peninsula extending in a south-easterly direction into the Southern Ocean. Mt Gardner and surrounds are composed of granite of Archaean age, thought to be about 1330 million years old. To the north and west of Mt Gardner the older rocks are obscured by Quaternary limestones and

aeolian sand and, in the north western part of the reserve, by Tertiary laterite. Three lakes are situated to the west of Two Peoples Bay. Moates Lake, which is fresh, is fed by the Goodga River. Angove Lake floods into the creek connecting Lake Gardner to the Ocean. This creek can flow in either direction and consequently Lake Gardner is brackish. Also included in the Nature Reserve are Inner Island and Black Rock, both situated in King George Sound, and Coffin Island which is off the western shore of the Mt Gardner peninsula.

CLIMATE

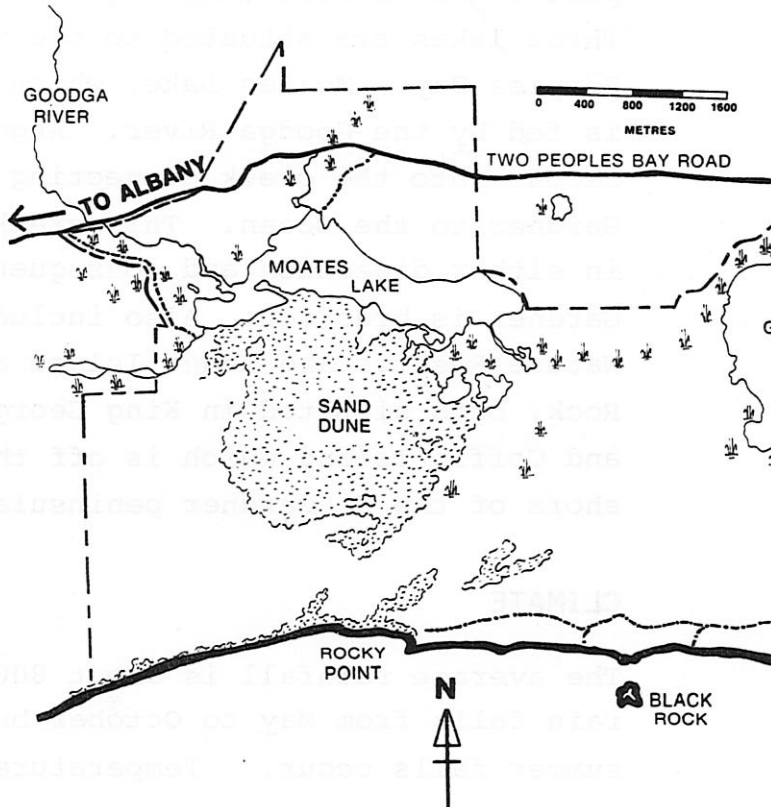
The average rainfall is about 800 mm. Most rain falls from May to October but some summer falls occur. Temperatures are mild.

FLORA

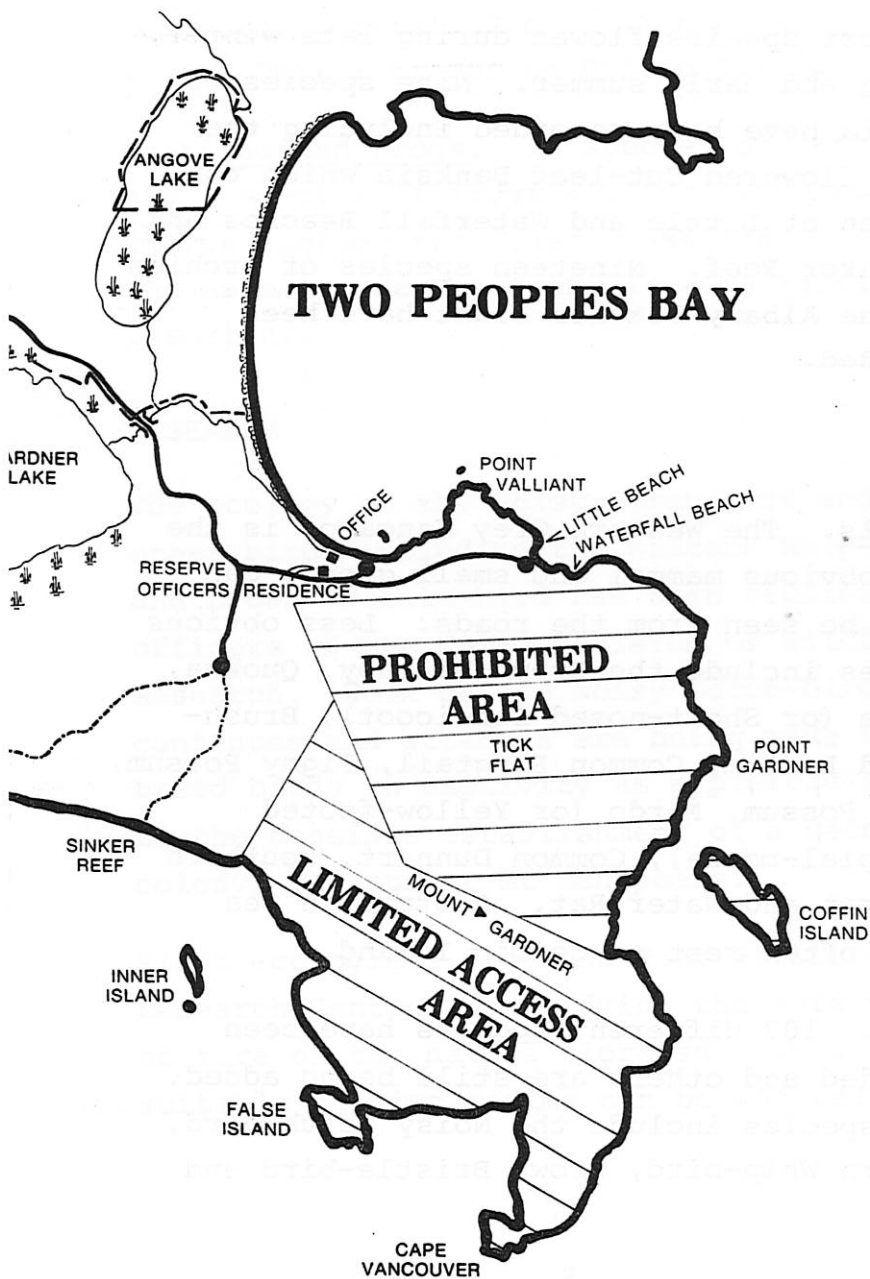
Over 400 species of plants have been recorded and more are being added to the list. Flowering occurs throughout the year

LEGEND

- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- == ROADS
- - - TRACKS OPEN TO PUBLIC VEHICLES
- PARKING AREAS



TWO PEOPLES BAY NATURE RESERVE



Red-eared Firetail Finch. The Great-winged Petrel breeds on Coffin Island.

Reptiles and Frogs. 18 species of reptiles and 7 species of frogs are known. Poisonous snakes include the Tiger Snake and Dugite. The harmless Carpet Snake is also fairly plentiful.

RESEARCH

The ecology of the Noisy Scrub-bird and some other birds including the Western Whip-bird and Brown Bristle-bird has been studied by officers of the CSIRO Division of Wildlife Research. Work on the Noisy Scrub-bird continues and attempts are being made to breed birds in captivity as a prerequisite to the possible establishment of a second colony, perhaps at Mt Manypeaks.

Plant ecologists from the W.A. Wildlife Research Centre are studying the effects of fire on the native flora so that a suitable burning regime can be adopted.

but most species flower during late winter, spring and early summer. Nine species of Banksia have been recorded including the large flowered Cut-leaf Banksia which can be seen at Little and Waterfall Beaches and at Sinker Reef. Nineteen species of orchids and the Albany Pitcher Plant have been recorded.

FAUNA

Mammals. The Western Grey Kangaroo is the most obvious mammal and small groups can often be seen from the roads. Less obvious species include the Brush Wallaby, Quokka, Quenda (or Short-nosed Bandicoot), Brush-tailed Possum, Common Ringtail, Pigmy Possum, Honey Possum, Mardo (or Yellow-footed Marsupial-mouse), Common Dunnart, Southern Bush-rat and Water Rat. Australian Sea Lions often rest on Coffin Island.

Birds. 103 different species have been recorded and others are still being added. Rare species include the Noisy Scrub-bird, Western Whip-bird, Brown Bristle-bird and

MANAGEMENT

A management plan for the Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve was adopted by the Western Australian Wildlife Authority in 1971. A Reserves Officer has been stationed at the Nature Reserve since 1970.

Firebreaks have been constructed both by ploughing and by mowing. Parts of the reserve are burnt each year, partly to make any wildfire more easily suppressible and partly to aid research work.

Most of the Noisy Scrub-birds live in densely vegetated gullies in the Mt Gardner peninsula. Some of this region has been declared a "prohibited area" in order to prevent interference with research programmes. The remainder has been declared a "limited access area" and may only be entered on foot (see map).

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve lies 40 km by road east of Albany. Gravel roads have

been constructed to the Two Peoples Bay Beach and Picnic Area and to Little Beach. Rough tracks give access to Sinker Reef and Rocky Point on the shores of King George Sound. Barbecues are provided in the picnic area and the lighting of fires elsewhere in the Reserve is prohibited. A display erected at the picnic area includes a picture of the Noisy Scrub-bird and a tape-recording of its song. Walking trails to Mt Gardner and Cape Vancouver commence on the gravel road to Sinker Reef.

The Two Peoples Bay beach is safe for swimming and a small toilet block with shower and changing facilities is located there. Fishing is popular and boats may be launched from the beach. A First Aid Box and emergency telephone are located in the Office at the western end of the picnic area.

Please note:

1. Pets and firearms are prohibited in all Nature Reserves.

2. All plants and animals are protected.
Take nothing except photographs.
3. No fires may be lit except in the
barbecues provided in the picnic area.
4. Camping is not allowed.
5. Vehicles should not be parked or driven
on the beach or in the bush.
6. The map shows prohibited and limited
access (no vehicle) areas.

The Reserves Officer will be pleased to attend to any queries. His office is located at the western end of the picnic area. Please do not call at his house unless there is an emergency.