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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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SOILS & GEOLOGY

The surface of the Swan Coastal Plain in the Yanchep area is divided into three main types of sand dune areas. They are from east to west, the Bassendean, Spearwood and Quindalup Dune Systems. All are less than about one million years old.

Yanchep National Park is located in the Spearwood System which is the central area of the three types. The Spearwood Dune System consists of yellow sandy soils still rich in iron but from which the lime has been leached and redeposited at depth, cementing the sand into limestone. The bedding of the original sand dunes is still visible in the limestone and is known as cross-bedding. The slow movement of water through the rock over thousands of years has caused the solution of calcium carbonate (lime) from the limestone and has resulted in extensive cave formations. The structure and bedding of the limestones are visible in many parts of the park, particularly in Boomerang Gorge. The caves are one of the most interesting features of the limestone and vary from small holes to quite large cave systems containing caverns, streams and pools. Over a hundred caves are recorded from the park and several have at one time been open to tourists. However, because of natural changes resulting from erosion of the limestone, and other causes, some have been declared unsafe and closed to visitors.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of Yanchep National Park is typical of that of large areas of coastal plain to the north of Perth. It is an area in which the Tuart, Jarrah and Marri are the principal tree species. Here they are associated with a characteristic set of smaller trees and shrubs, and together they occupy a large part of the western section of the park.

As well as the many cave fossil deposits of animals which used to exist in the area thousands of years ago, one may be lucky enough to see specialised cave dwelling insects and crustacea.

The varying habitats from woodland to marsh and open water result in a diversity of bird types and species. At the turn of the century, there was an abundance of ducks, wild turkeys, and emus. Water fowl of various types are still quite plentiful, but unfortunately the turkeys and the emus are now scarce.

AREA & CLIMATE

Yanchep National Park is roughly triangular in shape, 8.4 km long by 4.1 km wide at its northern end, and covers an area of 2799 hectares. The Park has an altitudinal range from about 6m above sea level to 88m above sea level.

The climate of Yanchep is not unlike that of the Perth area in that it has an average daily maximum temperature of about 24°C, and an average daily minimum of 13°C.

Rainfall is about 700 mm (28 inches) with about 120 raindays per year. Winds are predominantly from the north-west and west in winter and from the east in summer with afternoon cool south-westerly sea breezes.



PLEASE NOTE: The following applies to ALL NATIONAL PARKS in Western Australia.

- Please exercise caution in natural environments — your safety is your responsibility.
- Fire must be confined to the use of portable stoves or the barbecues provided.
- All vehicles are required to remain on approved tracks, as shown on this brochure, or indicated by directional signs.
- All native plants and wildlife are protected, therefore no firearms or domestic animals are permitted in the park, so please, no dogs.

ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS

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YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

CALM LIBRARY ARCHIVE
NOT FOR LOAN



"The Octopus" — Yanchep Caves

PAM01871

FAUNA

Grey Kangaroos are quite common in the park and at times can be seen feeding on ovals or even taking handouts at visitors picnic lunches.

Brush Wallaby and Brush-tailed possum are also present but are seldom seen because of their shyness and nocturnal habits.

Other mammals recorded from the park are several species of small possum, bats and native rats. Short-nosed Bandicoot, Chudich or Native Cat and Echidna also occur.

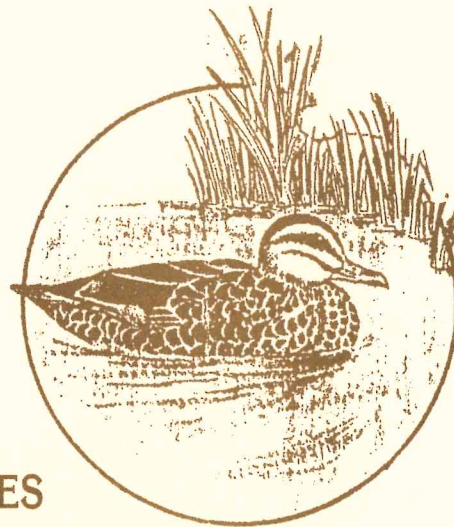
Major groups of birds recorded from the park include grebes, pelicans, cormorants, egrets, herons, ducks, hawks, waders, gulls, parrots, cuckoos, owls, kingfishers, swallows, warblers, wrens, robins, flower-peckers, honeyeaters, butcher birds and crows.

The Northern Coastal Plain is known to contain 70 species of reptile, frog and tortoise distributed among eleven families. The Tiger snake can be found in low-lying marsh areas whilst Dugites haunt the heath and scrub habitat, along with other species of front-fanged snakes. Many species of lizards are found throughout the park.

There is in addition a considerable extent of heath vegetation, mainly in the northern and eastern sections. Here the large eucalypts are missing, being replaced by the smaller gnarled Prickle Blackbutt and by species of Banksia. A chain of lakes and swamps stretch almost the whole length of the park and support a characteristic suite of plant species, mostly paperbarks. The areas closer to the coast carry a heath vegetation which is different from that of the eastern portion of the park.

The smaller shrubs are those of the true scrub association, and like it, the banksia areas provide a wealth of flowers during the spring months.

Beneath these plants is a good cover of several other shrubs and herbs, particularly the yellow-flowered native buttercup, native pelargonium and blackboy. Native wisteria with its masses of blue flowers is a frequent climber over other shrubs. At the edge of the water and sometimes extending across the swamp are the cultivation rush *Juncus pallidus* and its many related species with round pithy stems and leaves, together with the flat rigid-leaved sword rush, and yanget or bullrush.



FACILITIES

Picnic Areas

Beautiful grassed and shaded picnic areas having barbecue and toilet facilities are found along the eastern side of Loch McNess and in other quiet areas indicated on the map.

A picnic area with disabled persons facilities and barbecues has been developed at the entrance to Boomerang Gorge.

Ovals

Two ovals are available for social cricket, football, or softball. Each oval has parking space and barbecue facilities.

The ovals and picnic areas may be reserved. Advance bookings may be made through the Park Office (095) 611004 between 9.00am and 5.00pm 7 days a week.

Swimming Pool Complex

A supervised swimming pool is available in season for public use each day (unless in use for swimming lessons) between 9.00am to 12noon and 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Admission 20 cents.

Tennis Courts

\$1.00 per hour.

Golf

Visiting golfers can try their skill on a nine hole golf course but we regret we do not hire golf clubs.

Fee \$2.00 per 9 holes. Paid through envelope receipt system on course.

Accommodation

The Yanchep Inn (licensed premises) provides accommodation as well as motel units. Tariffs available from the Licensee.

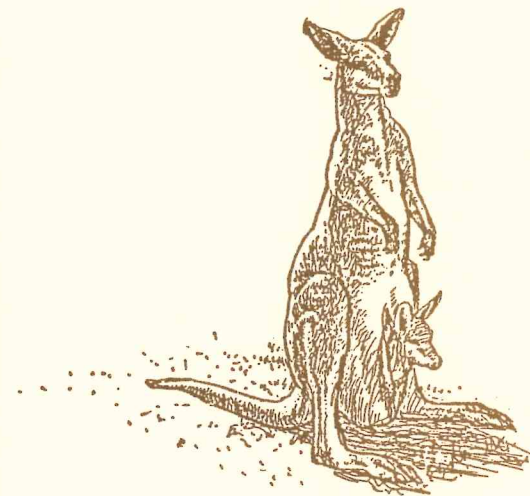
Meals and Refreshments

These are available from the shop in McNess House or the Yanchep Inn. Prior arrangements should be made for large parties.

Bus Service

An M.T.T. service operates as follows:

Departs	Monday-Wednesday-Friday
Yanchep Inn:	7.24am
	Saturday — 8.01am
Departs Perth:	Monday-Wednesday-Friday
	4.20pm
	Saturday — 12.35pm



Enquiries and Bookings

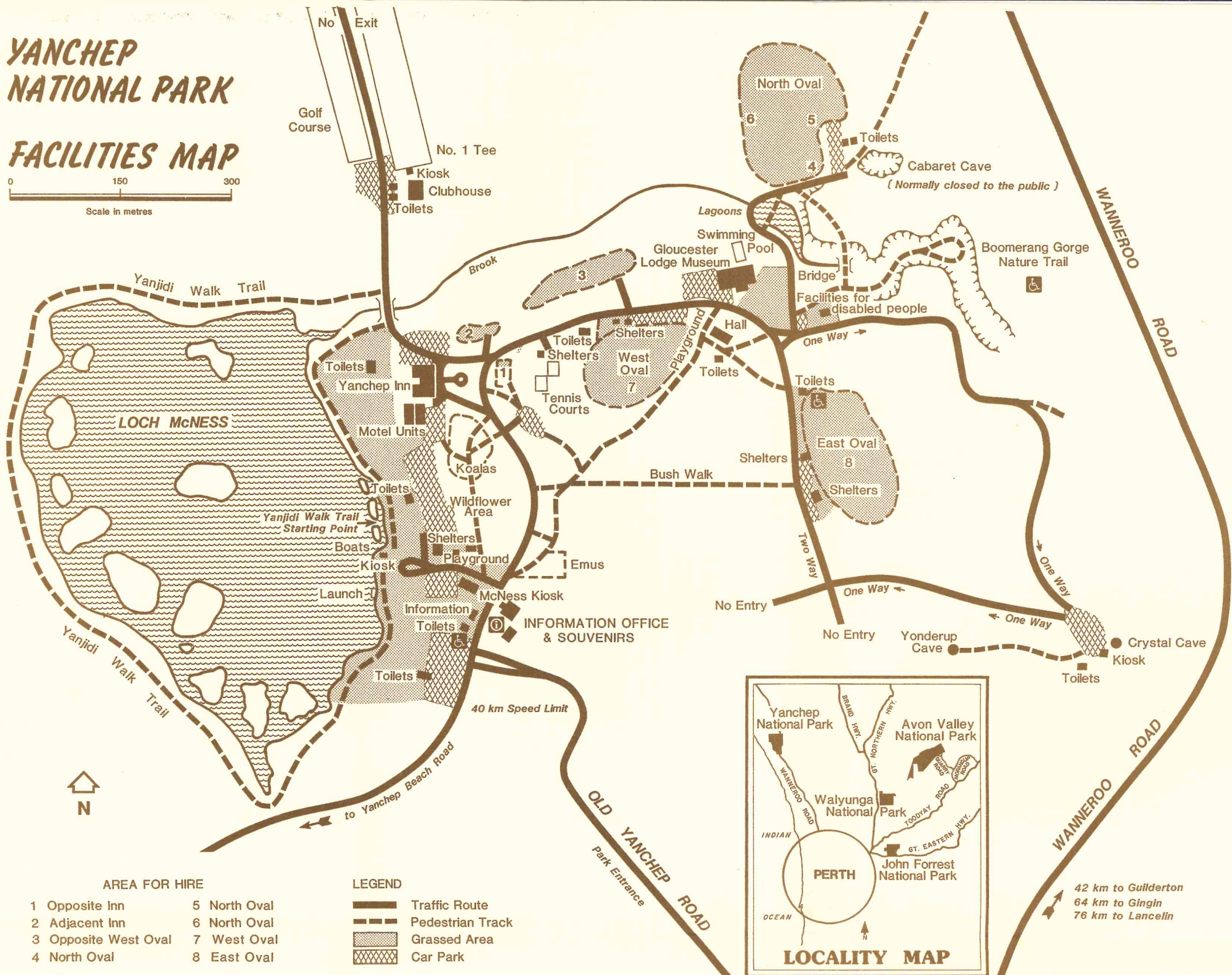
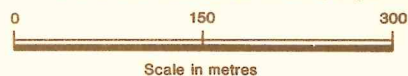
Information Office, Yanchep National Park
(095) 611004

Superintendent, Yanchep National Park
(095) 611661

Yanchep Inn, Yanchep National Park
(095) 611001

YANCHEP NATIONAL PARK

FACILITIES MAP



SCENIC & SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Caves

Beautiful cave formations are to be seen on guided tours in the Crystal and Yonderup Caves. These are open for public inspection.

Public Holidays 11.15am to 4.15pm
Sundays 11.15am to 4.45pm
Weekdays — 4 times daily — 1.30pm and 2.15pm and 3.00pm and 3.45pm

Other tours and special trips by arrangement.

Loch McNess

A fleet of rowing boats is available for hire between 9.00am and 4.00pm each day. A launch also takes visitors around the waterway at the times following:

Sundays and Public Holidays 11.15am to 4.45pm
Weekdays By arrangement

Boomerang Gorge

A walk trail with disabled persons facilities has been constructed in this picturesque gorge which is the result of a collapsed underground cave system having natural clefts, cavern sheer limestone walls and an exposed underground stream.

Yanjidi Walk Trail

A documented walk trail winds around Loch McNess describing the different habitats and fauna which may be experienced along the way.

Fauna and Flora Complex

A wildflower and fauna walk-through complex has been developed to display Western Australia's wildflowers and some of its fauna. Black swans, ducks and other water birds are abundant on the Loch.

A colony of Koalas has been established at Yanchep since 1938. These may be seen in a walk through enclosure of natural trees and bush. There is no set feeding time for the Koalas.

Walking Tracks

Various walking tracks exist, but advice on their use should be sought from the park office.

Gloucester Lodge Museum

This magnificent holiday lodge built in 1933 was once used by the Duke of Gloucester and is now a Museum run by the Shire of Wanneroo. It contains collections of artifacts from the Park and district and is worth a visit.

Yanchep Inn & McNess House

English Tudor styled buildings constructed in the "thirties".

HISTORY

Yanchep National Park, covering 2799 hectares is situated on Wanneroo Road, 51 km north of Perth. It derives its name from the native word "yanget" meaning "bullrush" which grows in profusion on the fringes of lakes within the park.

The area was first visited by Europeans in 1834 when John Butler searched for stray cattle in the area and recorded the lakes and an abundance of game. Then four years later, Lt. George Grey explored the area and reported the existence of some "remarkable" caves.

With the realisation that the area was quite attractive, the Government saw fit to reserve 5640 acres (2283 ha) of the district which enclosed the lake and flats approximately 8 km long, for the "Protection and Preservation of Caves and Flora and for a Health and Recreation Resort". The reserve no. 9868 was vested in the Caves Board in August 1905.

During 1930, Philanthropist Sir Charles McNess made a grant of £11,600 for the alleviation of distress and this act of benevolence, along with the good management of the State Gardens Board, saw the commencement of major developments in the Reserve.

On December 20, 1931, a Grand Opening of the Reserve was held and Yanchep commenced to become the well known recreation park that Western Australian's now know.

During the depression years of the "thirties", sustenance workers were employed on road construction, the dredging of Lake Yanchep and the

erection of various residential facilities. McNess Hostel (incorporating the original Caves House), the swimming pool and a number of roads were completed in 1932.

The works continued and in 1933, the Lodge (in the following year to be renamed Gloucester Lodge after a visit by the Duke of Gloucester) was built. Further accommodation in the Reserve was provided with the placement of eight tramway units as cottages near Boomerang Gorge. These were also used as accommodation for sustenance workers.

In 1935, Lake Yanchep was renamed as "Loch McNess" in honour of Sir Charles McNess's contribution to the Reserve's development. A further highlight of that year was the inauguration of a bus service to Yanchep from Perth.

World War II (1942) saw the need for armed services occupation in the Reserve and the R.A.A.F. took over the Yanchep Inn (built in 1936) and the Gloucester Lodge. For the duration of the war, Yanchep was run by a Superintendent, a mechanic and a groundsman.

On April 13th, 1956, the State Gardens Board became the National Parks Board and the following year, construction of six staff houses, a machinery shed, change rooms and a plant nursery were necessary in Yanchep to keep abreast of the visitor and maintenance requirements.

A nine-hole golf course was constructed and opened in 1961 with the commissioning of a new launch the "Miss Yanchep" in the following year.

The year 1969 was rather an important one for Yanchep in that it was finally given full status and proclaimed a National Park. This year also saw the reconstruction of a new swimming pool inside the original pool's structure.

In 1976 administrative changes were again instigated and the National Parks Board became as it is today, the National Parks Authority.

On the 20th December, 1981, Yanchep National Park celebrated an official 50 years as one of the State's most popular environmental, historical and recreational establishments.