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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Just imagine if the whole
Gnangara pine plantation
became one vast conservation
and recreation park ...



We're moving the pines from Gnangara to create the biggest park in Perth.



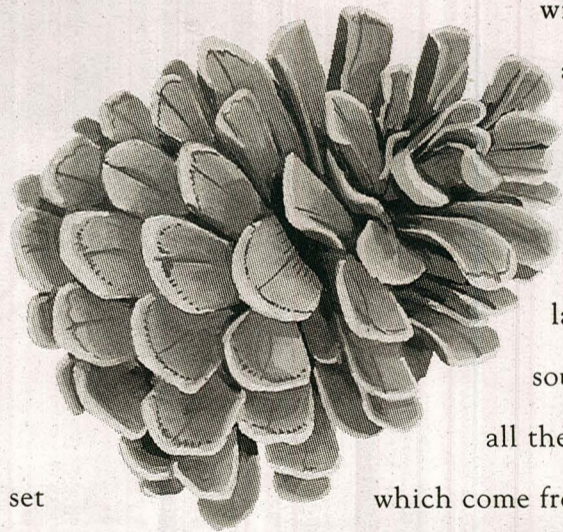
The only way to reach the area from Perth was on foot or horseback along a deeply rutted, sandy track winding its way between banksia trees. If something needed to be carried in, it was loaded on a horse-drawn, iron-tyred cart. Today, of course, Perth's northern suburbs stretch as far as the pine plantation and beyond. It has been decided to remove the pines over the next 20 years as the different blocks reach maturity and are harvested. This valuable source of timber and employment will be replaced with pines grown as tree crops on already cleared farmland in the south-west. Researchers from the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) have bred pines that

will thrive on what are usually thought of as poor agricultural soils.

This will give landowners a new source of income plus

all the landcare benefits

which come from planting trees on their properties.



One hundred years ago John Forrest's vision for Kings Park was realised. CALM, on behalf of the Government of Western Australia, is proposing to establish a new park 100

times the size of Kings Park, in the suburbs of Perth for children of the next millennium. A park to preserve and protect endangered species. This new 50,000 hectare park, Gnangara Park, will steadily grow at Gnangara as the pine plantation there is progressively harvested. The cleared land will be planted with native species. A total of 27,000 hectares of surrounding

State-owned woodlands will combine with the 23,000 hectare pine plantations to form the new Gnangara Park. Pines have been grown at Gnangara since the 1920s when the Government of the day set out to create a new source of building materials. Today the plantation supports local industries making medium density fibreboard, particle board, cases, pallets, veneers, treated posts, poles and timber. The historic decision to establish the Gnangara plantation back in the 1920s gives us this tremendous opportunity today. Gnangara was a remote location when foresters began planning today's plantation.



Who will be able to enjoy Gnangara Park?



Families

The park will create more breathing space for residents as Perth continues to grow northwards. Families will be able to enjoy wide open spaces away from roadways and buildings and bustle. The recreation aspects alone are very desirable without even considering the conservation and landcare benefits.

Tourists

Drifts of wildflowers will replace the pines as Gnangara blossoms into a conservation and recreation park. It will become another international attraction for visitors to the city. New facilities will be designed and installed so that visitors can enjoy picnicking, bush walking and bird watching.

Students

Gnangara Park will be a magnificent addition to PERTH OUTDOORS, the CALM campaign to encourage people to explore the varied natural features around the city. Students will have a chance to see a range of species in a natural setting.

Gnangara Park will also be a place to learn more about Aboriginal culture. Bush tucker, dye plants and medicinal plants will be grown and CALM will run Aboriginal cultural programs.

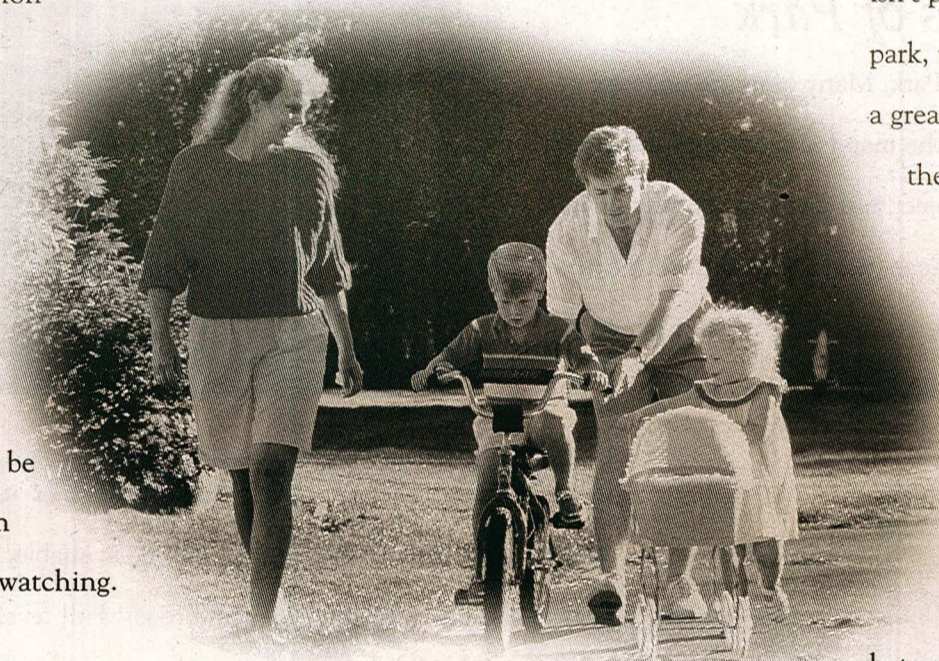
Animal lovers

The incredible diversity of Western Australia's native plants and animals is known around the world. Gnangara Park will bring examples of different habitats to the city doorstep. Mass plantings of flowering species will provide colour and a source of food for nectar and insect feeding animals every month of the year, from Morrison in January to Christmas trees in December.

As the plantation is moved from Gnangara, huge areas of land will be cleared and we can choose how to replant them in ways that will:

- enhance the conservation of WA plants and animals;
- offer new nature-based recreation opportunities, and
- protect water quality on the Gnangara mound.

Extensive groves of balga (grass trees) grow in the bushland around the plantation. These will be integrated with new plantings as habitats for marsupials and other animals. Existing wetlands and vegetation will be protected and enhanced - patches of tuart on the limestone ridges near Yanchep National Park will be extended to form a new tuart forest.

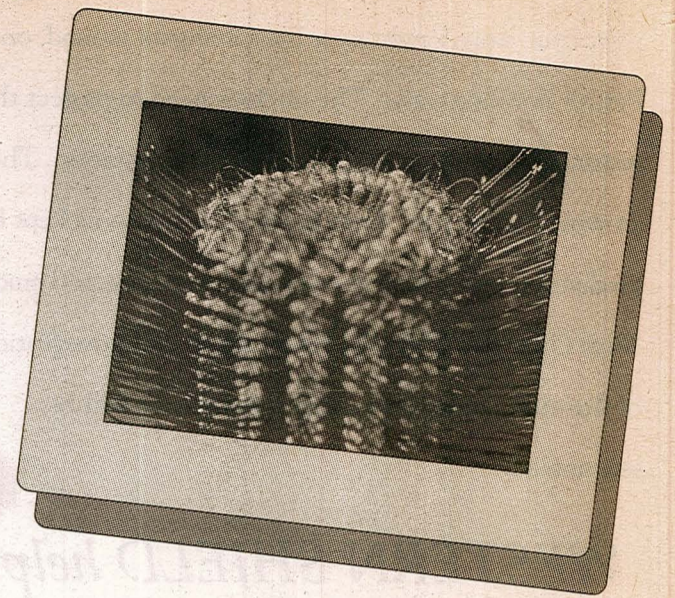
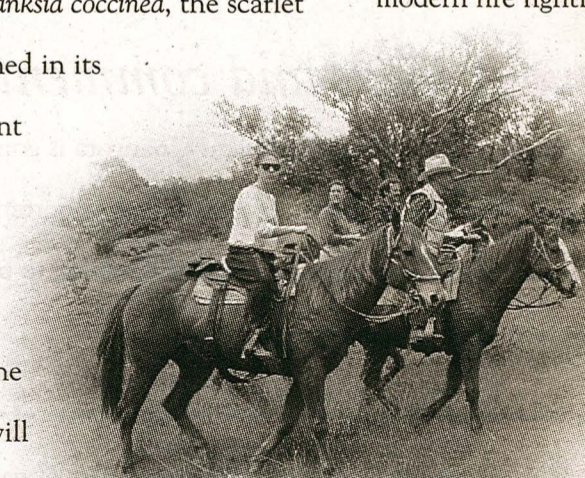


Protection for endangered species

As well as being a safari sanctuary for animals, the park will be a living conservation ark for plants. Conservation efforts will, of course, continue in the wild, but back-up collections of rare plants will be grown at Gnangara.

One example would be *Banksia coccinea*, the scarlet banksia, which is threatened in its natural habitat by the plant disease, dieback.

Planting rare species and protecting the remaining bushland in and around the existing pine plantation will create a massive seed orchard for CALM to use to rehabilitate degraded areas, whether it's planting new scarlet banksia seedlings on the south coast, or restoring urban bushland.



Whole ecosystems from all corners of Western Australia can thrive in Gnangara Park. With careful planning, the park will include areas representing most Western Australian landscapes, from the heathlands of the south coast and the woodland trees of the Goldfields to the carpets of everlastings in the Murchison. While it obviously isn't practical to recreate the whole State in one park, these different landscapes at Gnangara will be a great asset for residents, school groups, visitors to the State and for scientists.

You can still enjoy today's activities

Zoned areas of the park will be available for more recreational pursuits, such as trail bike riding, horseriding, sports and other more active recreational pursuits which are popular, but uncontrolled, in the existing pine plantation.

Fire risk reduced

Large areas of continuous pine plantation so close to the suburbs are at risk from accidental and deliberately lit fires. To protect the plantation and property requires major on-going expenditure in fire prevention and fire fighting forces. Even with modern fire fighting technology, when weather

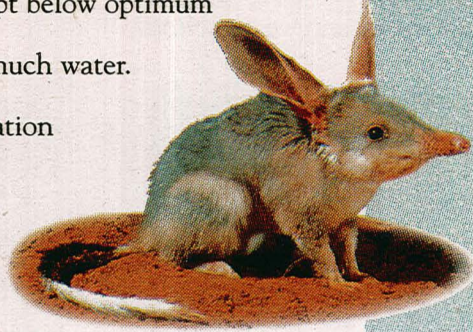
conditions are extremely hot and windy the risk of large areas of plantation being damaged by fires is high.

Thoughtless acts of vandalism have already resulted in loss of significant areas of valuable pines. As the plantation close to Perth is progressively harvested and new pines are planted in dispersed country areas the risk of loss from fire will decrease.

What about the water mound?

Even more timber could be produced for building and construction if the plantation wasn't right over the Gngangara mound, one of the main sources of Perth's drinking water. The obvious need to protect the water quality imposes restrictions on the management of the plantation. The number of pines growing per hectare, for example, also has to be kept below optimum production levels so that trees don't consume too much water.

With Gngangara Park, the future safety and preservation of the vital Gngangara mound water source will be guaranteed.

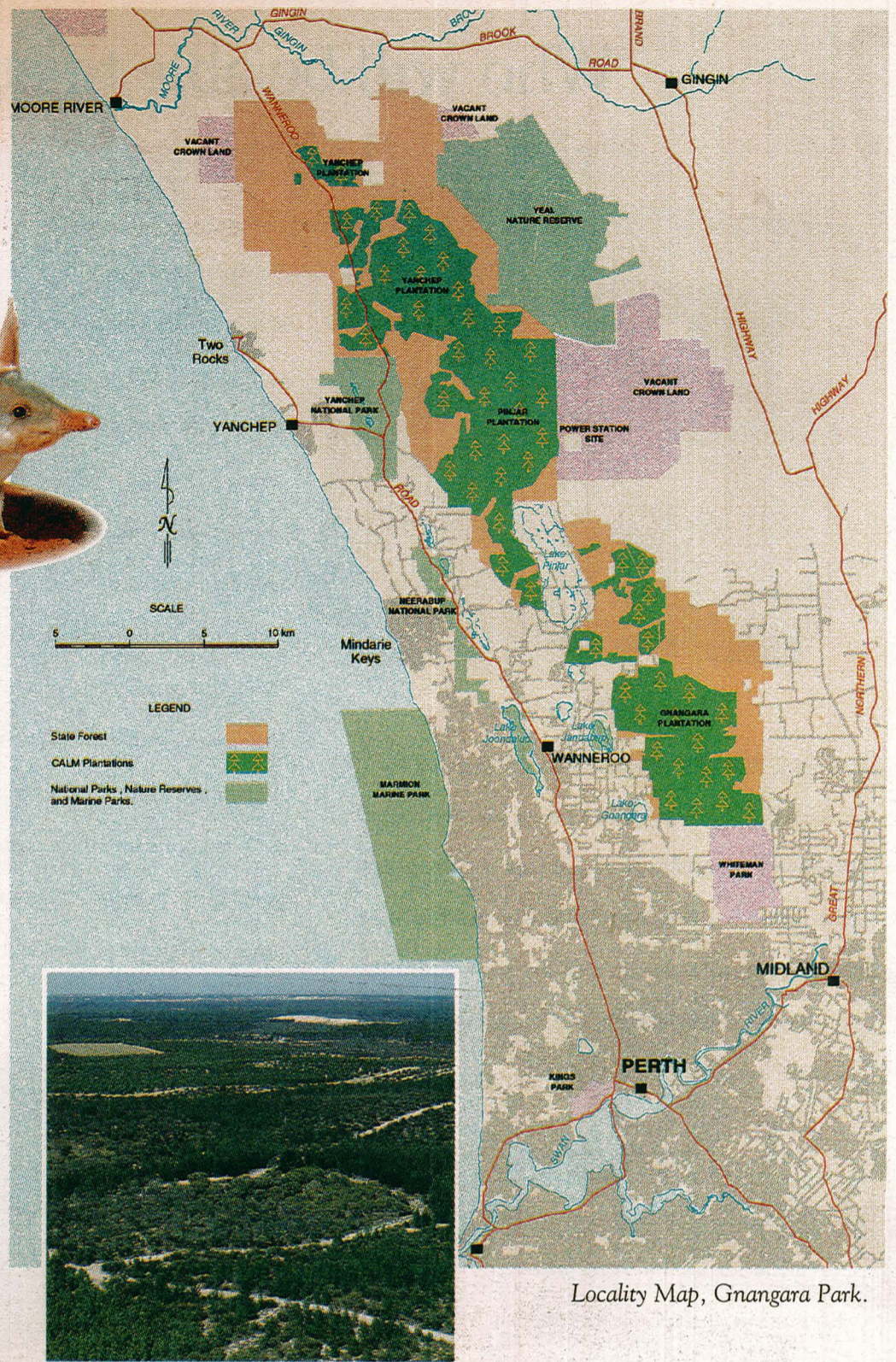


WESTERN SHIELD helps flora and fauna thrive

CALM's WESTERN SHIELD project to control European foxes and feral cats and return native animals to their former habitats will be extended to Gngangara. Visitors will be able to come to this sanctuary to see a range of native animals, including rare numbats and dibblers, as well as woylies, bandicoots, kangaroos, bilbies, wallabies, possums and dozens of different species of waterbirds.

50,000 hectares of Park

The map indicates the vast size of Gngangara Park. Many of us are unaware of the extent of the existing plantations. Study the map for a moment and you'll begin to understand the magnitude of the project and just why we need your thoughts and ideas before committing to a course of action. The inset photo was taken recently from one of the northern sections of the current plantation looking south ... you can even see the Perth skyline if you look closely.



Locality Map, Gngangara Park.



Accessibility will be enhanced by road, by bicycle

Many different means of access and recreational use will be available. In fact there are now many kilometres of cycling, walking, horseriding and motoring tracks and roads. Full recreational use by all surrounding groups will be encouraged and promoted.

When will all this happen?

The first steps have already been taken to transform Gngangara... one of them, of course, is this period of public comment. The detailed planning necessary for such a project has also begun with the collection of data about native vegetation in the area, landforms and so on. As the planning process continues, public workshops will be held to give people the chance to view and comment on proposed land uses in the park before the project is finalised.

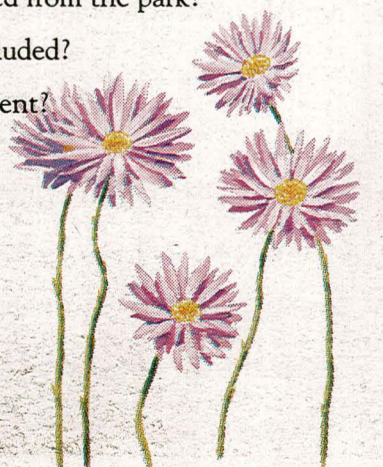
Seeds from this year's record display of everlastings in the Murchison have also been collected and are being stored, ready to plant next winter at a site in the south of the plantation where the pines have already been harvested.

We really want your ideas and comments

These ideas are all at the planning stage ... can you add to them? Gngangara is going to be a park for the people of Western Australia, so public comments are important before any further work is done. Please let us know what you think by writing to us at the address below. No stamp is required on your envelope.

Do you have any suggestions about:

- features that should be included, or excluded from the park?
- what type of recreation areas should be included?
- how to cope with weeds and fire management?
- what animals should be present?
- managing public access to different areas?
- general ecosystem management issues?



Do you want to be included on our mailing list to receive details of future workshops and other information about Gngangara Park?

YES Name: _____

Address: _____

REPLY PAID 1017, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Locked Bag 104, BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983



Department of Conservation and Land Management



Government of Western Australia