

A Guide to the South West



South West visitors are spoilt for choice.

You can visit the towering trees and crystal clear brooks of the jarrah forest or enjoy the refreshing cool waters along the spectacular coast.

Surf the big waves offshore on the Capes coast, see stingrays at Hamelin Bay or snorkel beside colourful marine life.

Descend into the subterranean wonderland of the world-renowned limestone caves between the Capes, where mini-lakes and fossilised remains of ancient mega-fauna are plentiful. Marvel at the rich and varied birdlife of the Vasse-Wonnerup wetland near Busselton or the Leschenault estuary near Bunbury.

With the establishment of new national parks – 30 in all from Perth to the south coast – there are so many things to see and do.

Use this guide to create your personal tour or call the Department of Conservation and Land Management for more information.



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South West Highway
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Blackwood District Office

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Wellington District Office

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Visit CALM's NatureBase website at
www.naturebase.net



Main – Cape Naturaliste. Photo David Bettini.
Insert – Eucalyptus blossom. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.

Boranup, Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. Photo Chris Garnett/CALM.

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Tracks and trails

There are many excellent tracks to help you explore the South West's natural wonders. Whether you are after a short stroll or an adventurous hike there are tracks to suit everyone.



The board walk at Malbup bird hide in the Wonnerup wetlands. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.

The Munda Biddi Trail



This long distance off road cycle trail winds its way through the jarrah forest from Mundaring to Collie. It is proposed to extend the trail from Collie to Albany. The trail is well marked and has campsites every 35km to 40km between towns. These campsites have toilets, water, tables, bike storage, sleeping quarters for 25 to 30 people and tent sites. For more information on the Munda Biddi Trail see www.mundabiddi.org.au or phone (08) 9334 0265.

Healthy Parks Healthy People

There is no doubt about it: parks provide the perfect setting to improve your health and wellbeing and also keep the environment healthy.

There is considerable evidence worldwide that establishes a strong correlation between spending time in parks, the physical and mental health of individuals and

a healthy community. Parks also keep the environment healthy by improving air quality, reducing erosion, delivering clean drinking water and contributing the clear waterways.

Parks offer the opportunity to meet the different needs of different people. People may choose to walk the

140-kilometre length of the Cape to Cape Track, while others may prefer to picnic at one of the many recreation sites dotted throughout the South West, or even volunteer to keep the parks healthy by helping care for plants and animals.

So help your health by stepping out in the bush!

Along the Bibbulmun Track

WA's world class, 1,000km walking experience



Starting in the hills near Perth, the Bibbulmun Track passes through the South West's jarrah forests on its way to its destination on the south coast at Albany.

The Bibbulmun Track links many of the favourite attractions of the South West forests. It passes beneath the majestic trees of the virgin jarrah forest at Lane Poole and skirts the Harris River Dam north of Collie. The Track then passes through Mumballup in the fertile Preston Valley before reaching dense jarrah forest and lush, damp gullies dominated by graceful blackbutt trees.

Dropping down into the Blackwood Valley, walkers will find the charming town of Balingup with its local crafts, accommodation options and the Golden Valley Tree Park. After crossing the Blackwood River walkers re-enter jarrah forest before encountering the mighty karri forest. On the track, look out for the Waugal symbol to guide you.

Self-guided walking and camping with a backpack is a great way to experience the forests of the South West.

There are 48 campsites in total, eight of which are located in the South West. Campsites are not more than a day's walk apart and each site has a three-sided timber sleeping shelter, picnic table, water tank, tent sites and toilet. All sites in this region except the Blackwood campsite have fireplaces but the use of fuel stoves is encouraged.

A map or guidebook is an essential item to carry to ensure a safe and enjoyable walk.

There are eight maps published by CALM that cover the entire track. Maps four and five (Collie and Blackwood) and *A Guide to the Bibbulmun Track: Northern Half*, cover the South West forests. These are available for purchase from CALM offices and some bookstores.

Contact the Bibbulmun Track Foundation on (08) 9481 0551 for details about events, planning advice, guided walks and walk packages. For more information see: friends@bibbulmuntrack.org.au or www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au.



The Cape to Cape Track

Stretching 140km from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin, the Cape to Cape track takes you to stunning coastal cliffs, beautiful beaches and shady karri forest. Brochures are available to the five sections of track from South West CALM offices. Two guidebooks are also available, *Walking the Capes* and *A Guide to the Cape to Cape*. For more information contact the CALM Busselton office on (08) 9752 1677 or go to www.margaret-river-online.com.au/capetrack

Celebrating the waters of the Capes: Dive into the South West



Mosaic sea star. Photo Sue Morrison.

The coastal waters of Geographe Bay to Hardy Inlet represent a mix of species found nowhere else in the world.

For example, the lighthouse shell snail (*Campanile symolicum*) is endemic to the South West. This living fossil is the only surviving relic of an ancient family.

The waters of the Capes have tremendous ecological value. This coast supports a range of marine environments including gentle, sheltered bays with long sweeping beaches, granite and limestone reefs and inlets snaking down to the sea. This habitat diversity provides excellent opportunities for diving, snorkeling and boating.

Only here do seagrasses descend to depths of 30 metres along rocky, wave-bashed shores. The sheltered Geographe Bay supports one of the largest seagrass meadows in Western Australia.

These seagrass beds are vital to the marine ecosystem. They provide breeding and feeding grounds for many fish species and produce oxygen, which helps maintain water quality. As the seagrass dies and rots away, it provides food for many marine animals.

The annual whale migration to and from Antarctica provides a great opportunity to see these ocean giants up close. Humpbacks and southern right whales can be seen off this coast as they pass through on their way to their northern breeding grounds in July and as they travel southwards in November. Look for southern right whales lolling in the shallow bays, particularly around Augusta. The best viewing areas for humpbacks are Cape

Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste, around Gracetown and Sugarloaf Rock.

Alternatively, you could take a whale watching tour from Augusta or Dunsborough for a close up view.

Busselton's historic jetty, the jetty remnants at Hamelin Bay and the reefs of Yallingup Beach and Kilcarnup are great snorkeling locations with abundant marine life including coral, sponges, fish, snails and crustaceans.

The Leeuwin current brings warm water from the tropics to our cooler temperate waters. Some tropical animals hitch a ride on the current and have established themselves in our temperate waters. One example is the colourful coral encrusting the pylons of Busselton jetty.

Marine life can also be viewed from the Busselton underwater observatory, a three-level chamber with large windows offering views under the end of the jetty. Tours are guided and charges apply.

Boat launching facilities are available at many points on Geographe Bay. There are also facilities on the western coast at Canal Rocks, Gnarabup and Hamelin Bay.

If you want more information about marine life in the South West, buy *Snorkel Dives of the South-West* or pick up a free copy of *Celebrating the Waters of the Capes* from CALM offices and visitor centres.



Global fish in hollowed out pile. Photo Sue Morrison.



Mixed seagrasses. Photo Sue Morrison.



Southern right whale. Photo Ann Storrie.

Discover more about the South West

A range of informative and attractive publications filled with bright, colourful images is available from CALM for people who want to know more about the South West and its picturesque environment.

The excellent Bush Books series (28 titles) is ideal for people wanting practical field guides on WA's unique plants, animals and special features. Titles include *Waterbirds of the South-West Wetlands*, *Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West*, *Orchids of the South-*

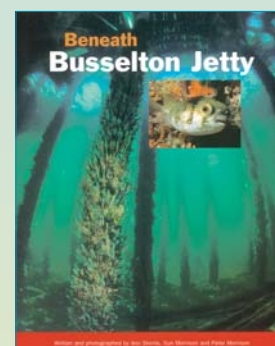
West, *Birds of the South-West Forests* and *Beachcombers' Guide to South-West Beaches*. They're available at good bookshops, visitor centres and CALM offices.

The multi-award winning quarterly magazine *LANDSCOPE* presents the magic of Western Australia's flora, fauna and special places in every issue. It is easy to read, scientifically accurate and available from newsagents and by subscription (phone 9334 0333).

Other books include *Beneath the Busselton*

Jetty, an underwater photographic study of the marine life along the southern hemisphere's longest jetty which is, effectively, a huge artificial reef; and *Wild Places, Quiet Places*, a pictorial guide with maps for weekend escapes and holidays.

A series of free guides, such as this one, is available from CALM offices to help you plan your travel to natural wonders of this vast State. Others include the *Guide to Southern Forests* and *Celebrating the Waters of the Capes*.



Protecting biodiversity in our parks

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the vast array of plants and animals that make up the eco system.

Did you know that the entire area west of an imaginary line between Geraldton and Esperance is recognised internationally as one of 25 biodiversity 'hot spots' in the world and is the only such area in Australia?

The area between Busselton and Augusta has been classified as a national biodiversity hot spot because of the high number of unique species that have evolved in the region and the threat they face through land clearing and development.

The South West is a magnificent mosaic of about 1,500 plant species, many unique or endemic to the area because of its isolation from the rest of Australia by desert and the limestone plains of the Nullabor. Many plants have proliferated in our Mediterranean climate: there are about 60 species of banksia and more than 300 varieties of orchid.

Maintaining biodiversity is important. Apart from the fact that plants and animals are part of our natural heritage and should be protected for their own sake, biodiversity also helps provide productive ecosystems and



Queen of Sheba orchid. Photo CALM.

maintains ecological processes, such as the carbon cycle, that are vital to all life forms.

National parks and other reserves are critical in maintaining biodiversity because they protect species and their habitats. It is therefore essential that they are of sufficient size, placement and variety to achieve this. This is the basis of what is termed a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system.



Bramley National Park. Photo Chris Garnett/CALM.



Blackwood River, Blackwood National Park. Photo Chris Garnett/CALM.

National Park System

The State Government is working to build a world class parks system. Proposed additions in the South West include:

1. an expansion of Wellington National Park, and Greater Preston National Park near Collie;
2. Bramley National Park along Margaret River, north of the town;
3. the Butler, Hilliger, Milyeannup and Easter national parks to the west and south-west of Nannup;
4. Blackwood River National Park along both sides of the river;
5. Yelverton National Park south east of Yallingup;
6. Forest Grove National Park to the south of Margaret River;
7. Dalgarp National Park west of Bridgetown;
8. various smaller parks around Nannup and Bridgetown, such as St John Brook and Hester conservation parks; and
9. Whicher Range National Park near Busselton.

Some of these have been formed specifically to protect old-growth forests including parts of the extended Wellington National Park, in the new parks along the Blackwood River and in a number of proposed new national parks south of the Blackwood River.

Others contain important populations of threatened species. The proposed Forest Grove is home to a community of the critically endangered white bellied frog and the proposed Blackwood River National Park supports a critically endangered plant community dominated by *Reedia spathacea*, in its low-lying swamp areas.



King jarrah tree. Photo Chris Garnett/CALM.

Look high and low for jarrah forest plant jewels



Blue leschenaultia (*Leschenaultia biloba*). Photo CALM.

Magnificent jarrah forests exist only in Western Australia's South West.

These towering trees grow up to 60 metres tall and cover 1.6 million hectares of forests and woodlands in the area between Perth, Albany and the south-western coast of WA.

They grow mainly on the nutrient poor lateritic upland soils of the Darling Plateau where more than 700mm of rain falls each year, although the largest grow in the rich loamy soils of the adjacent deep river valleys.

Few trees grow in association with jarrah. However, there are some exceptions. Some other eucalypts occur with jarrah – marri and its large 'gum nut' fruits, WA blackbutt and its pointed blue-green leaves, and the white-barked wandoo in the eastern areas. Among the understorey trees are sheoak and bull banksia.

Apart from the majestic trees there is a wonderful diversity of other plants with around 1,500 species thriving in jarrah forests.

Some of the most attractive flowers include the blue leschenaultia (*Leschenaultia biloba*) and the common dampiera (*Dampiera linearis*), with intense royal blue flowers.

The jarrah forest understorey includes many species of hibbertia, with their characteristic yellow 'buttercup' flowers. The orange star (*Hibbertia stellaris*) is the only one with orange flowers. There are also several species of banjine, with bunjong (*Pimelea spectabilis*) being particularly attractive with white flowers in heads tinged with pink.

A creeper found in the forest, particularly after fires, is the old man's beard (*Clematis pubescens*) with large, four-petalled white flowers. Native wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) and the coral vine (*Kennedia coccinea*) are also widespread.

Grasses, sedges, lilies and orchids also cover the ground. The striking xanthorrhoea or balga is another common plant throughout the South West. The balga can grow up to three metres tall and has long flowering spikes.



Vasse-Wonnerup Wetlands. Photo CALM.

Millions of years in the making

The distinctive landforms of the South West represent several thousand million years of geological evolution, making it a microcosm of the Earth's formative history.

The landscape of the South West is very old, developing about 295 million years ago when a large icecap covered most of its surface. This was when Australia was part of the supercontinent Gondwana. During this time, Australia was close to the South Pole and glaciers carved broad deep valleys into the landscape. During the next 200 million years, as Australia began to break from Gondwana, the Darling Fault became very active. This caused uplift of the huge land mass to its east (the Yilgarn Craton) and a large depression (called the Perth Basin) to form along its western side, which slowly filled up with sediment. The Swan Coastal Plain now overlies part of this basin.

Heat, cold and rain on this ancient land surface weathered and eroded the hills and valleys that were formed by glacial action.

Slowly, the gently undulating hills of the Darling Plateau began to form.

Around 95 million years ago, as Australia was separating from the supercontinent Gondwana, an extensive system of rivers was established over much of the South West, which began to experience a moist, temperate to tropical climate. About 40 million years ago there was a huge rise in sea level, flooding parts of the Swan Coastal Plain and large areas along the south coast.

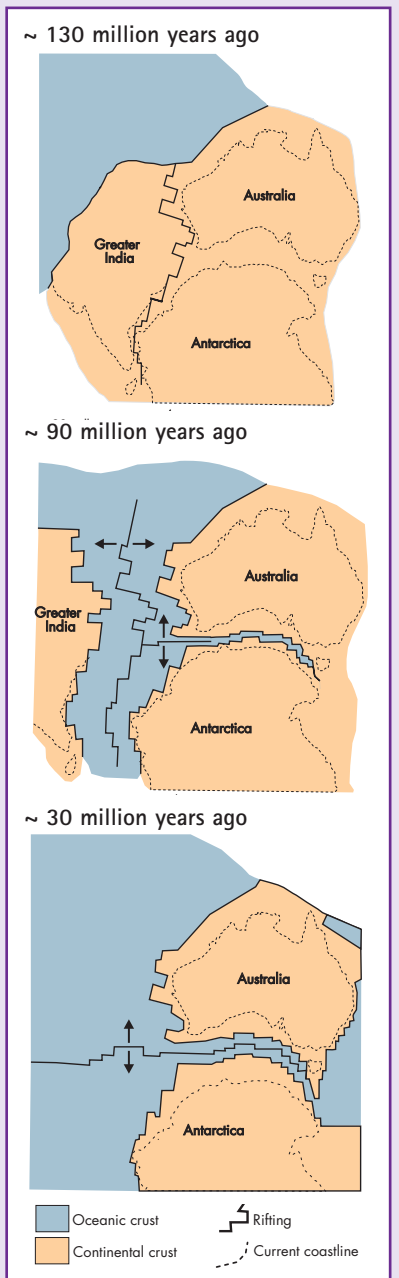
Between 25 and 40 million years ago, a tropical climate allowed deep weathering of the rocks and the gravelly laterite soils of the Darling Range to form. During the past two million years, the coastline changed position many times in response to the expansion and contraction of the polar icecaps. Sand dunes developed parallel to this changing coastline and are now represented by undulating limestone hills and ridges that form the Quindalup, Spearwood and Bassendean dune systems.

East of Perth, the Darling Range extends for about 300 kilometres from near Dandaragan to the east of Bunbury. These hills are made of granite, gneiss and laterite rocks that are up to 3,700 million years old.

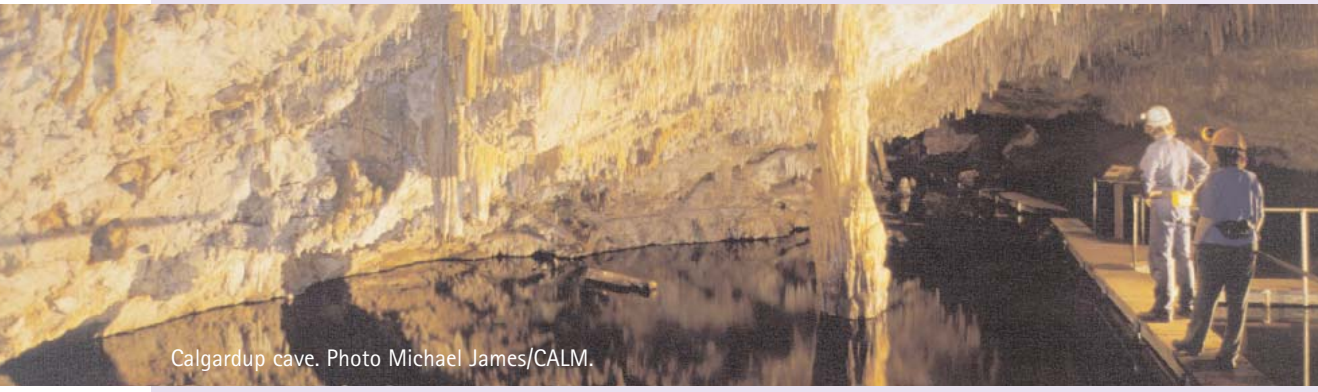
Rocky foundations help create plant diversity

Rocks form the basis for soils which, combined with climate, determine the plants that thrive in an area. Many plants that thrive in the South West are unique or endemic to the area. This is partly because they have evolved over millions of years to grow on ancient soils and partly because of the isolation from the rest of Australia from the Nullarbor Plain. In the South West there is a magnificent diversity of about 1,500 plant species including about 60 species of banksia and more than 300 varieties of orchid.

To find out more about the geology of the South West, see the CALM Bush Book *Geology and Landforms of the South-West*.



Exciting caves: a historical treasure trove



Calgardup cave. Photo Michael James/CALM.

Interesting crystal formations, mini-lakes and the fossilised remains of ancient creatures are among the amazing sights in the subterranean wonderlands of the caves in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

There are more than 100 caves in one of the world's most extensive aeolian (wind blown) limestone deposits. Seven are regularly open to the public - Calgardup, Giants, Ngilgi, Mammoth, Lake, Jewel and Moondyne caves.

The caves were formed in the past two million years by water dissolving limestone. To paleontologists they are treasure troves of the past, with their stable, alkaline environments having preserved the remains of animals that have fallen in.

Remains found in the caves include Tasmanian tigers, Tasmanian devils, koalas, marsupial lions, giant kangaroos, giant wombats, Zygomaturus (cow-sized creatures that looked like wombats) and other examples of 'mega-

fauna' that roamed the area until 40,000 years ago. Evidence of human habitation dating back 40,000 years has been discovered in the caves.

The caves are also home to threatened communities of tiny, barely visible creatures called stygofauna that live in water and the roots of trees hanging down from the surface. Some species date back to Gondwana, the supercontinent of which Australia was part, more than 45 million years ago.

The shallow Calgardup Cave is accessible to all ages, contains a stream flowing all year round and has many colourful crystal formations. Giants Cave is for the more adventurous, being one of the biggest and deepest, with vertical ladders and rock scramblings. Both are on Caves Road south of Margaret River, are self-guided and do not have electric lighting. Visitors are equipped with helmets, lamps and information.

For more information contact CALM's caves office on 9757 7422.

Creative education in forests

Active learning at special centres nestled in our South West forests is CALM's creative way of educating students about the importance of protecting our natural environment.

After all, the future of our environment hinges on young people understanding its value and knowing how to protect it.

The Wellington Discovery Forest, located near the Wellington Dam, between Bunbury and Collie, is the main facility. It offers a range of enjoyable hands-on excursions that are part of CALM's EcoEducation program designed to develop ownership and understanding of the environment.

In addition, the program offers resource packages for classroom activities and professional development for teachers. All programs are linked to the Curriculum Framework and promote biodiversity conservation.

Activities are for students of all ages. Younger students can enjoy the 'Sense-ational Trail' where they are blindfolded and guided through the forest touching, smelling and listening as they go. Older students can learn how to monitor native animals through fauna trapping.

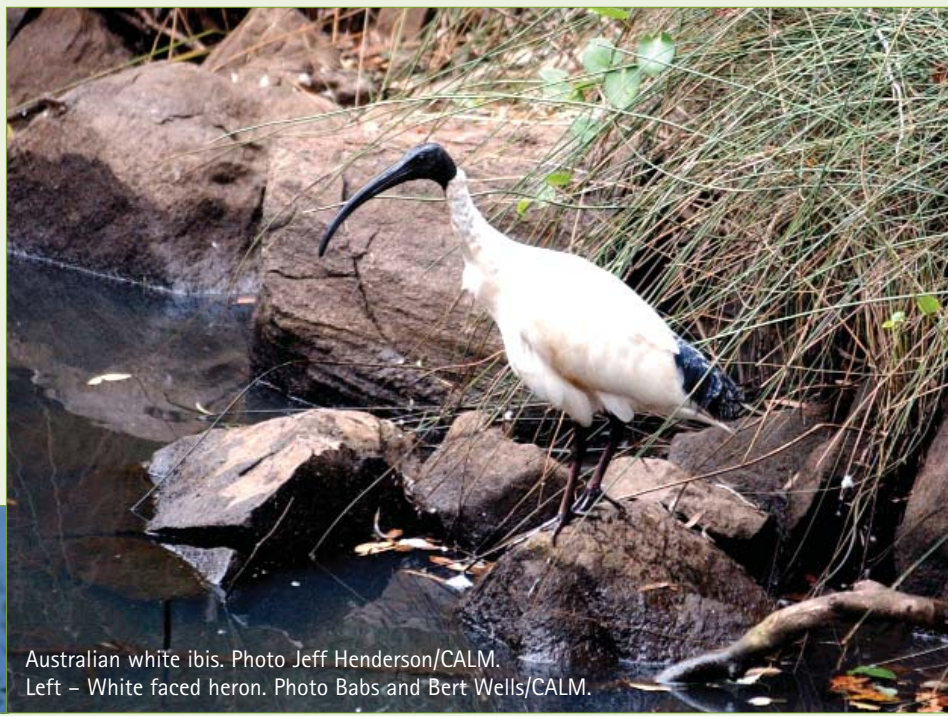
There is a range of accommodation available nearby including camping, cottages and bed and breakfast guest homes.

EcoEducation activities are also operating at the Margaret River EcoDiscovery Centre. Facilities include student bunkhouse-style accommodation, toilets and showers.

Bookings for Wellington Discovery Forest and Margaret River EcoDiscovery Centre programs can be made through CALM's Wellington District Office (Phone 9734 1988 or email wdf@calm.wa.gov.au).

Delight in bird watching and mighty tuart

Visitors to the popular tourist town of Busselton are on the doorstep to see two of the South West's most attractive ecological locations - the mighty tuart trees and the rich birdlife of the Vasse-Wonnerup wetlands.



Australian white ibis. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.
Left - White faced heron. Photo Babs and Bert Wells/CALM.

The Tuart Forest National Park north-east of the town covers nearly 1800 hectares and protects Western Australia's largest remaining pure stand of tuarts. These trees are unique to the limestone country of the Swan Coastal Plain in the South West of WA.

The dense peppermint understorey and open glades of the forest provide habitat for the rare and endangered western ringtail possum, along with a wide variety of birds and other animals including parrots, possums, bandicoots and kangaroos. The forest also serves as a filter for the waters of

the Ludlow, Abba and Sabina Rivers, which enter the Vasse estuary nearby.

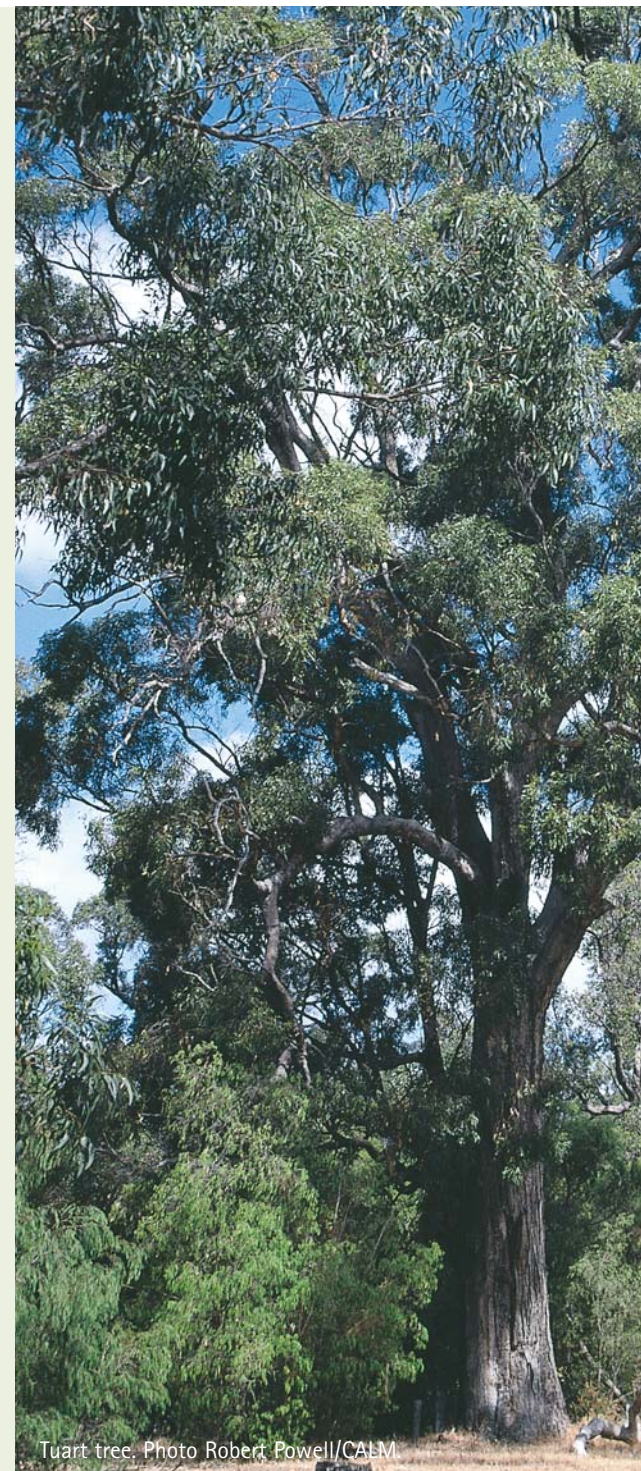
The vast expanses of open water, bays and inlets of the estuary comprise an internationally significant wetland providing breeding and feeding grounds for numerous species of waterbird, some rare. Among them are ibis, egrets, spoonbills, herons, many duck species and cormorants.

Tiny migratory waders make the long journey from northern China and Siberia. Greenshanks, plovers and sharp-tailed sandpipers also visit.

Swamp harriers sweep low over the marshes in search of prey, while kites, eagles and osprey circle above.

Nearby is the historic Wonnerup House, built in 1859 by the pioneering Layman family. There are two homesteads on the property along with stables, a blacksmith shop, sawpit and a school teacher's cottage.

The beautifully restored buildings provide a rare opportunity to learn about the life of South West pioneers and are open from 10am to 4pm. Closed Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Tuart tree. Photo Robert Powell/CALM.

Dan-joo Dabacaan – together, steady, steady

Nyoongar people and CALM working together

Dan-joo Dabacaan – meaning 'together, steady, steady' – describes CALM's approach to ensuring that Indigenous people are strongly represented in conservation and land management.

Indigenous people have been managers and custodians of this land for thousands of years. Their minimal impact farming techniques, intricate knowledge of the seasons and use of fire are well recognised. Working together will help the community protect the immense natural and cultural values of Western Australia.

The Department recognises the unique role and expertise that Aboriginal people can have as both traditional owners with a cultural responsibility to care for country, and as managers of conservation lands and waters for the State.

Training

One of the key ways in which CALM is working with Indigenous communities is through the development of employment opportunities. The Department has recently initiated the Mentored Aboriginal Training and Employment Scheme (MATES) with non-government organisations.

This program will ensure Aboriginal people make up 10 to 15 per cent of CALM's full-time workforce in the next 10 years.

There are close to 50 Indigenous people completing



CALM's Aboriginal trainees pictured with staff from the department's Indigenous Heritage Unit. Photo CALM.

traineeships throughout WA, many in the South West. After three years, these trainees will be well on the way to becoming national park rangers, field officers and technical officers. There are also university cadetships under which students can study full-time and work with CALM during their breaks.

All trainees and cadets are offered full-time positions on successful completion of their training or studies.

CALM's Indigenous Heritage Unit's Business Development Coordinator, Tania Donovan, said the training program for rangers had been a big success.

"We are working with traditional land owners and the trainees we bring in are aware the program is a three year commitment for them – that's important," Tania said.

"We are providing nationally accredited training that will equip the trainees to compete in the competitive employment market of nature conservation. We are also focusing on personal development and helping people move into leadership roles."

CALM Senior Policy Advisor, Peter Sharp, said by 2012 CALM hoped to have up to 175 Aboriginal employees.



Forested haven for water creatures

Slender tree frog. Photo CALM.

The South West's rivers support a forested haven for a range of plants and animals, many of which are unique to the region.

The protective canopy provided by the huge jarrah and marri trees on the slopes high above the rivers limits the flow of topsoil and organic matter into the water during heavy rainfall. This helps prevent turbidity (cloudiness) and excessive nutrients in the water, both of which can harm river life.

Smaller trees, understorey plants, sedges

and rushes (reeds) at the waterline help hold the banks together and slow the water flow, again reducing turbidity.

Leaves and bark dropped by river gum, paperbark, blackbutt, river banksia and swamp peppermint trees provide the main source of nutrients needed to fuel river ecosystems. As the leaves slowly break down they are eaten by tiny fungi and bacteria, which are in turn eaten by insects and crustaceans.

Trees and branches that fall into rivers create snags and help form deep pools as water rushes past them, eroding the riverbeds and banks.

These pools provide habitat for fresh

water crustaceans such as frogs, marron, gilgies and koonacs and small native fish like pygmy perch, western minnows and nightfish. These creatures also hide from their predators in the nooks and crannies of the river snags. All these animals are endemic to the South West of WA.

When snags poke out of the water they provide good resting places for birds. Diving birds, such as the darter and pied cormorant, rest on these branches to dry their water-soaked wings after hours of fishing.

Kangaroos, wallabies and tiger snakes are also frequent visitors to the water's edge.



Care for your environment

Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but memories...

"If only all park visitors followed this philosophy," CALM national park ranger Brian O'Hehir said.

Too often he has seen the damage caused by people.

"Campfires can cause problems in the national parks," he said.

"We had a case recently where people failed to extinguish a fire properly and it burnt out 200 hectares of coastal heath near

Boranup, as well as threatening private property. You can't be too careful with fire," he said.

He has also seen the damage caused by rubbish left by visitors.

"After busy times, some campsites look like the aftermath at the showgrounds and not a secluded bush camp.

"Snakes have died after having their heads caught in drink cans and birds have come to grief in plastic can carriers – commonly seen on six packs of beer cans. Those are particularly dangerous in marine environments.

"In other cases the illegal felling of trees for firewood has killed birds

and bats. Tree felling is a big issue because people trample vegetation while searching the bush and there is always the risk of injury from falling tree limbs, not to mention the fire risk.

"Basically, when people follow the rules, it makes a huge difference to the environment. It can also help make your stay a lot safer and more pleasant," he said.

When in doubt about the regulations, contact or visit the nearest CALM office.

The South West parks are a wonderful natural asset. Take the time to look after the environment and these beautiful natural areas will remain attractive for many generations to come.

Bush code of ethics



Cyclists in Bramley National Park. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.

On CALM-managed lands please remember...

- Camping is permitted only in clearly signposted areas. A self-managed system of fee-paying applies at some sites, where campers calculate fees according to a displayed schedule and use a deposit box. At other sites, fees may be collected daily by the ranger or as you enter.
- Campfires can only be lit at certain times of the year. Please refer to signs at sites or speak to a CALM ranger. Generally, fires are not allowed during daytime hours in summer. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own gas or fuel stoves.

Gas barbeques are provided at some campsites.

- Firewood is provided by CALM at car-based campsites. Please use it sparingly. The collection of bush wood is discouraged because it can destroy the habitats of various plants and animals.
- Remove your rubbish and take it home.
- Dogs are not generally allowed in national parks, but are permitted in State forests. If you bring your dog to a State forest, keep it on a lead at all times and apply a muzzle to prevent it taking fox baits, which will kill your pet.
- Stay on the tracks.
- Prevent the spread of

dieback disease by observing vehicle access restrictions and use boot-cleaning stations.

Please don't ...

- Feed or disturb wildlife.
- Use detergents or soap products in waterways.
- Disturb rocks or cultural artifacts.

When planning a walk or cycle trip remember...

- Check latest news and track conditions from CALM, NatureBase or relevant track web sites.
- Seek advice and help from CALM, relevant track groups, maps and

guidebooks about all aspects of your trip.

- Bikes are not allowed on the Bibbulmun Track or the Cape to Cape Track.
- Groups of eight or more should not to occupy Bibbulmun Track campsite shelters before 6pm.
- Observe the Code of Campsite found in every shelter.
- Munda Biddi cyclists should not ride cross-country off the trail or cut corners, and should use the bike parking spaces at each campsite.
- Respect private property. When in doubt about park regulations, contact or visit the nearest CALM office (see contacts on front page).

Western Shield brings animals back from brink of extinction

Western Australia's native fauna recovery program – Western Shield – is a world class predator control program that has brought at least three species back from the brink of extinction.

Western Shield is one of the biggest wildlife recovery operations in the world. It involves baiting 3.5 million hectares of conservation lands to control introduced predators – the European fox and feral cat – that have been a major factor in the decline of many native species.

The baits are impregnated with the poison 1080 which also occurs naturally in the native 'poison peas.'

Because native animals have evolved alongside these plants, they are tolerant to the poison's toxicity. However, the poison, even in tiny amounts, is deadly to foxes and feral cats.



Woylies. Photo: B. van den Berg and B. van den Berg.

Since baiting began, three mammals have been removed from the threatened species list: the woylie (a small kangaroo-like animal), the quenda (or southern brown bandicoot) and the tamar wallaby.

Anecdotal evidence suggests other species such as the numbat and brush wallaby are breeding successfully as a result of baiting.

Historically, the spread of the fox has

been directly proportionate to the decline of certain native animals, particularly those in the 35 grams to eight kilograms weight range.

Western Shield has four elements: predator control, fauna translocation, captive breeding and fauna monitoring.

Most State forests and national parks of the South West, except Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, are baited regularly from the air. Others such as the Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Tuart Forest and the proposed Yelverton national parks are ground baited.

Because breeding in some areas has been so successful following baiting, CALM has had the opportunity to translocate animals to other areas where they were scarce. Captive breeding and careful release of animals at certain locations also helps rebuild numbers.

Things to do

Look for these symbols in the following pages to find out more about:

Nyoongar culture



Colonial times



Timber and trains



Land plants and animals



Marine plants and animals



Bibbulmun Track



Cape-to-Cape track



Munda Biddi cycle trail



Rafting on the Collie River. Photo Chris Garnett/CALM.

Around Harvey

Tall jarrah forest, ancient granite outcrops, rivers and dams

Some of the dams also provide an opportunity for water skiing and boating.

D2

Location: The town of Harvey is 140 km south of Perth via the South West Hwy. The following sites are within a 30km radius of Harvey.

Travelling time: Less than two hours from Perth, 40 minutes from Bunbury.

Hoffman Mill D1

This old mill town is set in jarrah forest on the banks of the Harvey River. Although the town is long gone, buildings and fruit trees remain. Camping is available from 1 November till Easter. There are also picnic facilities available all year



Picnickers at Crooked Brook Forest. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.

including free gas BBQs and a number of short walks.



Logue Brook Dam D1

Logue Brook Dam has a number of picnic sites as well as camping and access for water skiing, boating and fishing. The Logue Brook Caravan Park has caravan and camping sites, cabin accommodation and a shop/café.



Wildflower picnic site D1

This secluded picnic site located on a granite outcrop provides views of the Harvey Dam, surrounding valley and coastal plain. Enjoy a picnic or BBQ here and a short walk through the forest on the wildflower trail.

Yarloop Workshops Museum D1

These extensive workshops were established in the early 1900s to service the steam trains so critical to the timber industry in the South West. The museum includes a working steam locomotive, steam generators and several workshops and is open from 10am to 4pm daily. To find out more about past or present working life in the South West pick up a brochure for The Working Life Trail at visitor centres.



Around Bunbury and Collie

forested hills, steep river valleys, tranquil wetlands and beautiful ocean beaches

Wellington National Park D2 D3

The Wellington National Park is set in rugged terrain covered by jarrah and marri forest. The Collie River dissects the landscape and forms a series of picturesque river pools, perfect for camping or picnicking.

Location: 42km from Bunbury and 187km south of Perth via the South West Hwy.

Travelling time: 40 minutes from Bunbury, two hours 40 minutes from Perth.

Things to do: Honeymoon Pool on the banks of the Collie River is a lovely spot to camp, picnic, swim or canoe. Camping is also available at Potters Gorge. Several other picnic sites are available at the Wellington Dam and Potters Gorge, and along Lennard Drive on the banks of the river.

Enjoy the following walk or cycle trails through the jarrah forest.

- The Sika Tjenangitj - approximately four hours return from the dam kiosk (9.4km). The Sika circuit can link to the Kurliny Tjenangitj trail; add an extra 5km.
- The Kurliny Tjenangitj or Come and See Trail (pronounced Kurlin cheningen) - approximately three hours return from Honeymoon Pool to the lookout (5km).
- Lennard Mountain Bike Trails: Three mountain bike loops of 6km, 9km and 11.5km. Starts off Pile Rd.



Crooked Brook Forest C3

The community-run Crooked Brook forest offers a great spot for a picnic beside the brook or a short walk in the jarrah forest. Although a lovely trip any time of year, the wildflowers are best in spring.

Location: 25km east of Bunbury in the Ferguson Valley.

Travelling time: 20 minutes from Bunbury.



Harris Dam D2

The Harris Dam has picnic facilities including gas BBQs. Because the dam provides drinking water to Perth and the Great Southern, water-based activities are not allowed.



Glen Mervyn Dam D3

This dam is primarily used for water skiing. Other activities include swimming, fishing and picnicking. Facilities include BBQs, picnic tables and toilets.



Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park C2

This long, narrow peninsula separating the Indian Ocean from the Leschenault estuary supports a diverse range of plant communities including tuart woodlands and coastal wetlands. The peninsula has a long and fascinating history involving Nyoongars, Irish and English colonial settlers, Fenian convicts, Indian labourers and alternative lifestyles.

You can find out more about its history at the John Boyle O'Reilly Information shelter and at Belvidere.



Location: 150km south of Perth, 22km north of Bunbury.

Travelling time: 30 minutes from Bunbury, two hours from Perth.

Things to do:

- Picnic at Belvidere or at the John Boyle O'Reilly site. (Gas BBQs at Belvidere).
- Enjoy walking, swimming or fishing at Buffalo or Belvidere beach.
- Birdwatch along the estuary foreshore.
- Camp at Belvidere or the Cut (boat, walk or cycle access only to the Cut).
- Walk or cycle from Belvidere to the Cut, around 9km one-way. This path winds through tuart and peppermint woodland and has panoramic views across the estuary to the Darling Range.

Other natural attractions nearby:

- The Dolphin Discovery Centre and the Mangrove Boardwalk, both off Koombana Drive in Bunbury.



Pylons of the Busselton jetty encrusted with marine life. Photo Sue Morrison.

Around Busselton towering tuarts, world class wetlands and colourful marine life



Tuart Forest National Park C3 B4

The Tuart Forest National Park is a stone's throw from Geopraphe Bay and the Vasse-Wonnerup estuary, an internationally important wetland that supports thousands of waterbirds. The park protects the largest remaining tuart forest in the world. It also has the tallest and largest tuart trees, some as high as 33 metres. These tuarts provide an abundance of nesting hollows used by the park's numerous birds and native mammals including the threatened western ringtail possum and the more common brush tail possum.

Location: 15km north east of Busselton on the scenic Tuart Drive.



Travelling time: 10-15 minutes from Busselton.

Things to do:

- Visit the Malbup Bird Hide and see the abundant birdlife of the Vasse-Wonnerup estuary. 
- Visit Wonnerup House. This National Trust property is open each day except Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 4pm. 
- Picnic at Layman picnic site.
- Walk the Possum Night Spotlighting Trail. This is an easy 1.5 km, one

hour walk starting at Layman picnic ground. You will need to do this walk at night with a spotlight or large torch to see the wildlife.

Discover Geopraphe Bay's marine life B4

- Visit the Busselton Jetty. At 1.8km long, this is the longest wooden jetty in the Southern hemisphere. It offers excellent fishing and an opportunity to view spectacular marine life through diving, snorkelling or visiting the underwater observatory (bookings are advised—phone 9754 3689 or email admin@busseltonjetty.com.au). Trains run the length of the jetty and a free museum is open from 7.30am till 6pm.  

Around Margaret River — secluded river camps, spectacular caves and a wild, rocky coast

Bramley National Park A5

The proposed Bramley National Park is a forest escape in the heart of Margaret River. Enjoy a picnic then take a walk or ride along the river path. Here you will see karri, marri and jarrah trees on the uplands and blackbutt and peppermint trees lining the riverbanks. Several historic timber bridges span the river, a relic of the old log railways.

Location: In Margaret River, access from Rotary Park at the north end of town.

Travelling time: One hour from Bunbury, three hours 15 minutes from Perth.

Things to do:

- Picnic at Ten Mile Brook Dam (gas BBQs) or on the banks of the Margaret River at Rotary Park.
- Visit the steam train 'Kate' at Rotary Park and discover more about the park's sawmilling history.
- Walk or cycle one of the series of trails. Trails range from around 2km return to 15km return.

Rapids Conservation Park B5

At Rapids Conservation Park you can discover a diversity of vegetation from the giants of the jarrah forest to micro communities on the granite outcrops. Enjoy a swim in the deep pools on the Margaret River.

Location: 22km north east of Margaret River.

Travelling time: 20 minutes from Margaret River, access from Osmington Rd.

Things to do:

- Camp, picnic or swim at Canebrake Pool on the Margaret River (wood BBQs, BYO drinking water).

Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park A3-A6

The Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park stretches from Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste, and has 120km of spectacular coastline with long, sandy beaches, rugged limestone cliffs and

granite boulders sculptured by the sea. Snorkel with a diverse range of colourful marine creatures or enjoy some of the best surf in the world. Wildflowers are abundant in spring, both on the coastal heath and in the forests inland. The tall ghostly karri forest at Boranup is the world's westernmost karri forest. The coastal limestone caves of the Capes district are spectacular and are the largest occurrence of aeolian (wind blown) caves in the world.

Location: Margaret River, central to this national park, is 100km south of Bunbury, 25km south-west of Busselton and 277km south of Perth.

Travelling time: One hour 15 minutes from Bunbury, three hours 15 minutes south of Perth.

Things to do:

- Camp among the peppermint trees at Contos or Hamelin Bay.
- Self guide at Calgardup or Giants cave or take a guided tour of the many other caves.
- Visit Cave Works and discover how these caves were formed.
- Visit Hamelin Bay and see the stingrays.
- See nature's granite sculptures at Canal Rocks or Sugarloaf Rock.
- Visit the lighthouses at Cape Naturaliste and Cape Leeuwin. 
- Visit the karri forest at Boranup for a picnic, walk or scenic drive.
- Visit the historic Ellensbrook homestead.  
- Learn more about Nyoongar way of life at the Wardan Centre. Open every day but Tuesday. Phone (08) 9756 6566 for more information. 



Discovering nature's treasures at Canebrake Pool. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.



Walking in St John Brook Conservation Park. Photo Jeff Henderson/CALM.



Blackwood River. Photo Michael James/CALM.

- Look for whales in July, October and November all along the coast. Some of the best locations for whale watching are Cape Naturaliste, North Point at Gracetown, Injidup, Moses Rock and Cape Leeuwin.
 - Walk the Cape to Cape Track.
- For more information on things to do, pick up the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park brochure from visitor centres or the Busselton or Bunbury CALM offices.



Sues Bridge: 50km or 40 minutes south of Busselton.

Hut Pool: 30km or 40 minutes from Margaret River.

Things to do:

- Picnic, swim or fish at Sues Bridge, Warner Glen, Alexandra Bridge, Wrights Bridge or Hut Pool. Camping is permitted at all sites except Hut Pool. Wood BBQs are at each campground. BYO drinking water to all sites.
- Canoe along the Blackwood River which has access from all campgrounds.

Blackwood River Forests around Nannup — follow the mighty Blackwood River from the forest to the sea C5 B5 B6

South-west of Nannup there are many opportunities to explore the beautiful Blackwood river and its pools. The river is more than 500km long, the longest in the South West. It flows past tall jarrah and marri forest, picturesque farmland and coastal woodland before entering the southern ocean at Augusta.

Location: Between Nannup and Alexandra Bridge.

Alexandra Bridge: 22km or 25 minutes from Augusta.

Warner Glen: 20km or 25 minutes from Margaret River.

St John Brook Conservation Park C5

Best known for the gently flowing St John Brook and its picturesque river pools, St John Brook Conservation Park is a favourite with locals and visitors for swimming, picnicking and camping. The park also has a fascinating sawmilling history from early last century that is still evident today around Barrabup Pool and along the Old Timberline Trail.

Location: 8km north-west of Nannup, 50km south-east of Busselton.



Travelling time: 10 minutes from Nannup, 40 minutes from Busselton.

Things to do:

- Picnic or swim at Barrabup Pool.
- Camp or swim at Workmans Pool.
- Walk or cycle the Old Timberline Trail from Nannup to Cambray siding (20km one way).
- Hike or cycle in to the Sleeper



Pacific black duck at the Vasse-Wonnerup wetland. Jeff Henderson/CALM.

Hewer's Hut on the Old Timberline Trail and camp overnight.

Other forest picnic sites D5

Location: Between Bridgetown, Balingup and Nannup.

Distances:

- Karri Gully: 20km or 20 minutes east of Nannup.
- Bridgetown Jarrah Park: 18km or 15 minutes west of Busselton.
- Wrights Bridge: 10km or 15 minutes south-west of Balingup.

Things to do:

- Picnic at Karri Gully or the Bridgetown Jarrah Park.
- Walk the Fallers Brand Trail or the Shield Tree Trail at the Bridgetown Jarrah Park (short walks of easy to medium grade—20 to 90 minutes).

You can also walk the Bibbulmun Track north to Gregory Hut (3km).



Golden Valley Tree Park D4

The Golden Valley Tree Park is set in a beautiful valley and features hundreds of magnificent trees from Australia and around the world. Enjoy a picnic then stroll through the park and admire the tall cedars, ancient ginkgoes, and a variety of heritage fruit trees as well as Australian eucalypts and rainforest trees. The many deciduous trees are ablaze with colour in autumn. The park is a joint community and CALM project.

Location: 2km south of Balingup.

Travelling time: 65km or 50 minutes from Bunbury, 240km or three hours from Perth.



Guide to the South West

