

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Life in Cape Arid National Park is ruled by the need to conserve water and tolerate salinity in the soil. Southern sandheaths and mallee extend inland as far as Mt Ragged, north of which there is a transition to woodlands dominated by saltbush and bluebush.

Granite outcrops and the occasional pool of permanent water form microhabitats supporting plants and animals not found elsewhere in the Park. On and near Mt Ragged, many species of orchids and several ferns have been identified, together with a small population of the sticky-tail flower *Anthocercis viscosa*, which has only been found previously in coastal locations.

Animals common to south-west WA inhabit the park, including the southern bush rat, western brush wallaby, and a variety of small marsupial predators, reptiles and amphibians. The biggest danger to native animals is the European fox. CALM's *Western Shield* program targets foxes and feral cats, as research in the past 10 years has shown that even almost-extinct species can be re-established, if effective fox control is in place.

Whales are regularly spotted off the coast, especially during late winter/early spring, and seals occasionally visit the beaches. The rare Cape Barren goose is a regular visitor, and populations of the endangered ground parrot are known to survive here.

PIONEERS

The ruins of homesteads, buildings and dams, erected by pioneer graziers around Thomas River and Pine Hill, where they settled in the early 1870s, as well as the graves of some travellers, can be seen near the waterhole at Pine Hill, and in a deep valley, east of Mt Arid.

REMEMBER

BE CAREFUL: Stay on paths and help prevent erosion. Your safety in natural areas is our concern, but your responsibility.

BE CLEAN: Put your litter in bins, or better still, take it with you.

BE COOL: Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Bring your own portable gas stove.

PROTECT ANIMALS AND PLANTS: No firearms or pets, please.

STAY ON THE ROAD: Follow signs and stay on roads marked in this brochure. Normal road rules apply.

FURTHER INFORMATION

CALM officers are always glad to help. Don't hesitate to contact them if you need further information or assistance.



Department of Conservation and Land Management

Cape Arid National Park,
PO Box 185, Esperance WA 6450.
Telephone (08) 9075 0055

Esperance District Office,
92 Dempster Street, Esperance WA 6450.
Telephone (08) 9071 3733

South Coast Regional Office,
120 Albany Hwy, Albany WA 6330.
Telephone (08) 9842 4500

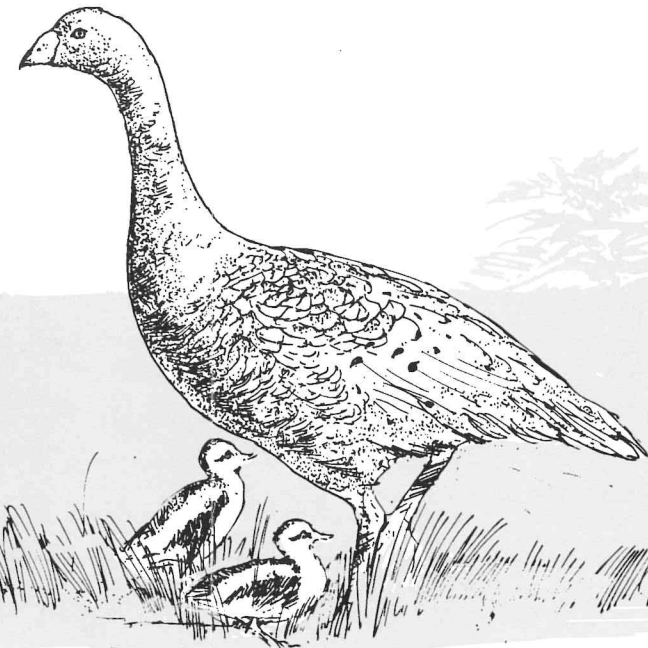
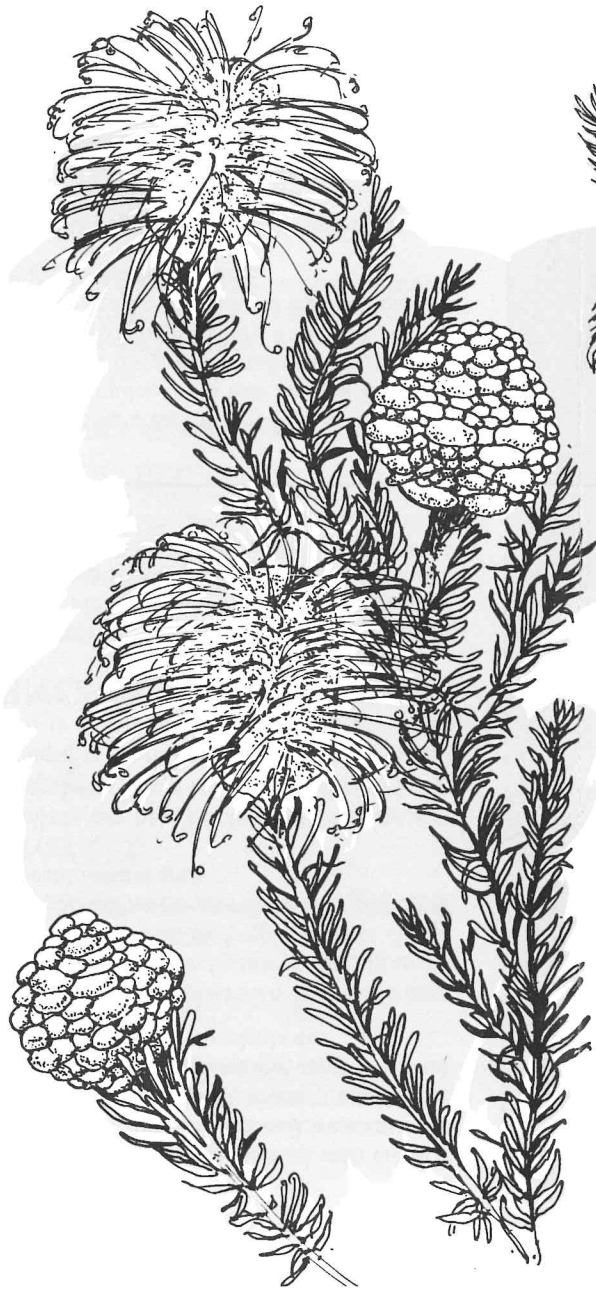
State Operational Headquarters
50 Hayman Road, Como WA 6152.
Telephone (08) 9334 0333

CAPE ARID AND EUCLA

National Parks



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND LAND MANAGEMENT



Cape Arid National Park, 120 km east of Esperance, protects nearly 280 000 ha of sandplains and heathland vegetation communities, but is perhaps best known for its stunningly beautiful beaches, clear blue seas and rocky headlands.

Low granite hills extend inland, and in the northern part of the park the Russell Range rises to its highest peak at Mt Ragged (594 m).

Together with the Nuytsland Nature Reserve to the east, Cape Arid National Park forms a continuous area of nature conservation almost to the South Australian border.

National parks, State forests, nature reserves and wildlife throughout the State are managed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). Call into our Esperance office for more information on WA's natural environment.

Eucla National Park protects 3 340 ha of mallee scrub and heathland near the WA-SA border. The park's most significant features are Wilson Bluff, a high limestone cliff that provides a vantage point for viewing the spectacular sea cliffs of the Great Australian Bight, and the Delisser Sandhills, which are clearly visible from the Eyre Highway.

Nearby, the ruins of the Eucla telegraph station, which date from the construction of the original transcontinental telegraph line, are gradually being buried by encroaching sand dunes.

Flora in the park includes some South Australian species that follow the sea cliffs into Western Australia. They are the Gawler Ranges *Senecio*, a yellow flowered shrub not found anywhere else in WA, several species of *Olearia*, and *Templetonia*, with its egg-and-bacon-coloured flowers. Another interesting plant is *Pomandarius*, with its bunches of striking little white blooms.

DIEBACK—HELP STOP THE ROT

Cape Arid National Park is infected with dieback disease (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), a microscopic fungus that lives in the soil, where it attacks the roots of plants. The roots rot and cannot take up water or nutrients, and the plants die.

Vehicles spread this fungus, so it is essential to keep to formed roads and follow road signs in conservation reserves. By keeping out of closed sections, you will help preserve the beauty of these magnificent natural areas.

Bushwalkers can help by cleaning mud and soil from their boots before entering a park or reserve.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Toilets, fireplaces, tables and rubbish bins are provided at places shown on the map. Always carry your own water supply. Information shelters on site will tell you more about the area.

CAMPING

Several camping areas are provided at Cape Arid. Seal Creek, Jorndee Creek and Thomas River are all accessible on gravel roads. Mt Ragged is accessible by 4WD vehicles only. Firewood is scarce in the park, and we recommend that you bring a portable gas stove for cooking.

FISHING

Coastal fishing is excellent all year round, although granite headlands can be slippery underfoot. Some beaches are open to vehicles, but please remember that beach sand can be treacherous, so check tide charts when planning your trip. Keep to designated 4WD tracks when on the coast. Recreational fishing regulations apply; call at the Esperance Fisheries Department office or ask the park ranger.

BUSHWALKS

Several formal paths are provided in the park, but you may decide to walk the bays and beaches as well. Ask the park ranger about other places.

Len Otte Nature Trail 1 km return. Allow 1 hr.

Features views over the park and a close look at the varied plant and animal life of the area. Pick up a brochure from the box at the start of the trail.

Tagon Coastal Walk 7 km return. Allow 4 hrs.

Features views over the wild coastline. In winter, you may be lucky enough to spot one of the southern right whales, which often come close in shore in the bays.

Boolenup Walk 4 km return. Allow 2 hours.

An easy walk to brackish Lake Boolenup. The trail goes from the car park off Tagon Road through banksia, eucalypt, paperbark swamp, and coastal heath. Bird life is prolific.

Mt Ragged Walk 3 km return. Allow 3 hours.

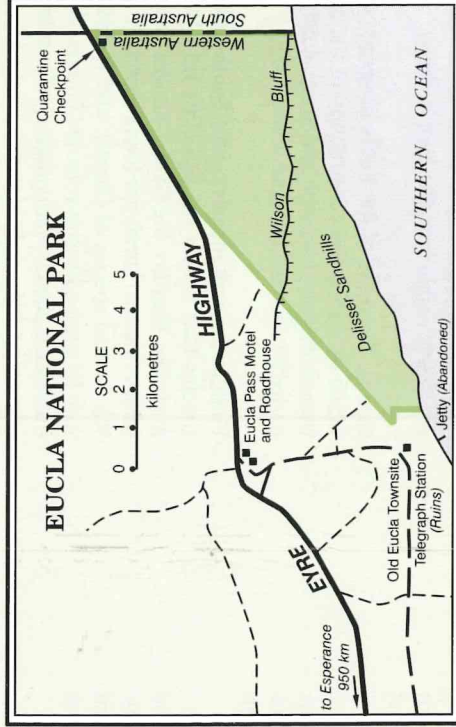
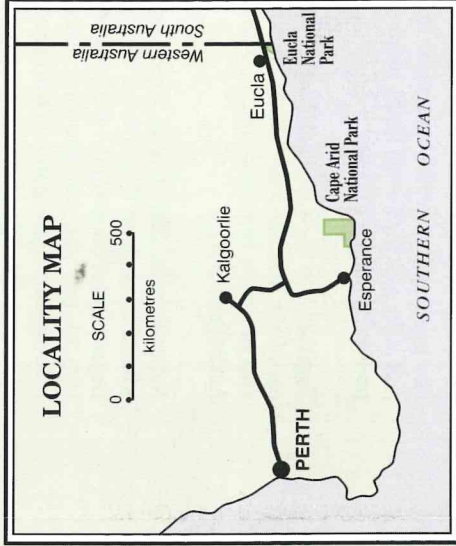
A stiff walk to the top of Tower Peak (585m). Mt Ragged is a steep-sided pre-Cambrian ridge surrounded at about one-third height by a wave-cut platform.

WATER

Please carry your own drinking water, as stocks within the park are limited.

PETROL SUPPLIES

Condingup 55 km. Esperance 125 km.



CAPE ARID NATIONAL PARK

KEY

- Park Boundary
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- Track 4x4

- BBQ (Gas)
- Bushwalk
- Camping
- Fireplace
- Historical Site
- Information
- Ranger
- Table
- Toilets
- Water (limited)

NOTE: Most tracks are designated four wheel drive only. If in doubt, contact the Ranger at Cape Arid on (08) 970750095.

NOTE: Always carry sufficient drinking water.

