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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## HINTS TO ENJOY THE WALKS

- ❑ Stay on established marked paths;
- ❑ Never light fires;
- ❑ Carry a light backpack with water and a snack;
- ❑ Be considerate of others - leave the natural environment as you found it...take all rubbish home;
- ❑ Dogs and firearms are not permitted;
- ❑ Be aware of the weather conditions and take appropriate clothing;
- ❑ Seats are provided along the walks...stop, relax and observe the flora, fauna and coastal scenery;
- ❑ If in doubt about your ability to complete a walk, select a shorter option;
- ❑ Study the map carefully prior to and during your walk...there are many possible options to walking the Cape.

## INFORMATION



If you would like to enjoy more walks within the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park, then:-

- ❑ Call in at the CALM office in Busselton, 14 Queen Street. Ph (097) 52.1677;
- ❑ Specific areas to ask about:-
  - Yallingup Walk Trail Brochure.  
Network of long and short walks to suit all fitness levels.
  - Visit Ellensbrook.  
CALM has prepared a walk suitable for every-one to enjoy. It is hardsurfaced and will accommodate a wheel chair to Meekadarribee falls.
  - Cape to Cape Walk Track.  
Although this is a long distance walk, each sectional brochure lists short walk options.
  - Other options outside of the National Park.
- ❑ There are many options so please call in and ask.

## Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park

## CAPE NATURALISTE WALK NETWORK

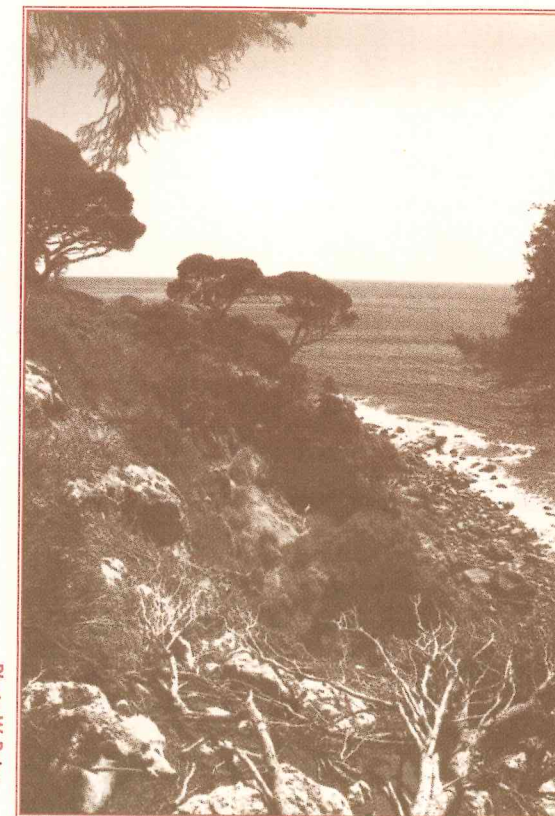
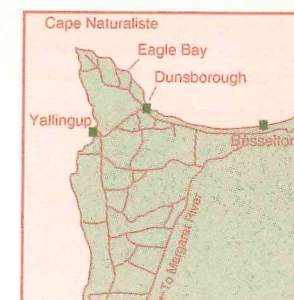


Photo W. Payne



Conservation and  
Land Management

PAM03624



# CAPE HISTORY NATURALISTE

## First Visitors:

Sealers and whalers, mostly American, French and British, visited Australian shores in the early 1800's, but did not set up permanent settlements on the West Coast. It was the supposed threat of French activity in the area that led to the first permanent settlements in Western Australia.

In 1802 the Frenchman, Nicolas Baudin landed in Geographe Bay naming the Bay and Cape Naturaliste after two of his ships.

## White Settlement:

The Chapmans came to Western Australia 1828-29 and took up land on the Cape. Original homestead blocks were 40 acres and granted so early they had no block numbers - only a small letter "D" on the title. The second of the Cape farm families were the Curtises.

However, it was not until the discovery of gold in Kalgoorlie in the 1890's and the growing timber export industry that saw the importance of the two Capes grow to the extent that the Cape Naturaliste lighthouse was completed in 1903.



Teams of horses carted goods to Curtis Bay where ships offshore were loaded.

## Lighthouse.

An area of 20 acres was reserved for the lightstation, and the contractor (Mr Anderson) commenced work on the 11th February, 1903 and completed the job by the 11th December at a contract price of £4,800. Limestone for the lighthouse and houses was quarried about one mile from the lighthouse and carted to site by bullock wagon. As the bases of the tower was built on a 100 m high bluff, the lightstation is only 20 m high with its powerful light extending to 30 miles on a clear night.

In 1924 the lamp in the lighthouse was upgraded to 1.2 million candles. The light source is currently a 1,000 watt tungsten-halogen lamp fed by mains power with diesel-electric standby equipment.

## Shipwrecks.

One of the most fascinating was the "Carnarvon Castle". It was 1907 and well off the south-west of Western Australia in the Indian Ocean when it caught fire. It took the crew 27 days after abandoning ship to reach Cape Naturaliste. Most survived due to the lighthouse keepers' (Mr & Mrs Baird) care and attention.



The Naturaliste walk trails network has been designed to provide an opportunity for everyone from the short easy 30 minute walk to up to half a day on the Cape.

The Lighthouse walk is an easy walk following relatively flat ground. When funds are available, it is to be hardsurfaced so that it will provide an opportunity for everyone to indulge in the 360° panoramas.

The Whale Lookout Track. The shortest option (and the most popular) is to walk to the Whale lookout. This provides a perfect vantage point for viewing Whales (September - November). Out of season, it provides magnificent panoramic coastal views, diverse coastal heath and an opportunity to spot birds living in the area. The track is mostly flat with the last 200 metres sloping away to the lookout.

The Cape Naturaliste track provides some unique scenery at the Cape. The track winds through an area known as "the Pinnacles". These are limestone projections in an area largely devoid of vegetation. Look for cairns of limestone to guide you through the area. If walked in a clock-wise direction, the "other side of the moon" can be seen as black loam soils sculptured by nature.

The Bunker Bay track leads to the cliff edge revealing breathtaking views of the Coast. This walk demonstrates the three distinctive types of vegetation on the Cape...woodland in sheltered areas near Bunker Bay, wind-pruned Marri growing higher on the ridge, and coastal heath. The viewing platform overlooking Shelly Cove near Bunkers Bay offers a superb resting site with distant views of Geopraphe Bay.

All photos this page courtesy Busseleton Camera Club



Bunkers Bay



View from Whale lookout



The pinnacles



Dunes

# Cape Naturaliste Walk Trails

