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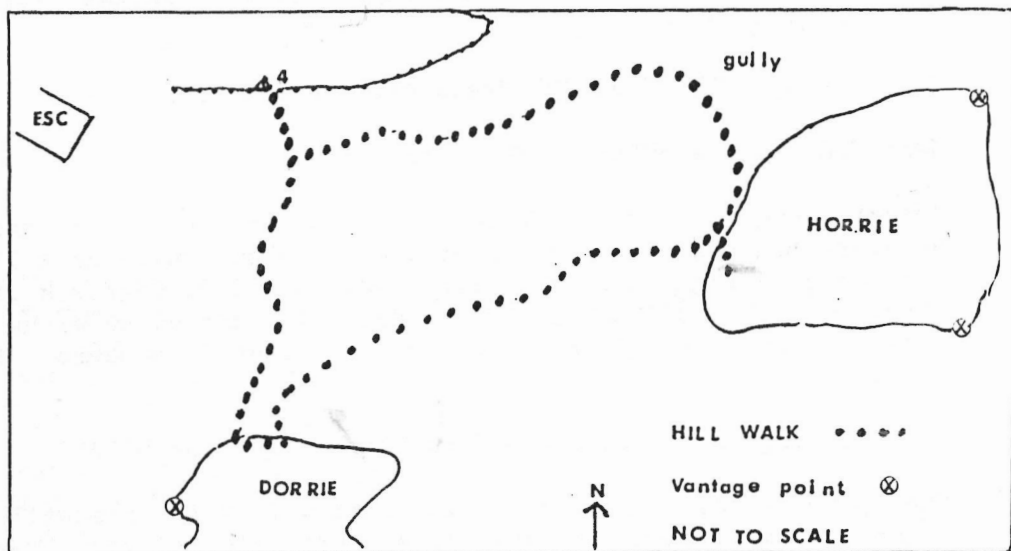
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Conservation and
Land Management

TWERTUP FIELD STUDIES CENTRE
FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK

HILL WALK



TIME Allow 2 hours

DISTANCE 5 km

We hope you enjoy the walk which has been designed and prepared by the Fitzgerald River National Park Association in liaison with CALM.

DIEBACK is a serious disease of plants spread in mud. As a precaution against its spread in this park, check that your footwear is mud-free.

After use, please return this pamphlet to the box unless you wish to keep it.

ON-SITE ONLY

ALB. OFF. PRINTS

The HILL WALK is a pegged triangular trail leading to the two small flat-topped hills near the Twertup Field Studies Centre (FSC). It is an easy walk with varied vegetation and fine views.

The hills are known as HORRIE and DORRIE as Horace and Doreen Worth operated the spongolite quarry and built the house now known as the FSC. The hills are formed of spongolite which is a soft sedimentary rock formed beneath the sea about 40 million years ago. Sparkles in the rock are sponge spicules.

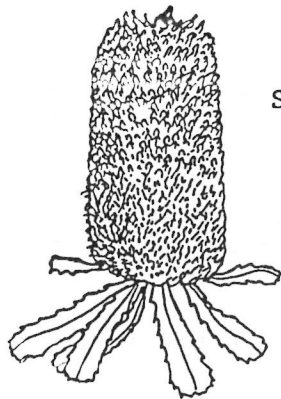
Follow the "NATURE WALKS" track east of the FSC.

Near PEG 4 and a BULL-ANT NEST, turn right.

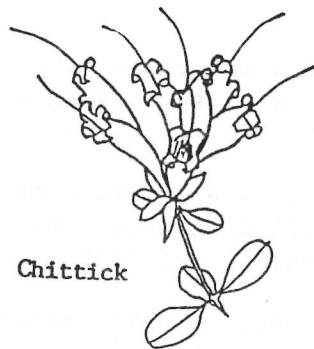
Before long you will notice that you are at a fire age boundary. On one side the vegetation is about twice as tall and dense as the other. The fire was in 1969. Regrowth is slow. Note the SOUTHERN PLAINS BANKSIA (*B. media*) on either side of the fire line.....size of plants, numbers of fruit.

Two pegs together indicate a fork. Turn right for DORRIE.

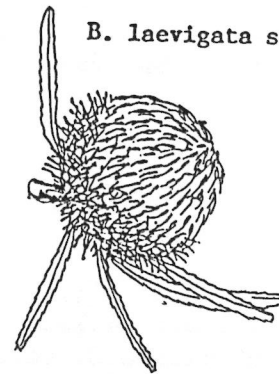
The path winds unexpectedly at times. As you gradually climb, you will soon be able to see the FSC if you look back. On the left you may notice a huge SOUTHERN PLAINS BANKSIA.



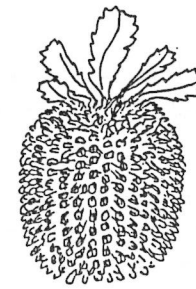
Southern Plains
Banksia



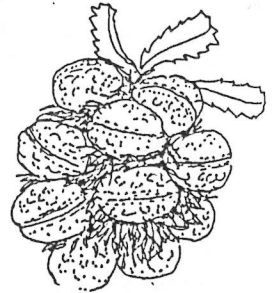
Chittick



B. laevigata ssp *laevigata*



B. lemniiana



When you reach the top of DORRIE, follow the rim around to the right for about 7 minutes. THIS SPUR IS UNPEGGED. You will come to a rock outcrop which forms an excellent viewing platform. The rock is laterized spongolite. Two BANKSIA species grow here.

A sea of mallee lies below and white cliffs edge part of the Martin Creek valley. The FSC and the narrow track stretching westward are the only sign of human use of the area. RETURN TO PEGGED TRAIL.

The trail follows DORRIE's rim a short distance to the east then sets off towards HORRIE through a dense stand of *Eucalyptus astringens*. Again the path is not direct. This is to cut down on erosion, and to avoid it being too readily visible from elsewhere.

As you climb the slope to the top of HORRIE you may notice a small dark pine-like plant (about 30 cms high). This is a rare VERTICORDIA or FEATHER FLOWER, very restricted in its distribution. On top, the bonsai-like *Verticordia oxylepis* can be found.

The top of HORRIE (UNPEGGED) is smaller than DORRIE. There are two good rock vantage points. No sign of human activity is visible from either of these points.

From the SOUTH EAST CORNER, sights include the salt flats of Martin Creek, MT BLAND (SSE), WEST MT BARREN (S), MID MT BARREN (ESE).

From the NORTH EAST CORNER, MT DRUMMOND is ENE across the Fitzgerald Valley. The EYRE RANGE and EAST MT BARREN can be seen far to the east on a clear day.

The pegs lead along the NW side of HORRIE affording glimpses of a small steep gully. Here you are likely to hear a GOLDEN WHISTLER and NEW HOLLAND HONEYEATERS. Other birds you will probably hear during the walk include CRESTED BELLBIRD, WEEBILL, RED WATTLEBIRD.

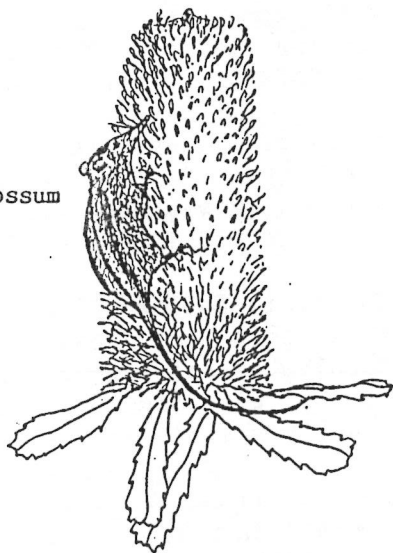
On the ground you may well spot a SPOTTED DRAGON. Did you disturb a WESTERN GREY KANGAROO? The most common mammal here is the HONEY POSSUM but they usually keep hidden in the daytime.



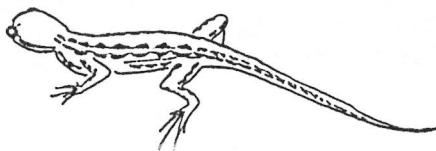
Red wattlebird



New Holland Honeyeater



Honey Possum



Spotted Dragon