

DRYANDRA

an ecological oasis

Dryandra State Forest, of some 54,000 acres, contains the few remaining examples of the natural habitat of mallet and the vegetative associations of the near wheatbelt, carefully conserved in the original or near original state.

This is the country as seen by the first white explorers.

Under some 46 years of management and protection by the Forests Department, it has developed into a unique wildlife sanctuary, harbouring many species of flora and fauna which have virtually disappeared from the vast areas cleared for wheat and sheep farms.

Environmental forestry prescriptions

A detailed environmental forestry Working Plan has been prepared for the future management of Dryandra to meet the combined needs of recreation, flora and fauna conservation and limited timber production.

They have been aimed at reaching common ground between the optimum prescriptions for the protection of flora and those required for the protection of fauna, and will be amended where necessary in the light of joint studies being carried out by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna and the Forests Department Research Branch. These studies will more precisely determine the limits of various silvicultural and protection treatments.

The overall objective is to continue and improve proper management to provide maximum public benefit by the protection and multiple use of all available resources, which include timber, flora, fauna, recreation and education facilities.

The main Dryandra area is comprised of three State Forests, which include some 19,000 acres of brown mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*) plantation. The area has been protected and managed by the department since 1926, when planting of brown

mallet was initiated to provide a source of tan bark. The latest plantings were in 1962, with the majority being in the 1930s.

Timber from this plantation is used by a small but thriving Cuballing tool handle factory which last year turned out 41,000 high grade mallet handles for hammers, axes, picks, shovels and many other hand tools.

Resulting from the department's protection, these forests have developed into a unique natural asset for conservation purposes, but they can no longer be regarded as an economic unit because of the declining world market for natural tannins.

However, as a source of potentially marketable timber and as an excellent habitat for endemic flora and fauna in an area mainly cleared for agriculture, Dryandra is an outstanding asset.

Only since the upsurge of mining activities in State Forests has the public at large become aware of Dryandra.

Nearly half a century of Forests Department management has demonstrated that proper protection—particularly from wildfires—is consistent with the needs of flora conservation and is absolutely essential for the conservation of the native habitat of species which in this area are generally extremely susceptible to damage by fire.

Continued conservation is essential for future scientific and recreational purposes.

Flora

The flora of the main Dryandra area provides the easternmost occurrences of jarrah (*E. marginata*), powderbark wandoo (*E. accedens*)

and limestone marlock (*E. decipiens*). A wealth of ground flora, especially on the sandy soils and near granite outcrops, is most noticeable, and is believed to carry some very rare plants. To this end botanical collection and identification of the species is being undertaken.

Fauna

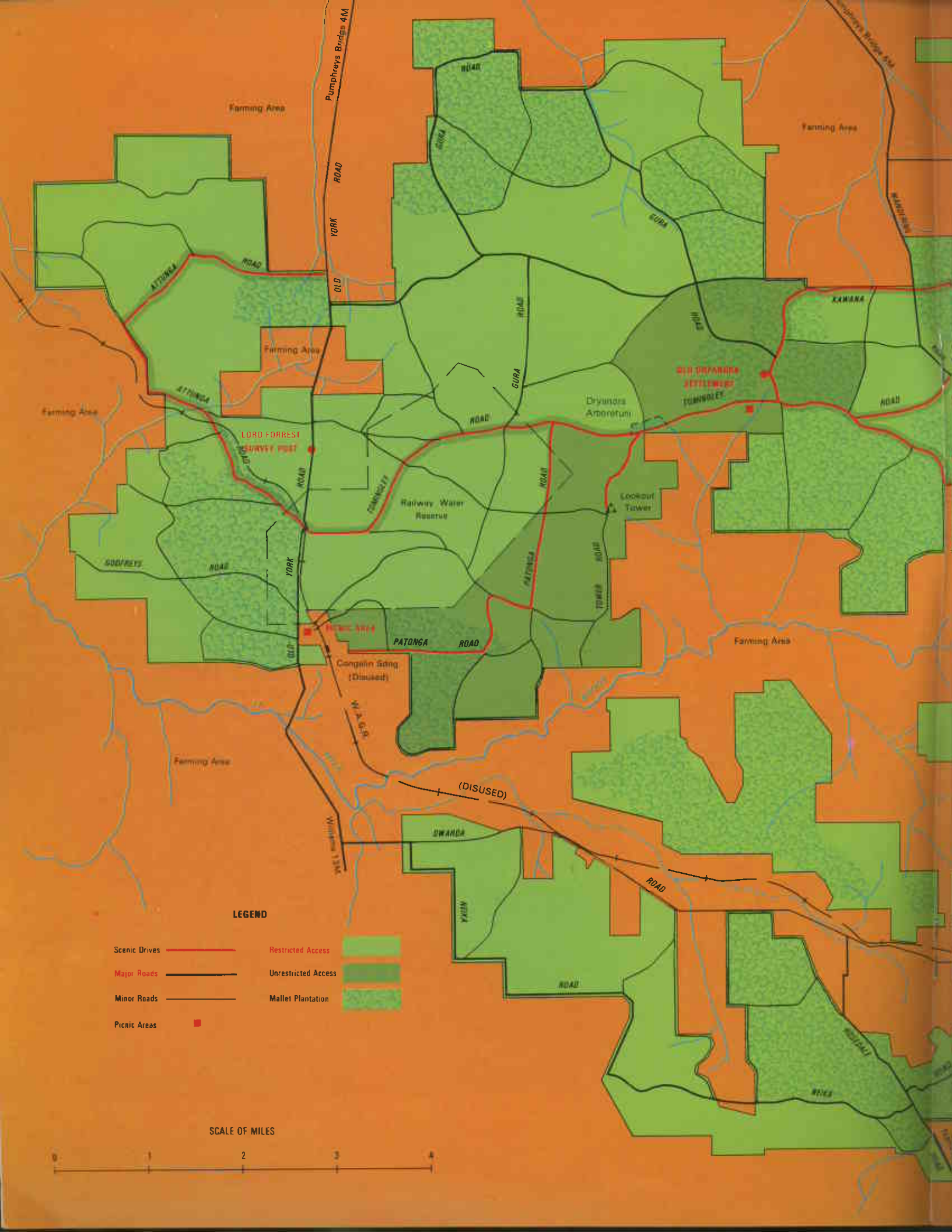
A complete catalogue of the fauna of the area has not yet been produced, but formal trapping studies by the Department of Fisheries and Fauna are being carried out. Among fauna known to inhabit the forests are: woylie or rat kangaroo, tammar, short-nosed bandicoot, grey kangaroo, numbat, brush wallaby, red-tailed wambenger or marsupial mouse, brush-tail possum, honey and pigmy possums, spiny ant-eater, mardo, echidna, western native cat and dunnart.

There are also six known bat species. Among the introduced species the house mouse is common, foxes and rabbits are present, and no doubt also the domestic cat.

Among the known birds in the area are: banded plover, black-faced cuckoo-shrike, blue jay, blue and bronze-wing pigeons, cuckoos, owls, brown flycatcher, thornbills, wrens, curlew, currawong or squeaker, wagtail, honey-eaters, parrots and many more.

As Vincent Serventy says in his book *Dryandra*, "the full beauty of many of the shyer creatures can be seen only at close quarters". The latest of several studies by this well-known naturalist, the book comprises 205 pages and is copiously illustrated with excellent colour plates—also photographed by Mr. Serventy. The book captures the atmosphere of a truly beautiful inland forest together with its flowers and wildlife, and is recommended to all lovers of natural Australian woodland.

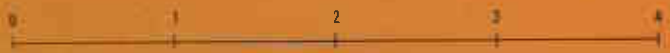
See pages 8-9 and 12-13 for map and photographs from NEW LEAFLET.

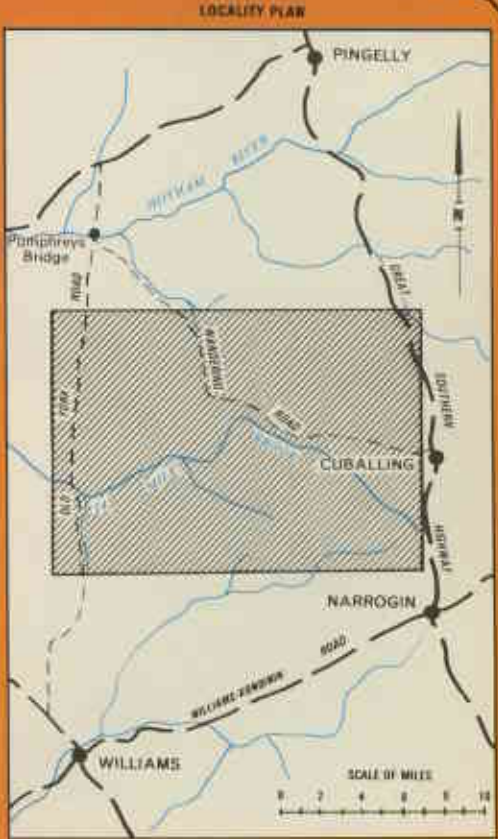
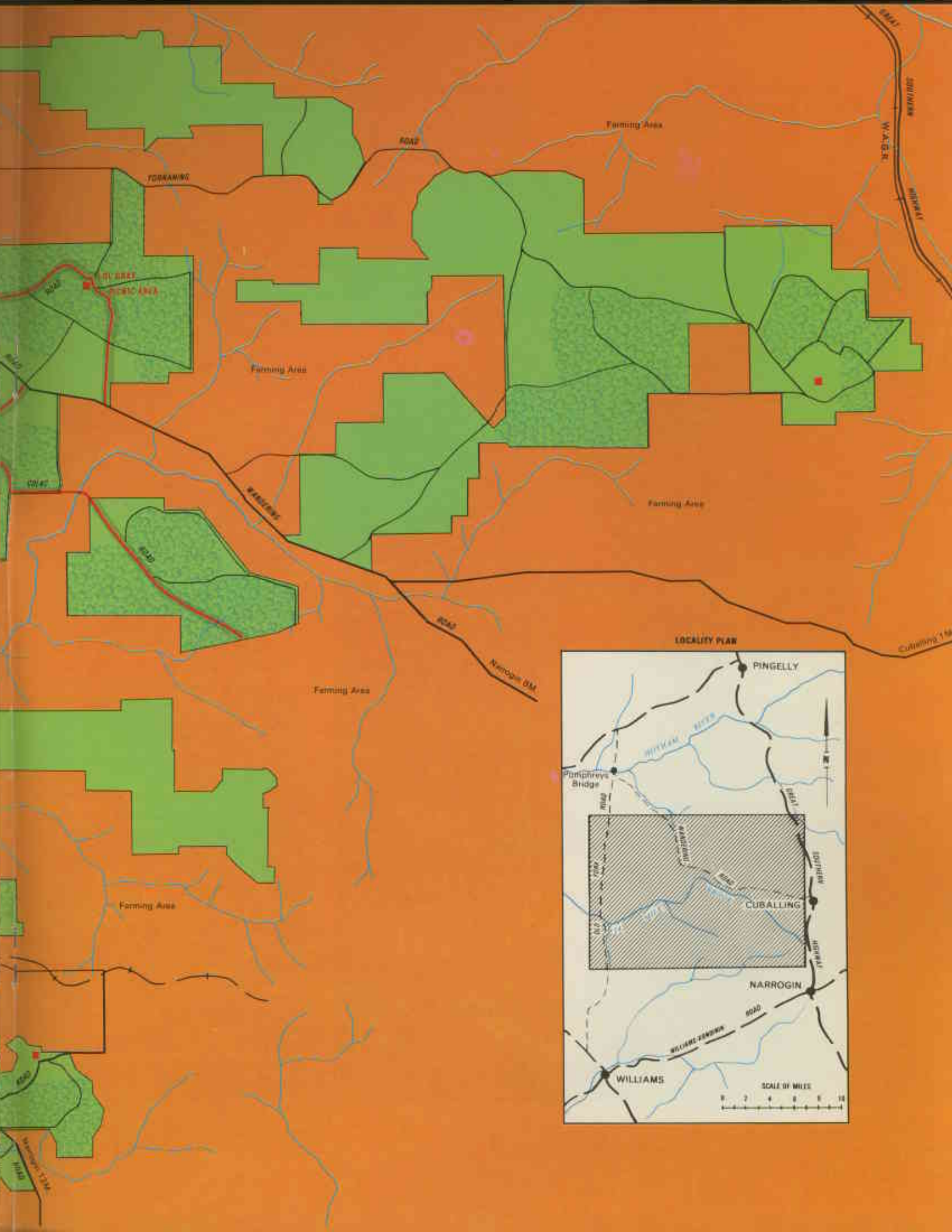


LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------|--|
| Scenic Drives | | Restricted Access | |
| Major Roads | | Unrestricted Access | |
| Minor Roads | | Mallet Plantation | |
| Picnic Areas | | | |

SCALE OF MILES







▲ *Powder-bark wandoo* (*Eucalyptus accedens*)



▲ *Red-winged wren* (*Malurus elegans*)



▲ *Plantation of brown mallet* (*Eucalyptus astringens*)

▼ *Short-nosed bandicoot* (*Isoodon obesulus*)



▼ *Ornate dragon, or running lizard* (*Amphibolurus ornatus*)





▲ *Natural brown mallet* (*Eucalyptus astringens*)



▲ *Numbat* (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*)

Things to remember when visiting State Forests

- Be careful with fire; use the facilities provided at picnic sites.
- Drive carefully, the speed limit is 20 m.p.h. on forest roads.
- Picking wildflowers, and carrying and use of firearms is forbidden.



▲ *Yellow robin* (*Eopsaltria griseogularis*)

REPRODUCED FROM NEW DRYANDRA LEAFLET

▼ *Red leschenaultia* (*Leschenaultia formosa*)



▼ *Blue leschenaultia* (*Leschenaultia biloba*)

▼ *Wilson's grevillea* (*Grevillea wilsonii*)

