

RE-CYCLED TOWNS

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The concept of re-cycling applies not only to community consumer goods but to "communities" themselves. The Western Australian Forests Department has been involved in re-cycling five small townships from forestry settlements to recreation settlements. Over the past 20 years or so the Department has ceased using several former outstations because of problems with staffing and servicing remote centres, and because of difficulties with education of the settlement children. The weather board and iron buildings, however, have been in good condition, so it was decided in the early 1970s to commence the lease of old outstations to interested groups for use as holiday and recreation camps. The first of these was Dryandra which was leased to the Lions Clubs of Western Australia in 1972.

Dryandra

Situated 20 kilometres north-west of Narrogin (164 kilometres from Perth) the Dryandra settlement was established in the late 1920s, primarily to carry out the sowing of seed of brown mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*). The seed was spot sown by relief labour during the 1930 depression and produced 8 300 hectares of mallet plantation. The area of State Forest in the Dryandra district is 16 000 hectares, the non-mallet areas being natural forest of wandoo (*E. wandoo*), powder bark wandoo (*E. occidentalis*) and marri (*E. calophylla*).

The original objective was to grow mallet for commercial production of its bark, a valuable source of high quality tan products. The objective was never realised, although many tonnes of bark were chipped. Exported production declined progressively until it ceased in 1970. The Dryandra tree nursery, moved there from Kalgoorlie in 1955, was experiencing difficulties with an inadequate water supply. It was then decided to move the district headquarters and the nursery site to nearby Narrogin, a move that was completed in 1970.

The creation and protection of an ecological oasis in the wheatlands of

the Great Southern district has been widely recognised for its importance as a managed reserve for a wide range of endemic plant and animal species that are poorly represented in other reserves or in national parks. Originally envisaged and designed as a camp for the disabled, it is now possible for any members of the general public to stay in the old forestry settlement and experience the unique environment of Dryandra. Six cottages and two Nissan huts can accommodate up to 144 people. A dam for swimming and a recreation hall are included in the facilities available. Inquiries should be directed to

Lions Dryandra Forest Village,
P.O. Cuballing, 6311
Tel. (098) 83 6020.
After Hours (098) 83 6065.

Pimelea

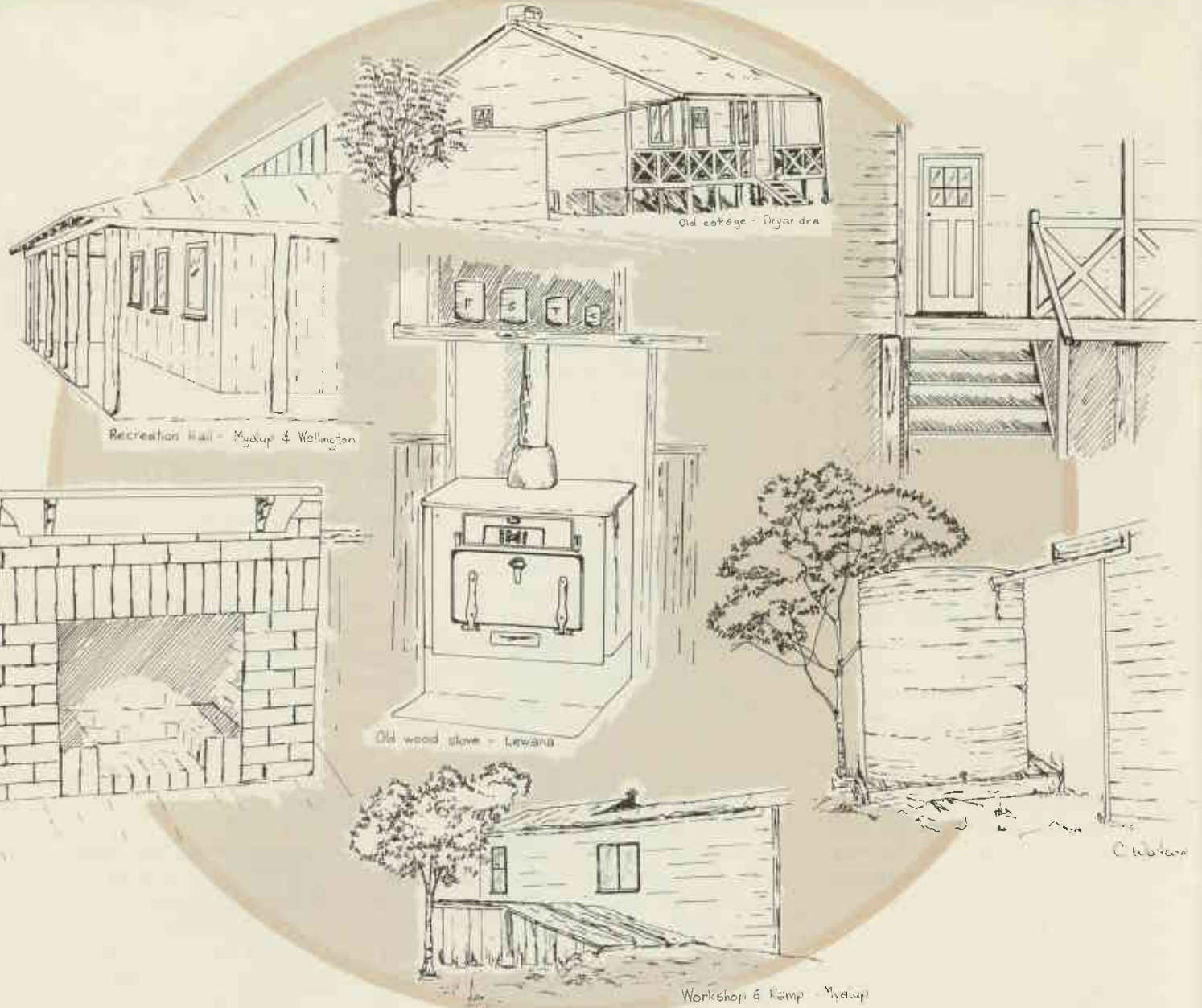
This small settlement was established at the time of planting the small Pimelea pine plantation. It is about 6 kilometres west of Pemberton and 348 kilometres south of Perth, situated among plantation, farmland and karri forest.

A typical ex-Forests Department house at Dryandra.

▼ Note the playground facilities in the foreground.

▼ The Lions Club settlement at Dryandra, near Narrogin.
(Cliff Winfield)





It was initially leased in three ways, one house to a farmer neighbour, one to the Guide Association of Western Australia, and the remaining three houses to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation (formerly the Community Recreation Council). Because of the small number of houses they, in turn, leased the area to the Youth Hostels Association in 1975. The centre is currently available only to members of that association.

Inquiries can be made at the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, or the Youth Hostels Association of Western Australia.

Wellington

The five cottages at Wellington Mills are situated near Wellington Dam, 192 kilometres south of Perth. Access by vehicle is usually *via* South-West Highway and Dardanup or by foot *via* the Bibbulmun Walk Track which stretches from Kalamunda to Northcliffe. Set in the jarrah forest near Collie, this camp provides opportunities for walking, fishing, canoeing, swimming and orienteering as well as recreational activities on the premises. It is also a favourite spot for bird watching, as forest borders three sides of the camp.

This settlement dates from the early 1920s when the nearby Wellington timber mill, now a farm, was in operation. In its hey-day the forestry settlement was part of a 1100-strong community, and local people tell of a lively history of community events, shows, races.

The Wellington forestry settlement became unnecessary when access to Collie improved, the mill closed and logging operations moved further east.

A lease was negotiated with the Community Recreation Council (now the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation) in 1971 for



▲ A view of the grounds at Lewana. (Cliff Winfield)



▲ Part of the settlement at Myalup, near Harvey. (Cliff Winfield)

use of five houses and retention of a retired officer as the first warden/caretaker.

Since then a recreation hut of vertical jarrah slabs has been added, and the cottages are frequently booked 12 months in advance.

Myalup

Myalup can be reached from the South Coast Highway or *via* Harvey and is 142 kilometres south of Perth. It is sited in a small area of tuart (*E. gomphocephala*) forest, but generally is surrounded by the Myalup plantation of maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*). As the plantation establishment programme was completed and rapid access for fire protection became available from

Harvey, the six cottages were leased to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation in late 1975. Later a recreation hut, similar in design to the one at Wellington, was added.

The Myalup area has had an interesting history dating back to the first 20 years of the colony of Western Australia. It was included in the plans of the Utopian city of Australind as one of the outer suburbs of this envisaged paradise of the Southern Hemisphere. Historical documents of the development of the Myalup forestry settlement unfortunately were lost in the Dwellingup fire of 1961. However *via* word-of-mouth and other historical evidence, the history of Myalup is gradually being pieced back together. Near the present community are the remains of the old forestry operations station, including a blacksmith's shed and the old Forests Department offices.

Myalup's capacity is 60 people in six cottages and facilities at the camp include volley-ball and table-tennis equipment, a pool table and barbecue area. It differs from the other camps in that it is situated close to the coast and offers opportunities for sea fishing and swimming at Myalup and Binningup beaches.

Lewana

Access to the picturesque camp at Lewana is from the Balingup to Nannup road 256 kilometres from Perth.

This settlement has five houses available for hire and is situated deep in the valley adjacent to the Blackwood River. Lewana was established as a working settlement for the softwood pine plantations which abut the valley on three sides. In 1977 the site was leased to the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation because the plantation programme was completed and work could be handled just as effectively from Nannup and Kirup.

Because of the high fire risk in summer the camp is closed from late October to April each year. Winter activities centre around canoeing in the river and walking in the valley area, or just relaxing in front of an open fire. This camp is very popular and bookings have to be made well in advance.

Bookings for all of these Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation holiday camps can be made by telephone or letter to:

Camps Booking Officer,
Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation,
Perry Lakes Stadium,
P.O. Box 66,
Wembley, W.A. 6014.
Tel. (09) 387 4400.



Back Cover

The Wellington settlement, set in jarrah forest near Collie. (Cliff Winfield)