

The astronomical clock above London Court, one of the sites of historical interest on the Perth Heritage Trail, which traces Perth's development from settlement in 1829 (right)

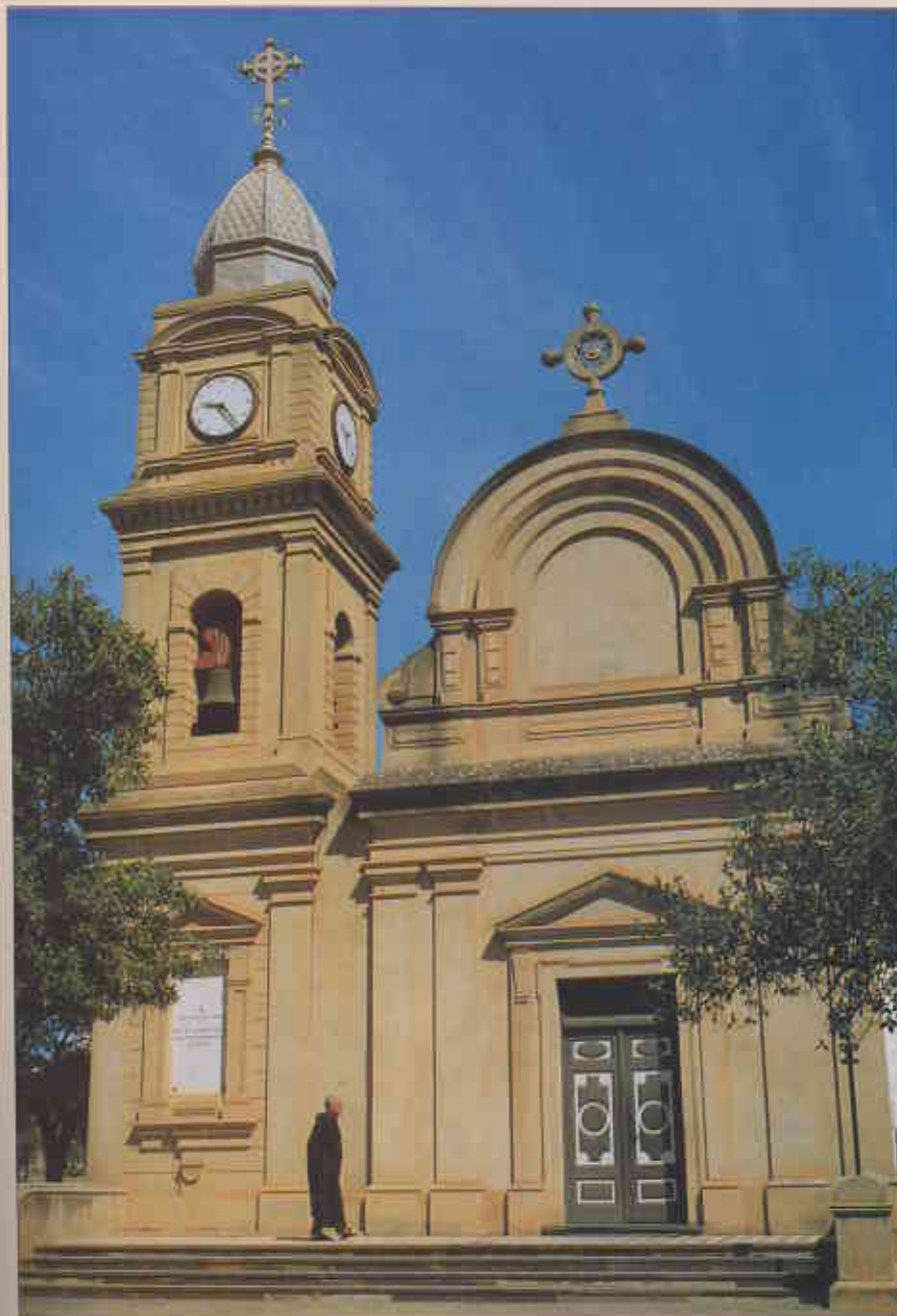
A Benedictine monk outside the Latin-style Abbey Church at New Norcia, where W.A.'s first Heritage Trail was opened in March 1986. (below)



Marie Lochman

WALKING THROUGH THE PAST

by Avril S. O'Brien



Wade Hughes

Do something different - explore a Heritage Trail. Stroll through the historic town of Guildford, swim underwater around the wrecks near Rottnest Island, back-pack on the Bibbulmun track, or take a few days to drive through the midwest and study the architecture of Monsignor Hawes at places like Perenjori, Mullewa and Geraldton. The choice is endless. The W.A. Heritage Committee, with a \$1 million bicentennial grant, is coordinating the development of 102 Heritage Trails in various parts of W.A. These trails explore both the natural environment and the impact our forebears had on the landscape.



Brian O'Brien

W.A. is a land lightly trod. For many thousands of years our heritage was largely natural, because the Aboriginal custodians lived in harmony with nature. The only major modification they made to the environment was through controlled burns, a hunting technique as well as a form of insurance against wildfire.

By contrast, in Europe very little of the natural environment remains - landscapes have been made, altered or completely built over as people reshaped the original environment to meet the needs that arose out of the culture they created.

St Francis Xavier Cathedral at Geraldton, one of the highlights of the Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail (left).

The Star Swamp Heritage Trail will provide access for wheelchair users to this metropolitan wetlands reserve (below).



Brian O'Brien

Europeans started to impose a basically European culture on the land in W.A. in 1829. In the following decades many of these attempts disappeared. Sometimes because they were foolishly located in an inhospitable environment or, out of necessity, poorly built with unsuitable material; other times because they were intended to be ephemeral.

The major part of our heritage is still vast areas of natural environment. Our European cultural heritage may have few grand artefacts, but it still has much to teach us about the aspirations and beliefs of some of the people who lived here before us.

The Heritage Trails provide great physical recreation (at varying levels of difficulty), as well as intellectual recreation, of various types. Each trail is clearly signposted. You may be motivated to delve more deeply into the history, geology or botany of an area. If so, booklets providing historical and environmental information for each trail can be purchased from local tourist outlets, Holiday W.A. and Shire and CALM Offices. They are not essential, but they will add to the richness of your experience.

The Heritage Trails Network is a uniquely West Australian contribution to the bicentenary, and a lasting community venture.

For the opening of the 'Keeping Track' project Northam Primary School students dressed in period costume and visited the town's historical buildings including Byfield House built in 1898 (above right).

Divers around the plaque marking the site of the *Macedon* which sunk off Rottnest in 1883 and is now part of the Rottnest Wreck Tour, now incorporated in the Heritage Trails network (right).

Heritage Trails

Metropolitan: including Perth, Subiaco, Fremantle, Bilgoman Well, Katta-Moorda and Mundaring Railway Reserve Heritage Trails.

South West: including Geegelup, Margaret River, Cape to Cape and Nannup Heritage Trails (a trail guide and sign posts are also in place for the long established Bibbulmun Track)

Midlands: including York to Goldfields, Quairading and Koorda Pioneer Heritage Trails

Central South: including Albert Facey, Dumbleyung Historic Schools and Roe Heritage Trails

Great Southern: including First Settlement, Mt Barker and Katanning-Piesse Heritage Trails

Goldfields: including Historic Gwalia and Eastern Goldfields Heritage Trails

Midwest: Monsignor Hawes, De Grey-Mullewa Stock Route and Perenjori-Rothsay Heritage Trails

Gascoyne: Shark Bay Heritage Trail

Pilbara: Emma Withnell, Chichester Range Camel Trail and Karratha Heritage Trail

Kimberley: Pigeon Heritage Trail



Lorna Saurders



John & Val Butler

LANDSCOPE



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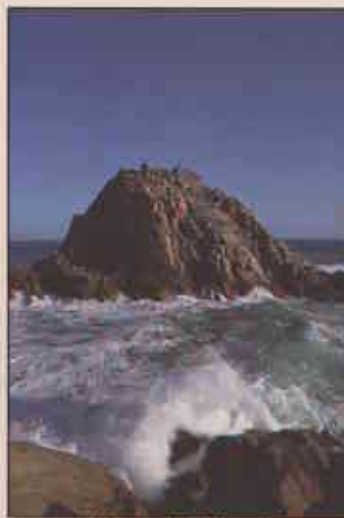
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Published by Dr S Shea, Executive Director,
Department of Conservation and Land Management,
50 Hayman Road, Como, W.A. 6152

EDITORIAL

The economic development versus environmental protection debate is a constant feature of our society today. No-one will disagree that our environment needs protection; there is also no doubt that Australia must improve its economic performance if we are to maintain our living standards and enjoy the natural environment which we are blessed with. This *Landscape* describes a project which combines environmental and economic advantages.

Australia's import bill for forest products is \$1.7 billion. Of this a considerable portion is paper which is made from eucalypt fibre. A Perth scientist was the first person to demonstrate that eucalypt could be made into paper, yet it is other countries that have capitalised on this discovery. For example, Brazil, Portugal, Chile, South Africa and Spain have established over 3 million hectares of highly productive eucalyptus plantations. Australia, home of the genus *Eucalyptus*, has only 40 000 hectares of eucalyptus plantations.

Despite our late start, there is no reason why W.A. cannot share some of the rewards which would come from capitalizing on the increasing world demand for high quality paper. We have the land and climate to grow the trees and the skills to do it competitively.

Widespread afforestation of the south-west is also an essential prerequisite to ameliorating salination and eutrophication of our waterways. It is unlikely that afforestation of the magnitude required could be achieved unless it is commercially driven. The production of trees for paper could provide the opportunity to carry out the afforestation program necessary for improving the environment at no cost to the State.

It would be ironic if the world demand for the much maligned woodchip provided the solution for what would arguably be two of the most serious environmental problems in south-western Australia.

Cover Photo

Trees loom out of the mist at Amelup near the Stirling Ranges.
Photograph by Robert Karri-Davies.