



'Mundaring National Park'

'Mundaring National Park' covers both sides of a valley created by the Helena River below Mundaring Weir and Lake C Y O'Connor.

Above Wildflowers at 'Mundaring National Park'.
Photo – Rob Oliver

Facing Page

Above right top Lookout on Weir View Walk in 'Mundaring National Park'.
Photo – Michael Phillips

Above right Fred Jacoby Park is home to a heritage-listed oak tree—believed to be the oldest in WA. The specially-designed boardwalk is popular for picnics and photos.

Photo – Ron D'Raine

Far right Helena River in 'Mundaring National Park'.

Photo – Michael Phillips

The 4500-hectare park lies less than an hour's drive east of Perth in the Darling Range. It was officially gazetted in November 2004 under the State government's *Protecting Our Old Growth Forests* policy but the name 'Mundaring National Park' remains unofficial.

The park's natural values become obvious during late winter and spring, when colourful wildflower species appear among the jarrah forest, woodlands and granite outcrops. Recreation sites within the park include The Dell, Forsyth's Mill, Gungin Gully, North Ledge, Pimelia and Grevillea Mycumbene. The most popular, however, is Fred Jacoby Park on Mundaring Weir Road.

Fred Jacoby Park

The history of Fred Jacoby Park dates back to the 1870s when the Darling Range was first being settled. Before the turn of the century, Fred Jacoby Park was a vineyard owned by W. Jecks. Mr Jecks is thought to be responsible for planting the large

English oak tree (*Quercus robur*) in about 1870.

When Jecks died in 1896, brothers Matheison and Fred Jacoby bought the property and named it 'Portagabra'. In 1904, Fred Jacoby became the sole owner and began to develop an orchard, growing vegetables and daffodils. He then built the Goldfields Weir Hotel (now the Mundaring Weir Hotel). Fred Jacoby died in 1955 and his daughter, Elfreda Devenish, presented Portagabra to the people of Western Australia, to be managed by the Forests Department.

Between 1956 and 1958, the property was developed as a golf course and many arboretum species were planted. The golf course remained there until 1969, when the club moved closer to Mundaring. In 1973, the Forests Department began developing Fred Jacoby Park for casual forms of recreation. The Forests Department and its successor, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, managed it between 1975 and 2002. A timber boardwalk was built around the English oak tree. The large open grassy



areas of Fred Jacoby Park have long been used for large family gatherings. Groups such as local scouts and guides, Little Athletics clubs and social clubs all regularly use the area for various purposes. The English oak tree is frequently used as a venue for wedding ceremonies and photographs.

Since the national park was formally created, a new fully-accessible boardwalk has been built around the English oak tree, and a new toilet block constructed at Fred Jacoby Park. Better access and parking facilities are also being provided.

Another major attraction is Golden View Lookout at South Ledge, a picnic area surrounded by jarrah forest. A short walktrail leads to the lookout and its spectacular views over the Helena Valley, Lake C Y O'Connor and Mundaring Weir, which provide water to the Goldfields region. Interpretive panels provide information on the hydrology, landscape and heritage of the Helena Valley.

Perth Hills National Parks Centre

The hills east of Perth contain 10 national parks and five regional parks that are a natural playground of waterfalls, shady picnic areas, panoramic lookouts,

campgrounds, cycle trails and scenic walks of every length and difficulty. Open seven days a week, the Perth Hills National Parks Centre is just 40 minutes from Perth and has information on all of the Perth Hills parks.

Located at the hub of the Perth Hills near Mundaring Weir, there are plenty of things to do at the National Parks Centre besides gather information. The interpretive displays inside the building provide an insight into the beauty and biodiversity found within a jarrah forest. You can experience the forest by walking one of the several walktrails available. The world-famous Bibbulmun Track passes right through the middle of the National Parks Centre and cyclists can also get easy access to the Munda Biddi Trail.

If you need a map, hat or water bottle or need to buy someone a present, the shop sells a variety of products. You can also buy a coffee or cold drink to enjoy while you peruse the displays or relax in the natural surrounds.

Don't rush off after having a quick look around as there are other interesting attractions nearby. You can experience beautiful evenings in the forest by staying at one of the National

Park Centre's two campgrounds or the Djaril-Mari YHA, catch a movie at the Kookaburra Outdoor Cinema from November to April and have something to eat and drink at the historic Mundaring Weir Hotel or Lavender Path tearooms.

The Perth Hills National Parks Centre is on Allen Road (off Mundaring Weir Road), seven kilometres south of Mundaring, and can be contacted on (08) 9295 2244. Follow the signs from Mundaring or Kalamunda.

park facts

Where is it? 40 km east of Perth via Great Eastern Highway and Mundaring Weir Road

Total area 4617 hectares.

Naming The park is yet to be officially named. The working name 'Mundaring National Park' may change as a result of recent public consultation.

What to do Bushwalking, picnicking, wildlife observation, photography.

Must see sights Golden View Lookout at South Ledge, Fred Jacoby Park, North Ledge.

Facilities Wood barbecues (BYO wood), shaded picnic areas, toilets.

Nearest DEC office Perth Hills District Office, Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring, phone (08) 9295 9100.



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