



Avon Valley National Park

Just 80 kilometres north-east of Perth, Avon Valley National Park is a popular getaway for campers looking to escape the city.

Above Darling Scarp flowering understorey.
Photo - Bill Belson/Lochman Transparencies

Opposite page
Top right Spreading coneflower.

Above right Zamia.

Right Bobtail lizard.

Far right Avon River.
Photos - Jiri Lochman

Avon Valley National Park protects nearly 4,800 hectares of rolling countryside to the north-east of Perth. The Avon River charges through the park after winter rains, and reduces in summertime. Wildflowers adorn the landscape with lashings of brilliant colour in springtime and forests of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) and powderbark (*E. accedens*) cloak the park's uplands with growth. Other than the campgrounds, infrastructure is minimal, meaning the park is characterised by a feeling of wilderness.

History

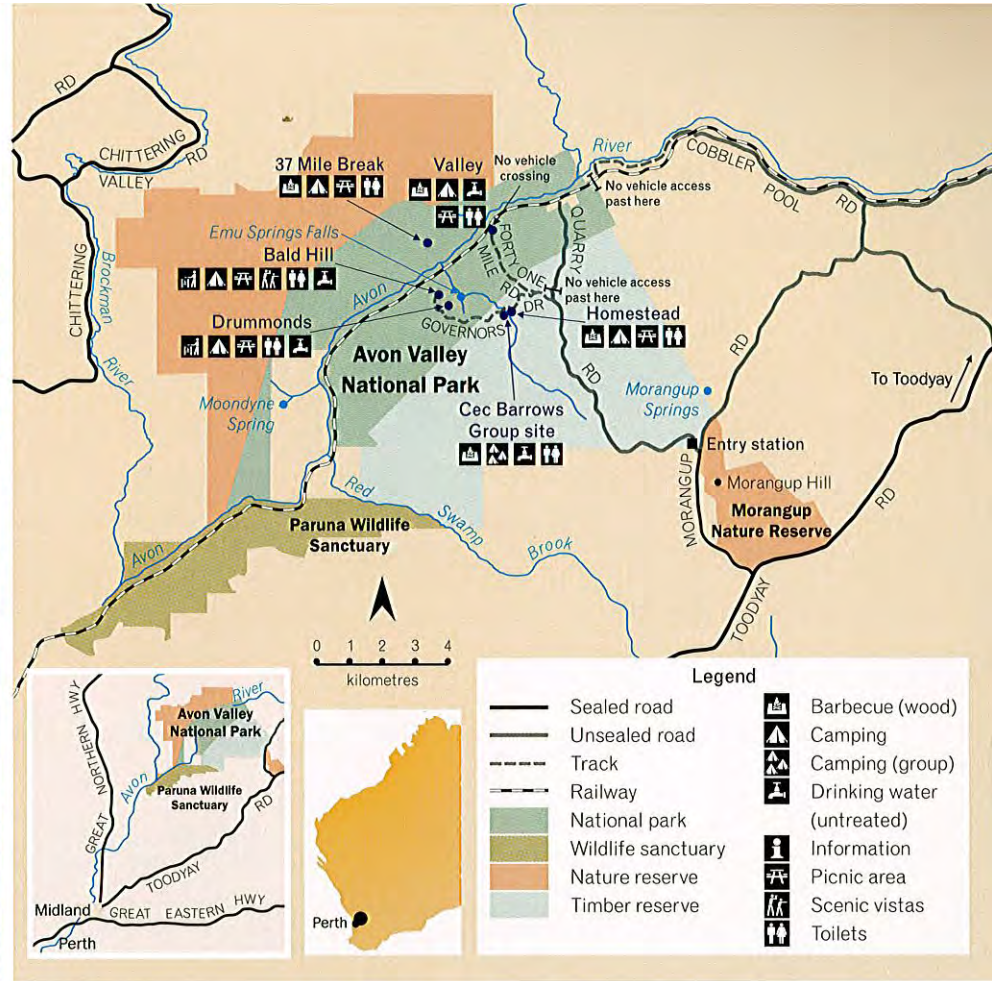
The Nyoongar people call the Avon River Gulguler, which means 'happy water running over rocks'. Some say you can sit beside the river in contemplation and you may well hear the waters whispering stories of their happiness. The park marks the border of the Ballardong and Yued Aboriginal people. It was an important area for Aboriginal people who would travel through it

on their journeys from the York area to what is now known as Walyunga National Park. Avon Valley National Park is also known as the hideaway of the infamous bushranger Joseph Bolitho Johns, better known as Moondyne Joe. Moondyne Joe was a former convict who was deported to the Swan River Colony in 1853, aged 22, for stealing food and a kettle. His continued escapes from prison and recaptures raised the ire of the colonial government and won him the hearts of the public.

Natural attractions

The sides of the Avon Valley sweep down to the waters of the Avon River. Undulating hills roll through the park and wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and jarrah woodlands dominate.

The undergrowth is particularly pretty in spring when species such as fuschia grevillea (*Grevillea bipinnatifida*), cone-flowers (*Isopogon* sp.) and balgas (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) explode into bloom. The park is also home to a fringed lily, *Thysanotus anceps*, a rare species found only in a few localities in



the Darling Range north-east of Perth.

Flooded gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*) crowd the banks of the river, and are home to many bird species, and granite outcrops adorn the landscape with their stark beauty. Those with a keener eye can also admire low shrubs and small lichens and mosses clinging to the rocks.

You will find many smaller birds moving down the slopes in summer to take advantage of the greater number of insects and the continued growth of the plants where the soil is deeper. Bobtail lizards (*Tiliqua rugosa*) are also common here, and are frequently seen from spring through to autumn, sunning themselves on the roads and tracks. Care should be taken to avoid these lizards on the roads.

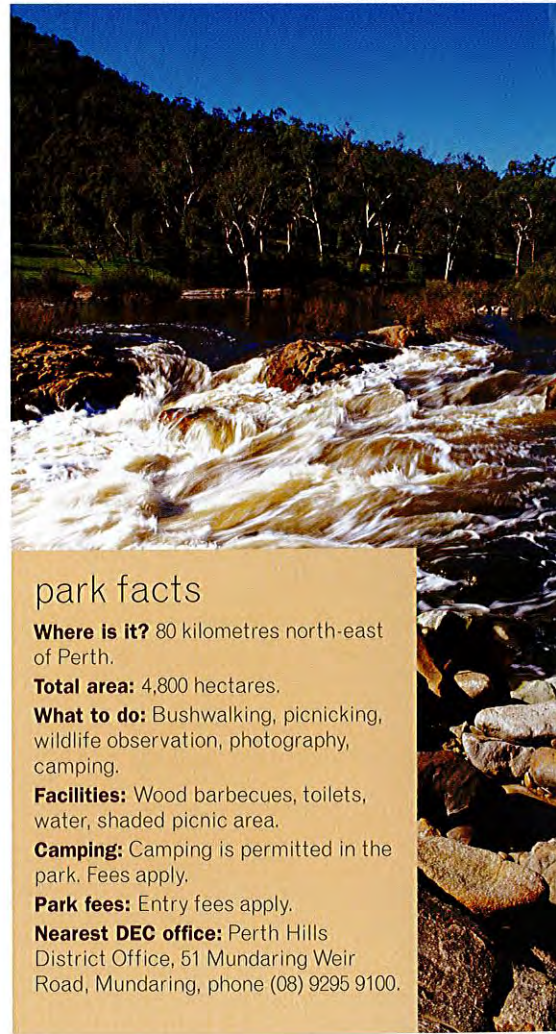
Black-footed rock-wallabies (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) have recently been reintroduced to the park and you may be lucky enough to see one around granite outcrops.

Exploring the park

The park features camp sites as well as picnic sites. All camp sites in Avon Valley National Park feature toilets and fire rings in winter when fires are allowed. All except 37 Mile Break and Homestead have water tanks. 37 Mile Break is positioned on the top of the



Darling Scarp on the northern side of the river, providing views over the surrounding plain. Homestead camp site provides a large, flat camping area in the centre of the park suitable for caravans and camper trailers. Cec Barrow's is a group site only and can cater for up to 50 campers. Bookings with the ranger are required. Bald Hill campground is perched atop Bald Hill, providing views of the whole park and Drummonds campground is the start of a three-kilometre-return walk trail to Emu Springs Falls. Walkers can also set out on unofficial tracks along firebreaks.



park facts

Where is it? 80 kilometres north-east of Perth.

Total area: 4,800 hectares.

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

Facilities: Wood barbecues, toilets, water, shaded picnic area.

Camping: Camping is permitted in the park. Fees apply.

Park fees: Entry fees apply.

Nearest DEC office: Perth Hills District Office, 51 Mundaring Weir Road, Mundaring, phone (08) 9295 9100.

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