

Yalgorup National Park

Fifty kilometres south of Mandurah, Yalgorup National Park provides panoramic views of the local beaches, forests and woodlands to explore and important habitat for a range of birds and mammals. It also gives visitors and scientists a unique glimpse of what life was like at the dawn of time.

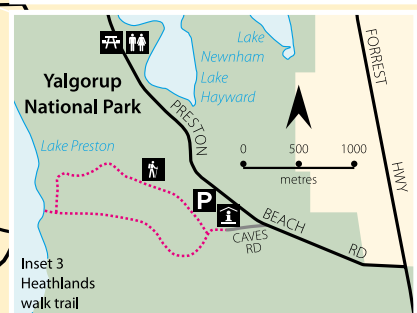
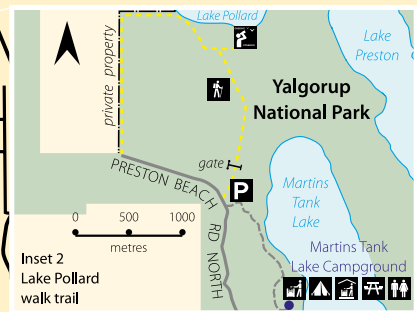
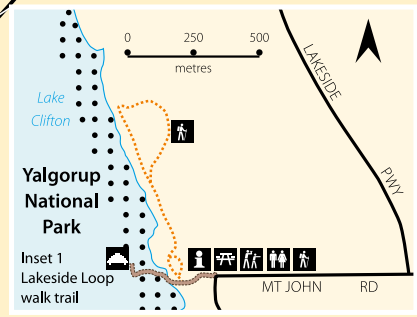
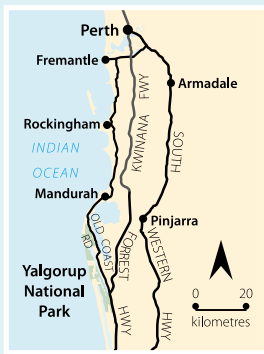
At 12,888ha, Yalgorup National Park is the second largest national park on the Swan Coastal Plain. Its name is derived from the Noongar words for 'swamp' or 'lake', and 'place of'. It was first visited by Europeans in 1829. In 1930 a settlement was established in the area now known as Mandurah.

The park incorporates 10 lakes and is famed for its rock-like structures known as thrombolites, that occur on the edge of Lake Clifton in the northern part of the

park. These fascinating structures are built by microorganisms that, while too small for the human eye to see, form diverse communities. Similar structures built by ancient microbes (fossil 'microbialites') are considered some of the oldest evidence of life on Earth, from about 3500 million years ago. The modern living forms and the ancient fossils are helping scientists examine how life began on the planet. Living microbialites are globally quite rare, but Western Australia has a mind-

boggling array of them, including at Yalgorup National Park where upwellings of fresh groundwater that is high in calcium carbonate occur.

Visitors can discover this amazing phenomenon, while minimising damage to the area, via an observation walkway. There is also a Grade 2, 5km walk trail around Lake Clifton which guides visitors past the stands of *Melaleuca*, peppermint and tuart trees and past some fencing and a cattle ramp – throwbacks to the area's farming



Legend	
	National park
	Thrombolites
	Highway
	Sealed road
	Unsealed road
	Heathlands walk trail
	Lakeside Loop walk trail
	Lake Pollard walk trail
	Barbecue (gas)
	Birdwatching
	Boardwalk
	Boat launching
	Camping
	Camp kitchen
	Caravan park
	Car park
	Drinking water
	Food
	Fuel
	Information
	Information shelter
	Picnic area
	Scenic vistas
	Toilets
	Walk trail



Opposite page
 Left Thrombolites at Lake Clifton.
 Photo – Tourism WA

Far left Facilities at Martins Tank Lake
 Campground.
 Photo – Alicia Dyson

Left Campgrounds at the upgraded facilities.
 Photo – Parks and Wildlife

days in the 1900s. There are two other walk trails in the park – the 4.5km Heathlands walk trail near Lake Preston and the Lake Pollard walk trail, a 6km journey which ends at Martins Tank Lake Campground.

STAY A WHILE

Martins Tank Lake Campground has been the subject of a recent \$1.3 million upgrade as part of the \$21.05 million *Parks for People* initiative, which provides a range of affordable camping and caravan options

to ensure people have access to enjoy and experience WA's natural and iconic areas. The upgrade includes eight new tent camp sites, four larger group camp sites, a camp kitchen, two communal fire pits and two toilets. It also provides for caravans and camper trailers and has doubled the number of camp sites to 34.

LOCAL RESIDENTS

Martins Tank Lake, named after a local pioneering family, is one of 10 lakes in the

park. These lakes are part of the Peel-Yalgorup wetlands system, a wetland of international importance, as it supports many local and international waterbirds such as the rare hooded plover, which nest and rear their young on the park's shores. The migratory waterbirds visit lakes Clifton, Pollard and Preston in spring and summer to escape the cold northern hemisphere winter. A bird hide at Lake Pollard gives visitors views across the lake where they might see black swans, red-necked stints, black winged



Top Southern diplolana (*Diplolaena dampieri*).
Photo – Gordon Roberts/Parks and Wildlife

Above Echidnas can be found in Yalgorup National Park.
Photo – Sallyanne Cousans

Above right The view of Lake Clifton as seen through the window of a bird hide.
Photo – Simon Cherriman

Below Guided activities are held in the park by Parks and Wildlife rangers.
Photo – Parks and Wildlife

stilts, red-capped plovers and three species of sandpiper.

The park is also home to many native mammals that shelter in the woodlands. In particular, it is an important habitat for the western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) which has a contracted distribution and is now only abundant in some southern coastal

locations, and around Busselton. A number of western ringtail possums have been translocated from housing development sites to Yalgorup National Park. Visitors may also be lucky enough to see chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*), quenda (*Isoodon obesulus*), short-beaked echinidas (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*) and bats.



Do it yourself

Where is it?: Yalgorup National Park is 50km south of Mandurah and is located on the western edge of the Swan Coastal Plain just south of the Dawesville Channel.

Camping: Camping, as well as gas barbecues, a camp kitchen, tables and toilets are provided at Martins Tank Lake Campground. Camping fees apply and can be paid to the campground host or via an honour system when they are not present. The camp sites are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guided activities: Guided activities and other programs are run in the park from time to time and during peak holiday periods. See the noticeboard in the park, or contact the local Parks and Wildlife office for more information.

Please note there is no firewood available at the campground and fires should not be lit between October and March. Drinking water is also not available in the park.

Nearest Parks and Wildlife office:
Mandurah Work Centre, 423 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah WA. Phone: (08) 9303 7750.
Visit parks.wa.gov.au.

