



## Yellagonga Regional Park

*Yellagonga Regional Park delights young and old with its walk and cycle trails that wind through an array of lakes and wetlands, and is home to a variety of waterbirds, bush birds and other wildlife.*

Located approximately 20 kilometres from Perth and six kilometres from the Indian Ocean, Yellagonga is one of eleven regional parks within the Perth metropolitan area. The park was named in 1990 to honour Yellagonga, the leader of the Mooro people who inhabited the region north of the Swan River at the time of European settlement.

**Clockwise top left to right** Swamp paperbarks in Yellagonga. *Photo – Colin Ingram; Motorbike frog (Litoria moorei). Photo – Jiri Lochman; Large pansy orchid (Diuris magnifica). Photo – Cliff Winfield*

The park comprises around 1400 hectares, dominated by the beautiful lakes and wetlands across the landscape. The wetland systems include Lake Joondalup, Beenyup and Walluburnup swamps and Lake Goollelal.

It is of regional importance because of its natural, cultural and recreational resources in a rapidly growing suburban area. Additionally, the park provides an important north/south link with Neerabup National Park and Yanchep National Park.

Along the western shores are substantial areas of banksia woodland, jarrah, marri, tuart forest and vegetation communities that were once widespread

on the Swan Coastal Plain. The diversity of habitats caters for a variety of waterbirds, bush birds and other wildlife.

### EXPLORING THE PARK

Yellagonga is best explored from the historic site of Neil Hawkins Park, situated only a short stroll from Joondalup city centre. Nature lovers can walk through the native bushland that surrounds the 16-kilometre circuit around Lake Joondalup, home to wildlife such as long-necked turtles, frogs, kangaroos and a wide variety of birdlife.

The bushland adjacent to Duffy Terrace is an ideal place to see the park's numerous kangaroos.





## Sites of historical importance

**Perry's Paddock** is named after Jack Perry who bred racehorses at the turn of the 20th century. The paddock was a popular venue for sports, horse races and picnic days.

Limestone ruins on the site include a two-storey shed and single room attached cottage that has been restored.

**Cockman House** was built for settler James Cockman around 1870, and it is the oldest residence in Wanneroo.

The **Luisini Winery**, built in 1929, provides an example of the early wine industry that reflects predominantly agricultural land use in the area prior to urban expansion. This was once one of the largest wineries in the southern hemisphere.

**Neil Hawkins Park** was once part of a stock route that was pioneered in 1854 and passed along the western side of Lake Joondalup.

**Quarry Ramble Lookout** overlooks the site where during the 1920s limestone was quarried for building and road construction, and to improve soil quality for agriculture.

**The Wesleyan Mission Farm** established by the Reverend John Smithies was built on the eastern shore of Lake Goollelal in 1844, with the aim of encouraging Aboriginal people to learn agricultural skills. There is no physical evidence remaining of the farm but the site is marked by a bronze plaque.

*There are also numerous foundations and remnants of buildings such as stables and dairies scattered throughout the park to discover.*

**Clockwise from top** Lake Joondalup. Photo – Gooitzen van der Meer; Southwestern snake-necked turtle (*Chelodina colliei*). Photo – Jiri Lochman; Tiger snake (*Notechis scutatus*). Photo – Alex Graham/Sallyanne Cousins Photography; Egret. Photo – Jiri Lochman; Cockman house. Photo – Cliff Winfield

Discover more about Yellagonga Regional Park

Scan this QR code or visit Parks and Wildlife Service's 'LANDSCOPE' playlist on YouTube.

The park contains several lakes and wetlands, which are part of a larger chain of water bodies that stretch from north of the park, south to Cockburn. Local community groups, 'Friends of Yellagonga' and 'Woodvale Waters Friends of Beenyup Channel' undertakes a range of projects to enhance the park.

### AN ANCIENT HISTORY

The park is of cultural significance to the Nyoongar community, forming part of their Dreaming. Their ancestors used the lakes and surrounds as camping, social and ceremonial areas, and as a source of food and water.

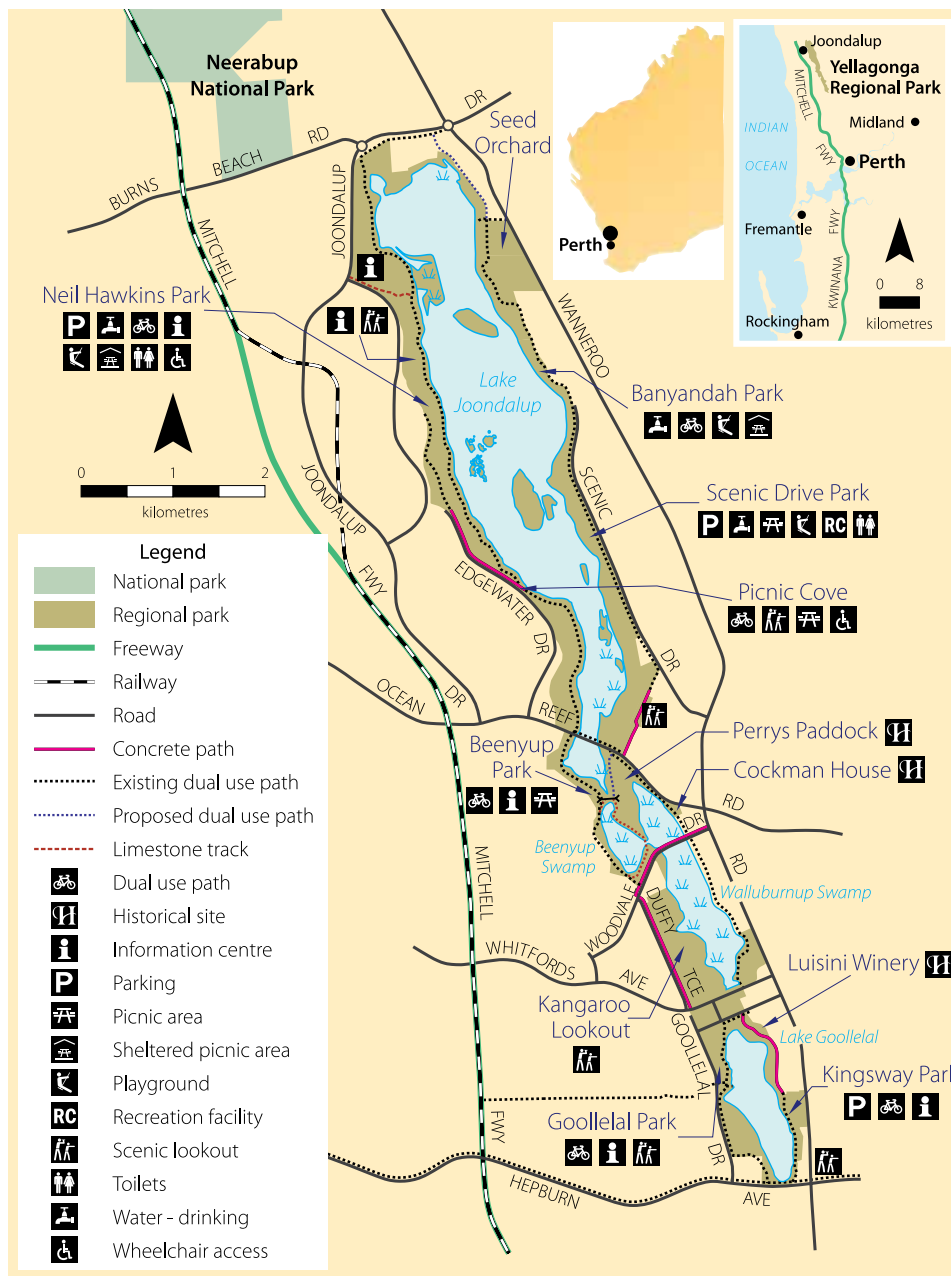
In the seasonal cycle of camp movements, Yellagonga was used as a rest

point between the foothills and the ocean, and between Mount Eliza and the Moore River.

The Yaberoo Budjara Heritage Trail is a 28-kilometre walk trail based on the track Yellagonga and his mob would walk as they moved in line with the seasons. It commences at Neil Hawkins Park and goes through to Yanchep National Park, highlighting features of natural, cultural and historical significance.

The park has a diverse history of use since colonial settlement, as the moist soils and ready availability of ground water attracted market gardeners and viticulturists to the area.

# Parks for people Yellagonga Regional Park



**Top** Beenyup swamp boardwalk.  
Photo – Colin Ingram

**Above left** Female cone of the zamia palm (*Macrozamia riedlei*).  
Photo – Gooitzen van der Meer

**Above right** Western grey kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*).  
Photo – Sallyanne Cousans

## WALK AND CYCLE TRAILS

There are two dual-use paths that loop through the park.

The **Lake Goollelal Loop** takes you on a circuit around Lake Goollelal in the park's south. The circuit takes in the historic sites of Wesleyan Mission Farm and the Luisini winery, stands of tuart, jarrah, marri, and paperbark, children's playgrounds and rest stops. Keep your eyes peeled for the area's fauna, including many wrens and waterfowl, freshwater turtles and the native water rat. **Distance:** 4.3 kilometres **Time:** Allow one hour (walking). **Class:** Easy.

The **Lake Joondalup Circuit** follows a route around Lake Joondalup in the park's north. The circuit takes you past stands of zamia palms, jarrah, marri, flooded gums, sheoaks and banksias. Wildlife to be observed include tiger snakes and dugites, kangaroos, freshwater turtles, as well as numerous waterfowl. The loop also takes in children's playgrounds, the local golf course, a boardwalk and observation tower, as well as the historic site of Neil Hawkins Park and panoramic lake views. **Distance:** 16 kilometres **Time:** Allow four hours (walking). **Class:** Medium.

## Do it yourself

**Where is it?** 20 kilometres north of Perth

**Total area:** 1400 hectares

**Recreational activities:** Walking, cycling, bird watching, lookout

**Getting there:** An easy 30 minutes from the Perth CBD by car. The park is also serviced by five train stations on the Joondalup line; Greenwood, Edgewater, Currabine, Joondalup and Whitfords. Of these, the safest and most pleasant route to the park is accessible from Greenwood.