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△ View of Swan River from Dalkeith

This view was taken looking upstream, slightly north of east from a point below where the Sunset Hospital is now and just west of where the Tasarrri (Formerly the Dome) Restaurant now stands. In the background is Armstrong Spit.

The photo was taken before 1936, when dredging and filling were carried out and a retaining wall built from near Pelican Point to the hospital. Armstrong Spit included a sand-bank, exposed at low tide, about 200m offshore. The photo probably also pre-dates the Hot Pool, which was at the foot of the escarpment just behind the present Restaurant.

Although the foreground is trampled this photo gives a good idea of the vegetation of the Dalkeith foreshore. The isolated tree on the Spit and the taller trees to its left are swamp sheoak (*Casuarina obesa*); the lower ones in between are probably *Melaleuca rhamniphylla*. Rushes line the river (species unidentifiable). The windblown trees on the hillside are tuarts, and the grass-like plant in front of them is *Sporobolus hirsutus* - more commonly found on mobile dunes by the sea.

▽ General view of camp area, Dalkeith: February 1930

This photo was taken from the small escarpment just behind the site of the Hot Pool. The area was apparently a holiday retreat. The small peninsula is probably Armstrong Spit again.

If so, its vegetation had changed; the paperbarks and the isolated sheoak had been removed. The spreading shrubs that had replaced them are the wattle *Acacia saligna* - an outstanding coloniser, which still keeps springing up in gardens and waste land. Swamp sheoaks (top right) has also re-established themselves on the Spit, judging by their size, this photo was taken at least ten years later. The belt of rushes along the foreshore had nearly disappeared.

Parrot-bush (*Dryandra sessilis* - extreme left), *Acacia cyclops* (foreground) and *Sporobolus globulosum* can be readily distinguished on the escarpment. The dip in the horizon over the right-hand sheoak is the mouth of the Canning River.

Caption from *An Old Look at Trees: Vegetation of South-Western Australia in Old Photographs* compiled by Robert Powell and Jane Emberson



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