Yalgorup National Park

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Things you need to know

Yalgorup National Park offers visitors panoramic views of the beaches, dunes and lakes from several high spots. Peaceful settings among the patches of tuart forest and woodland, and sweeping views over the tranquil lakes, give the area a wilderness feel.

Where is it?

56 kilometres south of Mandurah.

What to do

Walk trails at Heathlands, Lake Pollard and Lakeside Loop.

Facilities

- Picnic tables and toilets are provided at Lake Hayward.
- An observation boardwalk over the thrombolites, as well as an information bay and toilets, are provided at Lake Clifton (Mount John Road).
- Camping, gas barbecues, a camp kitchen, tables and toilets are provided at Martins Tank campground. Fees apply, an honour box is provided at Martins Tank campground for use when campground hosts are not present.

Please note, no firewood is provided at Martins Tank campground. No drinking water is available in the park.

Best season

Spring and autumn.

Caring for the park

Please report any incidents to the ranger on (08) 9303 7750.

Be kind

Do not disturb animals and plants. No firearms or pets are permitted in national parks.

Be responsible

Fires restrictions apply. Fires are only permitted in communal fire pits outside the fire ban season.

Be clean

Please take your rubbish out of the park when you leave.

Be careful

Your enjoyment and safety are our concern but your responsibility. Stay on marked trails and roads.

How to get there

Yalgorup National Park lies on the western edge of the Swan Coastal Plain just south of the Dawesville Channel, near Mandurah.

Situated only 80 minutes drive south of Perth, 45 minutes drive south of Mandurah or 65 minutes north of Bunbury, Yalgorup National Park offers panoramic views of the local beaches, peaceful settings of forest and woodlands and sweeping views over tranquil lakes.

More information

Department of Parks and Wildlife
Mandurah Work Centre
432 Pinjarra Road
Mandurah WA 6210
Phone: (08) 9303 7750

Information current at July 2013.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.

Front cover: Thrombolites at Lake Clifton, Yalgorup National Park.

Photo – Alex Bone

Historical background

Surgeon Alexander Collie and Lieutenant William Preston named the lakes ‘Bear Lake’ and ‘Fish Lake’ in 1829. Europeans first visited the area around 1829, when Lieutenant-Governor James Stirling reached Lake Clifton and the其他内容...

Animals of the lake

The Yalgorup lake system is significant for waterbirds and is protected under the international Ramsar Convention (named after the place where it was signed in Iran). The lakes provide important habitat for the international trans-equatorial waders that migrate to the Yalgorup lakes in Spring and Autumn.

Surveys show that the Yalgorup lakes support high numbers of capped plovers, Australian pelican and coot. Habitat for the international trans-equatorial waders that migrate to the Yalgorup lakes is significant. Visitors walking on the fragile structures can degrade them. Visitors can view these fascinating structures in communal fire pits outside the fire ban season.

Soils from the sea

Ice age ended about 10,000 years ago, causing the sea level to rise, producing the shoreline we see today. Ice age, about 130,000 years ago, the sea level fell. About 25,000 years ago, the sea level fell again, forming the subsoils. The dune systems at Yalgorup National Park are the result of these changes. The limestone rocks and soils at the surface, inland from the coast, are derived from the older Spearwood dune system, up to two kilometres from the coast. The dune systems at Yalgorup National Park are the result of these changes. The limestone rocks and soils at the surface, inland from the coast, are derived from the older Spearwood dune system, up to two kilometres from the coast.

The lakes behind the next ridge are far more broken, comprising (from north to south) Swan Pond, Duck Pond, Boundary Lake, Lake Pollard, Martins Tank Lake, Lake Yalgorup, Lake Hayward and Newnham Lake. Lake Clifton is the closest to the coast. The lakes behind the next ridge are far more broken, comprising (from north to south) Swan Pond, Duck Pond, Boundary Lake, Lake Pollard, Martins Tank Lake, Lake Yalgorup, Lake Hayward and Newnham Lake.

The thrombolite-building microorganisms of Lake Clifton resemble the earliest forms of life on Earth. These organisms were the only known form of life on Earth from 650 million to 3,500 million years ago. The thrombolites and stromatolites they constructed dominated the clear, shallow seas of this period and formed extensive reef tracts rivalling those of modern coral reefs.

Rock-like structures known as thrombolites are on the edge of Lake Clifton. Like the famous stromatolites of Hamelin Pool, in Shark Bay, the thrombolites are built by microorganisms too. They are one of only a few places in Western Australia where living thrombolites can be seen. Microscopic masterbuilders

Thrombolites at Lake Clifton, Yalgorup National Park.

Microscopic masterbuilders

Yalgorup National Park protects the lakes and important waterbird habitat, along with attractive coastal vegetation that resembles the earliest forms of life on Earth. These organisms were the only known form of life on Earth from 650 million to 3,500 million years ago. The thrombolites and stromatolites they constructed dominated the clear, shallow seas of this period and formed extensive reef tracts rivalling those of modern coral reefs.

Shark Bay, the thrombolites are built by microorganisms too. Lake Clifton is one of only a few places in Western Australia where living thrombolites can be seen.

Other microorganisms are restricted to only a few places in the world. The thrombolite-building microorganisms of Lake Clifton are living communities of diverse inhabitants with microscopic mound-like structures. Only a few places in the world can support these unique communities.

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Animals of the lake

The Yalgorup lake system is significant for waterbirds and is protected under the international Ramsar Convention (named after the place where it was signed in Iran). The lakes provide important habitat for the international trans-equatorial waders that migrate from the northern hemisphere. These waders include the suitably named godwit, red-necked stilt, greenshank, red knot, whimbrel and three species of sandpiper. Other waders that use the lakes include the banded and black-winged stilt, red-necked phalarope, hooded and red-capped plover, Australian pelican and coot.

Surveys show that the Yalgorup lakes support high numbers of musk ducks, Pacific black ducks, black swans and shelducks.

The quick sheoak, bottlebrush and slender tree fern are among the eight tree species that inhabit the park and the long-needled cypress pine is present in Lake Clifton.

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Walk trails

Lake Pollard trail

Length 6 kilometres

Grade 2

Walk time 2 hours

Where is it? 50 kilometres south of Mandurah or Bunbury

Travelling time About 45 minutes from Mandurah or Bunbury

Facilities Gas barbecues, tables and toilets are at nearby Martins Tank campground

Best season Lake Pollard is renowned for its high numbers of black swans between October and March.

The walk begins at the entrance to Martins Tank campground on Preston Beach Road.

1. Parrotbush (*Dysoreura sessilis*), a shrub or small tree with prickly fan-shaped cream to yellow domed flower heads, grows at the start of the trail and in dense thickets across the road from the trail head sign. Beyond this dense thicket is a woodland comprised of jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and karri (*E. diversicolor*), with the somewhat unkempt and usually multi-stemmed Christmas tree (*Nuytsia floribunda*).

2. After a short walk, you reach a gate that prevents vehicles from entering the trail. Here, cookie trees (*Templetonia retusa*) flower profusely from May to December. The magnificent red or pinkish-red flower of this species has a long wing petal and a distinctive flower head. Returns to the limestone outcrops.

3. At the T-junction turn right as indicated by the yellow arrow and walk straight ahead while others might turn left and retrace their steps back to the start along the flatter route. For those who decide to proceed onward, follow the trail to the right and, before long, there is a low heathland of heakes, parra-bush and cookies and torques on your left and woodland on your right.

4. When you reach the fence, turn left and climb up the steep firebreak for a magnificent vista over Lake Pollard. At the top of the hill, rare malles cling to the rocky hill top. The rough-barked Fremantle mallee (*Eucalyptus foecunda*) has bright orange buds and white flowers. Continue to follow the fence line back to Preston Beach Road.

5. As you walk back to the starting point along Preston Beach Road (North) look out for the kangaroos paws along the roadside.

Lake Pollard Heathlands walk trail

Length 4.5 kilometres

Grade 2

Walk time 1.5 hours

Where is it? 50 kilometres south of Mandurah

Travelling time About 45 minutes from Mandurah or Bunbury

Facilities Tables and toilets are at nearby Lake Hayward picnic site

Best season Late winter and spring for wildflowers

This walk explores the many different vegetation types of Lake Pollard National Park, from the towering trees to the delicate flowers of the limestone ridges.

1. Begin at the information bay on Preston Beach Road and head west along the track signposted as Caves Road. This refers to the limestone tunnel or shafts discovered here in the 1940s, which are now largely derelict.

2. As you turn left and begin to climb, the understorey of the woodland on your left consists of grass trees, which is mostly rare and consists of ochre and pinkish-red flowers. Notice the difference in the vegetation on both sides of the track. These are honey myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*) and peppermint (*Eucalyptus foecunda*).

3. At the T-junction, signposted as Caves Road. This refers to the limestone tunnel or shafts discovered here in the 1940s, which are now largely derelict.

4. On reaching the T-junction, a signpost with a yellow pointer indicates that you should turn left. The woodland is at first composed mostly of tuart and peppermint, but soon the first paperbarks that you should turn right. The woodland is at first composed mostly of tuart and peppermint, but soon the first paperbarks.

5. Turn left when you reach this sign and you will see the bird hide and vistas of Lake Pollard. Black swans arrive here in high numbers from October to March, when they breed on growths of stoneworts (musk grasses). Along the lake is a fringe of attractively garnet and stunted, white-barked saltwater paperbarks (*Melaleuca curvula*).