

# Parks of the Perth Hills

The place to...

Be...

See...

Do...



# Avon Valley National Park Flora and Fauna Guide

## Landscape

The sides of the Avon Valley slope steeply down to the plateau, which is about 200m above the river level. The area is undulating, with soil types including lateritic sands, loams and gravels, and is partly within the Red Swamp Brook and Brockman River catchments. The river valley forms the division between the drier northern forest, dominated by wandoo, and the southern forest, dominated by jarrah



*Grevillea bipinnatifida*

Photos: P.G. Armstrong, A. Ireland & H. Bowler

## Plants

The park contains wandoo woodlands and jarrah more typical of the drier northern and eastern Darling plateau. Fuschia grevillea (*Grevillea bipinnatifida*), roadside tea-trees, coneflowers, balgas and zamias are common elements of the understorey, which is generally sparse. The park also contains the Fringed Lily (*Thysanotus anceps*), a rare species found only in a few localities in the Darling Range north-east of Perth. Along the river are large flooded gums.

Granite outcrops add to the diversity of the park. A variety of low shrubs and small lichens and mosses cling to the rocks.



*Thysanotus patersonii*

Photos: A. Ireland, K.C. Richardson & WA Herbarium

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WA'S PLANTS AND ANIMALS?

The Department of Environment and Conservation have a series of pocket sized field guides available called "Bush Books". They are available at most DEC offices and good bookshops. Titles include;



- Bush Tucker Plants of the South-West
- Common Trees of the South-West Forests
- Common Wildflowers of the South-West Forests
- Fungi of the South-West Forests
- Orchids of the South-West
- Australian Birds of Prey
- Bugs in the Backyard
- Common Birds of the Backyard
- Common Birds of the South West Forests
- Frogs of Western Australia
- Mammals of the South West
- Snakes of Western Australia
- Threatened and Rare Birds of Western Australia
- Waterbirds of South West Wetlands



## Fauna

Echidnas are common in all habitats within the park. Grey kangaroos shelter in thick vegetation during the day and move out in late afternoon to graze in the open. Euros are also found here, favouring the steep, rocky slopes. The chuditch is found in the park and may be seen at night illuminated by car headlights. Particular care should be taken not to harm this rare species.



Photo: Babs & Bert Wells/Department of Conservation and Land Management



Photo: Babs & Bert Wells/Department of Conservation and Land Management

Emus move in and out of the park, but are usually present in the forested habitats. Common birds of the forest in the park include the grey fantail, red wattlebird, rufous and golden whistlers and, in the tree canopy, the striated pardalote.

Brown honeyeaters are active in the forest and in the heaths, especially during the wildflower season. Rainbow bee-eaters and sacred kingfishers arrive to breed in the park in spring, and can often be heard calling.

Many of the smaller birds move down the slopes in the summer to take advantage of the greater number of insects and the continued growth of the plants where the soil is deeper.

Bobtail lizards 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.



Bobtail (*Tiliqua rugosa rugosa*)

### Further Information



National Park Rangers are always pleased to help you make your visit more enjoyable and informative. Do not hesitate to contact them if you need information or assistance.

Avon Valley National Park  
Tel: (08) 9571 3066  
Fax: (08) 9571 3066

Perth Hills National Parks Centre  
Allen Road  
Mundaring WA 6073  
Tel: (08) 9295 2244  
Fax: (08) 9295 3247

Website: [www.naturebase.net](http://www.naturebase.net)

**Safety is our concern, but your responsibility. Have fun and stay safe.**

*While the Department of Environment and Conservation has taken care in preparing this Park Note, it is provided for general purposes only, and DEC does not accept responsibility or liability for the results of specific action taken on the basis of this information nor for any errors or omissions.*