

# Parks of the Perth Hills

The place to...

Be...

See...

Do...



# Serpentine National Park

## Flora and Fauna Guide

### Landscape

Serpentine National Park is best known for the waterfall which cascades over a sheer granite face to fall 15 metres into the pool below. The park abounds with the scenic beauty of the ancient landforms and lush green forests of the Darling Scarp and Plateau.



### Flora

During the wildflower season, the hills and forest become a blaze of colour. Spring is the best time of year for wildflowers with common species including spider orchids, greenhoods and trigger plants. Other abundant species include the giant sundew, dryandras and grevilleas.

Jarrah, marri and wandoo are the most common species of tree to be found within the park and they occur together and as discrete communities. But the park is important for two rare tree species. The Darling Range Ghost Gum (*Eucalyptus laeliae*), while geographically restricted to an area between Darlington and Harvey, can be seen in the north of the park above the falls, whereas salmon white gum (*E. lane-poolae*) are found at the foot of the scarp.

Granite outcrops are associated with diverse and unusual plant species. The outcrops act as water catchments to support lush moss mats and flower gardens in winter and spring. Donkey orchids are associated with granite outcrops.



*Dryandra sessilis*

Photos: C. Horton, R.T. Wills & M. Hislop



*Pterostylis vittata*

Photos: I.J. Alford, C. Horton & A. Ireland

### Caring for Serpentine National Park



**Be Careful:** Your safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

**Be Clean:** Put your litter in bins, or better still take it home with you.

**Be Cool:** Because of the fire risk, no fires are permitted in the park. Please use the barbeques provided, or bring your own portable gas stove if you wish to barbeque.

**Protect Animals and Plants:** Dogs, cats and firearms are not permitted in national parks.

**Stay on the paths:** Please stay on the roads and walk trails throughout the park. Dieback is prevalent in some areas so walking off these tracks may spread the soil borne disease.

**Be Aware:** The river, and upper and lower rock pools contain water that is untreated.

## Fauna

The park abounds with birdlife and these are the most likely animals seen while bushwalking or picnicking. Common sightings include Splendid Fairy Wrens, scarlet robins, 'twenty-eight' parrots, red-capped parrots, red-tailed and white-tailed black cockatoos, and yellow robins. Red-eared fire tails are sometimes seen below the falls.

Whilst having lunch in the well grassed picnic area it is quite common to be joined by western grey kangaroos –

### **Please do not feed the kangaroos.**

Feeding native animals can cause them some health problems as the food we eat is not the food they would normally eat. Feeding of native animals can also cause them to become more aggressive towards people as they seek more food from us.

A number of other native animals also call the park home including echidna, chuditch, brush-tailed phascogale, mardo, dunnart, quenda and the western brush wallaby.

Reptiles include lizards, especially bobtails, and carpet pythons, a species in need of special protection. Small dragon lizards can be seen sunning themselves on granite outcrops during the warmer months of spring and summer. Long – neck tortoises may also be seen.



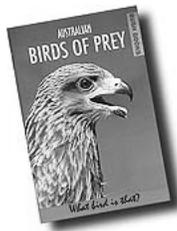
Photo: Babs & Bert Wells/Department of Conservation and Land Management



Brush Tailed Phascogale

### **Further Information**

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 relating to fauna include:



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



### **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.

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Tel: (08) 9525 2128  
Fax: (08) 9525 7022

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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.*