

Parks of the Perth Hills

The place to...

Be...

See...

Do...



Walyunga National Park Flora and Fauna Guide

Landscape

Walyunga National Park lies in the Darling Range, just behind the Darling Scarp, and covers both sides of the steep valley in which lies the Swan River. The valley sides show outcrops of grey granite with occasional areas of darker dolerite, and waterworn boulders of both may be seen in the stream and river beds. The tops of the hills have a mantle of red laterite rock.



Flora

The park is dominated by the river valley. Large flooded gums grow on the river's edge and flood plain. Wandoo grows on the sides of the valley, with marri and powderbark woodlands and forests being common on the uplands, and jarrah on the high ridges only. The understorey includes the attractive Wilson's grevillea and hairy jugflower.



Eucalyptus wandoo

Photos: M. Hancock, H. Ireland & J. Thomas

Extensive heaths contain an array of wildflowers including hakeas, grevilleas, isopogons, petrophiles and verticordias. These heaths are particularly well developed along the scarp edge. In spring a profusion of plants flower in the mosaic of heaths, granite outcrops and woodlands throughout the park. A large variety of other plants may be seen, including zamia, red runner, hibbertias, triggerplants, dryandras, grevilleas, and at least 12 orchid species.



Isopogon dubius

Photos: A. Doley, M. Hislop & A. Ireland

Caring for Walyunga National Park



Be Careful: Stay on paths and help prevent erosion. Your safety in natural environments is our concern, but your responsibility.

Be Prepared: The walk trails are rough and steep in places so please wear sturdy footwear. There is no water along the trails so you are advised to carry your own, particularly along the longer routes.

Be Clean: Put your recyclable rubbish in the bins provided and take other rubbish home with you.

Be Cool: Because of the fire risk, no fires are permitted in the park. Please bring your own portable gas barbecue or use the gas barbecues provided.

Protect Animals and Plants: Dogs, cats and firearms are not permitted in national parks. It is illegal to disturb or remove any artefacts at the Aboriginal Campsite area, or from other areas within the park.

Be Aware: The river is a water risk area. It is untreated and may contain snags.

Fauna

The park is still home to many animals, but many are difficult to see as they are active at night. You can find it just as fascinating, however, to search for the various signs of their individual activities in the park. You will find tracks, scats (droppings), scratchings and chewed remains, all of which provide an insight into the activities and characteristics of the many and varied animals which live in the area.

The forested slopes of the park abound in grey kangaroos. Small colonies of euros are also found there. The thick scrub on the granite studded hillsides provide shelter for brush wallabies. Echidnas may also be seen, mostly among rocky outcrops and in woody areas.

The park provides habitat for numerous birds including galahs, 'twenty-eight' parrots, black-faced cuckoo shrikes, thornbills and willy wagtails. Magpies and magpie-larks are also common. The tuneful song of the grey butcherbird may be heard, and tree martins dart through the forest canopy and nest in hollow branches. Along the Avon and Swan Rivers, the community of birds depending on water includes little pied cormorants and sacred kingfishers.

The reptiles in the park are typical of those found elsewhere along the Darling Scarp and include skinks, geckos and goannas. Dragon lizards sun themselves on rocky outcrops. Dugites are attracted by mice, which may be found in heavy vegetation around the parking areas. Tiger snakes are more likely to be seen along the river, where frogs abound. Long-necked tortoises live in the water, moving out onto land to lay their eggs.



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



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

Gould's Goanna

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.

Walyunga National Park
Tel: (08) 9571 1371
Fax: (08) 9571 1371

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

Website: www.naturebase.net

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

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