Caring for Dryandra Woodland

Be wise Leave the natural area as you find it, for all to enjoy.

Be cool Take care with fire. Light fires in constructed fireplaces only and use gas barbecues wherever possible.

Be clean Take your rubbish with you. Remember, cigarette butts are litter too.

Protect our wildlife Many species of birds, mammals and reptiles live within Dryandra. Take care while driving, especially at night.

Be careful Your safety and enjoyment in the woodland are our concern but your responsibility. Make sure you carry sufficient drinking water while walking, especially in summer (at least two litres per person). Drinking water is available at the Dryandra Village Settlement.

For more information

To help along the way, take a pocket-sized guide book, *Wildflowers of Dryandra Woodland*. It is available for purchase from the Barna Mia animal sanctuary or the Dryandra Village Settlement.

DEC staff can be contacted for information or assistance, if required.

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Walks and trails

Dryandra Woodland, near Narrogin, is a valuable nature conservation area featuring the largest remnant of original vegetation in the western Wheatbelt.

It’s home to Western Australia’s State mammal emblem, the numbat, which feeds entirely on termites. Other threatened and remarkable fauna such as red-tailed phascogales, woylies, tammar wallabies and possums call the plantations of mallet, kwongan (the Aboriginal word for heath and shrublands), mallee or sheoak thickets home.

Bird-watching is a favourite activity at Dryandra with rare or uncommon birds such as Carnaby’s cockatoo, bush stone curlew and the rufous tree creeper finding the woodlands to be the perfect habitat.

With more than 25 mammals, 100 birds and 50 reptiles you can be sure to encounter plenty of wildlife while exploring the woodlands.

The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has developed a series of walks ranging in length from one to 12.5-kilometre, a 25-kilometre audio drive trail and a 23-kilometre interpretative drive trail. Included is a night walk trail with reflective markers. This walk offers visitors the chance to see some of the woodland mammals which are active at night, such as the woylie, tammar wallaby and brushtail possum.

Accommodation and facilities

Accommodation is available at the Dryandra Village Settlement. For information contact Lions Dryandra Village on (08) 9884 5231.

Campers are welcome at the Congelin campground. Basic facilities are provided but please bring your own water. Fees apply.

Picnic areas are at Old Mill Dam, the Aboretum, Congelin Dam, Contine Hill and Lol Gray.

Supplies and fuel are available from Narrogin or Cuballing.

A pay phone is available at the Dryandra Village Settlement caretaker’s office.

Barna Mia tours

Barna Mia is an animal sanctuary with a difference. Nestled in the heart of Dryandra Woodland, Barna Mia is a place to discover threatened native marsupials in a natural setting.

A tour guide takes visitors on a delightful journey through the sanctuary once the sun has set. Using specially placed lights you can see threatened native animals such as bilbies (or dalgytes), burrowing bettongs (boodies), rufous hare-wallabies (wurrup), western barred bandicoots (marl) and banded hare-wallabies (merine).

Barna Mia tours are conducted Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (except for public holidays). Tour start times vary seasonally. Contact DEC’s Narrogin office or consult the information panel at Old Mill Dam for departure times. Bookings are essential.

Admission $13 adults, $7 children, $35 family.
Lol Gray Trail
This trail is a return walk to the Lol Gray picnic area. The main features are the diversity of the vegetation types, the old Lol Gray fire tower and spectacular views over Dryandra. The Lol Gray Tree fire tower was built in 1930 and used by the Forest Department as a lookout for the early detection of fires. The trail also runs past the site of the Lol Gray School. Although no buildings exist, the foundations can still be seen. Start opposite the playground in the Dryandra Village Settlement.

Distance: 12.5 km
Time: 4 hours
Grade: medium

Lol Gray Loop
Follow the old telegraph line from the Lol Gray picnic area. The walk features heath vegetation where pygmy possums and honeyeaters find the flowers irresistible.

Distance: 3.2 km return
Time: 1.5 hours
Grade: medium

Kawana Walk
This easy-grade short walk is ideal for families. Crossing from mallet plantation to kwongan and back into mallet, this walk provides great opportunities for bird-watching, echidna spotting or just looking at the beautiful dryandras. Start opposite the playground in the Dryandra Village Settlement.

Distance: 3.3 km return
Time: 1.5 hr
Grade: easy

Congelin Siding Walk
Follow the old Pinjarra to Narrogin railway line, which was constructed in 1925 and known as the Hotham Valley Branch (Dwarda line). Signs interpret many of the remaining features still visible along the line. Start from the Congelin picnic site or the Congelin campground.

Distance: 1.6 km return
Time: 40 minutes
Grade: easy

Wandoo Walk
This short walk was developed as a night walk, with markers that reflect torchlight. Look for nocturnal animals such as woylies, tammar wallabies and brushtail possums which are more likely to be seen at night. During the day this walk provides bird-watching opportunities in woodland and heath vegetation. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area. There is also an extended medium grade walk available.

Distance: 1 km return (extended walk 2.7 km)
Time: 30 minutes (1.5 hours for extended walk)
Grade: easy-medium

Ochre Trail
Discover the Aboriginal heritage of Dryandra along this walk trail. Interpretive signs along the way explain aspects of Nyoongar culture, including an ochre pit. Start at stop one on the Sounds of Dryandra Woodland Audio Drive, near the Arboretum on Tomingley Road.

Distance: 5 km return
Time: 2 hours
Grade: medium

Woylie Walk
This walk takes you through woodlands of wandoo, powderbark, kwongan heathlands, jarrah and stands of sheoak. Look for woylie diggings in the area and numbats searching for termites. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.

Distance: 5.5 km return
Time: 2 hours
Grade: medium

Above: A walker on the Ochre Trail. Photo – Michael James/DEC

Above: Dryandra nobilis. Photo – DEC

Left: Walkers on the Kawana – Lol Gray Trail. Photo – DEC

Audio Drive
This 25-kilometre radio drive trail uses solar-powered transmitters to broadcast commentaries as you move from site to site. There are six stops along the drive, each with a different story.

Discover the relationships between people and Dryandra Woodland through the years. The sounds of the past will come to life with tales of local Aboriginal people, early forestry days, bush railways and some of Dryandra’s unique wildlife.

Start from the information shelter at the Old Mill Dam picnic area and head west, away from the picnic area on Tomingley Road. Look for the symbol and tune in to the ‘Sounds of Dryandra Woodland’. At each posted site, stop your car and tune your radio to 100FM. Don’t forget to keep your radio off between each stop.

Darwinia Drive
This 23-kilometre drive includes five pull-over bays where interpretive information is provided on the complexity and interdependence of natural systems at Dryandra. Using specific examples of relationships, such as woylies and sandalwood, this drive will take you into the heart of the woodlands. Take along a picnic lunch or take a short walk to search for orchids near the granite outcrop at stop five.

Start from the information shelter at the Old Mill Dam picnic area and then turn onto Gura Road. Look for the symbol (left) along the drive.