

Using the trail guide

This *Extended walks guide* is easy-to-follow and designed to help you select the right trail and plan your walk, so you have a safe and enjoyable experience. Trails have been marked and colour-coded so they are easy to find.

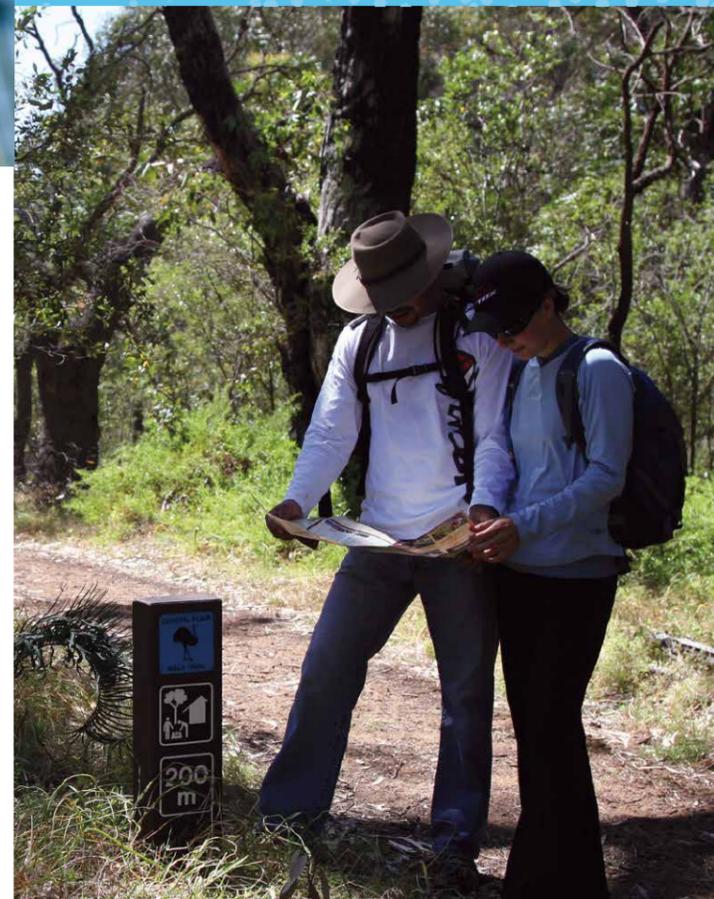
Happy walking!

For thousands of years people have been visiting the area now known as Yanchep National Park to experience its natural treasures. The local Aboriginal people visited the area due to its abundance of wetlands, as it was a rich source of food and water. Visitors come to immerse themselves in rich cultural heritage, enjoy the picturesque grounds, see limestone caves, native animals and a koala sanctuary. This trail guide has five extended bushwalks to showcase the unique biodiversity of the northern Swan Coastal Plain. We hope you enjoy the trails as much as we have enjoyed creating them.



Yanchep National Park

Extended walks



Visitor guide



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Best times to walk

The best seasons to walk in Yanchep and the northern Swan Coastal Plain are autumn, spring and winter. It is not recommended that you walk the Class 3 to 5 trails in summer months unless you are well prepared or are an experienced bushwalker.

to use these trails.

Horses, mountain bikes and motorcycles are not permitted. Trails in this guide have been purpose-built for walkers only. Starting points for each walk trail are indicated on the map overleaf.

Trail access and users

Please note the map in this brochure is not designed for navigational purposes. Please arrange a more detailed map for your walk. Do not rely solely on the trail marking to get you through. Trail markers have been set in both directions so, if you lose sight of the trail, turn back to confirm your last known marker.

Trail marking and maps



Please note: The walking times stated on this brochure are only a guide. Walking times will vary depending on your level of fitness and walking experience. The trails are graded according to their level of terrain, distance, and the time they take to walk. The average walking time is based on 2.5km/h.

Department of Parks and Wildlife walking trails are classified within a range from 1 to 6, where Class 1 trails provide opportunities for visitors with wheelchairs and people with no previous experience, and Class 6 trails provide opportunities for fit, well-equipped and highly experienced walkers. Ensure you check any individual trailhead signs at the start of trails for specific information.

Trail grading

How hard are the walks?



More information

Yanchep National Park
Cnr Indian Ocean Drive and Yanchep Beach Road
Yanchep, Western Australia 6035

Phone: (08) 9303 7759
Fax: (08) 9561 2316
Email: yanchep@dpaw.wa.gov.au
Web: dpaw.wa.gov.au



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/yanchepNP

The 'Top Trail' icon identifies the top trails experiences in WA – find out more at
www.trailswa.com.au.

Department of Parks and Wildlife
Swan Coastal District Office: (08) 9303 7700

Police: 13 14 44
In the event of an emergency, call 000.



Photos – Parks and Wildlife

Information current at May 2015.
This information is available in alternative formats on request.

Walking safely

Bushwalking is an adventure activity that can involve a high degree of exertion and natural hazards. While Parks and Wildlife has made every effort to provide safe, well-defined trails, you are ultimately responsible for your own safety and the members of your walking group. To ensure your safety, plan your walks carefully and seek advice if you are unsure of the challenges or hazards that you might encounter along the way. Please register with 'Walk Safe' at McNess House Visitor Centre in Yanchep National Park before starting your walk (ph: 9303 7759).

Planning your walk

Whether it is a two-hour stroll or a demanding three-day hike, your journey will be better with planning and preparation. Here are some basic guidelines:

- Don't overestimate your capabilities. Understand your physical limitations and those of your walking group.
- For longer walks, develop a route plan. Always leave details of your walking plan with a family member.
- Familiarise yourself with the area and the facilities.

Safety in numbers

Don't walk alone! No matter how good your preparation, accidents and incidents can occur.

- It is recommended that a minimum of four people are in your group.
 - When walking in a group, always accommodate the lowest level of fitness and never leave that person unsupervised.
 - Nominate two group leaders, preferably the people with the most bushwalking and map-reading experience.
- To protect the environment, we ask you to keep your walking groups small.

Walker's checklist

- Check with Yanchep National Park or the local Parks and Wildlife office about the trail conditions before setting off.
- Leave detailed information about your walking plans with a family member. It is strongly recommended that you complete the 'Walk Safe' register at McNess House Visitor Centre before departing on walks in the park.
- Wear sturdy, comfortable footwear and clothing to suit the weather conditions. Take at least two litres of drinking water per day and adequate food supplies.
- Remember to notify someone or sign the 'Walk Safe' register at the McNess House Visitor Centre when you return.

Emergencies

Illness and injuries

If you or a member of your walking party gets injured or becomes ill:

- attend to the needs of the casualty
- send members of your walking group for help (where possible never leave the casualty alone)
- find a sheltered place to rest the person
- reassure them
- apply first aid.

Tip: always carry a comprehensive first aid kit.

In the event of an emergency, call 000.

Lost!

If you think you are lost, try this three-step plan.

1. Retrace your steps to return to somewhere you recognise and re-plan your route from there.
2. If you're still disorientated and it's getting dark, don't panic. Remain where you are and set up camp. The morning may reveal your location or make your new path much clearer.
3. Call Parks and Wildlife's Swan Coastal District Office on (08) 9303 7700.

Trail facilities

Camp sites

Please use camp sites to minimise your impact on these conservation areas.

Each overnight camp site marked on the map has the following facilities:

- sleeping shelter (sleeps up to 12 adults)
- rainwater tank
- three tent sites
- picnic tables
- unisex bush toilet
- fire ring.

The shelters are available to walkers on a first-come-first-served basis. No guarantees are given there will be space in the sleeping shelters, so walkers are advised to carry a tent on all overnight hikes. Organised walking groups are asked to be courteous to other walkers and share the sleeping space in the shelters.

Fires – cooking, bush and prescribed

To preserve the environment you are asked to use a camp (fuel) stove. They are less likely to cause a fire and are faster, cleaner and easier to use in wet weather. Lighting fires is not permitted from November to March. Fires are permitted from April to October. Please confirm specific dates with park staff.

When lighting a fire:

- use the concrete fire-rings provided
- keep the fire small
- use only dead wood on the ground for kindling
- never leave a fire burning—put it completely out before leaving the camp site.

Each year Parks and Wildlife carries out a prescribed burning program to reduce the risk of bushfires and enhance biodiversity. When burning is in progress, please use the diverted tracks.

Should a bushfire occur, do not panic. Make your way to an open road or a safe, cleared refuge, such as a camp site.

Call the park on (08) 9303 7759 or (08) 9303 7700 and carefully follow instructions given by park staff.



What to take

You will need a backpack with a tent, sleeping bag, cooking equipment and sufficient clothing, food and water.

Clothing and footwear

- Beanie, gloves and thermal underwear for cool evenings and crisp mornings
- Lightweight rain jacket or cape
- Polar-fleece or sweater
- Long-sleeved shirt and long loose cotton trousers to protect legs and arms from ticks and prickly plants
- Hat to protect your face, head and neck
- Sturdy footwear and thick socks (preferably wear boots to help support your ankles and provide greater grip in rocky areas)

First aid and personal items

- Pocket knife, notebook, pen/pencil
- Sunglasses, sunscreen (SPF 30+) and insect repellent
- First aid kit – blister kit and antiseptic swabs, bandages
- Small torch, whistle (for emergencies), toothbrush, toilet paper, plastic trowel and water purification tablets
- Camera
- Mobile phone

Camping gear

- Backpack or day pack and a large plastic bag inside pack to protect gear from wet weather
- Sleeping bag and lightweight sleeping mat

- Tent, portable stove and fuel bottle
- Cooking equipment and eating utensils
- Fire starters and waterproof matches

For short walks take a day pack with a capacity of up to 35 litres, and for one day or more with a capacity of 50–65 litres. Practice packing and carrying a backpack. Poorly loaded and fitted packs can lead to early fatigue.

Bushwalking tip: keep your pack as light as possible.

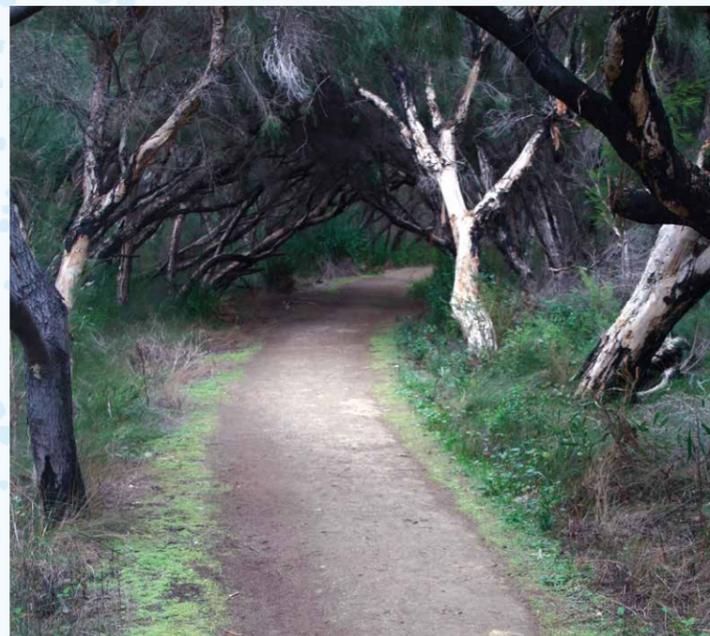
Food and water

Food for bushwalking should be light and easy to prepare. Do not take food that is canned or stored in glass as it can be heavy to carry. Always allow about one kilogram of food per person per day. Suggested meals or snacks include:

- breakfast – muesli/fruit/bread and jam/vegemite
- snacks for along the trail – dried fruits/muesli bars
- lunch – cheese/crackers/tuna
- dinner – rice/noodle/pasta dishes
- sweets – chocolate/fruit.

Take at least two litres of water a day (more if you are walking during summer) in a plastic unbreakable bottle.

Do not rely solely on the water tanks along the trails.



History

Yanchep National Park has a rich history, with its name derived from the bulrushes (or yanget) that provided the local Noongar people a staple diet. Artefacts have been found that show people inhabited the area between 6500 and 1700 years ago. The area is still extremely significant to the Noongar people and according to Aboriginal tradition, Loch McNess is inhabited by a waugal (rainbow serpent).

European history goes back to the early 1830s when the area was recorded as having lakes, caves and an abundance of game. In 1905, the State Government reserved 5460 acres (2283ha) of the lake and flats for the 'Protection and Preservation of Caves and Flora for a health and pleasure resort'. By 1936, Yanchep Inn, Gloucester Lodge and McNess House were built and Crystal Cave was fitted with electric lights.

Animals and plants

Yanchep National Park is home to a diverse range of plants and animals. See banksias, paperpark, tuart, marri, sheoak and jarrah trees dotted throughout the park, and during spring, a colourful display of wildflowers including parrot bush, native orchids, Yanchep rose, catspaw and kangaroo paw.

Koalas were introduced to Yanchep in 1938, and today the park holds one of the largest koala colonies in Western Australia. Koalas are not native to Western Australia. Their natural habitat is in the eucalypt forests of eastern Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

The park also provides a habitat for native animals including the western grey kangaroo, quenda, emu, tawny frogmouth, honey possum, bandicoots, snakes and reptiles. Bird life is also prolific in the park, with many water and bush birds including grebes, swans, pelicans, cormorants, egrets, kingfishers, parrots, wrens, honey eaters and the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo.



Tread lightly

To minimise the impact of trampling vegetation, bushfires and trail erosion, we ask you to adopt our 'low impact' codes.



- **Tread lightly**
Stay on the established trails, tracks and roads. Taking short cuts or zig-zagging creates new (unwanted) tracks.
- **Pack it in and pack it out**
Carry out all your rubbish and waste. Do not burn, bash or bury.
- **Stop the deadly spread**
Prevent the spread of the dieback disease *Phytophthora cinnamomi* killing our native plants by brushing your shoes at the designated clean-down points along the trail.
- **Leave No Trace – camping/cooking/toilet**
Choose your camp site carefully. Use an existing site or set up in clear, open ground. Always use the toilets provided and where possible use a fuel stove instead of a fire.
Always put out fires before leaving.
- **Let them feed themselves**
Please do not feed the native animals. They do not have the same diets as humans. Feeding them will make them dependant on us and possibly cause them to become sick.
- **Use water wisely**
Use the water in the tanks sparingly—other walkers rely on it!
- **Quietly, quietly**
If you are quiet and keep your walking groups small, you will have a better chance of seeing and hearing the wildlife. Respect other people and the animals that reside in the area. It's their home too!

Pests and dangers

Male emus responsible for rearing chicks may become irate and aggressive if you get too close. Stand still, or retreat slowly if confronted.

March flies can be a problem in the drier, warmer months. They will give a painful bite and are particularly attracted to the colour blue. At night, mosquitoes and midges are common. Be sure to bring insect repellent.

Ticks can be avoided by wearing long trousers and tucking them into your socks. Apply insect repellent around your waist, ankles, arms and shirt collar. Please familiarise yourself with the management of a tick bite before setting out on your walk. Current information is available from St John Ambulance at www.stjohn.org.au/first-aid-facts.

Venomous snakes can be encountered almost anywhere, particularly in the warmer months. Snakes will normally try to avoid humans, however you still need to be aware and take precautions such as wearing long pants and enclosed shoes when walking along bush trails.

Normally they will sense the thumping of your footfalls and make a hasty retreat well before you see them. An exception to this can be on unseasonably warm days in late winter and spring when any snakes, having had a long sleep during winter, will be sluggish and may feel threatened.

If you find a snake, do not approach or aggravate it in any way. Most bites occur when people accidentally step on snakes, or while attempting to kill the snake.

Tiger snakes, which are highly venomous, are fairly common near swamps and wetlands, though can be found well away from water. Dugites are more commonly found in drier areas anywhere at Yanchep.

Please familiarise yourself with the management of a snake bite before setting out on your walk. Current information is available from St John Ambulance at www.stjohn.org.au/first-aid-facts. If you are, or suspect you have been, bitten by a snake, seek medical assistance immediately.



Extended walks summary

No.	Symbol	Name	Time	Distance	Class	Environment	Facilities and features
5		Ghost House	5hrs	12.4km	3	Compact and loose sandy sections. Short sections of steep track with moderate difficulty.	Camp site/shelter. Historic ruins. Limestone outcrops. Wetlands and tuart woodlands.
6		Yanchep Rose	7hrs	14km	3	Mostly flat. Some loose sandy sections. Short limestone incline to lookout.	Panoramic views from the lookout. Historic ruins. Limestone outcrops. Banksia woodlands.
7		Cockatoo	8hrs	17.5km	4	Mostly flat. Some loose sandy sections. Moderate difficulty.	Camp site/shelter. Tuart woodlands. Views from Ridges shelter.
8		Yaberoo Budjara	1 day	28km	4	Long sections of moderate to difficult soft loose sand. Natural debris common.	Tuart/banksia woodlands and wetlands.
9		Coastal Plain	3 days	51.8km	4	Overnight hike. Long sections of moderate to difficult soft loose sand. Natural debris common.	Three camp sites: Shapcott's, Ridges and Moitch.

Extended walks

Information about short walk trails (1–4) is available on a separate brochure, *Yanchep National Park – information and short walks*. Pick up a copy at McNess House Visitor Centre or online at parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/yanchep.

5 GHOST HOUSE WALK TRAIL

This trail takes you on a journey through time into the park's wilderness areas. Along the way you will encounter the sights and sounds of the wetlands and discover the historic remains of the 'Ghost House'. Take your swag and spend a night under the stars at Shapcott's camp site nestled under a grove of grand old tuarts.

Time: 5hrs return
Length: 12.4km return
Grade: Class 3
Start/finish: McNess House Visitor Centre

6 YANCHEP ROSE WALK TRAIL

From Yanchep Rose Lookout, experience the panoramic views from the sea to the scarp. Along the way explore the radar bunkers that were used during World War II to protect the coast from enemy invasion. From July to late August, the Yanchep rose and the parrot bush are in full flower.

Time: 7hrs return
Length: 14km return
Grade: Class 3
Start/finish: McNess House Visitor Centre

Be careful when approaching the edge of the lookout and please stay on paths to preserve the unique Yanchep rose that fringes the trail.

7 COCKATOO WALK TRAIL

Look out for the endangered Carnaby's cockatoo on this journey into Gnaragara Park. Experience a variety of landscapes and impressive views from the Ridges camp site. Look out for the black-gloved wallaby and quenda (bandicoots) that live in this area.

Time: 8hrs return
Length: 17.5km return
Grade: Class 3
Start/finish: McNess House Visitor Centre

8 YABEROO BUDJARA WALK TRAIL

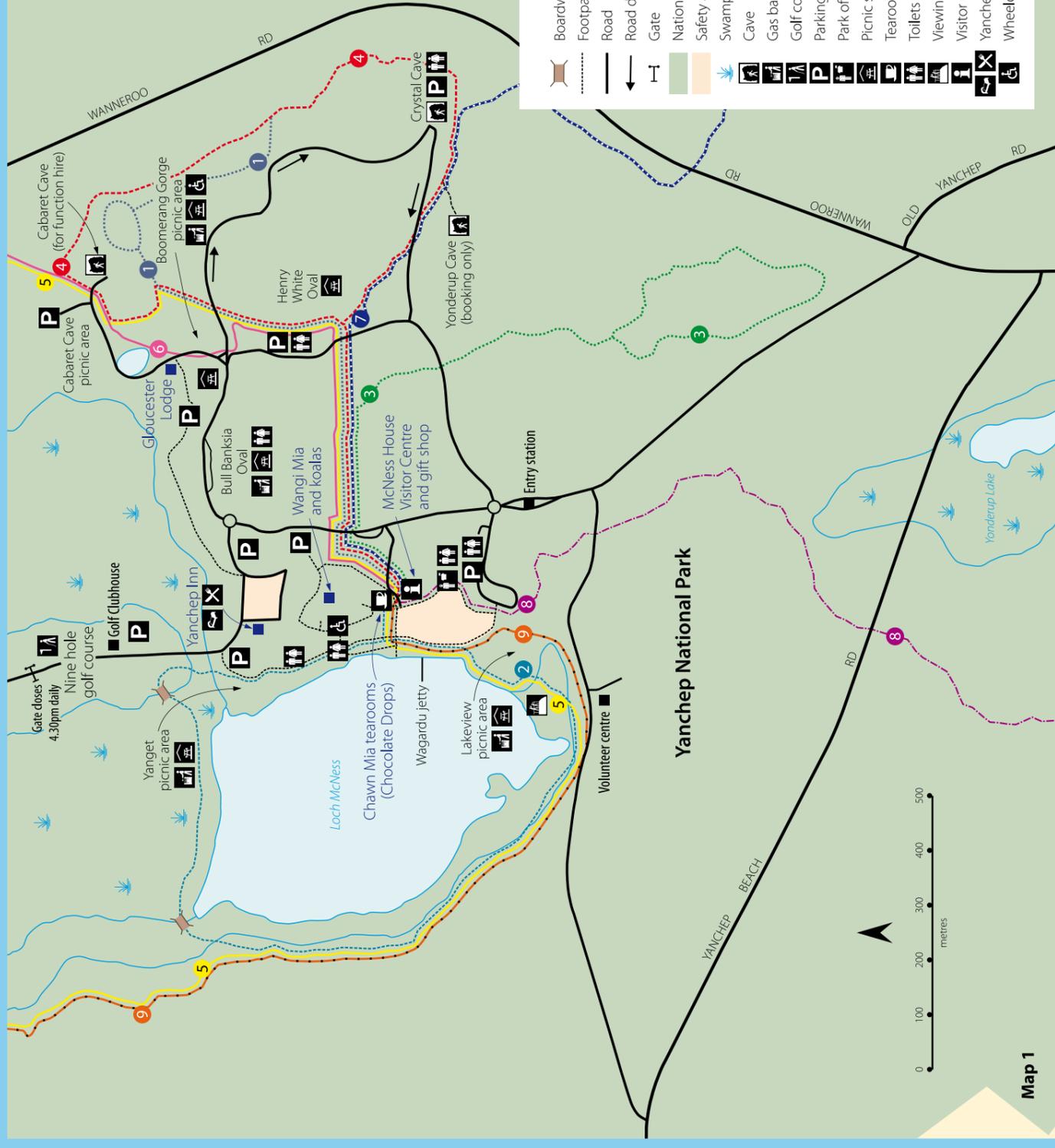
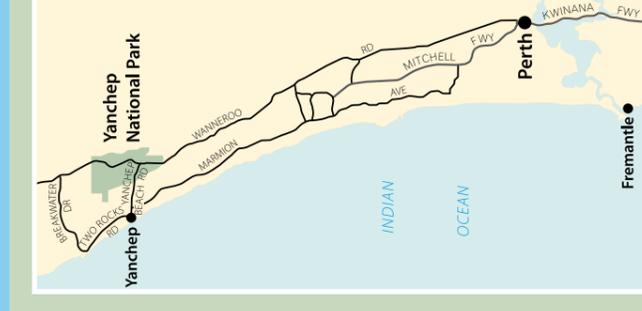
Yaberoo Budjara means the 'land of the northern people'. The trail route is based on Yellagonga (a significant local Noongar elder at the time of colonial settlement), and his people's movements between Lake Joondalup, Neerabup and Yanchep.

Time: 1 day
Length: 28km one way
Grade: Class 4 – for experienced walkers only
Start/finish: McNess House Visitor Centre (northern end)/ Neil Hawkins Park (southern end)

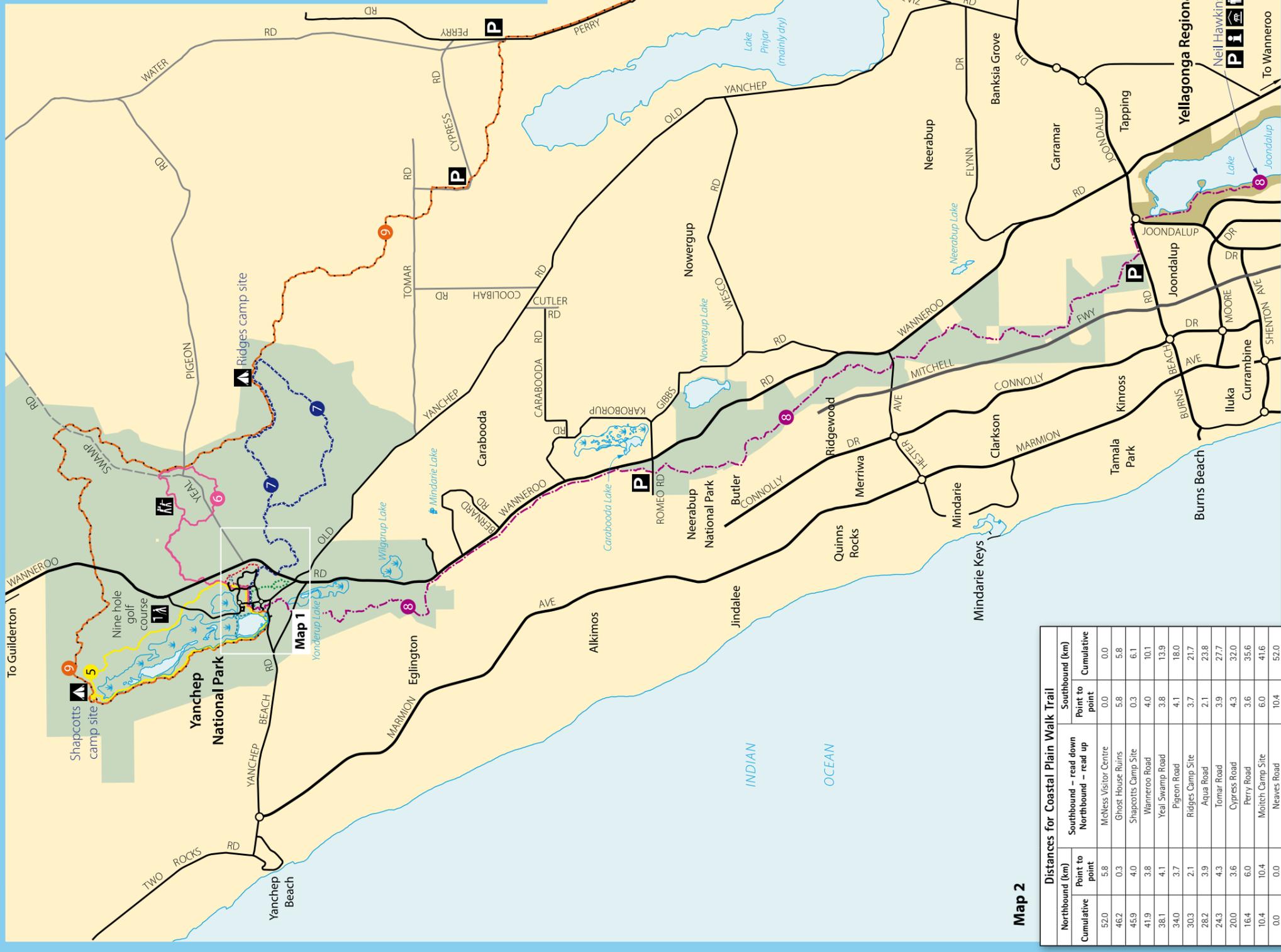
9 COASTAL PLAIN WALK TRAIL

Put on a backpack and set off on this three-day journey across the coastal plain to Melaleuca Park. Be prepared and seek advice before you set out. This trail features three camp sites (Shapcotts, Ridges and Moitch) each with a hikers' hut, water tank and bush toilet. This trail is a true delight in autumn and spring when the coastal smokebush and native buttercups form a carpet of wildflowers.

Time: 3 days (one way)
Length: 51.8km
Grade: Class 4 – for experienced walkers only
Start/finish: McNess House Visitor Centre (northern end)/Neaves Road (southern end)



Map 1



Map 2

Distances for Coastal Plain Walk Trail			
Northbound (km)	Point to point	Southbound (km)	
		read down	read up
52.0	5.8	McMess Visitor Centre	0.0
46.2	0.3	Ghost House Ruins	5.8
45.9	4.0	Shapcotts Camp Site	6.1
41.9	3.8	Wanneroo Road	4.0
38.1	4.1	Yael Swamp Road	3.8
34.0	3.7	Pigeon Road	4.1
30.3	2.1	Ridges Camp Site	3.7
28.2	3.9	Aqua Road	2.1
24.3	4.3	Tomar Road	3.9
20.0	3.6	Cypress Road	4.3
16.4	6.0	Perry Road	3.6
10.4	10.4	Moitch Camp Site	6.0
0.0	0.0	Neaves Road	10.4
			52.0

Legend

Walk trails

- 5 Ghost House - 12.4km
- 6 Yanchep Rose - 14km
- 7 Cockatoo - 17.5km
- 8 Yaberoo Budjara - 28km
- 9 Coastal Plain Walk Trail - 51.8km

Other symbols:

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Track
- National park
- Regional park
- Swamp
- Locality
- Parking
- Picnic shelter
- Scenic vista
- Toilets
- Visitor centre
- Wheelchair access
- Illuka
- Camp site

Scale: 0 1 2 3 kilometres

North Arrow

Map 1

