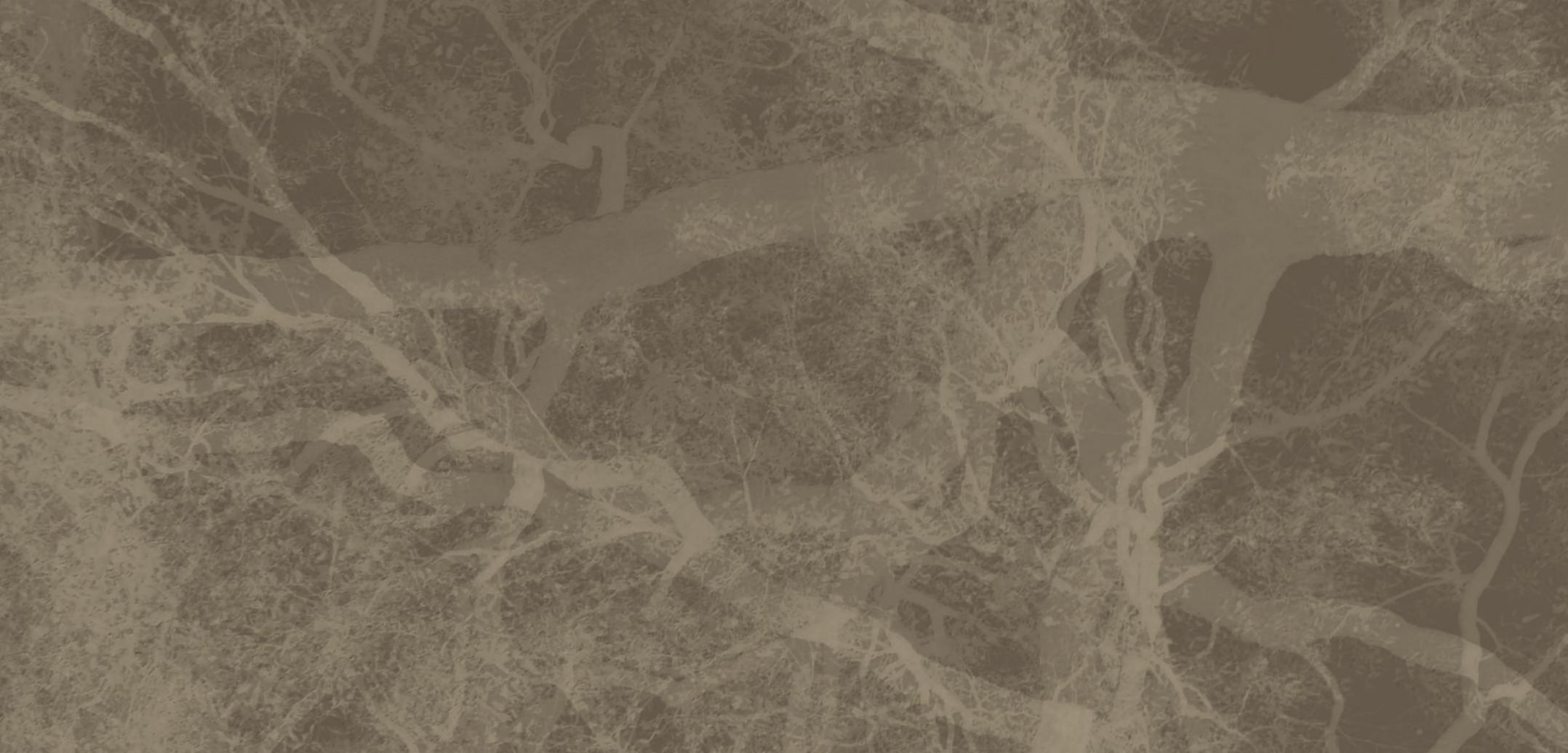


# eccowalks

Nature Trails of  
**Bunbury and Surrounds**







## Experience Bunbury and its unique environment

Bunbury is situated in the South West of Western Australia, an area recognised as one of 25 global biodiversity 'hotspots'.

This area has the greatest native plant diversity anywhere in Australia and 80% of the plant species found here occur nowhere else in the world.

Western Australia has a considerable diversity of fauna with many of its frogs, reptiles and mammals only found in this State.

The State has the highest concentration of rare and endangered species anywhere in Australia, and several of these species can be seen in and around Bunbury.

Nature lovers can enjoy encounters with animals including the western ringtail possum, the carnivorous marsupial – the chuditch - and two species of white-tailed black cockatoos.

The walk trails described in this brochure provide visitors and locals the chance to interact with nature while also keeping fit.

When visiting these areas please keep in mind they are fragile and must be respected to ensure future generations can enjoy the same opportunities as we have today.

## Bushwalking Tips

Be well prepared before setting out on a walk.

- Take plenty of water and wear comfortable walking shoes, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunscreen.
- On a shared path keep left to let cyclists pass.
- In the bush, remember insect repellent and even a first aid kit for emergencies.
- Tell someone where you are going and how long you expect to be.
- Don't forget to take your rubbish home with you
- Leave the environment as you found it. It is illegal in Western Australia to remove any native flora and fauna.
- Keep to designated tracks to help avoid any damage to the natural environment.

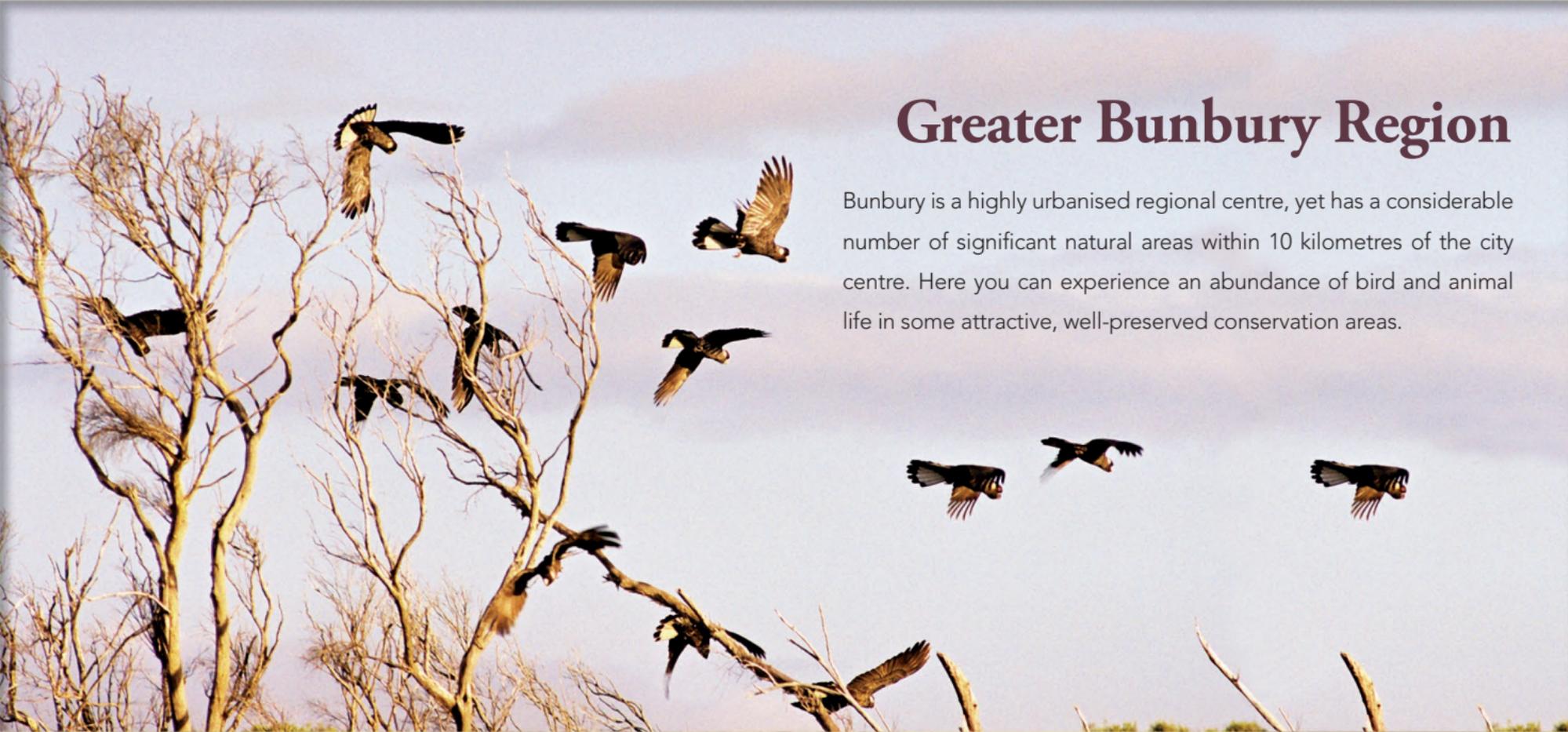
## How to use this booklet

This booklet contains maps and information about nature walks and trails around the City of Bunbury and surrounding areas. The trails are broken into three sections: Greater Bunbury, Leschenault Peninsula and Crooked Brook.

Greater Bunbury includes trails within 10 kilometres of the Bunbury City Centre. These are generally shorter walks and although they are close to the city's urban landscapes they allow users to experience some of the region's flora and fauna.

The Leschenault Peninsula trails are located about 18 kilometres north of Bunbury and vary in length from a 1 kilometre boardwalk experience to the 18 kilometre return Harris Track which stretches along the peninsula.

The four walks of the Crooked Brook Forest are located in the beautiful Ferguson Valley about 25 kilometres east of Bunbury. This bushland area provides an excellent experience for nature lovers wishing to get away from it all.

A large flock of birds, likely terns, is captured in flight against a pale, overcast sky. The birds are scattered across the frame, with some perched on the bare, skeletal branches of trees in the foreground. The trees are mostly without leaves, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The overall scene conveys a sense of natural activity and movement.

## Greater Bunbury Region

Bunbury is a highly urbanised regional centre, yet has a considerable number of significant natural areas within 10 kilometres of the city centre. Here you can experience an abundance of bird and animal life in some attractive, well-preserved conservation areas.

# Greater Bunbury Region



- Tuart Walk
- The Maidens Walk
- Manea Park
- Mangrove Walk, Koombana Bay
- Big Swamp Walk
- Eaton Foreshore

Wintthrop Ave  
COLLEGE GROVE  
Somerville Dr





# Tuart Walk

## Greater Bunbury Region

LENGTH 1.2km

SURFACE Bitumen

DIFFICULTY Easy

USERS Walkers, Push Bikes, Prams,  
Wheelchairs

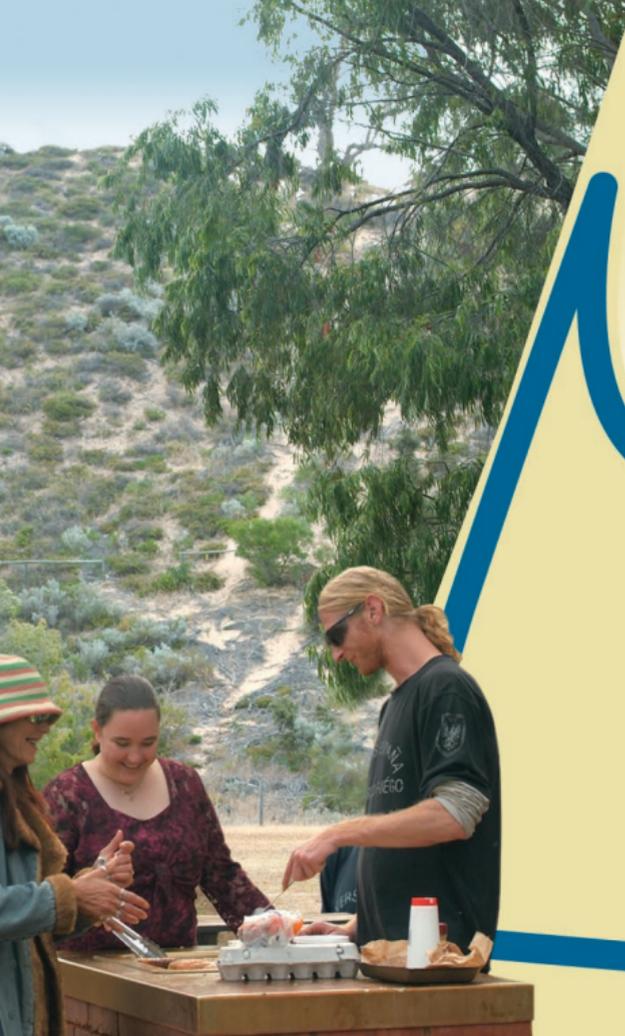
FACILITIES Shelter, Seating



This is a picturesque walk meandering through the tuart forest between Usher (South Bunbury) and Dalyellup (Capel).

The highlight of this walk are the majestic tuart trees which grow up to 40 metres high and occur in the 420 kilometre strip between Busselton in the south to Jurien Bay in the north.

The understorey includes a myriad of banksia trees -- including the candle and bull banksias -- which bear unusual cylindrical seeding cones. The area's early inhabitants, the Noongar people, used the banksia flowers to make sweet drinks. You will also find some rare and beautiful species of wild orchids such as the king spider orchid in this park.



# The Maidens Walk

## Greater Bunbury Region

<b>LENGTH</b>	1.8km
<b>SURFACE</b>	Crushed Limestone
<b>DIFFICULTY</b>	Moderate with some steep sections
<b>USERS</b>	Walkers, Cyclists, Dogs on Leash
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Toilets, Benches, Barbecues



Part of the  
**walk-it bunbury** trail network



The Maidens Walk, located in South Bunbury, comprises a series of limestone-based walk trails that meander through the Maidens Reserve. The Maidens is characterised by a series of high sand dunes offering extensive views of the city from several lookouts. The area is of high conservation value as it supports a diverse range of species including numerous native orchids.

The Maidens is also home to a healthy population of tuart trees which have suffered declining numbers in recent years on other parts of the Swan Coastal Plain.



# Manea Park

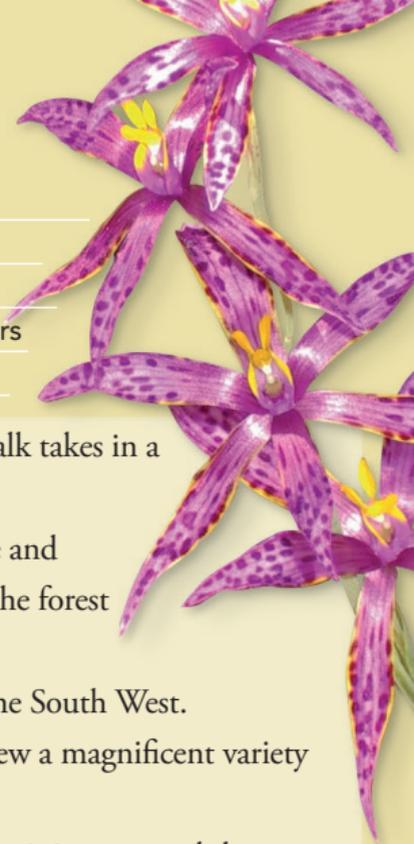
## Greater Bunbury Region

<b>LENGTH</b>	2.2 km
<b>SURFACE</b>	Compacted Limestone
<b>DIFFICULTY</b>	Easy
<b>USERS</b>	Walkers, Cyclists, Prams, Wheelchairs
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Seating

Located in College Grove, the Manea Park Walk takes in a range of habitat types.

Manea Park is Bunbury's premier bush reserve and supports several threatened species including the forest red-tailed black cockatoo and both the species of white-tailed black cockatoo found within the South West. During Spring, it is an excellent location to view a magnificent variety of Western Australian wildflowers.

The bush is highly susceptible to disturbance so it is requested that horse-riding, four-wheel driving and motorbike riding not take place at Manea Park.





# Big Swamp Walk

Greater Bunbury Region

LENGTH	2km
SURFACE	Boardwalk and Bitumen
DIFFICULTY	Easy
USERS	Multi-use, Walkers, Cyclists, Prams, Wheelchairs, Dogs on Leash
FACILITIES	Water Fountains, Toilets, Seating



Part of the  
**walk-it bunbury** trail network

This walk meanders around the Big Swamp, a conservation wetland, located one kilometre south of the Bunbury city centre. It is home to over 60 species of birdlife, including the Australasian grebe, white-faced heron, dusky moorhen and purple swamphen.

The wetland is a popular place for bird enthusiasts. The path has a number of lookouts including a wooden boardwalk through paperbarks and a bird hide in the middle of the wetland – which is an excellent place to observe native birds in their natural environment.





# Mangrove Walk, Koombana Bay

## Greater Bunbury Region

**LENGTH** 5km

**SURFACE** Bitumen, Boardwalk, Grass

**DIFFICULTY** Easy

**USERS** Walkers, Cyclists, Prams, Wheelchairs

**FACILITIES** Shelter, Seating, Toilets, Car Park, Picnic Area, Playground



Part of the  
**walk-it bunbury** trail network

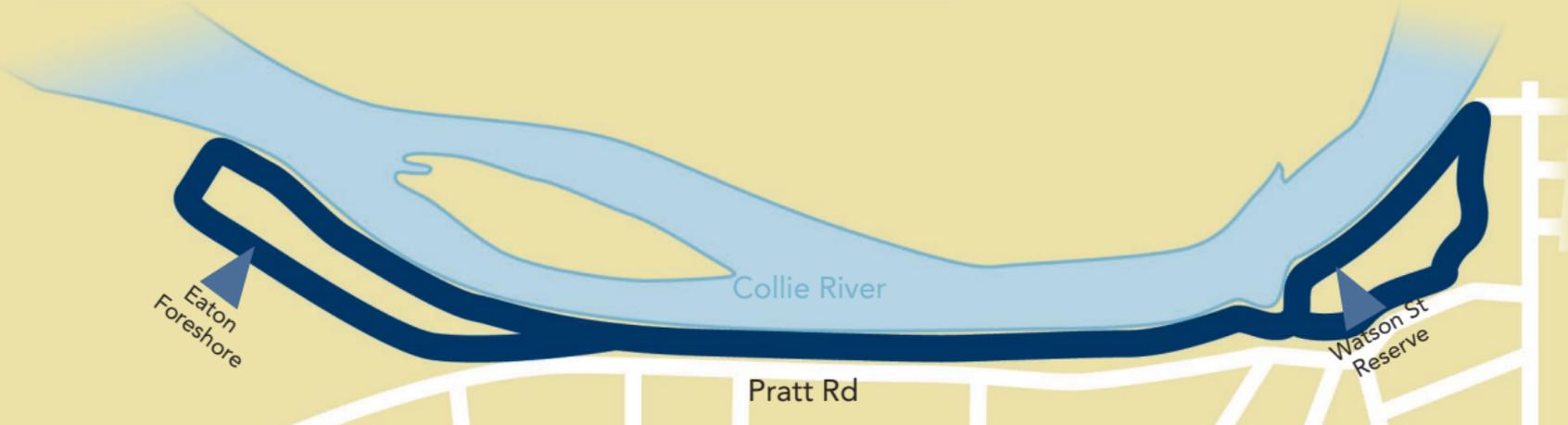
The Mangrove Walk is a circuit around the Leschenault Inlet waterway in East Bunbury. This waterway contains a mangrove community which represents the southern-most occurrence of the white mangrove in Western Australia. As the white mangrove usually occurs north of Shark Bay, 800 kilometres north of Bunbury, this community is considered unusual in its isolation and is a conservation priority. The Leschenault estuarine system is internationally significant with a high diversity of microfauna, surrounding vegetation in good condition and large numbers of migratory water birds protected under international agreements.

The Eaton Foreshore Walk is a circuit following the Collie River bank in Eaton through attractive natural salt marsh vegetation. The southern side of the walk takes in bushland with paperbarks, peppermint trees and sheoaks and follows the flow of the river. Birdlife frequenting the area includes pelicans, kingfishers and musk ducks and there are often bottlenose dolphins in the river. Areas of interest include the Eaton Foreshore Park and the Watson Street Reserve where gazebo shelters, tables and toilets are provided. There are several elevated lookouts along the way and designated dog exercise areas where pets can be let off the lead for exercise.

# Eaton Foreshore Walk

## Greater Bunbury Region

<b>LENGTH</b>	5km
<b>SURFACE</b>	Crushed Limestone and Boardwalks
<b>DIFFICULTY</b>	Easy
<b>USERS</b>	Walkers, Cyclists, Dogs on and off Leash
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Toilets, Boardwalks



# Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

The Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park is a narrow peninsula separating the Indian Ocean from the Leschenault Estuary and is located 18 kilometres drive north of Bunbury. Coastal heath, tuart and peppermint woodland, saltmarsh and mangroves provide a rich mosaic of habitats for a range of birds and animals. It is an ideal location for birdwatching with waterbirds including the black-winged stilt and greenshank. You will also often see kangaroos and emus grazing there.



# Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park



-  John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail
-  Belvidere Interpretive Walk
-  Harris Track

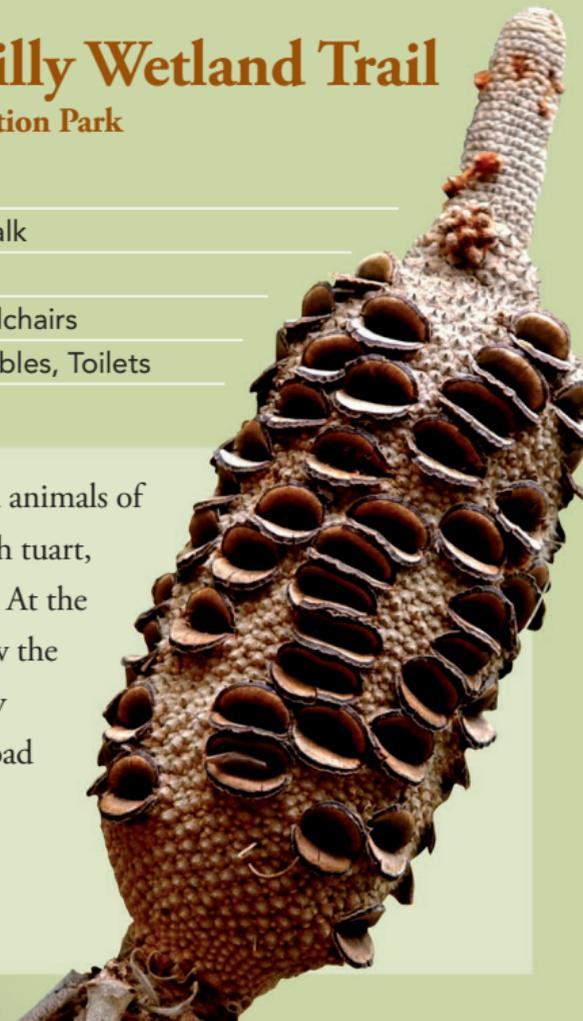


# John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

- LENGTH** 1 km return
- SURFACE** Concrete and Boardwalk
- DIFFICULTY** Easy
- USERS** Walkers, Prams, Wheelchairs
- FACILITIES** Information Shelter, Tables, Toilets

Learn more about the plants and animals of this park as you meander through tuart, peppermint and paperbark trees. At the information shelter, discover how the Irish convict John Boyle O'Reilly made his daring escape from a road gang by hiding on the peninsula and boarding an American ship, the Gazelle, in 1869.





Leschenault  
Estuary

To Belvidere Beach  
and Buffalo Beach

Old jetty  
remains

Start of  
walktrail

Camp  
Ground

To the Cut

# Belvidere Interpretive Walk

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

LENGTH 1.5 km return

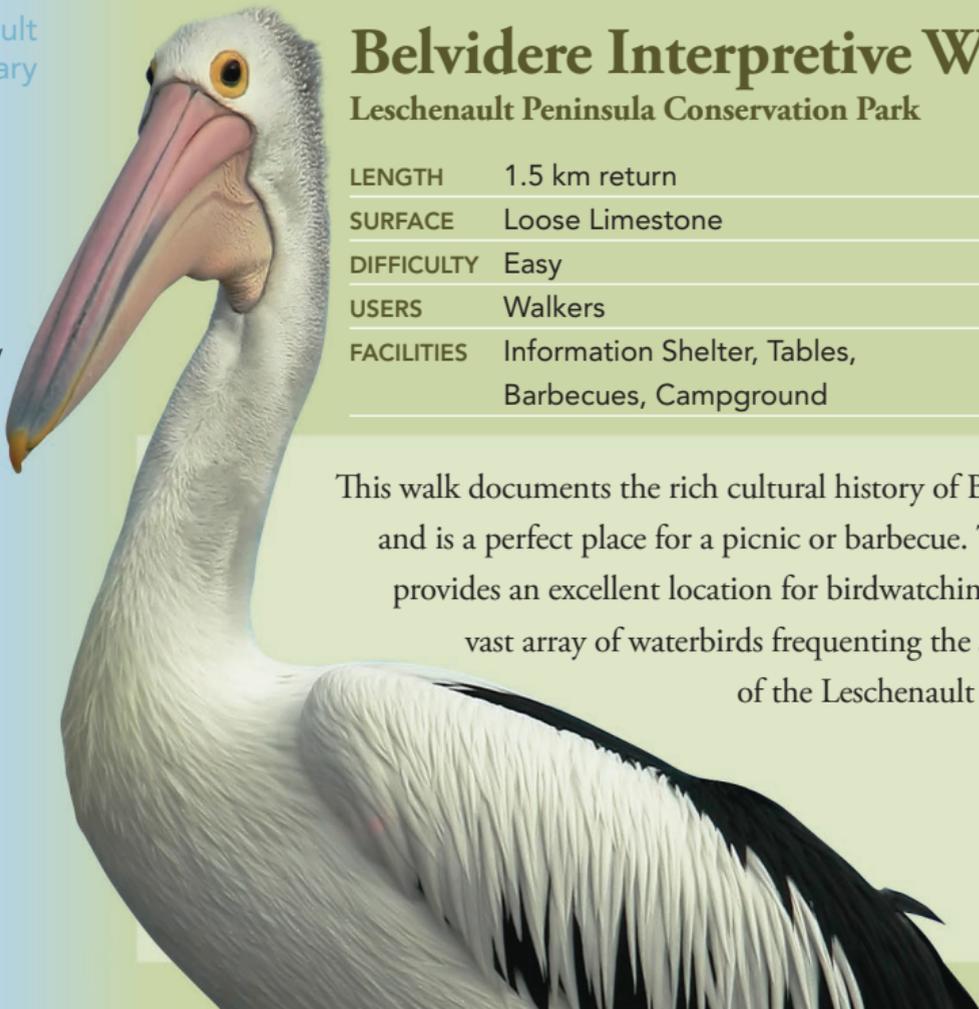
SURFACE Loose Limestone

DIFFICULTY Easy

USERS Walkers

FACILITIES Information Shelter, Tables,  
Barbecues, Campground

This walk documents the rich cultural history of Belvidere and is a perfect place for a picnic or barbecue. The trail provides an excellent location for birdwatching with a vast array of waterbirds frequenting the shallows of the Leschenault Estuary.





# Harris Track

## Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

<b>LENGTH</b>	9 km one way.
<b>SURFACE</b>	Loose Limestone
<b>DIFFICULTY</b>	Easy – Moderate
<b>USERS</b>	Walkers, Cyclists
<b>FACILITIES</b>	Tables and Toilets Available at The Cut.

The Harris Track stretches south 9 kilometres from Belvidere to ‘The Cut’, a channel joining the Leschenault Estuary and the Indian Ocean. The path winds through tuart and peppermint woodland along the coastal dune ridge. Walkers can enjoy panoramic views across the Leschenault Estuary to the Darling Scarp and across the Indian Ocean. Along the path you may see kangaroos, lizards and many birds including Carnaby’s black cockatoo, pelicans and the black shouldered kite. Bunbury’s bottlenose dolphins are regular visitors to waters at ‘The Cut’. At the start of the track, western ringtail and brushtail possums are often seen in the campground at night.



## Crooked Brook Forest

The Crooked Brook Forest is located 25 kilometres east of Bunbury in the beautiful Ferguson Valley. It is an excellent location for a relaxing picnic or bushwalk on one of the four designated trails.

In the forest you may see the western brush wallaby, Gould's monitor, grey fantail and the rare red-tailed black cockatoo.



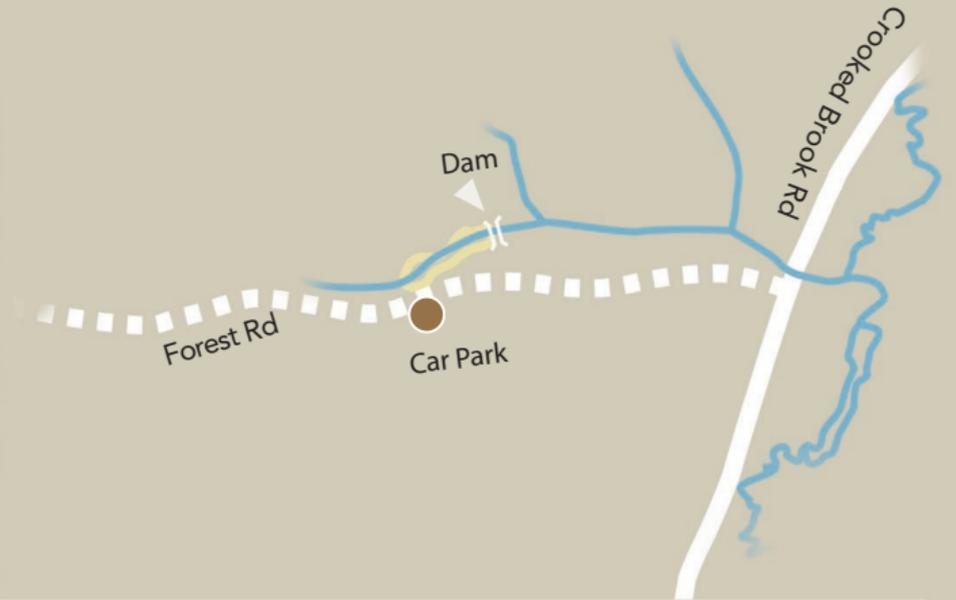
# Crooked Brook Forest Walk Trails



# Forest Path

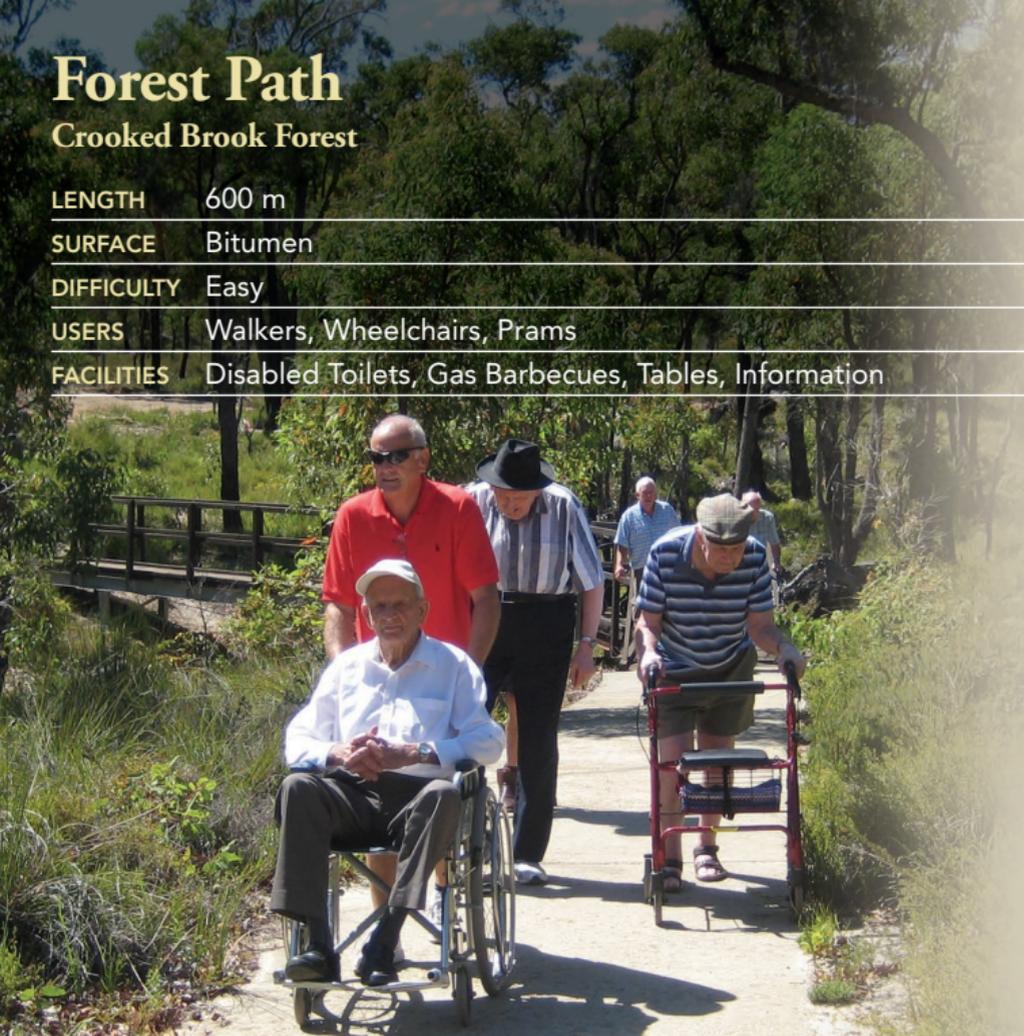
## Crooked Brook Forest

LENGTH	600 m
SURFACE	Bitumen
DIFFICULTY	Easy
USERS	Walkers, Wheelchairs, Prams
FACILITIES	Disabled Toilets, Gas Barbecues, Tables, Information



Enjoy a short walk around the Crooked Brook where close to the billabong you may hear a chorus of frogs including the motorbike frog, banjo frog and quaking frog.

The path is sealed and provides easy access for elderly and disabled visitors. Interpretive signage about the flora, fauna and history of the forest is located at the picnic area.





# Wildflower Walk

## Crooked Brook Forest

**LENGTH** 3 km circuit

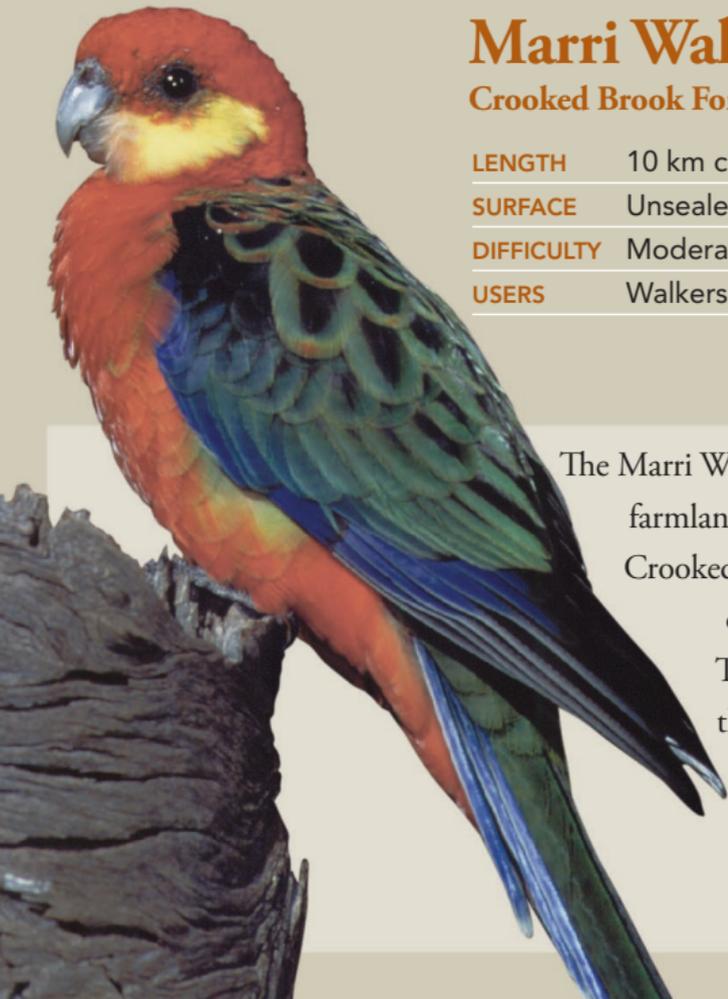
**SURFACE** Unsealed

**DIFFICULTY** Moderate

**USERS** Walkers

This walk, through the jarrah forest, takes you to a lookout with excellent views over to Bunbury. Along the way you can enjoy a variety of different wildflowers such as the Blue Leschenaultia. The first part of the walk is relatively easy but the last 1.7 kilometres are slightly steeper.



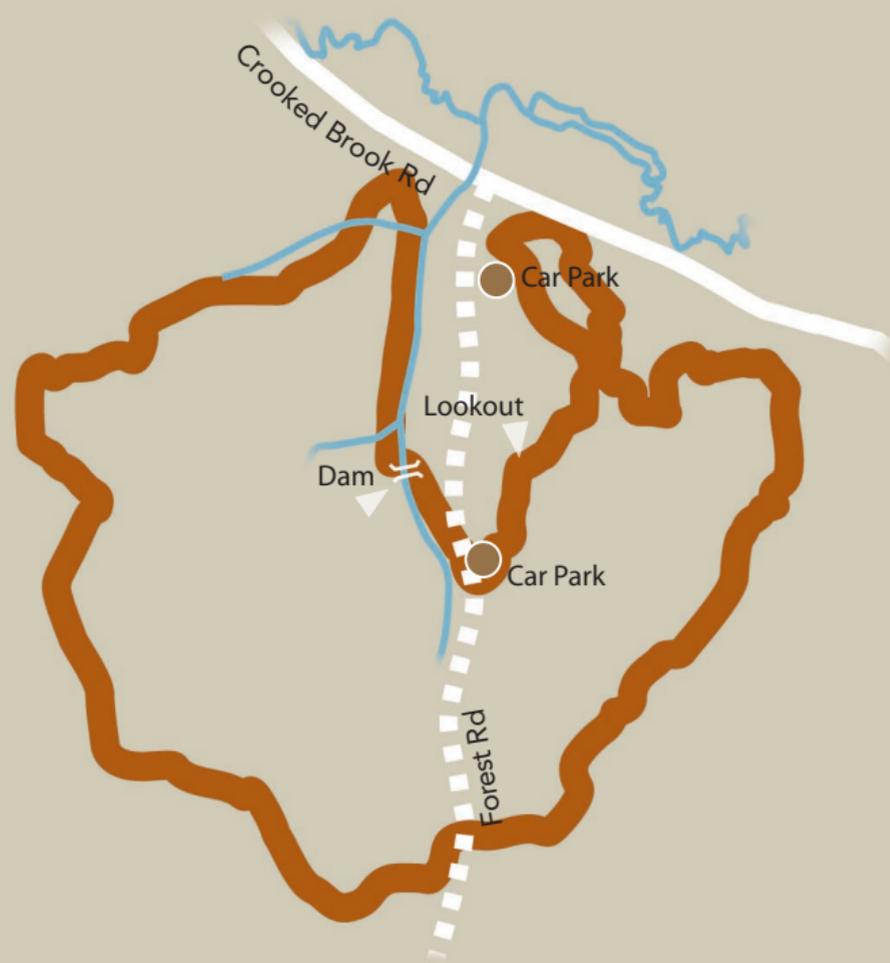


# Marri Walk

## Crooked Brook Forest

<b>LENGTH</b>	10 km circuit
<b>SURFACE</b>	Unsealed
<b>DIFFICULTY</b>	Moderate
<b>USERS</b>	Walkers

The Marri Walk skirts picturesque farmland and winds through Crooked Brook Forest before crossing Forest Road. This second section of the path has attractive views across the Ferguson Hills.



# Jarrah Walk

## Crooked Brook Forest

**LENGTH** 1.5 km circuit

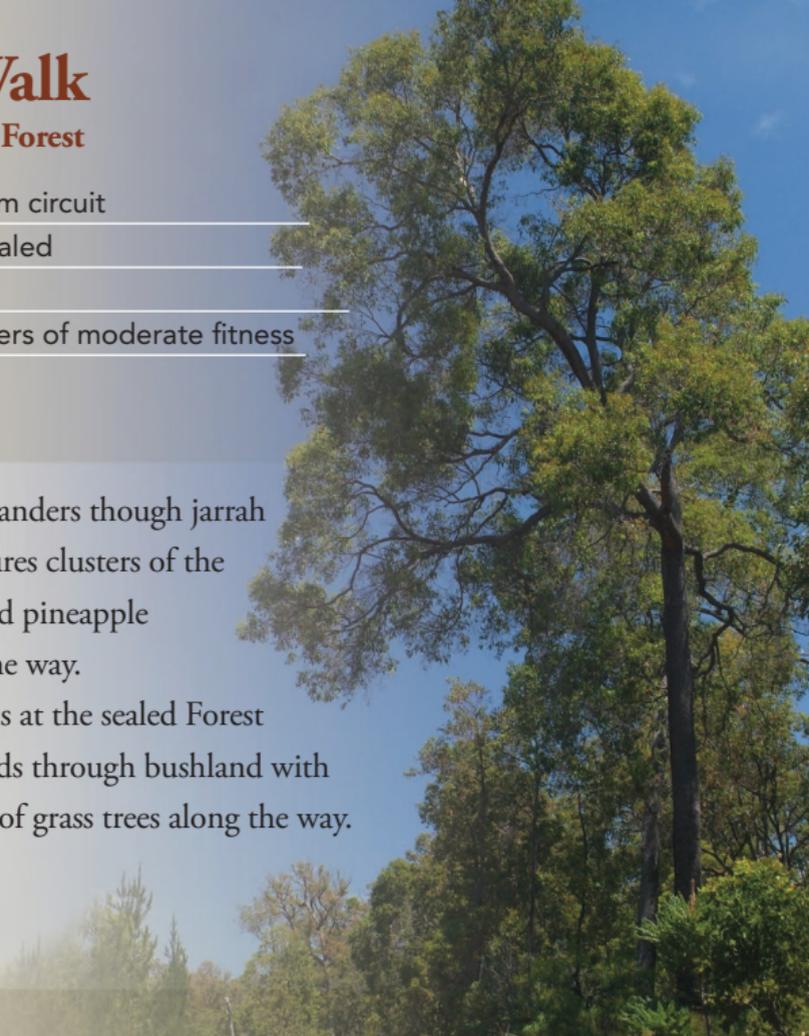
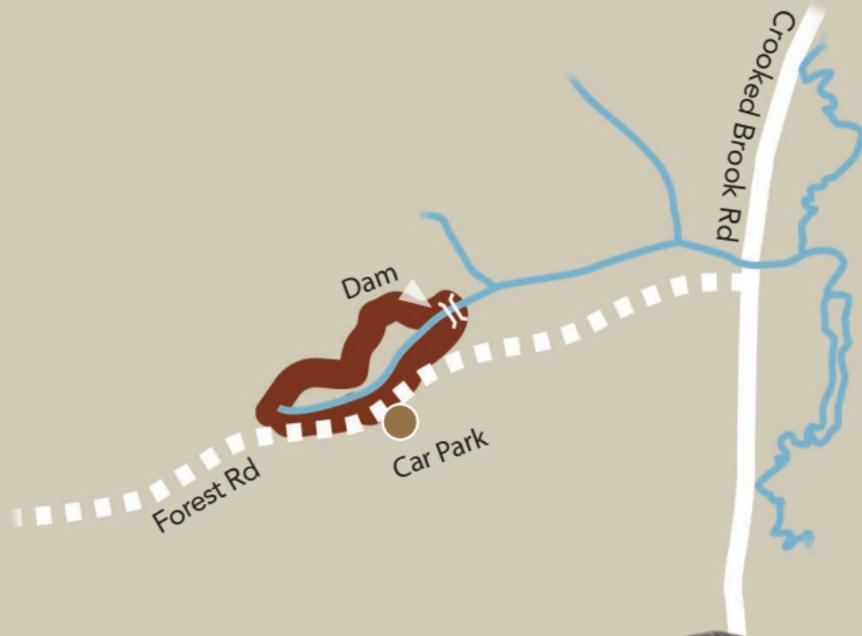
**SURFACE** Unsealed

**DIFFICULTY** Easy

**USERS** Walkers of moderate fitness

This circuit meanders through jarrah forest and features clusters of the uniquely shaped pineapple bushes along the way.

The walk begins at the sealed Forest Path and extends through bushland with various species of grass trees along the way.



*This brochure is an initiative of the South West Development Commission, jointly funded by the City of Bunbury, the Shire of Harvey and the Department Environment and Conservation.*



Department of  
**Environment and Conservation**  
*Our environment, our future*

For further information contact:  
Bunbury Visitor Centre **Tel: 08 9792 7205**

## More walks around Bunbury



**walk-it bunbury** is a network of  
15 walks within the City of Bunbury.

Contact the City of Bunbury 08 9792 7000  
or the Heart Foundation on 08 9795 8730  
for a copy of the map.

## Photo Credits

Photos provided by David Addy, David Deeley, Ben Deeley, Jon Birch, Jodie Wood, Babs and Bert Wells, Australia's South West, Jeff Henderson, Paul Webster and Lochman Transparencies.

Front Cover: *New Holland Honeyeater*

Experience Bunbury: *Lechenault Inlet*

Greater Bunbury Region: *White Tailed Black Cockatoos*, Map Page: *Blue Lady Orchid*

Tuart Walk: *Tuart Tree, Bicycle Path*

The Maidens Walk: *Sun Orchid, Barbeque Facilities*

Manea Park: *White Cheeked Honeyeater, Tiger Orchid*

Big Swamp Walk: *Australia Grebe, Long Necked Tortoise*

Mangrove Walk: *Leschenault Inlet Mangroves*

Eaton Foreshore Walk: *White Faced Heron*

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park: *Aerial Photo*, Map Page: *Chuditch*

John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail: *Motorbike Frog, Banksia*

Belvidere Interpretive Walk: *Great Egret, Pelican*

Harris Track: *Bearded Dragon*

Crooked Brook Forest: *Black Cockatoo*, Map Page: *Motorbike Frog*

Forest Path: *Disability Access and Facilities*

Wildflower Walk: *Blue Leschenaultia, Lookout Platform*

Marri Walk: *Western Rosella*

Jarrah Walk: *Western Bearded Dragon, Jarrah Tree*

Acknowledgements: *Majestic Tree*

Back Cover: *Black Winged Stilt*





ecowalks

Nature Trails of  
Bunbury and Surrounds