

# Dryandra Woodland National Park

A gateway to the Wheatbelt



## Visitor guide



Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions



**PARKS AND  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**



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**Above** Communities and adaptations. *Photo – DBCA*

## Welcome to the delights of Dryandra Woodland

Dryandra Woodland National Park, 30km north of Narrogin and less than two hours south-east of Perth by road, is a valuable nature conservation area. Although fragmented, it comprises 17 blocks of woodland totaling 28,000ha with a main block of 12,000ha. It features the largest area of remnant vegetation in the western Wheatbelt and forms part of an international biodiversity 'hotspot' where more than 850 species of plants can be seen. With less than seven percent of this original vegetation remaining in the western Wheatbelt, Dryandra Woodland is of critical conservation importance and offers fantastic recreation opportunities.

The woodland of wandoo, kwongan (the Aboriginal word for heath and shrublands), mallee, sheoak thickets and plantations of brown mallet is home to the numbat, Western Australia's state fauna emblem. It is also home to other threatened and remarkable fauna such as the red-tailed phascogale, woylie, western grey kangaroo, tamar wallaby, brushtail possum and echidna as well as a diverse variety of reptiles and insects.

Birdwatching is a popular activity at Dryandra with spectacular birds such as Carnaby's cockatoo finding the woodlands to be the perfect habitat as well as rare or uncommon birds such as bush stone curlew and rufous tree creeper.

The Dryandra Woodland ecology centre (Irabina), situated next to the historic Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, is the perfect base for classroom activities. School-based activities are available during school terms and aim to increase understanding of the importance of biodiversity. Bookings for activities are essential: (08) 9881 9200 or email [narrogin@dbca.wa.gov.au](mailto:narrogin@dbca.wa.gov.au).

Other activities include camping, picnicking and walking. There is a network of walk trails, a 23km drive trail and with more than 25 mammal, 100 bird and 50 reptile species there is plenty of wildlife to encounter while exploring the woodlands.



**Above** Barna Mia Nocturnal Animal Sanctuary building. *Photo – John Lawson*

## Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience

Nestled in the heart of Dryandra Woodland National Park, Barna Mia is a native animal sanctuary where threatened animals can be seen in a natural habitat.

Take an unforgettable guided tour after dusk and learn about the natural, cultural, historical and forest industry aspects of the woodland followed by an exciting close-up encounter with nocturnal native animals. Using special red-filtered torches in the 4ha enclosure you may see marsupials such as the bilby, boodie, mala, woylie, quenda, marl and possum.

**Above** Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience building. *Photo – John Lawson*

*Below left* Woylie. *Photo – John Lawson* **Below right** Bilby. *Photo – Gerald Lorenz*

**Bottom left** Mala. *Photo – Gerald Lorenz.*

**Bottom right** Boodie and Joey. *Photo – John Lawson*





**Above** Barna Mia tour, mala chases bilby. *Photo – Gary Tate.*

## Tour information

April to November: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (except for public holidays).

December to March: Friday and Saturday (except for public holidays).

Group bookings: can be organised by prior arrangement.

Tour duration: 1½ - 2 hours.

Start times vary seasonally and admission charges apply. For current fees go to [exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/site/barna-mia-nocturnal-wildlife-experience](https://exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/site/barna-mia-nocturnal-wildlife-experience)

Bookings are essential. Contact the Parks and Wildlife Service Narrogin office on (08) 9881 9200 before 4.30pm Monday to Friday or, for a same-day tour on Saturday, call Dryandra Country Visitor Centre on (08) 9881 2064 or consult the information panels at Old Mill Dam, Congelin or Gnaala Mia campgrounds.

Many of Western Australia's native mammals have been lost from their former habitats due to predation by cats and foxes, cleared vegetation and changed fire regimes. Preservation of Dryandra Woodland enables several native species to survive.

The Parks and Wildlife Service's Western Shield conservation program aims to eliminate introduced predators, thereby protecting and conserving remnant indigenous animal species.

Barna Mia is home to six species of marsupial; bilby, boodie, mala, quenda, woylie and marl, which live in two 4ha enclosures that keep out introduced predators.



**Above** Lions Dryandra Woodland Village accommodation.

*Photo – John Lawson*

## Camping, accommodation and picnic areas

Congelin and Gnaala Mia campgrounds are situated in tranquil bushland settings within Dryandra Woodland National Park with designated sites for caravans, campervans and tents. The basic facilities include a camp kitchen, open fire barbecue rings and picnic tables. Please bring your own drinking water. Camping fees apply, visit [parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au](http://parkstay.dbca.wa.gov.au) for details.

Affordable and comfortable accommodation is available at the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village. For information contact the caretakers at Lions Dryandra Woodland Village on (08) 9884 5231 or visit [dryandravillage.org.au/accommodation](http://dryandravillage.org.au/accommodation).

There are picnic areas at Old Mill Dam, the Arboretum, Congelin Dam, Contine Hill and Lol Gray.

Mobile phone reception is limited.

Supplies and fuel are available from Narrogin or Cuballing.

**Below** Contine Hill lookout. **Right** Darwinia Drive Trail Powder Bark.

*Photos – DBCA*



# Other sites in the western Wheatbelt

## Toolibin Lake

Toolibin Lake is located approximately 2.5 hours south-east of Perth by road and 20km south-east from the town of Wickiepin. The lake is situated in the upper reaches of the Blackwood River.

The cycle of wetting and drying has formed a wooded wetland with large stands of paperbarks and sheoaks across the floor of the lake. This type of vegetation association is listed as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

Toolibin Lake provides an excellent breeding and feeding habitat for waterfowl when filled with water and is recognised as a Wetland of International Significance under the Ramsar convention.

A recreation site with toilets, barbecue and seating is the starting point for the walk that winds across the lake floor with interpretive panels providing information about the lake along the way. On the walk you will see the sheltered beauty of the lake floor vegetation, the stark reality of the impact of salinity on biodiversity and the actions being implemented by the Parks and Wildlife Service to conserve this internationally recognised lake such as groundwater pumping and the installation of a channel to divert highly saline water away from the lake.

Also within the catchment are the Dingerlin, Dulbining and Walbyring nature reserves where you can see acacia and eucalyptus woodlands, melaleuca shrublands and heathland vegetation.

Spring is the best time to visit Toolibin Lake for the annual explosion of colourful wildflowers and for birdwatching.

**Below** Boyagin rock. *Photo – DBCA*





**Top** Toolibin paperbark and sheoak. *Photo – DBCA.*

**Above** Echidna. *Photo – John Lawson*

## Boyagin Nature Reserve

Boyagin Nature Reserve is located approximately two hours south-east of Perth by road and 25km to the west of Pingelly township. The reserve is dominated by an imposing granite outcrop known by the Noongar people as Boodjin. The surrounding landscape is spectacular and comprises remnant bushland, heath, sheoak thickets and open woodlands with a wide variety of eucalyptus species such as wandoo, marri and york gums. This 'rock' has significant cultural and spiritual meaning for the local Noongar people.

Boyagin Nature Reserve provides an important refuge for a variety of wildlife including numbats, echidnas, tammar wallabies, goannas and other reptiles. It is also a place of great beauty in spring with unique wildflowers tempting bushwalkers, photographers, bird watchers and picnickers to escape, experience, encounter and explore.



**Above** Blue-breasted fairy wren. *Photo – John Lawson*

## Caring for Dryandra Woodland National Park

Protect our wildlife Many species of birds, mammals and reptiles live within Dryandra Woodland . Please take care while driving and slow down, especially at night. Call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055 if you find injured animals.



**Be wise** Leave the natural area as you find it, for all to enjoy. Leave rocks and cultural artefacts as you find them.

**Be cool** Take care with fire. Light campfires only in fireplaces provided. Use gas barbecues wherever possible. Campfires are prohibited on days of 'extreme' or 'catastrophic' fire danger or during total fire bans.

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

**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 2L per person).



**Be aware** Please do not bring dogs into Dryandra Woodland. Many reserves are baited with 1080 poison baits to control feral animals and these baits may kill your pets. Please leave your pets at home.



**Above** Ochre Trail. *Photo – DBCA*

## **Trails**

Parks and Wildlife has developed a series of bush walks and a drive trail within Dryandra Woodland.

Walk trails range from easy to medium, with distances from 1km to 12.5km. A night walk trail with reflective markers offers visitors the chance to see woodland mammals and birds that are active at night, such as woylies, tammar wallabies, brushtail possums, tawny frogmouths and owls.

Refer to the walk trail guide to help select a walk suitable for you.

## Walk trail classification guide



This symbol indicates an easy well-defined walk trail with a firm surface. You may encounter gentle hill sections and occasional steps.



This symbol indicates a moderate walk trail with clear directional signage. You may encounter minor hazards such as short steep sections, steps, shallow water crossings, and unstable or slippery surfaces.



### Ochre Trail

**5km return 2 hours Class 3**

Discover the Aboriginal heritage of Dryandra with interpretive signs explaining aspects of the local Noongar culture, including an ochre pit. Start near the Arboretum on Tomingley Road.



### Woylie Walk

**5.5km return 2 hours Class 3**

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



### Wandoo Walk (night walk)

**1km return 30 minutes Class 2**  
**(1.5 hours for extended walk)**

A short night walk with markers that reflect torchlight. Look for nocturnal animals such as woylies, tammar wallabies, brushtail possums, tawny frog-mouths and owls. During the day this walk can be extended and offers bird-watching opportunities in woodland and heath vegetation. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.



### Wandoo Walk (day walk)

**2.7km return 1.5 hours Class 3**

During the day the night walk can be extended and offers bird-watching opportunities in woodland and heath vegetation. Start at the Old Mill Dam picnic area.





### **Lol Gray Trail**

**12.5km return 4 hours Class 3**

See the diverse vegetation types and enjoy spectacular views over Dryandra near the old Lol Gray tree fire tower, which was built in 1930 and used by the Forest Department as a lookout for fires. The trail leads to the Lol Gray picnic area where the foundations of the Lol Gray School can be located nearby. Start in the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, opposite the playground.



### **Lol Gray Loop**

**3.2km return 1.5 hours Class 3**

Walk through kwongan heath where pygmy possums and honeyeater birds find the flowers irresistible. Start from the Lol Gray picnic area and follow the old telegraph line.



### **Kawana Walk**

**3.3km return 1.5 hours Class 2**

A short walk ideal for families. Crossing from brown mallet plantation to kwongan heath and back offering great opportunities for spotting birds, echidnas and beautiful dryandras. Start opposite the playground in the Lions Dryandra Woodland Village settlement.



### **Congelin Siding Walk**

**1.6km return 40 minutes Class 2**

Follow the old Pinjarra to Narrogin railway line that 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 Dam picnic site or Congelin campground.



### **Fire Tower Walk**

**450m 15 minutes Class 2**

This short walk meanders around east Contine Hill, a laterite breakaway that was the ideal site for the lookout towers used during the summer fire season by Forestry staff known as 'spotters'. The remains of two historical fire lookout towers can be found along this walk and in spring diverse floral displays enjoyed. Start from the Contine Hill picnic area information shelter.





### **Breakaway Walk**

**1km return 30 minutes Class 3**

Enjoy spectacular expansive views revealing the contrast between nature conservation and agricultural areas while walking along the edge of this small eroding escarpment that reminds us of the landscape that existed before it was cleared. After a short descent the loop trail meanders through various plant communities, granite outcrops and soft sheoak thickets before ascending the hill. Start from the Contine Hill picnic car park.



### **Darwinia Drive**

**23km drive**

Interpretive information at the five pull-over bays in the heart of Dryandra Woodland reveals the complexity and interdependence of natural systems, including specific relationships such as woylies and sandalwood. Bring a picnic lunch and at stop five take a short walk to search for orchids near the granite outcrop. Start from the Old Mill Dam information shelter and turn on to Gura Road. Look for the symbol along the drive.



## More information

The pocket-sized Bush Book Wildflowers of Dryandra Woodland is recommended and can be purchased from the Barna Mia Nocturnal Wildlife Experience, Lions Dryandra Woodland Village, the Parks and Wildlife Service Narrogin office or, before your visit, from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions online shop at [shop.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://shop.dbca.wa.gov.au)

For information about other parks and camping areas visit [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au)

## Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

### Parks and Wildlife Service

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[dbca.wa.gov.au](https://dbca.wa.gov.au)

**Front cover** Golden Dryandra Ochre Trail. *Photo – DBCA*  
Numbat with nesting sticks. *Photo – John Lawson.*



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Download the free Emergency+ app before your visit. Use the app in an emergency to call for assistance. If there is no mobile phone coverage you **WILL NOT** be able to call **000** but the app will provide you with your GPS location.

Check for alerts and updates directly related to parks and major trails at [alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://alerts.dbca.wa.gov.au) and for all emergency information in Western Australia at [emergency.wa.gov.au](https://emergency.wa.gov.au).

Find more park visitor information, book campsites and share your experiences at [exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au](https://exploreparks.dbca.wa.gov.au).

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@exploreparkswa



Information current at December 2023.

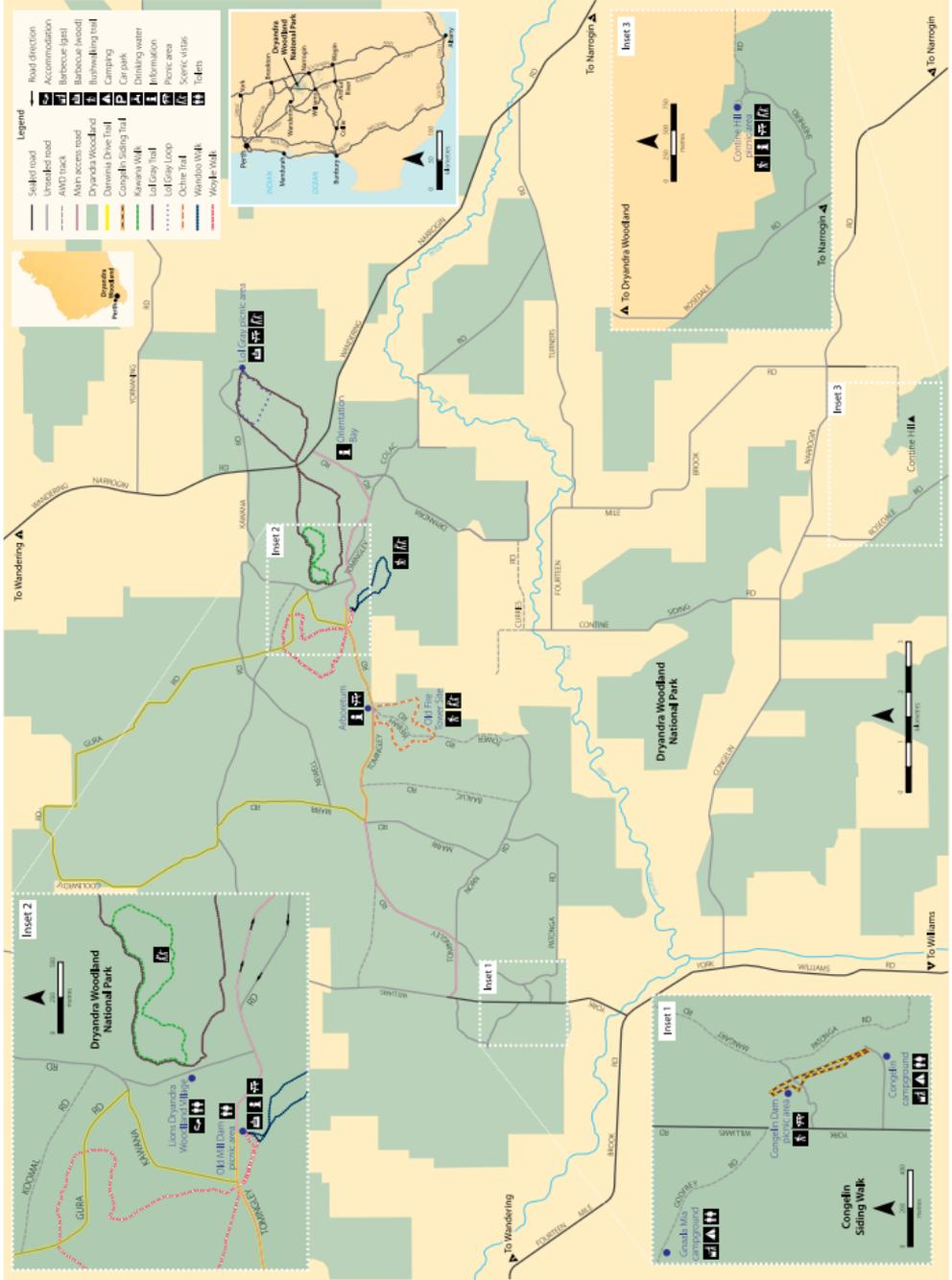
Publication available in alternative format on request.



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