

eCOWalks

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.



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 Ridge Trail which stretches along the entire length of 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.

To help find your way, there is a fold-out map to guide you to the trails. Details on the trails, the types of natural environment that can be found there and the facilities located at each are provided in the main body of the booklet.

We hope you enjoy this selection of nature trails in Bunbury and its surrounds.

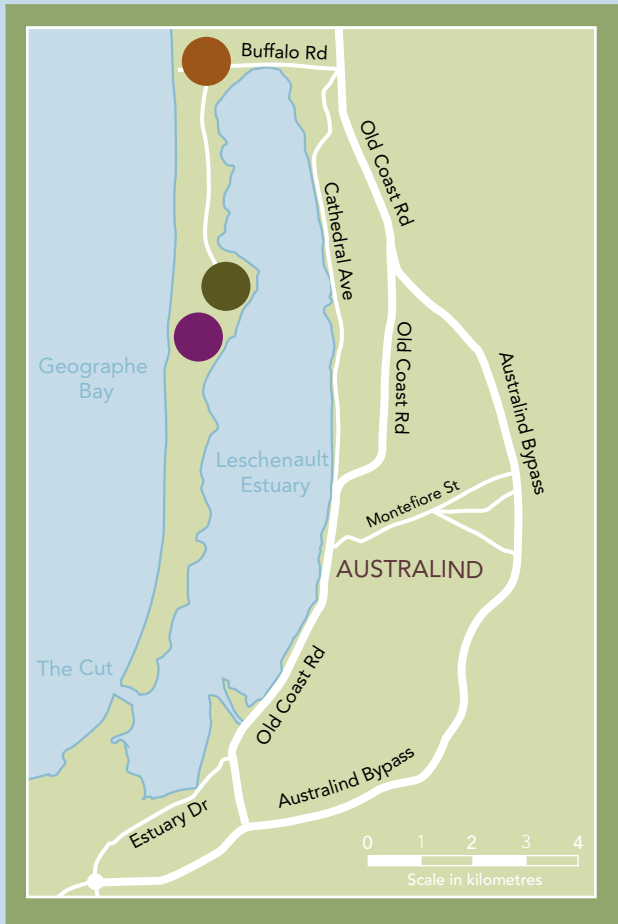
Greater Bunbury Region



Greater Bunbury Walk Trails

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

0 0.5 1 0.5 2
Scale in kilometres



Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

- John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail
- Belvidere Interpretive Walk
- Ridge Trail

Crooked Brook Forest Walk Trails

- Forest Path
- Wildflower Walk
- Marri Walk
- Jarrah Walk



To Busselton

To Perth

Scale in kilometres



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.



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.



Geographe Bay

Hastie Street

Kalari Drive

Ocean Drive

Maidens Reserve

Car Park

The Maidens Walk

Greater Bunbury Region

LENGTH	1.8km
SURFACE	Crushed Limestone
DIFFICULTY	Moderate with some steep sections
USERS	Walkers, Cyclists, Dogs on Leash
FACILITIES	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

LENGTH	2.2 km
SURFACE	Compacted Limestone
DIFFICULTY	Easy
USERS	Walkers, Cyclists, Prams, Wheelchairs
FACILITIES	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 observed native birds in their natural environment.

Beach Rd

Prince Philip Drive

City Centre

Spencer St

Minninup Rd

Big Swamp

Jarvis Rd

Prince Philip Drive





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

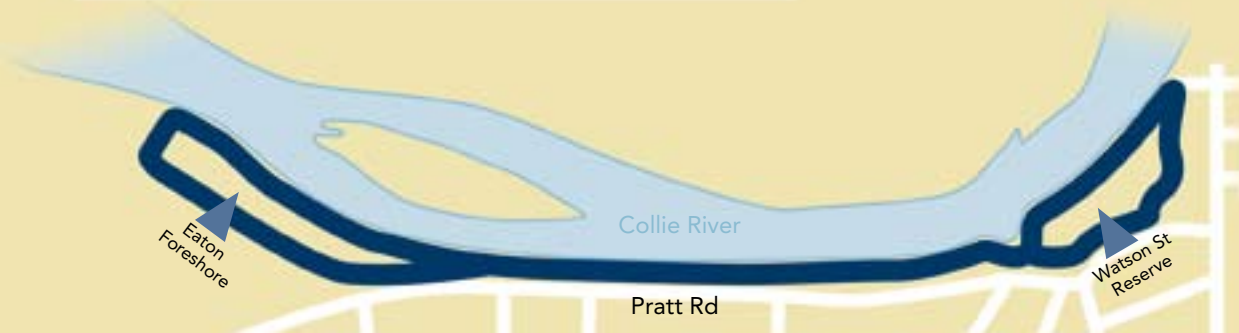
The Mangrove Walk is a circuit around the Leschenault Inlet waterway in East Bunbury. This waterway contains a mangrove community which represents the southern-most occurrence of the white mangrove in Western Australia. As the white mangrove usually occurs north of Shark Bay, 800 kilometres north of 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

LENGTH	5km
SURFACE	Crushed Limestone and Boardwalks
DIFFICULTY	Easy
USERS	Walkers, Cyclists, Dogs on and off Leash
FACILITIES	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.



Buffalo Beach



John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

LENGTH 1 km return

SURFACE Bitumen 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 into the bush here from a ship named 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

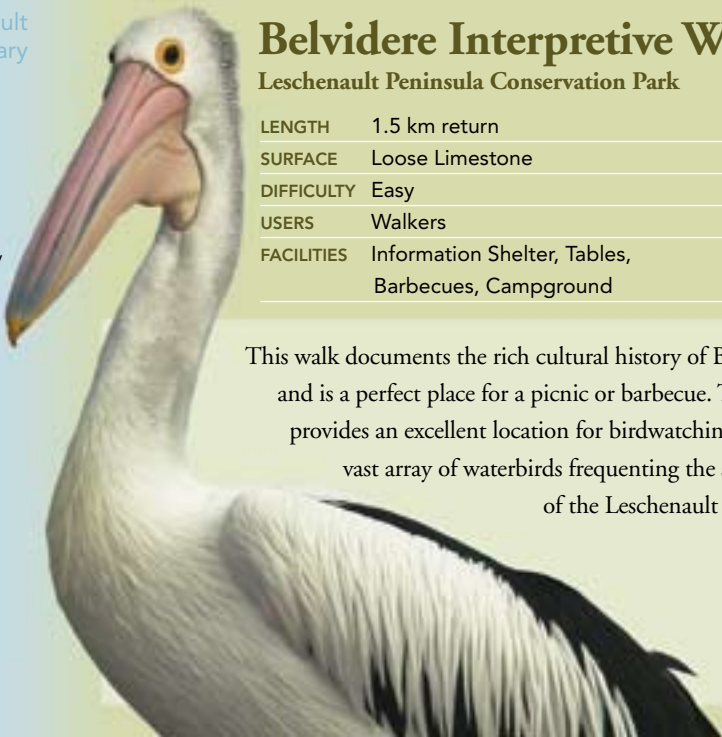
SURFACE Loose Limestone

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.





Ridge Trail

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

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

The Ridge Trail 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.



Forest Path

Crooked Brook Forest

LENGTH 600 m

SURFACE Bitumen

DIFFICULTY Easy

USERS Walkers, Wheelchairs, Prams

FACILITIES 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.

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

LENGTH 10 km circuit

SURFACE Unsealed

DIFFICULTY Moderate

USERS 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.



A dirt path winds through a forest of tall, thin trees under a bright sky. The path is light-colored and curves to the left. The trees are mostly tall and thin with sparse foliage. The sky is bright and clear.

Bushwalking Tips

Be well prepared before setting out on a walk. Here are some helpful hints.

- 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.

This map is an initiative of
The South West Development Commission,
jointly funded by
The City of Bunbury
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Department of Environment and
Conservation, the Shire of Dardanup and
the Heart Foundation.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

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



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

A map of walks is available from the
Heart Foundation on 08 9795 8730.

Photo Credits

David Addy

Front Cover *New Holland Honeyeater*

Back Cover *Black-Winged Stilt*

Greater Bunbury Region

White-Tailed Black Cockatoos

Manea Park

White-Cheeked Honeyeater

Big Swamp Walk

Australian Grebe and

Long-necked Tortoise

Eaton Foreshore Walk *Heron*

John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail

Motorbike frog

Ridge Trail *Bearded Dragon*

David Deeley

The Maidens *Sun Orchid*

Ben Deeley

Experience Bunbury Page

Leschenault Inlet

Tuart Walk *Tuart Tree*

Mangrove Walk

Leschenault Inlet Mangroves

Jon Birch

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

Jodie Wood

Manea Park *Tiger Orchid*

Babs & Bert Wells

through Department of Environment and Conservation

Belvidere Interpretive Walk *White Egret*

Wildflower Walk *Blue Leschenaultia*

Marri Walk *Western Rosella*

Australia's South West

Greater Bunbury Map *Blue Lady Orchid*

Jeff Henderson

through Department of Environment and Conservation

How to Use this Booklet Page *Family Picnic*

John Boyle O'Reilly *Banksia*

Crooked Brook *Family*

Paul Webster

through South West Development Commission

Tuart Walk *Cyclist*

The Maidens *Coastal Barbeque*

Jarraah Walk *Jarraah Tree*

Bushwalking Tips Page *Walk Trail*

This page *Majestic Tree*

Lochman Transparencies

Leschenault Peninsula Map *Chuditch*

Crooked Brook Forest *Cockatoo*

Forest Path *Motorbike Frog*