

Noongar Occupation of Denmark

Noongar people have lived in the Denmark area for tens of thousands of years. A large concentration of *Zamia* palms, a food source for the Noongar people, is located close to the Crellin Street end of trail (known by some locals as “dinosaur jungle”). Such concentrations of this species can indicate the presence of a Noongar camp ground. This site would be perfectly located, close to the river.

Caring For Country

This reserve has been shaped by human interaction. Despite the impacts of logging, excavations and rubbish tips, the bushland within the reserve has mostly recovered. It has a diverse variety of flora and fauna readily accessible for all to enjoy.

South Coast Bushcare Services Inc. (formally Denmark Weed Action Group Inc.) continues to control invasive weed species within the reserve, supporting natural regeneration of the bush and improvement in condition.



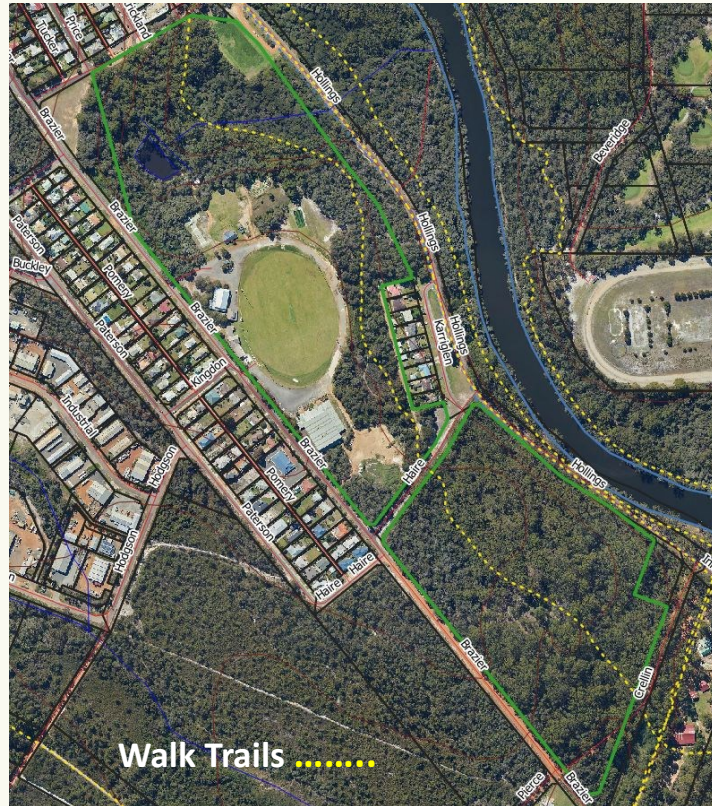
Contact

Rear 33 Strickland Street, Denmark WA 6333

Email: scbs@westnet.com.au

Mobile: 0448 388720

Map of Karri Walk Trail



The Karri Walk trail is 1.5 km long and runs between Crellin Street and Anne Harrison Park on Barnett Street. The trail was constructed in 1993 by participants of the Landcare and Environmental Action Program (LEAP), supervised by Diane Harwood and Daniele Prongue.

The trail passes through a range of vegetation types including karri forest, jarrah-marri woodland and paperbark swamp. It is hard to believe that what you are walking through is regrowth forest—a habitat recovered after extensive logging.

Karri Walk Trail Strickland Street Reserve



“Even the most pristine land or seascape can only be understood in terms of a history of human contact, exploitation and protection, understanding and promotion.”

Heritage Council of Western Australia.

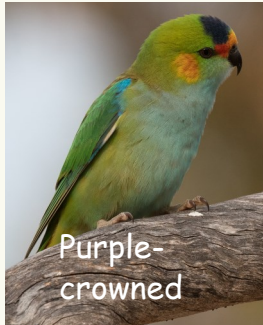


Supported by the Shire of Denmark Community Environmental Education Program

Birdlife in the Forest

Late summer, when the karri or marri trees are in blossom, flocks of purple crowned lorikeets or “zit” birds can be heard flying overhead. Their Noongar name is “Kaawar”.

The Western (or Golden) Whistlers can often be heard calling to each other high in the canopy.



Red Wattle Bird



Bird photos by John Anderson

History



The Millar brothers, who had obtained leases on 20,00 acres of freehold timber in the Denmark area, arrived in 1895. The town was established and supported by income from logging, shortly after the railway between Elleker, Torbay and Denmark River was built.

By May 1903 timber resources were depleted and Denmark mill number one was closed down. In 1905, the railway line was closed and subsequently sold to the State Government in 1908.

The embankments from a side spur of the main railway line running can be seen at the Crellin Street end of the trail. Considerable earthworks are evident within the reserve. A large section was cleared for a gravel pit and then used as an offal dump.

The Garden of Weeds

The Barnett street end of the trail is known as the “garden of weeds” and is highly degraded. This was previously used as a rubbish tip.

Photos: Denmark Historical Society

References: Plants of Denmark Walk Trails: Traditional Noongar Uses

Common Plants



Zamia Palm

Noongar name: “Djeriji”, “Bayoo”

Scientific name: *Macrozamia riedlei*

An ancient plant species with separate male and female plants and cones.

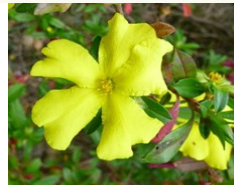
Uses: after extensive treatment the seeds could be eaten (otherwise poisonous). The woolly substance at the base was used for fire tinder.

Cut leaf Hibbertia

Noongar name: “Ballyion”

Scientific name: *Hibbertia cuneiformis*

Uses: The leaves were crushed and used as an Sensitive for open wounds.



Native Bluebell

Noongar name: “Kummuck”

Scientific name: *Billardiera fusiformis*

Uses: the fruit can be eaten when ripe and soft.