

Mokare

The walk is named after Mokare, a Noongar from Minang country (Albany region) who acted as a guide for Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson (a surgeon with the Royal Navy) in 1829. During their overland expedition from Albany the Hay River, Denmark townsite and Wilson Inlet were named.

A hand-coloured lithograph of Menang leader Mokare by Louis de Sainson, published in 1833.



Caring For Country

South Coast Bushcare Services Inc. (formally the Denmark Weed Action Group Inc.) controls invasive weeds such as blackberry and watsonias along the river. This helps maintain the ecological, biodiversity and cultural values of the Denmark River.



Contact

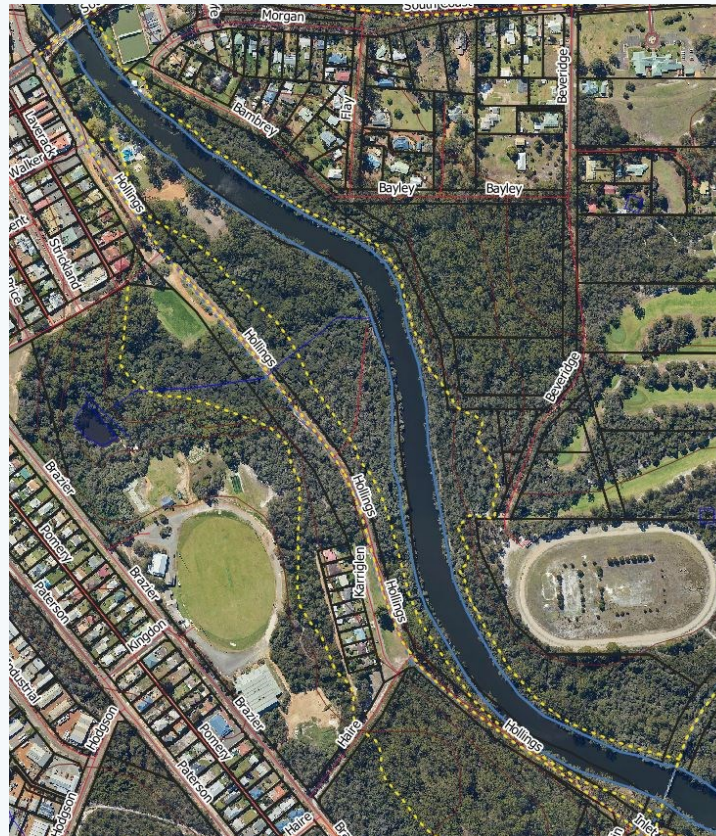
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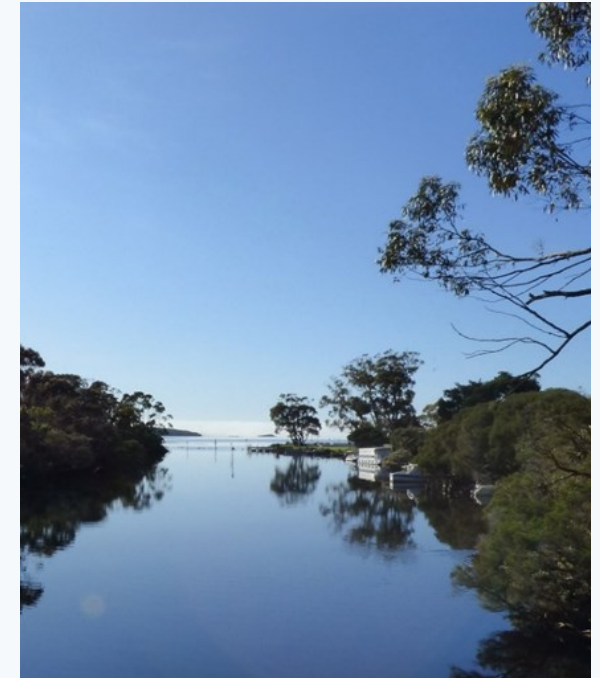
Map of Mokare Heritage Trail

..... Walk trails



The Mokare Heritage Trail is an easy 3km loop walk or cycle. It follows the eastern and western banks of the Denmark River between the Denmark Traffic Bridge (South Coast Highway) and the Denmark Heritage Rail Bridge at the river mouth, where it links up with the Munda Bidji cycle trail and Wilson Inlet Heritage Trail.

Mokare Heritage Trail *Kwoorabup Beelia* Denmark River



"Running rivers were described as being like the blood of our ancestors"
Wayne Webb 2007, Pippelmen Elder.



Supported by the Shire of Denmark Community Environmental Education Program

Birdlife on the River



Darter



Pacific Black Duck



Wood Duck



White-faced Heron



Little Pied Cormorant



Osprey

Bird photos by John Anderson

Kwoorabup Beelia, Denmark River

Kwoorabup is the Noongar name for the Denmark River and translates to “place of the Western Brush Wallaby”. The Kwoor (*Macropus irma*) also known as the black-gloved wallaby was at one time commonly found in wooded areas fringing the river and was a food source for the Noongar people.



The Denmark River has been identified as a site of spiritual and cultural significance for the Noongar people. It is often cited as a territorial boundary between the Bibbulmun (Pippelmen) and Minang tribal groups. It was a place to gather bush-tucker such as bulbs and berries, medicinal plants, fish and shellfish. A ceremonial ground and shell midden have been identified adjacent to the river just north of the Denmark Traffic Bridge.

The Denmark River rises in Pardelup to the north of Denmark and flows for 60 kilometres into the Wilson Inlet.

Vegetation buffers along the river trap pollutants from entering the waterway prevent erosion. Fringing vegetation provides shade, shelter and habitat for fauna. Woody debris that falls from overhanging trees creates habitat for aquatic animals.

References: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan for Kwoorabup Beelia (Denmark River) by David Guilfoyle

Plants of Denmark Walk Trails: Traditional Noongar Uses

Riparian Vegetation

Common trees along the river include the Swamp Paperbark, *Melaleuca raphiophylla* and *Melaleuca preissiana*. Rushes and sedges, such as sword grass, help hold the river banks together.

A number of culturally significant plants can be found in the fringing vegetation around the river. Some are described below.



Common name: Paperbark
Noongar name: Modong
Scientific name: *Melaleuca preissiana*

Uses: Fish or meat were wrapped in the soaked bark and cooked on the coals.



Common name: Soap bush / Karri Hazel
Noongar name: "Djop born"

Scientific name: *Trymalium floribundum*

Uses: leaves produce lather



Common name: Sword grass

Noongar name: "Kerbein"

Scientific name: *Lepidosperma sp.*

Uses: base of stem is edible. Used for weaving,