

The Value of Fringing Vegetation

The vegetation fringing the inlet is an interface between aquatic and land-based ecosystems. It provides:

- Shade, shelter and habitat for fauna.
- A wildlife corridor
- A filter for nutrients
- Stabilisation, preventing erosion.
- Food for aquatic animals

Intact, healthy fringing vegetation is essential for maintaining waterway health.

Caring for the Inlet Foreshore

South Coast Bushcare Services Inc. is working in collaboration with the Shire to maintain and enhance the native vegetation around the foreshore by controlling invasive weeds such as Asparagus Fern (*A.scandens*) and Arum lilies (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*).

Six Seasons Project

Denmark Environment Centre has a series of short films and podcasts with information about the inlet available at:

www.denmarkenvironmentcentre.org.au/copy-of-resources-2



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Map of Little River Trail

..... Bibbulmun Track – Little River Trail



The Little River Trail follows the Bibbulmun Track along the foreshore of Wilson Inlet from Campbell Road to Rainbow Close and on to Ocean Beach Road. The return walk is about 5km but the trail can also be accessed mid-way from Maraveen Place off Little River Road. This is a shared used trail.

The trail passes through karri forest, traverses granite outcrops and is excellent for bird-watching and wildflowers in season.

Exploring the Wilson Inlet Foreshore

Little River Trail



Supported by the Shire of Denmark

Sustainability Environmental Education Program



Birdlife around the Inlet



Willy Wagtail



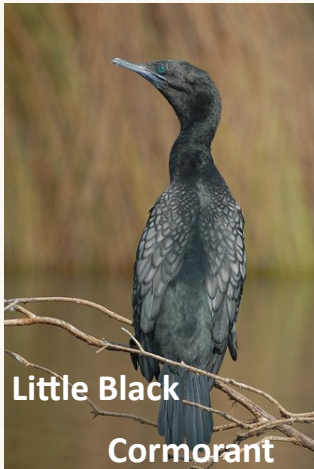
Little Egret



Red-winged Fairy Wren



Coot



Little Black Cormorant



Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Bird photos by John Anderson

Wilson Inlet - "Marjit"

The inlet was named after Dr Thomas Wilson who explored the area in 1829 with Noongar guide Mokare. It was formed 5000-6000 years ago when sea levels stabilized to their current levels. It is approximately 14km long and covers a total area of 48km². Five major waterways feed into the inlet; the Denmark, Hay, Sleeman and Little Rivers and Cuppup Creek.

Wilson Inlet is significant for wildlife both locally and globally. Migratory shorebirds visit seasonally to feed on its shores. The inlet and surrounding foreshore support 65 species of fish, 109 land, water and marine bird species, 20 species of mammals and 12 frog species.

Cultural Significance

"Marjit" has been cited as one of the traditional Noongar names for the Wilson Inlet.

Noongar custodians highly value the Wilson Inlet and its tributaries as a place to gather and enjoy the abundance of food resources available.

There are numerous important Aboriginal heritage sites within and around the Wilson Inlet. These include fish traps, gnamma (granite waterholes), burial sites, stone artefacts and tool making sites. It is our responsibility to ensure that these are not disturbed.

Granite outcrops found around the inlet are particularly culturally and environmentally sensitive areas. Avoid walking on moss and plant communities and never move or take rocks.

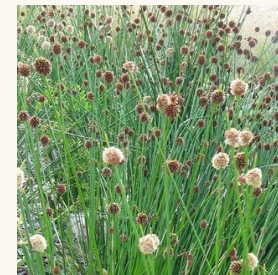
Common Plants



Heart Leaf Poison

Gastrolobium biolum

Contains the naturally occurring poison made synthetically to produce 1080 which is used to control foxes and cats. Poison Point may be named after this plant.



Knotted Club Rush

Ficinia nodosa

A common rush on the foreshore. Often used in revegetation projects to stabilise erosion.



Samphire

Salicornia sp.

Low, fleshy plant found fringing estuaries and salt flats. Young shoots are edible.



Asparagus Fern*

Asparagus scandens

Highly invasive "Weed of National Significance."

References: Wilson Inlet Management Strategy 2013-2022

Wilson Inlet Noongar Heritage Management Plan

The Value of Fringing Vegetation by Una Bell.