



# St John Brook Conservation Park



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



## Looking back

For thousands of years before European settlement, Nyoongars lived as hunter-gatherers



*Barrabup Mill employees.*

enjoying the rich bounty of food from the land and waterways. St John Brook is believed to have been a travel route for Nyoongars as they moved from the coastal lowlands at the end of the warmer months to the open woodlands inland as water spread across coastal areas. It is believed that Nannup, only eight kilometres from the park, means 'A place to stop and rest'.



*'The Blackwood' locomotive.*

Europeans first settled this district in 1857. However, it was not until the railway from Busselton to Nannup was opened in 1909 that the district expanded. Taking advantage of the new government railway, a timber mill was set up at Barrabup on the banks of St John Brook in 1910 to mill the highly prized jarrah trees. Company railway lines criss-crossed much of the bush and a steam train, *The Blackwood*, transported timber to Cambray Siding and on to the Busselton jetty for export. Find out more about the timber milling history at Barrabup Pool or along the Old Timberline Trail.

## More information

Emergency Number **000**  
for police, ambulance or fire.

### Department of Environment and Conservation

District Office:

14 Queen St, Busselton

Ph. (08) 9752 5555.

Open Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm.

Or visit us at [www.dec.wa.gov.au](http://www.dec.wa.gov.au)

For **general tourist information**

visit the Nannup Visitor Centre,  
Warren Rd, Nannup.

Ph. (08) 9756 1211.

Summer: Open daily from 9am to  
5pm except Christmas Day.

Winter: Open daily from 10am to  
4pm.

For more information on local history, including the Barrabup Mill, visit the community-run Nannup Historical Society located in Warren Rd, Nannup. To view a permanent display, inquire at Nannup Visitor Centre across the road. Open most Saturdays from 10am to 3pm.

# St John Brook Conservation Park

St John Brook Conservation Park is best known for the gently flowing St John Brook and its picturesque river pools. Located only eight kilometres north-west of Nannup and 50 kilometres south-east of Busselton, St John Brook is within easy reach of many towns in the south-west. The park has a fascinating timber milling history from early last century that is still evident today around Barrabup Pool, Cambray Siding and along the Old Timberline Trail.



## Watching for wildlife

The waterways, valleys and hills of St John Brook Conservation Park support many native animals including at least 38 bird species, six reptiles, four amphibians, four fish and 11 mammals.

The brook provides the ideal environment for the western minnow, night fish, western pygmy perch and Swan River goby. Fallen trees provide shelter for these fish and fringing shrubs provide shade. However, their numbers are threatened by the introduced rainbow trout that prey upon these small native fish.

Swamp peppermints fringe the brook—their dense roots stabilise the riverbanks and provide a moist environment for banjo and moaning frogs. The leaves of the swamp peppermint give excellent shelter for small birds such as the red-winged fairy wren and the splendid blue wren.

Along the valley and riverbanks you will find open forest with marri trees, river banksia, moonah and peppermint. The abundant nectar and pollen in the marri flowers attract birds such as silvereyes, brown honeyeaters and New Holland honeyeaters. The large fruits or 'honkey nuts' are food for ringneck parrots as well as red-tailed black cockatoos. You may find their discarded fruits on the forest floor.

On the hilltops in the gravelly laterite soils, jarrah trees tower over sheoak and bull banksia. Red-tailed black cockatoos are attracted to the jarrah trees searching for beetles living under the bark. You may see evidence of this where bark has been stripped away leaving large bare patches. You may also see evidence of possum activity in the form of 'possum paths'. Look for worn paths on the trees and bark debris on the ground.

*Left: Red-tailed black cockatoo. Above: Marri blossom. Top right: Banjo frog. Right: Balga.*



# Caring for St John Brook

**Be clean:** Please use rubbish bins where provided and firmly close the lid. Open bins attract wildlife that may become trapped or dependent on us for food. If no bins are provided please take your rubbish home.

**Stay cool:** Light fires only in the marked fireplaces and use the firewood provided. Please don't collect firewood from the bush, as it is important habitat for native animals. Fires are not allowed on days of high or extreme fire danger. Check restrictions before lighting fires.

## Protect plants and animals:

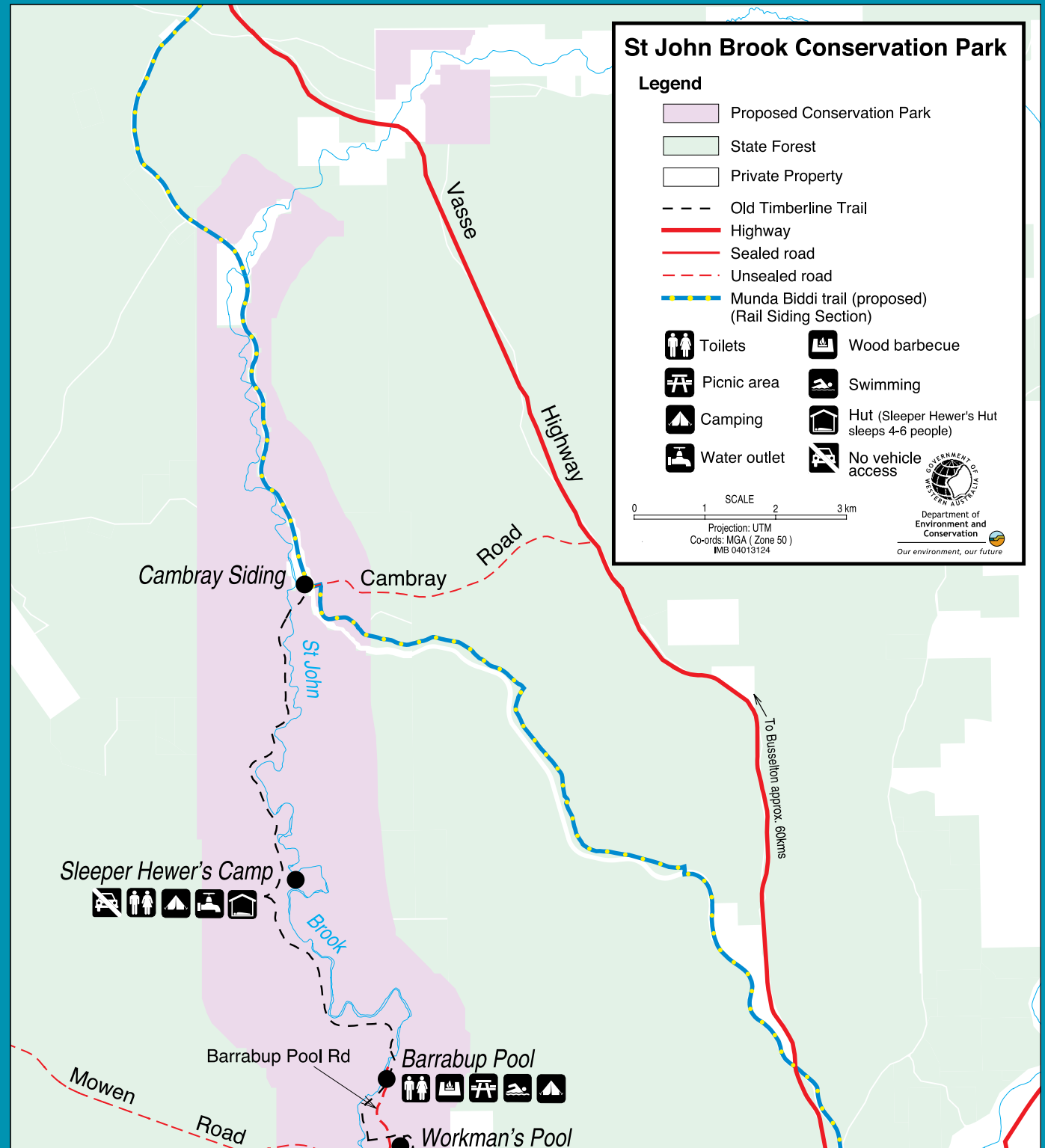
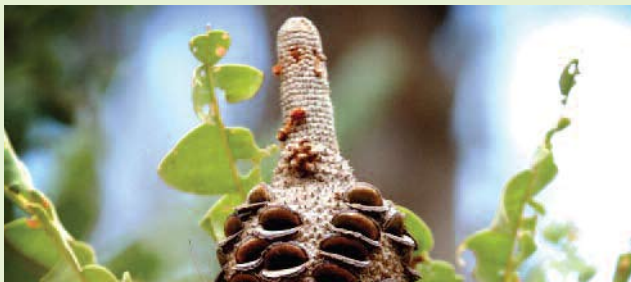
Please don't bring firearms or pets to the park. All plants and animals here are protected.

Please don't feed the wildlife. Feeding wild animals can make them sick, dependent and vulnerable to predation and people.

Protect fish stocks by adhering to your bag and size limits. All fishing requires a Freshwater Angling Licence, available from Department of Fisheries offices and Australia Post outlets.

**Stay on the road:** Please keep all motorised vehicles to the roads.

**Play safe:** Take care when swimming. Rocks and logs may be submerged in the water so please don't dive, jump or swing into pools. Surfaces can be slippery when wet so please supervise children at all times.





*Bull banksia.*

## Things to do

**Walking/cycling:** The Old Timberline Trail is a 20 kilometre walk and cycle trail following a disused railway line between Nannup and Cambray Siding. The trail passes both Barrabup and Workman's pools and meanders through jarrah forest.

In Nannup you can walk the Blackwood River foreshore trail to find out more about the mighty Blackwood River and the many plants and animals it supports. This trail starts from the Nannup Visitor Centre.

The Kondil Wildflower walk is another enjoyable short walk near Nannup. The walk is two kilometres and should take about one hour. Pick up a brochure from the Nannup Visitor Centre or the Department of Environment and Conservation.

**Picnicking:** Picnic tables and toilets are located at Barrabup Pool and at Workman's Pool.

**Camping:** Vehicle-based camping is available at Workman's Pool and Barrabup Pool. Walk-in camping is available at the Sleeper Hewer's camp, approximately three kilometres north of Barrabup Pool along the Old Timberline Trail. The camp has three tent sites and a hut that sleeps four to six people. Bring your own fuel stove. These camp sites are generator-free.

*Right: Barrabup Pool picnic area. Photo - Jeff Henderson.*

