

ENDANGERED FLORA

GAL-YUNG
STIRLING RANGE WATTLE
(ACACIA AWESTONIA)

This straggly shrub of the *Acacia* family has globular, golden flowers and grows up to 3m tall and 4m in diameter. This rare species is endemic and confined to the northern boundary of the Stirling Range National Park, 80km north of Albany. It had many uses in Aboriginal society; seeds were ground to make flour, while sap was used to produce edible gum as well as glue.



ENDANGERED FLORA

MUNGITCH OR BI-A-RA
GRANITE BANKSIA
(*BANKSIA VERTICILLATA*)

The rare and endangered granite or Albany banksia belongs to the *Proteaceae* family. It is native to south-west WA and grows up to 5m. This species has elliptic green leaves and large, bright golden yellow flower spikes which appear in summer and autumn. The New Holland honeyeater is the plant's most prominent pollinator. Noongars soaked banksia flowers in water to make a sweet drink.



ENDANGERED FLORA

(No noongar name known)

ALBANY PITCHER PLANT

(*CEPHALOTUS FOLLICULARIS*)

As its name suggests, this plant is only found in and around Albany and is the only member of the *Cephalotus* genus with no close relatives in the plant kingdom. The plant produces pitchers 2–5cm long used to attract crawling insects that once captured, are unable to crawl out of the cleverly designed pods. These insect eating traps are produced from spring to autumn, while in winter the plant produces small flat green leaves. Flowers are produced on tall branching stems bearing small white flowers over the summer months.



ENDANGERED FLORA

YONGA MAAR
LITTLE KANGAROO PAW
(ANIGOZANTHOS BICOLOR)

This small rhizomatous herb has flattened leaves 5–10cm long with a solitary flower held on a scape (leafless stalk), 5–20cm tall. The flowers have a green perianth (outer section) and are 30–45mm long with a red ovary. The perianth is strongly constricted above the middle and is around 3–5mm wide at the narrowest point. The plant's root tubers were an important part of the Noongar diet, making it probable Aboriginals harvested them in large quantities.



ENDANGERED FLORA

KAHTA-NINDA-YOOTAH

SPIDER ORCHID

(*CALADENIA CHRISTINEAE*)

Also known as Christine's spider orchid, this plant has small creamy-white odourless flowers with short labellum fringes and stiffly-held short sepals and petals. Flowering between September and October, each plant produces up to four flowers 6–8cm across and grows up to 40cm tall. This orchid is known to have 28 populations between Yornup and Mount Barker in south-west WA. Aboriginal people harvested the plant for its root tubers which they cooked or ate raw.



ENDANGERED FLORA

BERRUNG

MAXWELL'S GREVILLEA

(*GREVILLEA MAXWELLII*)

This critically endangered shrub is endemic to south-west WA and grows up to 1.2m tall. Its flowers have a pink/orange or pink/red perianth (outer) and pink/red style which appear from May to November. This species is known from a few small populations on private land near Pallinup. Its Noongar name is *berrung* and its nectar was used by Aboriginals as a sweetener. The nectar from grevilleas can be sucked directly from the flowers or soaked in water to produce a sweet drink.



ENDANGERED FLORA

MARLICK
BURDETT'S MALLEE
(EUCALYPTUS BURDETTIANA)

This multi-stemmed eucalypt has smooth dark grey over dark orange bark and grows up to 4m tall. Adult leaves are glossy green to blue-green, 6–9cm long and 1–1.7cm wide with a dense fine vein network and numerous small oil glands. Buds are 4–5cm long and 0.7–1cm wide. Noongars used eucalypt wood to make *doarks* (sticks for knocking the tops off grass trees), *kitjs* (spears), *wannas* (digging sticks) and *didgeridoos*. Suitable branches were turned into spear throwers, while the tree's leaf oil was used for medicinal purposes.



ENDANGERED FLORA

MOORT OR MARLOCK RED FLOWERED MOORT (*EUCALYPTUS NUTANS*)

This eucalypt species was rediscovered in recent times, after having its name incorrectly applied to a type of mallet tree for 130 years. It was first collected from near Bremer Bay by Albany botanist George Maxwell in 1862.

Although relatively common in cultivation, it is rare in nature due to it being non-lignotuberous and therefore highly vulnerable to fire.

Noongars knew these small, spreading round-leaved trees collectively as *moort*, although in recent years, the Noongar word *marlock* has been applied to this group of eucalypts.



ENDANGERED FLORA

KARA

PINK SPIDER ORCHID

(*CALADENIA HARRINGTONIAE*)

This variety of orchid grows up to 40cm tall with leaves 15–25cm long. Each plant has up to three flowers 7–10cm long and 5–7cm across with narrow, short, stiffly held petals and predominately pink sepals with white edges. Several early explorers and colonists noted orchid root tubers were highly sought after by Noongars who roasted or baked them in hot ashes or pounded them into a paste to make cakes.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

NO NOONGAR NAME KNOWN

MAROON-FLOWERED DAVIESIA **(*DAVIESIA GLOSSESEMA*)**

This critically-endangered plant is known from just five populations within the Stirling Range National Park. Of a total population of around 6,000 plants, it has been estimated 3,000 of these are mature individuals (DPaW, 2005). Evidence suggests the species has always had a restricted distribution, but was considerably more abundant within its current range prior to the impact of *Phytophthora dieback*, which is causing the plant's survival to be precarious.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

DIBBLER

DIBBLER

(*PARANTECHINUS APICALIS*)

The dibbler is an endangered nocturnal marsupial which was believed to have been extinct for 80 years until it was rediscovered in 1967 at Cheynes Beach, 65km east of Albany.

On average dibblers measure 245mm long, with the tail accounting for one third of its size. Its back is covered with deep brown fur which fades into a rich creamy colour on the underbelly, while a white ring of fur surrounds its eyes.

The dibbler is a carnivore with extraordinarily strong jaws and enjoys eating dunnarts, small birds, lizards, mice and insects. Green plants and nectar are also eaten in small quantities. Dibblers find most of their food on the ground but are capable of jumping when necessary to catch prey.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

CHUDITCH WESTERN QUOLL (*DASYURUS GEOFFROII*)

This solitary nocturnal predator has a rufous brown and white spotted coat, averages 60cm from nose to tail and weighs up to 2kg. It feeds on small vertebrates, carrion, arthropods and freshwater crayfish and breeds from April to July. This marsupial differs from its eastern cousin by possessing a first toe on its hind foot and a darker tail. This dasyuromorphia (hairy tail) species is classified near-threatened, with less than 10,000 individuals thought to exist in south-west WA.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

MAMONG

SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE

(*EUBALAENA AUSTRALIS*)

This baleen whale is one of three species belonging to the genus *Eubalaena* and is distinguished from other right whales through the callosities on its head, a broad back without a dorsal fin and a long arching mouth which begins above the eyes. It has dark grey or black skin with occasional white patches on the belly. When Noongars discovered a beached whale they would send message sticks to alert close-by tribes that meat was available and invite them to join in the feast.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

NGILKAT

GILBERT'S POTOROO

(POTOROUS GILBERTII)

This small, critically endangered marsupial is teetering on the brink of extinction with just 30–40 animals known to exist in the wild. This limited population makes Gilbert's potoroo the world's rarest marsupial and Australia's rarest mammal. It is only found in one place on Earth, in dense scrub on a rugged windswept headland at Two Peoples Bay near Albany. This small rat-kangaroo was thought to have become extinct during the 1870s but was rediscovered in 1994.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

NGWAYIR

WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM

(*PSEUDOCHEIRUS
PEREGRINUS OCCIDENTALIS*)

This possum species is confined to south-west WA. Its habitat has been reduced to patches of mainly eucalypt forest between Two Peoples Bay and the Collie River, with the most inland population at Perup. The species favours coastal peppermint tree forest, but its known range includes gardens in Albany and Busselton. The western ringtail lives in trees but moves through understorey or open ground to feed or gain shelter, making it vulnerable to feral predators such as cats and foxes.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

QUOGGA

QUOKKA

(*SETONIX BRACHYURUS*)

This small marsupial is similar in appearance to a wallaby or kangaroo, with distinctive short brown coarse hair and lighter underparts. It has strongly developed hind legs enabling it to hop, as well as climb trees up to 1.5m – an unusual behaviour for marsupials. It lives in environments almost totally devoid of freshwater due to feeding and digestive adaptations. The only member of the genus *Setonix*, this small macropod is herbivorous and mainly nocturnal. In south-west WA, small colonies exist at Bald Island and Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

JEEMULUK NOISY SCRUB-BIRD (*ATRICHORNIS CLAMOSUS*)

Between 1961, when it was rediscovered and 1976, the rare noisy scrub-bird was largely confined to a population of around 100 individuals in the Mt Gardner area of the Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve, 40km east of Albany. Translocations to Waychinicup National Park, Bald Island and Porongurup National Park, have caused its numbers to slowly increase. However, it remains under serious threat from feral animals as its natural habitat in temperate shrubland makes it easy prey for foxes and cats.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

KENNGOOR

RED-TAILED PHASCOGALE

(*PHASCOGALE CALURA*)

The red-tailed phascogale is one of only two members of the *Phascogale* genus; its scientific name means 'beautiful-tailed pouched-weasel'. Males rarely live past 11.5 months and die following their first mating due to stress-related diseases. Females generally live up to three years old. The phascogale does not drink, as it metabolises water through its food. Its population is restricted to remnant vegetation throughout the Wheatbelt region in south-west WA .



ENDANGERED FAUNA

BARDANITCH AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN (*BOTAURUS POICILOPTILUS*)

The endangered Australasian bittern is a member of the heron family and lives in dense wetland reed beds, where its colouring allows it to blend in with the habitat, making it very difficult to observe. This species has a distinctive booming voice and can be heard more often than seen. It feeds on frogs, eels and freshwater crustaceans and builds its nest on the ground.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

NGOOLARK

CARNABY'S BLACK COCKATOO

(CALYPTORHYNCHUS LATIROSTRIS)

This endangered bird has white tail panels and white cheek patches and only lives in south-west WA. Large-scale clearing has fragmented much of its habitat, particularly mature eucalypts with suitable hollows for nesting. Carnaby's live for 40–50 years in the wild, but because the bird's community has declined by more than 50 per cent in the past 45 years, a large proportion of the remaining population is now too old to breed.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

KARRAK

FOREST RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO

(CALYPTORHYNCHUS BANKSII NASO)

Males are black with two vibrant red stripes in the tail, a full crest and black bill, while females are black with yellow spots and fringed feathers, light grey beak and yellow to red striped tail. This species only produces one young every second year making it difficult for its population to recuperate from habitat destruction. These birds are highly sought after as pets, with chicks and eggs illegally taken from nests. It is illegal to shoot or poach any species of black cockatoo.



ENDANGERED FAUNA

GNOW

MALLEEFOWL

(*LEIPOA OCELLATA*)

These shy ground-dwelling birds are about the size of a domestic chicken and only fly to escape danger or reach a tree to roost in. Although very active, they are seldom seen, as they freeze if disturbed, relying on their intricately patterned plumage to render them invisible. The birds are renowned for building large nesting mounds which can last for generations. Noongars often went in search of these nests, regularly eating malleefowl eggs. However they conserved the bird's population by ensuring one or two eggs were always left in the nest.



BORONGAR TOTEMS

Totems are Noongar family symbols derived from the fauna, flora and physical features of the Country on which are particular tribe or group lived and clearly identify to which family a person belonged. Traditionally, each new born group or tribe member inherited a totem from either their matrilineal or patrilineal family side.

Totems have been a part of traditional Noongar life since the Dreaming. A person's totem never changes and remains with them for life. Noongar's continue to pass on their totems from generation to generation, maintaining their connection to Country or *boodja*, the Dreaming and their ancestors.

Noongar totems include:

raven/crow – wardong

magpie – coolbardie

wedge-tail eagle – warlitch

black swan – marlee

pelican – booladarling

wagtail – djitidjiti

twenty-eight parrot – darlmoorluk

Carnaby's black cockatoo – ngoorlak

BORUNG-GURUP PORONGURUP

The Porongurup Range in south-west WA, is the home or great shrine of Noongar totem spirits and occupies a special place in tribal legends and stories.

It is sacred for all time and is left untrodden by all Noongar people whose hunting lands and totem waters lay around and about its rugged base.

Totemism was a Noongar system that believed every animal and plant was a totem or older brother belonging to a group or individual. Therefore every life and death circumstance was associated with the totem.

All totems were the *borung-gur* (elder brothers) of their human totemists and *borung-gurup* was the name given to the rocks and hills where the totem spirits lived.

Mulgur-guttuk (sorcerers) sometimes watched the totem spirits flitting in and out of their home, but even they dared not enter *borung-gurup* or converse with the spirits.

When Noongars walked softly past *borung-gurup*, they laid down their spears and placed their *dowak* (clubs) into hair belts.

When totem foods sources such as emu, kangaroo, wallaby or possum were seen to take refuge at *borung-gurup* during a hunt, Noongars left them untouched as the animals had taken sanctuary in their spirit home.

Story: Noongar Elder, Treasy Woods

BUSH TUCKER

MANNA

MANNA WATTLE

(*ACACIA MICROBOTYRA BENTH*)

Manna tree gum is prolific during the drier Noongar seasons of *birak* and *bunuru*. It was a staple food source for Noongars who would store it or eat it fresh from the tree. Wattle seeds were an important part of Aboriginal diets across Australia, with more than 30 species utilised. The nutritious seeds are very high in protein and while some were eaten raw, they were usually ground into flour or paste to make cakes.



BUSH TUCKER

WOLGIL
QUANDONG
(SANTALUM ACUMINATUM)

The quandong tree is a member of the sandalwood family and a hemiparasitic plant, obtaining much of its water and food requirements from the roots of host plants. The tree's round succulent fruit are one of the best known Australian bush foods and are high in vitamin C. Quandongs were highly prized by Noongars for their medicinal properties. Tree roots were ground down and used as an infusion for treating rheumatism, while leaves were crushed and mixed with saliva to produce an ointment for skin sores and boils.



BUSH TUCKER

KONDIL

SHEOAK

(*ALLOCASUARINA FRASERIANA*)

The sheoak is a member of the *Casuarinaceae* family and endemic to south-west WA; from Jurien Bay to Albany. Noongars chewed the trees young cones to promote saliva when travelling long distances through hot dry landscapes and utilised its soft branch needles for bedding. The liquid produced from soaking the inner bark and sapwood in water was gargled for toothaches. Tree trunks were thrown into freshwater sources to attract grubs which were harvested then cooked or eaten raw.



BUSH TUCKER

MOODJAR
CHRISTMAS TREE
(*NUYTSIA FLORIBUNDA*)

Nuytsia floribunda displays vivid orange flowers towards the end of the year and because of this it's known colloquially as the Christmas tree. Trees in bloom were a sign to Noongars that the warmer *kambarang* season was on its way and wallabies were fat and in season. The suckers attached to the tree's roots provided a good food source, while the bark was stripped for making items such as canoes. During this process, Noongar families would gather and harvest the sweet gum oozing from the wounded tree.



BUSH TUCKER

CUMMOCK

NATIVE BLUEBELL

(*BILLARDIERA FUSIFORMIS*)

Aboriginals used the vine of this climbing twiner to make rope. It has distinctive blue flowers which bloom between October and February. Its mature berries provide a good source of vitamin C which Noongars harvested once they had turned transparent pink. The berries are still used today to make jam.



BUSH TUCKER

BIARA
SLENDER BANKSIA
(*BANKSIA ATTENUATA*)

Also known as the candlestick banksia, this member of the *Proteaceae* family can grow up to 10m tall as a tree, but is more commonly seen as a shrub growing in drier areas. It has long narrow serrated leaves and bright yellow flower spikes which rise above the foliage in spring and summer. Noongars soaked the flower spikes in water-filled holes lined with paperbark and used the liquid as a drink.



BUSH TUCKER

CHEYUCK
NATIVE CHERRY
(EXOCARPUS SPARTEUS)

Also known as the 'broom ballart', this drooping, almost leafless shrub is distributed across Australia and grows to 4m tall. When in bloom, it displays tiny white flowers. Its red, egg-shaped fruit was a staple food source for Noongars.



BUSH TUCKER

DJIRRIDJ
ZAMIA PALM
(*MACROZAMIA RIEDLEI*)

Endemic to south-west WA, this member of the *Zamiaceae* family grows in jarrah forests and iron and aluminium rich soils. Over summer the plant produces a pineapple-like fruit that by autumn has metamorphosed into clusters of large, highly toxic seeds. Noongars incorporated a series of complicated processing methods to make these edible. This included burying them for days before crushing and soaking them in water for weeks prior to cooking. Some believe processing the seeds does not remove all the poison and should not be eaten at all.



BUSH TUCKER

MEEN
BLOODROOT
(HAEMODORUM SOICATUM)

A relative of the kangaroo paw, this herbaceous plant produces a distinctive black flower spike from an edible fleshy bulb. Its common name derives from the bright red juice which secretes from its underground stems when cut. The chemicals which cause this are found nowhere else in the plant kingdom. Noongars usually blended its seed and/or bulb with other ingredients and baked it prior to consumption. It has a hot spicy character like chilli or wasabi.



BUSH TUCKER

YOULK
RAVENSTHORPE RADISH
(*PLATYSACE DEFLEXA*)

This native shrub produces firm, yellow fleshy tubers with a sweet, pleasant taste and is related to carrots, parsnips, parsley, dill and coriander. It was a staple Noongar food and can be found from Jerramungup to Esperance and Lake King. It is still consumed today and can be eaten raw, with or without the skin, fried in oil or whole-baked.



COMMON NATIVE FAUNA

YONGA

WESTERN GREY KANGAROO

(*MACROPUS FULIGINOSUS*)

Although this large and very common macropod is found across most of southern Australia, its common name derives from *gangurru*, a word belonging to the far north Queensland *Guugu Yimidhirr* tribe. The Noongar name for this animal is *yonga* and it was a staple part of their diet. Fire was used to herd the animals into open areas where they were easily speared. Clothing and bedding was made from *yonga* skins, while their bones were used for toolmaking.



WEITJ

EMU

(*DROMAIUS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE*)

Noongars hunted fatty red meat animals such as the emu during the rainy *makuru* and *djilba* seasons. These large birds were cooked in bush ovens heated by hot rocks and the fat used for medicinal purposes. *Weitj* feature heavily in Noongar culture, appearing in Dreamtime stories which were interpreted through dance by men morphing into the creature. During these dances, *didgeridoo* players accompanied performances with deep rumbling sounds and high pitched squawks.



DJIDI-DJIDI
WILLY WAGTAIL
(*RHIPIDURA LEUCOPHRYS*)

The Noongar name *djidi-djidi* (pronounced chitty-chitty) mimics the sound of this bird's trademark chatter. The highly active wagtail was said to be a gossip and was driven away from important tribal meetings. Children were told not to chase wagtails because they would be led into the bush and lost forever. A Noongar Dreaming story depicts the wagtail as a great hunter who was robbed of his catch by the crow and the dingo. The wagtail never forgot this crime which is why it still angrily attacks crows and dogs.



COMMON NATIVE FAUNA

MAALI

BLACK SWAN

(*CYGNUS ATRATUS*)

A Noongar Dreaming story claims these birds were once white with grey beaks until they boasted about their beauty to a group of wedge-tailed eagles. The eagles punished them by pulling out their feathers and leaving them to die in the desert. Crows found the swans and took pity, covering them with their own black feathers so the eagles could no longer recognise and attack them. The *maali* still has a few white feathers at its wing tips in memory of its former appearance, while its beak is stained red from the eagles' bloody attack.



KOOMAL
BRUSH-TAILED POSSUM
(*TRICHOSURUS VULPECULAR*)

For thousands of years Noongars hunted the *koomal* for food and used its skins for making bags and clothing. They created a rope-like girdle called a *nuibarn* made from possum hair, which was wound around the waist to carry weapons. After settlement, Noongars continued to hunt *koomal* and sold its skin to Europeans who made clothing from it.



COMMON NATIVE FAUNA

DJAKAL-NGAKAL GALAH (*EOLOPHUS ROSEICAPILLUS*)

Once, the galah only lived far inland, more than 500km to the north-east of Perth. However, its population boomed between 1930 and 1960, due to large-scale land clearing and began to colonise south-west WA in a rapid, widespread expansion. This was a result of the large increase in its main food of grass seeds, including wheat and the supply of permanent water on farms.



NOORN
TIGER SNAKE
(*NOTECHIS SCUTATUS*)

These venomous snakes are highly variable in colour, but most varieties have orange or yellow banding. Noongars would often camp near sheoak trees as their fallen branch needles acted as a snake deterrent. *Noorn* meat would be consumed by Noongars in the season after the snakes had given birth to their young. However, if a dead tiger snake was offered as food by a stranger, it would be refused, as there was a chance the reptile could have bitten and poisoned itself.



COMMON NATIVE FAUNA

KARDA

RACEHORSE GOANNA (*VARANUS ROSENBERGII*)

As well as racehorse goanna, these monitor lizards are known by many common names including the sand monitor and Rosenberg's goanna. They are one of 25 known goanna species native to Australia. The *karda* was regular food for Noongars who built large stone lizard traps to catch them for meat. They also applied their fat to skin sores and mixed it with other ingredients to make a cream for deep tissue massage.



YOORN
BLUE-TONGUED SKINK
(TILIQUA RUGOSA)

Commonly known as the bobtail, this short-tailed, slow moving species of blue-tongued skink is one of three of the four recognised sub-species found only in WA. It occurs in a variety of dry habitats including suburban gardens and paddocks throughout south-west WA. Primarily diurnal, the bobtail's natural defensive behaviour is to open its mouth, hiss and extend its blue tongue when approached. Noongars considered it a delicacy and cooked it on hot rocks.



DWERT
DINGO
(*CANIS LUPUS DINGO*)

The free-ranging dingo is believed to be descended from semi-domesticated east or south Asian dogs which returned to a wild lifestyle after they were introduced to Australia. As such, it is currently classified as a sub-species of the grey wolf *Canis lupus*. Some Noongars wore *adurda-dyer*, the skin of a dingo tail, on the upper part of their forehead as an ornament. They were also known to keep dingos as pets and train them to hunt kangaroos.



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The primary source for the Noongar words used in this guide was the book *A Nyoongar Wordlist*, compiled by Peter Bindon and Ross Chadwick, 2011 WA Museum.



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