

Things to see...

Unique Wildflowers

Northcliffe is surrounded by magnificent virgin Karri Forests. In the spring the unique and diverse native wild flowers are a visitor's delight.

The multitude of colours exhibited range right across the spectrum of nature's unlimited vision. The blue native Wisteria and White Clematis contrast with the ground covering Red Coral Vine. Purple Hovea, Crowea and Karri Hazel also integrate in this mosaic of striking colours.

Many orchids that grow in the area are found no where else in the world.





Northcliffe George Gardner Rock and Fossil Collection



Australia is the world's oldest and most isolated continent and some of the planet's oldest fossils occur here. At about 3000 million years we find the starting point for new forms of life. The first plants grew and over the next millions of years animals swarmed in the sea and eventually became sponges, jellyfish, worms and coral. Later there were lobster-like trilobites and later still the first forests and ferns started to grow. Imagine a leaf falling into a lake or the sea. It drifts to the bottom where layers of silt settle and eventually the leaf becomes a fossil.

All of these fossils are on display in the Northcliffe George Gardner Rock and Fossil Collection. For sixty years Mr Gardner demonstrated his passionate interest in the ecology of the district. He recorded every wildflower in the region while collecting rocks from across Australia and from overseas.

Mr Gardner was awarded the Order of Australia for his contribution to the environment and was presented with the Freedom of the Shire of Manjimup.

The Northcliffe Collection displays 1300 items and in addition to those already mentioned there are fossilized snails, volcanic ash and thunder eggs, the elephant beetle, a stalactite from Windy Harbour, crystals and gemstones including moonstone.

The George Gardner Collection is housed at the Northcliffe Pioneer Museum, which is open seven days a week between 10am and 3pm. You are most welcome to call in and see this remarkable exhibition.



Southern Forest Sculpture Walk

Australia's leading art in nature experience

Be inspired by nature and rediscover the joy of creation along our 1.2km trail through pristine forest. As you walk, open your heart and let your imagination be your guide

Journey into the spirit of Northcliffe – it's environment, it's history, it's future and it's people. See the world from a fresh perspective – discover how one place (any place) can evoke infinite creative possibilities.

More than just another sculpture park – this nationally unique and multi award-winning attraction offers a full sensory experience through a rich tapestry of poetry, stories, music and sculptures responding directly to the sights, sounds, smells and stories of this special place.

Created by over 50 nationally and internationally renowned artists, writers and musicians the artworks encourage reflection upon our personal and collective connections to nature.

Developed by a group of local artists and arts-lovers with a passion for the environment the Sculpture Walk offers a meaningful exchange between those who live in a place and those who visit.

The attraction is managed by a not for profit community cultural organisation, Southern Forest Arts. All proceeds are re-invested in the ongoing development of the project and the Northcliffe community.

Let our place inspire you...as it inspires us.



Peter Hill 'Pathways'



Nat Williamson 'Sundew'



Lorena Grant 'Whole, You Were Meant To be Here'



Francois Davin with 'Feeding'

Places to visit...

D'Entrecasteaux National Park

Northcliffe is the gateway to D'Entrecasteaux National Park and Windy Harbour.

D'Entrecasteaux National Park is a scenic wonderland of long remote sandy beaches, spectacular rugged cliffs and magnificent Karri forests and stretches 130kms along the coast between Augusta and Walpole. It was named after French Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteaux who first sighted Point D'Entrecasteaux in 1792. A unique feature of the National Park is the Yeagerup Dunes, a mobile sand dune system that stretches for 10 kilometers.

There are areas of lime stone and basalt cliffs interspersed with large areas of coastal sand dunes. The road to Windy Harbour takes you past Mt Chudalup, a granite monolith which rises above the surrounding Karri forests and coastal heath land.

Note: Passes are required for entry into all National Parks, these are available at the Northcliffe Visitor Centre.



Things to do...

Walking Trails



Bibbulmun Track

The Bibbulmun track realignment was completed in 1998 and stretches 963km from Kalamunda in the north to Albany in the south.

The track can provide walkers with anything from a one hour walk to an eight week walk going end to end. For those on extended holidays there are 5 huts within reasonable walking distance from Northcliffe.

Schafer Hut is approximately 15km North of Northcliffe. This hut overlooks a magnificent dam. Northcliffe town is a half day walk from Schafer Hut.

Warren Hut is a further 20 km North of Schafer Hut in a beautiful stand of Karri above the Warren River.

Gardner Hut is on the banks of the Gardner River and is approximately 15 km South of Northcliffe.

Maringup Hut over looks the magnificent Lake Maringup. The only way to view this beautiful lake is to walk in on the Bibbulmun Track.

Dog Pool Hut is approximately 20km East of Maringup Hut on the banks of the Shannon River in the world class Shannon National Park.

Northcliffe to Walpole takes about six days of wilderness and six huts. The walk takes in a big variety of country, from Jarrah/Marri woodland to coastal heath, from Karri forest to swamp. Walkers invariably emerge from the 'wilderness' with a sense of achievement. As with any section of the track, there is always the chance of encountering wildlife and, for the observant, extraordinary flowers. In this wilderness section the chances are multiplied many times over.



1 Bardi Creek Trail 700 meters

The Bardi Creek Trail connects the Northcliffe Museum with the Acacia picnic spot.

This is a pleasant walk through country characteristic of the diverse ecosystems and forest types, in the Northcliffe Forest Park and the region.

The trail East of Bardi Creek is dominated by the shady crowns of a mixed Karri/Marri Forest. Check out the unusual burl on a large Marri near the Acacia picnic spot.

West of Bardi Creek the trail takes you through typical coastal swamp vegetation comprising many small Jarrah trees and thick Tea Tree scrub. In the summer, watch out for splashes of colour from the bright red Bottle Brush. In winter take care as you cross Bardi Creek.

2 Blackberry Pools

The forest surrounding the Blackberry Pools trails is a fine example of re-growth forest, selectively felled for its superb timber just 40 – 50 years ago.

While walking through the Karri re-growth forest, look for bird boxes that were part of a university study. Watch for Grey Fantails, Blue Wrens, Willy Wagtails, New Holland Honeyeaters and a variety of Finches.

Look for the remains of large tree stumps, some of these would have been felled by hand.

The curve on the stump is a result of being cut by a cross cut saw. Look closely and you may be able to see the initial blows from the axe.

In spring the wildflowers along this particular track are spectacular. Displaying creams, purples, yellows and reds, they are tangled together in a burst of colour.

On the trails you will notice the large amount of leaf litter and debris shed by the tall trees, particularly the Karri. This organic material decays on the forest floor, the breakdown often aided by fungi which are unique to the area.

2 Loops total 11kms. Loop A 1 to 1.5 hours (coexists with Bibbulmun Track be careful to follow the correct signs.) Loop B 2 to 3.5 hours



3 Cairn Rock Trail *an ecologically fragile area*

Winter/Spring 2.5 Km 1 hr Summer/Autumn 6 km 2hr – 3 hr loop

This bush track has Marri trees on either side. Apiarists call them Honey Trees because the honey – in taste, colour and texture – is considered by many to be superior to all else.

You will meet the Canterbury River, which downstream becomes the spectacular Lane Poole Falls in winter and spring. For several months there may be rapids and almost certainly submerged rocks which will be very slippery. Do not cross in winter and spring.

The forest canopy is ideal for bird watching, with small parrot species such as the Western Rosella. The ancient granite rock exposed by tectonic forces is over 570 million years old. Over the years weathering and erosion have reduced and shaped the rock into what you see today.

Please refrain from leaving the track as the area is ecologically fragile and even the smallest incursion could have a serious effect on rare and endangered flora.

4 Jane Forest Trail *11km 4 - 5 hour loop*

The Jane forest is a true old – growth forest. Individual trees may be up to 300 years old or more and the eco system of the forest has remained relatively unchanged for thousands of years.

There are more than 1500 species of flowering plants in this forest and 99 species are unique to the South West of Western Australia. Trees such as Banksia, Black Butt, Casuarina and Peppermint are common and the dense under storey contains everything from tiny orchids to large creeping vines. August to October you can see Snail Orchids growing on large fallen logs.



Western Australia's Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk



Visit the new **Wilderness Discovery Centre** FREE



**'The giant
meets the
giants'**

Aaron Sandilands, Fremantle
Dockers Football Club.
AFL's giant player at 211cm



OPEN 9am to 4.15pm • CLOSED Christmas Day and during hazardous conditions • EXTENDED HOURS 26 December to 26 January 8am to 5.15pm

Between Walpole and Denmark (off South Coast Highway) Tel 9840 8263
Fax 9840 8132 Email ttw@dec.wa.gov.au Visit www.dec.wa.gov.au



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future



Walpole Wilderness

5 Gardner River Adventure Trail *1km*

This trail starts at the Acacia picnic site and slowly descends through a dense understorey of Casuarinas and Acacias below a canopy of Karri and Marri trees to the Gardner River rest stop.

Note the Maiden Hair Fern, Lichens, Liverworts and Mosses thriving along the river banks. Follow the river for a short while and then climb away and across the big log bridge and up to the lightning tree rest stop. Look for the lightning burn scar running down the trunk of a huge Karri tree. Continue through thickets of Acacia (Karri Wattle) back to the Acacia picnic spot.

6 Lane Pool Falls and Boorara Tree

Lane Poole Falls is a steep waterfall nestled deep in the heart of the Karri forest.

Allow 1 ½ hours for this 5km return walk. A moderate level of fitness is required. The trail is slippery when wet. Handrails assist you along the steep final 200 m descent to the river viewing platform.

Be there in winter/spring to experience the spectacular Canterbury River as it cascades over 12meters of polished granite.

Look for interesting and fascinating fungi. Fungi obtain their nutrients from plants, both dead and alive. Many fungi are edible, but some are deadly.

The walk in spring is renowned for its fascinating and spectacular wildflowers and orchids. The white flowering Old Man's Beard, the Coral Vine and Piercing Blue Wisteria intertwine with each other in a riot of Van Gough colour.

The majestic Karri, a precious natural treasure measures up to 90m in height with a 7.3 m circumference. It is one of the three tallest hardwood trees in the world. The trunk seasonally changes colour to orange, yellow and cream when bark is shed.

Boorara Tree. There used to be 13 freespotters trees in the region. Now there are 4. Three you can climb (Diamond, Gloucester and Bicentennial).

The Boorara Tree is unsafe to climb but as it is at the beginning of the walking trail down to Lane Poole Falls it is worth a visit.



7 **Marri Meander** *3.5 km*

Starting from the Hollow Butt car park, this walk meanders through an impressive stand of mature Karri trees protruding from a dense understorey of Karri Hazel and Karri Wattle, Crowea, Hovea and Leucopogon.

Slowly the forest changes to become predominantly Marri with a more open understorey. The gum stained Rough Barked Marri is considered the forest nursery tree due to the dense annual fruiting of nuts and flowers and the many hollows that develop in older trees. Thus the Marri provides shelter and food for a wide variety of fauna. Take a break at the big Jarrah. Trees such as this were much sort after by the sleeper cutters of bygone days but sadly are now a rarity. Follow the trail through a mixture of forest types back to the Hollow Butt car park. Keep an eye out for the mighty Marri.

Remembrance Trail

When the town site of Northcliffe was surveyed in 1923, the forest was included and was to be divided into building blocks.

The land was never utilized for this purpose but could not be officially logged due to zoning regulations. As a result the area remains a relatively untouched example of old-growth forest. Unlike nearby Forest Park, this walk is not fed by river or stream resulting in soils that are sandy and acidic due to leaching of nutrients. Growth of smaller species of plants and ferns is encouraged, some of which are unique to the South west region. The remembrance trail gives us the opportunity to see some of the diversity of forest types which occur around Northcliffe.

Shannon National Park

Walk trails in the Shannon National Park include the:

Great Forest Tree walk *4 km one way.*

Shannon Dam Walk *3.5 km return along the river to the Shannon Dam.*

There is also a 5.5 km circuit walk via the magnificent views of Morkare's Rock.



D'Entrecasteaux Cliff Top Walk

The Cliff Top Walk at Point D'Entrecasteaux starts at the Windy Harbour Settlement and winds its way up onto the lime stone cliffs 70 to 80 meters above the ocean, offering stunning views and finishing up at Tookalup Point.

Mt Chudalup

Mt. Chudalup is a huge granite rock in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park, south of Northcliffe. The 1.5 km steep walk trail leads you through coastal Karri Forest and over moss and lichen covered rock to the summit.

The view from the top rewards the visitor with a spectacular panorama of the surrounding park and coast line. In spring many wildflowers and orchids can be found on the track up and also on the summit. The park is a bird watchers paradise. BBQ/Picnic facilities are provided in the car park. Toilets are also provided.

8 **Twin Karri Loop** *400 Meters. Suitable for wheelchairs*

The twin Karri trail is a delightful stroll through a pure Karri Forest which is alive with birds.

Beginning at the incredible Twin Karri, this trail takes you past some enormous trees that tower over the forest floor thick with bushes, vines and creepers. In the spring months the red and orange Karri Flame Pea and the White Clematis put on a brilliant display. The thick understorey here provides a hidden home to many forest animals. This wide, level trail enables the less active to experience mature Karri trees in a natural forest environment.



Fishing

Best place in WA south of Perth. There are Trout in the **Gardner** and **Warren Rivers**.
For Licence and Bag Limits go to Department of Fisheries web site www.fish.wa.gov.au

At **D'Entrecasteaux National Park**, Windy Harbour, there's fishing from the cliffs, beach or boat. Fishing from the cliffs you can catch Reef Fish, Groper, Shark, Herring and Banded Sweep. Boat fishing you can catch Dhufish, Snapper, Groper, Shark, Queen Snapper, Samon fish, Squid, Harlequine fish, Skippy, Herring and King George Whiting.

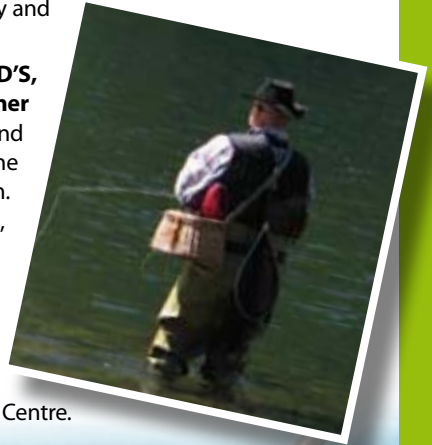
Beach fishing at Salmon Beach. There's 2WD access to Salmon Beach, which is a popular fishing spot. Salmon run from April to June. Herring, Skippy, Sand Whiting, Silver Bream, Tailor, Flat Head, Gummy Shark, Skippy and Mulloway also occur here.

There are wild beaches for people with 4 WD'S, beach fishing at **Fish Creek** and trout in the **Gardner River**. You can camp at the historic Moore's Hut and at the privately owned Fish Creek Hut (only if the owners are not there) with many places inbetween. Skippy, Groper, Wrasse, King George Whiting, Shark and reef fish can be caught.

All of the above can also be caught at **Broke Inlet** and the **Gardner River Mouth**. You can also catch marron, the world's premier freshwater crayfish.

(only during Marron season).

For more information call into the Northcliffe Visitor Centre.



Whale Watching

Whales are steeped in myth and mystery, they are intelligent, sensitive mammals.

D'Entrecasteaux features rugged limestone cliffs and extensive views of the coast and islands. It is a prime spot for watching whales. Midday, when the sun is directly overhead, is the best time to observe whales from the land.

The Humpback exhales through two blowholes in the top of its head. This exhalation is expelled so rapidly it forms a distinctive cloud.

Whales range in size, the world's largest weighing between 80 and 130 tonnes. Although huge, whales are agile and active.



Things not to miss...

The Karri Cup Challenge



The Karri Cup Challenge is Western Australia's largest Mountain Bike event. Held on the March long weekend each year the challenge starts and finishes in the pristine town of Northcliffe, with the 100km course winding you through the surrounding majestic forests of the south west.

With over 400 participants in 2008, numbers are increasing each year. The event has a strong non-competitive, social focus with many participants returning year after year, bringing more friends and families along to appreciate the wonders of Northcliffe and its surrounding Karri forests.

The weekend kicks off on Saturday with the Karri Kids event held in the heart of Northcliffe. 100+ kids under 14 participate in age group races, where racing through a specially prepared 'water pit', features high on the 'to do list'. Following the kids event is the first stage in the main event for those interested in category placings.

'Solo Open' competitors are racing to win the coveted wood carved Karri Cup, presented to the solo male and female winners. A full support crew will provide assistance with mechanical, medical, food, water or whatever else may be necessary to ensure you, the rider, are looked after to the highest standard. The event caters for the professional mountain biker through to leisure riders or why not get a team together to share the distance. With plenty of prizes and a great fun family event this is a unique experience not to be missed.

The community of Northcliffe gladly welcomes all visitors with their warm hospitality, great food, lively chats and friendly atmosphere.

For full and current details, please visit our website www.karricup.com.au where you will find all the information you need, right down to the smallest detail.





Things adventurous...

Four Wheel Drive Tracks

Northcliffe is a wonderful place to base yourself if you plan to go into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park to do some four wheel driving and fishing. You need to plan well for these trips and make sure you get a "GOING TO THE COAST" Brochure from the DEC office in Pemberton or at the Northcliffe Visitor Centre.

Essential Four Wheel Drive Equipment includes a shovel, a tyre gauge, a portable tyre pump or compressor, a tow rope or a chain, a first- aid kit and a mobile phone.

It is a good idea to let someone know where you are going and when you should be expected back.

If you have no previous four wheel driving experience it is a good idea to go in a convoy first up.

Some of the trails to the beach that make a great day trip from Northcliffe include:

Yeagerup Beach off the Vasse Highway. The track goes in past Lake Yeagerup and goes through some of the most spectacular dunes in the area. Yeagerup is a long white sandy beach and is well known for its great fishing.

Warren Beach. Head west of Northcliffe on Richardson Road and follow the signs. The track is a good four wheel drive track past some farmland before coming to the dunes. This is a good day trip if you want to do a bit of fishing on the beautiful Warren Beach.

Malimup Beach. Head south towards Windy Harbour approx 10 kms then turn right on the Summertime Track. The track is usually closed during winter months due to inundations. Malimup is some 14 kms from the bitumen. It is a good track in through some beautiful Peppermint Groves. Malimup is another great spot for a fish. Especially March, April and May when the salmon are on the run.

Windy Harbour. Head south from Northcliffe to the popular holiday village of Windy Harbour. Windy is more popular for boat fishing. By heading east of Windy Harbour along the beach you can drive towards the mouth of the Gardner River. There is some excellent fishing along the way. The river mouth has some great camping spots with some amenities. When driving along the beach be wary of the tides.

Coodamurrup Beach. Drive east along Chesapeake Road to Moores Track and head south on the Moores track. This takes you into Coodamurrup or Fish Creek. This is all excellent 4 wheel drive country and the beaches are renowned for their fishing.

Most of the tracks are in the National Park so Park Passes apply.

In National Parks all drivers, vehicles and riders must be licenced for Public Roads.

Most of the tracks will have a sign advising you to lower your tyre pressure please take this advice.

Good planning ensures a memorable trip.

National Park passes are available at the Northcliffe Visitor Centre.

