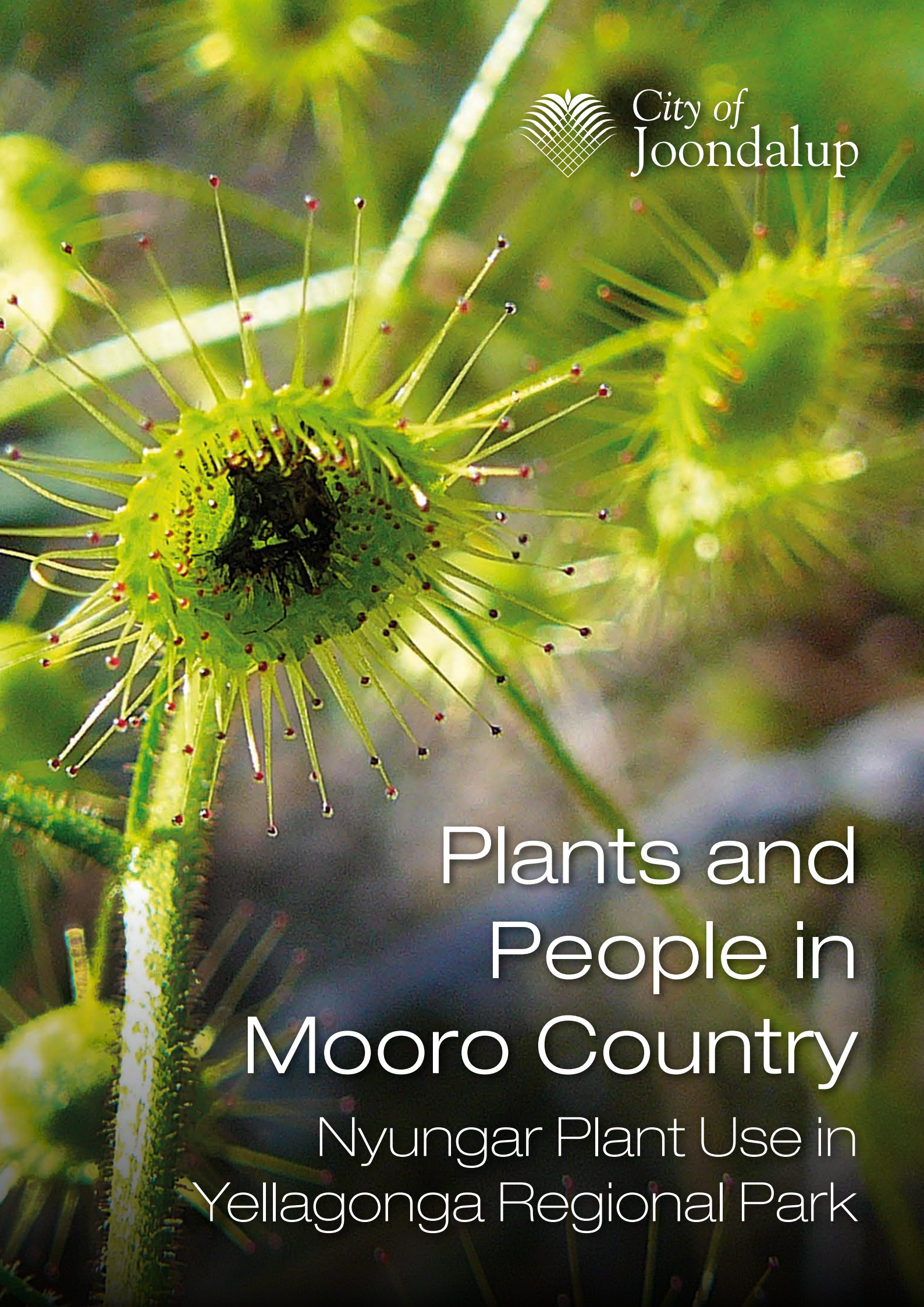

City of Joondalup

Plants and People in Mooro Country

Nyungar Plant Use in Yellagonga Regional Park

Plants and People in Mooro Country

Nyungar Plant Use in Yellagonga Regional Park

Acknowledgements

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Thank you also to the following people for their photographic contributions, Gary Tate, Lisa Pilkington, David Pike and Bill Betts.

Contents

A Note on Historical Accuracy and Nyungar Vocabulary

Information on Nyungar plant use has been garnered from personal communications, historical, botanical and anthropological research, early-colonial reports, and the diaries and journals of early colonisers. It is acknowledged that such references can be problematic and, where appropriate, sources have been referenced.

In constructing this publication, the researchers have attempted to use appropriate Nyungar names for plant species wherever possible. Due to dialectal differences and early inconsistencies, many species have several names and/or different spellings. A full list of Nyungar plant names and their sources has been included at Appendix 1.

The researchers have aimed to be as accurate as possible with regard to the use of plants by local Nyungar people. However, due to the nature of the records available, it is possible that details have been unintentionally misrepresented. A bibliographical Reference List has been provided at Appendix 3 and includes all sources examined in the development of this work.

This publication was produced as part of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Local Action for Biodiversity Project. For this project, the City of Joondalup has adopted the Local Action for Biodiversity 5-step Action Plan. Step 5 of this Project involves the implementation of local on-the-ground biodiversity demonstration projects. This publication, *Plants and People in Mooro Country: Nyungar Plant Use in Yellagonga Regional Park*, is one of these demonstration projects.

For more information on the contents of this publication please contact the City of Joondalup on (08) 9400 4000.

Lake Joondalup

Yellagonga Regional Park

A Changed Landscape

Yellagonga Regional Park is located on the Swan Coastal Plain within the Cities of Joondalup and Wanneroo. The Park contains a string of wetlands and swamps which form part of the 'Linear Lakes', an important north-south link with Neerabup National Park and Yanchep National Park. Included in Yellagonga Regional Park are Lake Joondalup[1], Beenyup[2] Swamp, Walluburnup[3] Swamp and Lake Goollelal[4].

Yellagonga Regional Park contains a diversity of eco-systems and represents flora and fauna communities that were once widespread on the Swan Coastal Plain. The Park's wetlands represent some of the last remaining freshwater systems in the Perth Metropolitan Area (DEC 2003). In addition to the abundant plant life, these wetlands provide an important breeding ground for local birds, reptiles and amphibians (DEC 2003). The largest lake in the Park, Lake Joondalup, is listed on the *Register of the National Estate* and is considered to be of national significance.

Aboriginal Settlement:

According to archaeological evidence, Nyungar[5] people were occupying the area around Yellagonga Regional Park for at least 40,000 years prior to European colonisation (Hallam 1989:145-147). The country surrounding the Yellagonga Regional Park area was called 'Mooro' and was frequented by several large family groups up until the early-1900s. The Regional Park itself is named after an important Nyungar elder of the early colonial period, Yellagonga[6]. Early colonist Robert Menli Lyon, believed that *"Mooro, the district of Yellowgonga…is bounded by the sea on the west; by Melville water and the Swan, on the south; by Ellen's brook, on the east; and, by the Gyngoorda, on the north."* (Lyon 1833:176). Prior to large-scale European settlement, it is likely that the vicinity which is now the Perth Central Business District was the focal area of Mooro Country, with Yellagonga Regional Park playing an integral role (Hallam & Tillbrook 1990:349).

1 'Joondalup' is a Nyungar word which may mean 'place of whiteness or glistening', 'place of a creature that can only move backwards' or 'place of the long, white hair'.
2 'Beenyup' is a Nyungar word which may mean 'digging place' or 'place of native yams'.
3 'Walluburnup' is a Nyungar word which may mean 'open space between two trees', 'place of fish and wallaby' or 'fish in lake'.
4 'Goollelal' is a Nyungar word which may mean 'swampy sheoak' or 'place for camp'.
5 Also written as 'Noongar', 'Nyoongar', 'Nyoongah' and 'Nyungah'.
6 Also written as 'Yellowgonga', 'Yalagonga', 'Yalagongga', 'Yalgonga', 'Yalgongga', 'Yalgoonga', 'Yallagonga', 'Yallowgonga', 'Yalyunga', 'Yelloganga', 'Yellogonga', 'Yellowgongo', 'Barragim', 'Drooreer', 'Naraganianda' and 'Ngalgonga' (Hallam & Tillbrook 1990:348-354).

Lake Joondalup

A census recorded by colonist Francis Armstrong in 1837[7] showed there to be 28 Mooro Nyungars (Armstrong 1836:192), although it is not possible to confirm this number.

For local Nyungar people, the Yellagonga Regional Park area holds considerable significance. The wetlands have been used extensively for hunting, food-gathering, social, ceremonial and recreational purposes and formed part of a north-south link of rivers, lakes and wetlands along the Swan Coastal Plain. The Yellagonga Regional Park area was particularly important during the autumn and spring months, when it was utilised as a semi-permanent camping ground. The natural north-south routes, which form the Linear Lakes, provided important access tracks to other camping areas and acted as trading routes between family and tribal groups (McGuire 1996:58; O'Connor et al 1989:27).

Exploration and Invasion:

The crew of the 1696 Dutch voyage under Captain Willem de Vlamingh were probably among the first Europeans to see signs of Mooro people. The ships travelled approximately 80 kilometres up the Swan River, where the crews briefly disembarked. They found the camps and burning fires of Mooro Nyungars, but they did not see any people. The de Vlamingh expedition resulted in the name 'Swarte Swaene-Revier' (Black Swan River), named after the black swans they saw there. Throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries, numerous other European expeditions to the south-west coast followed. Many of these voyages noted similar signs of the local inhabitants, however, few ever saw any people.

Following the official invasion of New South Wales in 1770, and in spite of a French claim of sovereignty in 1772, a British military outpost was established at Albany in 1826. One year later, an expedition under Captain James Stirling explored the Swan River, which he described as an ideal place to establish a permanent settlement. Subsequent to lobbying in Britain, a fleet was sent and Charles Fremantle, being the first to land, declared the Swan River Colony for Britain in 1829.

With the beginning of colonisation, land in the Perth area was initially taken up around the Swan River. Most of the land however, was considered to be of very poor quality and early reports sent back to England stated that the colony was near starvation (Berryman 2002). The flow of migrants to the colony dwindled, and by 1850, the European population had only reached 5,886. The majority of colonisers settled around the south-western coastline at Albany, Augusta and Bunbury. The quest for suitable farming land eventually compelled the colonisers to explore the region north of the Swan River and various expeditions were conducted into the Yellagonga Regional Park area throughout the early 1800s.

In 1834, colonist John Butler passed Lake Joondalup whilst searching for lost cattle. During his visit, Butler met some local Mooro people whom he described as *"those Wannaroo men who frequent Perth in company with the Yellowgonga Tribe"*. He believed the local Aboriginal people to be friendly towards Europeans and advised a surveying party be sent to the area (Butler 1834:346). The survey was completed in 1837 by Thomas Watson and the land was subsequently taken up by various colonisers. These plots of land however, were never settled by their new owners and appear to have been part of what has been described as a 'land-grab', where well-off migrants acquired extra land for speculative purposes (Russo 1998:115).

Further exploratory work in the Yellagonga Regional Park Area was conducted by George Grey in 1838. Grey encountered several local Mooro people with whom he tested his newly acquired language skills. Near Lake Joondalup, Grey met the Mooro Aborigines Noogongoo[8], Kurral, Jeebar[9], and Dudemurry[10] who fed Grey's party tortoises and talked with Grey throughout the night. Grey writes *"They said that, although the lake was called Mooloore, the name of the land we were sitting on was Doondalup"* (Grey 1841a). Grey concluded that the land surrounding the lakes was *"of the best quality"* and that there was *"plenty of good feed for cattle"* (Grey 1841a). Grey passed through the region again in 1839 after his ship was wrecked at

[7] The Swan River Colony was founded 8 years earlier in 1829.
[8] Also written as 'Byerman', 'Biarman', 'Ngogonga', 'Ngoogonga', 'Ngoogoongga', and 'Nogongo' (Hallam & Tillbrook 1990:41).
[9] Also written as 'Djibar', 'Jibar' and 'Dukadung' (Hallam & Tillbrook 1990:165).
[10] Also written as 'Dutomerrar', 'Decamurry', 'Djitamarra', 'Dudamurra', 'Dutermerry', Dutomerra', and 'Dutomurra' (Hallam & Tillbrook 1990:101).

Lake Goollelal

Kalbarri and the party were forced to walk back to Perth. Mooro people in the Yellagonga Regional Park area provided the starving men with frogs, tortoises and zamia nuts (Grey 1841b).

Following Grey, the Surveyor-General, John Septimus Roe, escorted Governor John Hutt to the Yellagonga Regional Park area in 1841. Roe freely used the Nyungar names for the lakes, 'Joondalup', 'Goollelal', 'Needubup' and 'Nowergup', and expressed his opinion that the area was suitable for settlement (Russo 1998:115). In 1842, a group of vagrant soldiers strayed to the area and for a few years Lake Joondalup was called 'Soldiers' Lake' (Russo 2998:115). The soldiers' settlement however, was short-lived and the name was seldom used again.

Colonisation and Dispossession:

The first substantial effort to make contact with Mooro people was the 'Native Experimental Farm' established by the Wesleyan Reverend John Smithies. Smithies arrived in the colony in 1840 with instructions from the Methodist Church to both care for the pastoral needs of the colony's Methodists, and convert the local Aboriginal population to the Wesleyan branch of Christianity. In 1843, Smithies requested permission from London to set up an Aboriginal Mission outside the main town of Perth, and an establishment was built on the banks of Lake Goollelal soon after. The establishment was dubbed 'Mission Farm', and aside from the 'Christianisation' of the local Aborigines, the general purpose of Smithies' Mission, was to encourage local Nyungar people to move off their lands and integrate into European 'civilisation'. Smithies' Mission attempted to educate local Mooro children in farming skills and housework so that they could enter into servitude for the European colonisers. It was hoped that the 'civilising' of the Mooro population would also assist in reducing the gross shortfall in labour the floundering colony was experiencing at the time. Unfortunately for Smithies, the land at Lake Goollelal was unsuitable for crop planting and the Yellagonga Regional Park area provided such a plentiful supply of food and shelter that the Mission school found it could neither attract nor retain its Nyungar pupils (Cook 1966:21-22). Furthermore, a significant number of children at Mission Farm died as a consequence of introduced diseases and, as a result, the local Aboriginal population refused to allow their children to stay there (Monks 1993:10-11). After less than nine years 'Mission Farm' was abandoned by the Methodists, and Smithies moved on to better prospects in the York region. Reverend John Smithies Park, located on the banks of Lake Goolelal, has been named after the Wesleyan Missionary.

The first European to permanently occupy the Yellagonga Regional Park area was James Cockman who took up land there in 1852. James Cockman with his wife Mary built a small house close to Walluburnup Swamp and, some years later, built a larger stone house close to the corner of Woodvale Drive and Wanneroo Road (Newton 2002). With the expansion of the Perth township during the mid-19th Century, food depots were created to discourage Aboriginal people from going into the town. During this period, Mooro people retreated north to the lakes (McGuire 1996:95). When Cockman resided in the area, Aboriginal people still led traditional lives in this part of Mooro Country (Brittain 1990:56). Cockman's grandson, Cecil Malcolm Cockman, grew up in the same stone house, and remembered local Aborigines still camping by Lake Joondalup in the early-1900s when he was young (Marwick 2002:6). Following the Cockmans, the Buckingham family took up land on the eastern side of Lake Joondalup in 1860. Between the 1860s and 1880s, several more families took up land in the Yellagonga Regional Park area, including those of Okely, Lander, Backshall, Darch, Duffy, Shenton, Thompson and Leach (Brittain 1990:56; Russo 1998:120). By the end of the 19th Century, the well-established north-south link had become increasingly important to the European colonisers as well.

Various overland expeditions traversed the lakes area over this period and mining exploration was also carried out. During the late-1800s, a stock route was established with sheep, cattle and horses being watered and grazed at the lakes as they were driven northwards. A mail-carrying service to northern homesteads was established in 1853 and a small cave guano harvesting industry was attempted. As additional land was taken up around Perth, colonists would travel to the northern areas for game hunting as the animal population around the Swan River became depleted. By 1888 the entire North-West Corridor

Walluburnup Swamp

had been taken up by pastoral leases and activity along the lakes had increased considerably. Within only 60 years the traditional land and food sources of Mooro Country had been severely diminished.

By the end of the 19th Century, various laws had been passed that significantly restricted the rights of Aboriginal people in Western Australia. The *Industrial Schools Act 1874* effectively introduced the institutionalisation of Aborigines by allowing Nyungar children to be placed into the care of the state. The *Aborigines Protection Act 1886* enabled the newly formed Aborigines Protection Board to indenture any Aboriginal child of a 'suitable age' into an apprenticeship until the age of 21. The Act also prohibited Aboriginal people from entering or remaining in towns, including Perth. Probably the most far-reaching legislation was the *Aborigines Act 1905* which established the Chief Protector of Aborigines as the legal guardian of 'every Aboriginal and half-caste child' to the age of 16 years. This Act allowed for the forced removal of anyone deemed to be an 'Aboriginal native' to a 'Native Reserve' and any child to a State institution. The effect of the *Aborigines Act 1905* was to considerably limit Aboriginal access to land, water, housing, employment and education and significantly reduce the ability of Aboriginal people to secure food and income (Delmege 2005). Within this context, Mooro people found themselves driven further and further to the boundaries of their Country. 'Native Reserves' were designated to the fringe areas of Perth and, by the beginning of the 20th Century, the vast majority of Mooro Nyungars had been either compelled or forcibly removed from the colonised areas of Perth.

Wineries and Market Gardens:

The landscape of the Yellagonga Regional Park area continued to change as it was moulded by successive farming operations. Post-World War I, there was an influx of non-British migrants to Perth, particularly from Italian, Greek and Yugoslav backgrounds. The Linear Lakes area became an important source of fruit and vegetables for the entire Perth region. Between the World Wars, migrants, including the Formiatti, Crisafulli, Ariti, and Nanovich families, took up land around Yellagonga Regional Park. Other southern European families, including the Contis, Parins and Luisinis later moved to the area and set up wineries, some of which are still in operation today.

Increased market gardening and viticulture operations resulted in a significant demand for timber. Timber mills were set up along the Yellagonga Regional Park area and a burgeoning industry was developed using locally-sourced trees. A limestone industry was also operating successfully in the Yellagonga Regional Park area at this time. Limestone quarried from around the lakes was profitably used throughout Wanneroo for construction purposes (Russo 1998:113). Lime burning was also conducted and kilns were set up from the northern end of Lake Joondalup all the way south to Lake Coogee.

Following the Second World War, Perth experienced a population boom and the City expanded rapidly north and south. Much of the land previously farmed for fruit and vegetables was re-zoned for residential purposes and the suburbs of Perth gradually spread further and further out from the City Centre. During the 1960s and 1970s, the area north of Perth experienced rapid growth and became known as the 'Mortgage Belt' (Russo 1998:137). By the early 1980s, the Shire of Wanneroo had become increasingly urbanised and the Yellagonga Regional Park area was declared public open space.

A Changed Landscape – Yellagonga Regional Park Today:

The relationship between Nyungar culture and the environment is one which "relies upon but also sustains the natural resources" (Cherikoff 1993:22). Mooro people adapted the environment to themselves and employed sustainable cultivation practices, such as controlled burning and returning roots and seeds to the soil. With the invasion of Europeans in the early-1800s, the landscape of Yellagonga Regional Park was rapidly and considerably altered. Land was cleared for farming and development, channels were cut for irrigation and drainage, limestone was quarried, trees were cut down for timber and many foreign flora species were planted. Yellagonga Regional Park today is a changed landscape, having been shaped by its distinct and varied past.

Eucalyptus marginata

Mooro Plants & People

Yellagonga Regional Park

The people of the Mooro Country possessed an intimate knowledge of the local ecology. Contrary to popular belief, Aboriginal people did not *"wander the continent in search of food in order to survive in a harsh and desolate land"* (Isaacs 2002:43). Rather, they held a meticulous knowledge of their own well-defined area, their Country. The lessons and discoveries about their Country were passed down from one generation to the next, largely by oral tradition. The way to use and care for the land was 'written' into stories and songs of the Dreaming (Cherikoff 1994:24). Knowledge from the Dreaming taught people how the spirit beings made foods and medicines from the bush as well as formed the lakes, rivers and mountains.

Plants were extremely important to Nyungar people. Different plants were used to create weapons, such as spears and shields, to build shelters, for medicinal purposes, and for food. Probably the most important of these uses was food. In Mooro Country, the abundance and diversity of plant species ensured that local Nyungar people utilised a substantial number of plants for a variety of purposes. The flowers, stems, leaves, bark, gum, resin and roots of many plants were all used. Many Nyungar plant names are utilised in today's vernacular, including 'Jarrah', 'Marri', 'Tuart', 'Wandoo', 'Bullich', 'Yarri', 'Moonah', 'Quandong', and 'Pingle'.

Plant Species
Nyungar Uses

Clematis linearifolia

Banksia prionotes

Banksia

Mungite, Piara, Pulgart, Pungura

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Banksia attenuata*
- *Banksia grandis*
- *Banksia ilicifolia*
- *Banksia littoralis*
- *Banksia menziesii*
- *Banksia prionotes*
- *Banksia sessilis*

There are over 150 species of banksias, 90% of which occur in south-western Australia. Banksia's are characterised by their sharp, serrated leaves and large, cone-shaped flowers.

In Yellagonga Regional Park, there are at least 7 species of banksia. Banksias are very important to Aboriginal people and several Nyungar names for them are known. The **Candle Banksia** (or **Candlestick Banksia**, **Coast Banksia**, **Slender Banksia**) (*Banksia attenuata*) is known as the **Piara** (or **Biara**, **Bealwra**, **Peera**, **Piras**), the **Bull Banksia** (or **Giant Banksia**, **Great-Flowered Banksia**) (*Banksia grandis*) is known as the **Mungite** (or **Poolgarla, Bulgalla**), the **Swamp Banksia** (or **River Banksia**, **Seaside Banksia**, **Swamp Oak**, **Western Swamp Banksia**) (*Banksia littoralis*) is known as the **Pungura** (or **Boongura**, **Gwangia**), and the **Parrot Bush** (*Banksia sessilis*) is known as the **Pulgart**. The **Holly-Leaved Banksia** (or **Holly Banksia**) (*Banksia ilicifolia*), **Acorn Banksia** (or **Orange Banksia**, **Saw-Tooth Banksia**) (*Banksia prionotes*), and the **Firewood Banksia** (or **Menzies Banksia**) (*Banksia menziesii*) are present in Yellagonga Regional Park also.

Banksia flowers produce an abundance of honey-like nectar, which is why the early colonists called this plant the **Honeysuckle**. Nyungar people drink the honey straight out of the flower cone, or soak the flower in water to produce a sweet drink. This beverage is either drunk fresh or fermented to produce **Gep**, an intoxicating liquor. The early colonists also used the nectar of the banksia for honey and to make sweet drinks. Early 20th Century writer, Dame Mary Gilmore, described the use of banksia drinks in the treatment of sore throats and colds.


Banksia ilicifolia

Some banksias, such as the **Piara** and the **Mungite** are used by Nyungar people as torches. When alight, the dried banksia flower cone smoulders like a torch, these were used by local Nyungars to transport fire from one campsite to the next. Nyungar people also kept the lighted cones under their cloaks to keep themselves warm in cold weather.

The **Pulgart** is an unusual type of banksia, as it has a squat, round flower instead of a long cone. This banksia has very spiky leaves and branches and is used by Nyungar people as a broom. The **Pulgart** is also utilised in fishing. Nyungar fishermen break off the branches and walk in a line, driving the **djildjit** (fish), **yakan** (turtle) or **koonak** (freshwater prawns) into the fish traps.

The wood of many banksia trees is also used as firewood. In particular the **Firewood Banksia** is known for its quick burning properties.


Banksia grandis


Banksia ilicifolia


Banksia menziesii


Banksia attenuata


Banksia menziesii

Calothamnus quadrifidus

Bottlebrush

Kwowdjard

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Calothamnus quadrifidus*
- *Calothamnus sanguineus*

The term ‘bottlebrush’ is used to describe plants of the *Callistemon* genus which are usually characterised by their bottlebrush-shaped flowers.

There are at least 2 species of bottlebrush in the Yellagonga Regional Park area, the **Silky-Leaved Blood Flower** (*Calothamnus sanguineus*) and the **One-Sided Bottlebrush** (*Calothamnus quadrifidus*). The Nyungar name for the **One-Sided Bottlebrush** is the **Kwowdjard** (or **Queitjat**).

Similar to other flowering plants, the blossoms of the bottlebrush are useful to Nyungar people as a source of honey. Nyungars suck the sweet nectar straight from the flower blossoms or they soak the flowers in water to produce a sweet drink. From time to time, this drink is allowed to ferment to produce **Gep**, an intoxicating liquor.

Calothamnus quadrifidus

Calothamnus sanguineus

Calothamnus quadrifidus

Lagenophora huegelii

Daisy

Yoont Djet

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Lagenophora huegelii*
- *Senecio pinnatifolius (var. maritimus)*
- *Olearia axillaris*
- *Waitzia suaveolens*

‘Daisy’ is a generic term that refers to plants that belong to the *Asteraceae* Family. Daisy plants vary in size, but are usually herbs. Daisy flowers are generally characterised by a round, central stigma surrounded by numerous petals.

In Yellagonga Regional Park there are several species of daisies. Abundant species include the **Coarse Lagenophora** (*Lagenophora huegelii*), **Coastal Daisybush** (*Olearia axillaris*), **Coastal Groundsel** (or **Variable Groundsel**) (*Senecio pinnatifolius* [*var. maritimus*]), and the **Fragrant Waitzia** (*Waitzia suaveolens*). The Nyungar name for the **Coastal Groundsel** is **Yoont Djet**.

It is not known whether daisies were of particular importance to traditional Nyungar people. However, it is believed that the early colonisers occasionally used daisies in cooking. The crushed leaves of the **Coastal Daisybush** for example, have a pleasant smell and were sometimes used as a herb. As early as 1696, the crew of Willem de Vlamingh’s expedition used this daisybush to add flavour to their food.

Olearia axillaris
(courtesy Iain Hamson, Swinburne University of Technology)

Waitzia suaveolens

Senecio pinnatifolius (var. maritimus)

Corymbia calophylla

Eucalypt

Jarrah, Koodjat, Marri, Moitch, Tuart

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Corymbia calophylla*
- *Eucalyptus decipiens*
- *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*
- *Eucalyptus marginata*
- *Eucalyptus petrensis*
- *Eucalyptus rudis*
- *Eucalyptus todtiana*

Eucalypts are iconic Australian plants which vary in size from low shrubs to tall trees. Eucalypts are readily characterised by their distinctive blossoms and their seed capsules known as ‘gumnuts’.

There are at least 7 species of eucalypts in Yellagonga Regional Park, the **Marri** (or **Red Gum**) (*Corymbia calophylla*), **Blackbutt** (or **Coastal Blackbutt**, **Pricklybark**) (*Eucalyptus decipiens*), **Tuart** (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), **Jarrah** (or **Swan River Mahogany**) (*Eucalyptus marginata*), **Koodjat** (or **Straggly Mallee**) (*Eucalyptus petrensis*), **Moitch** (or **Kulurda**, **Flooded Gum**) (*Eucalyptus rudis*), and the **Eucalyptus todtiana** (no common name).

Eucalypts are extremely important trees for Nyungar people and the wood is used for a variety of purposes. For example, the wood of the **Koodjat** and the **Jarrah** is used to make important objects such as **doarks** (sticks for knocking the tops off **Grass Trees** [*Xanthorrhoea preissii*]), **kitjs** (spears), **wannas** (digging sticks), and in recent times, **didgeridoos**. Suitable branches from the **Jarrah** are also used to make spear throwers. The early colonists too, used eucalyptus wood to a great extent for such purposes as construction, fencing and furniture-making.

Eucalyptus leaves also produce eucalyptus oil which is used by Nyungar people for medicinal purposes. Gum leaves are rubbed between the hands and then breathed-in to clear the nasal passages. In addition, the leaves of one species, the **Moitch**, are sometimes covered in small white spots of **manna**. **Manna** is the product of a small mite that gathers on the base of the leaves. Nyungars lick the sugary **manna** directly off the leaves or gather the substance into a large, sweet lolly to suck on.

Eucalypts were called ‘Gum Trees’ by the early colonisers due to the large quantities of gum that exude from their trunks. Nyungar people use this gum for a wide variety of medicinal purposes. Gums from the **Marri**, **Tuart** and the **Jarrah** are used as a mild anaesthetic. Large pieces of gum have also been used as fillings for hollow teeth and to treat diarrhoea. Gums can also be ground into powder and used as an ointment on sores or infected areas, or mixed with water as a tonic for upset stomachs.

The bark from eucalypt trees is also very important. Bark from the **Marri**, **Tuart** and **Jarrah** was often used by Nyungar people as the roofing for **mia-mias** (shelters). **Jarrah** bark is considered the best for this purpose, as it can easily be made waterproof. The high tannin content of **Jarrah** bark also made it useful as a tanning agent and for making dye. In addition, the bark of this tree can be peeled off in one large, curved sheet. Evidence of such sheets of bark being removed can be seen today on ‘scarred trees’.

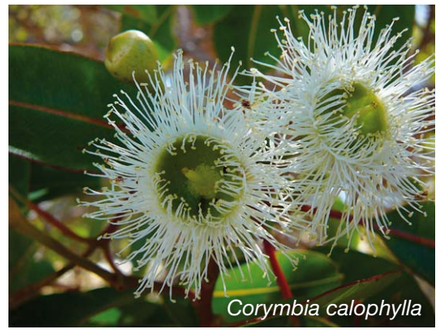
Eucalypts are well-known for their distinctive blossoms. These blossoms are used by Nyungar people as a source of honey, either by sucking directly from the flower, or by dipping the flower in water to create a sweet drink. **Ngoowak** (native bees) enjoy the nectar-rich eucalyptus blossoms also, and Nyungars can often find honey in the hollows of eucalyptus branches.

As well as bees, the tall eucalypts, including the **Marri**, **Tuart** and the **Jarrah**, attract birds which nest in the branch hollows. Nyungar people can climb the trees to catch the birds or to take the eggs to eat.

▪ *courtesy M. Fagg,*
Australian National Botanic Gardens

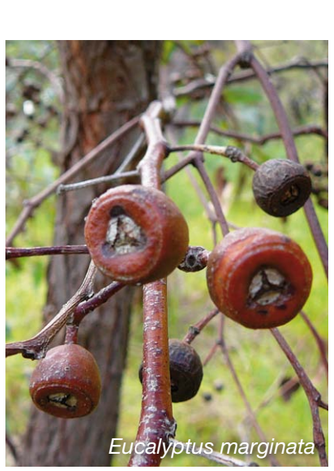
Eucalyptus rudis

▪ *Corymbia calophylla*



Corymbia calophylla

Eucalyptus rudis



Eucalyptus marginata

▪ *Eucalyptus petrensis*

Xanthorrhoea preissii

Grass Tree

Balga

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Xanthorrhoea preissii*

The **Grass Tree** is endemic to south-western Australia and, prior to large-scale land clearing, this plant could be found across the Yellagonga Regional Park area.

In Western Australia, **Grass Trees** (or **Blackboys**) (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) are also known by their Nyungar name, **Balga**. Other recorded Nyungar names for this plant include, **Baaluk**, **Balag**, **Balka**, **Barro**, **Kooryoop**, **Paaluc**, **Palga** and **Yarrlok**.

The **Balga** is an extremely important plant for Nyungar people and many parts of this plant can be used. The long, thin fronds of the **Grass Tree**, called **mindarie**, can be used to cover the roof of the **mia-mia** (shelter). When it rains, the water runs along the underside of the fronds, keeping the people inside dry. The early colonisers used the **mindarie** in a similar way for thatch. Nyungars also used the **mindarie** as soft bedding.

Balgas produce a resin which oozes from their trunks (especially on hot days and after burning). This resin can be used as a binding agent after being crushed in a heated stone pot with charcoal and kangaroo droppings. The molten resin produced by this process is used like a cement to bind objects together, such as stone spearheads onto wooden spear shafts.

Balga resin can also be used as a tanning agent. Nyungars dissolve lumps of resin in water in a rock hole heated by hot stones. The hides of **yonga** (kangaroo) and **koomal** (possum) are scraped and softened and then placed in the rock hole to soak. The skins were then worn as **bookha** (clothes), **wogga** (blankets) or used as a **coorda** (carry-bag). The resin was prepared by the early colonists in a similar way to make varnish.


Xanthorrhoea preissii

Balga resin is also highly flammable and Nyungar women collect pieces of resin to use as firelighters. The burning resin is also pleasantly fragrant and, when inhaled, can be useful in clearing sinuses. The early colonists noted the highly flammable nature of the **Balga** and a great number of these trees were cut down for firewood.

In addition, **Balgas** are used by Nyungar people for food. In times of shortage, the **mindarie** can be pulled out and the white, soft, new leaves eaten. These soft leaves were also eaten by the early colonisers. The centre of the **Balga** is edible too and Nyungar people would chop the top off the tree and scoop out the white pulp within. This pulp is used as a medicine for upset stomachs or eaten as food in times of shortage.

In times of drought, **Balgas** were very useful to Aboriginal people in locating water. After several of the **mindarie** were pulled out, a small hollow would remain. Water would then seep into this hollow which could then be drunk.

The flower spear of the **Balga** is also important to Nyungar people. The long stem of the flower can be used as a torch, particularly when moving from one camp to the next, and the shaft can be used for sparking fires by friction. The long stem is also used to make spear shafts and in the construction of the **mia-mia**.


Xanthorrhoea preissii


Xanthorrhoea preissii


Xanthorrhoea preissii


Xanthorrhoea preissii


Xanthorrhoea preissii

Grevillea crithmifolia

Grevillea

Berrung

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Grevillea crithmifolia*
- *Grevillea preissii*
- *Grevillea vestita*

The *Grevillea* Genus is a diverse group of over 350 plants which range from low-lying shrubs to tall trees.

There are at least 3 species of grevillea in Yellagonga Regional Park, the ***Grevillea crithmifolia*** (no common name), ***Grevillea preissii*** (no common name), and ***Grevillea vestita*** (no common name). Low, flowering shrubs, such as grevilleas, are often called **Berrung** by Nyungar people.

The nectar from **Berrung** plants is an important source of honey. Similar to other flowering plants, the nectar from grevilleas can be sucked directly from the flowers or soaked in water to produce a sweet drink. Sometimes the drink is allowed to ferment to produce **Gep**, an intoxicating liquor.

Grevillea crithmifolia

Grevillea vestita

Grevillea crithmifolia


Hakea lissocarpha


Hakea trifurcata


Hakea prostrata

Hakea

Berrung, Pulgur

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Hakea lissocarpha*
- *Hakea prostrata*
- *Hakea trifurcata*

Hakeas are shrubs which produce attractive, nectareous flowers, highly favoured by bees and honeyeaters.

In Yellagonga Regional Park there are 3 species of hakeas, the **Honey Bush** (or **Duck and Drake Bush**) (*Hakea lissocarpha*), the **Harsh Hakea** (*Hakea prostrata*) and the **Two-Leaf Hakea** (*Hakea trifurcata*). Flowering shrubs, such as hakeas and grevilleas, are often called **Berrung** by Nyungar people. The **Harsh Hakea** is also known as the **Pulgur** (or **Doolgur**).

Similar to other flowering plants, hakea flowers are an important source of honey for Nyungars. The nectar is either sucked directly from the flowers, or the blossoms are soaked in water to produce a sweet drink. Sometimes the drink is allowed to ferment to produce **Gep**, an intoxicating liquor.

The spiky branches of the **Pulgur** are also used by Nyungars in fishing. The branches are broken and used to drive fish into traps. The wood from the branches of the **Pulgur** can also be used to make message-sticks.

Early colonists, such as George Fletcher Moore observed that the gum from the Hakea tree was eaten by Nyungar people and he believed that it formed an important part of the local diet. Hakea gum can be easily stored in cakes, and it is likely that it was transported by Nyungar people from place to place. In other parts of Australia, the burnt bark of the Hakea is used in bush medicine. The ash from the bark is rubbed onto the body to relieve skin sores.

Anigozanthos manglesii

Kangaroo Paw

Kurulbrang

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Anigozanthos humilis*
- *Anigozanthos manglesii*

Kangaroo paws are iconic plants, native to Western Australia. **Mangles Kangaroo Paw** (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) is in fact the floral emblem of this State.

In Yellagonga Regional Park there are 2 species of kangaroo paws, **Mangles Kangaroo Paw** (or **Red and Green Kangaroo Paw**, **Common Green Kangaroo Paw**) (*Anigozanthos manglesii*) and **Catspaw** (or **Common Catspaw**, **Dwarf Catspaw**) (*Anigozanthos humilis*). **Mangles Kangaroo Paw** is known by Nyungar people as **Kurulbrang** (or **Nollamara**, **Yonga Marra**).

As well as having attractive and unusual flowers, kangaroo paws have tuberous roots which contain significant levels of stored starch. In a similar way to orchids and some lily species, the roots of kangaroo paws are eaten by Nyungar people. Prior to large-scale land clearing, it is likely that kangaroo paws were far more abundant in the Yellagonga Regional Park area than they are today. Root tubers formed an important part of the traditional Nyungar diet, and it is possible that the roots of kangaroo paws were gathered in large quantities.

Anigozanthos humilis

Anigozanthos manglesii

Anigozanthos humilis

Sowerbaea laxiflora

Lily

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Burchadia congesta*
- *Caesia micrantha*
- *Dianella revoluta*
- *Dichopogon capillipes*
- *Sowerbaea laxiflora*
- *Thysanotus arenarius*
- *Thysanotus manglesianus*
- *Thysanotus patersonii*
- *Thysanotus sparteus*
- *Thysanotus triandrus*

‘Lily’ is a general term used for a variety of flowering plant Genera.

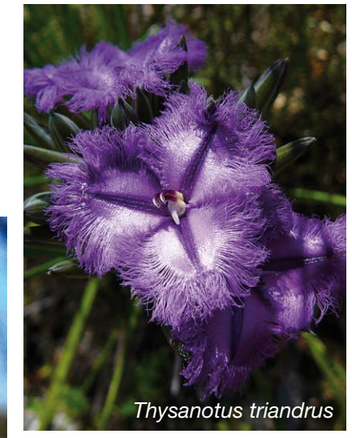
In Yellagonga Regional Park there are at least 10 species of plants that can be considered lilies. These include, **Milkmaids** (*Burchadia congesta*), **Pale Grass Lily** (*Caesia micrantha*), **Blueberry Lily** (or **Black-Anther Flax Lily**, **Blue Flax Lily**, **Native Flax**, **Spreading Flax Lily**) (*Dianella revoluta*), **Chocolate Lily** (or **Purple Lily**) (*Dichopogon capillipes*), **Purple Tassels** (or **Vanilla Lily**) (*Sowerbaea laxiflora*), **Fringed Lily** (*Thysanotus manglesianus*), **Twining Fringed Lily** (*Thysanotus patersonii*), **Leafless Fringed Lily** (*Thysanotus sparteus*), **Three-Stammered Fringed Lily** (*Thysanotus triandrus*) and the ***Thysanotus arenarius*** (no common name). The Aboriginal name **Tjunguri** (or **Tjungoori**) is often applied to the **Twining Fringe Lily**, although this is probably not a Nyungar word.

Many lilies are very important to Nyungar people due to their nourishing root tubers. Roots were an essential part of the diet of traditional Nyungar people and various species of lilies produce an abundance of edible roots. **Milkmaids** for example, have fleshy white roots around 5 millimetres thick which are a good source of starch. Nyungars can also obtain edible roots from the **Blueberry Lily**, **Chocolate Lily**, **Purple Tassels**, **Fringed Lily** and **Twining Fringe Lily**. Roots are either eaten raw, steamed in an earth oven, roasted over hot coals or rolled in hot ash. Some roots, such as those of the **Twining Fringe Lily** are sometimes ground into a paste and made into cakes.

Some lilies also produce an edible fruit or seed. The **Blueberry Lily** produces a small, blue berry which is sweet to taste. Other lilies, including the **Twining Fringe Lily** also have edible flowers and stems. This lily can be ground after roasting and the resulting green powder can be eaten with roots.

Burchadia congesta

Thysanotus triandrus



Thysanotus triandrus

Dianella revoluta

Thysanotus sparteus

Dichopogon capillipes

Thysanotus manglesianus

Melaleuca rhaphiophylla

Melaleuca

Yowarl

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Melaleuca huegelii*
- *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*

Melaleuca's are sometimes called 'teatrees' or 'paperbarks' and are often characterised by their flaky, layered bark.

In Yellagonga Regional Park there are at least 2 species of melaleucas, the **Chenille Honeymyrtle** (*Melaleuca huegelii*) and the **Swamp Paperbark** (or **Freshwater Paperbark**) (*Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*). The Nyungar name for the **Swamp Paperbark** is **Yowarl** (or **Bibool Boorn**, **Yiembak**).

Various melaleuca species are extremely important to Aboriginal people. For local Nyungars, the **Swamp Paperbark** is probably one of the most significant plant species in the region. The bark of this melaleuca is thin and papery and can be used for a variety of purposes. Long strips of the bark for example, can be used as roofing for **mia-mias** (shelters) and smaller pieces can be used to carry water or to hold food.

Melaleuca bark is frequently used in Nyungar cooking. Meat dishes, such as **kweeyar** (frogs), **djildjit** (fish) or **yonga** (kangaroo), are often wrapped in the bark of the **Yowarl** before being placed on hot coals or in an earth oven.

The bark of the **Yowarl** can also be used as a torch. After tightly rolling long pieces of bark, one end can be set alight and the high oil content of the bark keeps the torch smouldering.

Melaleuca leaves are also used by Nyungar people for medicinal purposes. The leaves are either sucked, chewed or crushed and inhaled to treat head colds and flu. Green leaves from the **Swamp Paperbark** and the **Chenille Honeymyrtle** are also used for smoking ceremonies because of the pleasant aroma the


Melaleuca huegelii

oil in the leaves let off. A type of tea can also be made by soaking the leaves in boiling water, which is why the early colonists used the term ‘Teatree’ to refer to this plant.

The flowers of the **Swamp Paperbark** and the **Chenille Honeymyrtle** are also important sources of honey. Similar to other flowering plants, the honey is either sucked directly from the flower or the blossoms are soaked in water to create a sweet drink.

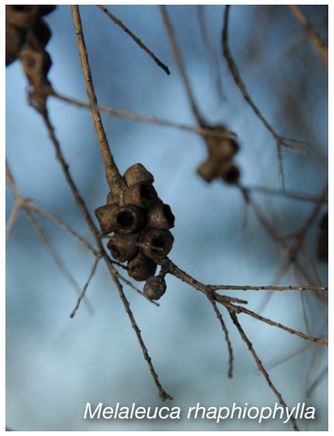

Melaleuca rhaphiophylla


Melaleuca rhaphiophylla


Melaleuca rhaphiophylla


Melaleuca rhaphiophylla


Melaleuca huegelii


Melaleuca rhaphiophylla

Thelymitra crinita

Orchid

Kararr

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Caladenia arenicola*
- *Caladenia flava*
- *Caladenia latifolia*
- *Caladenia longicauda*
- *Caladenia macrostylis*
- *Caladenia marginata*
- *Diuris corymbosa*
- *Diuris longifolia*
- *Elythranthera brunonis*
- *Pheladenia deformis*
- *Pterostylis recurva*
- *Pterostylis vittate*
- *Pyrorchis nigricans*
- *Thelymitra crinita*

The *Orchidaceae* Family is the largest family of flowering plants, many of which are highly prized for their decorative blooms.

In Yellagonga Regional Park, there are at least 14 species of orchids which have been identified, including the **Carousel Spider Orchid** (*Caladenia arenicola*), **Cowslip Orchid** (or **Primrose Orchid**) (*Caladenia flava*), **Pink Fairy Orchid** (or **Pink Fairies**) (*Caladenia latifolia*), **Common White Spider Orchid** (or **Yellow Spider Orchid**) (*Caladenia longicauda*), **Leaping Spider Orchid** (*Caladenia macrostylis*), **White Fairy Orchid** (*Caladenia marginata*), **Donkey Orchid** (*Diuris corymbosa*), **Common Donkey Orchid** (*Diuris longifolia*), **Purple Enamel Orchid** (*Elythranthera brunonis*), **Blue Fairy Orchid** (or **Blue Beard**) (*Pheladenia deformis*), **Jug Orchid** (*Pterostylis recurva*), **Banded Greenhood** (*Pterostylis vittate*), **Red Beaks** (or **Undertaker Orchid**) (*Pyrorchis nigricans*) and **Blue Lady Orchid** (or **Queen Orchid**, **Lily Orchid**) (*Thelymitra crinita*). Most Nyungar names for orchids are no longer known, however, the **Spider Orchids** (*Caladenia sp.*) are known as **Kararr** (or **Kar**).

Diuris corymbosa

In Australia, we have become accustomed to the ‘Protected’ status of orchids. However, in the past, many orchids were considered an important food source. Several early explorers and colonists, including George Grey, James Drummond, Robert Brough Smyth and George Fletcher Moore, noted the use of orchids for food. These early observers identified the root tubers of various orchids, including the **Banded Greenhood** and **Red Beaks**, as being highly sought after by Nyungars. Roots can either be roasted or baked in hot ashes, or pounded into a paste and made into cakes.


Pterostylis recurva


Caladenia arenicola


Caladenia latifolia


Caladenia flava


Elythranthera brunonis


Caladenia macrostylis


Pheladenia deformis


Caladenia longicauda

Templetonia retusa

Pea Flower

Koorla, Koorpa, Koweda, Marno, Pulboorn, Puyenak, Yackal Djarr

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Bossiaea eriocarpa*
- *Daviesia divaricata*
- *Hardenbergia comptoniana*
- *Hovea pungens*
- *Hovea trisperma (var. trisperma)*
- *Isotropis cuneifolia*
- *Jacksonia furcellata*
- *Jacksonia sericea*
- *Jacksonia sternbergiana*
- *Kennedia prostrata*
- *Templetonia retusa*
- *Viminaria juncea*

Pea flowers belong to the *Fabaceae* Family, a large group of flowering plants commonly referred to as the Legume Family or the Pea Family.

There are at least 12 pea flowers in Yellagonga Regional Park and several of the Nyungar names for these plants are known. The **Native Wisteria** (or **Wild Sarsaparilla**) (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*) is known as the **Koorla** (or *Koorlo*), the **Devil's Pins** (or **Needle-Leaved Hovea**) (*Hovea pungens*) is known as the **Puyenak** (or *Buyenak*), the **Green Stinkwood** (*Jacksonia sternbergiana*) is known as the **Koorpa** (or **Kapur**, **Mondil**, **Mondum**), the **Scarlet Runner** (or **Running Postman**) (*Kennedia prostrata*) is known as the **Pulboorn** (or **Pulbarn**, **Mirdadjet**), **Cockies Tongues** (or **Common Templetonia**) (*Templetonia retusa*) is known as **Yackal Djarr**, **Swishbush** (or **Golden Spray**) (*Viminaria juncea*) is known as **Koweda** (or **Kower**, **Kweda**) and the **Marno** (*Daviesia divaricata*) is known commonly by its Nyungar name. The **Waldjumi** (*Jacksonia sericea*) is also known commonly by its Aboriginal name, but '**Waldjumi**' is probably not a Nyungar word. Yellagonga Regional Park is also home to the **Common Brown Pea** (*Bossiaea eriocarpa*), **Common Hovea** (*Hovea trisperma* [*var. trisperma*]), **Grey Stinkwood** (*Jacksonia furcellata*) and **Granny Bonnets** (or **Lamb Poison**) (*Isotropis cuneifolia*).

Isotropis cuneifolia

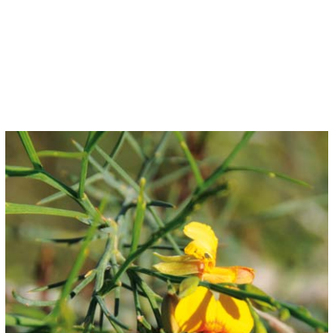
Pea flowers are varyingly important to Nyungar people. The twining, green stems of the **Koorla** for example, can be used as string. However, the purple flowers are never eaten.

The pea flower **Koweda**, is known to be useful to Nyungar people. This plant has strong, flexible branches which are used by Nyungars when building **mia-mias** (shelters). The branches can be used in addition to more leafy branches, such as those from **zamia** plants (Macrozamia sp.), as well as bark, from such trees as the **Swamp Paperbark** (*Melaleuca rhaphiophylla*).

The **Pulboorn** is not known to have been useful to Nyungars, although the early colonists used this plant for making tea. The leaves were rolled into a ball and infused in boiling water for two or three minutes before being drunk.

The early colonists considered some of the other pea flower plants to be dangerous and went to great lengths to remove them from the land. **Granny Bonnets** were also called **Lamb Poison** as hungry sheep would be poisoned after eating them. The **Stinkwood** pea flowers (*Jacksonia sp.*) were also undesirable to the colonists as they let off an unpleasant odour when burnt.


Jacksonia sericea


Jacksonia furcellata

Viminaria juncea

Hardenbergia comptoniana


Hovea trisperma (var. trisperma)


Kennedia prostrata

Jacksonia sternbergiana


Daviesia divaricata

Baumea preissii

Rush, Sedge

Waakal Ngarnak

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Baumea articulata*
- *Baumea preissii*
- *Bolboschoenus caldwellii*
- *Carex appressa*
- *Carex fascicularis*
- *Ficinia nodosa*
- *Juncus pallidus*
- *Lepidosperma longitudinale*
- *Mesomelaena pseudostygia*
- *Schoenoplectus validus*

Rushes and sedges are members of the *Poales* Order of plants and are characterised by their grass-like structure.

There are at least 10 species of rushes and sedges in Yellagonga Regional Park including the **Jointed Rush** (or **Jointed Twig Rush**, **Jointed Twig Sedge**) (*Baumea articulata*), **Broad Twig Sedge** (*Baumea preissii*), **Marsh Club-Rush** (*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*), **Tall Sedge** (*Carex appressa*), **Tassel Sedge** (or **Razor Sedge**) (*Carex fascicularis*), **Knotted Club Rush** (*Ficinia nodosa*), **Pale Rush** (or **Giant Rush**) (*Juncus pallidus*), **Pithy Sword-Sedge** (or **Common Sword-Sedge**) (*Lepidosperma longitudinale*), **Semaphore Sedge** (*Mesomelaena pseudostygia*) and **Lake Club-Rush** (or **Lake Club-Sedge**, **River Club-Rush**) (*Schoenoplectus validus*).

The Nyungar names for specific species of rushes and sedges are not known. However, many are referred to as **Waakal Ngarnak**, named after the **Waakal** (or **Wagul**, **Wagyl**, **Waugal**, **Waagal**), sometimes called the Rainbow Serpent. Stories from the Nyungar Dreaming tell of how pieces of the **Waakal's** beard fell off as he twisted and wound his way through the country. Where his beard fell off, the rushes and sedges grew. Many rushes and sedges are therefore known as **Waakal Ngarnak** (Waakal Beard).

Various species of rushes and sedges around Australia are utilised by Aboriginal people for their roots. It is likely that the roots of many species of rushes and sedges in the Joondalup region were eaten by Nyungars,


Mesomelaena pseudostygia

however, only the **Marsh Club Rush** has been positively identified from early accounts. Explorer, John Edward Eyre, early naturalist, George French Angas, and colonist, Robert Brough Smyth, described the **Marsh Club Rush** as having root tubers the size of walnuts which were hard and oily. Eyre observed that the roots were prepared first by roasting and were then ground into thin, flat cakes. Numerous early colonial accounts also speak of another rush, known by the Nyungar name **Yanchet** (or **Yange**, **Yanjet**, **Yandjet**). The **Yanchet** was said to be eaten raw by Nyungar people in vast quantities, although it is not known exactly which species this refers to.

Many species of rushes and sedges are used by Nyungar people to locate water. Nyungars know that you can always find fresh water under species such as the **Pithy Sword-Sedge**, the **Semaphore Sedge** and the **Knotted Club-Rush**.

The leaves of rushes and sedges are also used in weaving. The leaves are woven to create nets which are used as seines to catch **djildjit** (fish) and **yakan** (turtle). Rushes and sedges can also be woven to create baskets and mats and the leaves of many species are used as string.

In addition, several species of rushes and sedges with cylindrical leaves, such as the **Jointed Rush**, are sometimes hollowed out. The resulting ‘pipe’ can be used as a snorkel when hunting **yerderap** (ducks) and other water fowl.


Mesomelaena pseudostygia


Baumea articulata


Baumea preissii


Ficinia nodosa


Baumea articulata

Solanum symonii

Solanum

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Solanum symonii*

The term *Solanum* refers to a large, diverse Genus of plants, of which the common tomato, potato and eggplant are all members.

Solanums are common in Australia, particularly in desert areas where they are known as **Bush Tomatoes**, **Bush Raisins** and **Kangaroo Apples**. There is at least 1 species of *Solanum* that grows in the Yellagonga Regional Park area, the ***Solanum symonii*** (no common name).

There are many species of *Solanum* which are edible, and in the central desert region, many *Solanum* species are staple foods. The ***Solanum symonii*** grows a small, edible berry that turns purple-black when ripe. This berry however, is somewhat bitter to eat and it is unlikely that traditional Nyungar people prized it as a bush food.

It should be noted that there are *numerous* poisonous species of *Solanum* in Australia and it would be unwise to taste any such fruits without specialised, local knowledge.

Solanum symonii

Solanum symonii

Kunzea glabrescens

Spearwood

Kitja Boorn

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Kunzea ericifolia*
- *Kunzea glabrescens*

Spearwood plants are members of the *Kunzea* Genus. There are at least 2 spearwoods in Yellagonga Regional Park, the ***Kunzea glabrescens*** (usually known as **Spearwood**) and the **Native Tea** (or **Spearwood**, **Yellow Kunzea**) (*Kunzea ericifolia*). Nyungar people called the **Native Tea** plant **Kitja Boorn** (or **Poorndil**, **Condil**).

As its English name suggests, spearwood plants are used by Nyungar people in spear-making. Spears produced from the **Kitja Boorn** can be used to hunt animals in small swamps and water holes.

The early colonists found spearwoods useful plants also. The **Kitja Boorn** was used for making tea, hence the name **Native Tea**. The tea produced by this spearwood was considered not only pleasant, but was also used as a tonic. In more recent times, the stems of the **Kitja Boorn** have been used in market gardens as bean-sticks as well as in the construction of crayfish pots.

▪ *courtesy M. Fagg, Australian National Botanic Gardens*

▪ *Kunzea ericifolia*

Kunzea glabrescens

▪ *Kunzea ericifolia*

Acacia lasiocarpa

Wattle

Coojong, Panjang, Wilyawa

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Acacia cochlearis*
- *Acacia cyclops*
- *Acacia huegelii*
- *Acacia lasiocarpa*
- *Acacia pulchella*
- *Acacia saligna*
- *Acacia willdenowiana*

Wattles belong to the Acacia Genus and are well-known throughout Australia for their bright yellow flowers. The **Golden Wattle** (*Acacia pycnantha*), is in fact Australia's national flower.

There are at least 7 species of wattle in Yellagonga Regional Park and the Nyungar names of 3 of these species are well known. The **Red-Eyed Wattle** (*Acacia cyclops*) is known as the **Wilyawa** (or **Woolya Wah**), the **Orange Wattle** (or **Black Wattle**) (*Acacia saligna*) is known as the **Coojong** (or **Cujong**, **Kalyung**, **Kileyung**, **Kudjong**), and the **Panjang** (or **Pajang**) (*Acacia lasiocarpa*) is known commonly by its Nyungar name. Other species present in Yellagonga Regional Park include the **Rigid Wattle** (*Acacia cochlearis*), **Prickly Moses** (*Acacia pulchella*), **Grass Wattle** (*Acacia willdenowiana*) and the ***Acacia huegelii*** (no common name).

For Nyungar people, wattles are extremely important plants. Wattle seeds for example, are a very good source of fats, protein and carbohydrates. The **Wilyawa** and the **Coojong** both have edible seeds. The seeds of the **Coojong** can be eaten raw, and the seeds of the **Wilyawa** can be ground into a flour and baked into damper.

For local Nyungars, the **Wilyawa** is probably the most important wattle in Yellagonga Regional Park. As well as using the seeds for making damper, the green seed pods are used for a variety of purposes. For instance, a pod can be crushed in the hands to release a sticky juice which, when a little water is added, can be used as a creamy sunscreen and an insect repellent. This cream is also used to treat eczema. If a


Acacia saligna

little more water is added, the pods can be rubbed between the hands and used as a soap or cleanser. Elsewhere in Australia, similar wattles have been called ‘Soap Wattles’.

The **Wilyawa** is also an important source of gum. The gum that exudes from the trunk is edible and can be chewed like chewing gum. Other wattle species also produce edible gums that can be sucked. These gums can act as a purgative and are used by Nyungar people to alleviate constipation. Wattle gum can also be soaked in water to create a glue.

Many wattle species, including the **Wilyawa**, are home to grubs, sometimes known as **Bardi Grubs** or **Witchetty Grubs**. When these grubs are found in rotting wattle trees, they are roasted over hot coals or in hot ashes before eating. Many early explorers, such as George Grey and Edward John Eyre, noted that grubs were harvested from both wattle trees and **Grass Trees** (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*). Those from wattle trees are larger but not as plentiful as those from **Grass Trees**.

The wood of many species of wattle around Australia is also extensively used by Aborigines. Nyungar people use Acacia wood for making spear heads, **kitjs** (spears), **wannas** (digging sticks) and shields. Wattle tree-trunks can also be used as poles for constructing **mia-mias** (shelters), as they grow straight and are light to carry. The early colonists used Acacia wood for such things as gunstocks and fence posts.

Wattle bark is also important for tying items together. The bark can be stripped off the tree easily and then oiled with kangaroo fat or goanna oil to make it pliable. Many species of wattle are also known to have highly astringent bark. According to the author Jennifer Hagger, the early colonists used Acacia bark to make decoctions or infusions to treat ailments such as diarrhoea and eye conditions.


Acacia pulchella


Acacia cyclops


Acacia cochlearis


Acacia huegelii


Acacia willdenowiana

Macrozamia fraseri

Zamia

Bayu, Djiridji

Species found in Yellagonga Regional Park:

- *Macrozamia fraseri*

Zamias belong to the *Cycadales* Family of plants, which refer to a number of ancient species dating back to the Triassic period. Now representing only a minor part of the Plant Kingdom, *Cycadales* were once extremely common.

1 species of zamia exist in Yellagonga Regional Park, the **Sandplain Zamia** (*Macrozamia fraseri*). Nyungar people called this zamia **Djiridji** (or **Dyergee**, **Girijee**, **Jeerajee**). The bright, orange seeds of the **Djiridji** were called **bayu** (or **booyoo**, **boya**, **byyu**).

The **Djiridji** produce large seed pods which look somewhat like green pineapples. These pods are home to a number of orange **bayu** which contain significant levels of toxins. Some Aboriginal people consider **bayu** a delicacy and different Aboriginal groups around Australia undertake various preparatory processes before eating them. In south-western Australia the **bayu** are sometimes collected in a reed bag which is then soaked in running water for a period of time to leach out the toxins. The seeds are then buried underground, often for 6 months or more. After this time, Nyungar people peel the seeds and eat only the orange skin. Elsewhere in Australia, it is the seeds themselves that are eaten, and these are often crushed into a porridge-like meal and then formed into cakes and roasted in ashes. Some Aboriginal groups soak the seeds in water for an extended period of time and many do not bury them. Some early botanists and colonists, including James Drummond and George Fletcher Moore believed the **bayu** to be a culturally significant food for traditional Nyungar people.

Many early explorers and colonists ate the attractive orange zamia seeds without knowledge of their toxicity. Disastrous encounters with the seeds of the **Djiridji** were recorded as early as 1697 by the crew of the Dutch voyage of Willem de Vlamingh. The crew were exploring the land around the Swan River when they


Macrozamia fraseri

ate several raw **bayu** which they described as tasting like Dutch broad beans. According to the ship's log, within three hours, they had begun to *"vomit so violently that there was hardly any distinction between death and us."*

The **Djiridji** also produces a cotton-like substance around the base of the plant. This native cotton is very soft and absorbent and was used by traditional Nyungar women for feminine hygiene purposes. The native cotton can also be used in the **coolamon** (carrying vessel) as a soft lining for babies to sleep on as they are carried from place to place. Many early colonists also utilised this native cotton as tinder for lighting fires.

The fronds of the **Djiridji** are also useful to Nyungar people. The large palm-like leaves are used for shade and occasionally in the roofing of the **mia-mia** (shelter). The long zamia leaves can also be removed from their stem and used as a strong string to tie objects together.

Many early colonists took advantage of the high starch content of zamias. Early botanist James Drummond recorded that some of the colonisers prepared quantities of starch by grating down peeled seeds and pouring water over the mass. The vegetable matter would then separate and leave a starch at the bottom, similar to arrowroot.


Macrozamia fraseri


Macrozamia fraseri


Macrozamia fraseri


Macrozamia fraseri


Macrozamia fraseri

Banksia grandis

Appendix 1

Species List

The following Species List has been assembled from several different resources and, as such, contains the Nyungar names for plants that have been documented by various people in different parts of Nyungar Country. Some names, particularly those from the Great Southern and Wheatbelt regions of Western Australia may not have been used in Mooro Country. All Nyungar names have therefore been referenced, so that readers may further explore their derivation.

(most frequently used name(s) is **bolded**)

Scientific Name	Common Name(s)	Nyungar Name(s)
Acacia cochlearis	**Rigid Wattle**	
Acacia cyclops	**Coastal Wattle** **Red-Eyed Wattle** Western Coastal Wattle	**Woolya Wah** [1] **Wilyawa** [1]
Acacia huegelii		
Acacia lasiocarpa	**Panjang**	Pajang [2] **Panjang** [3]
Acacia pulchella	**Prickly Moses** Western Prickly Moses	
Acacia saligna	Black Wattle Golden-Wreath Wattle **Orange Wattle**	Coojong [3, 4] Cujong [2, 3] **Kudjong** [3] Kileyung [5] Kalyung [1]
Acacia willdenowiana	**Grass Wattle**	
Alexgeorgea nitens		
Allocasuarina fraseriana	Common Sheoak Fraser's Sheoak **Sheoak**	Condil [2, 3, 4] **Kondil** [3] Kwerl [1] **Kwoorl** [1]
Allocasuarina humilis	**Dwarf Sheoak**	
Allocasuarina lehmanniana	**Dune Sheoak**	
Anigozanthos humilis	**Catspaw** Common Catspaw Dwarf Catspaw Small Orange Kangaroo Paw	
Anigozanthos manglesii	Common Green Kangaroo Paw **Mangles Kangaroo Paw** Red and Green Kangaroo Paw Red-Stemmed Kangaroo Paw	Koroylbardang [6] Krulbrang [2, 3] Kuroolberny [1] **Kurulbrang** [3] **Nollamara** [1] **Yonga Marra** [3]
Astartea fascicularis		

Banksia attenuata	**Candle Banksia** Candlestick Banksia Coast Banksia **Slender Banksia**	Bealwra [5] Beara [2, 3] Biara [2, 3, 4, 6] Birytch (flower) [6] Biytch (flower) [6] Peera [2, 3] **Piara** [2, 3] Piras [6]
Banksia grandis	**Bull Banksia** Giant Banksia Great-Flowered Banksia	Beera [2, 3, 7, 8] Boolgalla [2, 3, 7] Boorarup [2, 3, 7] Bulgalla [6] Mangaat [6] Mangaitch [9] Mangatj [1] Mangghoyte [5] Mangite [3, 4, 7, 10] Mangyt (flower) [6, 10] Manjoyte [11] Metjo (flower) [6] Metjo Kundyle (seeds) [6] Moncat [10, 12] Mungart [1] Mungat [10, 12, 13] Munghite [10] Mungitch [7] **Mungite** [10, 14] Mungitj [15] Mungyte [10, 16] Munyaret [1] **Poolgarla** [7] Pulgarla [3]
Banksia ilicifolia	Holly Banksia **Holly-Leaved Banksia**	
Banksia littoralis	River Banksia Seaside Banksia **Swamp Banksia** Swamp Oak Western Swamp Banksia	Boongura [2, 3, 8] Gwangia [2, 3] **Pungura** [3]
Banksia menziesii	**Firewood Banksia** Menzies Banksia	
Banksia prionotes	**Acorn Banksia** Orange Banksia Saw-Tooth Banksia	
Banksia sessilis	**Parrot Bush**	**Pulgart** [1]
Baumea articulata	**Jointed Rush** Jointed Twig Rush **Jointed Twig Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Baumea preissii	**Broad Twig Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Bolboschoenus caldwellii	**Marsh Club-Rush**	**Belillah** [17] **Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Bossiaea eriocarpa	**Common Brown Pea**	
Burchardia congesta	**Milkmaids**	
Caesia micrantha	**Pale Grass-Lily**	
Caladenia arenicola	**Carousel Spider Orchid**	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Caladenia flava	**Cowslip Orchid** Primrose Orchid	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Caladenia latifolia	Pink Fairies **Pink Fairy Orchid**	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Caladenia longicauda	**Common White Spider Orchid** Yellow Spider Orchid	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Caladenia macrostylis	**Leaping Spider Orchid**	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Caladenia marginata	**White Fairy Orchid**	**Kar** (Caladenia sp.) [1] **Kararr** (Caladenia sp.) [1]
Calothamnus quadrifidus	Common One-Sided Bottlebrush **One-Sided Bottlebrush**	**Kwowdjard** [3] Queitjat [2, 3]
Calothamnus sanguineus	**Silky-Leaved Blood Flower**	
Carex appressa	**Tall Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Carex fascicularis	Razor Sedge **Tassel Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Clematis linearifolia	**Slender Clematis**	
Clematis pubescens	**Common Clematis** Common White Clematis White Clematis	
Conostephium pendulum	**Drooping Cone Flower** **Pearl Flower** **Pink-Tipped Pearl**	
Conostylis candicans (ssp. calcicola)	**Grey Cottonhead** White Conostylis	
Corymbia calophylla	**Marri** Red Gum	Cardau [11] Gardan [2, 3, 6] Grydan [2, 3, 8] Kardan [2, 3, 5] Kurrden [2, 3] Maree [2, 3] Mari [3] **Marri** [2, 3] Marril [2, 3] Mundup [2, 3] Nalla (resin) [6] Nandup [2, 3] Ngoombit (flower) [8] Ngora [2, 3] Ngumbat (flower) [2, 3] Ngumbit (flower) [6, 10] Numbit (flower) [10, 18] Numbrid (flower) [6, 10] Nundup [3]
Corynotheca micrantha	**Sand Lily**	
Crassula colorata	Dense Crassula **Dense Stonecrop**	
Daviesia divaricata	**Marno**	Mano [2, 3] **Marno** [3]
Desmocladus flexuosus		

Dianella revoluta	Black-Anther Flax Lily Blue Flax Lily **Blueberry Lily** Flax Lily Native Flax Spreading Flax Lily	
Dichopogon capillipes	**Chocolate Lily** Purple Lily	
Diuris corymbosa	**Donkey Orchid**	
Diuris longifolia	**Common Donkey Orchid** Donkey Orchid	
Drosera erythrorhiza	**Red Ink Sundew**	
Drosera macrantha	**Bridal Rainbow** Bridal Rainbow Sundew Climbing Drosera Rainbow	
Elythranthera brunonis	**Purple Enamel Orchid**	
Eremaea pauciflora		
Eryngium pinnatifidum	**Blue Devils**	
Eucalyptus gomphocephala	**Tuart** White Gum	Duart [3] Dubta (seeds) [6] Mooarn [3] Moorun [2, 3] Mouarn [2] Tooart [2, 3] **Tuart** [2, 3, 4]
Eucalyptus decipiens		
Eucalyptus marginata	**Jarrah** Swan River Mahogany	Budto (bark) [6] Cherring [2, 3] Chiaragl [2, 3] Djara [3] Djarrail [2, 3] Djarryl [2, 3, 6] Djerral [2, 3] Dyerral [2, 8] Gharrahel [11] **Jarrah** [2, 3, 4, 19] Jarrail [5] Jarral [2, 3] Jarraly [2, 3] Jarril [2, 3] Jeerilya [2, 3] Jeril [2, 3] Jerrail [2, 3] Jerral [2, 3] Jerril [2, 3] Jerryl [2, 3] Yarrah [2]
Eucalyptus petrensis	**Straggly Mallee**	**Koodjat** [1]
Eucalyptus rudis	Blue Gum Desert gum **Flooded Gum** River Gum Swamp Gum Western Australian Flooded Gum	Colaille [2, 3] Gooloorda [2, 3, 8] Gooloorto [2, 3] Gulurto [2, 3, 6] Koolert [2, 3] **Kulurda** [2] **Moitch** [1, 2, 3, 4, 19] Moja [2, 3]

Eucalyptus todtiana	**Blackbutt** Coastal Blackbutt Pricklybark	
Ficinia nodosa	Knobby Club Rush **Knotted Club Rush**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Gompholobium tomentosum	**Hairy Yellow Pea**	
Grevillea crithmifolia		**Berrung** (low, flowering shrub) [1]
Grevillea preissii		
Grevillea vestita		
Hakea lissocarpha	Duck and Drake Bush **Honey Bush**	**Berrung** (low, flowering shrub) [1]
Hakea prostrata	**Harsh Hakea**	**Berrung** (low, flowering shrub) [1] Doolgur [1] **Pulgur** [1]
Hakea trifurcata	**Two-Leaf Hakea**	**Berrung** (low, flowering shrub) [1]
Hardenbergia comptoniana	**Native Wisteria** Wild Sarsaparilla Wild Wisteria	**Koorla** [1] Koorlo [1] Kurrolo [6]
Hemiandra linearis	**Speckled Snakebush**	
Hibbertia aurea		
Hibbertia hypericoides	**Yellow Buttercups**	
Hibbertia racemosa	**Stalked Guinea Flower**	
Hovea pungens	**Devil's Pins** Needle-Leaved Hovea	Buyenak [2, 3, 6] **Puyenak** [3]
Hovea trisperma (var. trisperma)	**Common Hovea**	
Hybanthus calycinus	Native Violet **Wild Violet**	
Hypocalymma robustum	Bush Myrtle Monkey-Blossom Pink Myrtlee Pink-All-The-Way-Up **Swan River Myrtle** Wild Peach	
Isotropis cuneifolia	Common Lamb Poison **Granny Bonnets** Lamb Poison	
Jacksonia furcellata	**Grey Stinkwood**	
Jacksonia sericea	**Waldjumi**	Waldjumei [3] **Waldjumi** [3] Waljumei [2]
Jacksonia sternbergiana	**Green Stinkwood**	Cabboor [5] Kabbur [2, 3, 4] Kapbur [2, 3, 6] Kapoor [8] **Kapur** [3] Koorpa [2, 3] **Koorpa** [1] Mondil [2, 3] Mondurn [2, 3]
Juncus pallidus	Giant Rush **Pale Rush**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]

Kennedia prostrata	Red Runner **Running Postman** Scarlet Coral Pea **Scarlet Runner**	Mirdadjet [1] Pulbarn [6] **Pulboorn** [1]
Kunzea ericifolia	Native Tea **Spearwood** Yellow Kunzea	**Condil** [2, 3] **Kitja Boorn** [1] Pondil [2, 3, 4] Poorndil [1]
Kunzea glabrescens	**Spearwood**	
Lagenophora huegelii	**Coarse Lagenophora**	
Lechenaultia linarioides	Coastal Leschenaultia **Yellow Leschenaultia**	
Lepidosperma longitudinale	Common Sword-Sedge **Pithy Sword-Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Leucopogon propinquus		
Lobelia tenuior	**Slender Lobelia**	**Bindji-Windjil** [3, 20]
Macrozamia fraseri	**Sandplain Zamia**	
Macrozamia riedlei	**Zamia** Zamia Palm	Baian (seeds) [2, 3] Baio (seeds) [5, 10] Bayio (seeds) [10, 11] **Bayou** (seeds) [21] **Bayu** (seeds) [1] Biu (seeds) [11] Booyoo (seeds) [25] Boya (seeds) [23] Boyern (seeds) [2, 3] Boyo (seeds) [10] Byyu (seeds) [6, 10, 16, 24] **Djiridji** [1, 3] Djiriji [2, 3, 6, 21] Djir-jy [5] Dyergee [2 ,3, 8] Dyundo (seed kernel) [6] Gargoin (seed stone) [6] Girijee [2, 3] Jeerajee [2, 3] Jeeriji [2, 3] Jeerja [2, 3] Jirjy [5] Koondagoor [2, 3] Kundagur [2, 3, 6] Kwinin (seeds) [6] Quinine (seeds) [2, 3] Quinning (seeds) [2, 3] Wida (seed kernal) [6]
Melaleuca huegelii	**Chenille Honeymyrtle**	
Melaleuca rhaphiophylla	Freshwater Paperbark **Swamp Paperbark**	Bibool Boorn [1] Yeymbac [5] Yiembak [11] **Yowarl** [1]
Mesomelaena pseudostygia	**Semaphore Sedge**	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Myoporum caprarioides	**Slender Myoporum**	
Olearia axillaris	**Coastal Daisybush**	
Opercularia hispidula	Dogweed **Hispid Dogweed** **Hispid Stinkweed**	**Djural** (grass-like plant) [1] **Djooral** (grass-like plant) [1]

Opercularia vaginate	**Dog Weed**	
Orthrosanthus laxus	**Morning Iris**	
Patersonia occidentalis	**Purple Flag** Western Patersonia	Comma [1] Koma [3] **Komma** [1, 2, 3, 6]
Petrophile linearis	Drumsticks Narrow-Leaved Cone Bush **Pixie Mops**	
Petrophile macrostachya		
Pheladenia deformis	Blue Beard **Blue Fairy Orchid**	
Philotheca spicata	**Pepper and Salt**	
Phyllanthus calycinus	**False Boronia**	
Pterostylis recurva	**Jug Orchid**	
Pterostylis vittate	**Banded Greenhood** Banded Greenhood Orchid Greenhood	
Ptilotus drummondii	**Narrow-Leaf Mulla Mulla**	Moorla-Moorla [1] **Mulla-Mulla** [3]
Ptilotus polystachyus	**Bottle Washer** Green Mulla-Mulla Green Spiked Mulla-Mulla Long Tails **Prince of Wales Feather**	Moorla-Moorla [1] **Mulla-Mulla** [3]
Pyrorchis nigricans	**Red Beaks** Undertaker Orchid	
Regelia ciliata	**Linnaea**	
Rhagodia baccata (ssp. Dioica)	Berry Saltbush **Sea Berry Saltbush**	
Ricinocarpos glaucus	**Wedding Bush**	
Schoenoplectus validus	**Lake Club-Rush** Lake Club-Sedge River Club-Rush	**Waakal Ngarnak** (rush/sedge) [1]
Senecio pinnatifolius (var. maritimus)	**Coastal Groundsel** Variable Groundsel	**Yoont Djet** [1]
Solanum symonii		
Sowerbaea laxiflora	**Purple Tassels** Vanilla Lily	
Spyridium globulosum	**Basket Bush**	
Stylidium calcaratum	**Book Triggerplant** Tripperplant	
Stylidium schoenoides	**Cow Kicks** Cow Licks	
Stylidium striatum	**Fan-Leaved Triggerplant**	
Templetonia retusa	**Cockies Tongues** Common Templetonia Red-Flowered Templetonia Templetonia	**Yackal Djarr** [1]
Thelymitra crinita	**Blue Lady Orchid** Lily Orchid Queen Orchid	
Thysanotus arenarius		
Thysanotus manglesianus	**Fringed Lily**	

Banksia ilicifolia

Thysanotus patersonii	**Twining Fringe Lily**	**Tjunguri** (probably not Nyungar) [7] Tungoori (probably not Nyungar) [10]
Thysanotus sparteus	**Leafless Fringed Lily**	
Thysanotus triandrus	**Three-Stammered Fringed Lily**	
Tricoryne tenella		
Viminaria juncea	Golden Spray **Swishbush**	Kawer [8] **Koweda** [2, 3, 4, 6] Kower [2, 3, 6] Kweda [1]
Waitzia suaveolens	**Fragrant Waitzia**	
Xanthorrhoea preissii	Balga Black Boy **Grass Tree**	Baaluk [2, 3] Balag [15] **Balga** [1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11] Balgarr [2, 3] Balka [7] Ballak [2, 3, 6] Balligar [2, 3] Balluk [2, 3] Baluk [2, 3] Barar [2, 3] Barlock [2, 3] Barro [2, 3, 5, 6] Bigo (resin (stem)) [6] Kalgyt (flower) [6] Kooryoop [1] Meelan (flower) [8] Mindar (fronds) [6] Mindarie (fronds) [21] Mulli (gum (flower)) [6] Nallang (resin (stem)) [6] Nargalya (gum (flower)) [6] Ngargalya (gum (flower)) [6] Paaluc [2, 3, 12] Paaluck [12] Palga [3] Palgar [1] Paluk [2, 3] Perin (resin (stem)) [12] Piring (resin (stem)) [6] Tadibi (resin (stem)) [6] Tudibi (resin (stem)) [6] Tudteba (resin (stem)) [6] Waljap (stem) [6] Yarrlok [1]
Xanthosia huegelii		

Endnotes:

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4 Powell 1990
5 Stokes 1846
6 Moore 1884
7 Daw et al 1997
8 Lyon 1833
9 Roth 1903
10 Meagher 1974
11 Fountain 1907
12 Nind 1831
13 Collie 1834
14 Armstrong 1836
15 Bird & Beeck 1899
16 Grey 1841b
17 Eyre 1845
18 Drummond 1842-1843j
19 Chippendale 1973
20 Reid 1977
21 CoJ nd
22 Hammond 2005
23 Drummond 1842-1843e
24 Smyth 1878

Lake Joondalup

Appendix 2

Nyungar Seasons

Across Australia, Aboriginal hunting and food-gathering practices were dictated by the cycle of the seasons (Berndt & Berndt 1999:11). The way in which the year was divided depended upon the region concerned. In south-western Australia the year was generally separated into 6 seasons: Birak, Bunuru, Djerin, Makaru, Djilba and Kambarang.

December to January	Birak	At this time of year the weather was dry and hot. During Birak, scrubland was burnt to force animals into the open for easier hunting and to encourage new plant growth. Banksias were in flower during Birak and the blossoms were gathered in Mooro country for their honey.
February to March	Bunuru	Bunuru was the hottest time of the year and during Bunuru, people gathered around the lakes, including those in the Yellagonga Regional Park area. At this time of year, food was plentiful with frogs and reptiles in abundance. Zamia seeds were collected at this time and banksia and wattle flowers were gathered for their honey.
April to May	Djerin	As Djerin approached, the weather got cooler and people travelled down the river. Scrubland was burnt to ensure food would be plentiful for the next year. Shelters were built in Djerin and skin cloaks were sewn. At this time of year, root vegetables were plentiful and various root tubers and bulbs were collected.
June to July	Makaru	During these wetter months, the people of the Swan River Plain moved up towards the shelter of the hills where they would be protected from the south-west winds. At this time of year, rains replenished the inland water resources and large animals, such as kangaroos, emus and possums were hunted for food. Smouldering banksia cones were kept under cloaks to keep warm.
August to September	Djilba	During Djilba, the days and nights were clear and cold. During this time, root tubers were an important food source. In particular, native yams near the Swan River were dug in vast quantities. Large animals, such as kangaroos, emus and possums continued to be hunted. Plants, such as milkmaids, cottonhead, myrtle and spearwood would begin to flower.
October to November	Kambarang	As the weather become warmer in Kambarang, people camped around the lakes, including those in the Yellagonga Regional Park area. Wetlands foods, including frogs and reptiles were hunted. Birds, such as ducks, swans and wild turkeys were also plentiful. Sweet gums and resins would exude from the bark of Eucalypts.

Bibulmun Yorga

Appendix 3

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