

Moore Estuary Lookout

Please enjoy your stay in Guilderton
~ Take only photos and leave only footprints ~

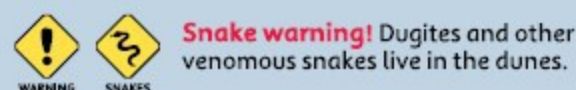


KEY



WALK TRAILS

1. Lookout loop via Lookout staircase beach access slope 450m (not signposted)
2. Lookout loop via Lookout staircase and Cobber Murray Stairway staircase 350m (not signposted)
3. Lookout to estuary foreshore via Lookout staircase and Cobber Murray Stairway staircase 800m return (not signposted)



Remember! Wear a hat, sun cream and closed shoes. Take plenty of water with you.

The Traditional Custodians of the land around here are the Yued people. Moore River Estuary is extremely important to their cultural and spiritual beliefs. The below welcome is in Noongar - the language of the Yued.

"Kaya - Wanjoo Yued Boojda" "Noonakoort karnya nitja Noongar boodja Noongar kep Yeye benang boordahwan"
"Hello - Welcome to Yued Land" "Have respect for this is our land and waters today, tomorrow and in the future"



Guilderton origins

The mouth of the Moore River was originally known as Gabbadah, an Aboriginal term meaning 'a mouthful of water'. The area has been used by the Yued people for eons, and for general recreation since the earliest days of white settlement in the Gingin district. Around 1905, a 100 acre block at Gabbadah owned by Henry Brockman was made a reserve for picnicking and camping. A well and 3 cottages were built in 1907, people were charged one shilling per week for the use of these cottages. The new town of Guilderton was gazetted on 30th November 1951 after guilders from the Dutch sailing Ship 'Vergulde Draeck' (Gilt Dragon) wrecked south of Ledge Point in 1656 were found nearby. The Vergulde Draeck had sailed from Texel (Holland) bound for Batavia (now Jakarta), under Pieter Albertsz with 193 souls aboard, and was carrying trade goods and eight chests of silver worth 786,000 guilders. The ship was wrecked suddenly on the night of the 28th April 1656 on a reef 2.5km out to sea.

In 1931 a young boy who was playing in some sandhills uncovered about 40 Dutch coins. They were all dated between 1619 and 1655, indicating that they could have been from the Vergulde Draeck. More coins were discovered in various places nearby as well as a rusty sword and apparently a skeleton with shoe buckles was also discovered in 1932 at Eagle's Nest which was not far from the coast. All these discoveries spurred interest in the wreck. The ship's final resting point remained a mystery until 1963 when it was found by spear fishermen. It is also a mystery as to the final fate of the shipwreck survivors. None of the 75 survivors were ever found.



Moore on Pelicans

Pelicans are one of the most recognised and loved birds of the Moore River estuary. There are a number of resident birds which can be found most of the year round.



Moore Pelicans - the real birds fishing at the estuary mouth, and pelican art by artist Justin Clapin in 2007



Peli facts

Name: Australian pelican - *Pelecanus conspicillatus*
Size: 1.6 to 1.8 metres **Weight:** up to 7 kg
Wingspan: up to 3.4 metres **Lifespan:** 25 years
Pouched bill: 40 to 47cm and can hold 9 to 13 litres of water.
Flight: They can fly to 3000m and can ride the thermals and reach a speed of 56km/h. They can stay aloft for 24 hours.
Food: Fish, crustaceans, shrimps, turtles, tadpoles and frogs. They are known to poach food from other birds - chasing them until they drop their prey.
Trivia: Groups of pelicans are known as pods, scoops or squadrons.



All photos by R Walmsley unless indicated

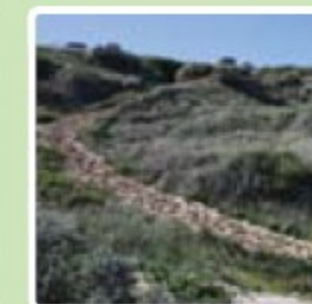
Importance of Healthy Coastal Dune Vegetation

The coastal plants you see here are adapted to the harsh conditions of the coastal environment. Vegetation helps stabilise the dunes by slowing the wind speed and trapping the sand, whilst their root systems hold and shape the dunes. Healthy dunes consisting of native vegetation are important not only for biodiversity and social enjoyment, but they are vitally important for residential communities to mitigate sea level rise and storm activity erosion issues.

Unfortunately the coastal dunes are easily eroded by 4WD vehicles and humans. Degradation of the dunes also allows non native weed species to prosper such as Pyp grass and Pelargonium which is difficult to remove. To help keep Guilderton beautiful, please stick to the designated paths when accessing the beach and observe signage.



Healthy dune vegetation



Unhealthy dune vegetation

This 2015 signage project was delivered by Moore Catchment Council in consultation with these partners and funded by Northern Agricultural Catchments Council through the Federal Government's National Landcare Programme.

