

# North Groyne

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



## KEY



## WALK TRAILS

1. Djena Koorkl-iny loop 1.6km (signposted)
2. Lighthouse trail loop 3km (not signposted)
3. Lighthouse loop via Guilderton road and Mortimer road 4km (not signposted)

**Snake warning!** Dugites and other venomous snakes live in the dunes.  
**Remember!** Wear a hat, sun cream and closed shoes. Take plenty of water with you.



## Life on a sandy beach

Sandy beaches comprise almost 50% of WA's coastline. The beach environment is harsh and constantly changing, and inhabitants have to adapt to changing factors such as salinity, light and temperature. At first glance the beach may look fairly barren of life, but in fact is home to countless species of tiny animals including invertebrates (animals with no backbone) categorised as Macrofauna, Microfauna and Meiofauna, dependant on size.

During certain times of the year, the beach will be covered in sea wrack. Sea wrack is a mixture of mainly sea grass, sea weed and algae which has been deposited on the beach after winter storms and heavy swells. You may think sea wrack is unsightly and smelly but it plays an important role in the marine and coastal food web, and for us by protecting beach communities.



Sea Wrack - Important for the food chain and stopping erosion



Macrofauna inhabit the sea wrack including amphipods and isopods



### Remember:

- Sea wrack actively protects beach and dune degradation from wave and storm damage;
- Sea wrack provides a habitat for the critters that juvenile fish eat, that in turn bigger fish consume which supplies the fishing industry;
- Sea wrack is full of nutrients and acts as a natural compost heap which break down and nourishes the ocean.

Info: <http://beachcombers.wa.gov.au/beachcombing>

## Lighting the way

In 1931, forty 17th Century silver guilder coins were found in the sand hills near the entrance to the Moore River. They were believed to be from the wreck of the Dutch ship, the Vergulde Draeck ("Gilt Dragon") that had foundered on a reef just north of Moore River near Ledge Point in 1656. The wreck of the ship, which had been carrying a valuable cargo which included silver coins worth 185,000 guilders, was not discovered until 1963.

The town-ship at the mouth of the Moore River had grown enough to be gazetted and named Guilderton in 1951. In 1983, the Federal Department of Transport established a lighthouse at Wreck Point, Guilderton near the river mouth at a cost of \$240,000. It was built as an automatic marine beacon and commenced operation in December of that year. It is the only major navigation aid between Fremantle and Jurien Bay, and is also the last to be built in Western Australia. The new tower, constructed in specially tapered red clay bricks, is 32 metres high and the base is 7.5 metres in diameter. Placed on top is the white metal lantern house containing a tripple bullseye lens that displays a light that has a range of 22 nautical miles. The light is 76.75 metres above sea level.

This was the last brick tower style lighthouse built in Australia. The lighthouse has a slightly larger twin at Troubridge Hill in South Australia and both have won architectural awards.

Info: [www.lighthouses.org.au](http://www.lighthouses.org.au)



<http://forums.overclockers.com.au/>



Photograph: Winsome Bonham



## Shorebirds really get around

Almost 10% of the Australian bird species are shorebirds. There are migratory species, (such as Bar-tailed Godwit, Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone) that breed in the Arctic, and residents (such as Red-capped Plover, Pied, Sooty Oystercatcher and Banded Stilt) that breed in Australia. They are grouped as shorebirds as they are found in the intertidal zones (wetlands, estuaries, beaches etc.). Shorebirds differ from other birds as their bills are specialised and variable depending on where they feed. Shorebirds are easy to spot as they feed out in the open, on the beach, on the mud flats or wading through shallow water. They are different from Herons, Ibises or ducks because shorebirds are generally alot smaller.

### Where do they go?

In a lifetime, a shorebird might fly as many kms as flying to the moon and back - 768,802km!! In June they'll be in Siberia or Alaska where they raise their chicks. For the six weeks of summer the sun hardly ever sets so the birds can feed 24 hours a day. Once the chicks are grown up, they leave before the snow and ice returns. On their way back to Australia, shorebirds visit China, Japan, Thailand and an Indonesian island or two before landing in Australia to spend summer on the beach. The route they travel is called the East Asia Australasian Flyway - a highway for birds. Approximately two million shorebirds from 36 different species use this migration highway.

One round trip on the flyway is about 25,000km and adult migratory shorebirds do it every year. They are also able to sleep on the fly by shutting down one half of their brain. Not bad for a bird half the size of a chocolate bar!

Info: [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) & Philippa Schmucker



Banded Stilt *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*



Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

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