

# Riverside Trail

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



## Connection to Country

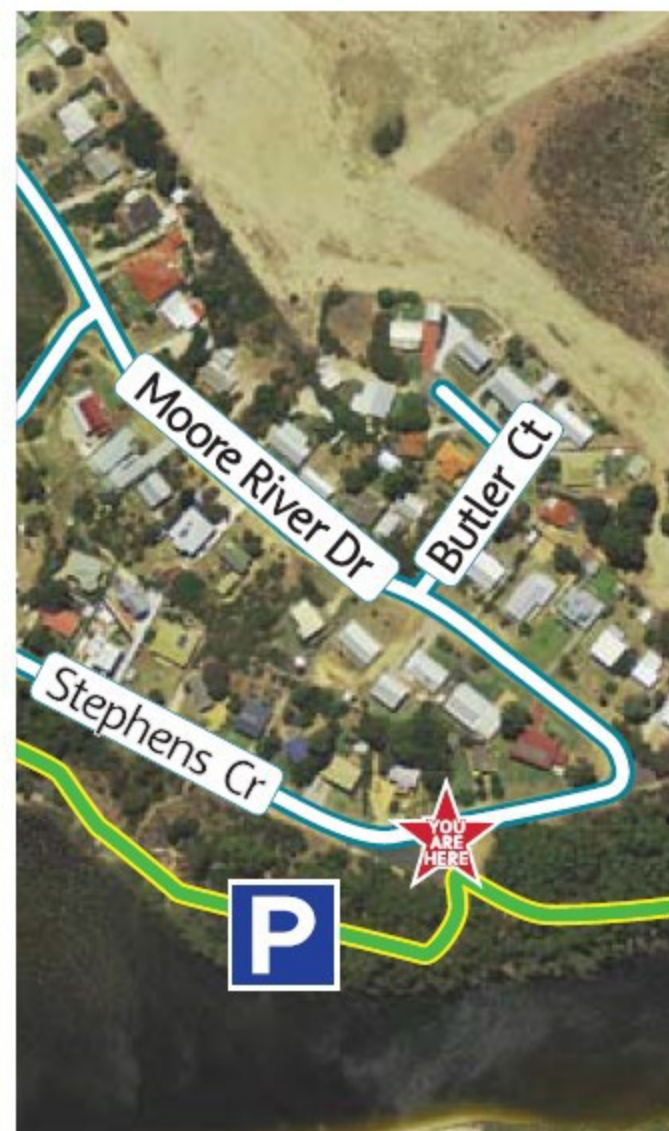
There is significant diversity among Nyoongar people with connections to estuaries and traditional knowledge of land and its biodiversity. This interconnectedness is explained through traditional law and customs, creation stories, song and dance, with other cultural practices transferred from generation to generation to explain Nyoongar peoples knowledge of country. Nyoongar cultural heritage involves both areas of mythological or ceremonial places, where historical events took place. Yued and Amangu Tribes gathered together on the coast where they camped, traded and hunted around estuaries and swamps. A major part of this coming together of the two tribes was the performing of corroborees and dances on the Bora Grounds. In the summer months both tribes had plenty of food like fish, fresh water turtles, frogs, water-fowl, snakes and lizards. They also performed fire stick burning of the surrounding areas, to encourage new growth that would appeal as food for the kangaroos and emus.

Nyoongar people were very skilled in fishing and used the sea environment and its marine life to assist their survival. They used technology to make nets and spears and also made tools from shells, and fishbones. Marine life was also integrated into cultural stories and ceremonies. Nyoongar people used their traditional knowledge and skills to build fish traps in certain tidal locations. Creations of middens showed they consumed shell fish. Some of these practices are still performed in more contemporary times even with modern technology.



As told by Bev Port-Louis - Yued group

Picture: Nyoongar art <http://www.capelodge.com.au/>



### KEY



### WALK TRAILS

1. Silver Creek trail 1.3km return (not signposted)
2. Riverside trail to boardwalk car park 800m return (not signposted)
3. Riverside trail 6km return (not signposted)

**Snake warning!** Dugites and other venomous snakes may be present

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



All photos by R Walmsley unless indicated

## Towering Tuarts

Tuarts or White Gum *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* are a species of tree native to the southwest of Western Australia and their distribution range is a narrow coastal corridor within the Swan Coastal Plain, extending inland five to ten kilometres, a continuous strip south from south of Cervantes to Busselton. Outlying patches of the tree are found to the north of Yanchep and further inland where rivers intersect the range. They can grow to over 35m tall and have white flowers appearing in mid summer to mid autumn.

Tuart is the Nyoongar name for *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*. Historically the bark from the Tuart was used by the Noongar people to make roofing for mia-mias (shelters).

The WA Tuart forests have been extensively logged for the prized hard timber for use in boat building, heavy construction, and poles and posts (termite resistant). The lower Moore River has some good pockets of large Tuart woodland. This habitat is important for many native fauna species including the endangered Carnaby's Black Cockatoo who feast on the seeds.



Huge Tuart trees along the lower Moore River



Tuart flowers and Seed pods



## Where Desert Meets the River

The local landmark known as 'The Desert' is located on the south side of the river opposite the boardwalk. It is about 40 hectares in area with approximately 600m on the river front. The Desert is classed as a mobile sand dune which means its constantly moving and changing shape. It is moving in a north-easterly direction at a rate of approximately 1.5m per year. This unstable nature keeps The Desert's plant life coverage sparse especially on the steep river front side.

### Geology of Guilderton

Guilderton and the lower Moore River is located in the area known as the Swan Coastal Plain, an extensive depositional mostly sand plain extending from Eneabba to Dunsborough and bound inland by the Darling Scarp. The lower few kilometres of the river contain two of the Plain's features: the Quindalup Dune system and the Spearwood Dune system. The Quindalup system is characterised by fretted parabolic dunes, chaots, a few conical hill residuals and a large shore-transfer ridge along the coastline. Various dunes are actively moving in the system including The Desert. The Spearwood system is mostly overlain by the Quindalup system here although some limestone features are visible in places.

Info: The Lower Moore River status report 2000



The Desert - Views from bottom and top  
Photos: L Johnson

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.

