

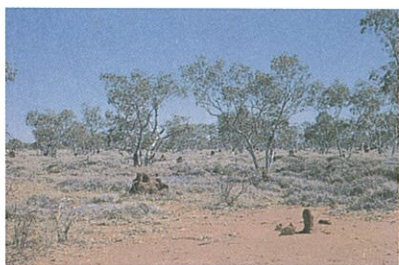
Activity Cards *Kericho*

OUR WILD PLANTS

PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



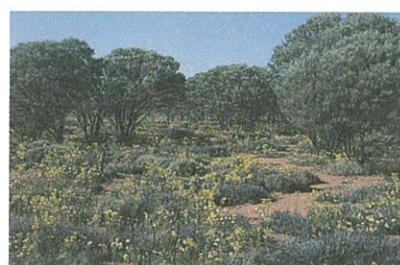
1. Tropical Woodland over Grassland



2. Woodland over Hummock Grassland



3. Hummock Grassland



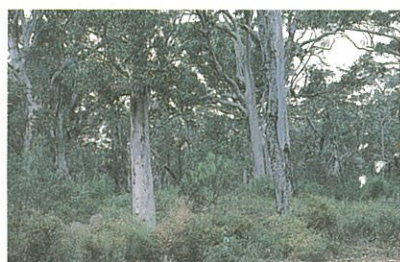
4. Acacia Low Shrubland



5. Bluebush Shrubland



6. Sapphire Low Shrubland



7. Karri Forest



8. Jarrah Forest



9. Wandoo Woodland



10. Gimlet Woodland



11. Banksia Low Woodland



12. Mallee



13. Mixed Shrubland



14. Coastal Shrubland



15. Pinjarra Plain Shrubland



16. Wetlands



Greening Western Australia



BHP



Conservation and
Land Management

1. TROPICAL WOODLAND OVER GRASSLAND



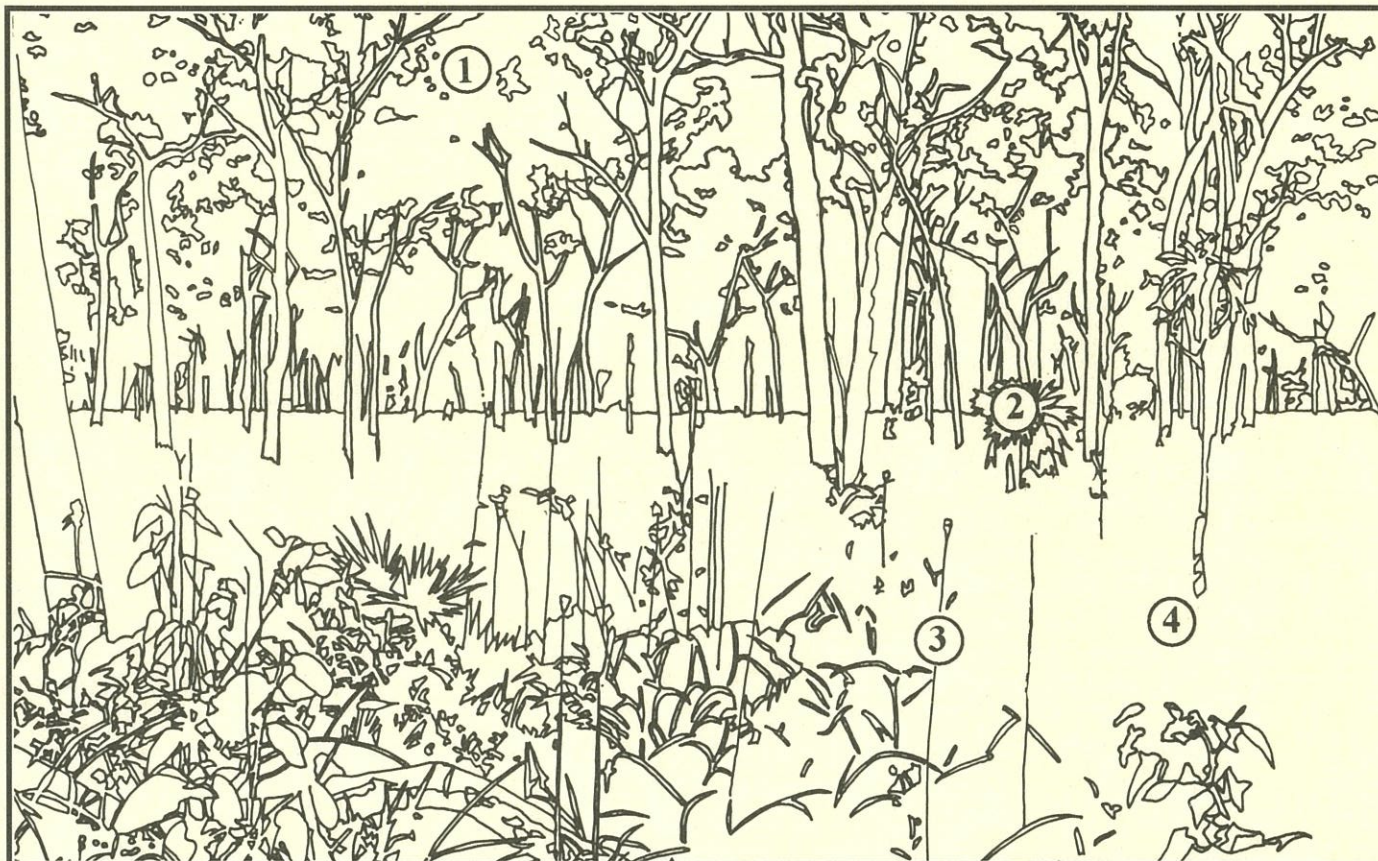
The Mitchell Plateau

Summer 1980

Photo: G J Keighery

1 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TROPICAL WOODLAND OVER GRASSLAND



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Tropical woodland over grassland grows throughout the North Kimberley. The eucalyptus trees, Northern Woollybutt and Darwin Stringybark grow in this area.

In summer, when the tropical monsoonal rains come, the tropical woodland has a lush understorey made up of many grasses and herbs.

In winter the grasses and herbs look like they are dead.

The Mitchell Plateau Fan Palm only lives on the Mitchell Plateau.

LEGEND

- Northern Woollybutt**
Eucalyptus miniata
you-cal-ipp-tus min-ee-ah-ta
- Mitchell Plateau Fan Palm**
Livistona eastonii
liv-iss-toe-na east-on-ee-eye
- Langanggu**
Tacca maculata
ta-ca mac-you-lah-ta
- Mitchell Plateau Cane Grasses**
Sorghum spp.
sore-gum



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

2. WOODLAND OVER HUMMOCK GRASSLAND



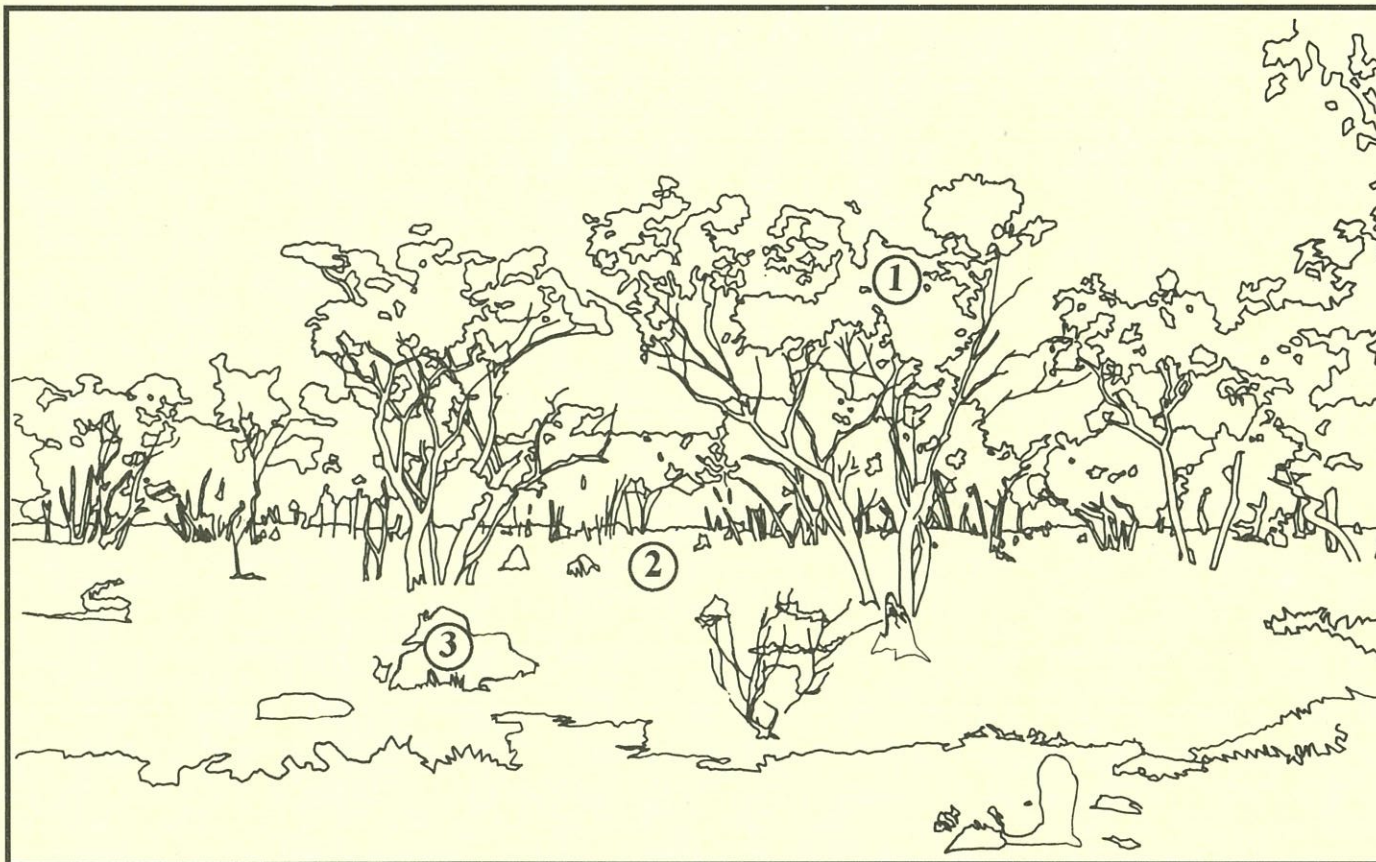
Lamboo Station (East Kimberley)

Autumn 1965

Photo: J S Beard

2 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WOODLAND OVER HUMMOCK GRASSLAND



Stunted, white-trunked Snappy Gums grow as an open woodland on the red gravel soils in the East Kimberley.

Termite mounds are scattered through the understorey of hummock grasses called Winged Spinifex.

Termites play an important part in the local plant community because they eat the dead wood and spinifex leaves and recycle nutrients.

LEGEND

1. **Snappy Gum**
Eucalyptus brevifolia
you-cal-ipp-tus brev-i-foal-ee-a
2. **Winged Spinifex**
Triodia intermedia
try-oh-dee-a in-terr-mee-di-a
3. **Termite Mounds**



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

3. HUMMOCK GRASSLAND



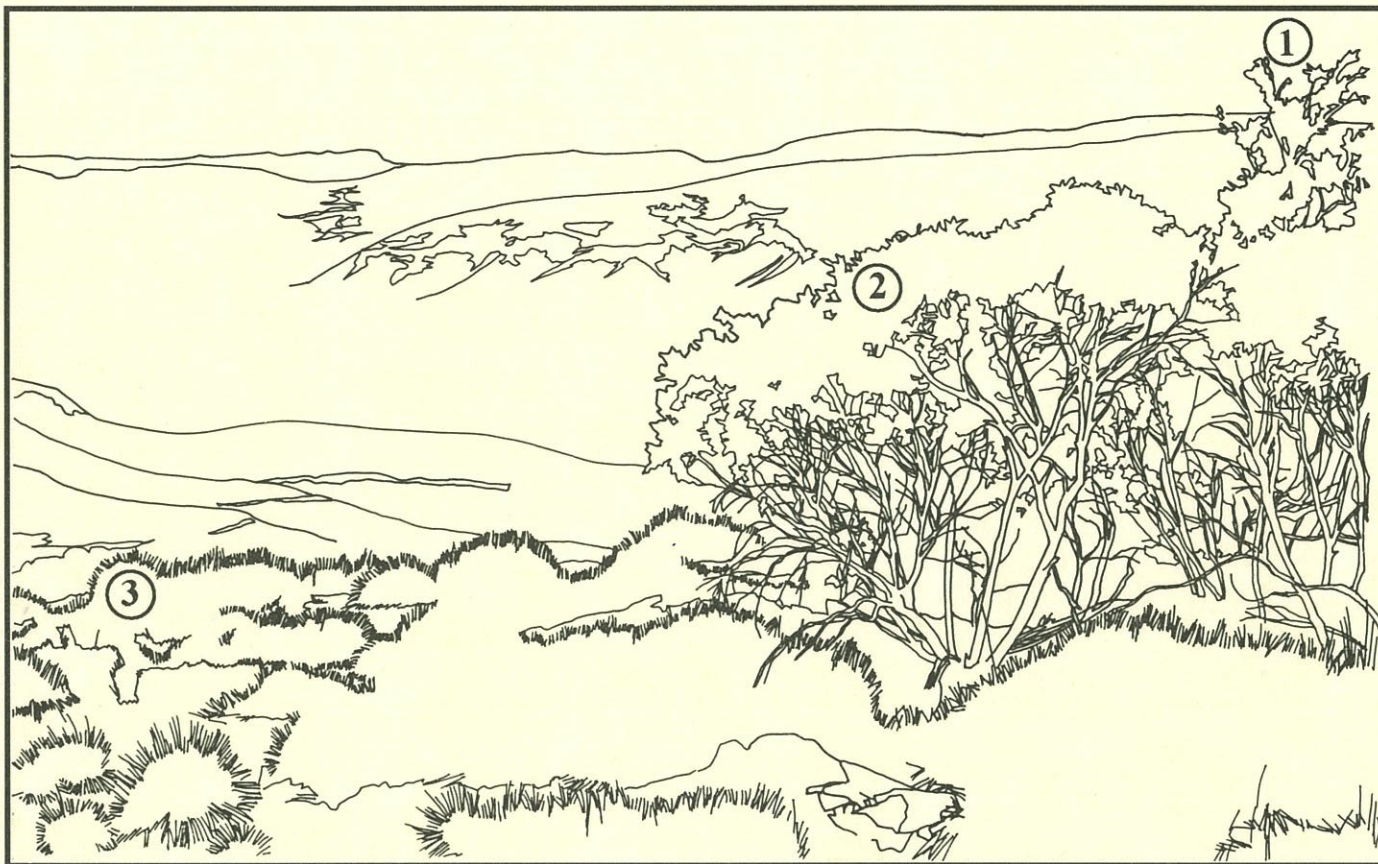
Mt Lois, Hamersley Range

Winter 1991

Photo: S Hopper

3 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

HUMMOCK GRASSLAND

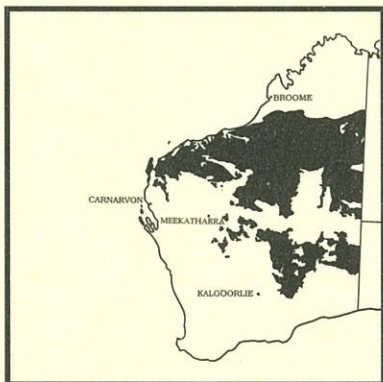


Throughout the Pilbara are seemingly endless areas of grassy hills and plains. Hummock Grasses grow on the red stony soils.

Scattered through these grasslands are eucalypts, wattles such as Ranji Bush and other small trees and shrubs.

LEGEND

1. **Ranji Bush**
Acacia spp.
a-case-ee-a
2. **Pilbara Mallee**
Eucalyptus pilbaraensis
you-cal-ipp-tus pill-bar-ra-en-sis
3. **Wise's Spinifex**
Triodia wiseana
try-oh-dee-a wy-zee-ah-na



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

4. ACACIA LOW SHRUBLAND



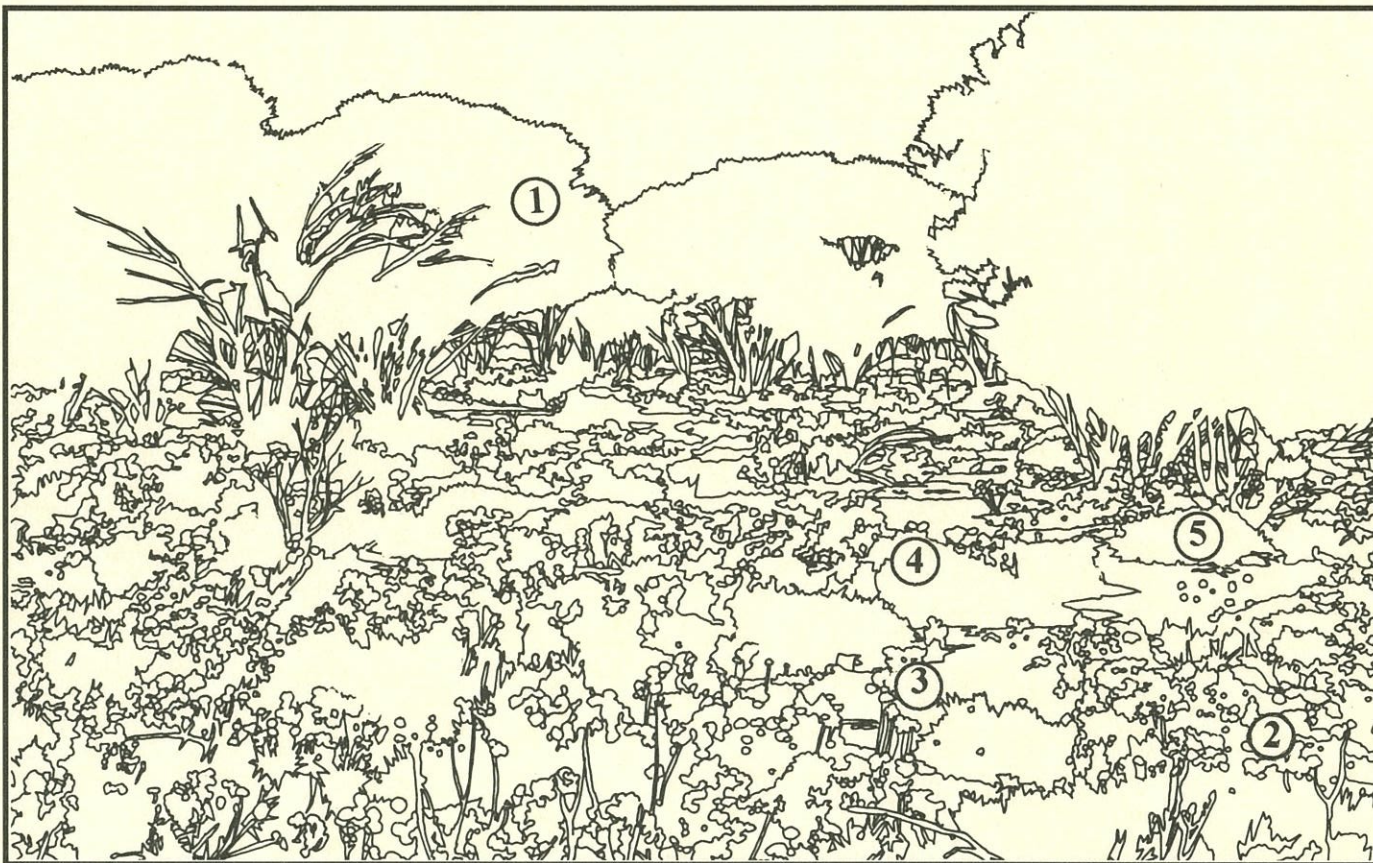
Wanjarri Nature Reserve, Goldfields

Spring 1992

Photo: G J Keighery

4 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ACACIA LOW WOODLAND



In Wandjarri Nature Reserve Acacia Low Woodland is found on the clay soils of the wide valleys between the sand dunes.

Following heavy rains there is a rapid growth and flowering of yellow and white everlastings.

Normally the ground would be bare, except for the Mulga and Hummock grasses.

LEGEND

1. **Mulga**
Acacia aneura
a-case-ee-a a-new-ra
2. **Featherheads**
Ptilotus macrocephalus
tie-low-tuss mak-ro-keff-al-us
3. **Native Cornflower (blue)**
Brunonia australis
broo-no-nee-a ost-rah-li
4. **Golden Everlasting (yellow)**
Waitzia acuminata
wait-zee-a ak-you-min-are-ta
5. **Lobed Spinifex**
Triodia basedowii
try-oh-dee-a bays-dow-ee-eye

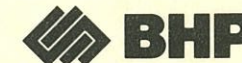
Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and Land Management

5. BLUEBUSH SHRUBLAND



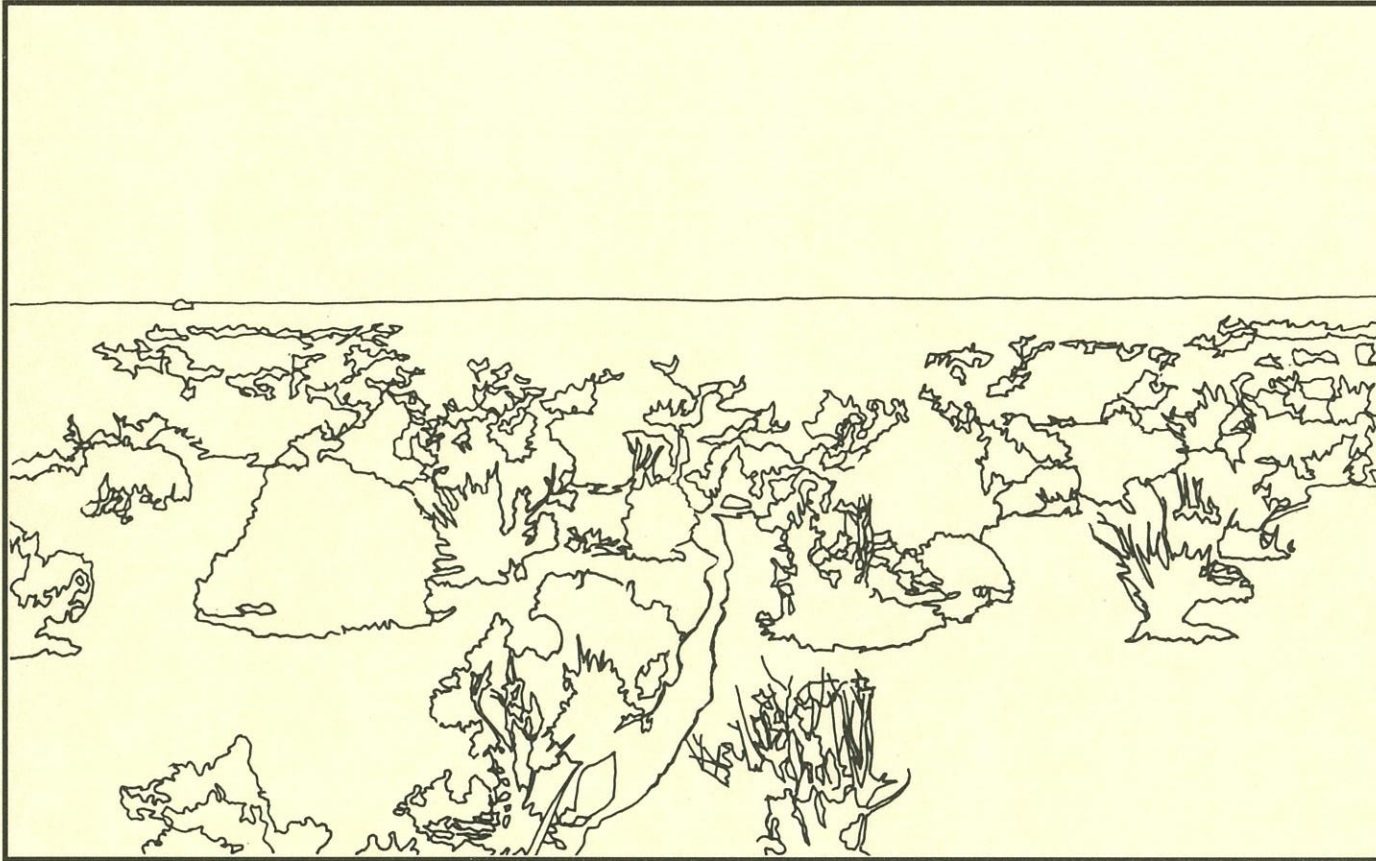
Central Nullarbor, Haig

Spring 1986

Photo: G J Keighery

5 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BLUEBUSH SHRUBLAND



The vast, treeless plain in the centre of the Nullarbor is well named because 'nulla arbor' in Latin means 'no tree'.

Bluebush and Saltbush grow across the limestone plain.

The red-green crust covering much of the soil is made up of lichens and blue-green algae.

The plants and animals living in the Nullarbor were carefully studied from 1984-1986.

The "fence" in the photograph is a trapline to catch the animals in this study area.

LEGEND

Bluebush

Maireana sedifolia

mare-ee-a-na sed-i-foal-ee-a

Saltbush

Atriplex vesicaria

a-tri-plex vess-i-ca-ree-a

(Shrubs not distinguishable)



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

6. SAMPHIRE LOW SHRUBLAND



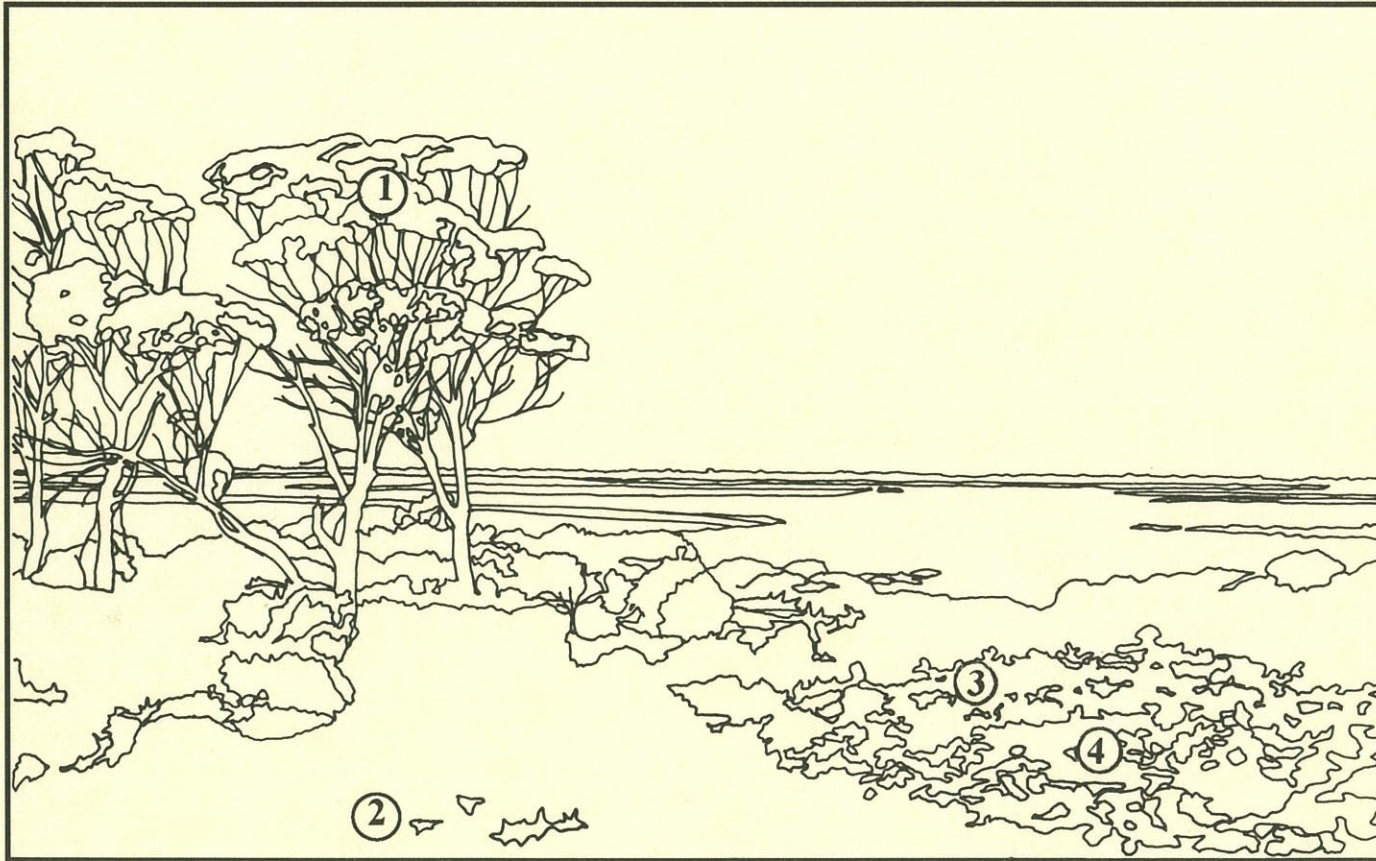
Lake Johnston

Spring 1963

Photo: J S Beard

6 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SAMPHIRE LOW SHRUBLAND



Salt flats are found around salt water lakes throughout the State. Samphire shrublands grow on all these salt flats.

Samphire plants are succulent shrubs that can live in very salty soils.

Some gum trees are also able to grow in salty soils. They grow in small groups on raised patches of sand on the flats.

LEGEND

1. **Black Morrel**
Eucalyptus melanoxylon
you-cal-ipp-tus mel-an-ox-ee-lon
2. **Saltbush**
Atriplex vesicaria
a-tri-plex vess-i-ca-ree-a
3. **Red Samphire**
Halosarcia indica
hal-oh-sar-kee-a in-di-ka
4. **Green Samphire**
Halosarcia halocnemoides
hal-oh-sar-kee-a ha-lok-nem-oy-dees



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
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- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

7. KARRI FOREST



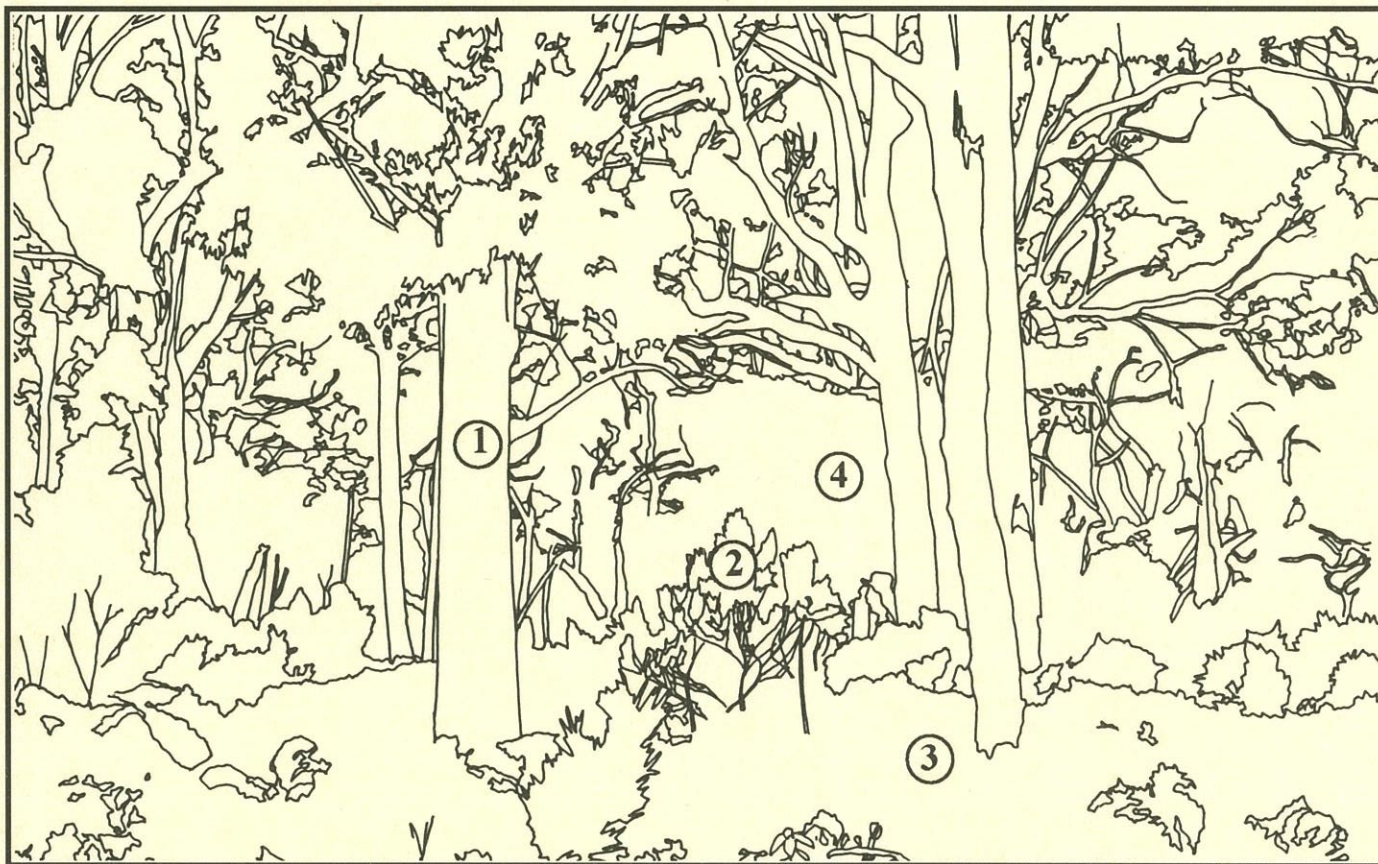
Boranup State Forest

Spring 1989

Photo: G J Keighery

7 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

KARRI FOREST



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Lake Cave in the Boranup Forest is surrounded by towering Karri forest.

In spring the understorey of *Augusta Bossiaea* brightens up the forest floor.

Karri forest is mainly found between Manjimup and Denmark, but patches of forest extend to Cape Clairault in the west and Mount Manypeaks in the east.

Some of the understorey species are not as widespread. *Augusta Bossiaea* only grows in the Karri forest between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste.

LEGEND

- Karri**
Eucalyptus diversicolor
you-cal-ipp-tus dye-ver-si-coll-ore
- Broom Ballart**
Exocarpos sparteus
ex-oh-car-pos spar-tee-us
- Augusta Bossiaea**
Bossiaea disticha
boss-ee-a dis-tish-a
- Peppermint**
Agonis flexuosa
a-go-nis flex-you-oh-sa



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

8. JARRAH FOREST

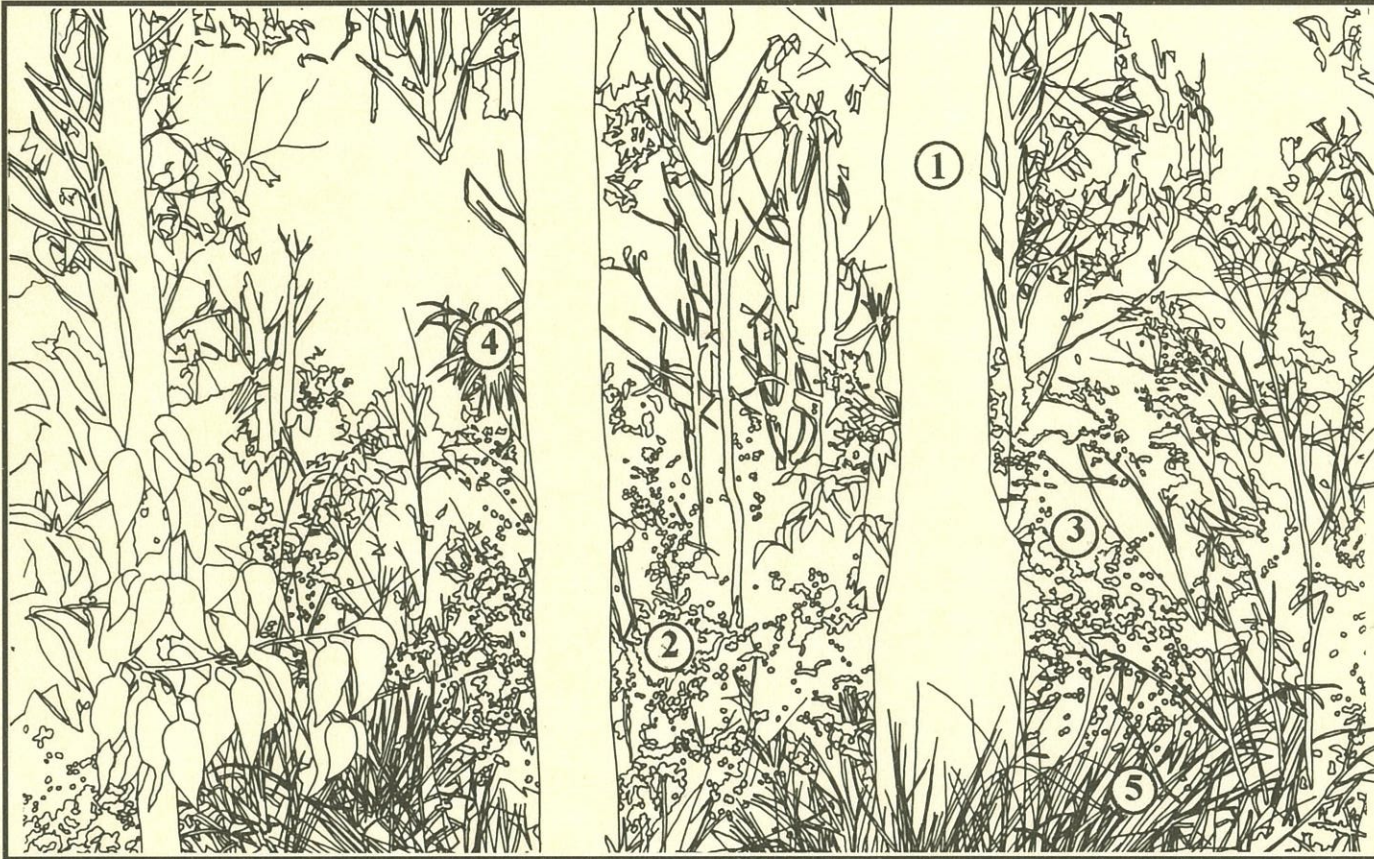


Yelverton State Forest, Yallingup

Spring 1989

Photo: G J Keighery

JARRAH FOREST



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Jarrah forest grows over much of the south-west of Western Australia.

Jarrah trees form low forests when the rainfall and soil are not ideal.

These low forests have a dense understorey of many different shrubs, herbs and sedges.

During spring in the Yelverton State Forest, the understorey is bright with the flowers of the Bush Peppermint and the Water Bush. In wetter areas the strange Pineapple Bush is found.

LEGEND

- Jarrah**
Eucalyptus marginata
you-cal-ipp-tus mar-jin-ah-ta
- Bush Peppermint**
Agonis parviceps
a-go-nis par-vi-seps
- Water Bush**
Bossiaea aquifolia
boss-ee-a a-kwi-foal-ee-a
- Pineapple Bush**
Dasypogon hookeri
day-see-poe-gon hook-err-eye
- Yellow Flag**
Patersonia umbrosa
pat-err-sone-ee-a um-bro-sa



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

9. WANDOO WOODLAND



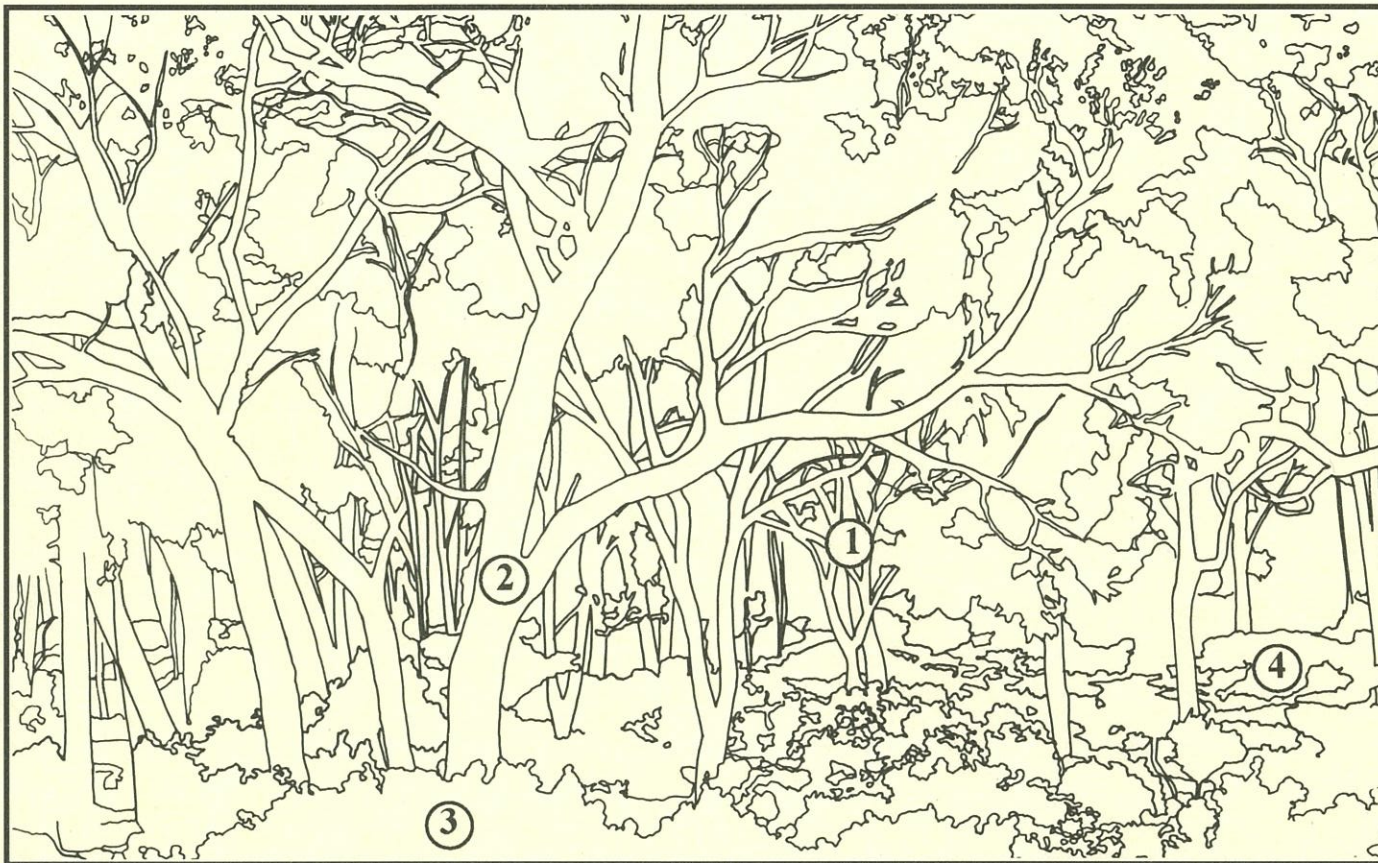
Dryandra Forest

Spring 1992

Photo: J Lochman

9 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WANDOO WOODLAND



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Wandoo Woodland is most commonly found on the drier, eastern part of the Darling Plateau.

An open shrubland grows under the low branching Wandoo trees.

Poison peas are common in the shrubland. The peas of the plant contain toxins similar to the poison 1080 used to control introduced animals such as rabbits and foxes.

Western Australian animals are tolerant to high levels of 1080.

It is thought that the thickets of poison peas may have stopped foxes and rabbits from living in the Wandoo woodlands and may have helped the Numbat to survive in the Dryandra Forest.

LEGEND

- Wandoo**
Eucalyptus wandoo
you-cal-ipp-tus won-doo
- Powderbark**
Eucalyptus accedens
you-cal-ipp-tus ak-see-dens
- Cone Bush**
Petrophile divaricata
pet-roe-file di-var-i-car-ta
- Box Poison**
Gastrolobium parviflorum
gas-tro-low-bee-um par-vi-floor-um



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

10. GIMLET WOODLAND



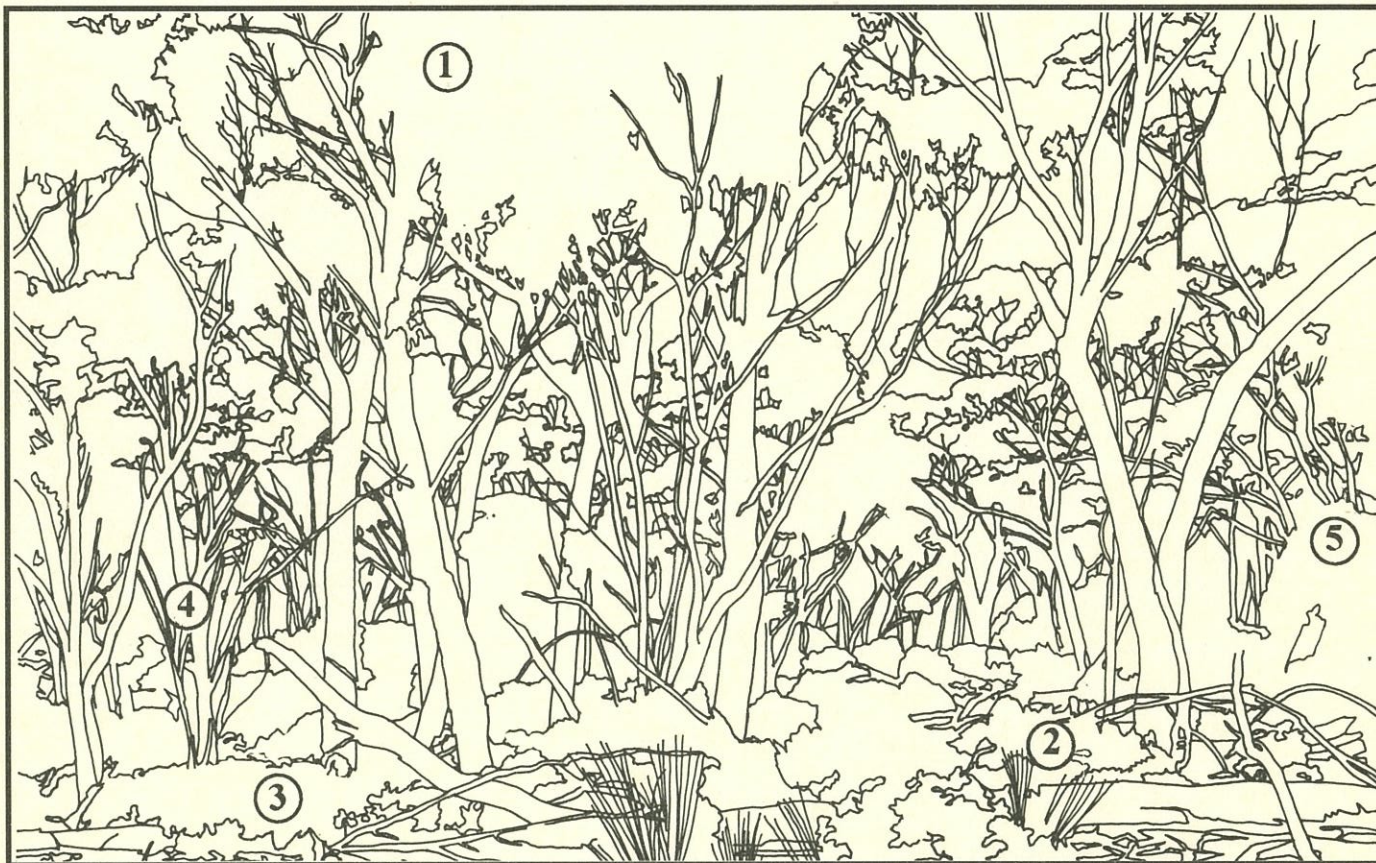
Lake Johnston

Autumn 1979

Photo: G J Keighery

10 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GIMLET WOODLAND



Autumn in the Gimlet woodland is marked by the falling of bark rather than the falling of leaves.

The new copper-coloured bark on the trunks of the Silver Topped Gimlet trees glows in the early morning light. This contrasts with the Greybush and Broombush scattered in the understorey.

Many types of eucalypt grow in the surrounding woodland area.

LEGEND

1. **Silver Topped Gimlet**
Eucalyptus campaspe
you-cal-ipp-tus cam-pass-pee
2. **Broom Bush**
Eremophila scoparia
err-eh-moff-i-la sco-pair-ee-a
3. **Greybush**
Cratystylis conocephala
krat-ee-sty-liss kon-oh-keff-al-a
4. **Goldfields Blackbutt**
Eucalyptus lesouefii
you-cal-ipp-tus lu-sweff-ee-eye
5. **Boree**
Melaleuca pauperiflora
mel-a-loo-ka paw-per-i-floor-a

Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

11. BANKSIA LOW WOODLAND



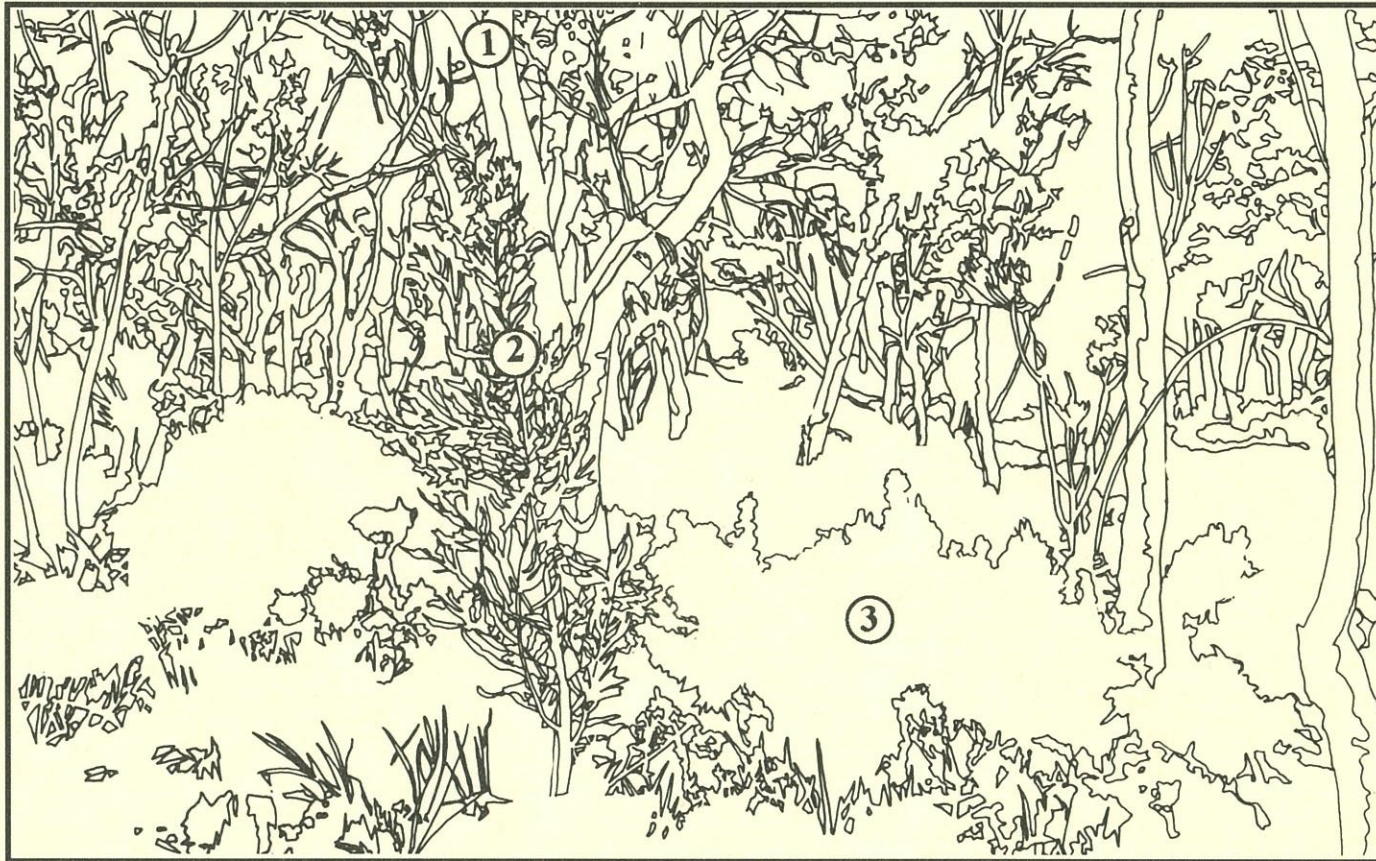
Wandi Nature Reserve

Autumn 1992

Photo: G J Keighery

11 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

BANKSIA LOW WOODLAND



The low, twisted Banksia trees of Banksia woodland look more like tall shrubs than trees.

Under the Banksias grow many shrubs, herbs and sedges. Some of these understorey plants grow only in the Banksia woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain around Perth. One of these plants is the Globe Heath which flowers in the autumn.

LEGEND

1. **Candlestick Banksia**
Banksia attenuata
bank-see-a a-ten-you-ah-ta
2. **Menzies Banksia**
Banksia menziesii
bank-see-a men-zee-see-eye
3. **Globe Heath**
Brachyloma preissii
brack-ee-loam-a pri-see-eye



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

12. MALLEE WOODLAND



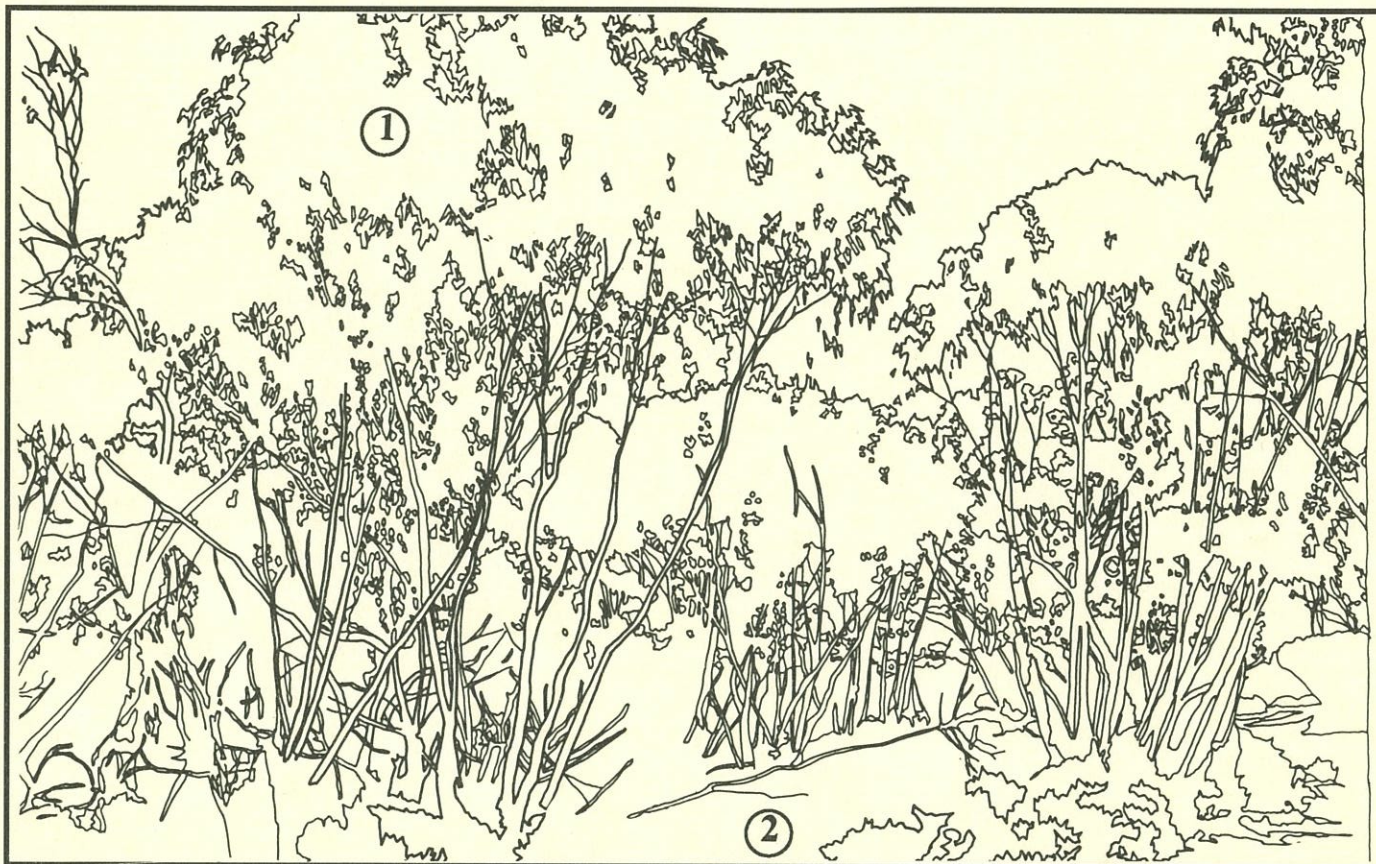
Heartbreak Ridge, South Norreman

Winter 1978

Photo: G J Keighery

12 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MALLEE WOODLAND



The word mallee refers to low trees with many thick trunks which grow out of a fattened, lumpy stem that grows just under the ground. This underground stem is called a 'lignotuber'.

Mallee woodland is only found in Australia. Under the mallee trees is a dense understorey of shrubs containing a great variety of plants. Few of these flower in winter.

LEGEND

1. **York Gum Mallee**
Eucalyptus loxophleba
you-cal-ipp-tus lox-oh-flee-ba
2. **Mixed Shrubland of**
Acacia jennerae
a-case-ee-a jenn-err-ee
Olearia revoluta
oh-lear-ree-a rev-oh-loo-ta
Rhagodia drummondii
rag-oh-dee-a drum-on-dee-eye
Atriplex vesicaria
a-tri-plex vess-i-ca-ree-a
Myoporum desertii
my-oh-pour-um des-ert-ee-eye
Pimelea microcephala
pie-me-lee-a my-crow-seff-ah-la



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

13. MIXED SHRUBLAND



Badgingarra National Park

Autumn 1970

Photo: G J Keighery

13 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MIXED SHRUBLAND



The number of plant species packed into these shrublands is so great that they are famous. People come from all over the world to see them. The Aboriginal word for shrubland is "kwongan".

In the spring and autumn the shrubland is bright with flowers. Some shrubs flower in each season of the year, enabling honey-eating birds to obtain nectar all year round.

LEGEND

1. **Needles and Corks**
Hakea obliqua
hay-kee-a oh-blee-kwaa
2. **Sand Bottlebrush**
Beaufortia squarrosa
bow-fort-ee-a skwar-rose-a
3. **Summer Smokebush**
Conospermum crassinervium
kon-oh-sperm-um krass-in-erv-ee-um
4. **Candlestick Banksia**
Banksia attenuata
bank-see-a a-ten-you-ah-ta



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

14. COASTAL SHRUBLAND



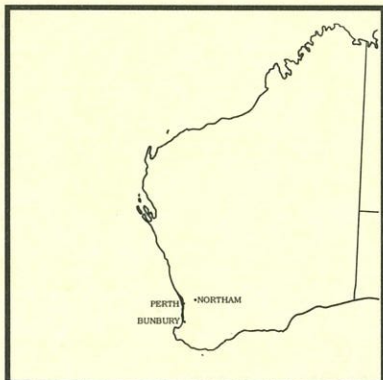
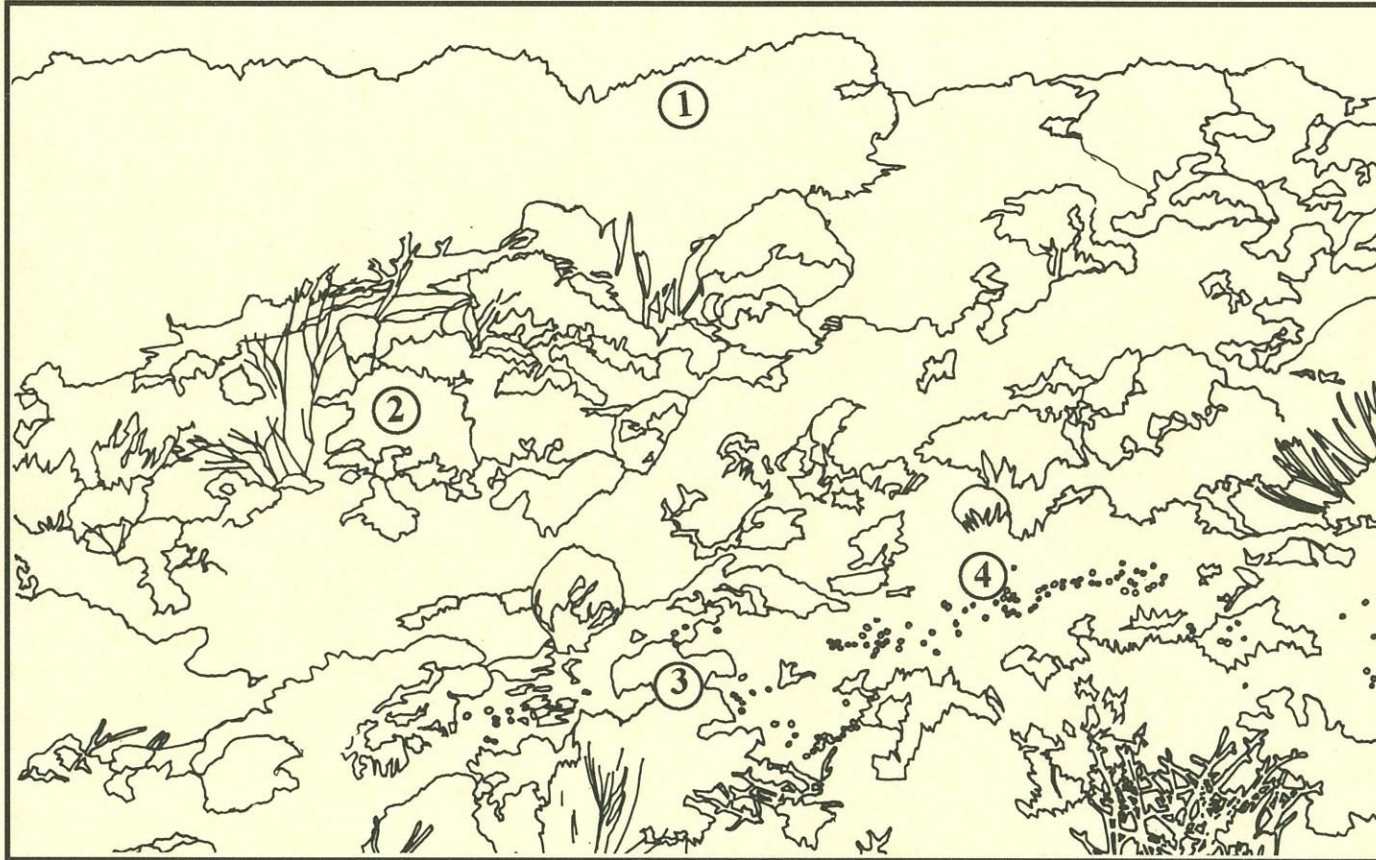
Trigg Dune Reserve

Spring 1989

Photo: G J Keighery

14 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COASTAL SHRUBLAND



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Much of the coastline of the south-west is sand-dune country. The white sands of the dunes are held together by the roots of the plants growing on these sandy soils.

These shrubs are found all along the coast. The low tree, Rottne Island Cypress, is less common because of frequent fires. Cypress forests grow in areas which have not been burnt recently, such as at Woodman Point, on Garden Island and parts of Rottne Island.

This area at Trigg Dune Reserve is recovering from a series of fires.

LEGEND

- Rottne Island Cypress**
Callitris preissii
cal-ee-tris pri-see-eye
- Coastal Rosemary**
Olearia axillaris
oh-lear-ree-a ax-ill-ah-ris
- Quandong**
Santalum acuminatum
san-tar-lum acc-you-min-ah-tum
- Snakebush**
Hemiandra pungens
hem-ee-an-dra pun-jens



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

15. PINJARRA PLAIN SHRUBLAND



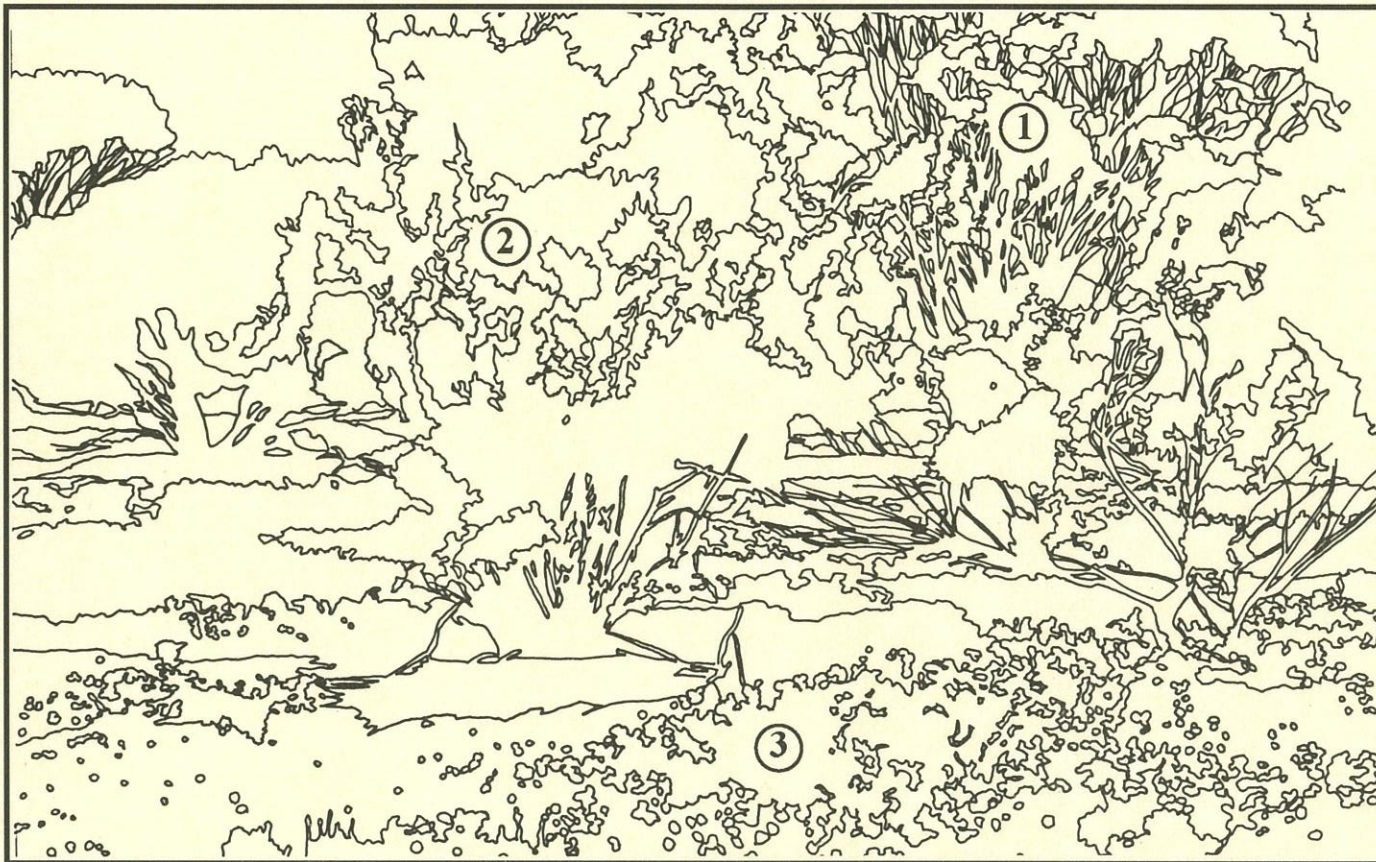
Pinjarra Plain

Spring 1992

Photo: G J Keighery

15 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PINJARRA PLAIN SHRUBLAND



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Plant communities can be rare and endangered just like individual plants and animals.

The Pinjarra plain near Perth was the site of early agricultural development. Today most of the original plant communities of those soils have been cleared.

These soils are low-lying and very wet in winter. As the soils dry out in spring some of these open shrublands become carpeted with pink everlastings.

It is now rare to see these carpets of everlastings which used to grow extensively close to Perth.

LEGEND

- Mohan**
Melaleuca viminea
mel-a-loo-ka vim-in-ee-a
- Kunzea (white flowers)**
Kunzea recurva
kun-zee-a re-cur-va
- Pink Everlastings**
Rhodanthe manglesii
roe-dan-thee man-gee-see-eye



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management

16. WETLANDS



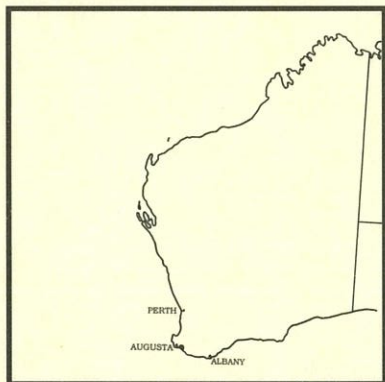
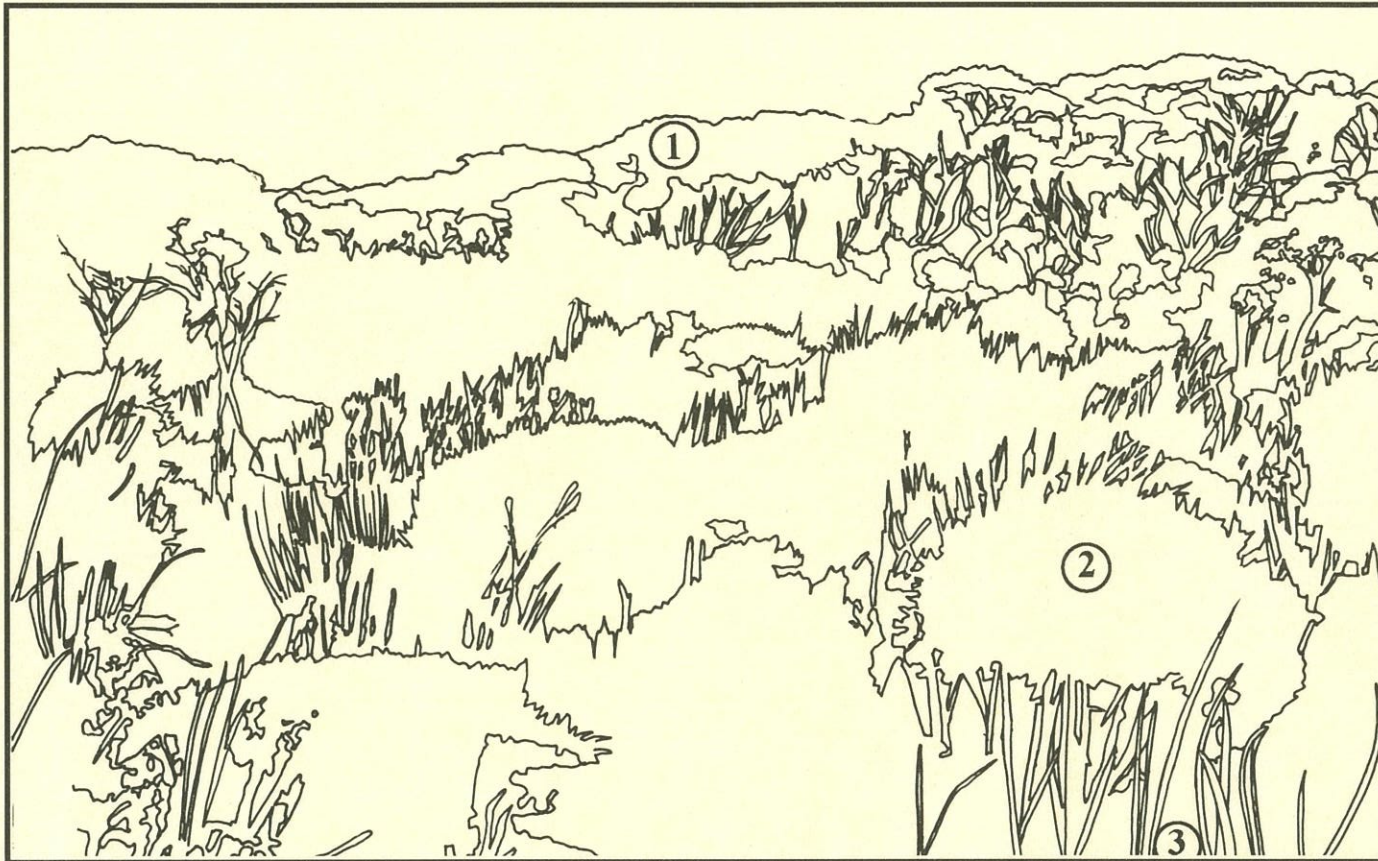
Scott River Plains, Augusta

Spring 1991

Photo: G J Keighery

16 PLANT COMMUNITIES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WETLANDS



Focus Points for Discussion

- Colours and shapes
- Vegetation layers
- Diversity and interaction of plants
- Links of vegetation to climate
- Links of vegetation to soil type
- Plant density
- Range of habitats
- Special features

Compare and contrast this plant community with other ones in Western Australia. Include your local natural environment too!

Most of the wetlands in Western Australia are seasonal. Water collects in low-lying areas after the wet season or after heavy rains.

Extensive wetlands are found along the south coast of the State, forming in winter and lasting into late summer.

Only plants that can live with their roots in water for a large part of the year can survive in these places.

In the deepest water are Sedges, *Melaleucas* and *Astarteas*. Paperbarks grow around the edges of the wetland in the shallow water.

LEGEND

- Freshwater Paperbark**
Melaleuca raphiophylla
mel-a-loo-ka raff-ee-oh-fill-a
- Swamp Astartea**
Astartea fascicularis
a-start-tee-a fass-ee-cue-lah-ris
- Twine Rushes (Jointed Sedges)**
Leptocarpus species
lept-oh-car-pus



Greening Western Australia



Conservation and
Land Management