

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Perth NRM work with Noongar Elders to preserve and record traditional ecological knowledge

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Note that spellings and words may vary in different areas



Traditional Ecological Knowledge from the Perth Region



Photo
Perth NRM

Balga

The fronds of the Balga can be used to cover the roof of a shelter. The Balga also produces a resin that can be used as a tanning and binding agent.

The resin combined with kangaroo droppings and charcoal produce a binding agent to bind objects together such as stone spearheads onto spear shafts.

Common Name
Grass Tree

Scientific Name
Xanthorrhoea preissii

Status
Not Threatened

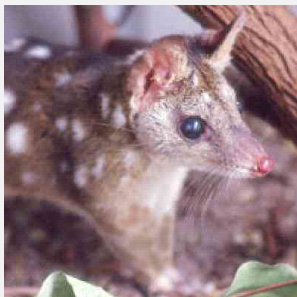


Photo
Perth Zoo

Barr jit (b rjadda)

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Chuditch (Western Quoll)

Scientific Name
Dasyurus geoffroi

Status
Endangered



Photo
Perth NRM

Bayoo (Jeeriji)

The seed pod of the Bayoo was eaten, however it is toxic. Noongars would soak the pods in running water to leach out toxins. The orange flesh outside the seed was eaten or crushed to make a porridge-like meal and then formed into cakes

Common Name
Zamia Palm

Scientific Name
Macrozamia riedlei

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Biara

The Biara flowers are a source of nectar and used to make a sweet honey drink. The cones were used as a torch to carry fire from camp to camp.

The tip of the stem bud was chewed like chewing gum (often mixed with petals from the Yellow Buttercup) and acted as a hunger suppressant for long journeys.

Common Name
Candle Banksia

Scientific Name
Banksia attenuata

Status
Not Threatened

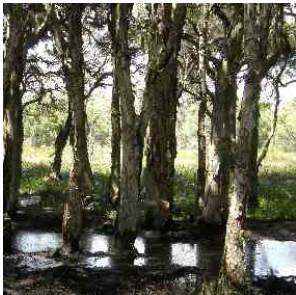


Photo
Perth NRM

Bibool

Long strips of bark were used for the roofing for the mia mia and smaller pieces could be used to carry water or to hold food.

Common Name
Swamp Paperbark

Scientific Name
Melaleuca raphiophylla

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth Zoo

Boodalang

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Australian Pelican

Scientific Name
Pelecanus conspicillatus

Status
Not Threatened

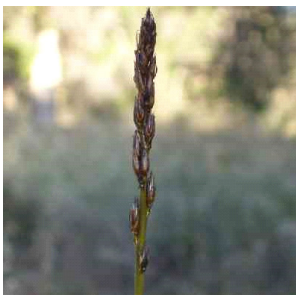


Photo
Perth NRM

Borhn

The bulbs can be eaten raw or roasted. The roots and leaf bases were roasted and mixed with clay from termite nests and ingested to stop diarrhoea. The bulb was brewed and drunk to relieve lung congestion.

Common Name
Bloodroot

Scientific Name
Haemodorum spicatum

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Bulgalla

The Bulgalla flower spikes were soaked in water to make a sweet refreshing drink. This drink was drunk for coughs and sore throat.

Common Name
Firewood Banksia

Scientific Name
Banksia menziesii

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Cara

The roots were baked or roasted and eaten the roots were also made into a paste for cakes.

Common Name
Spider Orchid

Scientific Name
Caladenia arenicola

Status
Not Threatened



Photo

Choonya (Booyi)

Noongar people favoured the eggs of the turtle, nests were found by a ring of yellow sand left after the female had buried her clutch.

Common Name
Long-necked turtle, Oblong Turtle

Scientific Name
Chelodina oblonga

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Cujong

The wattle seed were eaten raw or ground into a flour and baked into damper, the seeds are good source of fat protein and carbohydrate.

Common Name
Orange Wattle

Scientific Name
Acacia saligna

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Gary Tate

Dangalang

Uses of this plant are not known.

Common Name
Everlasting

Scientific Name
Waitzia suaveolens

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Djiridji (Jeeriji)

The bayu (pods) contain toxins, they were treated by soaking in running water or burying underground for six months. After treatment the bayu was peeled and eaten.

The cotton from the female plant was used as feminine hygiene purposes or as lining for carrying a baby in a yandi (curved dish).

Common Name
Zamia

Scientific Name
Macrozamia fraseri

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Dobitj

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Dugite

Scientific Name
Pseudonaja affinis

Status
Not Threatened

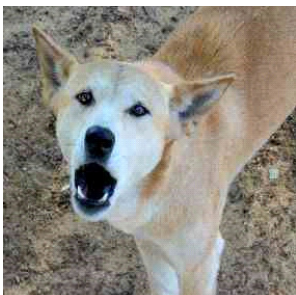


Photo
Friends of Forrestdale Lake

Dwert

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Dingo

Scientific Name
Canis lupus dingo

Status
Endangered



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland

Dwutta (Maynee)

The leaves of the eucalyptus were used as an antibacterial. The leaves were held under the nose to relieve congestion, and the leaves can be brewed to produce a steam that eased colds, flu and rheumatic symptoms.

The gum of the eucalypts can be eaten to relieve dysentery

Common Name
Blackbutt or Prickly bark

Scientific Name
Eucalyptus tottiana

Status
Not Threatened

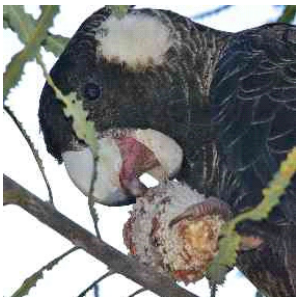


Photo
Perth NRM

Gnollark

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Carnaby's Black-cockatoo

Scientific Name
Calyptorhynchus latirostris

Status
Endangered



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Janda

The nectar is sucked directly from the Janda flowers or the blossoms are soaked in water to produce a sweet one drink. Sometimes the drink is allowed to ferment to produce intoxicating liquor.

Common Name
Hakea

Scientific Name
Hakea prostrata

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Jarrah

The wood from the Jarrah is used to make tools, such as spears and digging sticks. The bark from the Jarrah was soaked in water to make a dye.

Common Name
Jarrah

Scientific Name
Eucalyptus marginata

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Forrestdale Lake

Kaarda

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM. **Gould's Monitor, Racehorse Goanna**

Common Name

Scientific Name
Varanus gouldii

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Kabbur (Koorpa)

The stems of this plant provided a strong flexible branches used to help build Mia Mia (shelters) and could be made into rope or twine.

Common Name
Stinkwood

Scientific Name
Jacksonia sternbergiana

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Kara

The roots of this Lillie like other lillies, have thick fleshy roots that store starch and were eaten, they could be eaten raw or steamed or roasted over coals.

Common Name
Milkmaid

Scientific Name
Burchardia congesta

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Kondil

The she oak needles were rused for bedding in the Mia Mia, women often gave birth under the sheoak becuae of the softness of the needles. The young cones of the sheoak were eatten.

Common Name
Franzer's Sheoak

Scientific Name
Allocasuarina fraseriana

When the Kondil leaves turn brown, Aboriginal people would walk towards the rivers and waters knowing that the fish are running.

Status
Not Threatened

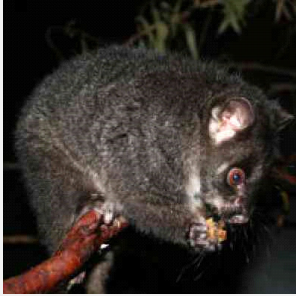


Photo
Perth Zoo

Koomal (wawding, ngwar-ra)

Koomal were caught up trees, eaten and the fur used for making nulbarn (rope that was worn) or choota (bags used by women and children).

Common Name
Western Ringtail Possum

Scientific Name
Pseudocheirus occidentalis

Status
Endangered



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Koorla

The stems of this plant provided a strong flexible branches used to help build Mia Mia (shelters) and could be made into rope or twine.

Common Name
Native Wisteria

Scientific Name
Hardenbergia comptoniana

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Koroylbardany

The roots of the Kangaroo paw store starch and were eaten.

Common Name
Green Kangaroo Paw

Scientific Name
Anigozanthos viridi

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Kurulbrang

The roots of the Kurulbrang contain high levels of stored starch and were eattenn by the Noongar people

Common Name
Mangles Kangaroo Paw

Scientific Name
Anigozanthos manglesii

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

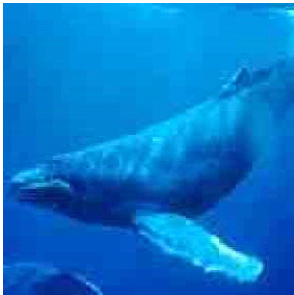
Maali

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Black Swan

Scientific Name
Cygnus atratus

Status
Not Threatened



Photo

Mammang

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Humpback Whale

Scientific Name
Megaptera novaeangliae

Status
Endangered



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Mangarel

The fruit was eaten both raw and cooked. The roots are processed through pounding and then roasted and eaten. The leaves were used to make sting and cord.

The leaves steeped in water were drunk to relieve headaches and the roots steeped and drunk as a remedy for colds.

Common Name
Blueberry Lilly

Scientific Name
Dinaella revoluta

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Marri

The marri was known as the great medicine tree because the resin acted as an antiseptic and was used in treating gum infections, numbing teeth and reducing discomfort.

It could also be diluted in water and drunk as a treatment for upset stomachs.

Common Name
Red Gum

Scientific Name
Corymbia calophylla

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Mindaleny

The wattle seed were eaten raw or ground into flour and baked into damper, the seeds are good source of fat protein and carbohydrate. The wood was used to make kitjs (spears) and wannas (digging sticks) and wunda (shield).

The bark was stripped and oild with yonga (kangaroo) or karda (goanna) ngoomoon (fat) and made pliable for tying items together.

Common Name
Prickly Moses

Scientific Name
Acacia pulchella

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Moitch (Kulurda)

Manna (a product of a small mite that lives on the leaves) was licked from the leaves, the taste is sweet and could be collected and rolled into a large sweet to suck on.

The leaves were crushed and used as a poultice to stop bleeding, mud was sometimes used to hold the poultice on and assist with healing.

Common Name
Flooded Gum

Scientific Name
Eucalyptus rudis

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Moodgar

This tree has special significance in Noongar culture, this tree is linked with spirits and thus nothing from the tree is used and it is forbidden to stand in the shade of this tree at any time.

Common Name
WA Christmas Tree

Scientific Name
Nuytsia floribunda

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Australian Museum

Moyop

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Tiger Snake

Scientific Name
Notechis scutatus

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

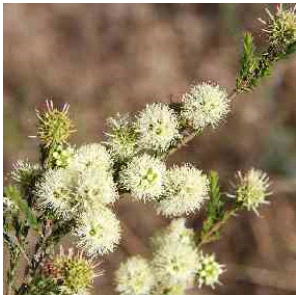
Mungitch

The mungitch cones were used as torches by Noongars. These torches would be used to transport fire and the smoldering cones were also kept under their cloaks to keep them warm.

Common Name
Bull Banksia

Scientific Name
Banksia grandis

Status
Not Threatened



Photo

Pondil

Spearwood was used to make spears.

Common Name
Spearwood

Scientific Name
Kunzea ericifolia

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Pungura

The nectar from the pungura flowers was eaten or used in water to make a sweet drink. The sweet drink can also be used in the treatment of sore throats and colds.

Common Name
Swamp Banksia

Scientific Name
Banksia littoralis

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Quell

Quell were eaten in the colder months of the year and the skin and fur used to make choota (bags).

Common Name
Western Brush Wallaby

Scientific Name
Macropus irma

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Quenda

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Quenda

Scientific Name
Isodon obesulus fusciventer

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Perth NRM

Tjunguri

The roots of this lillie, like other lillies, have thick fleshy roots that store starch and were eaten. They could be eaten raw, steamed, or roasted over coals. The roots were ground into paste and made into cakes or patties.

Common Name
Fringed lily

Scientific Name
Thysanotus manglesianus

Status
Not Threatened



Photo

Tuart

The bark from the turt was used as foofing form Noongar Mia Mia

Common Name
White Gum

Scientific Name
Eucalyptus gomphocephala

Status
Not Threatened

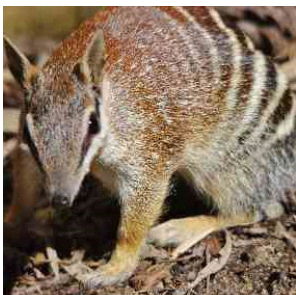


Photo
Gary Tate

Weeu

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Numbat

Scientific Name
Myrmecobius fasciatus

Status
Threatened



Photo
Friends of Queens Park Bushland
(Sian Mawson)

Wollong

The leaves are used to make a tea- like refreshing drink, and the nectar of the flowers soothed sore throat. The stems were used as make twine.

Common Name
Scarlet Runner (Running Postman)

Scientific Name
Kennedia prostrata

Status
Not Threatened



Photo
Gary Tate

Woylie

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Woylie

Scientific Name
Bettongia ogilbyi

Status
Threatened



Photo

Wuargle (Ngarnak, Kuiarch)

The roots of many sedges were eaten, the inside of the jointed rush was hollowed out to create a pipe, and used to hunt yerderap (ducks) from under the water

Common Name
Joint rush

Scientific Name
Baumea articulata

Status
Not Threatened

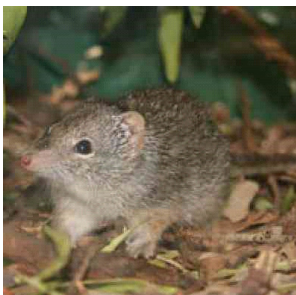


Photo
Perth Zoo

Wyalung

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Dibbler

Scientific Name
Parantechinus apcalis

Status
Endangered



Photo

Yangjet

The roots of many sedges were eaten, and the presence of these sedges indicated to Noongar people the presence of fresh water, and were sometimes used to weave nets to catch djildjit (fish) and yakan (turtles) .

Common Name
Knobby Club-sedge

Scientific Name
Ficinia nodosa

Status
Not Threatened

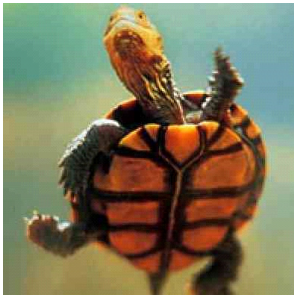


Photo
Perth Zoo

Yarkiny

Noongar people favoured the eggs of the turtle, nests were found by a ring of yellow sand left after the female had buried her clutch.

Common Name
Western Swamp Tortoise

Scientific Name
Pseudemydura umbrina

Status
Endangered

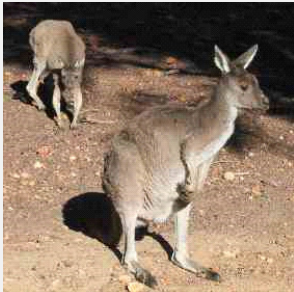


Photo
Friends of Forrestdale Lake

Yonga

Yonga were eaten in the coldest months of the year and the fur used for boka (cloaks) and choota (bags).

Common Name
Western Grey Kangaroo

Scientific Name
Macropus fuliginosus

Status
Not Threatened

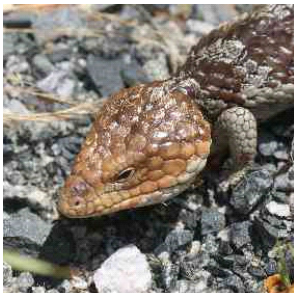


Photo
Perth NRM

Yoorn

If you have information on the importance of this animal to Noongar culture please contact Perth NRM.

Common Name
Bobtail, Shingle-back

Scientific Name
Tiliqua rugosa

Status
Not Threatened