

GOO-LORTO BUSH TRAIL

'GOO-LOORTO' means "a species of Eucalypt" in the local Aboriginal language. This probably refers to the Flooded Gum, *Eucalyptus rudis*, and many large and splendid examples of this tree can be seen beside the trail.

The trail takes you along the western side of the Bennett Brook which is the outflow of Mussel Pool and Horse Swamp.

The northern section of the brook dries up to isolated pools by early December, then starts to flow again with the onset of rain in May or June.

The southern portion near Marshall Road usually flows all year as it is fed by seepage from the water table (Gnangara Mound).

LENGTH:	3 kilometres return
GRADE:	2 – Fairly Easy (suitable for people of all ages and fitness levels)
WALKING TIME:	1 hour 15 minutes at a leisurely pace
TRAIL MARKERS:	Red-topped pine poles; lettered poles mark points of interest

CHECKLIST

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walking shoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raincoat (in wetter months)

START: Mussel Pool, by the log cabin near Car Park 24.

- A: At about 300 metres, the trail passes a permanent spring. It is on the eastern side of the brook and is only readily accessible during summer.
- B: A large termite mound around the base of a Flooded Gum.
- C: A little further on the trail passes an unusually large Freshwater Paperbark, *Melaleuca raphiophylla*. Several very large Stout Paperbarks (*Melaleuca preissiana*) can also be seen along the trail while in August and September, a grove of Golden Wreath Wattles (*Acacia saligna*) make a splendid sight in full flower. The last 300 metres of trail crosses open grassland as most of the trees and shrubs were cleared in the 1940s for grazing.
- D: The brook was excavated at this point, also in the 1940s, to create a dam for watering cattle. It became choked by the introduced Bullrush (*Typha orientalis*) but this has almost been eradicated and replaced with native reeds. An ongoing revegetation program on each side of the brook will see a range of wildlife habitats restored. The ground near the brook is low-lying and swampy, with some patches of introduced edible Watercress (*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*).

RETURN: The trail ends 200 metres north of the Marshall Road fence-line beneath a very large Red Gum (*Eucalyptus calophylla*). A large log has been placed there to allow you to rest a while. There is no access to Marshall Road; you must return to Mussel Pool along the same route.

