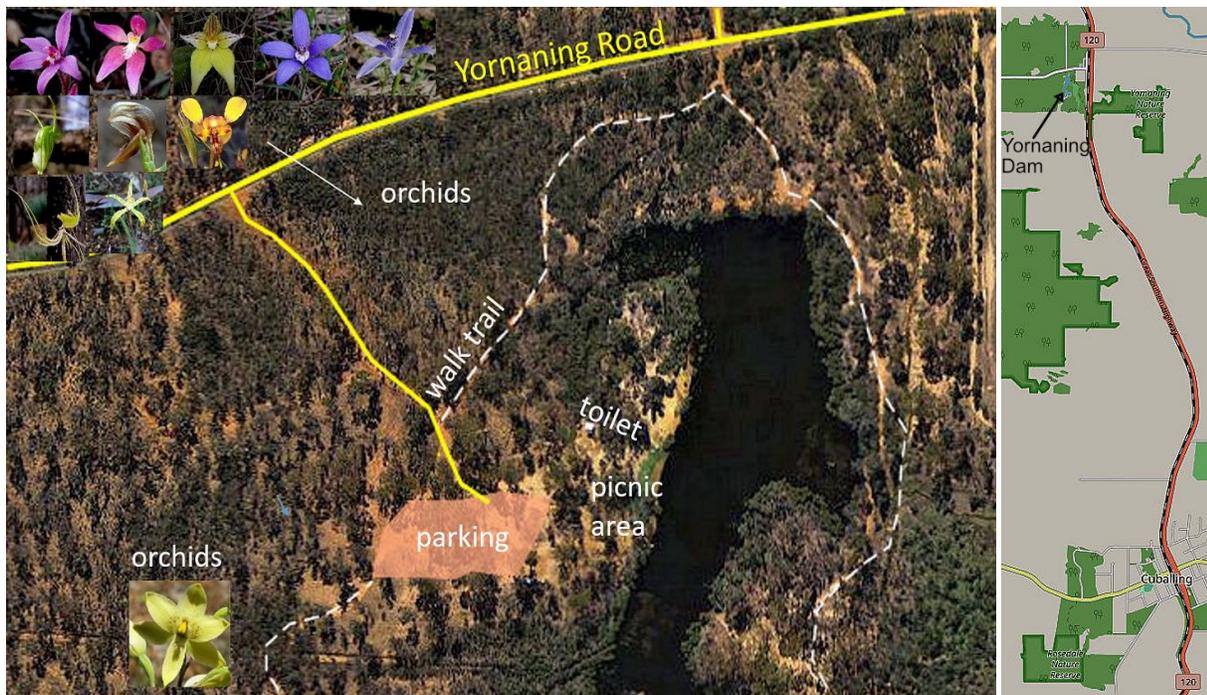




Located 24 km north of Narrogin, the Yornaning Dam reserve is a great place to visit most of the year. Having a toilet, picnic tables, gas BBQ and swings beside the scenic Yornaning Dam, it is a great family picnic spot for most of the year. It is also an excellent place for easy bushwalking, bird watching, and winter/spring wildflowers. Dogs on leash are welcome. Camping, trail bikes and fires are not permitted.



History

Yornaning is an Noongar word meaning 'land of many waters'.

The dam was built in 1896 to provide water for steam locomotives on the Albany-Perth Railway. Until 1958 the dam was one of the most reliable and freshest regional water sources, and up to 3 trainloads of water went to Narrogin daily for domestic use in dry seasons. This area was once one of the most important railway sidings along the Great Southern Railway. 30 passenger and freight trains passed through Yornaning every week in 1907.

Yornaning Town had a school, a post office, a general store and a railway station with refreshment rooms. Maintenance crews were encouraged to take up land in the area and the streets around Yornaning were named after the workers. The Yornaning Hall, a wooden building, was opened in

1912 by the Minister of Agriculture. The dam quickly filled with enough water that the Fish Acclimatisation Society was considering stocking it with fish. When diesel replaced steam locomotives the dam fell into disuse. Cuballing Shire, with the assistance of their wonderful locals, and Murdoch University renovated the dam, and that's how you find it today.

Walks

There are great opportunities for easy walking and cycling. A 2km easy walk goes around the dam, and a longer fire access road described in this [blog](#) goes through interesting country on the southern boundary of the reserve.

Wildflowers

This is lovely country for spring wildflowers. Check out the orchid spot adjoining Yornaning Road in spring for Cowslip, Little pink fairy, Fringed mantis, Primrose spider, Blue china, Blue fairy, and greenhood orchids. The open woodland to the south has a lovely display of Custard, Pouched leek, and Scented sun orchids with other wildflowers in early October.



Great bird watching

The dam is a great place to see our native birds, including seasonal water birds. Keep an eye out for Splendid wrens in the shrubs surrounding the dam.

One of the cheekiest inhabitants of the Yornaning Dam area is the Rufous tree creeper that thrives in the open woodland. Hopping sideways up the trunks and branches of trees in search of food, probing into cavities under loose bark with their downward curving bills they search for food, but you get the impression they are having a lot of fun doing it! They are on the hunt for delicious insects and their larvae, but if you are an ant please take cover. You are their favourite snack! Listen for their distinctive “spink” call.



Rufous tree creeper image R.Playle



Splendid wren male image C. Bartram