

## TUTANNING WALK TRAIL (NORTH SIDE)

Tutanning is a hilly reserve with ancient lateritic sand and gravel uplands, which have been eroded in places down to the underlying bedrock. Steep cliffs called breakaways, or gravelly slopes usually separate laterite and granite soil. Lateritic areas support a great many native plants, particularly on kwongan (shrubland with few trees) patches

Vegetation is often a good indication of underlying soil, except for Rock Sheoak trees (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*), which have invaded many well-drained vegetation communities since regular burning ceased and many small marsupials became extinct.

For more information scan the QR codes using a QR code reader on your smartphone.



QR Sheoaks



Green = upland lateritic sands and gravel. Pink/red = granite/dolerite soils. Uncoloured = woodland soils on slopes

This 2.2km Class 3 trail winds through a range of vegetation types. Note how wildflowers, trees and soil vary along the way.

**1** The first 300 metre passes through sandy (granitic) and red-brown loamy soils (from dolerite a mafic rock) formed from fresh bedrock, with small granite outcrops. These are the most fertile and best water holding soils, favoured by early farmers. Trees are mainly Rock Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) with Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) in loamy areas. In deeper soil outside the reserve, York gums grow on the red-brown loams. This is a good area for orchids, everlastings, and poison pea plants but these are often overrun by weeds. Of the many pea-flower shrubs only a few are poisons. Because the poisons killed livestock, farmers fenced these areas off, and we can thank them for the wildflowers remaining now.



QR poison peas

**2** There is a sudden change to a gravelly slope, which marks the edge of an old lateritic upland. Note the change as shrubs with dense poison peas and prickly shrubs on the slope, change to sparser shrub plants on the slope which is a gently sloping plain containing kwongan sand and gravel soils. Later in the walk keep an eye out for these sudden vegetation changes, which vary from gravelly slopes to steep cliffs called breakaways



QR breakaways



QR  
kwongan

**3** At the top of the slope, you are on a sloping plain with lots of *Proteaceae* shrubs and other plants with attractive flowers, which grow on sandy laterite soils. Sparse trees with grass trees and shrubs on white sandy gravels change to tall kwongan shrubs on pale deep sand. Attractive Drummonds Mallee is often found on yellowish sands



Plants make  
gravels

**Did you know that lateritic sands and gravels are created by plants and microbes?**

4. You are walking to very stony soils which marks the edge of the old lateritic plateau. Pale sand-stony soil with scattered wandoo and powderbark trees with few shrubs (granitic ironstone), changes to very stony red brown ironstone (formed on dolerite) with scattered powderbarks (*Eucalyptus accedens*).

5 A change to large wandoo and rock sheoak trees and underlying wildflowers mark a change to loamy and sandy soils formed on fresh basement rock. Good orchid and everlasting country.

6 Large granite rock outcrops have many mosses and rock lichens, and prickly resurrection plants. Gnarled red-flowering *Kunzea pulchella* grows in rock cracks. **Walk carefully** to avoid crushing delicate plants and don't disturb loose rocks, which are homes for rock dragons. Look for Sundews, everlastings on shallow soil spots and orchids in surrounding rock sheoak woodland. Caution – wet areas are slippery.

7 As you walk back down Bandicoot note the line of steep breakaways on the left, which marks the edge of an ancient laterite mesa. The southern section of the walk trail goes up, around and down this mesa. Dark-coloured smooth bark trees on the breakaway slope are Brown Mallet (*Eucalyptus astringens*), which grow on clay breakaway slopes, and keep the slopes bare.



QR brown mallet

Can you find these wildflowers? (some of the many there)



Boronia capitata



Isopogon dubius or  
crithmifolius



Hibbertia sp.



Hypocalymma  
angustifolium



Leptospermum  
erubescens



Petrophila  
divaricata



Gastrolobium  
parviflorum



Drosera zonaria



Glischrocaryon  
aureum



Lawrencella rosea



Beaufortia incana



Calothamnus  
quadrifidus



Stackhousia  
monogyna



Verticordia acerosa



Chamaescylla  
corymbosa



Grevillea tenuiflora



Acacia multispicata



Caladenia flava