

Walk 13 – Blackboy Hollow

Distance: 4.7 km Time: 1½ hrs

Description

This short, but very accessible walk lives up to its name, with many fine examples of huge old Grass-trees, *Xanthorrhoea preissii* sporting dense, and largely unburned skirts. It follows firebreak tracks around a section of National Park on the ridge behind Prevelly Park. The gradients are gentle apart from one long, steep hill best walked down; the direction described here. It is especially delightful in spring, when a great variety of wildflowers can be found.

Starting point

The end of Rainbow Cave Road, 1.7 km off Caves Road, 4.7 km south of the Prevelly Park turn-off. [6236466 mN, 50 316497 mE MGA]

Directions for the walk

From the road end turn pass through the vehicle gate and turn left (S) along a sandy track for 160 m. You are now on the Cape to Cape Track. After 160 m turn off to the right (W), leaving the Cape to Cape Track. Before turning into this, it is worth making a short diversion further south along the Cape to Cape Track, up the steep little hill, to take in the superb 360° view from its top.

Take the track (W) towards the coast for 840 m. This passes through Peppermint, *Agonis flexuosa*, stunted Jarrah, *Eucalyptus marginata*, and tall shrubs such as *Jacksonia horrida* and Basket Bush, *Spyridium globulosum*. The track meanders over a low ridge, with good views to Gnarabup and the ocean.

Turn right again (N), through tall shrubs such as prickly Parrotbush, *Banksia sessilis* and Shining Fan-flower, *Scaevola nitida*. The track rises steadily with better views of the ocean as you climb higher. Look back to Cape Freycinet, nearly 20 km down the coast.

After about 1.2 km you pass the mobile telephone tower and water tanks. Pass an access track to Prevelly, continuing till you reach the crossing with the Cape to Cape Track.

Turn right (E) and head over the hill for 720 m, to a crossing. Here, there are taller Peppermints,



Western Rosella on Jarrah, *Eucalyptus marginata*



Bullich, *Eucalyptus megacarpa*, Bull Banksia, *Banksia grandis*, and some lovely old Marri, *Corymbia calophylla*, trees as you cross over the ridge. Look out for the many orchid species that grow along this track and the next as you head back to the start.

At the first intersection turn right one more time (S). After a gradual descent for a while the track drops away steeply. After 1.1 km look for a track branching left (E). Follow that branch for a few meters to a T-junction. Turn right (S) to complete the circuit. The last few metres is slightly uphill.

Two walkers ascending the steep descent that occurs in the middle of the final eastern leg of the walk. They are doing the walk in the reverse direction

