

## Chapter 1 : | Coastal Living

*Plants Of The Perth Coast And Islands List of desalination plants in australia wikipedia, as a result of the water supply crisis during the severe drought state governments around australia began.*

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## Chapter 2 : Coastal Plants: Perth and the South-west Region - Elizabeth Rippey, Barbara Rowland - Google

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All plants and animals on Rottnest Island are protected by law. Wildlife should not be disturbed, rather observed from a reasonable distance. Learn how to take the perfect quokkaselfie! Please enjoy these natural wonders during your visit and appreciate the need to conserve this island paradise for future generations to enjoy. Check out our NEW wildlife website! Want to take a part of the beautiful Rottnest home with you and do your bit for the future quokka species? This Rottnest Island Authority initiative raises money for quokka conservation efforts! Head to the Visitor Centre at the end of the main jetty to adopt a quokka soft toy which comes with an Adoption Certificate. Quokkas The happiest animal on Earth The quokka is possibly the most well-known animal on Rottnest Island. It was first observed by a European in when the Dutchman, Volkersen, wrote that it resembled an Asian civet cat, but with brown hair. In de Vlamingh described the quokka as "a kind of rat as big as a common cat". The name "quokka" comes from the name given to the animal by the Aboriginal people living in the Augusta and King George Sound area of the south-west of Western Australia. A marsupial the size of a hare or domestic cat, the quokka is the sole representative of the genus Setonix. As with other marsupials, such as the kangaroo, wallaby, wallaroo, bettong and potoroo, the females suckle their young in a pouch. They give birth in late summer, after a gestation period of twenty-seven days, and the young quokka remains in the pouch until August or September, and is then suckled for a further two months. The quokka reaches maturity at about one-and-a-half to two years of age, and lives to be ten years old. Quokkas are generally nocturnal and spend most of the day sleeping and resting under shady bushes and dense vegetation. On the island they can be seen opportunistically feeding during the day. They swallow their food without chewing and later regurgitate the cud which they chew on. This is a very effective way to ensure that all the moisture and nutrients is obtained from the dry nutrient deficient vegetation available on the island. Quokkas need very little water and can go months without drinking from a direct water source. When Europeans first settled in Western Australia the quokka was widespread in many parts of the south-west as well as on Rottnest, Bald Island and in the vicinity of Perth, probably as far north as Moore River. With the introduction of predators such as foxes and loss of habitat, their population on the mainland dramatically diminished. Due to the lack of predators and the availability of food on Rottnest Island, population numbers have soared to approximately 12, This has put substantial pressure on the existing vegetation, particularly Rottnest Island tea tree and Rottnest Island pine seedlings which are favoured meals for the quokka. Despite these large numbers, populations are extremely responsive to disturbance and numbers can decrease significantly in harsh seasons. It is important for visitors to refrain from feeding quokkas and other fauna on Rottnest Island. Quokkas may become very ill as a result of eating unsuitable food such as bread, chips and meat. It is also equally important not to provide quokkas with an artificial water supply as it has the potential to alter natural behavior and can also cause toxicity within the quokkas body leading to death. Rottnest Island Rangers may issue infringements to people who feed quokkas. Marine life of Rottnest Island The Rottnest Island Marine Reserve has a far greater range of habitats, marine plants and animals than that of the adjacent mainland coastline. Extensive seagrass meadows occur around Rottnest Island, and with nine species, it is second only to Shark Bay in species diversity. Species Approximately species of fish and twenty species of coral occur within the Marine Reserve. Fish include the Western Australian dhufish, baldchin groper, harlequin fish, cobbler, flathead, leatherjacket, samson fish, tailor, butterfly fish, moon wrasse, blue devil and migratory fish such as marlin and tuna. The Island is also a popular area for migrating humpback whales, bottle-nose dolphins, New Zealand Fur Seals and Australian sea lions. New Zealand Fur Seals The New Cathedral Rocks viewing platform allows you to get closer to the resident New Zealand Fur Seals colony without disturbing them whilst they flip and play together in the bay and enjoy basking on the rocks. Tropical fish Rottnest Island has a tropical influence with records of species of tropical fish as compared to eleven

species recorded off the metropolitan coastline. A major factor influencing this diversity is the position of the Island in the path of the warm Leeuwin Current. This Current often brings tropical visitors to our waters such as the Green Turtle. Marine reserve Spearguns, gidgies, spear fishing and net fishing are prohibited within the Rottneest Island Marine Reserve. All reef animals except abalone, squid, cuttlefish and octopus are protected in waters around the Island. Crustaceans The crustaceans around Rottneest Island include several species of crab, such as the blue manna, a favourite summer food for Western Australians. However, the best know crustacean of Rottneest Island is the Western rock lobster which occurs only in continental shelf waters of the Australian west coast between the North West Cape and Cape Leeuwin. It forms the basis of a lucrative export industry particularly to the United States and Japan. A wide variety of shrimps, prawns, barnacles and hermit crabs also inhabit the waters around the Island. Shells There is an enormous variety of shells on and around Rottneest Island. They are protected and should not be collected. They vary from bivalve mussels to the large baler shell. Various species of cowry, cone shells, clams, abalone and turban shells abound. Whales Whale watching in winter is a fascinating experience on Rottneest Island. The humpback whale which passes through the Indian Ocean off Rottneest is a baleen whale, which sieves planktonic organisms from the water, as distinct from the toothed whales which feed on squid, fish and marine mammals. The scientific name for the humpback whale is *Megaptera novaeangliae*, which comes from the Greek meaning "great wing" because of its huge, wing-like flippers. Mature humpback whales weigh roughly forty tonnes and grow to nineteen metres in length. They have been protected from whaling in the Southern Hemisphere since The population of humpback whales in Western Australian waters is believed to be about 2, to 3, animals and in Eastern Australia about 1, animals. They spend summer in the Antarctic and migrate north each winter towards their tropical calving grounds. Female humpbacks are pregnant for about eleven to twelve months and the calves at birth are more than four metres long, weighing more than one tonne. A female humpback can produce up to litres of milk per day and a suckling calf can gain over 45kg a day during the first few weeks of life. Nursing ends at eleven months when the calf is approximately eight metres long. Birds of Rottneest Island Rottneest Island is a haven for birds Up to 50 shorebird species are recorded by BirdLife Australia at Rottneest on a bi-annual basis, with itinerant species regularly observed. Shorebirds around Rottneest Island include the pied cormorant, osprey, pied oystercatcher, silver gulls, crested tern, fairy tern, caspian tern, rock parrot and eastern reef egret. Rottneest Island supports several of the southern-most breeding colonies of wedge-tailed shearwaters. Wedge-tailed shearwaters can live for up to 30 years, are monogamous pair for life , and breed in burrows they have excavated. The breeding pairs will usually return to the same breeding burrow year after year where they lay a single egg. The wedge-tailed shearwater lands on the Island to breed in colonies of burrows at Cape Vlamingh and Radar Reef. Osprey Eagle The eastern osprey is a medium-size raptor that inhabits most coastal areas and off-shore islands in Australia. The osprey remains with the same mate for life and their nests, known as stacks, are some of the largest and most durable natural structures in Australia. Some stacks on the island are known to be in excess of 70 years old. The birds are faithful to their nesting sites, using the same nest for many years and adding a little more each time they return, one such stack can be seen at Salmon Point. About ten percent of the eastern end of Rottneest Island is made up of salt lakes, containing brine shrimp. Brine shrimp support a large number of birds such as the red-necked avocet, banded stilts, ruddy turnstone, curlew sandpiper, red-capped dotterel, Australian shelduck, red-necked stint, grey plover, white-fronted chat, caspian terns and crested terns. Some of these species such as the red-necked stint which weighs only 30 grams , ruddy turnstone and curlew sandpiper are trans-equatorial migrants that travel all the way from north-eastern Siberia and Alaska in the Arctic Circle to feed on the brine shrimp during summer. The brackish swamps are home to the black duck and grey teal duck. A combination of habitat clearing on the Swan Coastal Plain and the introduction of feral predators such as foxes and cats have caused significant declines in mainland bushbird populations since European colonisation. Woodland habitat is especially important for the Golden Whistler and Red-capped Robin. The population of both these species has declined on the Swan Coastal Plain, however surveys on the Island have indicated an increase in population size and colonisation of suitable reforested sites since The turquoise-coloured sacred kingfisher makes its nest by excavating a burrow in tree branches and can be spotted around the Thomson Bay, Bickley and Kingstown areas. The rainbow bee-eater is a strikingly

colourful bird that, as its name suggests, feeds primarily on bees and wasps by catching the flying insects on the wing and rubbing them against a perch to remove the stings and venom before swallowing. The Rock Parrot forages on the ground for seeds and vegetation, and nests in limestone rock crevices. It was regarded as common on Rottnest from 1830 but was uncommon by 1850 due to capture of juvenile birds for sale on the mainland. This population has continued to decline even with the removal of cats from the Island in 1980 which may indicate that it is potentially no longer viable on the Island. Birds commonly found around the settlement area include the silver gull, Australian raven, and the banded plover or lapwing. The Indian peafowl, an introduced species released onto the Island in about 1830, can also be seen, with up to 5 males being kept on the island at any one time. Australian pelicans are regularly seen around the jetty at Thomson Bay. Golden Whistler or Western Whistler? The woodland habitat on Rottnest is especially important for the Golden Whistler and Red-capped Robin. Read more about the Western Whistler. Get Involved with Research! Rock Parrot Research is currently being undertaken to determine the population size of Rock Parrots on Rottnest Island. This small parrot occurs on the rocky coastline and some islands of south and west Australia. Rock Parrots were common on Rottnest Island prior to the 1800s but the population was drastically reduced through predation by cats and by the removal of young birds in the 1800s and 1900s for the local bird keeping community. Public support and sightings are needed for the success of this project and any feedback would be greatly appreciated to help conserve this species on the Island.

## Chapter 3 : Guide to Rottnest Island - Tourism Australia

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This loggerhead turtle has had a tracking device attached to its back. Sea turtles are found in every ocean of the world except the Arctic Ocean even though there are only 7 species. All 7 species are threatened and 5 of them are endangered or critically endangered. Among their adaptations are their highly evolved front flippers, ability to hold their breath for long periods of time, and hard shell. They are the only reptiles with a hard shell and some can live up to 80 years and weigh over kg! There are numerous human threats to sea turtles. The shrimp industry represents the largest threat because turtles that end up caught in the long fishing nets usually die see photo. Another threat is illegal poaching and harvesting of eggs and turtles for food. Turtle skins and shells are also used in arts and crafts. In some cultures, turtle eggs are believed to be an aphrodisiac. When traveling, do not support these industries and do not purchase souvenirs or goods made from these animals. Beach sand mining also represents a major threat to sea turtles. Beach sand mining in St. Lucia was extensive for the concrete industry until a moratorium was issued in . A decade later in , the beaches still had not recovered as turtles had to abandon nesting attempts when they hit the water table. Sea turtles and beaches Sea turtles use beaches as nesting sites for incubation of their eggs. Without nesting sites, it would be impossible for sea turtles to complete their life cycle. They spend much of their time eating sea grass and when the females are able to reproduce, they return to the beach to lay their eggs. Once on the beach, they lay large clutches of eggs in shallow pits of sand where the young turtles mature. It takes around two months for the young turtles to mature. When the turtles finally hatch, they must crawl to the ocean quickly to avoid predation by birds, other animals, and human threats. Loggerhead sea turtles Loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* live in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and reach up to kg. Loggerheads have reddish brown shells and lighter skin. They are an endangered species meaning that the turtles are at risk of becoming extinct. Fishing nets, dredging sand off the ocean floor, and coastal development all threaten turtles and their habitat. If you spot a sea turtle in North America, it is probably a loggerhead because they are the most common turtle there. Loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* live in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and Like other sea turtles, the beach is necessary for loggerheads to survive. Loggerheads make their nests on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean in the United States and in the Mediterranean Sea, usually laying between 75 and eggs. If they survive the first few years of their lives, some may live to be over 75 years old! Seal on the beach looking playful. They are extremely well suited for life in the water with adaptations such as powerful tail muscles, warm blubber, and the ability to conserve oxygen on long dives. They feed in the water, but need beaches to breed, raise young, and reproduce. One the beach, they are also less exposed to predators like sharks. What exactly are seals? There are over 33 species of pinnipeds with three main divisions: Pinnipeds are excellent swimmers and can hold their breath for almost 2 hours! They can do this by slowing their heart rate when they dive and changing the chemistry. The beach is important to all pinnipeds for breeding and raising their young. Seals leave their young alone on the beach during the day while feeding. The mothers return at night to nurse their young. Baby seals are sometimes left for days at a time while the mother is feeding. The best thing to do is to call local wildlife officials and remember that handling baby seals is illegal. The white cliffs of Dover are an example of a rock formation made up of tiny fossils of coccoliths, single-celled organisms living in the oceans of the world. From the White cliffs at Dover to the chalk caves of the Champagne region of France, these tiny fossils are found all over the world both on the coast and inland. When these organisms die, their shells can become fossils and remain for very long periods of time. Although these organisms are very small, the fossilized remains of them can accumulate in huge quantities for two reasons: When ocean temperatures are favorable for their life-cycles, deposits of their bodies on the ocean floor can reach amazing depths – hundreds of meters! These fossilized remains are referred to as oozes and there are two main types of oozes: Forams have shells made up of mostly calcium carbonate. USGS Calcareous oozes Calcareous oozes, or calcium-based oozes, are made up of the shells of foraminifera forams and coccolithophores. Forams are

single-celled organisms that live only for about one month. These protists are very small, but they are very large in number: When forams die, their shells settle on the ocean floor and accumulate. Forams are very useful for dating rock layers since scientists have good data about which species of forams lived during particular time periods. Coccolithophores are single celled organisms with shells made up mostly of calcium carbonate plates. When coccoliths die, their shells accumulate on the ocean floor. During the Cretaceous period some million years ago, the oceans were warmer and coccoliths accumulated for very, very long periods of time. You probably are quite familiar with coccolithic rock, but you might not know it; chalk is an example.

**Siliceous oozes** This diatom is dangerous to fish and aquatic life because of the long spikes that can get caught in their gills. NOAA This radiolarian has a hard outer shell of mostly silica. Siliceous oozes are made up of the shells of diatoms and radiolarians. Diatoms are a type of algae, most of which have one cell. There are a few hundred species alive today, but there are over , fossil species! Like the other oozes, when diatoms die, their small silica shells sink to the bottom of the ocean and slowly accumulate. Radiolarians are a group of amoeba with a hard shell made of mostly silica. Like the other oozes listed above, the shells of these organisms accumulate on the ocean floor. You might know the word diatom if you have ever used soil with diatoms mixed in called diatomaceous earth. Other uses include pool filters, to clean up spills, and as an abrasive.

**Insects and Worms** In addition to larger plants and animals, beaches are also full of much smaller forms of life. Insects are present at virtually all beaches and provide important ecosystem functions such as breaking down organic matter, nutrient cycling, and serving as food sources for larger organisms. Many people only consider insects when their presence is in some way objectionable to their visit to the beach, such as mosquitoes, but these tiny creatures have some amazing adaptations that suit them to life on the beach. To find some insects on your beach, gently roll over some of the organic matter from the wrack line and look closely. Little is known about many of these species; who knows what you might find?

**Northeastern beach tiger beetle** *Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis* Photo copyright: Northeastern beach tiger beetle The Northeastern beach tiger beetle *Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis* is a beetle that, true to its name, is found on beaches in the northeastern United States. Historically, it was found in every coastal state from Massachusetts to Virginia. Today, it is extirpated or locally extinct from Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey, with a small population remaining in Massachusetts and a larger population in the Chesapeake Bay. It is listed as endangered in Massachusetts, and threatened federally. The ideal habitats for northeastern beach tiger beetles are long, wide, undisturbed, dynamic beaches. In the summer months, larvae live in the upper intertidal zone, and dig burrows up to 14 inches deep. Adults live between the dunes and the high-tide line. From about November to March of each year, larval northeastern beach tiger beetles overwinter up high on the beach, avoiding most waves and storm activity. After their hibernation, they will emerge and move back down to the intertidal zone. Northeastern beach tiger beetles are handsome, sand-colored insects. Specifically, they are a whitish-tan color with dark markings and a green-bronze head. To catch food, larvae wait near the top of the burrow for small invertebrate prey to get close. Presence of the Northeastern beach tiger beetle is an indicator of a healthy beach.

**California Beach Hopper** *Orchestoidea californiana* Photo copyright: Peter Bryant, University of California, Irvine. Beach hoppers Beach hoppers, or sand fleas *Orchestoidea* spp. Relatives of the beach hopper can be found around the world. They spend most of the day buried head-first in the sand trying not to get carried away by the tides and most of the night feeding on kelp, other organic debris, and microorganisms living in the sand. Move a pile of kelp on the beach, and you are likely to send hundreds of these tiny creatures hopping. Beach hoppers need sandy beaches for habitat, but are one of the few insects from the Amphipod order that require sandy beaches:

**Kelp fly** *Fucellia rufitibia* Photo copyright: Kelp flies Several species of kelp fly live on the beaches on the west coast of North America and many more live around the world. These insects are responsible for cycling nutrients through the beach ecosystem and serve as a source of food for a variety of other animals. Kelp and seaweed wash up on most beaches and this decomposing organic matter serves as an ideal habitat for kelp flies.

**Rove beetles** Intertidal Rove Beetle *Cafius* sp.

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### Chapter 6 : Rottnest Island | Quokkas and Wildlife

*Coastal Plants* is a guide to the plants that grow along the coastline and on the islands between Dongara and Dunsborough in Western Australia. It is a slim-line edition of *Plants of the Perth Coast and Islands*, which covers a wider area and a greater number of species.

### Chapter 7 : WESTERN AUSTRALIA ISLANDS

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### Chapter 8 : Flora and Fauna | Coastal Care

It occurs naturally on coastal dunes in the Perth region and on Rottnest Island. Male and female cones grow on the same tree. Male cones are only 5mm long and female cones are much larger woody globes, which split to release winged seeds.

### Chapter 9 : List of islands of Perth, Western Australia - Wikipedia

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