TRAIL 1 ..... 4.6 KM
TRIANGLE TRAIL

Directions: Starting at Granny's Beach, head north along Point Leander Drive, turn left on to Ocean Drive, and follow it all the way until you eventually end up back at Granny's Beach.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Tin Soldiers in remembrance of ANZAC along Ocean Drive past the boardwalk.
- The Boardwalk along the Irwin River Estuary where you are bound to see Pelicans, Swans and lots of native birds.
- Skate Park
- Dongara Denison Drive In
- Granny's Beach
- Pump Track

TRAIL 2 ..... 5 KM
ROUND THE TOWN

Directions: Starting at Moreton Terrace, the main street of Dongara, make your way west, Moreton Terrace will turn into Church Street. At the Cemetery turn right onto Dodd Street and then take the first left onto Northshore Drive. Follow this through until you reach the roundabout, turn left onto Sunset Cove, head past the playground and you will reach the beach. Turn left and walk along the beach until Seaspray Beach. Once at Seaspray follow Church Street back into town. (Church Street will turn into Moreton Terrace at the Roundabout.)

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Heritage Listed Moreton Bay Fig Trees on Moreton Terrace.
- Dongara Cemetery
- Playground for kids
- Seaspray Beach
- Eateries are located along this trail

TRAIL 3 ..... 4.6 KM
IRWIN RIVER RUN

Directions: Starting at the Church Street lookout, head down the stairs, turn left and follow the river until you come to the bridge. Turn right onto the bridge and once past the bridge turn right and follow the river trail again, pass the heritage listed Denison House, continuing on the trail until you reach the canoe launch area. Follow the footpath from the canoe launch area and turn right onto Retreat Blvd turning right again, onto Ocean Drive. Follow the boardwalk, past the Irwin River Estuary, at the end turn right towards the beach, then turn right again back towards the Irwin River Estuary. Cross the sandbar (unless the river has broken through to the ocean due to heavy rainfall), keep following the river trail until you return to the lookout, your starting point.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Denison House
- Irwin River Estuary

TRAIL 4 ..... 2.7 KM
FISHERMENS LOOP

Directions: Starting at the Fishermen's Memorial Lookout and Obelisk, find and follow the trail near the cliffs in front of the first carpark. Turning left, make your way along the cliff face, following the trail turning right when it meets the beach. Follow the beach, turning left just before the picnic shades, towards the carpark. Hop onto the footpath and turn left onto Whitetops Road, and left again onto George Street. At the end of George Street turn right onto Point Leander Drive until you get to Granny's Beach. Loop back along the foreshore towards the Fishermen's Memorial Lookout and Obelisk, your starting point.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Obelisk
- South Beach
- Granny's Beach
- Skate Park
- Old Jetty Ruins
- Shipwreck Walk
- Eateries are located along this trail

TRAIL 5 ..... 9 KM
THE FULL CIRCUIT

Directions: Starting at the Fishermen's Memorial Lookout and Obelisk, walk along the foreshore to Granny's Beach. From Granny's Beach head north along the footpath until you reach the boardwalk. Turn left down to the beach and walk north until reaching the Irwin River Estuary. Cross the sandbar (unless the river has overflowed into the ocean due to heavy rainfall). Follow the river trail until you reach the bridge. Turn right on to Point Leander Drive and cross the Irwin River Bridge, turn right and continue through the park, then head west along the river trail. You will come across the heritage listed Denison House, keep going past this until you reach the Canoe Launch area. At the Canoe Launch area follow the footpath up to Retreat Blvd and turn right and follow path right onto Ocean Drive. Continue along to Granny's Beach and walk along the foreshore, returning to the Fishermen's Memorial Lookout and Obelisk.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Shipwreck Walk
- Old Jetty Ruins
- Irwin River Estuary
- Skate Park
- Bird Lookout
- Denison House
- Anzac Soldiers
- Nun's Pool
- The Boardwalk
- Pump Track





HERITAGE & CULTURE



In 1839, Lieutenant George Grey embarked on a journey, passing through this area and naming one of the rivers he came across "Irwin River', in honour of his friend Major Irwin who was then Commandant of the Swan River Colony. Grey had been shipwrecked at Gantheaume Bay, near Kalbarri, while exploring the coast at the mouth of the Murchison River.

A team of men under the leadership of the Gregory brothers rediscovered Irwin River in 1845. Their sighting took place further east, where they happen to come upon a seam of coal in the river bed.

Excited by this and the large areas of pastoral land around, they sent a glowing report back to Perth. As a result, three men set out with cattle and sheep to settle in the region of the Irwin River. Thus in 1850 the first settlers arrived.

In 1852 a town site was surveyed and named Thungarra- a name given to the area by the local Indigenous people which meant 'a meeting place of seals'. Anglising of this name gives Dongara its present name.

The Irwin River mouth with its lagoon estuary and offshore reefs was an ideal home for many birds and animals including Australian sea lions and fur seals.

The first flour mill was built in 1859. A few years later it became the stately residence of the town's first doctor, Dr. Bartlett. The building is now known as Denison House, owned by the Shire of Irwin and houses local art groups.

In 1864, the tiny Irwin settlement received its first mail service carried up the stock route from Perth via horse. Horse races were held in that same year. One hundred years later on the exact same spot, the presence of oil and gas was discovered.

A jetty was built at Port Irwin (now known as Port Denison) in 1867, as several ships visited the port on a weekly basis, bringing in supplies and taking away products of the district such as wheat, flour, wool and sandalwood. In the same year, Joseph Walton applied for a licence to run an Inn. The Inn was built and has since been added onto to which is now known as the Dongara Hotel Motel.

Between 1870-71, the Irwin Road Board formed and several shops, a school, police station and Court House were built.

William Criddle built the town's second hotel in 1881. It was acquired by the Dominican Sisters in 1902 and they added a second storey to the building. Then in 1926 the college was added. In the following 44 years it was open, hundreds of girls received their education within its walls. It is now known as the Priory Hotel.

The Irwin River was crossed in shallow areas until 1888-89 when the bridge was built between Dongara & Port Denison.

The Moreton Bay Fig trees that line Moreton Terrace were planted in 1906 by Mr. Robert Russ, these magnificent trees are now heritage listed.

As early as 1912, the foreshore became a popular place for picnics and bathing. The Irwin Road Board built shelter sheds with seats which have been replaced over the years.

The 'Denison' town site is proclaimed and gazetted in 1921.

Following World War 2 when roads and vehicles had improved and petrol rationing had ceased, more and more families took their summer holidays and swimming lessons at the beach.

The new Dongara- Denison Bridge is opened by Sir David Brand in 1964.

Over the years camping conditions have improved with the introduction of caravans. The camping areas were all around the point, past South Beach, until the 1970's when the new caravan park was established near the surf beach. Now you can camp at any one of the four caravan parks but no longer on the beach.

The Russ Cottage was opened in 1971 by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir David Brand. The Russ Cottage was acquired by the Shire of Irwin from the Russ family 100 years after it was built. The Irwin District Historical Society leased the cottage and its volunteers restored the building as it was badly deteriorated. The Russ Cottage is a fine example of a rural worker's home of over 145 years ago.

The name Port Denison was officially gazetted in 1973.

A centenary celebration for the Moreton Bay Fig trees were held in 2003, they became heritage listed.

*information supplied by the Irwin District Historical Society

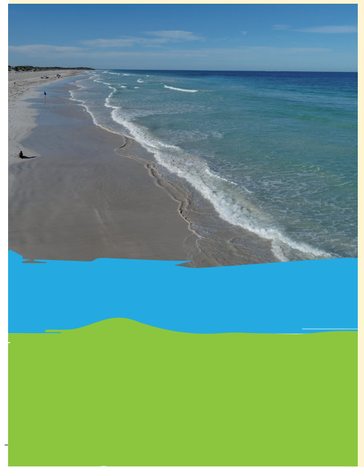
DONGARA PORT DENISON

Situated on the stunning Coral Coast of Western Australia are the coastal twin towns of Dongara and Port Denison. The two towns are divided by the beautiful Irwin River, creating a scenic landmark as it meanders between the towns on its way to meet the ocean.

Dongara Port Denison is the perfect destination with a range of activities to suit all holidays. Immerse yourself in the history of the twin towns; connect with nature along the Irwin River; sit under the stars and watch a movie at the Drive in or spend the day at South Beach.

Dongara Port Denison plays host to a diverse range of fantastic events throughout the year; there's always something you can find at the monthly Town Markets; you could place a bet on the horses at the annual Easter Races; or for the car enthusiasts the annual Port Denison Foreshore Sprint & Show & Shine.

Dongara Port Denison is well known for it's magnificent heritage listed Moreton Bay & Port Jackson fig trees, the beautiful beaches, it's vast collection of heritage buildings, the Dongara Denison Drive Ins (which operates in the Spring & Summer months), and is a great base to use for the wildflower season in the Midwest area.





Dongara Port Denison
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
EXPLORE · REST · PLAY



THUNGARRA TRAILS

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Ambulance/ Police/Fire	000
Ambulance Non-Emergency	131 233
Dongara Medical Centre	9927 2907
Chemist	9927 1132
Dongara Taxis	9927 1555
Ranger	0427 110 237
Sea Rescue	9927 1770
Shire	9927 0000
Vet Hospital	9927 1329
Visitor Centre	9927 1404
Western Power	13 10 87
Water Police (Shark Sighting)	9442 8600

DONGARA PORT DENISON VISITOR CENTRE

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