FOSSILS OF KOJONUP

The fossils of Kojonup are found in sandstone quartzite country, probably in old drainage channels.

Recent research suggests that they were made after a flood in which a large volume of silt was deposited along a river bed or its banks.

Given the similarity to the Pallingup Siltstone flora, these fossils are believed to be about 40 million years old, being from the late Eocene age.

The lack of fruit and seed generally makes identification of plant fossils difficult.

Information from local geologists and Museum of WA publications.

THE KODJA PLACE FOSSILS

First Shelf: *Nothofagus plicata*

All deciduous species of Nothofagus genus, such as the Tasmanian tanglefoot beech have distinctive fan-like folds between the veins, so it is assumed this species was deciduous too.

It is sometimes referred to as the "Antarctic Beech". Also there are early eucalypts and banksias in this specimen.

Second Shelf: *Araucariaceae*

Although the conifer family *Araucariaceae* no longer occurs naturally in Western Australia (Norfolk Island pines are an introduced plant).

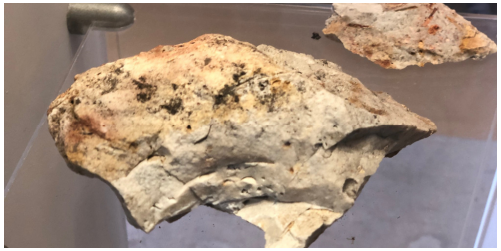
The Kojonup fossils show that they were present in the Eocene times. This example is from the tip of a pine shoot and is probably a Dacryolin.

Third Shelf: *Banksiaeformis*

The Proteaceous family is well represented in Kojonup floras.

The serrated leaf of Banksia or Dryandra was a leaf shape suitable to cope with dramatic climatic changes.

Without fruit specimens to distinguish species these are given the non-committal name of Banksieaformis.



Fourth Shelf: *Myrtaceous*

An example from the Myrtaceous (Eucalypt) family, this is similar in many respects to the gum leaves of today.

The other main species in the fossil beds of the Kojonup district (not represented in this display) is from the Casuarinaceae (she-oak) family.