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Balajura Walks

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Independent

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Walking north along Bellefin Drive is seeing plane trees planted on the east side, eucalyptus marginata and xanthorrhoeas replanted on the west side of this road leading to Hepburn Avenue, winding just south of a biologically intact stretch of homeland called Cullacabardee where, at Baal Street, a small Nyungar community (Nyungah, the Last of the River People) dwells apart from yet is a part of other storytellers, walkers, painters, poets living close to the coast, the city, the foothills. Made to transport country and coastal-plain dwellers west towards the Indian Ocean, east towards the Darling Ranges, Hepburn Avenue seems to ask if scarps, plains, trees – texts, tenets, themes – are colleagues and kin and kindreds of land and sea.

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1 Ballajora is the name of a place on the Isle of Man and the name Ernest Kerruish gave to the land he purchased for a farm near Perth, Western Australia, on arriving from the Isle of Man in 1905 – in what is now known as the suburb of Ballajura. Thanks to my former neighbour, Vanya Chatley, for supplying the history.

2 Xanthorrhoea, any plant of the genus xanthorrhoea, also known as the grass tree, and native to Western Australia.

3 Meeting Place.