

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

REMEMBER THE COUNTRY CODE

Take nothing but photographs.

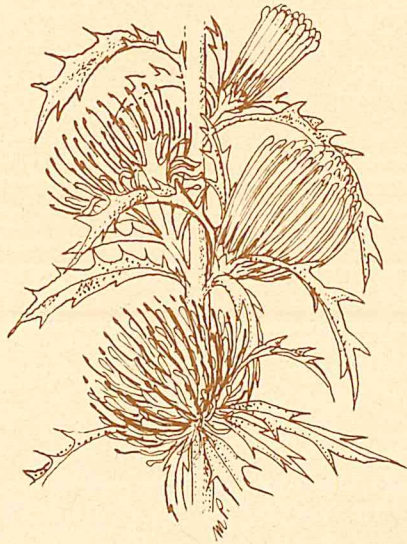
Leave nothing but footprints.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

When stopping by the roadside, signal your intentions in plenty of time to alert the following traffic.

Do not park on crests or curves, or where traffic visibility is poor.

If crossing a road, keep control of children and pets.



Dyandra squarrosa

Map by Sharon Colliss

Drawings by Margaret Pieroni

12. Watson Road 0.8km, Clydesdale Road 1.0km Moore Road 4.1km

On Moore Road is **Throssell Nature Reserve**, a small patch of Wandoo and Salmon Gum woodland preserving many habitat trees. Further north, the road crosses a patch of sandplain with Christmas Trees and Blackboys.

Meenaar North Road 7.2km

An attractive road across relatively high country, with some outstanding Wandoo trees.

Southern Brook Road 18km

The western end gives sweeping views across the Avon Valley towards Northam.

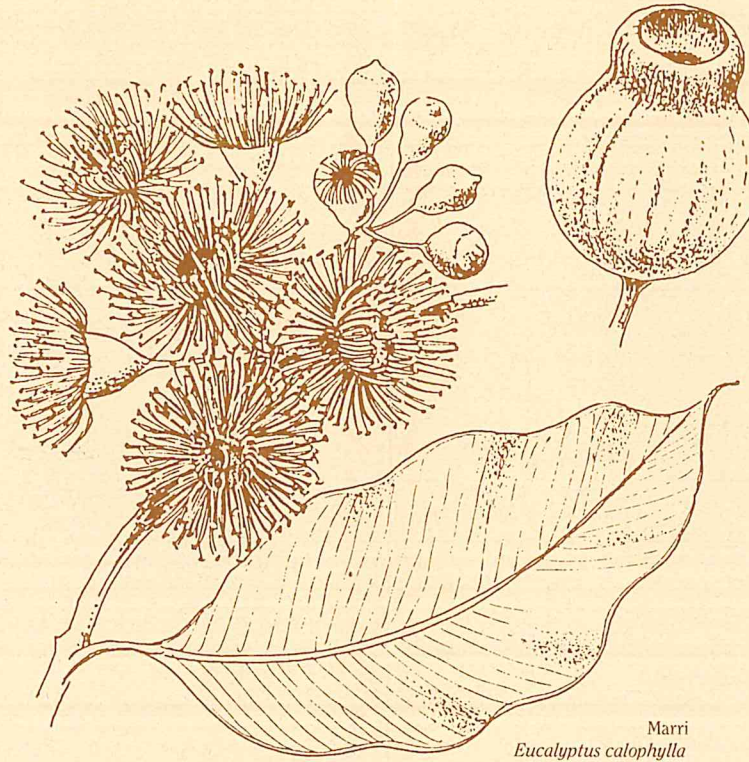
Centenary Lookout (built in 1929) is on the south side of the road soon after a nice belt of Salmon Gums.

13. Buckland Road 9.2km

Irishtown Road 9.6km

This is very early-settled country where little remnant vegetation remains bar a few York Gums, Wandooos, Jams and Flooded Gums along the rivers.

In nature, most species breed true, but occasionally a **hybrid** is formed when two species cross. Near Irishtown, several hybrids between York Gum and Wandoo occur.



Marri
Eucalyptus calophylla

This is a great road to study **weeds**. How many can you see? The most spectacular is the beautiful blue Paterson's Curse, but there are dozens of others!

14. Katrine Road 12km

This, the original route between York and Toodyay - prior to the existence of Northam - is a winding

back road of considerable charm. Katrine Pool gives a good idea of riverine vegetation dominated by Flooded Gums, Swamp Sheoaks, Paperbarks and reeds. The drive towards Northam passes beneath one of the finest avenues of **Flooded Gums** in the State. One bole is over 2m in diameter!

15. Forest Road 3.9km

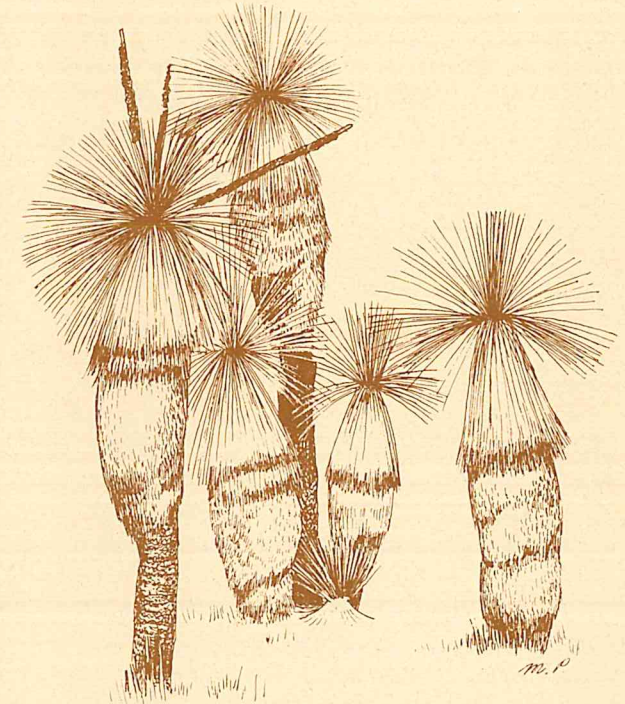
A superb Wandoo avenue leads up to **Wongamine Nature Reserve**, a magnificent example of Wandoo and Powderbark forest and upland sandplain. It is exceptionally rich in flora and fauna and is one of the conservation gems of the region.

Red Gully Road 2.3km Nunile Road 5.2km

The main attraction is the sweeping views of Toodyay valley.

Make sure you have your camera!

Avon Valley Wildflowers



AVON VALLEY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Roadside
Conservation
Committee



Welcome to the Avon Valley!

This beautiful and historic area contains a fascinating variety of local native plants. Come and seek them out!

The setting

The Avon Valley, which lies in the Shires of Toodyay, Northam, York and Beverley, can be divided, both scenically and biologically, into three areas.

In the west are the high lateritic (gravelly) soils of the Darling Range on which grow forests of Jarrah and Marri with Wandoo in the valleys and Powderbark on the lateritic hilltops.

The Valley proper has been carved by the Avon and the Mortlock Rivers. Starting from almost flat salt lakes east of Beverley, the valley slopes increase in height and ruggedness as the river flows north until just past Toodyay it turns to cross the Darling Range on its way to the sea. Originally the slopes would have been covered by a woodland of York Gum and Wandoo, with Flooded Gum along the rivers. Now they are picturesque farmland, with many exposed granite outcrops.

To the east the land rises once more as it becomes the typical Wheatbelt landscape of lateritic or sandy uplands separating wide shallow valleys with red soil slopes and saline valley floors. Originally the area would have carried a woodland of York Gum and Jam with Salmon Gum, Wandoo and Red Morrel. Very sandy soil would have had a cover of Banksia woodland and shrubs, while the salt areas supported Samphire and Swamp Sheoak.

Apart from State Forest in the west, most original vegetation has been cleared, however remnants preserved in reserves and along roadsides create a living history book.

1. Julimar Road 34.0km

A scenic, treed drive from the Chittering Valley to Toodyay, which passes through Jarrah in Julimar State Forest. There is a nice picnic site near the junction of Plunkett Road. Spring is the best time to wander around looking at the magnificent wildflowers which would include Blue Leschenaultia, yellow Hibbertias and orange and red pea flowers.

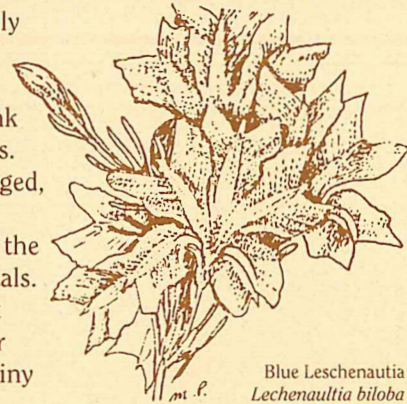
Search especially for the delicate

Trigger Plants,

mostly with pink or white flowers.

The style is hinged, and folds away between one of the two pairs of petals.

When an insect visits the flower and touches a tiny trigger in the centre, the style swings over and hits the insect, showering it with pollen.



Blue Leschenaultia
Lechenaultia biloba

2. Sandplain Road 4.5km

The soil here is white sand covered in Marri and Wandoo trees with a dense shrubby understorey which includes two different smokebushes and four species of **Hakea**, Harsh Hakea, Candle Hakea, Wavy-leaved Hakea and Variable-leaved Hakea. All Hakeas have hard, woody seeds which split into two - usually after fire - to release the two winged seeds. As the road descends, there are spectacular views over the Avon Valley.

Folewood Road 3.5km

Affords stunning views across the Avon Valley as you drive down into Toodyay.

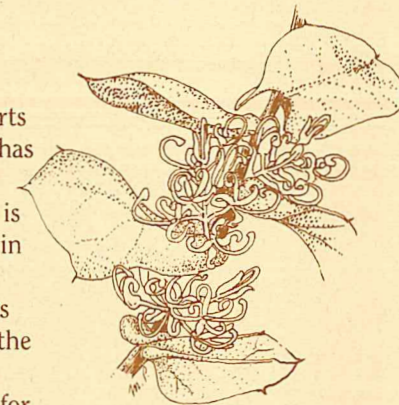
3. Salt Valley Road 3.6km

Hoddy Well Road 1.3km

Features magnificent Wandooos and dense shrubs including Parrotbush.

Toodyay - Clackline Road 9.5km

The old railway reserve, now in parts a Nature Reserve, has a rich and varied vegetation. There is always something in flower and photographic gems abound. Look on the gravel of the old railway formation for **Pygmy Sundews**, with tiny rosettes of sticky leaves and large, brilliant orange flowers with a black centre. Other Sundews scramble through the vegetation, sunlight flashing like jewels from their leaves. Bridal Rainbow has white flowers, and Pink Rainbow, pink ones. The plants are carnivorous, obtaining nutrients by trapping ants and gnats on their sticky leaves, and then digesting them.



Harsh Hakea
Hakea prostrata

4. Spencers Brook Road 32km

The western portion has vegetation characteristic of this part of the Avon Valley, with York Gum and Jam on the rocky granite slopes and Flooded Gums in the creeks. **York Gum** often has several trunks bearing rough grey bark. If it is dominant, it is a good sign of richer soils derived from dolerite intrusions in the granite. When weathered, dolerite gives a deep red colour to the soil.

5. Mokine Road 6.4km

Features attractive granite boulder formations and also an impressive stand of Blackboys.

Leaver Road 5.7km

Passing from granite into laterite soil, the road reserve becomes wider and carries Marri over a dense shrub cover. **Mokine Nature Reserve** is a very rich wildflower area, well worth a walk, especially in spring.

Wambyn Road 11.3km

This magnificent wide road reserve carries superb examples of woodland and dense scrub developed on laterite soil. Note especially the lovely examples of **Drummond's Gum**, a small tree with pinkish-white bark and reddish buds giving masses of cream bloom in spring.

At the Southern end of the road is St Ronan's Nature Reserve, a superb stand of Wandoo forest on laterite and Sheoak on granite, over a dense heath of Dryandras, Hakeas, Conebushes and One-sided Bottlebrushes. It is at its most attractive in late spring.



Drummond's Gum
Eucalyptus drummondii

6. Spencers Brook - York Road 27km

This is a very historic road through long-settled country. Look for **native grasses** on the railway reserve among the introduced (tall, reddish) Veldt Grass. Spear Grass, Wallaby Grass and Foxtail Mulga-grass all occur here and are grazed preferentially by kangaroos.

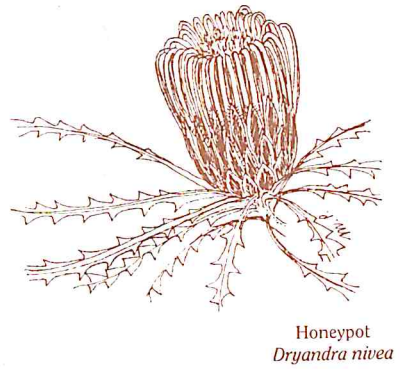
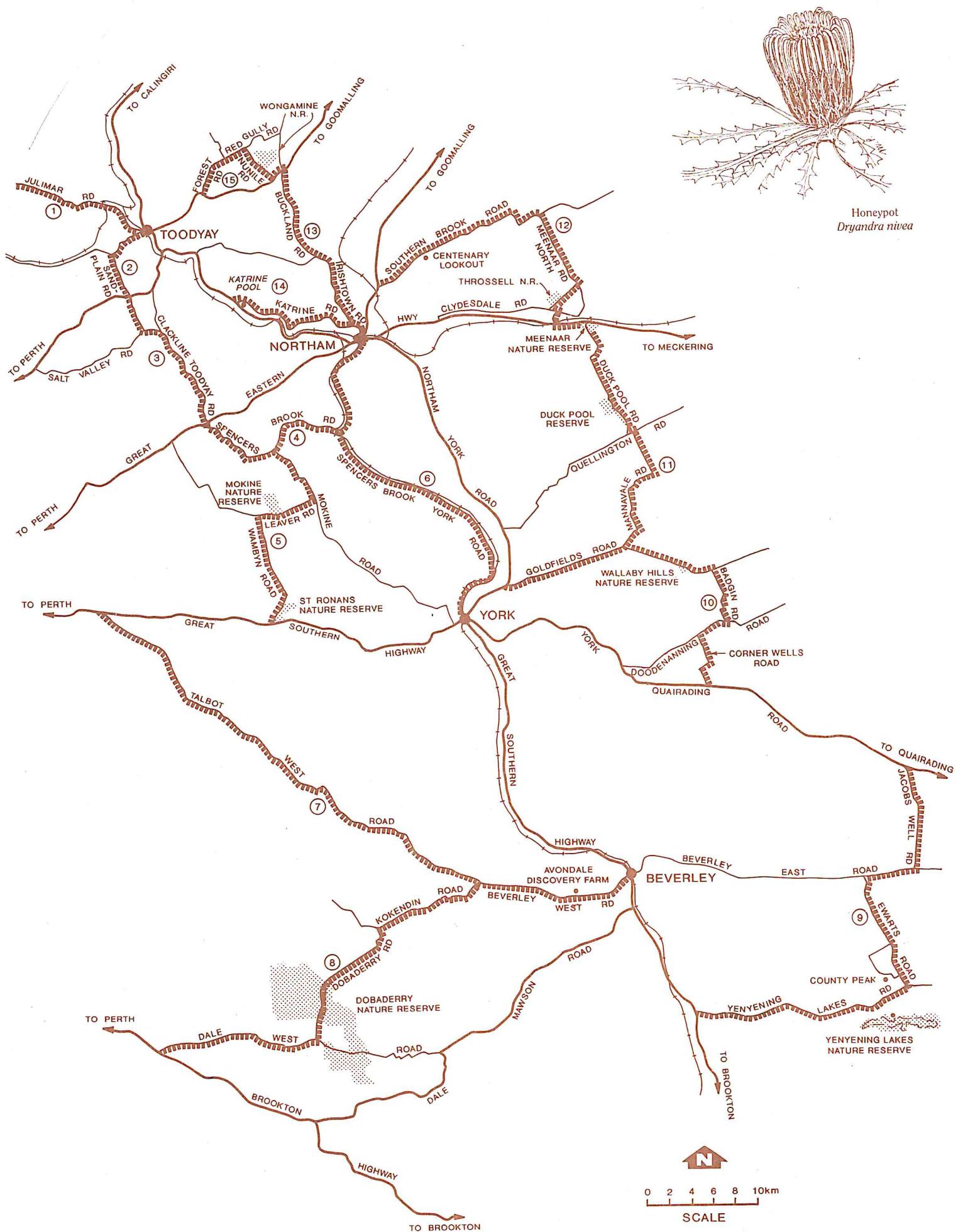
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Beverley Tourist Centre, Shire Offices, Beverley.
ph: 096 46 1200

Northam Tourist Centre (opposite Town Council),
Northam. ph: 096 22 2100

Toodyay Tourist Centre, Connors Mill, Toodyay.
ph: 09 574 2435

York Tourist Bureau, Avon Terrace, York.
ph: 096 41 1301



Information about the natural history of the region
is contained in the locally-produced book:

"The Avon Valley: The Naturalists' View"

Editor M. Walker

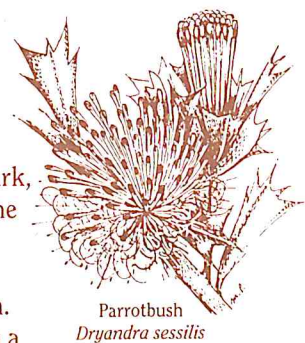
Toodyay Naturalists' Club, Toodyay, 1986.

obtainable from all tourist centres and shire offices.

7. Talbot West Road 35km

An attractive drive through State Forest and farmland.

Jarra dominates at the western end. It has rough bark, fissured longitudinally and the young foliage, produced in summer, is a beautiful light green. **Marri** is also common. It also has rough bark, but in a “crazy-paving” pattern and masses of cream flowers which are an extremely important carry-over food source for nectar-eating animals, as they are produced in late summer, when little else is in flower. Look for **Sheoaks** where granite reaches the surface. They are very important to the long-term health of the forest as their roots, in partnership with an alga, have the ability to fix Nitrogen and so increase the soil fertility.



Parrotbush
Dryandra sessilis

Beverley West Road 19.5km

A pleasant winding road with some extensive views. The dominant tree is York Gum, but there are some Wandoo and Flooded Gums growing along the creeks. Three large shrubby **wattles** occur along the roadside. Jam, so called because the freshly broken wood smells of raspberry jam, is usually a stiffly-branched upright tall shrub. Orange Wattle is a large untidy mop which becomes covered in golden flowers in late spring. Manna Gum Wattle is the earliest to flower, becoming covered with sprays of pale lemon flowers in winter. When a branch is damaged it exudes a sweet sappy gum, hence the name.

The Avondale Discovery Farm is well worth a visit.

8. Dale West Road 15.5km

Lovely drive through the eastern edge of State Forest and into attractive farmland. The Jarrah and Marri forest gives way to some superb large Wandoo and Powderbarks. Not only are they beautiful and very photogenic with their straight white trunks, but they are magnificent **habitat trees**

for many different animals. Their limbs have many holes and hollows which are used as nest sites by birds, bats, bees, skinks or small mammals such as possums or wambengers.

Dobaderry Road 7.6km

This road passes through **Dobaderry Nature Reserve**, an important conservation area of mainly Wandoo forest that protects several extremely valuable swampy areas that are still in a natural state, unaffected by the changes that come with clearing. A walk into the bush at almost any point would be rewarded by finding a magnificent assemblage of plants.

Kokendin Road 11.1km

This road **crosses from one botanical system to another** and the boundary is exceptionally clear. The Darling Botanical System has Wandoo, Powderbark and Marri, the Avon Botanical System has York Gum and Jam.

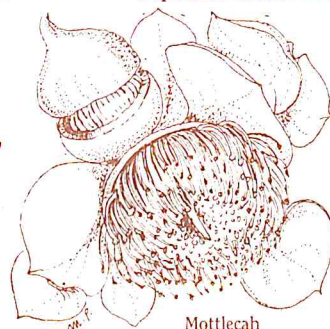
9. Yenyening Lakes Road 27km

A typical rural road, crossing the Avon River and then passing through wheat and sheep country. It occasionally rises to a ridge, from which there are sweeping views.

Yenyening Lakes Nature Reserve. (The picnic site is 2.8km along a side track, signposted through a gate and across a grid.) Here the valley is so wide and flat and the gradient so gentle, that the Avon, instead of flowing in a defined channel, has filled up the whole bottomland to form a series of lakes. Some retain water throughout the summer and are a magnificent place to see waterbirds.

This is a good example of a **natural salt lake system**. Rainwater, derived as it is from evaporation over the sea, contains some salt. When the rain falls on country where evaporation exceeds runoff, the water evaporates, leaving the salt behind. Over the centuries the salt becomes deposited as salt lakes, surrounded by vegetation which can withstand the high salt level such as Swamp Sheoaks, Samphires and some shrubby Honeymyrtles.

Agricultural clearing has removed the deep-rooted trees which formerly clothed the landscape and replaced them with shallow-rooted annual



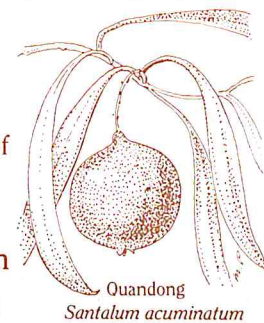
Mottlecah
Eucalyptus macrocarpa

vegetation. This has allowed the water table to rise, bringing salt to the surface and causing salinisation of large areas of formerly productive soil. That the water table has risen can clearly be seen from the amount of dead woody vegetation around the lake. It probably died from a combination of water-logging and increase in salinity.

Ewarts Road 11.5km

On the northern section are some superb large **Mottlecahs**. This striking grey-leaved mallee, which is more usually seen as a shrub, shows here that it can grow into a stunningly beautiful small tree.

Detour onto County Peak Road for 1.9km and then onto Pioneer Memorial Drive to climb **County Peak**. This knoll is a remnant of the laterite which once covered this whole land surface, but has almost all been eroded away. Its slopes are covered with Mallet, while the cap has a sparse growth of shrubs including Quandongs and Bullock Poison. From the top there is a superb view of the typical wheatbelt countryside.



Quandong
Santalum acuminatum

Beverley East Road 6km

Jacobs Well Road 12km

Pleasant roads along which Roadside Teatree is common. This straggly, upright shrub becomes transformed by a frothy lace of small white flowers in spring.

The magnificent stand of young trees at Jacobs Well Siding is a good place to look at the difference between **Salmon Gum** and **Red Morrel**. Both trees are similar in growth habit, but the Red Morrel has dark, fissured bark on its trunk and grey-green

leaves while Salmon Gum has smooth bark and shiny yellow-green leaves.

10. Corner Wells Road 5.6km

An attractive road rising to a ridge which affords dramatic distant views of Mt Bakewell. The dense, sprawling, grey-leaved shrub is Bluebush, a summer-flowering wattle.

Doodenanning Road 2.5km

Badgin Road 5.1km

Attractive roads with a mixture of Salmon Gum, York Gum, Red Morrel and Wandoo.

Goldfields Road

(York-Tammin Road) 21.3km

A small patch of uncleared ground just west of Badgin Road has Wandoo over York Road Poison and **Blackboys**. Note the immensely long skirts on the Blackboys, this shows that it has been a very long time since the area has been burnt.

In **Wallaby Hills Nature Reserve** the gravelly soil is covered in dense shrubs including Dryandras and One-sided Bottlebrush and, on the sandy areas Acorn Banksia and Mottlecah. It is a very pleasant area to stop for a picnic.

11. Mannavale Road 13km

Pleasant drive with some nice large Salmon Gums.

Duck Pool Road 10km

In the reserve alongside the Mortlock River are very good examples of **riverine vegetation**, Flooded Gums, Swamp Sheoaks and Paperbarks. Silt banks in the river grow Salt Couch and Samphires, while the ground layer back from the river is dominated by Curly Grass. Small pink and yellow everlastings form a colourful carpet in spring.

Meenaar South Road 7km

Features magnificent avenues of Salmon Gum and Wandoo trees. **Meenaar Nature Reserve** has an area dominated by Jam, with a sparse understorey. In spring many delicate plants, including orchids, can be found. It is also an excellent birdwatching spot.