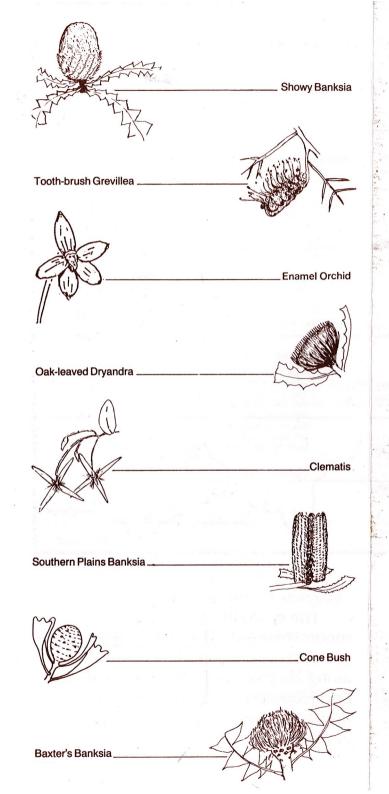
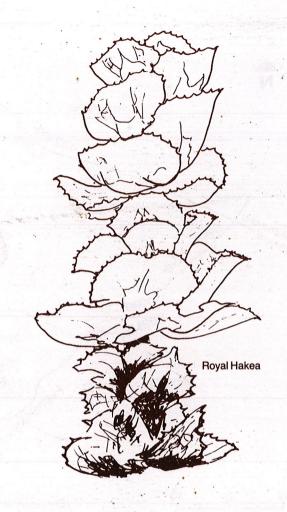
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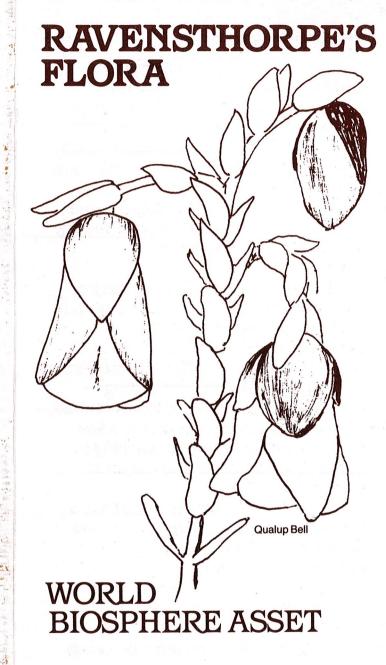


Produced in co-operation with THE FITZGERALD BIOSPHERE PROJECT THE RAVENSTHORPE-HOPETOUN TOURIST COMMITTEE.

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## Floral Wonderland

The Shire of Ravensthorpe is a wonderful place for plant lovers! Although only a tiny part of Australia — 0.2% — it is so rich and diverse that almost 10% of the native plants found in Australia occur here, including many that are found nowhere else. In fact, Ravensthorpe Shire probably has the greatest number of native plants of any Local Government District in the world!

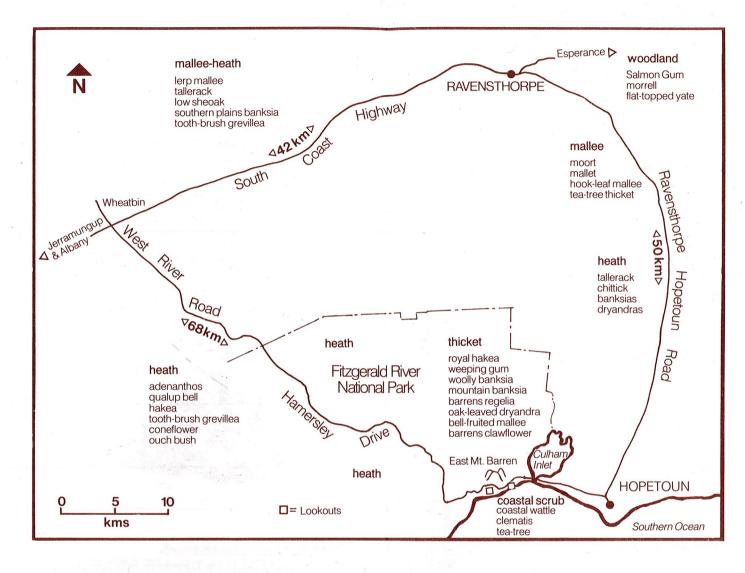
The reason lies in the diversity of soil, landform and climate throughout the Shire, giving rise to different vegetation communities, which support a wealth of different animals.

Inland, on gently undulating country with poor soils and low rainfall, lie extensive low woodlands, mallee thickets and scrub heath, varying in appearance according to the time since the last fire.

Around Ravensthorpe itself are a series of stony hills, covered with low woodland and mallee, with areas of prickly scrub thicket.

Towards the coast lie the world famous "kwongan" or sand plain heaths, growing in luxuriant and spectacular beauty on infertile sandy soils.

There are also areas where the underlying rock outcrops, and different vegetation communities can be found



there. Add river valleys, salt lakes, coastal dunes, cliffs and inlets and you get some idea of how very varied this landscape is.

Experience the wildflower wealth by taking a drive, stopping to examine the plants along the roadside.

Slow down and enjoy it — there's

always something to see.

The route above is highly recommended. The best scenic views are obtained when driving south along Hamersley Drive. Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun both provide meals and accommodation, including caravan parks.