

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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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 following traffic.

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

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

WICKEPIN: Petrol, Hotel, Caravan Park, General Store, Deli, Garage, Art & Craft Shop.

YEALERING: Petrol, Hotel, Caravan Park, General Store, & Historical Display, Garage.

HARRISMITH: Hotel, Petrol.

TINCURRIN: General Store, Petrol.

Nearest Autogas is at Narrogin or Corrigin.



Lechenaultia tubiflora

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

CALM Narrogin District Office

(098) 81 1113

Shire of Wickepin

Wogolin Rd, Wickepin

(098) 88 1005

Wickepin Newsagency

(098) 88 1070

Yealering Store

(098) 88 7013

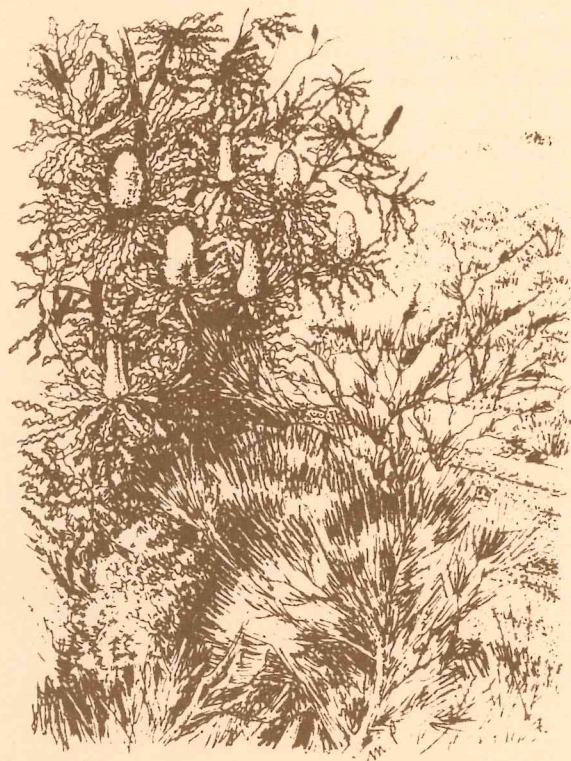
Roadside Conservation Committee

50 Hayman Rd COMO 6152

(09) 334 0423



Wickepin Wildflower Tours



Roadside Conservation Committee

c/o Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Welcome to Wickepin

Wickepin is located 210 kilometres south east of Perth, in the rich agricultural lands of the central southern region. This area, steeped in a colonial history of the 'Facey era', is interspersed with a floral bounty waiting to be discovered by YOU.

Visitors to the district are often surprised at the beauty and variance of flora that Wickepin and surrounding districts have to offer. The region is home to some of the most diverse plant life in the world.

Agricultural clearing of 90 per cent of native vegetation has meant this diverse and spectacularly beautiful flora is now confined to a few conservation reserves, isolated remnants on farms and road verges.

The importance of these 'corridors of flora' throughout the district, cannot be overstated. They are a vital link in the natural ecosystem, enabling animals to move around the region.

Besides the important conservation values, these 'corridors of flora' provide visitors with a glimpse of our unique natural heritage.

Enjoy your visit.

WICKEPIN OF YESTERYEAR

Numerous historical sites from the bygone colonial era can be found throughout the Wickepin area. Several of these are easily accessible and are highlighted on the map.

Gillimanning Hall Site 3

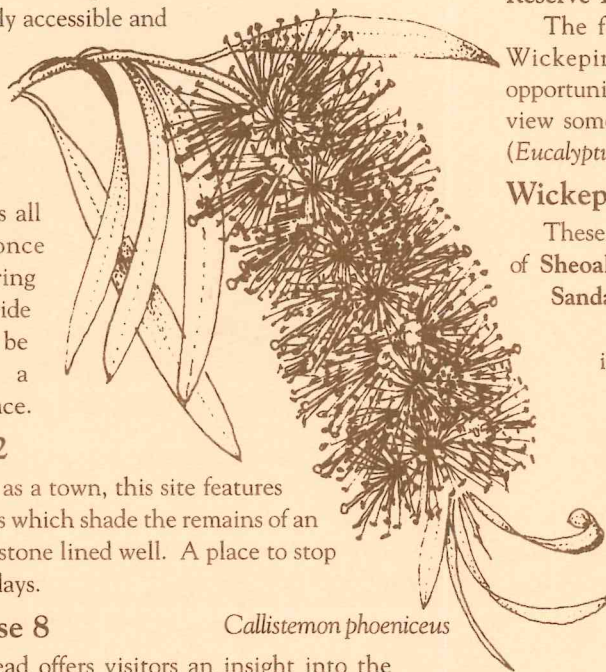
A memorial stone is all that remains of this once active community. During August to September a wide variety of orchids can be seen, making this a worthwhile stopping place.

Tarling Well Site 2

Originally proposed as a town, this site features rough barked York Gums which shade the remains of an old wooden trough and stone lined well. A place to stop and ponder on bygone days.

Albert Facey House 8

The Facey Homestead offers visitors an insight into the hardship of settlers. Visitors should check at the Shire Office for opening times. A small entry fee applies.



Callistemon phoeniceus

WICKEPIN TO YEALERING

Wickepin Cemetery

Reserve 1

The first stop for visitors travelling to Yealering from Wickepin is the Cemetery Reserve. It provides a good opportunity to see a wide range of wheatbelt wildflowers and to view some of the less common trees such as **Brown Mallet** (*Eucalyptus astrigens*) and **Silver Mallet** (*E. falcata*).

Wickepin North - Russell Road

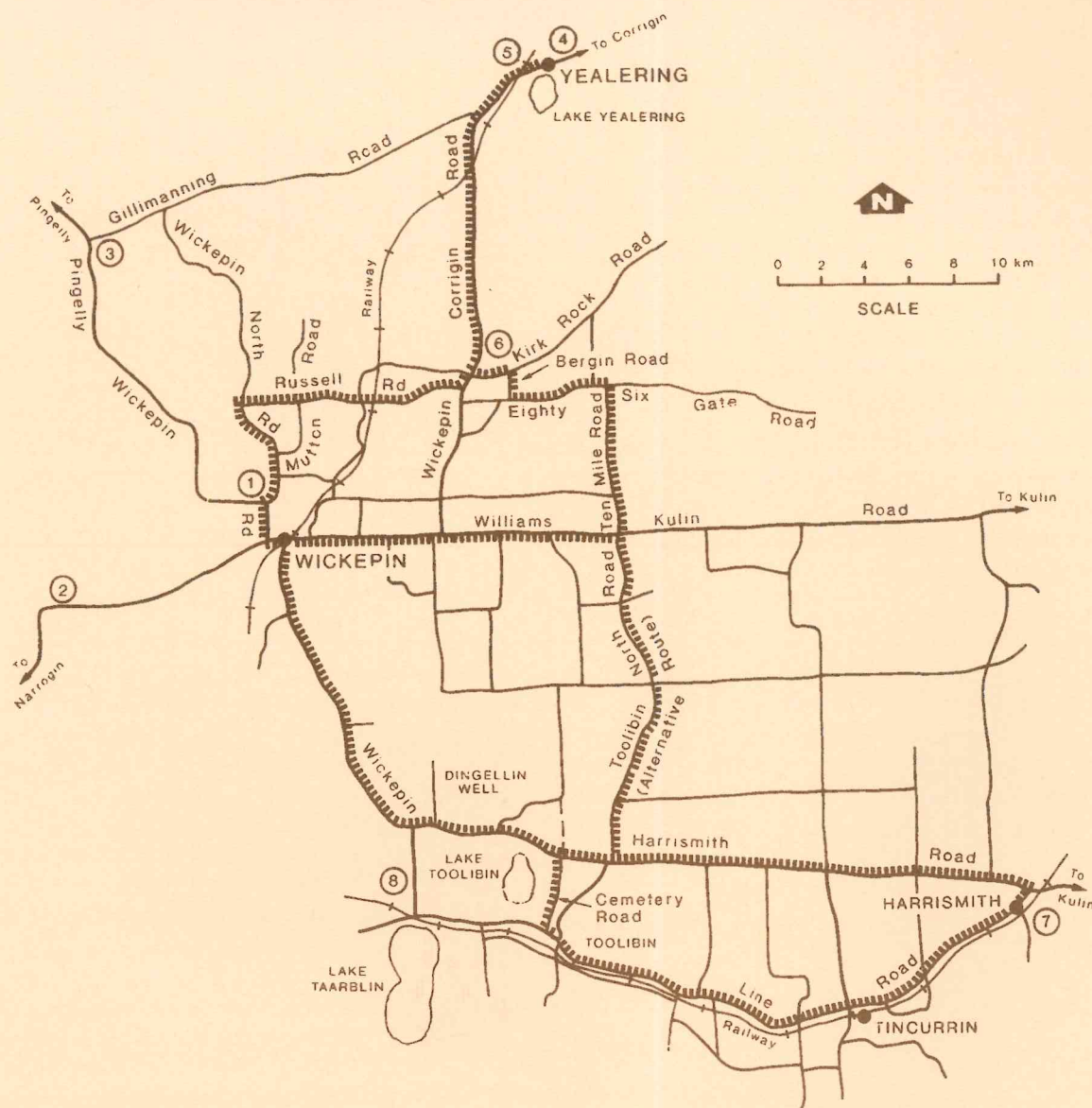
These tree lined roads provide travellers with fine examples of **Sheoaks** (*Casurina bueglia*), **Wandoos**, **Salmon Gums**, **Sandalwoods**, **Jams**, **York Gums** - **Blackboys** & **Morrels**.

Salt is a major degradation agent of agricultural land in WA. It is caused by over clearing of native vegetation, which allows the water table to bring dissolved salts into the root zone. Approximately midway along Russell Road, on the right, you will notice a mounding, in which salt resistant trees have been planted to help lower the water table.

At the junction of the Yealering Road a good stand of **Quandongs** can be seen.

Yealering

Yealering was established in 1907. At that time the lake water was a fresh and valuable source for the early settlers.



The Cemetery Reserve (4) on the eastern side of Yealering is worthy of a visit. Spider, Donkey, Cowslip and Wax orchids, abound from late winter to spring. Many other species of wildflowers such as *Verticordias*, *Grevilleas*, *Leschenaultias* and *Isopogons* are also prolific.

Past the school, west of Yealering, is another reserve (5) well worth exploring for wildflowers. A track on the western end of this reserve leads to a magnificent stand of **Fiery Bottle-brush** (*Callistemon phoeniceus*).

Several kilometres south of Yealering a spectacular display of **Acorn Banksia** (*Banksia prionotes*) lines the road. These flowers are the floral emblem of the shire of Wickepin, are at their best during March and April.

At the railway crossing on this road several species of **Trigger Plants** (*Stylidium* spp.) can be found. These plants have a pollen loaded trigger mechanism which is activated by nectar seeking insects. This ensures pollination by the insects as they move from flower to flower.

Malyalling Rock Reserve 6

Malyalling Rock is typical of the granite outcrops found throughout the southwest. They were utilised by Aborigines and the Europeans as water catchment surfaces.

Magnificent examples of **Salmon Gum** can be seen at the entrance to the Malyalling Rock Reserve. They are particularly attractive in the afternoon light during autumn.

Visitors to this historical precinct during spring will be rewarded by a kaleidoscopic array of orchids including **Spider** (*Caladenias* spp.), **Mantis** (*Caladenia dilatata*) and **Donkey** (*Diuris* spp.) orchids. The old cricket ground on the left and the school site on the right are recommended areas to view these unique and diverse wildflowers.

Ten Mile Road-Toolibin Road

White Tea-tree, **Yellow Verticordia**, **Native Apricots**, (*Pittosporum phylliraeoides*) and **Tennis-ball Banksia** (*Banksia sphaerocarpa*) can be seen along Ten Mile Road. Toolibin North Road can be used as an alternative route to the wildflowers of the Harrismith area.

Harrismith Tincurrin Area

The wild flowers of the sandplain areas are the most spectacular to be found within the Shire of Wickepin. The mallee heath found here is dominated by the three largest botanical families to be found in Australia the **heaths** (*Epacridaceae*); **waxes**, **verticordias**, **eucalyptus** and **bottlebrush** (*Myrtaceae*); and **banksias**, **grevilleas** and **isopogons** (*Proteaceae*).

The areas surrounding the Harrismith Townsite will delight visitors with an endless array of the beautiful and diverse colours of wildflowers at spring time.

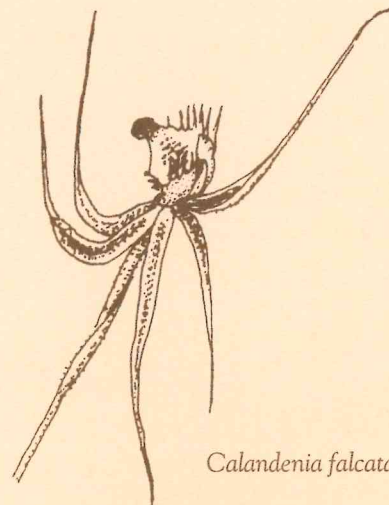
The airstrip just south of the town site is worth a special visit. A rare form of **Geraldton Wax** is located here.

Returning to Wickepin via Line Road, you will see that places of special flora are marked. This road has many interesting and unusual specimens including a rare prostrate banksia and the large pale green *Banksia baueri* which is mostly found on the south coast.

The old Toolibin town site, located at the western end of Line Road, is an area worth exploring. Several good specimens of Marri are here.

There is an excellent display of **Acorn Banksia** at the road intersection. On Cemetery Road, the most easterly range in WA of Marri can be observed. Nearby, is the unique wetlands of Lake Toolibin. Local conservation groups have won awards for their efforts in protecting their farmland from salt encroachment.

Don't forget to visit the Facey Homestead (8) whilst in this area.



Caladenia falcata

TREES OF THE WICKEPIN SHIRE

Dominant woodland trees of the Wickepin Shire are **York Gum** (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*), **Salmon Gum** (*Eucalyptus salmonphloia*) and **Wandoo** (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and **Red Morrel** (*Eucalyptus longicomis*).

The **York Gum**, a straggly, multiple branched tree, with rough dark grey bark, is often seen growing in association with the **Jam tree** (*Acacia acuminata*). Jam trees were named because the newly sawn timber is purported to have the odour of raspberry jam.

Wandoo is the Aboriginal word for this gnarled woodland tree which has creamy white bark and is often splotted with grey.

Another tree commonly known by its Aboriginal name is **Marri**, or **Red Gum** *Eucalyptus calophylla*. The tree is easily identified by its large globular fruit and thick broadly pointed leaves.

The salmon pink timber colour is the reason for the common name for **Salmon Gums**. The bark of these beautiful trees varies from a copper pink colour during autumn, changing to a whitish grey with purple patterns later in the year.

Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) and **Sandalwood** (*Santalum spicatum*), once both common trees in the area, are now only present in isolated locations. Sandalwood was exploited for its aromatic wood and exported to Asia to make joss sticks. Many of the earliest Europeans in the area were Sandalwood gatherers.