

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 It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

7. Tathra National Park

Tathra is a Nyungar word meaning "beautiful place" and the diversity of wildflowers in this National Park fully justifies the name.

This is a good area to look for the interesting adaptations which help the Kwongan plants survive, especially their leaf size and shape.

Wide, soft leaves would lose too much water, so the plants here have stiff leaves, "sclerophylls", which resist damage due to wilting.

Can you think of reasons why some of these plants have grey woolly leaves? One very lovely grey woolly plant along the roadside is Native Foxglove. It has pink flowers in spring. Felted *Verrauxia* has long spikes of small yellow flowers in early summer. Lambswool also occurs here.

8. Eneabba

A small mining town surrounded by low kwongan. In summer, look out for the magnificent magenta flowers of Superb Starflower.

Eneabba - Three-Springs Road 41km

9. White Gums Nature Reserve

Turn off into the Shire gravel pit and wend your way back westwards to find a shady parking spot under wandoos in White Gums Nature Reserve. This small Nature Reserve has an excellent stand of wandoos in the depression, with kwongan on either side of it. There is mostly grassy understorey under the trees, but orchids and everlastings can be found in season.

Touche/Reserve Road 8km

10. Laterite Ridges

Most of the kwongan in this area occurs on sand, and where laterite ridges occur they have a different combination of species.

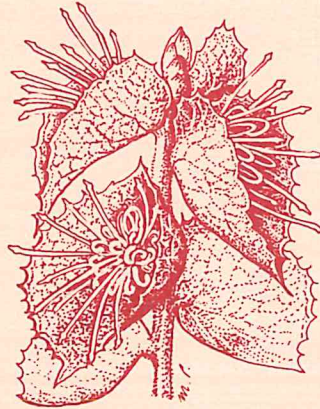
Here the ridge is dominated by Dryandras and Hakeas, dotted with scarlet-flowered *Beaufortias* in summer. Look for Shell-leaved Hakea, whose clusters of white flowers enclosed in the leaves appear in spring. A prostrate *Banksia* with flower heads emerging from underground runners occurs here, and there are several interesting prostrate *Dryandras* also.

Dookanooka Road 8km, Wilton and Brand Roads 21km

11. Floral diversity

The magnificent kwongan along this wide road reserve shows very well the great diversity of flowering plants.

First to flower in winter are golden wattles and brown *Davesias*, then comes the pink of *Myrtles* and the blue of *Dampiera* and



Shell leaved Hakea
Hakea conchifolia

while beneath them are the Bush Cauliflowers, another *Verticordia*.

Come and look!

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.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

CARNAMAH: fuel, food, hotel/motel, caravan park,
medical service.

ENEABBA: fuel, food, tavern, first aid.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:
Shire of Carnamah, Carnamah 6517.
Ph: (099) 51 1055.



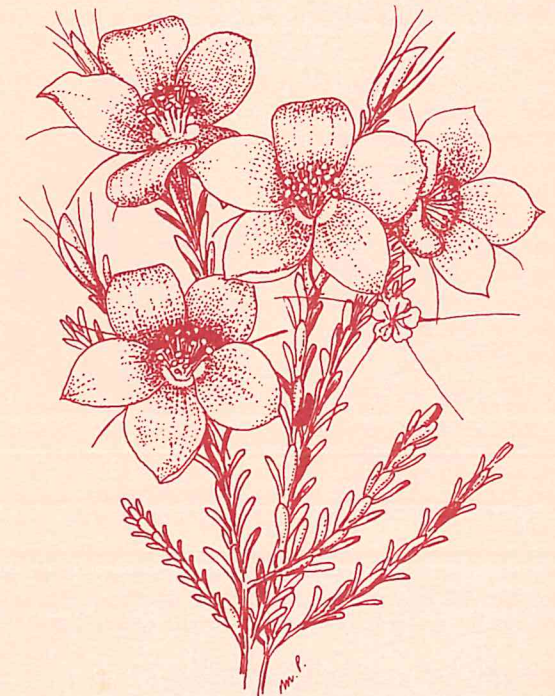
Produced by the Department of Conservation and Land
Management in consultation with Carnamah Shire.

Drawings by Margaret Pieroni

Leshenaultia, with tiny, delicate orchids springing up between the shrubs.

By late spring there are masses of different colours, cream *Hakeas*, orange *Eremaeas*, Scarlet *Verticordias*, yellow *Dryandras* and many more. The show continues on into summer when the *S a n d p l a i n* *Woodypears* produce their masses of cream flowers that are so important as a nectar source for animals,

CARNAMAH- ENEABBA WILDFLOWERS



Superb Starflower
Calytrix superba

Roadside Conservation Committee



c/- P.O. Box 104 COMO W.A. 6152

KWONGAN IN CARNAMAH

Come and look!

One of Western Australia's richest areas of flowering plants occurs in Carnamah Shire. Only the tropical rainforest has a greater number of different species in a small area.

Meander throughout the Shire and pause to see how subtle variations of soil type and moisture availability lead to changes in the plant community.

Almost anywhere you care to stop, you'll find as many as 50 species in a 5-minute walk.

This brochure suggests a few good drives. There are many others - discover them for yourself!

Kwongan

The Nyungar people called the dense shrubby vegetation which clothes these sandy and gravelly soils "kwongan". It is dominated by a fascinating mix of plants from the Banksia, Myrtle, Pea and Southern Heath families, but there are many others too.

The soil is extremely low in nutrients and the plants have developed strategies to cope with that problem and the lack of moisture in summer.

Because of the great number of different plants in a small area, kwongan does not provide great sheets of colour, but rather tremendous variety and contrasts in colour and texture.

Carnamah-Eneabba Road 66km

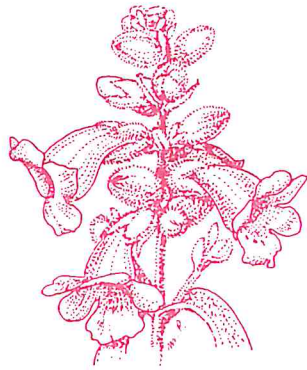
1. Carnamah

The town lies at the western edge of the Yilgarn Block where red soils overlie ancient granitic rocks. The vegetation here initially was woodland of York Gum and Salmon Gum.

As we drive west, we soon cross the line of the Darling Fault and onto the sandy and lateritic (gravelly) soils of the Dandaragan Plateau.

2. The Yarra Yarra Lakes

Once a great river emptied into the sea here. Now, with changes in land and sea level, and a drier climate, water collected from



Native Foxglove
Pityrodia terminalis

infrequent rains beyond Yalgoo travels along a chain of salt lakes to finally end here, evaporating to leave behind a shimmering expanse of salt.

3. Disturbance opportunists

The soil disturbance created by roadworks provides a very favourable habitat for some plant species.

Tall Grevilleas colonise road edges. Early summer is the best time to study them. Most spectacular is White Plume Grevillea whose cream flowers on long canes arch across the road. They attract pollinators with a very strong smell which has been likened to old socks!

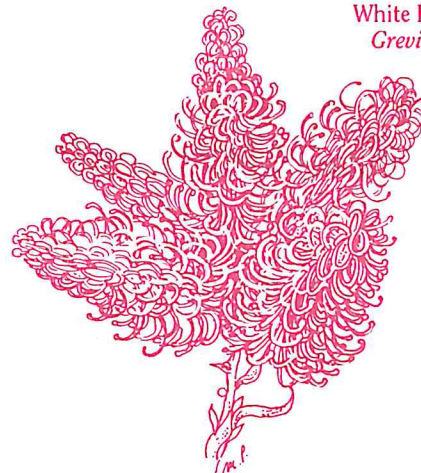
Another attractive cream-flowered Grevillea is *G. polybotrya*. Its flower spikes are not on long canes, and they smell, rather more attractively, of milk chocolate.

The beautiful orange Flame Grevillea also flowers in early summer, as does Smokebush and orange Eremaea.

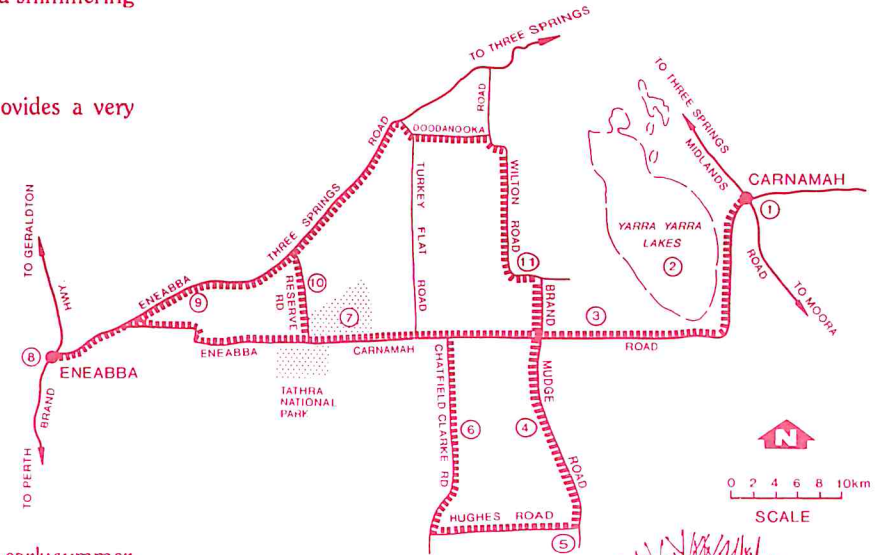
Brand-Mudge Road 16km

4. Wide roadsides

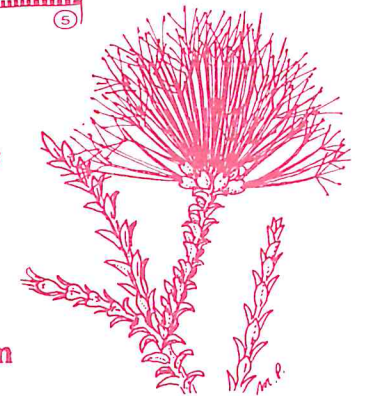
Western Australia has always been proud of its wildflowers and in the early 1960s when this area was being released for agriculture, the government made a policy of reserving a road strip wider than necessary for traffic so that the extra space could remain as wildflower areas. This road reserve is 60m wide. We hope you enjoy this wildflower drive which previous administrations had the forethought to keep for us!



White Plume Grevillea
Grevillea leucopertis



Beaufortia
Beaufortia squarrosa



Hughes Road 11km

5. Wildflower Farm

Western Australia's beautiful wildflowers make marvellous cut specimens and are now being grown commercially in many areas of the world. Plantations of kangaroo paws and other species can be seen from the road. Entrance to the farm is further south along Mudge Road.

Chatfield Clark Road 16km

6. Stilt plants

Look carefully and you will find some very strange Kwongan plants which grow without their shoots touching the ground, standing up on stilt roots. It seems that in summer the soil gets very hot, and this strategy helps them to survive. Small Trigger Plants, Sundews and Paper Lilies grow like this and regenerating gravel pits or the road edge are a good place to look for them. This road is notable for its lovely Christmas Trees in early summer.