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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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6. Commonwealth Road

Although this is long-settled land, the road retains its attractive tree-lined verges, sometimes giving a beautiful tunnel effect. Salmon Gum, York Gum, Red Morrel and White Mallee are the most common, with Sheoak on the ridges.

7. North Jitarning Nature Reserve

There is a pleasant picnic site under wandoo trees in this delightful small reserve which lies between the road and the railway. From this spot a short circular wander will take you through three different vegetation areas.

South, towards Jitarning, mallees are dominant over low heath, with orchids, sundews, trigger plants and other delicate plants in season. Soon after the first rains, look carefully and you will find the small red and white flowers of the Winter Spider Orchid. Later in the year, look for Greenhoods and Zebra Orchids.

In the centre of the reserve is a belt of Wandoo woodland, with an understorey of Tamma, a bushy sheoak.

To the north grows heath which is dominated by Prickly Honey Myrtle with occasional White-leaved Mallees. In Spring it is quite colourful with yellow pom-poms on the Prickly Honey Myrtle, pink balls on the Little Bottlebrush, cream Nodding Coneflowers and Orange Eremaea.

8. Kulin Rock Road

Here we wind up an attractive road into low granite hills where Sheoak and York Gums still grow, but grazing has removed most of the understorey.

Zebra Orchid



Caladenia cairnsiana

Rusty Lambstail



Lachnostays ferruginea

9. Gnarming West Road

This wide road reserve has York Gum and Jam trees over mostly introduced grassy understorey but there are some nice large Sandalwood and Quandong trees.

Sandalwood was once widespread but it was widely exploited in the early days of settlement, the entire tree being pulled up to obtain the maximum harvest of aromatic wood. Although the remaining trees produce a lot of seed, they are not regenerating. One reason for this is that there are now fewer emus around to eat the seed and so disperse it. The bird digests the fleshy outer coating, and the seed remains in its intestines where digestive juices soften it. Eventually it will be passed out, to germinate after the rains in its own little pile of emu-dropping manure!

Another problem is that rabbits love sandalwood seedlings!

Quandong has a similar method of dispersal, but its bright red flesh is sweeter and early settlers used it to make jam.

10. Kulin-Corrigin Road

Mottlecah (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) - the floral emblem of the Shire of Kulin - grows along this road just west of town.

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.

BEST TIMES FOR TRAVEL

Most wildflowers are at their best from August to January, although there is something in flower all the year round.

FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Kulin: hotel, motel, caravan park, food, fuel.

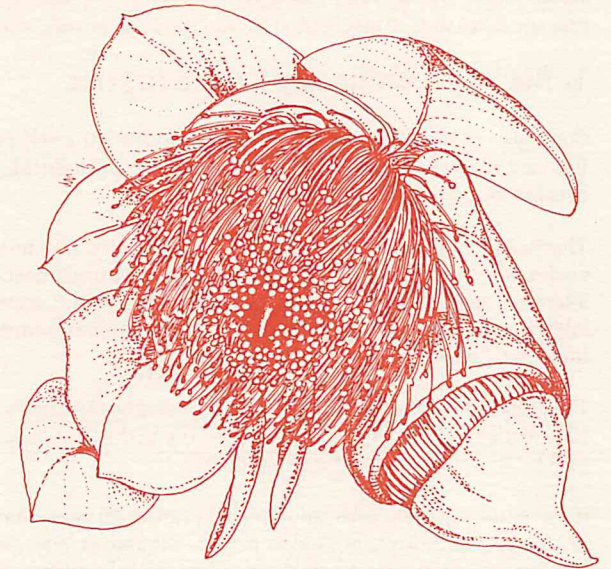
FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:
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Produced by the Department of Conservation and Land Management in consultation with Kulin Shire.
Drawings by Margaret Pieroni

Come to Kulin Wonderful Wheatbelt Wildflowers!



Mottlecah
Eucalyptus macrocarpa

Roadside Conservation Committee



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

Come to Kulin!

Slow down, get out of your car, and look at our wonderful wildflowers. They are as rich and varied as any in the world. This brochure suggests a few special places - there are many others to discover. Ask us - we'd love to tell you more!

Nature Reserves

In nature reserves the wildlife comes first! The plants and animals which live in these reserves are our heritage.

Roadsides

Kulin Shire acknowledges the value of roadside flora for conservation and tourism and agrees, so far as is possible, to manage them so as to protect and enhance the native vegetation.

1. Buckley's Breakaway Nature Reserve

Coming from Wave Rock, soon after you enter the Shire of Kulin, the road rises up a laterite (gravel) ridge. Turn off to Buckley's Breakaway, a very photogenic place!

Thousands of years ago, when Australia's climate was much wetter, deep weathering of the granite formed clay underneath a lateritic capping. Here, erosion has cut through the orange laterite and formed spectacular white cliffs and gullies from the underlying clay.

The gully around the parking area is dominated by Cypress Pine, Blue Mallet and Box Poison, but it is the top of the "breakaway" which carries the most interesting plants.

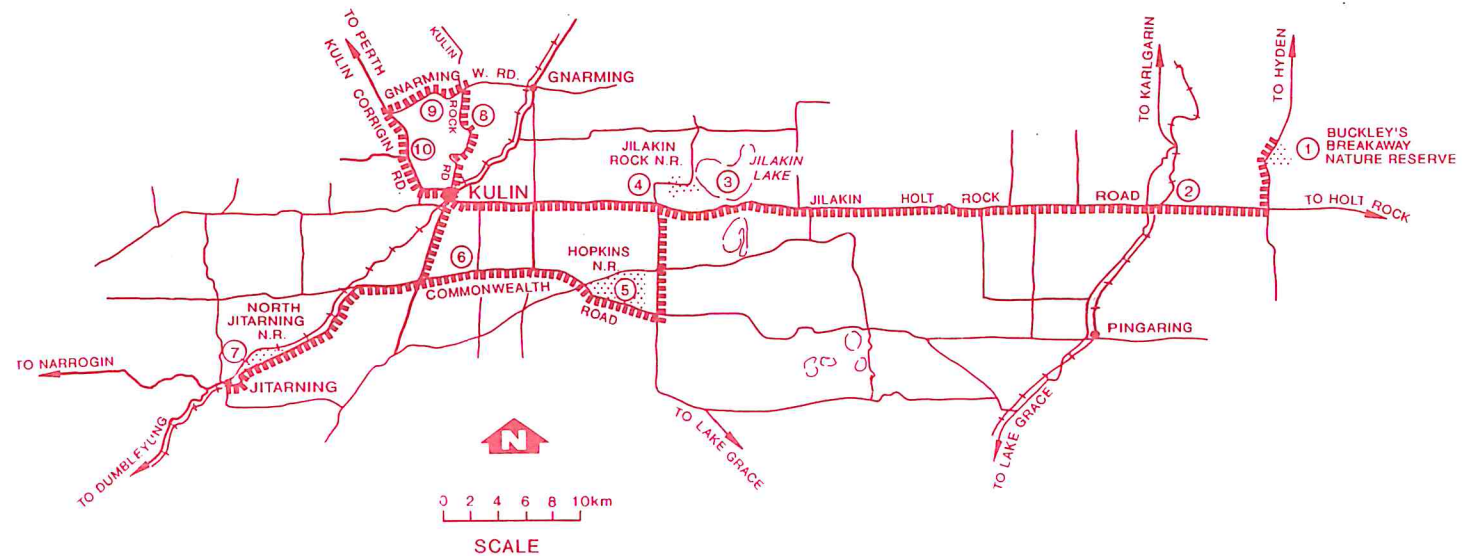
It's a natural garden, with something in flower all year round. There are a profusion of golden prickly Dryandras, soft pink Petrophiles, pink and yellow Verticordias, blue Dampiera and many others. In the shelter of the shrubs, look for delicate orchids, trigger plants, and sundews.

2. Kulin-Holt Rock Road

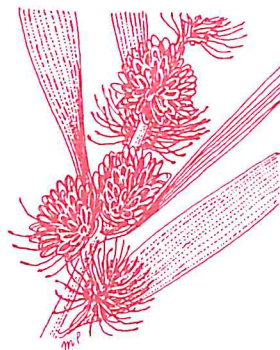
If you followed the road from Kulin the roadsides would show you a complete transect of eastern wheatbelt vegetation. Close to Kulin the land has been settled since 1910, and there is little remaining original vegetation. Further east, patches of woodland and mallee alternate with scrub heath on the poor soils. Yellow Flame Grevillea and pink *Hakea multilineata* form a brave show but there are many more smaller things if you stop to look.

3. Jilakin Lake

Large salt lakes such as this occur throughout the wheatbelt. Water drains into them after rain, but does not flow out. Instead



Pink Spike Hakea



Hakea multilineata

4. Jilakin Rock Nature Reserve

There is a shady picnic site. A climb to the top of the rock reveals good views of Jilakin Lake and the surrounding country.

The trees here are most interesting - they are Jarrah, the most isolated stand known. Rain draining off the rock concentrates the water and enables them to survive here in this dry region. The other common tree is York Gum.

Three large wattles also occur around the picnic site. Catkin Wattle - normally a large shrub - here is a tall, rough-barked tree.

the water evaporates and leaves behind a deposit of salt.

Plants which occur around the edge are called "halophytes" (salt plants) and the most obvious are Samphires, with fleshy stems like beads on a string. They have tiny flowers hidden in the joints of the stem.

On the eastern edge of the lake, persistent winds some time in the past have built up low dunes of gypsum blown off the surface of the lake. Characteristically, they grow fine stands of the Stocking Tree, with saltbushes as an understorey.

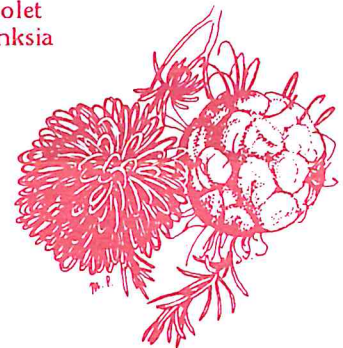
Orange Wattle has graceful drooping branches covered in golden blossom in late spring, while on the drier flats the ubiquitous Jam (whose wood smells of raspberry jam) stands above a carpet of grasses and everlastings.

5. Hopkins Nature Reserve

This is a superb patch of wheatbelt "sandplain" - scrub and mallee vegetation, together with some woodland. It contains plants characteristic of both central, eastern and southern wheatbelt and so is an extremely important flora conservation area.

In early spring the bush is gay with golden wattles and red-brown Daviesias, then come blue Dampieras and yellow Hibbertias followed by the glorious early summer rainbow of colour which includes grey Smokebush, pink & yellow Verticordias, pink and purple Calytrix, the Violet Banksia and many others. One notable plant is Rusty Lambstail, a small upright shrub covered with dense rusty coloured wool and beautiful starry purple flowers poking out of woolly spikes.

Violet Banksia



Banksia violacea