

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

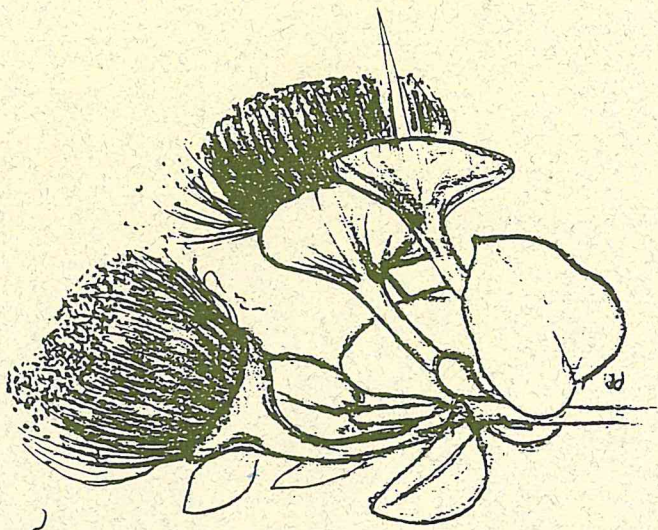
This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.



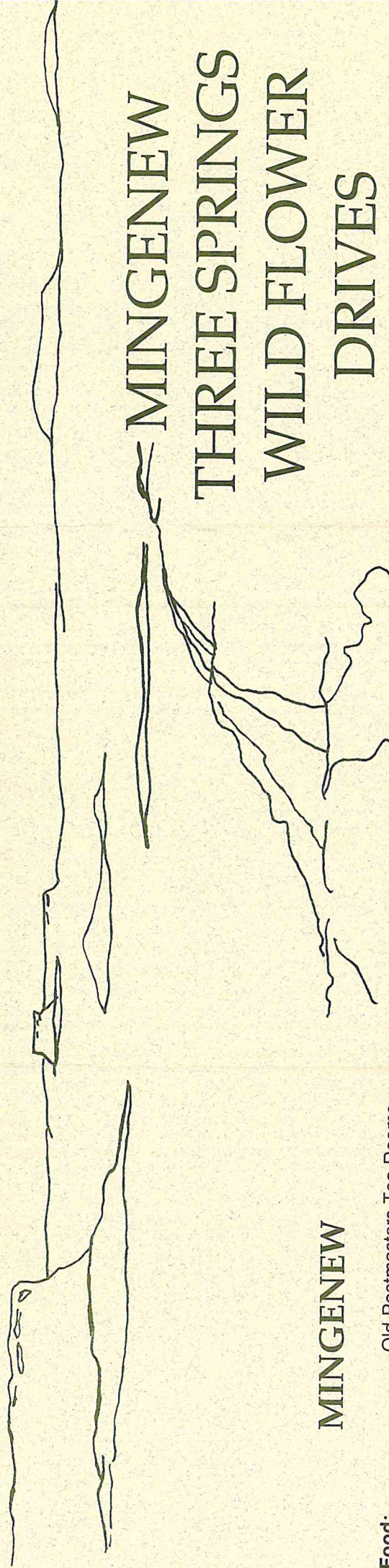
Artwork by Rose Edwards and Rayleen Spencer.

Produced by the

Roadside Conservation Committee.



MINGENEW THREE SPRINGS WILD FLOWER DRIVES



Cover:
Eucalyptus rhodantha is a rare species of Eucalypt which grows in the Three Springs Shire and may be seen in the hospital grounds.

BEST TIMES FOR TRAVEL
Wildflowers are at their best between August and November - but there is always something in flower. How else could our native nectar-feeding birds survive? See the Eucalypts in January and February, Acorn Banksia from March to August, Orchids in July and sandplain Woody Pear in December.

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

is poor.

Do not park on crests or curves, or where traffic visibility

plenty of time to alert following traffic.

When stopping by the roadside, signal your intentions in

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Leave nothing but footprints.

Take nothing but photographs.

REMEMBER THE COUNTRY CODE!

THREE SPRINGS

- Fuel and food:** BP Service Station. 7.30am-8pm, 7 days a week. Behind Shire Office.
- Toilets:** Behind Shire Office.
- Caravan Park:** Behind BP Service Station.
- Motel Accommodation:** At hotel.
- Tourist Information:** Tourist Office adjacent Shire Office (099) 541001
- Cockatoo Canyon:** Breakaway valley filled with White Gum trees - spur down Bunney Road - see map. Carnamah, Dongara and Cataby.
- Vehicle Gas:**
- Food:** Old Postmasters Tea Rooms. 9am-5pm, 7 days a week. Ampol Roadhouse. 9am-9pm, 7 days a week. Shell Roadhouse 6-30am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Adjacent Shire Office.
- Toilets:** 15 bays shaded by river gums.
- Caravan Park:** Enquires, Tourist Information
- Accommodation:** Post Office (099) 281081
- Tourist Information:** See Tourist Information.
- Signposted Wildflower Walk:** See Tourist Information.
- Commercial Wildflower Plot:** See Tourist Information.

MINGENEW

The best display of *Verticordia* can be seen along Robinson Road.
Both red and blue *Leschenaultia* and many interesting varieties of *Banksia* can be seen along these roads. Natta Road also has patches of the lovely Plummed Smokebush *Conospermum incurvum*, and a small area of Wandoo.
About half way along Carey Road you will see clumps of Mottlecah *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* growing on each side of the road. This Mallee, sometimes called Rose of the West, displays its three flower colours of pink, red and cream here.

Return to Mingenew via Scott Road, or, if you wish to travel to Three Springs, follow Carey Road into Arrino West Road.

DRIVE TWO

HYDRAULIC ROAD, COCKATOO CANYON DRIVE 75 KILOMETRES.
The same sandplain area can be approached from Three Springs. The salt creek crossings on Hydraulic Road could be wet in winter. Information on the state of the road is available from Three Springs Tourist Office or Shire Office.

Drive through farmland along Eneabba Road, Nebru Road and Arrino South Road.

About 11 kms along Hydraulic Road you will be in sandplain wildflower country with stands of Acorn *Banksia Banksia prionotes* and Candle *Banksias Banksia attenuata*, One-sided Bottlebrush and Plummed Smokebush. Two native shrubs favoured by beekeepers as honey producers, the strongly scented Honey bush *Hakea lissocarpa* and Parrot Bush *Dryandra sessilis* also grow here.

Take care at the river crossing on Robinson Road and follow as for Drive 1. Return to Three Springs via Arrino West Road and Midlands Scenic Way.

This brochure covers the wildflower drives easily reached from Mingenew and Three Springs. Both these towns originated to serve the local farming and pastoral communities, and are situated on the railway line that runs from Perth to Geraldton, rail being the principal mode of transport for produce in the early days. They also happen to be where the red loam farming land meets the coastal sandplain. So one can see a variety of flowers according to the soil they grow in.

The sandplain areas, north-west and south of Mingenew and west and south of Three Springs, considered uneconomic for farming until the discovery of trace elements in the 1950s, present a beautiful display of many different wildflowers, especially in the peak flowering time from September to November.

You will see Candle *Banksias*, Smokebush *Conospermum stoebechadis*, Flame *Grevilleas*, One-sided Bottlebrush *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, Cone Flowers, Pink *Coppercups Pleanthus filifolius*, Yellow Pop Flowers, *Thryptomene* and *Melaleucas* in almost every hue of lemon, white, pink, mauve and red. These are followed by many *Verticordia* species especially the Scarlet Feather-flower and Orange *Eremaea*. Later in December the flowers of Woody Pear *Xylomelum angustifolium*, *Grevillea candelebroides* and *Cauliflower Verticordia Verticordia brownii* appear.

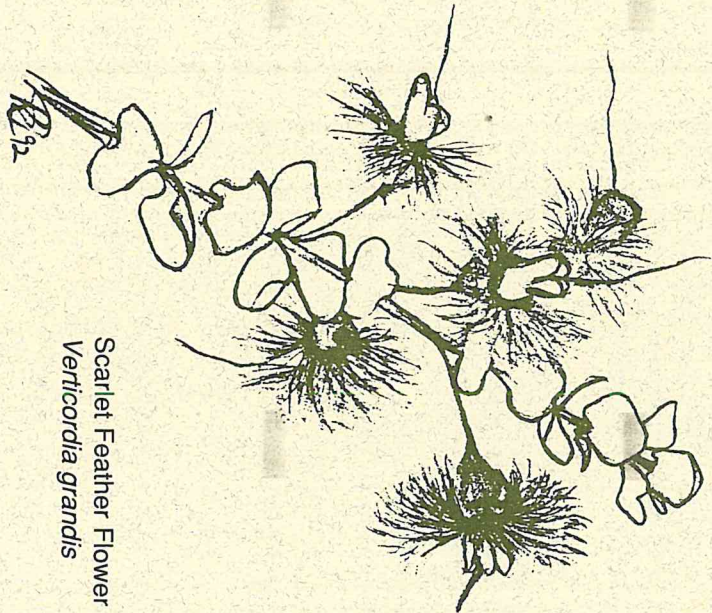
Stop and take a walk amongst the flowering shrubs and you will find Orchids, Flannel Flowers and many other small flowering plants.

All wildflower drives occur partly over gravel roads. This is where the best flowers are found.

DRIVE ONE

SOUTH ROAD DRIVE - 78 KILOMETRES.

There is a steep river crossing on Robinson Road, take care if you are towing a caravan. Leave Mingenew on the South Road and drive through farming country. The roadsides bloom with sandplain wildflowers. The cerise-pink *Coppercups* stand out in late Spring.



Scarlet Feather Flower
Verticordia grandis

From now on you will see all the flowers mentioned on the previous panel. The patches of gum trees in the shrub landscape are Coastal Blackbutt *Eucalyptus todtiana*, with brown bark and weeping branches or Tallerack *Eucalyptus tetragonra* with its silvery-grey foliage and nuts. Just before the Arrowsmith Crossing are thickets of a deep pink, almost red *Thryptomene* which flowers in October and November. The Arrowsmith River does not flow into the sea but empties into a lake.

DRIVE THREE

DEPOT HILL, COALSEAM ROAD DRIVE
115 KILOMETRES.

The "heavy land" (red loam) is the home of the everlasting wildflowers, species of *Helichrysum*, *Schoenia*, *Waitzia* and *Helipterum*. Flowering en masse in the bushland and paddocks, they create a spectacular picture through August and September.

There is a steep hill at Coalseam Park. It may be best to leave your caravan at Mingenew Caravan Park. Leave Mingenew via Mullewa Road and Depot Hill Road.



Bird-Beak Hakea
Hakea orthorhyncha

Drive through farming land to Depot Hill Reserve. A popular picnic place, first discovered in 1846, it was used as a 'store camp' by the early explorers. During World War II, a gunnery range was built into the hill. It is a good place to find Orchids, also the Bird-Beak Hakea *Hakea orthorhyncha* which is Mingenew's floral emblem. After the river crossing you are in sandplain country and will see the flowers listed in Panel 1



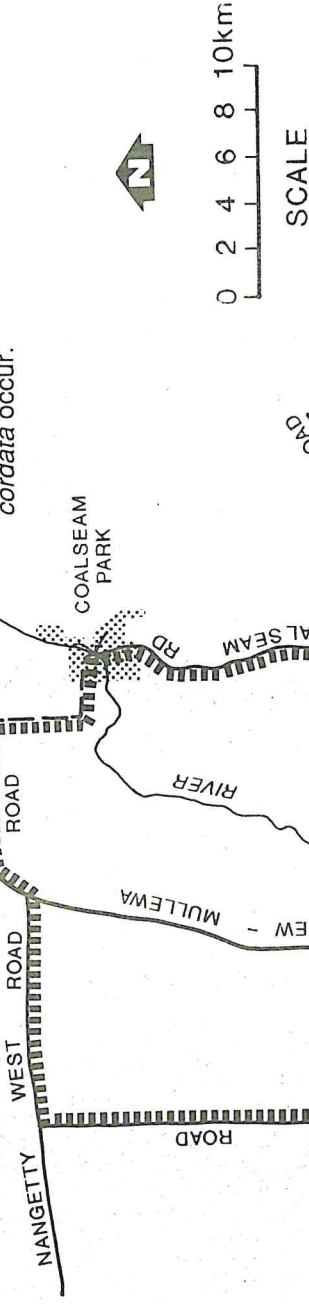
Melaleuca
cordata

Stands of Acorn Banksia which flowers late summer to early spring are found along Nangetty Road West.

The entrance to Coalseam Park offers a vista of Yellow-flowering Jam trees *Acacia acuminata* and other wattles, and carpeted with Pink Daisy and Yellow Pom Pom everlastings.

Coalseam Park offers various picnic spots. It was here, in 1846, that the first coal in Western Australia was discovered. Cross the river, turn north and then take the signposted road to the old mine shafts. The holes in the trees here are favourite galah nesting sites. Return and continue up the hill to view the Irwin River from the Scenic Lookout.

It is a pleasant drive to the top of the breakaways where varieties of Verticordia, a stand of Salmon Gum *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* reputed to be the most northerly in Western Australia, and the pink-mauve flowers of *Melaleuca cordata* occur.



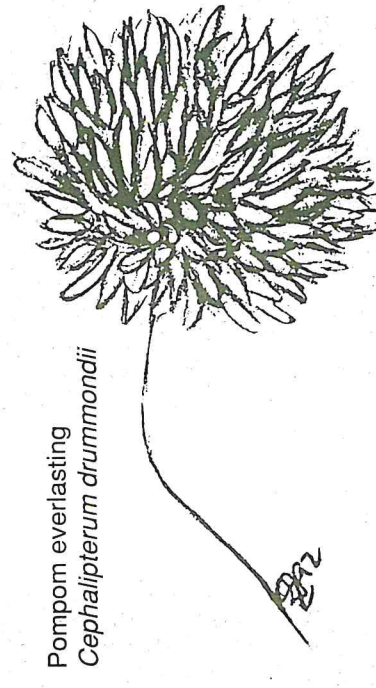
DRIVE FOUR

YANDANOOKA, ARRINO DRIVE - 58 KILOMETRES.

Another interesting area is the breakaway country - where the valley joins the inland sandplain - east of Yandanooka and Arrino. Begin your trip from either Three Springs or Mingenew. You could detour this way instead of travelling straight up the main highway.

Driving South along Yandanooka N.E. Road in August and September, you will see that the reserve and farmland adjacent to Yandanooka township are filled with Yellow Pom Pom everlastings. Later on the Golden Waitzia blooms.

During winter and spring the swamp in the farmland on the east side of the Yandanooka - Morawa Road, is home to a flock of black-tailed native hens. This road brings you through native Cypress trees to yellow sandplain, with many of the flowers you would find on the coastal sandplain though they may be different varieties.

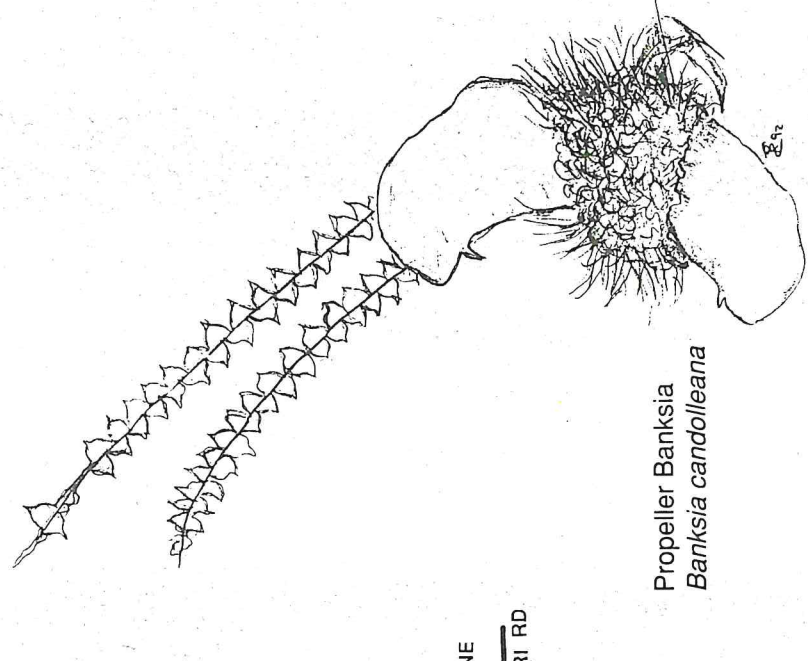


Pom-pom everlasting
Cephalopterum drummondii

On the laterite breakaways towards the end of this road, and along the next, are eight species of Eucalypts growing side by side. In September and October you will see the flowers of the Pear-fruited Mallee in this area.

Look for the spikes of Pink Poker *Grevillea petrophiloides* in Colegate Road. Here also, in October and November, many Verticordias especially the pink Monadelpha and the cream and red Beaufortia flourish.

Drive through farming land to Arrino via Sheppard Road, Campbell Road, Simpson Road and Dudawa Road. Note the salt affected farming land on Simpson Road, and the stand of Wandoo near a granite outcrop. For a direct route back to Three Springs, follow the bitumen Campbell Road as it becomes the Three Springs -Morawa Road.



Propeller Banksia
Banksia candolleana

