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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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The salt lake system more or less overlies the Darling Fault. Samphires are especially adapted to grow in very saline soil. Their fleshy, jointed stems store fresh water collected during the rainy season.

The road now climbs up the Darling Escarpment, where the ancient rocks outcrop and the vegetation changes abruptly from kwongan to woodland of York Gum and mallee.

6. Eagle Hill Road to Jingemia Cave. 5 km.

An attractive winding road leads to a pleasant shady picnic site on Jingemia Hill (still in Watheroo National Park). A short walking trail leads to Jingemia Cave. It is formed in chert, an unusual rock which leads to a vegetation community on the hill that is very different from the surrounding areas.

In winter and spring you will find numerous orchids under the mallees, while later on in the year everlastings appear. Among the tumbled boulders around and above the cave are a number of attractive and unusual plants including the felty grey leaves and glorious scarlet flowers of Compact Poverty Bush.

7. Midlands Road.

For much of the way the road follows the Midlands Railway, which was an important influence in opening the land for settlement.

You will see several magnificent mature trees of Salmon Gum, York Gum and Wandoo.

Look out for the glorious Lilac Hibiscus, (especially just North of Coomberdale) from whose spindly stems enormous pale flowers appear in late spring.

Cairn Hill is a chert outcrop south of Coomberdale which is covered with dense scrub dominated by wattles, sheoak and dryandras, with many interesting understorey plants.

A small track crosses the railway and you will find many unusual plants on the edges of regenerating quarry areas.

Approaching Moora the road passes between a superb avenue of native trees, one of the most magnificent natural roadside avenues to be found anywhere in the world.



Lilac Hibiscus

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

MOORA: Food, fuel, motels, hotels, caravan park and medical services.

WATHEROO: Food, fuel, hotel.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please contact:

Moora Tourist Information Centre

Shire Office Moora 6510

Telephone: (096) 51 1401

and

Vehicle Service Stations in Moora.

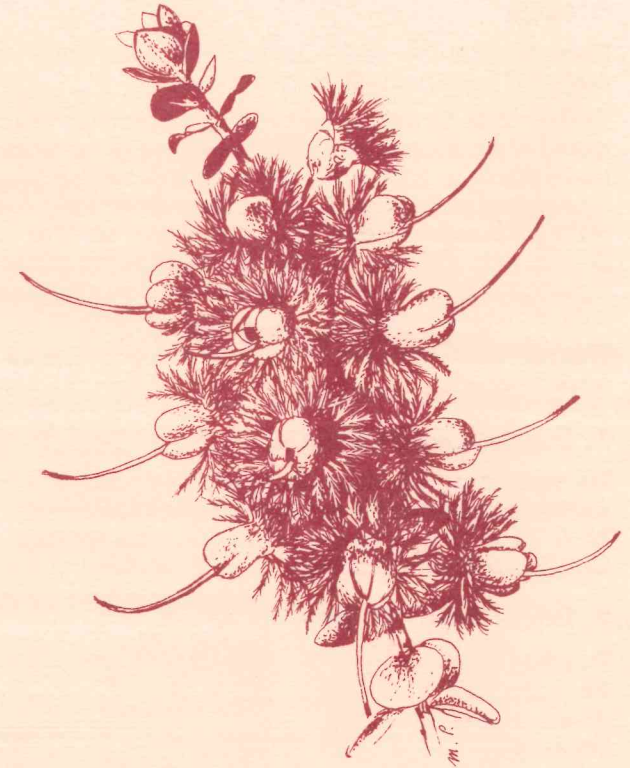


Produced by the Department of Conservation and Land Management in consultation with the Shire of Moora.

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Drawings by Margaret Pieroni.

Moora Wildflower Drive



Scarlet Featherflower

Roadside Conservation Committee



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

Moora - Heart of the Midlands!

Like Australian plants?

Moora stands on the junction of two important - and very different - Botanical Districts, where the underlying geology has produced different soil types and so very different plant communities.

Pause awhile to study the differences.

Geology

Moora lies very close to the Darling Fault, a very important geological boundary in Western Australia.

To the east lie the very ancient rocks (2,000 million years or more!) of the Western Australian Shield, one of the oldest land surfaces on earth. It has fertile red soils and has largely been cleared for farming. To the west are the younger rocks of the Dandaragan Plateau, covered with poor sandy or gravelly soils. The fault line itself is marked by the course of the Moore River. This drive is designed to show you these regions and their plants.

There are many other attractive routes around Moora for you to discover!

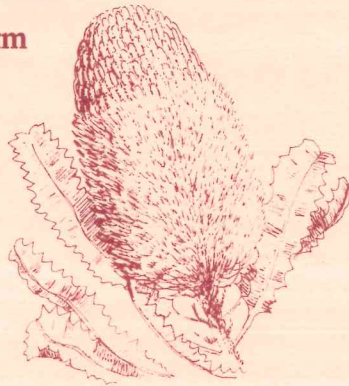
1. Dandaragan Rd 9 km

The road crosses the Moore River, which here trends southward following the trough formed by the Darling Fault. A few York Gums and, to the west, some remnant Banksia woodland can be seen.

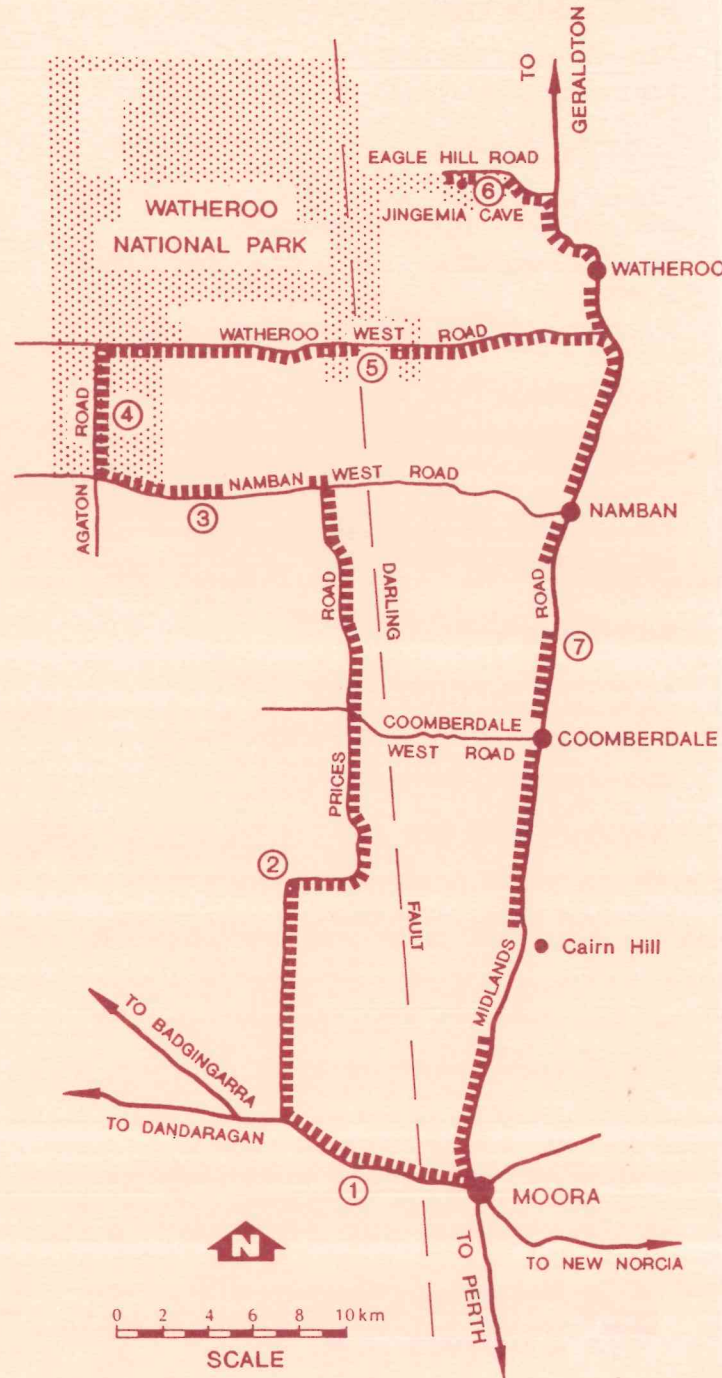
2. Prices Road. 31 km

This road travels north along the eastern edge of the Dandaragan Plateau, with some good views east across the trough line of the Darling Fault.

Originally this sandy soil would have supported a dense prickly heath the Aborigines called "kwongan". This can be seen in places where the wider road reserve has preserved it from clearing. In winter and early spring look for bright masses of wattle

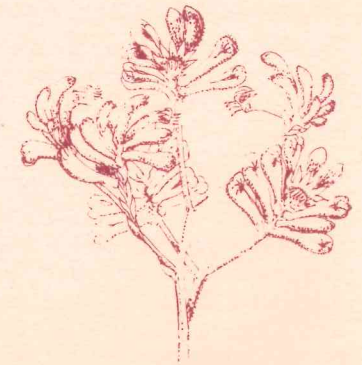


Burdett's Banksia



and blue *Dampiera*, but as summer approaches, the colours change to orange *Eremaeas*, yellow Kangaroo Paws and pink and white Feather Flowers, all backed by the gentle waving grey of Smokebush.

The occasional WA Christmas Tree makes a brilliant show in December. Try photographing them with a polaroid filter against a clear blue sky - magnificent!



Yellow Kangaroo Paw

3. Namban West Road. 10 km

Soon after crossing a salt area note the magnificent stand of Saltmarsh Honey Myrtle which can grow in salty soils. It is an excellent windbreak and wildlife refuge and in early summer is smothered with small cream bottlebrush flowers.

4. Agaton Road. 6 km.

Watheroo National Park, which lies on either side of the road, contains superb examples of kwongan, one of the most diverse plant communities in the world. Feather flowers, including Scarlet Feather-Flower, and the extraordinary Bush Cauliflower - at its best in December - are a feature, and there are many myrtles, Dryandras and six different Banksias. In late summer look out for the spectacular white sprays on the Woody Pear trees. Their huge pear-shaped fruits open after fire to release two papery winged seeds.

5. Watheroo West Road. 28 km.

The road continues through the National Park, which here is low woodland dominated by plants of the Banksia and Myrtle families, among which the fluffy white balls of Lambswool can be seen in spring.

In some areas dense thickets of wattles form a glorious yellow hedge in spring.



Lambswool