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Canna Wildflower Drive 82 kms(approx)

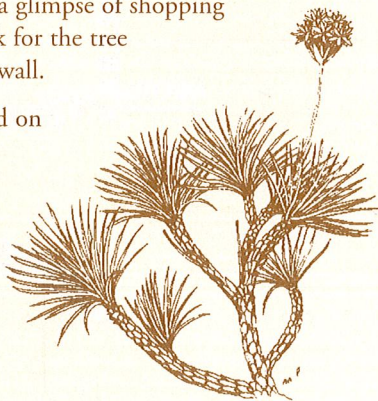
The Canna Wildflower Drive provides the visitor with some of the prettiest areas to be found within the shire. The nominal starting point (36 km north of Morawa) is the intersection of Gutha East Road and the Mullewa - Wubin Road. However several points of interest are situated enroute to this point, they being the Pintharuka Dam site, War Rock and the Gutha Parking Bay, These sites all provide a good display of the local flora including a good variety of everlastings. These ephemeral plants includes species from the genera *Watzia*, *Cephalopterum*, *Helichrysum*, *Helipterum* and *Schoenia*, with white pink and yellow being the most common flower colours.

An interesting plant which is found growing in clumps near granite outcrops such as War Rock or Bilya Rock are Pin cushions, *Borya nitada*. This tough perennial herb has sharp pointed leaves which turn bright orange as the soil dries out in late spring as it enters a period of summer dormancy. Pin cushions are related to another very familiar plant of the south west, Blackboys, *Xanthorrhoea spp.*

Two of the most common Wattles to be seen along the roadsides are Kurara, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, with its stiff foliage and the Jam Tree, *Acacia acuminata*, which is reputed to have a raspberry like odour when freshly cut.

An added bonus of this drive is a stop at Canna General Store which gives a glimpse of shopping styles of bygone days. Look for the tree growing through the shed wall.

Bilya Rock which is located on the Gutha West Rd, approximately 5km from the intersection of South Indar Rd provides an excellent place to picnic and view the local flora and fauna. The main road to Morawa and Mullewa is a little over 5km further on.



Borya sphaeroccephala

Remember the Country Code

Take nothing but photographs leave nothing but footprints
Visitors are reminded that it is illegal to pick flowers and seeds from the roadsides

Extra care should be exercised whilst travelling on country roads as it is not uncommon to come upon wildlife, domestic animals and large farm machinery.

Traffic Safety

The drives depicted in this brochure are on gravel roads and may be impassable in wet conditions. Enquire at the Tourist Information Office or Shire Office for information regarding road conditions.

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

Morawa, Hotel/Motel, Caravan Park, Petrol/Garage, Shopping facilities, Newsagent, Arts and Crafts and Historical Display. Nearest Autogas is at Carnamah Canna, General Store.

Further Information

Shire of Morawa (099) 711 204
Prater Street (PO Box 14)
Morawa 6623.

Tourist Information Centre (099) 711 421
Winfield Street
Morawa

Canna General Store

CALM Office (099) 21 5955
Midwest Region
193 Marine Tce
GERALDTON

Artwork by Margaret Pieroni

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Morawa Wildflower Drives



Grenillea tenuiloba

Roadside Conservation Committee



c/-P.O. Box 104 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Welcome to Morawa

The first European occupation of the Morawa district was by pastoralists, shepherds, sandal wood cutters and miners in the latter part of the 19th century. Throughout the district there is ample evidence of sites and artefacts of ancient Aboriginal occupation.

Morawa was declared a townsite in 1912 with the railway line to the town being established in the following year. The town is located approximately 370 km north of Perth and 170 south east of Geraldton. The Shire of Morawa supports a population of approximately 1150 people, and includes the localities of Canna, Gutha, Pintharuka, Merkanooka and Koolanooka. The economy of the district is firmly based on cereal and legume crops and wool. However for a short time during the late 1960's and early 1970's, iron ore was mined at Koolanooka Hills.

The region is renowned for a diversity of flora that is seldom equalled, with this being attributed to the diversity of land-form and soil types that are present within the district. With more than 70% of the native vegetation cleared for agriculture, remnants of this spectacularly beautiful native flora are now confined to a few conservation reserves and isolated remnants on farms and road verges.

The importance of corridors, formed by the roadside vegetation can not be overstated. They are the vital link in natural ecosystems, often enabling animals to move between remnants. Besides conservation values, roadsides provide valuable shelter for adjoining farmland and provide the visitor with a glimpse of our unique and natural heritage.



Acacia tetragonophylla

Enjoy your visit

Points of Interest

- 1 Tourist Information Centre, Morawa.
- 2 Koolanooka Springs, historic site with rustic picnic setting
- 3 Koolanooka Mine Site, panoramic views and wildflower walks, please exercise caution in this area
- 4 Lake Nullewa, typical of salt lakes found throughout the region,
- 5 Pintharuka Cemetery, historical site and good display of wreath leschanaultia
- 6 Pintharuka dam site, 6 km north of Pintharuka wheat bin. The Moonagin, Karrakarook and Milhun ranges provide a scenic backdrop to the area. During the wildflower season flowering everlastings colour the slopes. War Rock, legendary site of altercation between Irwin and Gullewa Aboriginal tribes
- 7 West Pintharuka Rd, route to Mingenev and Coalseam N.P.
- 8 Mt Campbell Lookout, the local TV transmitter towers are located on Mt Campbell, the highest point in the Bellaranga Hills. These were formed in the Proterozoic Era, and contain a variety of quartz cherts and sandstones. The vista from Mt Campbell provides spectacular views of the surrounding country side. Wildflowers carpet the area from late winter to early spring.
- 9 Gutha vehicle bay, approx 23 km north of Morawa on the Mullewa Wubin Road, a good spot to enjoy a roadside stop and see wreath leschenaultias.
- 10 Canna General Store, enquire at general store about wildflower walk and wildflowers of the area
- 11 Bilya Rock, a large granite outcrop with surrounding bushland makes an enjoyable picnic spot in winter and spring. The large cairn on Bilya Rock is reputed to have been placed there By John Forrest in the 1870's as a trigonometrical survey point.

Wreath Flowers, *Leschanaultia macrantha* can be seen in profusion at the Pintharuka Pioneer Cemetery, which was in use between 1919 - 1927. Just past the cemetery a good patch of bush provides an insight into how the area would have looked prior to clearing for agriculture.

Shortly after crossing into Pintharuka West Road a number of termite mounds will be noticed in the roadside vegetation. Termites are important decomposers of dead plant material, breaking it down into nutrients that are able to be reused by plants.

The vegetation in this part of the district is noticeably distinct from other areas, reflecting the differing soil types associated with the plains. Midway along Neates Rd, Salmon Gums on each side of the road provide a majestic avenue for a short distance.

Upon reaching the intersection of Neates and the Morawa/Three Springs Road a short detour (turn right, round trip approx 20 km) to Mt Campbell provides panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Conversely by turning left at the intersection the visitor is returned to Morawa.

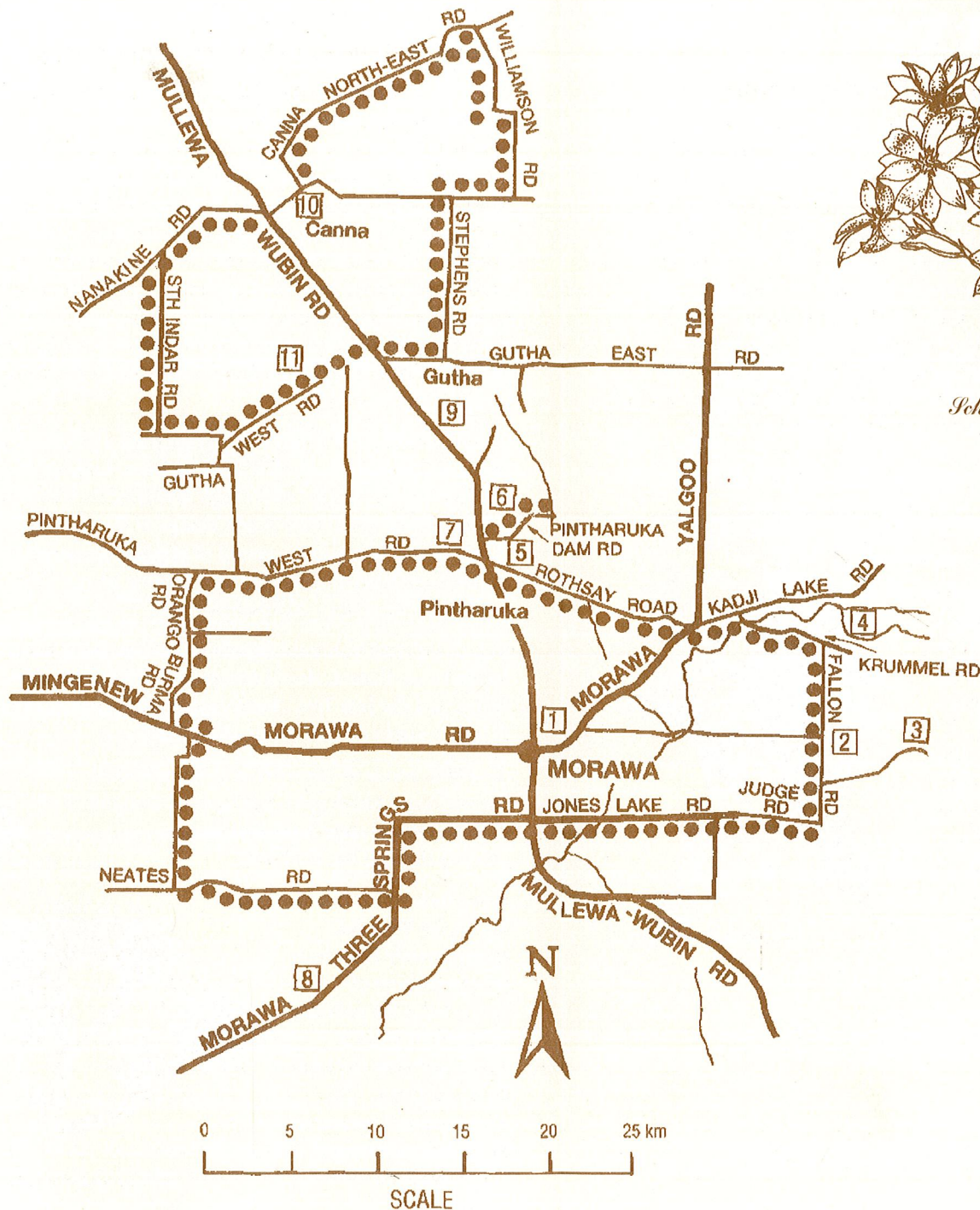
Grevillea tenuiloba: **the floral emblem of Morawa Shire**

Travellers to the Morawa district will notice the floral emblem of the district, *Grevillea tenuiloba*, proudly displayed on local vehicle number plates. The botanical name is derived from Latin, *tenuis*, thin or slender, and *lobus* referring to the finely lobed leaves. This plant is listed as a Priority 2 species, ie known from one or a few populations but are not considered to be under immediate threat. It grows as a shrub to approximately 50 cm high with long arching branches that become prostrate, flowers of orange- red appear in spring. This plant has been planted in the town centre at Morawa and can also be seen growing in the Canna area.

Grevillea is a diverse genus with over 270 naturally occurring species. These range from prostrate spreading ground covers through to shrubs and trees. Over half of the recognised species are found within south-western Australia, generally occurring in sandy or lateritic soils. Grevilleas are well represented in the areas surrounding Morawa and travellers requiring specific information about them should enquire at the tourist information centre



Grevillea tenuiloba



Scholonia cassiniana

Koolanooka Springs Drive

115Kms (approx.)

This pleasant drive allows visitors to incorporate visits to the Koolanooka Minesite and Koolanooka Springs and Pintharuka Cemetery whilst viewing the flora of the southern portion of Morawa Shire.

Travelling south of Morawa for 2.5 kilometres before turning east into Jones Lake Road and onto Judge Road. The roadside vegetation initially consists of a suite of *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia* spp.. The mid and understoreys have been depleted but Cassias and Grevilleas are common. This type of vegetation soon yields to open plains punctuated with salt bush and ephemeral salt lakes. These lakes, when full, provide habitat for a good diversity of bird life, which includes swans and pelicans.

After travelling approximately 15 km along Jones Road turn left into Fallon Road, the turn off to Koolanooka Springs is located 2.3 kms further on. Picnic and toilet facilities are located at Koolanooka Springs, 6 kms from Fallon Rd. This spring provided water to the early settlers of the area.

3 kms further on, on the eastern side of Fallon Rd, the turnoff to the Koolanooka Mine site can be located.

This open cut iron ore mine was in production between 1966 - 1974 and provided the first iron ore shipment to Japan from Western Australia. The area provides the visitor with an insight into this important industry but care must be exercised whilst in the area. Please enquire at the tourist centre or shire office prior to visiting the mine.

At the Krummel/Moore Rd intersection turn left into Krummel Rd and travel along it to Kadji Lake Road. Salmon Gum, *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, and York Gum, *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, are common along these roads.

After crossing the Morawa/Yalgoo road continue along Rothsay Rd into Pintharuka East Road. A mosaic patchwork of colour can be seen beneath the trees and shrubs from July to October. This is provided by an assortment of everlasting daisies, such as *Waitzia*, *Schoenia*, *Helipterim* and *Helichrysum* spp.