

Queensland party sees W.A. forests, flowers, farms

A party of six Queensland Parliamentarians and senior Government officers late last May visited the south coastal and south-west regions of Western Australia in a study tour of hardwood forests, national parks and forest recreation spots, pine plantations and two major Forests Department research centres.

They also visited the Esperance region to examine current practices in farm land development.

The party was composed of the Hon. Vic Sullivan (Minister for Forests and Lands) and Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Ken Tomkins (M.L.A.) and Mrs. Tomkins, and Messrs. Harold Hungerford (M.L.A.), Cec Haley (Conservator of Forests), Bill Wilkes (Secretary, Department of Forestry and Chief of National Parks) and Brian Heffernan (Land Utilization Board).

The tour was organised by the Forests Department of Western Australia, assisted by the Lands Department for the Esperance region.



Roadside flowering trees

During the tour photographs were taken of flowering trees which grow naturally on the roadside verges. The Four-winged Mallee, top, was taken east of Ravensthorpe, and the Pincushion Hakea in the Jerramungup townsite.

Four-winged Mallee

(*Eucalyptus tetraptera*)

Attractive when in bud and in flower, and always distinctive because of its large, square fruits (about 3 in. in length) and large, very thick bright green leaves, which are the thickest of any species of eucalypts. The shrub will thrive in poor sandy soils.

Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea laurina*)

A vigorous growing, well shaped tree with foliage resembling the golden wattle, but having parallel veins and a fine red margin. This attractive little tree has proved very successful in warm, dry districts for street and park planting, but will not tolerate a pocket of over-wet soil. It is highly prized on the French Riviera. Above: Close-up of the flower. Note the nectar seeking ants. Left: Healthy roadside tree about 10 ft. high.