

# Wildflower Drives in the Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun Area



*Thelymitra variegata* - Queen of Sheba Orchid



*Hakea laurina* - Pincushion Hakea



Scenic drives and walks,  
and botanical information

*Hakea victoria* - the Royal Hakea



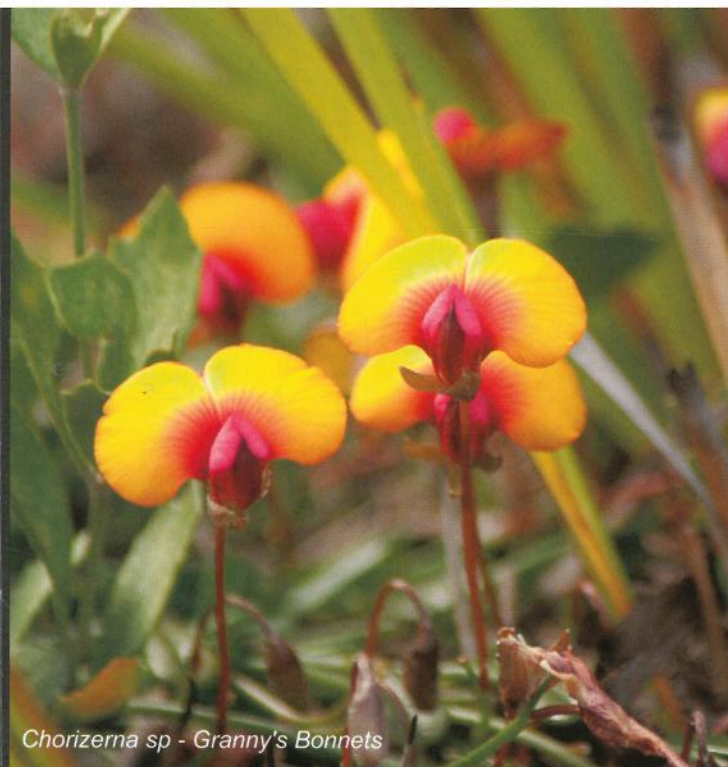
*Pimelea physodes* - Qualup Bell



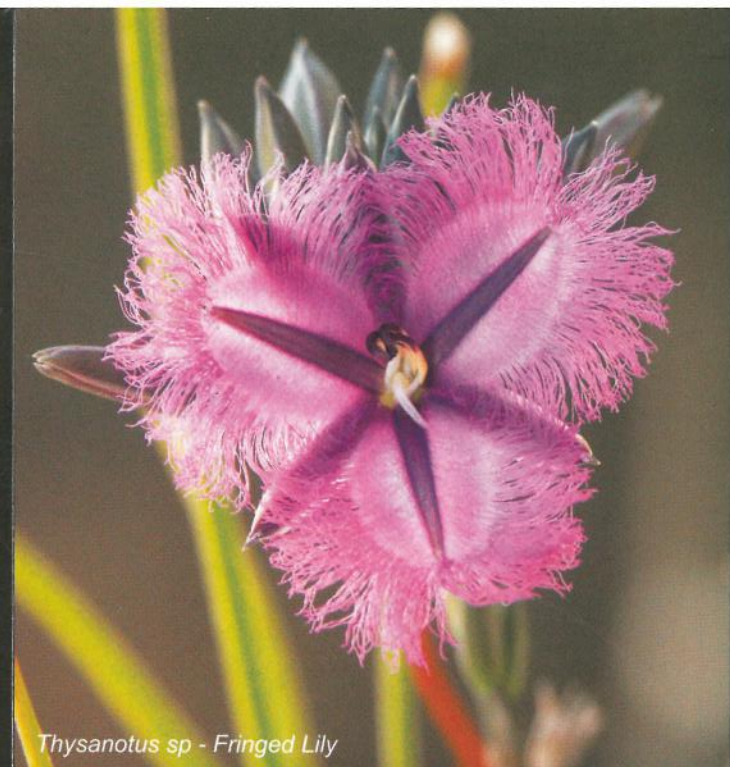
*Caladeria cairnsiana* - Zebra Orchid



*Regelia velutina* - Barrens Regelia



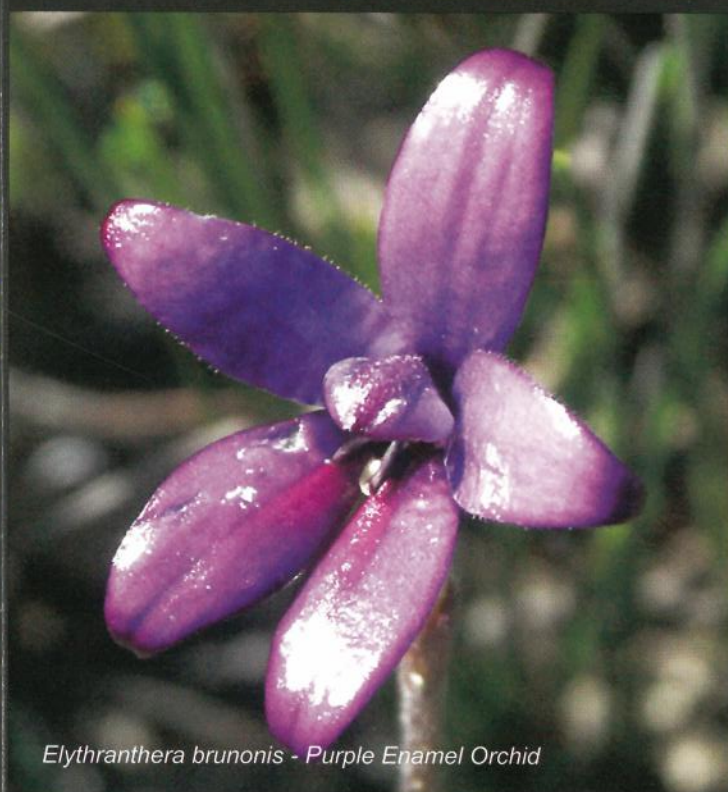
*Chorizerna* sp - Granny's Bonnets



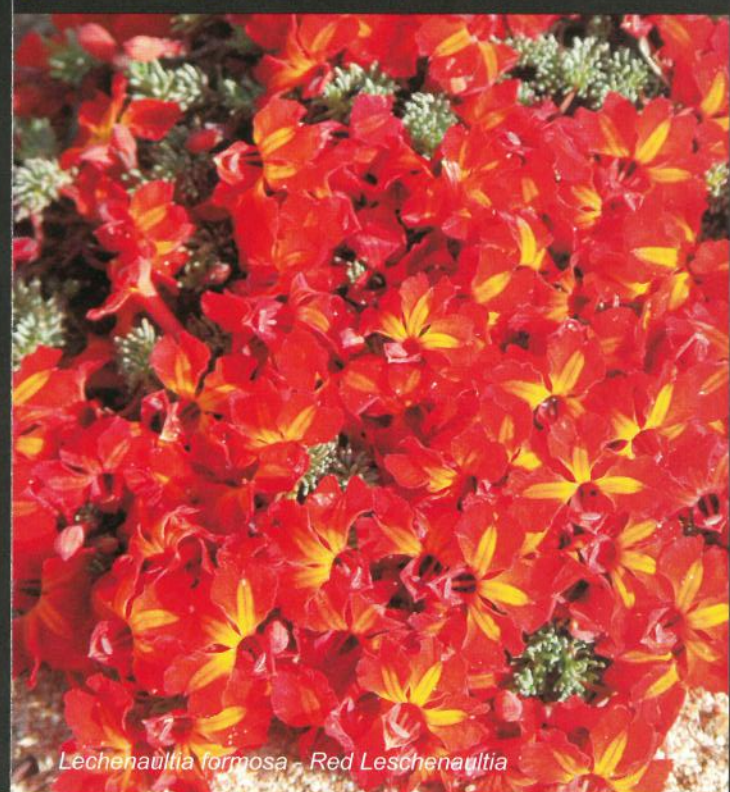
*Thysanotus* sp - Fringed Lily



*Banksia lemanniana* - Lemanns Banksia



*Elythranthera brunonis* - Purple Enamel Orchid



*Lechenaultia formosa* - Red Leschenaultia

**Ravensthorpe**, a geological and botanical bonanza, is situated 550km from Perth on Highway 1. Hopetoun, 49km south, is the eastern gateway to the **Fitzgerald River National Park** where 1800 species of flora have been documented with almost equal numbers in the **Ravensthorpe Range**. The area embraces many land forms, mountain ranges, sand-plains, coastal dunes and rich red soils. The vast number of species is due to a variation in minerals, soil nutrients and climate over a relatively small area. There are more plant species in this area than in any other of similar size in the world.

**1. The Fitzgerald River National Park** is an internationally recognised Biosphere Reserve under the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. This serves as a base line for evaluating changes in the environment. It is still one of the parks least infected by dieback in south-west Australia. Please abide by any signs. You will see here the endemic Royal Hakea, the Weeping Eucalypt and in spring Qualup Bells and an abundance of orchids. A spectacular new sealed road extends to Hamersley Inlet, where there are excellent camping facilities.

**2. The Frank Hann National Park** in the north of the Shire is 50km east of Lake King. It harbours a spectacular cross section of Verticordia species and heath flora, particularly good later in spring.

**3. The Old Ongerup Rd and Moir Rd** are worthwhile detours for sand plain flowers, and **Mt Madden** with its granite capping, presents good examples of plants which like this environment.

**4. Carlingup Rd** passes through the **Ravensthorpe Range** offering access to the Warted Yate which grows on the crest of the range about 1km in from Highway 1. It is possible to drive through (4WD) to Nindilbillup Rd, with a rough river crossing at Getenmellup. Look out for the round Ravensthorpe Bottle Brush, Lehmann's banksia, both yellow and red grevilleas, qualup bells and the scarlet leschenaultia.

**5. Designated Flora Roads are:** Elverdton Rd, Floater Rd, Carlingup Rd, Woodenup Rd and Nindilbillup Rd. Jerdacuttup Rd, Horner Rd and John Forrest Rd are also well worth visiting.

**6. Archer Lookout** is approx 30km round trip. Take Hwy 1 west of town, turn right onto the Lake King/Hyden Rd, turn right towards Galaxy Mine site. Follow signs to Floater Rd & Archer Lookout. Turn right at 'Archer Drive' sign. By driving along the top of the **Ravensthorpe Range (4WD)**, Carlingup Rd can be reached, turn right onto Nindilbillup Rd then south to Highway 1.

**7. Mount Short Scenic Drive**, a 38km round trip. Head west from Ravensthorpe on Highway 1 and turn onto the Lake King Rd at 3.6km. Drive past Overshot Hill Reserve where you can see many species of Eucalypt. Bustard, mallee fowl and echidnas thrive in this bushland. At 18.5km turn right onto Mt Short Rd. At 20km go straight ahead (4WD). This track borders farmland and gravel pits edged with colourful shrubs. Turn right at the T junction. At 24.65km turn right onto Floater Rd then follow signs around the mine site, back onto Road 40 and turn left back to Ravensthorpe. Mostly suitable for 2WD except after wet weather.

**8. Ethel Daw Lookout** is a 30km round trip. Head east on Highway 1. At 5.2km is a picnic area under salmon gums. Quandongs along here are bright red with fruit in November. Bottlebrush, tallerack and sheoaks can be seen. At 13km turn right at Elverdton Rd and up the steep hill. At 16km turn into the drive to the lookout with its wonderful views. **BEWARE OF MINE SHAFTS** if walking in the bush. Return down the drive and turn right. At 19km turn right onto the sealed road to return to Ravensthorpe or left to Hopetoun.

**9. Hamersley Drive** can be accessed from the north by turning off H'way 1 onto West River Rd. There is about 40km of gravel before the bitumen. From the east there is a sealed road from Hopetoun. It is a magnificent scenic drive through the heart of the eastern park, low mountains, undulating mallee and sand-plain. A botanical richness is there for the observant at any time of the year. More flamboyant species obscure tiny treasures. There is a charge for entry to the park.

**10. The Hakea Walk Trail**, in the Fitzgerald River Nat Pk, runs from Cave Point to Quoin Head. details in a FRNP leaflet.

**11. John Forrest Rd** runs west from the Hopetoun Rd, about 40km south of Ravensthorpe. This area is particularly rich in flowers. Suggested detours are the Phillips River Rd, the cliff tops overlooking the Steere River to the right of the John Forrest Memorial, and a walk up No Tree Hill. A 4WD track leads to Moir Rd where you turn right for Ravensthorpe or left for the 4WD track through the national park.

**12. The Railway Heritage Walk** has four sections. The Hopetoun Trailhead Loop, 14km, 3 to 4 hrs, from where the railway left the old jetty and steamed to Dunn's Swamp. The Desmond to Kundip section: 9km, 3 to 4 hours: interesting history, lovely views and wildflowers in spring. The Desmond to Ravensthorpe section goes through Swamp Yate and Salmon gum woodland and on to Highway 1 east of town. The Kundip to Lee Creek walk: 13 km: fairly easy walking with occasional gullies where bridges have been removed.

**13. Southern Ocean Rd** goes east of Hopetoun along the coast to Mason Bay and Starvation Bay (great new camping facilities) - return to Hopetoun via Springdale Rd. Pale sandy beaches can be accessed and excellent flowers in season. **Rd subject flooding - check access.**

**14. Kukenarup Memorial Heritage Site** on Hwy 1, 15km west of Ravensthorpe. Great flowers & orchids.

*Gravel pits and wild-fires leave scars, but the resulting regeneration of flora is always worth observing.*

#### References:

Books and leaflets area available at the Visitor Centres in Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun. Books and souvenirs, including *Native Plants of the Ravensthorpe Region* are available at the two week long Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show, open in mid September.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER:

**It is illegal to pick wildflowers.**

All walks and drives are at the individual's own risk. Please obey 'Road Closed' signs and **please do not light fires.** Beware of bees and snakes. Carry all rubbish away.

**Leave nothing behind but footprints and take nothing with you but beautiful memories.**

Photographs by G Downes, J Tucker. Design R Goldfinch  
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# RAVENSTHORPE - HOPETOUN DISTRICT - showing wildflower drives and walks



- |                            |   |                                       |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Sealed road                | Townsite or community centre                | Mountain summit                       |
| Unsealed road              | Rural residential estate                    | Roadside lookout, with parking        |
| 4-WD track (selected)      | Post Office                                 | Picnic area outside campsites         |
| Shire boundary             | Telecentre with internet access and library | Wheat bin                             |
| 120° E (WA time meridian)  | Caravan park (outside townsites)            | Wind power generator                  |
| Visitor information centre | Campsite with toilet and picnic area        | Working mine                          |
| Visitor information bay    | Boat ramp                                   | Old poppet head                       |
| Police station             | Small boat anchorage                        | <b>FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK</b> |
| Unleaded /premium /diesel  | Airport with sealed runway                  | Road condition and access sign        |
| LPG Autogas                | Airstrip (Authorised Landing Area)          | Information & entry fee collection    |
| Bank or bank agency; ATM   |   | Ranger's cottage                      |

**SCALE (km)**  
 0 5 10 15 20

**SOUTHERN OCEAN**

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**HOPETOUN**  
 WV: Wavecrest Village  
 KH: Kyalat Heights  
 KP: Kyalat Park