

6. Commonwealth Road

Although this is long-settled land, the road retains its attractive tree lined verges, sometimes giving a beautiful tunnel effect. Salmon Gum, York Gum, Red Morrel and White Mallee are the most common, with Sheoak on the ridges.

7. North Jitarning Nature Reserve

Here you will find a pleasant picnic site under wandoo trees in the delightful small reserve which lies between the road and railway. From this spot a short circular wander will take you through three different vegetation areas. South, towards Jitarning, mallees are dominant over low heath, with orchids, sundews, trigger plants and other delicate plants in season. Soon after the first rains, look carefully and you will find the small red and white flowers of the Winter Spider Orchid. Later in the year, look for Greenhoods and Zebra Orchids. In the centre of the reserve is a belt of Wandoo woodland, with an understorey of Tamma, a bushy sheoak. To the north grows heath which is dominated by Prickly Honeymyrtle with occasional white leaved Mallees. In spring it is quite colourful with yellow pompoms on the Prickly Honeymyrtle, pink balls on the Little Bottlebrush, cream Nodding Coneflowers and Orange Eremaea.

8. Kulin Rock Road

Here we wind up an attractive road into low granite hills where Sheoak and York Gums still grow, but grazing has removed most of the understorey.

9. Gnarning West Road

This wide road reserve has York Gum and Jam Trees over mostly introduced grassy understorey but there are some nice large Sandalwood and Quandong Trees. Sandalwood was once widespread but it was widely exploited in the early days of settlement, the entire tree being pulled up to obtain the maximum harvest or aromatic wood. Although the remaining trees produce a lot of seed, they are not regenerating.

One reason for this is that there are now fewer emus around to eat the seed and so disperse it. The bird digests the fleshy outer coating and the seed remains in its intestines where digestive juices soften it. Eventually it will be passed out, to germinate after the rains in its own little pile of emu dropping manure.

Another problem is that rabbits love sandalwood seedlings. Quandong has a similar method of dispersal, but its bright red flesh is sweeter and early settlers used it to make jam.

10. Kulin - Corrigin Road

Mottlecah (*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*) the floral emblem of the Shire of Kulin, grows along this road west of town.

Leave no trace....

*Take nothing but photographs
Leave nothing but footprints*

Traffic Safety

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 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 year round.

Facilities Available

Hotel, Motel, Caravan Park, Hostel, Food, Fuel

For further information please contact:

*Kulin Community Resource Centre
Johnston Street KULIN WA 6365
PH: (08) 9880 1021*

Information sourced from the Department of Environment & Conservation in conjunction with the Shire of Kulin.

Wonderful Wheatbelt Wildflowers!



**KULIN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Come to Kulin

Slow down, get out of your car, and look at our wonderful wildflowers. They are as rich and varied as any in the world. This brochure suggests a few special places, there are many others to discover. Please visit the Community Resource Centre for more information.

Nature Reserves

In nature reserves the wildlife comes first! The plants and animals which live in these reserves are our heritage.

Roadsides

The Shire of Kulin acknowledges the value of roadside flora for conservation and tourism and works to manage them to protect and enhance the native vegetation.

1. Buckley's Breakaway Nature Reserve

Coming from Hyden, soon after you enter the Shire of Kulin, the road rises up a laterite (gravel) ridge. Turn off to Buckley's Breakaway, a very photogenic place! Thousands of years ago, when Australia's climate was much wetter, deep weathering of the granite formed clay underneath a lateritic capping. Here, erosion has cut through orange laterite and formed spectacular white cliffs and gullies from the underlying clay. The gully around the parking area is dominated by Cypress Pine, Blue Mallet and Box Poison, but it is the top of the 'breakaway' which carries the most interesting plants.

It's a natural garden, with something in flower all year round. There are a profusion of golden prickly Dryandras, soft pink Petrophiles, pink and yellow Verticordias, blue Dampiera and many others. In the shelter of the shrubs, look for delicate orchids, trigger plants and sundews.

2. Kulin Holt Rock Road

If you follow the road from Kulin, the roadsides will show you a complete transect of eastern wheatbelt vegetation. Close to Kulin the land has been settled since 1910, and there is little remaining original vegetation. Further east, patches of woodland and mallee alternate with scrub heath on the poor soils. Yellow Flame Grevillea and pink Hakea multilineata form a brave show but there are many more smaller things if you stop to look.

3. Jilakin Lake

Large salt lakes such as Jilakin, occur throughout the Wheatbelt. Water drains into them after rain, but does not flow out. Instead the water evaporates and leaves behind a deposit of salt. Plants which occur around the edge are called 'halophytes' (salt plants) and the most obvious are Samphires, with fleshy stems like beads on a string. They have tiny flowers hidden in the joints of the stem. On the eastern edge of the lake, persistent winds some time in the past have built up low dunes of gypsum blown off the surface of the lake. Characteristically, they grow in fine strands of the Stocking Tree with saltbushes as an understorey.

4. Jilakin Rock Nature Reserve

A shady picnic site and a climb to the top of the rock reveals good views of Jilakin Lake and the surrounding country. The trees here are most interesting - they are Jarrah, the most isolated stand known. Rain draining off the rock concentrates the water and enables them to survive here in this dry region. The other common tree is York Gum. Three types of wattles also occur around the picnic site. Catkin Wattle - normally a large shrub - here is a tall, rough barked tree.

Orange Wattle has graceful drooping branches covered in golden blossom in late spring, while on the drier flats the ubiquitous Jam (whose wood smells of raspberry jam) stands above a carpet of grasses and everlastings.

5. Hopkins Nature Reserve

This is a superb patch of wheatbelt 'sandplain' - scrub and mallee vegetation, together with some woodland. It contains plants characteristic of both central, eastern and southern wheatbelt and is an extremely important flora conservation area. In early spring the bush is blooming with golden wattles and red-brown Daviesias, then come blue Dampieras and yellow Hibbertias followed by the glorious early summer rainbow of colour which includes grey Smokebush, pink and yellow Verticordias, pink and purple Calytrix, the Violet Banksia and many others. One notable plant is Rusty Lambstail, a small upright shrub covered with dense rusty coloured wool and beautiful starry purple flowers poking out of woolly spikes.

