

Discover the best spots to see wildflowers

Magic carpet of colour

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GERALDTON Visitors Centre is prepared for a busy wildflower season with additional volunteer staff.

Visitors Centre co-ordinator Ron Hayward said the centre always had volunteers but the Geraldton Volunteer Tour Guide Association had offered their time as extras for eight weeks during the season.

"The season is only just starting now but it is promising to be a beauty already," he said.

"Wildflowers are out there but not

in the numbers they will be in the next couple of weeks.

"It is only going to get bigger."

Mr Hayward said the centre was traditionally busy this time of year and the centre was grateful to have extra volunteers.

"We are the centre of the region and people use us as a base for day trips," he said.

"All the visitors' centres work closely with each other to keep regular updates on the wildflowers."

According to the Geraldton Visitors Centre wildflower report yellow buttercups (Hibbertias);

scholtzias and thryptomenes; bird beak hakea (hakea orthorrhyncha); the Murchison rose and more than 40 types of wattle could be spotted in Kalbarri now or in the next few weeks.

Northampton was reporting pink and yellow everlastings as well as blue fairy, spider, donkey and candy orchids.

Mullewa are just starting to produce everlastings and at least seven varieties of orchids are expected.

South-east from Walkaway to Mingenew there are Thryptomene bushes, wattles, fire grevillea and

blue fairies. A massive blaze of yellow is reported 40km north of Eneabba with the hibbertias in full flower.

Mr Hayward encouraged locals to explore the region's wonderful wildflowers while they were here.

"We have staff here who know a lot about the wildflowers and are more than happy to share that information," he said.

Kalbarri correspondent Mac Holt said wildflowers were abundant in his region due to heavier than normal winter rains.

Mr Holt said the old mine site at

the turn in for the Galena Bridge on the North West Coastal Hwy held "carpets" of white everlastings.

Travelling towards Kalbarri he reported the road was lined with yellow and gold wattle and acacia.

Mr Holt suggests a stroll up the river would provide numerous photo opportunities of a variety of wildflowers.

The national park holds 1400 different species of wildflower and for those less energetic a trip to the wildflower centre was worth it.

Wildflower pictures:
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Useless Loop

- Greenough:** Colourful wildflowers of many varieties can be seen on roadside areas
- Depot Hill Reserve:** Dense shrubland, softening in spring with the pretty pink and white flowers of Thryptomenes and Scholtzias
- Coalseam Conservation Park:** Wildflowers of all varieties are in abundance, and wattle shrubs shade everlastings that include the brilliant pink Schoenia
- Lake Indoon:** Orange Banksias, umbrella and white plumed smokebushes, and red hairy Lechenaultia around the Arrowsmith River
- Lesueur National Park:** Look out for honey bush (Hakea), cork mallee, the propeller Banksia, large magenta starflower and the Lesueur Hakea
- Badgingarra National Park:** Black and yellow kangaroo paws, purple starflower and mottlecah — the largest Eucalypt flower
- Mullewa:** Sprawling carpets of sensationally coloured everlastings continue to delight travellers along this route. Native foxglove proliferate beneath yellow wattles
- Goodlands:** Everlastings and Blue Cornflowers are found at Jibberding, and Everlastings and orchids (among the rocks) at Wubin Rocks (6km north of Wubin)
- Paynes Find:** Massed displays of white, pink, cream and yellow everlastings can be seen along the roadside
- Gregory:** Orchids found include donkey, bee, cowslip, spider and the blue, shy and vanilla sun orchids, with the rare sighting of the endangered Northampton midget greenhood orchid
- Kalbarri National Park:** River gums, gold and orange Banksias, Grevilleas, kangaroo paws, featherflowers, starflowers, smokebushes and Eucalypts are widespread
- Riverside Sanctuary:** Carpets of everlastings, pompoms and other annual flowers can be seen in a variety of colours—white, pink, mauve and yellow
- Murchison Settlement and Roadhouse:** Carpets of everlasting wildflowers and bright Podolepis add colour and texture to the landscape

SPECIAL EVENT
Mullewa Wildflower Show
Sunday, August 28 to
Sunday, September 4
Mullewa Town Hall
Open: Daily 9am to 5pm
Admission: Adults \$5 / Pensioners
and Seniors \$3
Phone: 9961 1500
www.mullewatourism.com.au
More than 200 species of the Mid West's
spectacular wildflowers including the wreath
flower are featured in this well-known show

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