Pingaring



Situated at the foot of a large granite rock, 284 metres above sea level, is the town of Pingaring. The town's name may have been derived from the Noongar word 'pinjaa' which refers to areas of wet land, soakage or swamp as 'Pingaring Spring' is nearby.

While it is difficult to determine when the Pingaring district was first visited by European settlers, it is believed that Surveyor General, J.S Roe passed through the area in 1848 on his journey of exploration through the Wheatbelt.

Prior to 1923, sandalwood and mallet-bark cutters and carters were regular visitors and many gold prospectors combed the area while travelling along the historical Holland's Track - the main route from Albany to the Goldfields.

Settlement began in 1923 with the original townsite located 8 kilometres south east of here at North Burngup. Most pioneers initially lived in tents, but with water shortage a major problem, a fast transition to iron huts was essential in the bid to collect rainwater. A Government dam was constructed at the North Burngup reserve in early 1924.

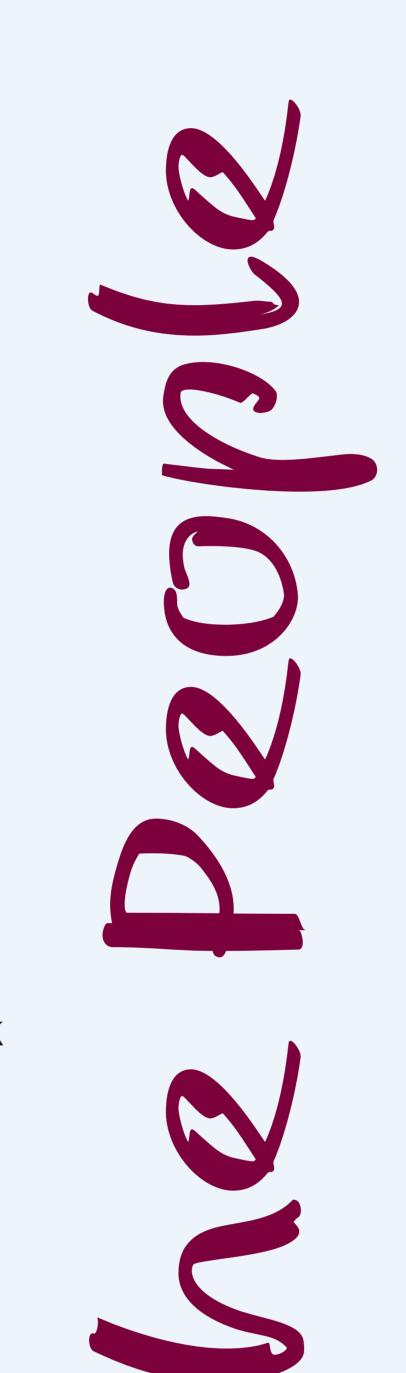
The construction of the Lake Grace-Hyden railway line in 1932 saw the relocation of the townsite from North Burngup to its current location.

To provide water for the trains and the new town, a nine million litre tank was constructed. The bottom of the tank was natural rock requiring only the wall sections to be built. This tank utilized runoff from Pingaring Rock and the town relied on this water source until 1995 when Pingaring was connected to scheme water.

Like many towns in the Wheatbelt, the aim of the early settlers was to establish the area for agriculture. Early clearing for roads and paddocks was done with an axe and the average farmer was expected to put in 40-60 hectares of crop per year using light machines and teams of horses. Wheat was carted in bags and stacked until the first wheat bin was erected in 1938.

In 1971 the wheat bin was upgraded to allow it to hold 14 600 tonnes of grain. Since this time the bin has been expanded several times. Today the bin is one of the largest in the area, able to hold approximately 125 000 tonnes of grain.

Pingaring wasn't connected to the State's electricity supply until 1982. Prior to this, farms and businesses in the district supplied their own electricity using engine powered generators.



"Our little district has come far since those intrepid farmers set out to cut their way through the virgin bush. Today's well developed farms with modern machinery and comfortable homes provide a valuable heritage for future generations. May they prosper in all their undertakings and carry on the fine traditions established by their fathers and forefathers."

Jessie M. Murray (from the History of Pingaring)





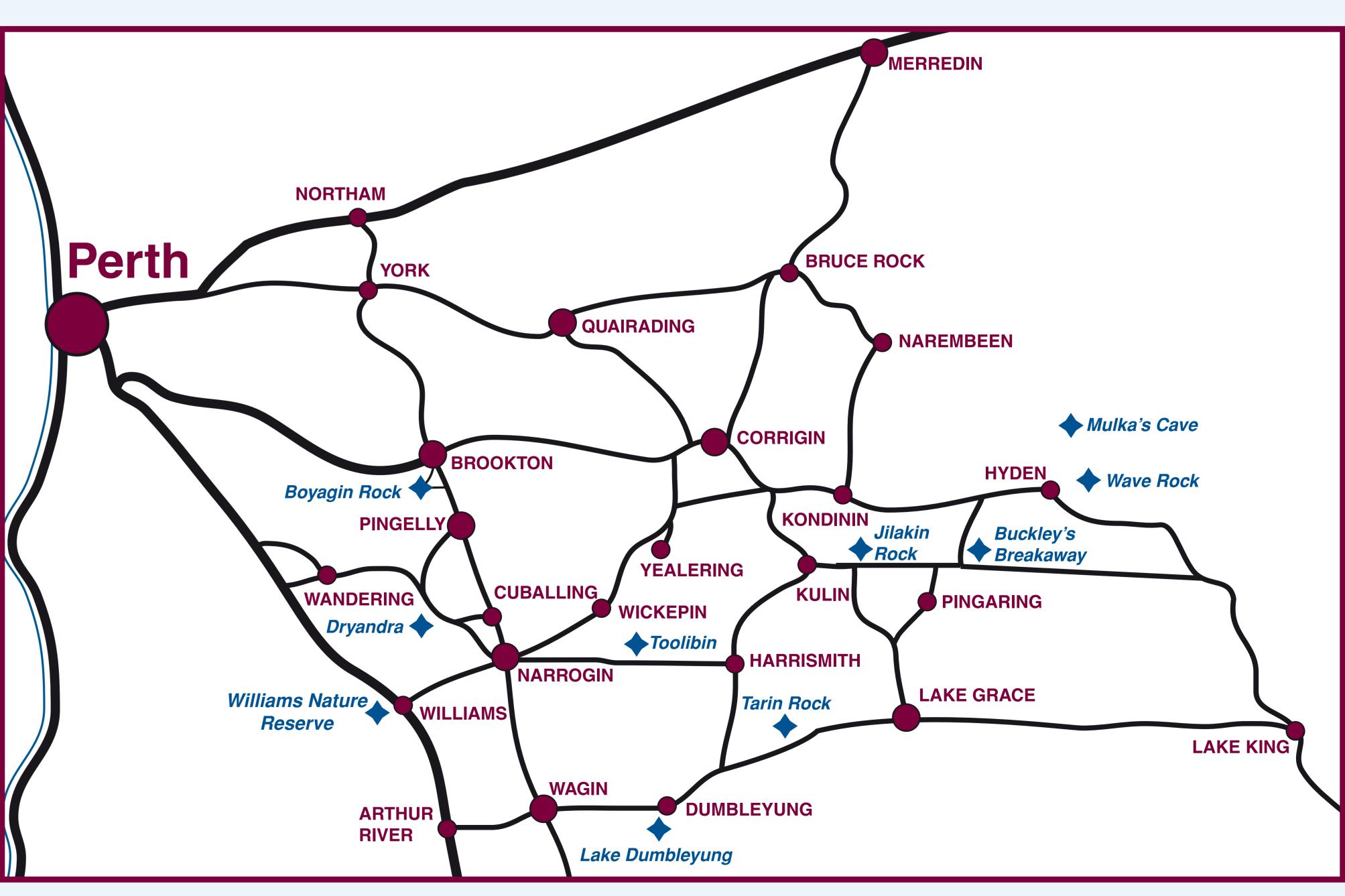
In true country style, a wonderful spirit of friendship and cooperation has always been present in the Pingaring district. Although a small settlement, Pingaring residents are actively involved in community life and sport through the local tennis, golf, and cricket clubs. They are also involved in other community activities through the Pingaring Progress Association, C.W.A, Playgroup and the local Community Centre. The annual Pingaring Christmas Tree is a tradition which has continued every year since it was first held in 1925.





2007 Christmas Tree

- 1. Town Hall: The current hall was built in 1956. The original Town Hall was built with corrugated iron in 1928 and was located at the original settlement, North Burngup.
- 2. Wheat Bin: First erected in 1938.
- 3. General Store and Post Office: Established in 1931.
- **4. C.W.A.:** Built in 1956.
- 5. Garage: Established in 1956.
- 6. Cemetery: Established in 1998.
- 7. Golf Course: A nine-hole golf course was established near the town in 1973. This was upgraded to an 18-hole golf course in 1980.
- 8. Pingaring Rock: A large, prominent granite rock that is vested as a water reserve to provide water for the town of Pingaring.
- 9. Water Tank: Pingaring town site relied on water from the rock up until 1995 when it was connected to the scheme water system.
- 10. Sports and Recreation Ground: Originally established in 1938 at North Burngup but subsequently abandoned. In 1949 it was relocated to the present site, which currently has its own sports club building, erected in 1999.
- 11. Community Centre: This is located in the old Pingaring Primary School building that was constructed in 1954 and closed in 1998. Historically, the first school in Pingaring was erected in 1927 at North Burngup after being moved from a group settlement area. In 1938 the school, along with the schoolhouse were relocated to the Pingaring town site. The schoolhouse now resides at the Hyden Wildlife Park after it was replaced in 1954.



Other Wheatbelt Places to Visit

Pingaring spider orchid (Caladenia graniticola)

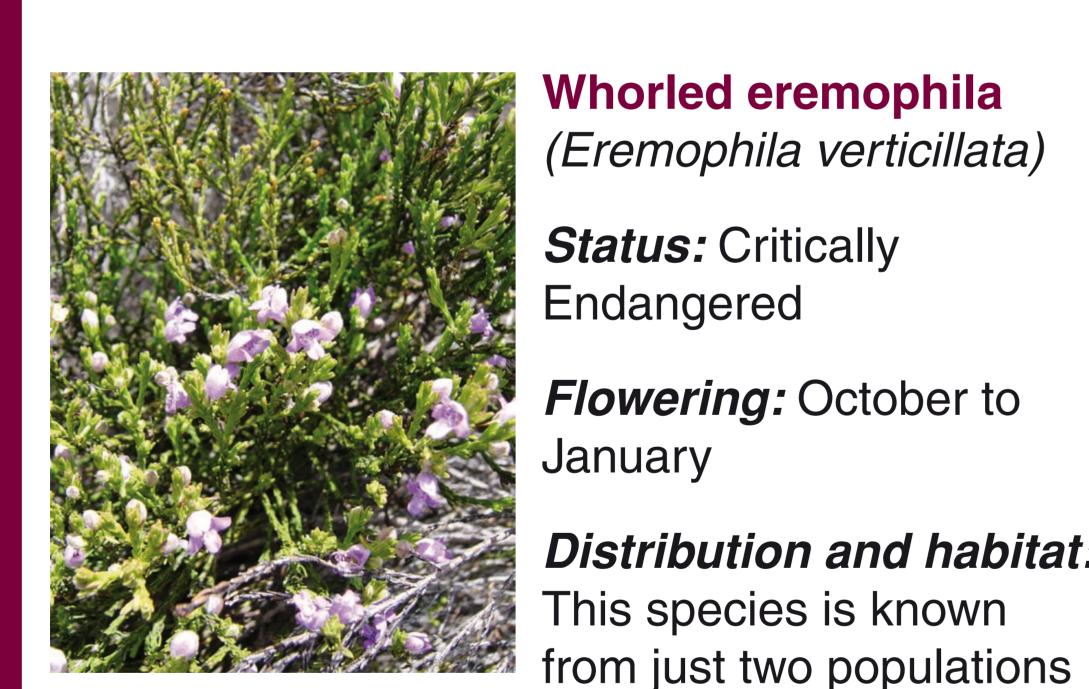
Status: Critically Endangered

Flowering: late September to October

Distribution and habitat: The species is found over a range of 50km between Pingaring

and Newdegate. It grows beneath tall shrubs and sheoaks (Allocasuarina huegeliana), in yellowbrown gritty sandy clay or grey-brown sandy loam soils on and around granite outcrops.





Whorled eremophila (Eremophila verticillata)

Status: Critically Endangered

Flowering: October to

Distribution and habitat: This species is known

in the Shire of Lake Grace.

Both populations are adjacent to a salt lake in powdery, pale brown loam over dolomite in low, open Eucalyptus woodland. Whorled eremophila was once recorded from just north of Pingaring, but this site has not been relocated.

The Pingaring area is home to a number of threatened plants not found anywhere else in the world. After the land was opened up for agriculture, areas such as granite outcrops remained uncleared. It is in these areas that the most endangered of Pingaring's threatened plants make their home.

The critically endangered Pingaring spider orchid was first found by Kath White near the town of Pingaring in 1984. Since then more populations have been found during searches of granite outcrops between Newdegate and Hyden. Look out for this and other threatened species that are pictured.

Why are some plants threatened?

Threatened plants are those that may become extinct, or are rare, or for some reason are in need of special protection. Some plants might be very old while others may only grow in certain places. Some threatened plants can also be naturally rare.

Loss of habitat has resulted in more plants becoming threatened. Remaining populations are only found in isolated patches of bush that face a number of threats including:

- competition from weeds
- declining population viability
- accidental destruction from roadwork or recreation
- grazing by animals
- salinity
- climate change

What can be done?

Regular monitoring of threatened plant populations can be undertaken to identify and combat threats. Some actions include:

- weed and rabbit control
- fencing
- seed collection
- genetic studies
- surveys to locate new populations
- reintroductions
- education

How can you help?

The more we know about threatened plants and where they occur, the greater the chance we have of making sure they don't disappear forever.

If you've seen any of the plants pictured here or would like more information on protecting threatened plants please contact the Department of Environment and Conservation in Narrogin on 98819200.

Pingaring and the Shires of Kulin and Lake Grace have some rich bushland areas. On your travels make sure these are left intact by staying on walk trails or vehicle tracks, not removing granite rocks or turning over sheets of granite and disposing of your rubbish thoughtfully.

Granite feather flower

(Verticordia staminosa var. cylindracea)

Status: Vulnerable

Flowering: July to October

Distribution and habitat:

Granite feather flower is

known from near Pingaring to east of Newdegate. Plants are confined to granite outcrops, where they make their home in the shallow soil filled depressions, fissures and cracks in the granite surface.



Kulin conostylis (Conostylis rogeri)

Status: Vulnerable

Flowering: September

Distribution and habitat: Kulin conostylis occurs in a few areas south-east of Kulin and north-west of Lake Grace.

The plant grows in gravelly, sandy-clay-loam soils in heath that is dominated by Dryandra species, round-fruited banksia (Banksia sphaerocarpa), violet banksia (Banksia

violacea) and dwarf sheoak (Allocasuarina

'Back from the Edge' is an Avon Catchment Council project delivered in partnership by the Department of Environment and Conservation and WWF-Australia and supported by the Australian Government and the Government of Western









