

Visit Morawa

Located approximately 4 hours from Perth, or 1.5 hours drive from Geraldton, Morawa has a rich blend of historic and modern attractions scattered throughout the town, against the backdrop of a spectacular wildflower season display



Welcome to Morawa

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Contact Details

Shire of Morawa
26 Winfield Street, Morawa WA 6623
Phone: (08) 9971 1204
Email: admin@morawa.wa.gov.au

Morawa Visitors Centre
34 Winfield Street, Morawa WA 6623
Phone: (08) 9971 1421
Open July–October

Morawa Community Resource Centre
46 Winfield Street, Morawa WA 6623
Phone: (08) 9971 1390

Accommodation

Morawa Caravan Park
Phone: Shire Admin (08) 9971 1204
Email: admin@morawa.wa.gov.au
Online bookings available

Morawa Hotel Motel
Phone: (08) 9971 1060

Everlastings Guest House
Phone: (08) 9971 1771
Email: everlastings@bigpond.com

Camping

Mellenbye Station Stay
Phone: (08) 9972 3072
Email: stationstaymellenbye@gmail.com

Canna Townsite
Phone: (08) 9972 2022

Koolanooka Springs
Phone: Shire Admin (08) 9971 1204

Karara Rangeland Park
Phone: (08) 9964 0901
Email: geraldtonenquiries@dbca.wa.gov.au



Our Shire



1

Cowslip Orchid
Spider Orchid
Ant Orchid

2

Golden Grevillea Tenuiloba
(Morawa Floral Emblem)

3

Canna Reserve

4

Old Canna Store

5

Bilya Rock Cairn

6

Hermitage

7

Catholic Church

8

War Rock

9

Wreath Flower

10

Koolanooka Hill Minesite

11

Koolanooka Springs

12

Museum

Amenities & Services

Community Gym

Located south of town at the business units is the Morawa Community Gym. For a small membership fee, visitors can use a swipe card to access this fully fitted gym facility. To become a member, contact the Shire of Morawa.

Tamika Dawson Personal Training

The Shed is located on Winfield Street in Morawa, and Tamika Dawson PT runs bootcamp group fitness classes most weeknights starting at 5:30pm. All are welcome. For more information contact Tamika: 0487 013 754

Caravan Parking

There is a designated parking area for Caravan's and Motorhomes on Prater Street, just behind the Morawa Town Hall. This is a great rest stop for visitors located within walking distance to the main street, cafes and shops, museum, and other attractions.

Dump Point

The dump point is located south of the Morawa townsite on the Mullewa-Wubin Road, just in front of the CBH bins. There is an accessible parking bay and ablation block located at the site.

Community Resource Centre

The Morawa CRC is located on Winfield Street and offers resources, rooms and services for visitors and locals alike, including:

- Meeting rooms
- Office and quiet spaces
- Printing
- Computers
- Centrelink access
- Toy Library
- Book Exchange
- And more

Outside of Wildflower Season, the CRC is a great place to access visitor information.

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Town Wi-Fi

Morawa boasts free Wi-Fi access at a number of locations in the townsite, including outside the Shire Admin Office on Winfield Street, and at the Morawa Caravan Park on White Avenue.



Historical Townsites

Morawa was historically made up of four district townsites: Canna, Gutha, Koolanooka, and Merkanooka. Although Koolanooka and Merkanooka's settlements do not exist anymore, you can visit Canna and Gutha to learn about the heritage of our district.

Canna Hall, Lutheran Church & the Old Canna Store

Located 43 kms north east of Morawa is the historic townsite of Canna.

The Canna Hall served as the School from 1949 to 1952 and is a great camping area for travellers.

The old style General Store, with the added attraction of a tree growing through the wall, is an experience not to be missed. The Canna Store operated from 1929 to 2003.

The Canna Lutheran Church was built in 1955 where local residents were able to worship until 2020.

Canna residents, Paul & Sue Offszanka, have a wealth of knowledge on the local wildflowers and can direct you to a number of walking trails throughout the Canna Reserve.

Follow Canna WA - Wildflower Country on Facebook for the latest updates.

Location: Offszanka Road, Canna



Gutha Hall

Gutha Hall is still a well-loved hall used for community gatherings and small community events.

Gutha Hall is located in Simpson Street, Gutha. It was constructed in 1938 and stands in a bush setting within the historic Gutha townsite. The Gutha Hall is not a camping area for travellers.

Location: Simpson Street, Gutha



Places to Visit

Morawa Visitors Centre

The Morawa Visitors Centre is located on Winfield Street, the main street of Morawa. The Centre was established in 1986 as a result of enthusiastic support from farmers and business people alike. It is staffed solely by local volunteers.

Our volunteers do a wonderful job promoting our Shire and have some interesting stories to tell. So make sure you pop in and have a chat with them while you are here.

The Morawa Visitors Centre volunteers have a wealth of local knowledge about where to go, what to see, and details about local facilities, and other points of interest are shared daily from our team.

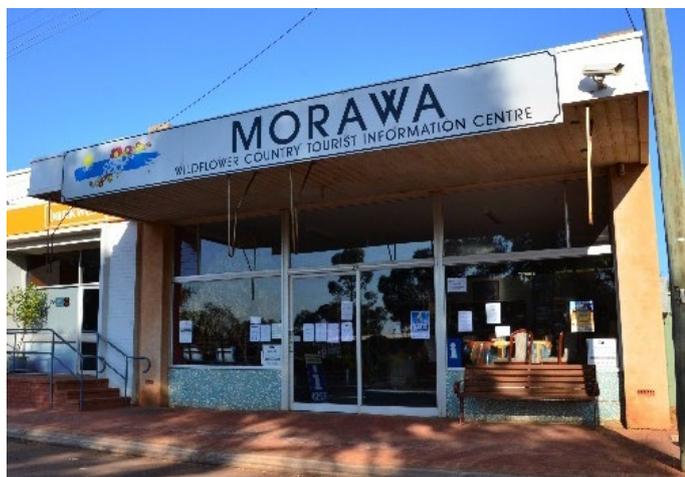
The Morawa Visitors Centre also has a wide range of souvenirs, gifts, and local crafts available for purchase.

Location: 34 Winfield Street, Morawa

Opening Hours: 8:30am-4:30pm during Wildflower Season

Phone: (08) 9971 1421

Email: mscvisitorcentre@westnet.com.au



Morawa District Historical Society Museum

The Morawa District Historical Society was first formed in May 1973. Its main objective was to retain a historical record of the district.

Relocation of the original Old Gaol and Courthouse, in 1975, from Stokes Road to its current position, in Prater Street, was one of the first projects undertaken. The Old Gaol and Courthouse now forms the centrepiece of the Morawa Museum.

The Museum houses a truly remarkable collection of windmills as well as examples of vintage farm machinery and equipment.

The second section of the museum has an extensive Machinery Annexe which includes a collection of old farming machinery, tools, and some household items.

The museum is run by a dedicated group of local volunteers who are a fabulous source of information on the area.

Location: Prater Street & Gill Street, Morawa

Opening Hours: 9:30am-4:00pm Mon-Sat

Phone: (08) 9971 1777

Email: morawahistorical@outlook.com



Places to Visit



Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail

Morawa is located centrally in the recently rediscovered Monsignor Hawes Heritage Trail. In all, Monsignor Hawes was the architect and, in a lot of cases, builder of more than 15 beautiful and unusual churches in the Midwest and Murchison regions.

In Morawa, the Church of the Holy Cross was built in 1932 by Monsignor Hawes on his heritage trail.

Monsignor Hawes built the Hermitage (a Priest's Cell or Presbytery) in 1933, as his residence. This little building is distinct and stands adjacent to the Church. It is quite unique, consisting of one small room.

Location: Davis Street, Morawa

Opening Hours: Mass is held every second Saturday at 7:30pm

Phone: Fr Robert Cross - Geraldton Catholic Diocese (08) 9921 3221



Pioneer Cemetery

Prior to the Morawa Cemetery opening, between 1922 and 1930 a number of burials took place in the Morawa Pioneer Cemetery.

In 1973, the Morawa District Historical Society gained permission from the Shire to build a fence around the graves and to erect a plaque. The fence was made from large stones from the Koolanooka Mine, and a brass plaque listing the names and dates of death of the known occupants of the Pioneer Cemetery was placed at the entrance.

Location: Cnr Milloy Street & Carslake Road

For more information contact the Morawa District Historical Society



Old Shire Chambers & Town Hall *Cnr Prater St & Dreghorn St*

The Morawa Road Board was established and built in 1928, and the building was later the offices of the Shire Council and housed the Shire Chambers until 2004.

The Former Morawa Shire Office (1929/30) and the Morawa Town Hall Building (1939) are significant heritage buildings in the Morawa townscape, and also in the State of Western Australia with the buildings being elevated to the State Register of Heritage Places in 2005.

Morawa Shire Office and Town Hall are fine representative examples of their 1930s architectural styles and are fine examples of the works of the respective architects, P. Harrison (1929/30) and Eales Cohen and Fitzhardinge (1939).

Location: Prater Street & Dreghorn Street

For more information about events and bookings contact the Shire of Morawa



Rocks and Reserves

Bilya Rock

Bilya Rock is situated 5km west of the Gutha turnoff, on the Morawa-Mullewa Road and approximately 20km north of Morawa. A large granite outcrop, with surrounding bush land, makes an enjoyable place for a bushwalk, or picnic in the winter and spring.

A large cairn is standing on Bilya Rock. The cairn is reputed to have been placed there by John Forrest, as a trigonometrical survey point in the 1870's. John Forrest was appointed as a Government surveyor for the Victoria District in 1871.

A photograph taken in 1937 showing the original cairn and pole, is held in the Morawa District Historical Society Museum.



Koolanooka Springs

Koolanooka Springs was used by Aboriginal groups over many years as a camping, meeting, and hunting area.

Later the early European settlers in approximately 1909 obtained their fresh water supply from it and became a meeting picnic area with tennis courts for social events. It is a permanent spring, however over the years the water supply has reduced and is brackish therefore not suitable for humans.

In 1961 the first deposits of iron ore were discovered in the Shire of Morawa by geologists J Lalor and D Barr. Exploratory drilling commenced in November that year. Koolanooka is also the site of the first open cut iron ore mine in Australia, and the site can be viewed from a distance at the Koolanooka lookout on Munckton Road.

These days Koolanooka Springs is an ideal place to have a picnic or camp and meander through the abundant wildflowers.

A picturesque view of outback Western Australia can be gained by scaling the Koolanooka Hills surrounding the spring.



Rocks and Reserves

War Rock and Gnamma Hole

Drive approximately 16kms north of Morawa on the Wubin-Mullewa Road, and you'll see an interpretive sign directing you to the Pintharuka Dam and War Rock. Turn and drive about 2kms on unsealed road and you will arrive.

The legend is that War Rock received its name when a war occurred between two boundary Aboriginal tribes many years ago. The Gnamma hole is usually full with winter rains. In the early days, a larger Gnamma hole nearby was filled with earth to prevent stock falling in.

In the backdrop are the Moonagin, Karrakarook and Milhun Ranges, which change their colours when the everlastings are blooming right to their tops.



Karara Rangelands

Western Australia's nature, culture and history are alive in this immense 560,627ha park. The rugged yet beautiful Karara Rangeland Park features banded ironstone ridges, permanent waterholes, Aboriginal heritage, and authentic outback camping opportunities.

The long connection of Aboriginal people to this land began well before the arrival of pastoralists and miners in the mid-1870s. The newcomers introduced animals and plants that in less than 200 years dramatically changed the landscape.

Now the six former pastoral stations comprising Karara Rangeland Park are conservation areas and introduced animals are being removed so native vegetation and wildlife can recover.

Karara Rangeland Park is renowned for its wildflowers between July and September. Wildflowers carpet the land after good winter rainfall, but there is also a diversity of flowers during the dry months - you just have to look more closely.

More information

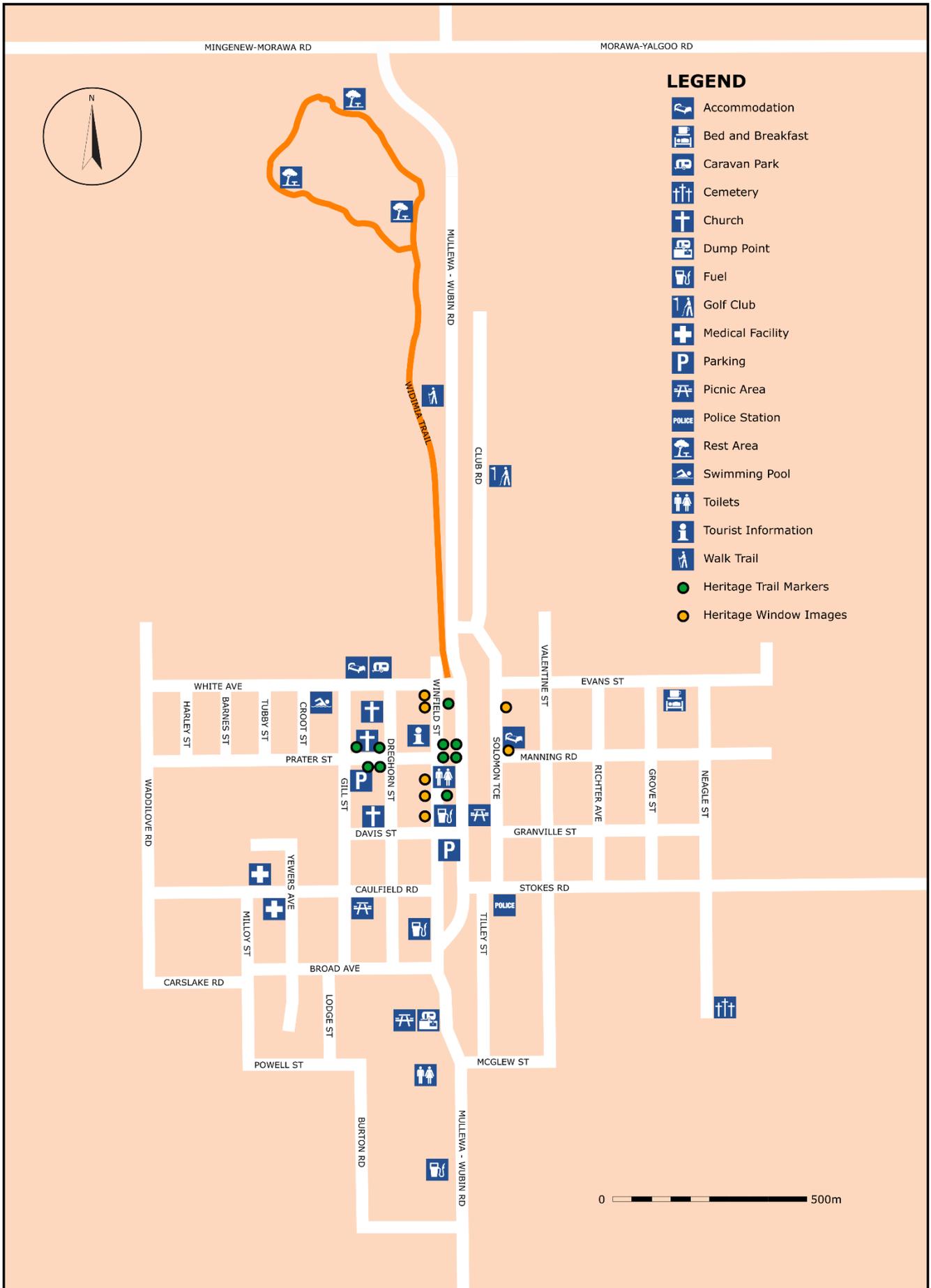
Midwest Region, Parks & Wildlife Service

Phone: (08) 9964 0901

Email: geraldtonenquiries@dbca.wa.gov.au



Walk Trails



Walk Trails

Widimia Trail

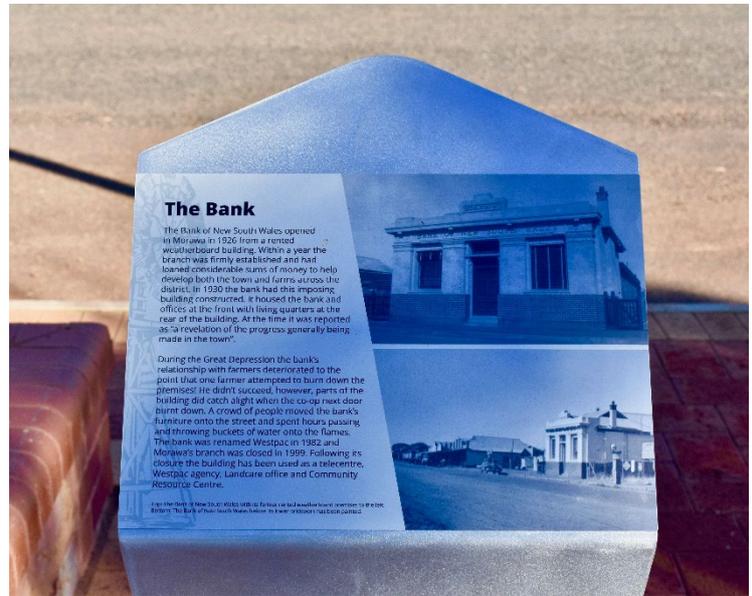
Widimia translates as "Home of the Widi peoples", acknowledging and paying respects to the traditional custodians of the area around Morawa. The walking trail you can see on the map opposite is approximately 4.5 kilometres to and from the car park bay on Winfield Street and is the perfect trail for wildflowers. Along this bush track you will see some of our unique flora including *bularra* (eucalyptus trees). Throughout the Widimia trail, you will be able to see some beautiful carpets of everlastings during our annual wildflower season. Look closer and you might spot some of our illusive orchid flowers amongst the brush. Please take care along the *bairya* (track) as you come across some of our wildlife.

Heritage Windows

Take a leisurely stroll back in time along the two main streets of Winfield Street and Solomon Terrace to view the Heritage Windows dressed with historical photographs of our town and its people. There are seven sets of windows treated with historical photos around Morawa. These photos were donated by the Morawa Historical Society & Museum. If you visit the museum, their volunteers can tell you more about our history and the Heritage Windows.

Heritage Trail

Find all of the windmill blade-shaped heritage trail markers and read about Morawa's unique history. There are 10 windmill blades within the townsite, and an 11th windmill blade marks the entry to the Widimia Trail. All of our walking trails are flat and easy to access from the Morawa Caravan Park and Morawa Hotel.



Self-Drive Tours

We have specially curated three amazing self-drive tours that will allow you to see our whole district. Stay a while in our accommodation or camping areas so that you can see More of WA in Morawa.

Canna-Gutha Wildflower drive tour

How long will it take? *Half a Day*

Distance of travel? *100Kms*

Four-wheel driving? *No*

Unsealed roads? *Yes*

Camping? *Yes, at Canna Reserve*

The Canna drive provides the visitor with some of the prettiest areas to be found in the shire. The nominal starting point (27km north of Morawa) is the intersection

of Gutha West Road and the Mullewa-Wubin Road. A point of interest enroute to this point is the Pintharuka Dam/War Rock reserve. Thurn right into Gutha to view the interpretive sculpture at the Gutha Hall. Head East on Gutha East Road and a left turn onto Morawa-Yalgoo Road to view the wreath flowers just before Madden Road. Left onto Madden Road and continue to the end for a right onto Stephens Road and a left onto Fabling Road. Turn onto Ways Road takes you past granite outcrops and everlasting carpets. Left into North-East Canna Road.

Please be aware that Mallee Fowl may be on the road in the Canna area. Stop at the Old Canna Store, look for the tree growing through the wall and collect a map for directions to the Canna Dams and orchids. Take the sealed road west from Canna, across the highway and down Nanekine Road. Turn left into Indar Road, then left onto Gutha West Road. Bilya Rock, which is located 5km down the road, provides an excellent place to picnic and view the local flora and fauna. Head back to Morawa on the Mullewa-Wubin Road.

Morawa Loop drive tour

How long will it take? *All Day*

Distance of travel? *130Kms*

Four-wheel driving? *No*

Unsealed roads? *Yes*

Camping? *Yes, at Koolanooka Springs*

This pleasant drive allows visitors to see the Koolanooka Minesite and Koolanooka Springs, whilst viewing the flora of the south of the shire. Drive south of Morawa for 2.5km to turn left onto Jones Lake Road to take in the salt pans.

At the T-junction take a left on Judge Road and another left after 15km onto Fallon Road. 2.3km down you can turn right to Koolanooka Springs for picnic and toilet facilities. 3km further down Fallon Road is the entrance to the Koolanooka Iron Ore Minesite and a viewing platform. Go West on Munckton Road and zig-zag across the Yalgoo Road to head north on Bell Road. Take the Johnson Road and North Road loop to see carpets of everlastings. Head west on Pintharuka Dam Road and stop to see Pintharuka Dam and War Rock and take in the interpretive sculpture. Wreath flowers are possible at the Pintharuka Pioneer

Cemetery. Cross the highway at the decommissioned wheat bins and onto Pintharuka West Road. A short loop around Carslake Road shows everlastings along the roadside. Left onto Orango Road, across White Road and onto Burma Road. Zig-zag across the sealed Morawa-Mingenew Road for a short distance and take a right onto Yammapool Road. Along Neates Road, salmon gums on either side of the road provide a majestic avenue. Turn left onto the sealed Morawa-Three Springs Road for your return to Morawa past the WA College of Agriculture-Morawa.

Koolanooka "Stargazing" drive tour

How long will it take? *An evening*

Distance of travel? *50Kms*

Four-wheel driving? *No*

Unsealed roads? *Yes*

Camping? *Yes, at Koolanooka Hills*

A chance to view our amazing dark night skies at the camping area between the Koolanooka Hills. Head north of Morawa and take the Yalgoo Road. In 3.7km turn right on Munckton Road and drive along the old railway track

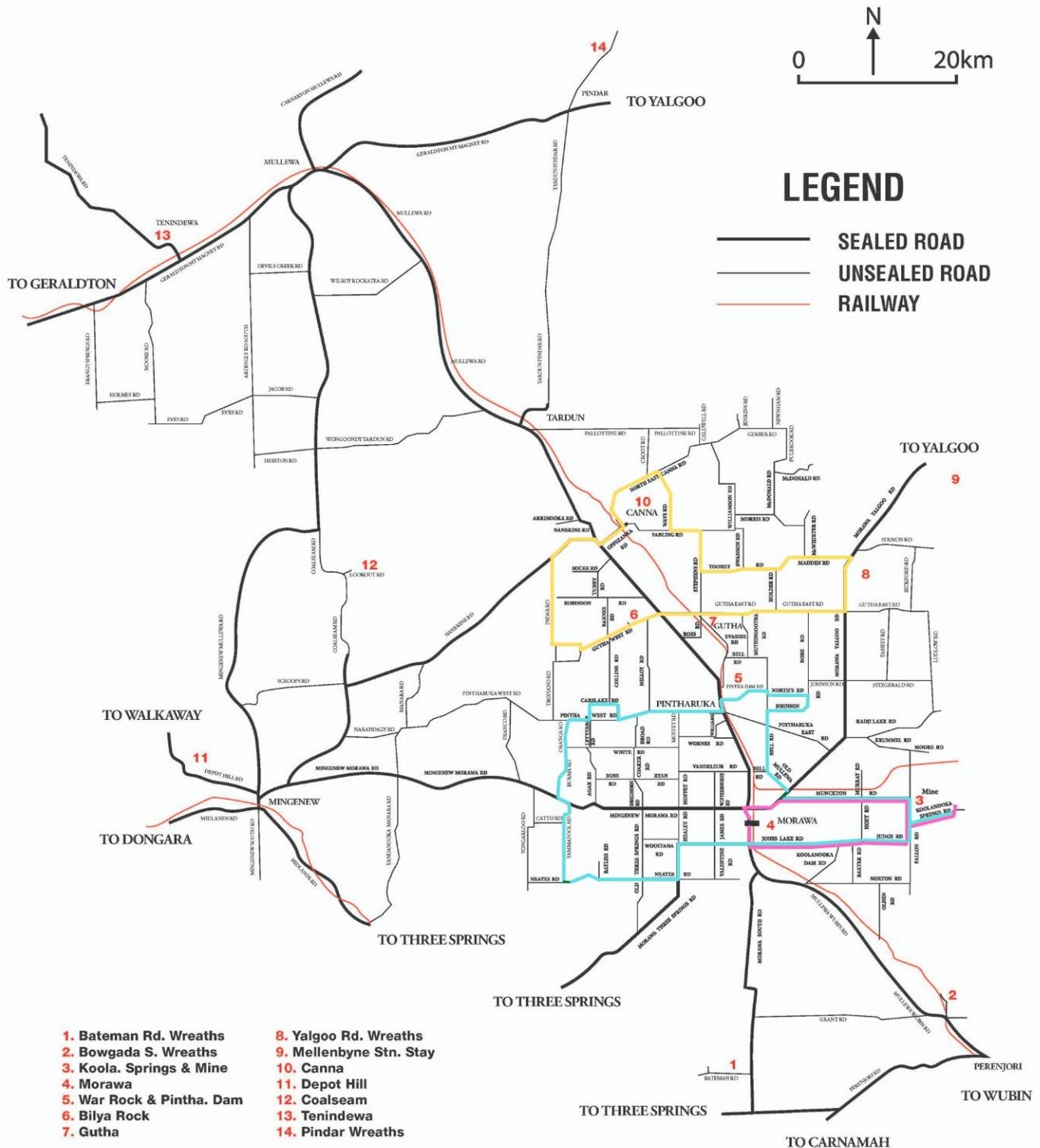
which use to link to the old Koolanooka Mine Site. Take a left on Fallon Road and after 3km take a left up to the Koolanooka Lookout. Take in a picturesque view of the orange ridges of the open cut mine and look out over the crops and salt lakes. Travel further south along Fallon Road and take a left onto Koolanooka Springs Road. After 3.4km there is a left turn marked with a windmill that takes you into a camping area with barbecues and toilets tucked in the Koolanooka Hills. Have a romantic picnic or barbecue with friends and wait for the stars to light up the sky. After a picnic dinner, take the south loop back to Morawa.

Head back along Koolanooka Springs Road and take a left at the T-intersection on Fallon Road. After 3km turn right onto Judge Road and continue on Jones Lake Road for 12kms. Make sure to stop at the railway track before the Wubin-Mullewa Road, and turn right to head north back into Morawa. You might choose to camp at Koolanooka Springs, as it is a free camping site. Please remember to check the local fire bans before lighting an open fire in the barbecues. Take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints. Contact the Shire for more information about camping.

Self-Drive Tours

Remember the Country Code: Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints.

It is illegal to pick wildflowers and seeds. Extra care should be taken whilst travelling on country roads, it is not uncommon to come upon wildlife, livestock and farm machinery. The drives depicted here are on gravel roads and may be impassible in wet conditions. Please contact the Visitors Centre or Shire for road conditions and drive to the conditions. When stopping by the roadside, use your indicator signals and do not park where oncoming traffic visibility is restricted.



- 1. Bateman Rd. Wreaths
- 2. Bowgada S. Wreaths
- 3. Koola. Springs & Mine
- 4. Morawa
- 5. War Rock & Pintha. Dam
- 6. Bilya Rock
- 7. Gutha
- 8. Yalgoo Rd. Wreaths
- 9. Mellenbyne Stn. Stay
- 10. Canna
- 11. Depot Hill
- 12. Coalseam
- 13. Tenindewa
- 14. Pindar Wreaths

Heart of Wildflower Country

Undoubtedly the most popular time to visit Morawa and its surrounding region is during the wildflower season, from late winter through to early October. At this time of year caravans and campers come from far and wide to see the landscape at its most spectacular and to experience our mild winter climate. Not far beyond the town boundary, you can take in carpets of pink, yellow or white everlasting wildflowers, wreath flowers, and many species of Orchids. Roam throughout our Shire at any of our numerous reserves and you could come across many species of wildflowers unique to this district.



For up to date details on where to see the best blooms please call in at the Morawa Visitors Centre on Winfield Street.

Stargazing



Morawa is an AstroTourism Town and boasts some amazing dark night skies all year round! There is a dedicated viewing site at the Morawa Caravan Park where we welcome you to use your telescopes and binoculars to enjoy an evening of stargazing. Bring your camera to take stunning images of the starry night sky at Koolanooka Springs, our Astrophotography Hot Spot. Stargazing events are held year-round and visitors are welcome to join our community to discover the universe!

Events

Biennial Art Awards & Exhibit

A biennial event that brings together a large section of our regional community in support of local arts and culture. It encourages and fosters artistic merit amongst rural communities and supports talents amongst the artists of our region.

Christmas Street Festival

An evening event held in December, with bouncing castles, food and market stalls, the all-important visit from Father Christmas and generally the chance for everyone to catch up before Christmas.

Midwest NAIDOC

Annually held in the first week of Term 3 in July with a program that includes guest speakers, street stalls and Traditional Indigenous food. The whole community is invited to take part in our annual Midwest NAIDOC.





Thank you to all who contributed to making this brochure: Shire of Morawa, Morawa Visitors Centre, Morawa CRC, and Morawa District Historical Society.

Images contributions by: Tony Tropiano, Michael Goh, Carol Redford, Sue & Paul Offszanka, Rebecca Moore, and Steve Parish.