

Bunbury Geographe

# FOUND

ISSUE 10

**FREE**  
Take me  
home



**COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

Meet the creatives who thrive within a collective space

**DIVE IN**

From beaches and bays to lakes and rivers, discover dazzling places to cool off

**FERTILE PLAINS**

Taste your way through the region's fresh food producers and purveyors

**BUN  
GEO**



Editor's Letter



## BunGeo is your door to discovery

**Bunbury Geographe** is brimming with tucked away treasures and scenic retreats waiting to be found by its next inquisitive visitor. From the sparkling blue coast, to the gloriously green hinterland, each area of the region reveals something surprising

and spectacular as the seasons evolve.

Within the pages of **FOUND Magazine**, you'll discover a taste of the region. Captivating art and creativity, fine food and boutique beverages, stunning nature-based sanctuaries and serene places to stay are all in abundance here and await you.

Bunbury is **alive with headliner events** year-round. Meanwhile gems like **Balingup Small Farm Field Day** and the **Dardanup Art Spectacular** draw visitors into the surrounding destinations for the most unique experiences.

For the freshest finds, read the What's New pages spotlighting everything from **cycling trails**, sweet baked treats, a heritage events space, **freshly grilled crayfish** and much more.

Find yourself immersed in creativity, culture and good food when embarking on the **Art & Heritage Lovers'** itinerary. While at **The Fuller Co+Op**, meet a collective of **talented artisans** with intriguing stories to tell and brilliant creations to share.

Speaking of artisans, **Melville Park** in Brunswick is bursting with hand-crafted cheeses and heirloom vegetables to try, while apple brandy and boutique ciders are on the horizon. The fertile soils and vast plains make Bunbury Geographe a paradise for **producers and produce purveyors** alike. Not to mention, the diversity and quality of **award-winning wines** found at picturesque cellar doors, all around.

A **water-lover's paradise**, from breathtaking bays and beaches, to inland lakes and rivers, there are so many incredible spots in Bunbury Geographe to cool off. Discover the range of water-based activities available at your fingertips, along with some top spots to stay by the waterside to make your stay even more special.

Whether you're in search of luxury and **dazzling places** to indulge, or down-to-earth **nature-based destinations** and time to reconnect, you'll find what you seek in Bunbury Geographe.

Enjoy,

*Tori*



### DID YOU KNOW?

Just two hours from Perth, you will find the Bunbury Geographe region or BunGeo as we call it. Lose yourself within a vibrant seaside city, discover a captivating wine region, amazing produce, beautiful scenery, a banging arts scene and quaint towns. #BunGeo #VisitBunburyGeographe @VisitBunburyGeographe

bunbury geographe

# FOUND

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  @visitbunburygeographe

## BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE

AUSTRALIA'S  
*South West*

## VANGUARD PUBLISHING

# FOUND

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# BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE



## HOLIDAY FOR LESS IN THE SOUTHWEST WITH AVIS

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FREQUENT  
FLYER 

**AVIS**





**10:40AM TUESDAY.  
THE SWEET SPOT.**

Road trips can be exhausting for little passengers. Stuck inside, staring out the window while Mum and Dad talk about grown up stuff, it can feel like days on end. So, there's nothing better than pulling in for a pit stop to get one of your favourite treats. It may be messy, but boy it's worth it. You'll be back on the road before you know it, so you've got to savour every sip. For the sweet taste of freedom, there's no place like Dôme.

*Perth Metro, WA Regional: Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Dunsborough, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Newman, Northam, Port Hedland, Rottne.*

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FROM NEW VENUES WITH SEASIDE VIEWS TO GLAMPING ESCAPES BY THE LAKESIDE, THERE'S PLENTY THAT'S FRESH AND RIPE FOR DISCOVERY IN BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE.

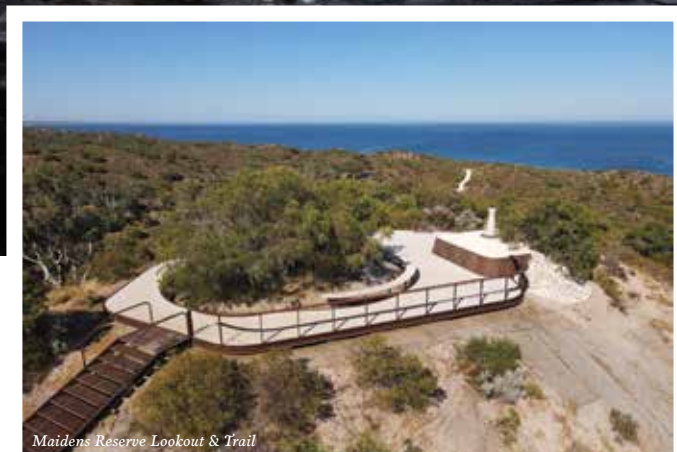
By JANICE PLATT

**Wambenger Trails**

The Wambenger Trails network in and around Collie just keeps on growing. New mountain bike trails in Wellington National Park now link the Mt Lennard Trail Network to the Wellington Trail Network, creating an interconnected network of mountain bike trails stretching through the park.

The new trails include impressive and challenging descending trails near Honeymoon Pool (Cash Out, Send It and Breaker Breaker) that will leave you with a smile on your face, while the climb back to the top on Honeymoon's Over will get your heart pumping.

You can also now experience the Wellington Epic Loop, 60 kilometres of single-track mountain bike trails where you can experience everything that the Wellington National Park has to offer in one Epic ride. The Epic loop combines 15 green (easy) and blue (moderate) rated trails and you can start from the Kiosk at Wellington Dam or at the Pile Road Trail head. Look



Maidens Reserve Lookout & Trail

Collie Trails

for the 'Epic' trail markers on route. An Epic map is also coming soon.

**Visit [trails.wa.com.au/trails/trail-networks/wellington-national-park](http://trails.wa.com.au/trails/trail-networks/wellington-national-park)**

**Collie Cycling Guide**

Pick up your ultimate guide to cycle and mountain bike trails in and around Collie. This comprehensive guide features recommended mountain bike routes in the mountain bike networks at Arklow, Wagyl Biddi and Wellington National Park trail networks. It also features eight road routes and nine gravel cycling routes close to Collie. A large fold out map helps you plan and choose the route that is best for you. You can pick up a copy at the Collie Visitor Centre (note there is a cost of \$12.99).

**The Crown Hotel Collie**

The team at Crown Hotel Collie has worked some serious magic worth marvelling at, transforming what was a pub in need of some love and new life, into a cool live music venue with reimagined funky spaces, a tantalising menu, and an enticing events calendar.

Taste delicious mainstays like the buttery, dry-aged steak, juicy steak sandwiches, and an ever-changing board of creative specials; accompanied by scrumptious Ferguson Valley wines, local beers on tap, or a fresh cocktail menu dreamed up by their talented mixologists.

Drop by and see what all the fuss is about.

**Visit [crownhotelcollie.com.au](http://crownhotelcollie.com.au)**



Little Spencer



The Crown Hotel

### Maidens Reserve Lookout & Trail

Bunbury Geographe is full of stunning natural vistas to take in, with Bunbury's Maidens Reserve scenic lookout and trail the newest addition to the list. Discover a new 670-meter pathway, fully accessible to wheelchair users, that guides you through the serene Tuart Forest to the scenic lower lookout, standing at 45 meters in height. For those seeking views from above, the upper lookout towers at 67 meters, connected by a series of 153 steps. Experience sweeping 360 degree views across Bunbury, Leschenault Inlet, Geographe Bay and Cape Naturaliste, from the top. Keep an eye out for interpretive signage to come.

### Look for Frederick

Baked treats on Victoria Street anyone? Look for Frederick is the perfect CBD staple for those with a sweet tooth. Enter through its bubble gum pink doors into a baked treat heaven with ongoing displays of banoffee pies, lemon meringues, brownies, cinnamon scrolls and much, much more. Fortify yourself as you try to resist buying everything.

### Little Spencer Coffee Co

The guys at Little Spencer Coffee Co have come far from their humble beginnings, serving premium coffees from their little coffee caravan. Now in their gorgeous café premises on Victoria Street adjacent from Guppy Park, Little Spencer Coffee Co is your new local — a haven for pastry, bread, and coffee lovers.

Along with their impressive croissant



Lake Brockman Tourist Park

selections (you'll have to wake up early to grab yourself an almond one), one of the best things on the menu is always going to be the bakehouse benny.

A bake space has recently been built as their HQ for producing the freshly baked bread, brioche, croissants, and pastries that fill the air with warm, sweet scents. The space is also planned to eventually double as an events space, so keep an eye out for activity. **Visit [littlespencercoffeeco.com.au](http://littlespencercoffeeco.com.au)**

### Boola Bidi Dreaming Centre

Witness the the world's oldest continuous culture at the Boola Bidi Dreaming Centre, a space proudly designed to showcase over 45,000 years of Aboriginal culture.

Jump on a tour, taste some bush food, learn about Aboriginal art, medicinal workshops, language and more. This hub of Noongar culture is based on the edge of the Harvey township where visitors and

locals alike can learn more about the rich history, culture and attraction of this very special part of the world.

**Visit [harveyabcorp.com.au/boola-bidi-dreaming](http://harveyabcorp.com.au/boola-bidi-dreaming)**

### Glamping Tents at Lake Brockman Tourist Park

Lake Brockman Tourist Park has always been a favourite for visitors to Logue Brook Dam but we predict this beautiful park will soon see an influx of visitors on the waitlist, with the unveiling of their deluxe glamping tents.

Built with families in mind, kids and adults alike can now camp in pure luxury with the convenience of having a kitchen, bathroom, queen and bunk beds, sleeping up to five guests. Lounge about in your tent, overlooking breathtaking vistas of the glistening lake, or warm yourself by the firepit under dazzling stars in the

### **A Fresh Face!**

Take a look at Bunbury Geographe's new and improved website for all the tips on where to explore within the region.

**[visitbunburygeographe.com.au](http://visitbunburygeographe.com.au)**



cooler months. there's no better place to turn off your phones and enjoy the freedom of being out in nature.

**[Visit lakebrockman.com.au](http://visitlakebrockman.com.au)**

### **The Cray Bunbury**

Bunbury's newest seafood restaurant had their grand opening on the 31st of January 2024 and promises crayfish as fresh as it gets, from sea to plate. Overlooking the serene waters of Koombana bay, the warm smiles and service paired with a truly decadent seafood platter will find you locking The Cray Bunbury in as your favourite local dining spot.

Featuring a full grilled local crayfish, grilled snapper, creamy garlic prawns, calamari, fresh oysters of choice, Moreton Bay bugs and more, The Cray Executive Platter will have you dining like VIPs. With king crab legs, seared abalone, clam seafood chowder and more, The Cray Imperial Platter will have you dining like royalty.

**[Visit thecray.com.au](http://visitthecray.com.au)**

### **GeoVino Extensions**

Having completed renovations in November last year, GeoVino reopened its doors with a new, casual space for patrons to stay a while and experience the abundance of local wineries, breweries and distilleries within the Bunbury Geographe region. Already a provider of gourmet food and wine, GeoVino is now also a friendly, local hang-out. Enjoy a beer and some nibbles with friends, or pick up a Sangiovese to take home from its selection of international wines. Also look out for upcoming events, such as afternoons with a winemaker, beer spotlight sessions, gin masterclasses or workshops with local producers.

**[Visit facebook.com/geovinoharvey](https://www.facebook.com/geovinoharvey)**

### **Wyldling**

Having opened its doors late 2023, Wyldling is a welcoming apothecary for all things organic, wildcrafted and spiritual. Feed both your body and mind here, selecting from the vast array of locally sourced medicinal

supplements, tinctures, powders and essences lining the walls; along with its collection of crystals, incense, otherworldly books and many more intriguing treasures. It'd be easy to spend hours browsing the selection on offer at this this community-minded wonderland.

**[Visit thegatheringvillage.org](http://visitthegatheringvillage.org)**

### **Balingup Antiques**

What do you do while strolling through the charming streets of Balingup? Pop into the newest antique shop for a sticky beak of course! Balingup Antiques is a short two-minute stroll from the main street and is an absolute haven for vintage collectables. Take the morning and poke about this overflowing shop, you never know what delightful vintage collectables you might find.

### **The Old Lyric Theatre**

The brilliant team behind Market Eating House are thrilled to be repurposing the Old Lyric Theatre, home to one of Western Australia's earliest cinemas.





GeoVino



Ferguson Valley Escape

This new venture promises to turn The Old Lyric into the event space for weddings, corporate functions, private dinners, group workshops, and live music events with character and charm. Boasting a unique blend of old-world elegance and modern amenities, events in this exciting new space will be exclusively catered by the artisans at Market Eating House.

**Visit [theoldlyric.com.au](http://theoldlyric.com.au)**

### Ferguson Valley Escape

Indulge in pure luxury at the newest destination resort in the Bunbury Geographe region, Ferguson Valley Escape. Feel your stress wash away as you take a dip in the sparkling pool surrounded by lush tropical gardens before indulging in a massage by the lakeside lagoon.

Recently the winner for Lux Life's Travel & Tourism Award for 2024, this idyllic escape is perfect for family gatherings, retreats, weddings, or group getaways. A variety of room options is available, accommodating up to 20 people.

Keep an eye out for Azul, the stunning, resident peacock, who is soon to be the star of special "Picnic & Peacock Days" — encouraging more people to enjoy the gardens and admire flashes of Azul's brilliant colour. Azul, meaning blue in Spanish and colour of the sea, fits perfectly into the tropical oasis that is Ferguson Valley Escape.

### Cheese and beverages by Melville Park

Artisanal cheese and dairy-product producers, heirloom vegetable farmers, and now distillers, Barbara Connell and David Doepel of Melville Farm near Brunswick, do it all. This entrepreneurial duo have been selling their heirloom vegetables from the historic Melville Farm barn on Saturday mornings since March 2023, adding their own hand-crafted cheeses to their offerings in December that year. The most recent addition to their repertoire of artisanal goods will be their collection of alcoholic beverages. Apple brandy, boutique ciders and vodka are all on the horizon, ready to be sold pending the approval of their producer's licence, which is currently underway. All beverages will be made using fermentables grown on the farm — including sugar beets for the vodka and apples from their orchard for the cider and apple brandy, or eau de vie de cidre.

**Visit [melvillepark.com.au](http://melvillepark.com.au)**

### Award-winning drinks list by Mojo's

Mojo's Kitchen Bar and Bottle Shop has been awarded Best Listing of WA Wines and Best Restaurant Beer List in Australia by Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards. Up against impressive contenders like Wildflower and the Shorehouse, Mojo's has stood out from the crowd for its focus on small batch wines from independent and boutique producers, particularly low intervention wines that really highlight the terroir in which they were grown.

Mojos' commitment to local produce is stronger than ever, says owner Juliana Frisina. "Over the past year we've created new partnerships with organic growers and continue to champion fresh, local and low intervention producers.

"We're currently investigating the installation of infrastructure that will allow us to dry age our fresh fish, further reducing waste and helping us to improve flavour options."

**Visit [mojosrestaurant.com.au](http://mojosrestaurant.com.au)**



## RELAX, STAY, CELEBRATE AT EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

Our cabins and spacious two-storey apartments are nestled in a spectacular jarrah forest on the banks of stunning Evedon Lake.

Cook up a gourmet feast in your kitchen or enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in the café/restaurant\*. Every Friday is woodfired pizza night.

Fish, kayak or take a walk along the retreats many forest trails, ride out to the Mount Lennard MTB Trails or simply relax and unwind, watching the sunset over the lake from your own private balcony.

Superbly located in the South West's Ferguson Valley and Geographe Wine Region, nearby to Honeymoon Pool, Wellington Dam, Potters Gorge, just 20 minutes to Bunbury's beaches and two hours south of Perth.



### EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

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[www.evedon.com.au](http://www.evedon.com.au)

\* Check website for restaurant opening hours. Log fires are seasonal





Donnybrook Apple Festival



Bunbury Fringe



Capel 200

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE IS ALWAYS ALIVE WITH ACTIVITY. TIME YOUR TRIP WITH ONE OF ITS CAPTIVATING EVENTS, WITH AN IMPRESSIVE CALENDAR THAT ATTRACTS LOCALS AND VISITORS ALIKE.

**Donnybrook Apple Festival**  
Saturday, 30 March 2024

Celebrate the apple in all its delicious and diverse glory at the Donnybrook Apple Festival. Set in the picturesque town of Donnybrook, known for its bountiful orchards, the festival is a day of family fun with market stalls, art, food vans, rides, epic events and local tipples at the beer, wine and cider tent. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the legendary festival, which will be hosting some special celebratory events in collaboration with the Donnybrook Historical Society. If you're between 12 and 25, or have a child within that range to encourage, get excited about the New Sounds Competition at the Amphitheatre!

On the Saturday evening, step back into a past era at the 1950's themed ball hosted at Egan Park. The annual Parade is always a headline event and expect it to be bigger and better than ever with its vintage and classic cars, bikes and the iconic apple float.

Visit [facebook.com/DonnybrookFestivalOfficial/](https://facebook.com/DonnybrookFestivalOfficial/)

**Balingup Small Farm Field Day**  
Saturday, 6 April 2024

Embrace rural life and sustainable farming at the Balingup Small Farm Field Day. Hosted at the Balingup Town Oval, this event invites you to become immersed in the culture and community of small-scale agriculture. The theme for 2024 is 'Where Nature Thrives', promising a day rich in learning and discovery.

Visit [balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au](https://balingupsmallfarmfieldday.com.au)

**Dardanup Art Spectacular**  
Friday to Sunday, 19-21 April 2024

Be awestruck by the creativity at the Dardanup Art Spectacular, set to unfold through the scenic surrounds of Ferguson

Valley. The event kicks off with a grand exhibition in Dardanup Hall on 19 April, featuring a vast array of artworks including paintings, sculptures, and photography. Peruse the Art Trail that winds through the back roads of Ferguson Valley, where you can meet local artists and admire their works in-studio.

Visit [dardanupartspectacular.com.au](https://dardanupartspectacular.com.au)

**Capel 200 Trail Bike Rally**  
June 2024

Rev your engines or watch as adrenaline seekers gear up to trail bike through Capel's state forest and pine plantations, kicking off and winding up at scenic Ironstone. This adrenaline-pumping event attracts enthusiasts and competitors from all over as riders battle it out on challenging terrains, making it a must-see spectacle for racing fans and adventure seekers alike. The main 'Capel 200 Loop' is suited to riders of all abilities, while a number of more technical and challenging optional 'Enduro' sections await for more experienced riders. Trail restoration work has taken place to elevate this year's event even further.

Visit [iarc.com.au](https://iarc.com.au)



Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival

**Balingup Medieval Carnivale**  
**Saturday & Sunday, 24–25 August 2024**

Step back in time with the Balingup Medieval Carnivale, an enchanting event where medieval life is recreated with performers, parades, and battles. Highlights

include the Grand Parade, live music, combat demonstrations, and the dramatic Burning of the Dragon, accompanied by fire performers and drummers. Enjoy handcrafted goods, delicious foods, and local beverages as you immerse yourself in this historical fantasy.

**Visit [balingupmedievalcarnivale.com.au](http://balingupmedievalcarnivale.com.au)**

**CinefestOZ Film Festival**  
**31 August to 8 September 2024**

Immerse yourself in the world of film at CinefestOZ Film Festival, Australia's largest destination film festival. The 2024 festival promises to be a grand affair, spanning nine days and showcasing the breadth of Australian cinema. Expect a high calibre of film guests, a captivating line-up of new Australian film, *In Conversation* dining events, Short Film

Sets, IndigifestOz showcasing Aboriginal filmmakers, free Community Days and more.  
**Visit [cinefestoz.com](http://cinefestoz.com)**

**Lost & Found Festival**  
**TBC October 2024**

Lost & Found brings together some of Bunbury Geographe's best venues and producers to put on a lively festival of fine food, art and artisan beverages, spanning four days and nights. The region bursts to life with energy thanks to pop-up events studded throughout, from long-table feasts and in-depth tours, to creative workshops and outdoor exploration. Stimulate your senses as you get lost in the excitement and found in the serenity with this foodie extravaganza.

**Visit [lostandfoundfestival.com.au](http://lostandfoundfestival.com.au)**

**Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival**  
**TBC October 2024**

The Dardanup Bull and Barrel Festival is an exhilarating, free community extravaganza in the heart of the Dardanup region. Brimming with over 150 vibrant market and food stalls, it's a feast for the senses, offering a delightful mix of live music, engaging demonstrations, and a kaleidoscope of local flavours in the "Tastes of the Ferguson Valley" marquee. Kids revel in a dedicated craft area and charming animal encounters. The festival's crowning glory is the spectacular burning of the Wespine Fire Sculpture, a mesmerizing artwork by a local artist, igniting the night sky and drawing cheers from the captivated crowd.

**Visit [bullandbarrel.net.au](http://bullandbarrel.net.au)**

**Christmas in the City**  
**Sunday, 15 December 2024**

Bunbury's Christmas in the City event is a vibrant and festive celebration held in December, kicking off with the Bunbury Christmas Parade. This much-loved event features a Christmas concert, food trucks and a variety of activities for all ages, creating a merry atmosphere for all.

**Visit [bunbury.wa.gov.au/play/events/christmas-in-the-city-2023](http://bunbury.wa.gov.au/play/events/christmas-in-the-city-2023)**

**Bunbury Fringe Festival**  
**24 January to 1 February 2025**

The Bunbury Fringe Festival is a dynamic and eclectic celebration of creativity and culture, held annually in Bunbury. This vibrant festival transforms the city into a



Balingup Medieval Carnivale

hub of artistic expression, showcasing a diverse array of performances and exhibitions. Attendees can immerse themselves in a world of theatre, comedy, music, dance, and visual arts, with acts ranging from local talents to internationally acclaimed artists.

Visit [bunburyfringe.com](http://bunburyfringe.com)

**City of Bunbury Skyfest**

**Sunday, 26 January 2025**

The Bunbury Skyfest is a spectacular annual event that lights up the skies of Bunbury with an awe-inspiring display of fireworks. This event celebrates community spirit and brings people together for an evening of wonder and excitement. As dusk falls, the sky becomes a canvas for a dazzling array of colours and patterns, thrilling spectators of all ages. Enjoy family-friendly activities, live entertainment, and tasty meals from food vendors.

Visit [bunbury.wa.gov.au](http://bunbury.wa.gov.au)

**Bunbury Beer and Cider Festival**

**February 2025**

The Bunbury Beer and Cider Festival is an annual event that celebrates the craft of brewing, set against the scenic backdrop of Bunbury. This festival is a paradise for beer and cider aficionados, offering a chance to sample a wide array of locally produced beverages. It's not just about tasting, though, the festival also educates attendees on the brewing process, with masterclasses and meet-the-brewer sessions. Live music, gourmet food stalls, and interactive games make for an epic festival for all.

Visit [bunburybeerfest.com](http://bunburybeerfest.com)

**South West Multicultural Festival**

**February 2025**

The South West Multicultural Festival is a jubilant celebration of diversity, showcasing the rich cultural tapestry of the South West region. This vibrant festival invites people from all backgrounds to come together and experience the customs, foods, music, and dance of various cultures. With a colourful parade of traditional costumes, dynamic performances, and international culinary delights, the festival offers a sensory journey around the world.

Visit [bunburymulticulturalgroup.com.au/south-west-multicultural-festival](http://bunburymulticulturalgroup.com.au/south-west-multicultural-festival)



Bunbury Regional Art Gallery

*It's always on at...*

**Bunbury Regional Art Gallery**

The Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), situated in the heart of the city, is renowned for its diverse and stimulating array of exhibitions and events. As the premier public art gallery in the South West, BRAG offers a rich program that includes works from regional, state, and national artists.

BRAG's program is complemented by its involvement in major events such as Iluka Visions, Noongar Country, Bunbury Biennale, and South West Art Now (SWAN). Expect SWAN to be bigger than ever in 2024, encompassing the entire gallery space, running March to July. These inspiring events emerge from the gallery's commitment to providing a platform for contemporary and traditional art in the South West, providing both local and international artists with exhibition and artistic development opportunities.

Visit [bunbury.wa.gov.au/brag](http://bunbury.wa.gov.au/brag)

**Collie Art Gallery**

The Collie Art Gallery is a testament to the community's dedication and passion for the arts. Designed with a contemporary flair, the gallery offers a large foyer where local artists and artisans can display and sell their creations. This space leads into the main gallery, which features a changeable layout to accommodate a variety of exhibitions. Among its notable collections is the Shire of Collie Art Collection, which started in

1954 with a donation from art patron Claude Hotchin. Hotchin's contribution to the Western Australian art scene is significant, having donated hundreds of artworks across the state, supporting local artists and bringing art to rural areas. A highlight of the 2024 exhibition programs is the prestigious Lester Prize, which will be traveling to the Collie Art Gallery for a second time from April to May.

Visit [collieartgallery.org.au](http://collieartgallery.org.au)

**Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre**

A hub for all kinds of diverse entertainment, from comedy and magic shows to music and theatre, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre is set to host an array of captivating shows through 2024. Some highlights to time your trip with include: the classic theatrical performance *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (9 April), the internationally renowned *Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow* (25 May), classical music concert WASO's Northern Lights (30 June), and the profound experience *ARC by Earth* (20 August) featuring exquisite puppetry.

Visit [bunburyentertainment.com](http://bunburyentertainment.com) **16**



Scan to subscribe for BunGeo events updates to always be in the know.

# 12 THINGS TO DO IN THE HARVEY REGION

## I. VINEYARD 28

Stroll through vineyards on a mini Italian escape. Take their *A Taste of Italy* tour to experience the winemaking process.

## 2. LAKE BROCKMAN

A sparkling blue lake set among lush green forest, Lake Brockman is the perfect spot for camping, glamping or a day of watersports.

## 3. HARVEY FARM BARN

Enjoy a slice of country life at Harvey Farm Barn. Meet all the friendly farm animals, hit the playground or enjoy a coffee under the trees.

## 4. THE BIG ORANGE

At Harvey River Estate, climb the 14-metre tower and find yourself inside The Big Orange - a local icon celebrating Harvey's citrus.

## 5. WILDFLOWER RIDGE WALK

Enjoy breath-taking views of Harvey Dam and the coastal plains - you might even spot a few native blooms!

## 6. WONDERS OF WA MINI GOLF

A mini golf course like no other. Explore a different WA attraction at each hole, then grab a bite at Old Coast Road Brewery.

## 7. HARVEY CHEESE

A cheese-lover's paradise is waiting in Wokalup! Pop in for a free tasting of their handmade cheeses and unique gins.

## 8. BRUGAN BREWERY

Craft beer drinkers can't go past Brugan for delicious meals and brews made from locally produced hops.

## 9. BINNINGUP BEACH

The coastal hamlet of Binningup has one of the best beaches in WA - perfect for fishing, soaking up the sun or testing the 4WD.

## 10. COW ON THE CORNER

Don't forget to visit Daisy - Brunswick Junction's life-size town mascot, built as a tribute to the local dairy industry.

## II. TREENDALE FARM HOTEL

Hungry yet? Officially Australia's Best Family Dining experience, if you need a larger-than-life feed The Farm is the place to be.

## 12. RIDLEY PLACE FORESHORE

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Troy Bennell outside the Dolphin Discovery Centre



# 72 hours of arts, culture & dining



Wardandi Boodja

HIT THE ROAD IN PURSUIT OF ART, CULTURE AND SUMPTUOUS DINING AND FIND A UNIQUE WORLD OF CREATIVITY TO EXPLORE WITHIN BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE.

By MONIQUE CECCATO

Being a destination where the vibrancy of city-life is melded with regional charm, Bunbury Geographe offers a wholly unique brand of world-class artistry that stands on its own. With the creation of the world's largest dam mural in Collie, the global spotlight has been trained on the painted, sculpted and scripted works of this corner of Western Australia. This masterpiece, along with the captivating mural trails in Bunbury and Collie, beckons any art lover to travel to Bunbury Geographe and explore all it has to offer.

## Day One

There's hardly a more spectacular way to stretch out post-drive than with a wander along the **Koombana Bay Foreshore**. You'll find the **Dolphin Discovery Centre** at one end, where the local dolphin population drops in almost daily for a shallow water swim-by. The building itself is a work of art — the waves and curves inspired by the

Noongar Dreaming story of the dolphins, consulted on with Wardandi man Troy Bennell of Ngalang Wongi Tours, at the Dolphin Discovery Centre. Take a walk around the outside before heading inside to see the interpretive centre's large tanks swimming with local dhufish, snapper, port jackson sharks, octopi and more.

A five-minute walk up the beach sits **'Wardandi Boodja'**, a five-and-half-metre steel sculpture by Alex and Nicole Mickle of Safehaven Studios. The poignant artwork represents the face of a Noongar elder, which shifts and changes as you move around it, obscuring and then revealing the water beyond. Visit during the day, and you can make the most of its beachside location, slipping in for a quick cool-off.

Continue towards town to indulge in a spot of retail therapy before the end of the day. Clothing and homewares boutiques line the section of Victoria Street between Symmons and Wellington Streets, many of which have been there for over 20 years. Pick up some hand-embroidered Moroccan cushion covers from **Afez of the Heart**, a Nasomatto perfume from **Imogino**, or a pretty Spell dress from **Life and Soul Boutique**.

Next door to Afez of the Heart is your final stop of the night, **Nicola's Ristorante**. The Nicola's name has been around just as long as the retailers on this strip, with the Bunbury locals' love for the institution never in danger of waning. Their menu is a Rolodex of homely handmade pasta, pizzas and secondi, served in portions so healthy you'll likely be taking some back to your accommodation with you for later. Remember to book to guarantee a table.



Collie Mural Trail



Little Spencer Coffee Co. Bake House

## Day Two

After a big dinner, a takeaway coffee and pastry breakfast from **Little Spencer Coffee Co. Bake House** seems an appropriate breakfast. Owners Liam and Corey have perfected the art of croissant-making, baking plain, chocolate and almond varieties every morning at their Guppy Park base at the end of Victoria Street. Not in the mood for a croissant? Their giant cookies, scrolls, and puff pastry danishes are just as scrumptious.

With dozens of cafés dotted about town, good coffee is easy to come by in Bunbury. But good coffee with great views is firmly in **The Happy Wife's** domain. The café backs onto the Leschenault Inlet in East Bunbury, so every table in the alfresco area comes with vistas of the water and mangroves. It doesn't get much better than syrup-soaked pancakes, hot coffee, sunshine and photo-worthy views.

It's just a short drive from The Happy Wife to the **Stirling Street Arts Centre** complex, where you can admire arts and crafts created by centre workshop attendees in the exhibition space. You can get involved in creating too, with workshops and classes held during the week ranging from painting and pottery, to textiles and dance, drama and music.

For a slice of heritage, hop in the car and drive a few minutes up the road to the quaint **King Cottage Museum**. Take the opportunity to look back into Bunbury's history at this former home of English pioneer Henry King, built around 1880.

Before heading on the hunt for more



Bunbury Regional Art Gallery



The Happy Wife

eye-catching art and culture, take a moment to regroup and refuel at **Victoria St Café**. Their house-made glazed doughnuts and classic Coke floats will sate the sweet tooth in you, while the mortadella or pesto and vegetable-filled baguettes make a more balanced snack. It might even pay to grab a takeaway iced coffee to keep you energised on your upcoming cross-city walk.

Following the **ReDiscover Bunbury Mural Trail** will take you right from Clifton Street to Cornwall Street and through plenty of alleyways and back streets in between. Some 31 pieces of public art, painted by well-known muralists such as Fintan Magee, Anya Brock, and Stormie Mills, adorn the walls around town. It's not just walls that have had a glow up, either, with 24 grey electrical boxes now bursting with colour and design thanks to the ReDiscover



Bunbury Museum & Heritage Centre

initiative. Maps to find all the artworks are available at the Stirling Street Arts Centre, Bunbury Visitors Centre and online.

Feeling peckish? On the walk between artworks 21 and 28 (by Andrew Frazer and Tim Howe, respectively), pull up a seat at **Tramp Trattoria**. As the name suggests, the focus here is on Italian fare, so expect handmade pasta with king prawns, porcini mushroom risottos and charcuterie boards for those with a smaller appetite. After lunch and some people-watching on the alfresco, make your way to number 23 on the map — Beastman's acrylic and aerosol abstract piece. It brightens up the back wall of the **Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)** and is a marker of another must-see stop on any artsy tour of the city.

With its large-scale mural out back and flamingo pink heritage façade, there's no missing this Bunbury icon. Once a Sisters of Mercy Convent and chapel, the Federation Gothic-style building is now home to six gallery spaces, a dance studio, and a store selling pieces created in the gallery's own Noongar arts program. Spend some time wandering the exhibitions, paying special attention to the historic buildings as you go (exhibitions change every six to eight weeks, featuring works by both local and national artists).

The arts aren't just limited to the visual in Bunbury; there's a healthy performing arts scene to immerse yourself in, too. Names like Jimmy Rees, the magicians Adam and Selina and Ian Moss have all performed on stage at the **Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre**.

Come mid-January, the garden at Stirling Street Arts Centre is transformed into a Fringe Festival hub, where eclectic performers from around the state sell out intimate shows under the big top. Pre-book

yourself a ticket and cap off an art-filled day with an evening show.

### Day Three

The Forrest Highway might be the most direct route back to Perth, but it's not the most aesthetically pleasing. En route home, head for the hills for one last arts and culture fix.

Start the day with a coffee and cinnamon scroll at **The Wagon** in Collie, across from Central Park's children's water playground. Let the kids blow off some steam while you enjoy your breakfast in peace under the shade of the peppermints.

Just across the railway tracks, across from the water park, is the Collie Art Gallery. Packing a punch, this space houses an impressive, contemporary collection, which is well worth a look before heading out on the Collie Mural Trail. Your first stop? The colourful, airbrushed mural of wambengers — or brush-tailed phascogales — on the back of the sound bowl by artist Ketones6000.

Over the years, some 45 murals have been added to the walls of Collie, most of which are densely packed into the small town centre. Download the interactive Wambenger Trails App to gain deeper insights into the artists' motivations and thought processes, eventually leading you to the hero piece of the trail, located at **Wellington Dam**. It's an 8,000m<sup>2</sup> mega-mural by Guido van Helten, inspired by local stories and photographs, and painted onto the curved face of the dam. Within walking distance of the mural is **The Kiosk at the Dam**, a casual spot to refuel on pies, soups and burgers, washed down



Stirling Street Arts Centre



GeoVino





Wellington Dam

with a local beer or wine.

With the appetite for local produce piqued, head towards Harvey through the Harris River State Forest. The pastoral town is home to **GeoVino**, a gourmet wine store selling reds, whites, and rosés from Harvey River Estate and Fishbone Wines, as well as a range of wine-friendly accompaniments like olives, pates and cheeses. Having recently extended the venue to include a licenced area, you can now even stay for a drink and a platter and soak in the ambience. While there, pick a few souvenirs to take home before making one last stop at the **Harvey Internment Camp Memorial Shrine**. This poignant roadside altar was built by Italian prisoners of war in the 1940s, interned after Hitler and Mussolini joined forces and they were declared enemies of the state by allied countries. Known as Camp #11, the Harvey camp housed 1,000 internees.

Nearby, make sure you stop in at **Boola Bidi Dreaming** to learn about local Aboriginal culture. Take a guided tour, join a yarnning circle, or learn about bush food and medicine or artefact and tool making during one of its immersive workshops.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for the breadth of art and culture to be found throughout Bunbury Geopraphe, but it's an ideal dose for those looking to get started. **IG**



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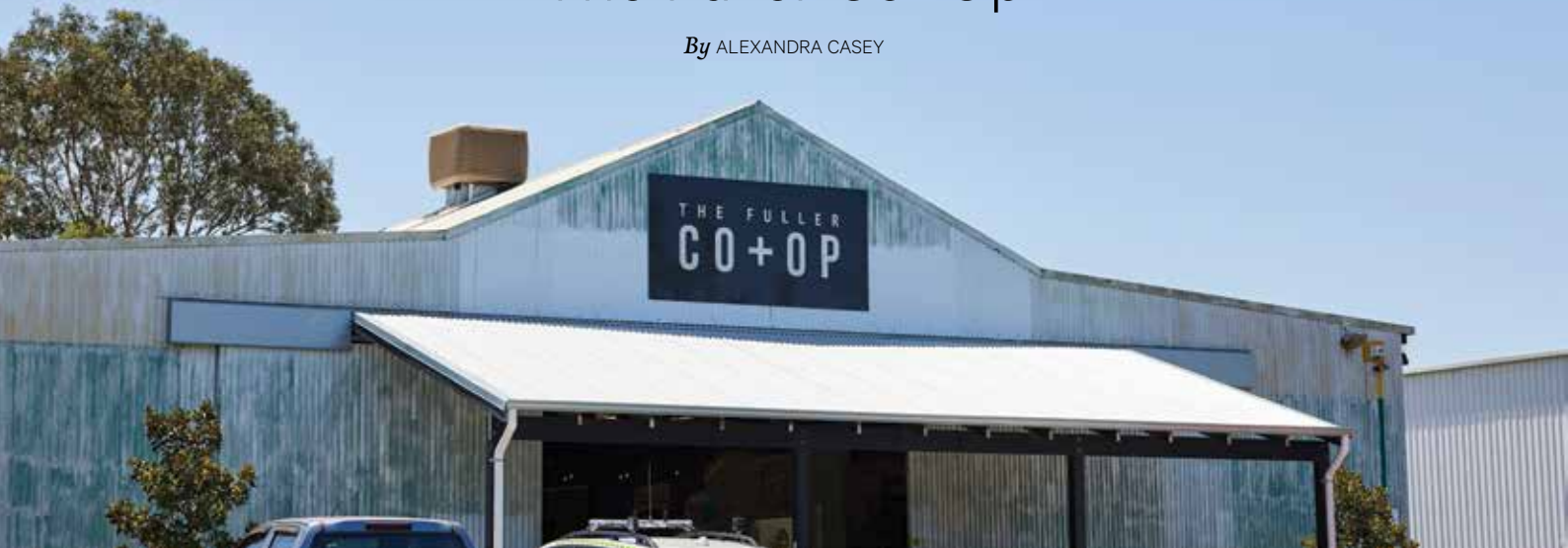
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# Collective Spirit: The Fuller Co+Op

By ALEXANDRA CASEY



BRIMMING WITH HAND-CRAFTED AND HOME-GROWN TREASURES AND TRINKETS; DISCOVER BLOSSOMING BUNBURY ARTISANS IN THIS COLLECTIVE SPACE FOR TALENTED CREATIVES.

**B**orn and raised in Bunbury, Ben and Krissan Plumb have always been surrounded by a strong sense of community and collaboration. A carpenter and hairdresser by trade, the husband-and-wife duo ran Fuller New + Secondhand Furniture on Forrest Ave in Bunbury for 10 years, sparking the vision for their latest creative space — The Fuller Co+Op.

From lovingly crafted pieces of timber furniture and ceramic artworks, to organic beauty lotions and potions and boutique flowers, The Fuller Co+Op is an incredible tribe of local makers, artisans and entrepreneurs, located in the heart of Bunbury. Krissan says the characters from all walks of life encountered when based on Forrest Ave were an inspiration for their creative collab space, as they sensed a need to create a 'place to belong' for people within the community.

"We also noticed how many talented individuals we encountered with incredible skill, creativity and vision, who only lacked the opportunity to take their craft to the next level," she says. "These encounters further grew our passion for local micro-businesses and creating spaces for community, and when we relocated our furniture store to Dodson Road in Bunbury, the dream for The Fuller Co+Op began to come to life."

In their pursuit to bring The Fuller Co+Op to fruition, Krissan and Ben completely converted a rundown warehouse into a functional community hub and small business space, opening to the public with their first group of vendors in mid-2020. They now operate Thursday to Sunday, with vendors' hours varying.

"Knowing the ability that great coffee and food has to bring people together, we then

launched 'Paper Route' at the start of 2021; our own in-house cafe which we installed directly inside the Co+Op," says Krissan.

## The artisans

Founder of **Woodturning & Craftz**, Troy is just one of the vendors that have found a home for his craft at the Co+Op. The Bunbury local, self-confessed workaholic and woodwork enthusiast has been at the Co+Op for three years now, transforming locally sourced timber into stunning works of fine art & furniture.

"I wanted to do something creative in a place where I could meet my customers and pass on knowledge. I love creating something from nothing and having someone appreciate the work that has gone into it," says Troy who crafts a myriad of items from wood as well as selling waxes, polishes, sandpaper, finishes, hobby kits and other items for woodwork buffs.

Centred around a philosophy of encouraging natural beauty and embracing imperfection, **Wildfleurs & Co** was founded in 2022 by sisters Georgina and Victoria who have also set-up shop at The Fuller Co+Op.

"After having experienced our own skin sensitivities and concerns, we wanted to follow a natural approach to self-care and skin care," Georgina and Victoria say. "With much time funnelled into research, we



found the chemical-heavy beauty industry was causing drastic harm to people, animals and the environment — something we wanted to help stop. We aim to showcase Australian self-care and skincare businesses of all sizes, with a mission to support small.”

Another vendor with a focus on furniture well worth admiring on your journey through the Co+Op is **Jolly Good Stuff**. Fashioned from a love of all things old, new and interesting, Jolly Good Stuff is the passion project of husband-and-wife team, Ian and Laura. Guided by a philosophy to reclaim, recycle, reuse and refurbish, the dynamic duo specialise in unique, hand-crafted and reclaimed timber furniture and décor.

“We come from an era of waste not, want not,” says Ian. “As a child, reusing and recycling was a way of life for us. Dad was a

first-class ship engineer, so his background at sea taught him to improvise. We grew up with him constantly making and fixing things, he taught us to be creative and use what we had.”

The duo is incredibly resourceful when it comes to creating their revived treasures. Sometimes upgrading the furniture only requires a simple repair and paint — a process that Laura loves. Other times, it involves crafting items from reclaimed wood and pallet timbers with hardware they’ve collected and gathered from friends and family.

The sheer diversity of talent on display at the Co+Op expands well beyond furniture and skincare, too. There’s also **A Country Mammy** who specialises in all thing’s farmhouse, rustic French and cottage provincial, with an extensive range of country style home décor. **Colour and Clay**

showcase local and individually-created vibrant and bespoke ceramic artwork.

Denise behind **The Happy Scrappy Bug** offers paper craft and scrapbooking supplies, coupled with mixed media artist supplies and handmade giftware. While Lynn behind the shop **Seasalt & Sassy**, takes inspiration from her childhood surroundings of the Jurassic coastline of Devon and Cornwall and incorporates it into eclectic pieces made from driftwood, salvaged beach finds and paintings which are both whimsical and naive in nature.

**Nola May Mending and Alterations** is a one stop shop for mending, alterations and clothing projects, and nearby Nerissa from **Nerissa Jayne Art** is a mixed media artist who creates a variety of art and home decor pieces, including resin art, sculptures, acrylic paint work and more. And last but certainly not least, **The Green Depot** is the home of a botanical floral boutique specialising in floristry, indoor plants and rustic charms.

Visit [fullers.net.au/pages/coop](http://fullers.net.au/pages/coop) **18**



Jolly Good Stuff



Troy Hunt, Woodturning & Craftz



Wildfleurs & Co



# Creativity on Wardandi Country:



Rhona Wallam and sisters exhibition



Dellas Bennell

Kwobidak Burekup, Beautiful Burkup by Dellas Bennell



## ADMIRE THE BRILLIANCE OF BRAG'S NOONGAR ART PROGRAM ON SHOW.

By SARAH SCHMITT

In Bunbury Geographe, Aboriginal art flourishes. With public art murals lining streets and inspiring exhibitions rotating through galleries, local Aboriginal artists share their stories, reflections and experiences of culture, through captivating displays of creativity.

Located on Wardandi Country, the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (known as BRAG) on Wittenoom Street is one of the most prolific in the region for its displays of Aboriginal art. Its Noongar Arts Program is one of its most captivating and engaging programs, taking a collaborative approach to developing local Aboriginal artists. The only program of its kind south of Geraldton, it encourages creatives to connect with their sense of place and story, learning from each other and the Elders in their community as part of the process.

Wardandi, Wadjuck and Ballardong Elder and senior artist Rhona Wallam is an outstanding example of the calibre of artist exploring and expanding upon her skills through the program. Rhona has painted majestic landscapes most of her life. Her first solo exhibition 'Painting My Country' at BRAG presented an extraordinary opportunity for viewers to see and feel the connection between boodja (country), body and spirit as expressed by an immensely skilful painter whose knowledge, respect and love of country is apparent as soon as you enter and encounter the beauty of her work.

Badimia Yued artist Amanda Bell, a contemporary artist, started her journey

through the Noongar Arts Program in 2018. She found the workshops a safe space to talk and delve into the world of art, building confidence to exhibit her work. Amanda's art is immersive, combining mixed media with sound, light, words and music as a way of having her voice heard.

"BRAG allows a space where visitors can view beautiful Aboriginal artwork that is safe for people to look at, whilst possibly exposing the visitor to sometimes uncomfortable topics," says Amanda. For deeper immersion, visitors are also encouraged to participate in engaging educational programs running alongside the exhibitions, such as artist talks and workshops.

Fellow artists of the Noongar Arts Program, such as painters Marjorie Ugle, Dellas Bennell and Katelyn Whitehurst, as well as emerging glass artist Shannon Clohessy, are equally making significant contributions to the local art scene. Their ability to explore and communicate Aboriginal culture and story using a visual language is inspiring.

Admire the moving artworks by these artists and more on your next visit to the BRAG, with their artworks exhibited and for sale in the Noongar Arts Program retail space, located within the gallery. One of the largest Indigenous retail art spaces in the south west, there are up to thirty Aboriginal artists represented throughout the year.

BRAG's Noongar Arts Program is funded by Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support (IVAIS).

**Visit [bunbury.wa.gov.au/brag](http://bunbury.wa.gov.au/brag)**

See  
SWAN

**South West Art Now (SWAN)**, a biennial showcase of the South West's finest artists, including a number of Indigenous artists, returns to Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG) from 16 March to 21 July. Having been a launchpad for many local artists over the past three decades, this year's exhibition features 27 new examples of artistic innovation.

Under the guidance of Dr Michael Bianco, BRAG's director and curator, SWAN transcends traditional mediums, offering an immersive and interactive experience through alternative art forms.

"What I'm interested in, is trying to figure out ways to exhibit practices rather than singular works," Michael explains.

The exhibition, spanning the entire gallery for the first time, invites visitors to engage deeply with each piece, promising a dynamic and evolving journey through the South West's vibrant art scene.

Michael emphasises the importance of this exhibition, saying it showcases the astounding diversity of artists across the South West. **IG**



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ST AIDAN WINES AND WILLOW BRIDGE ESTATE STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD FOR THEIR SENSATIONAL VINOS, CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED AND WORTHY OF THE PRAISE.

By DANIELLE AUSTIN

# TOP DROPS REVEALED

Each year, wine appreciators eagerly await the results of the Geographe Wine Industry Association's WA Alternative Varieties Wine Show. The final list of awarded wines reads like a who's who list of Western Australia's most respected wineries, spotlighting the next exceptional wines to add to your cellar or bring to your next dinner party.

Unsurprisingly, many of these acclaimed wines hail from the Geographe Region itself, showcasing the premium quality of wines produced in this fertile region with its distinctive terroir. The show has been identifying top wineries and winemakers for over twenty years, establishing a strong reputation for its critical evaluations. In recent years, it has been renamed as an alternative varieties wine show, acknowledging the growing strength of alternative vinos in the Geographe Region.

Geographe Wine Industry Association president and owner of St Aidan Wines, Phil Smith, explains the rich diversity of alternative varieties produced in the Geographe Wine Region is "a measure of the quality of the region, in terms of its terroir." So it makes sense wineries from the Geographe Wine Region are reeling in the top accolades, with St Aidan Wines among the cream of the crop, winner of the Geographe Wine of Show Trophy.

"Our terroir is particularly good for

alternate varieties, it's a slightly warmer climate that suits those Mediterranean grapes, like Tempranillos and Fianos and a variety of other alternate wines. And now, with twenty years under our belts, we're making some pretty smart wines," says Phil.

St Aidan Wines was also awarded Best Geographe White for their 2023 Ferguson Sauvignon Blanc Semillon.

A major element of its success comes down to its outstanding fruit, grown and tended to by viticulturalist, co-owner, and wife to Phil — Mary Smith.



Phil (left) and Mary Smith awarded the Wine of Show trophy by Head of Lablemakers Group Andrew Smith.

"I get excited about grafting and planting new varieties, experimenting with different trellising techniques, with different disease and pest control management systems. I really just love seeing a healthy vine with a great crop of perfect fruit," says Mary.

For the 2023 Sauvignon Blanc Semillon, Mary and Phil's vision was to produce a Mediterranean-style wine, leading to St Aidan's harvesting riper grapes for a more fruit forward expression, with lower acidity.

No strangers to accolades and critical praise for their premium wines, Mary and Phil have been excelling ever since their first foray into viticulture and winemaking over thirty years ago.

"When we started off, we planted something we'd like to drink just in case we had to drink it all," says Mary. "The first vintage ended up making the top fifty

at the Mount Barker Wine Show, so we thought we're obviously fantastic at this."

Decades later, the accolades continue to flow, with Mary saying it validates the hard work put into every bottle.

"It means a great deal to us, it makes you feel like you're on the right track because you never really know."

St Aidan Wines partners with winemakers Kim Horton and Dougal Herd of Willow Bridge Estate to produce their winning drops. It's a partnership that relies on a lot of collaboration, explains Mary, to produce wines that reflect her and Phil's initial vision.

"We know what we'd like, but it's dictated by the grapes and the year. We've been with Willow Bridge for a few years now, it takes a while for a winemaker to get to know your wines, your grapes, your terroir. We give them a brief, and we taste examples and taste the wines that have come before, and then we'll discuss what's possible," explains Mary.

### **Willow Bridge Estate**

Willow Bridge Estate has also claimed victory at the show for wines under their own label, emphasising its winemakers' exceptional talent. They were awarded both Best Geographe Red and Geographe Most Successful Producer. The winning red, the 2021 Willow Bridge Coat of Arms Cabernet Sauvignon, is a labour of love.

"We aimed to craft a wine that represents the beauty of the vineyard," explains winemaker Kim Horton, "bright, pure and intense."

In order to achieve this, the grapes were harvested at night and crushed cold to

static fermenters, remaining on skins for up to twelve days, ahead of an eighteen month cool maturation period in French barrels. The resulting drop has classic Cabernet characteristics, with lifted fresh blackberry and mulberry entwined with deep dark berries and bay leaf.

Willow Bridge's Cabernet grapes have grown on the estate for close to three decades, after a friend of owners Jeff and Vicki Dewar shared a passion for the emerging viticulture potential of the Ferguson Valley. The couple were quickly captivated by the region, convinced by the undulating and well-drained gravelly soils of the site that would become Willow Bridge.

Bringing Kim onboard as senior winemaker was an obvious choice for the pair, who came from a broadacre farming background, given his extensive background in the industry.

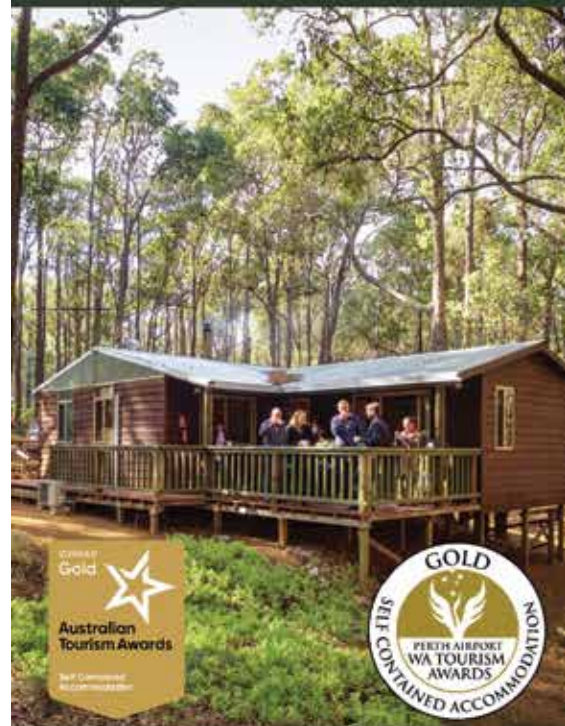
"To me, each individual wine I taste has always been a snapshot of the fruit it was made from, the character of a vineyard, the climate and the personality of the winemaker," explains Kim. "We are delighted to win the Best Producer from the region, as this shows our portfolio of wines has an amount of diverse styles representing quality."

Alongside these industry heavy-hitters, the Best WA Alternative Red was given to Ferngrove's 2022 Independence Tempranillo, and Best WA Alternative White to Millbrook Winery's 2023 Regional Fiano. Smallwater Estate near Balingup, meanwhile, was awarded Best Rosé for its 2023 Roze, made from the estate's Zinfandel grapes. The drop boasts vibrant flavours of red cherries, currants and plum blossoms, with a bright finish of red fruits. **IG**



## **Balingup Heights**

HILLTOP FOREST COTTAGES



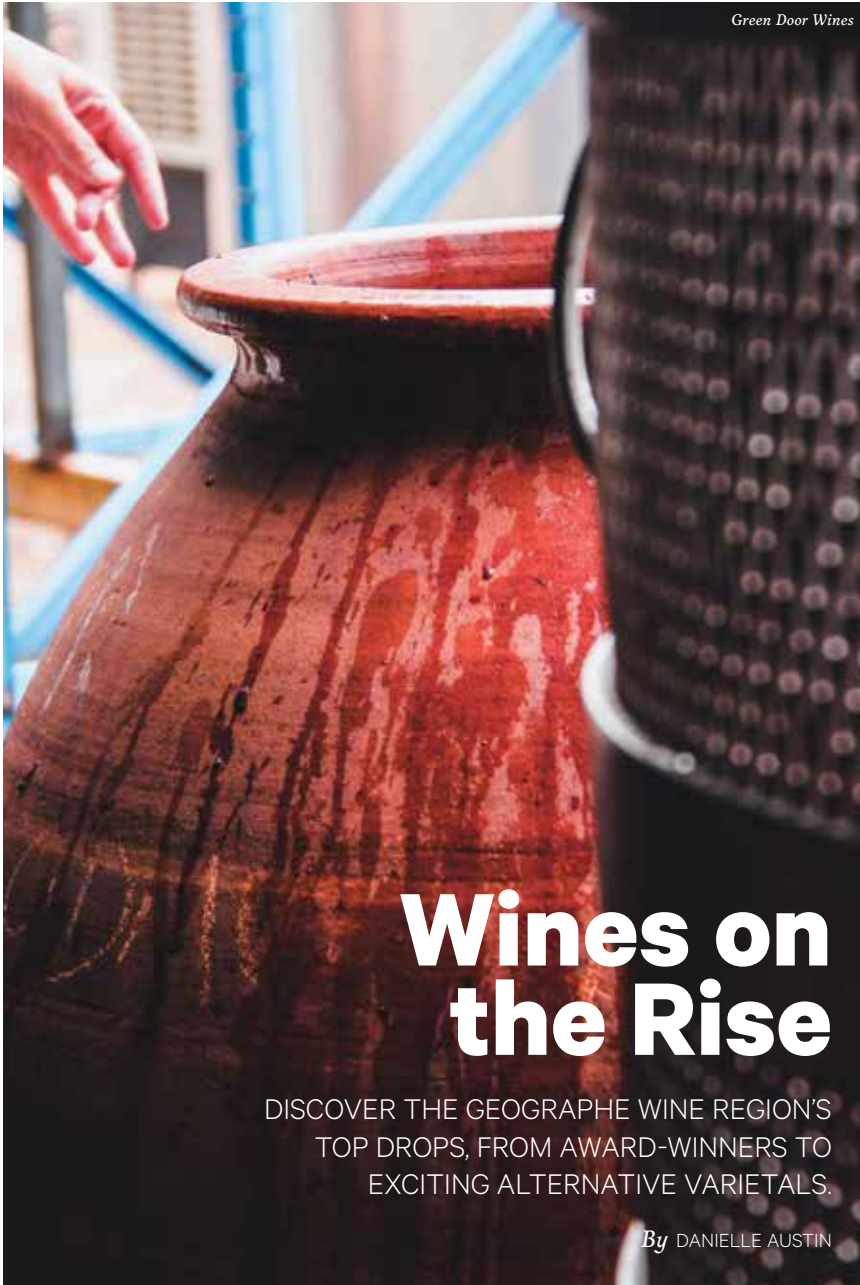
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Green Door Wines

# Wines on the Rise

DISCOVER THE GEOGRAPHE WINE REGION'S TOP DROPS, FROM AWARD-WINNERS TO EXCITING ALTERNATIVE VARIETALS.

By DANIELLE AUSTIN



Coughlan Estate

Strings of vineyards lining the winding country roads of the Geographe Wine Region is a breathtaking sight to behold. Though, it's more than just beauty that draws visitors to these parts. The quality and diversity of wines in the Geographe Region is unparalleled, extending from world-class classics like Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, to alternative varieties attracting critical acclaim to the region. Discover the alternative varietals, new blends, and recent award-winners on the rise and making waves thanks to the region's diverse terroir and a willingness to experiment.

## Willow Bridge Estate

Nestled in the rolling hills of the Ferguson Valley, Willow Bridge Estate has made a name for itself with alternative grape varieties, including Viognier, Tempranillo and Grenache.

"The Ferguson Valley lends itself well to alternative varieties, due in part to the high diversity of microclimates in the Ferguson," explains Willow Bridge Estate winemaker Kim Horton.

"Being situated upon the hills gives many different aspects to the sun and winds, and the exciting thing for growers in the region is discovering which variety works best for their unique site. For lovers of wine, there are many treasures to be found."

Willow Bridge Estate Grenache Shiraz Mataro 2022 is one such treasure to look out for. The bright crimson drop was recently awarded the best wine in the Geographe Wine Region by the West Australian Good Food Guide. It boasts aromatic notes of gentle spice, dark berries, musk and pepper and a palate of freshly crushed blackberry enhanced by liquorice, plum and vanilla.

Visit [willowbridge.com.au](http://willowbridge.com.au)

## Coughlan Estate

Also crediting the unique climate for its incredible wines, Coughlan Estate continues to produce a stellar Sauvignon Blanc. The Coughlan Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2023 has





taken out silver at the Lablemakers Group WA Alternatives Varieties Show. This bright wine presents notes of stone fruits and gooseberries and delightful flavours of white pear and freshly zested limes.

“Our Mediterranean climate, interfacing with old vines anchored in decomposed granite soils, has provided freshness of fruit, generous textures, and succulent natural acidity,” says winemaker Bruce Dukes.

He explains the wine is given a deeper level of texture and flavour through the winery’s signature processes, where fruit is hand-picked in the early morning, crushed and left on skin for four hours before being pressed.

**Visit [coughlanestate.com.au](http://coughlanestate.com.au)**

### Mazza Wines

Exclusively growing alternative Spanish and Portuguese grape varieties, Mazza Wines happened upon its unique Planta Fina de Pedralba grape by happy accident. The fruit now forms the basis of its exciting, small batch Planta Fina 2023.

Inspired by a story told by her university lecturer about a rare Spanish white grape spotted in an abandoned Donnybrook vineyard, Anne Mazza went in search of this mystery grape. Spurred on by her partner Dave’s local knowledge of the area, gathered while apple picking at nearby orchards during his youth, incredibly, Anne was able to recover cuttings of the Planta Fina de Pedralba vine. The duo has now cultivated hundreds of vines from these initial cuttings, and is the only producer of this grape in Australia. The Planta Fina, which was awarded a Halliday silver medal in 2022, is a zingy summer drop, with hints of nectarine skin, grapefruit, lime blossom and a sea-like brininess.

**Note:** Mazza Wines is a local producer without a cellar door experience.

**Visit [mazza.com.au](http://mazza.com.au)**



At Best Western Plus Hotel Lord Forrest, we invite you to experience the cosmopolitan buzz of Bunbury’s city centre, the gateway to the beautiful South West W.A. With spectacular beaches at your doorstep and pristine National parks, forests and award-winning wineries close by, this is an ideal destination for your perfect holiday.

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### Smallwater Estate

Smallwater Estate, meanwhile, has been producing wine from alternative grapes since 2006. The winery's first vintage was a Zinfandel — produced from vines planted in 1993 — and the wine continues to prove popular, with the Smallwater Estate Zinfandel 2022 awarded Gold at Winewise Awards and Gold at the Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show.

A bold palate of black fruit, cacao and cedar is complemented by subtle hints of vanilla pod and black forest cake, the dry red has a generous and spicy finish.

Visit [smallwaterestate.com](http://smallwaterestate.com)

### Vineyard 28

Despite the diversity of wine producers growing in the Geographe Wine Region, there's still room for firsts. Italian grape varieties are a particular passion for Vineyard 28 owners Mark Cumbers and Pippa Nielson, and the winery has become the first in Western Australia to produce Dolcetto grapes. The winery produced its first Dolcetto vintage in 2018, but it is the Vineyard 28 Dolcetto 2023 that was recently awarded a gold medal at the National Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show.

A dry red, the Dolcetto is described as having a palate of black cherries and liquorice, with mouth-filling savoury tannins. Book in for one of Vineyard 28's Taste of Italy tours to experience these exceptional drops and the passion behind them.

Visit [vineyard28.com.au](http://vineyard28.com.au)



Oakway Estate



### Oakway Estate

Oakway Estate's vineyard is another winery working on some truly unique drops. They might be the only one in Australia still commercially growing Scheurebe grapes, says owner Wayne Hammond. He describes the grape as a cross between a German Riesling and French bouquet blanc, explaining that Oakway Estate gently presses the fruit into a 'trocken', or dry-style, wine.

"We have chosen to make a dry white early picked style with good acid and fruit characteristics," says Wayne.

The result is the Oakway Estate Scheurebe 2023, a medium-bodied sip with scents of citrus and forest berries that took out Best Geographe White Varietal at the 2023 WA Alternative Wine Show, proving popular with customers for good reason.

Visit [oakwayestate.com.au](http://oakwayestate.com.au)

### Green Door Wines

With low intervention wine making proving increasingly popular, Green Door Wines has found a way to combine ancient traditions with contemporary wines. The Green Door Wines Amphora Nebbiolo 2021 is just one of the vinos on offer made using amphora clay pots during the fermentation process.

The Nebbiolo nabbed a gold at this year's Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show, the wine inspiring bitter toffee mingled with musk, bruised strawberry, raspberry and coffee grounds, with cellar door manager Bailey Oberg explaining clay pots, like oak barrels, imbue the wine with its own unique characteristics.

"Because clay is porous, the vessel allows oxygen exposure as wines age, which helps soften tannins and flavours. Since clay is a neutral material, the presence of oxygen enables wine to develop without imparting any additional flavours."

Visit [greendoorwines.com.au](http://greendoorwines.com.au)

### St Aidan Wines

Wines from St Aidan Wines have been winning awards for close to twenty years, and the Sauvignon Blanc Semillon 2023 is proving no exception. The drop, which gives passionfruit and lychee to the nose, and fresh gooseberry, lime and lemon zest to the palate, was awarded Wine of Show at the Geographe, alongside Best White Wine and Best White Blend. The winery describes the drink as having cleansing crispness with well-balanced acidity.

Visit [saintaidan.com.au](http://saintaidan.com.au) IG



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# Purveyors of Fine Produce

Melville Park

BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE IS RIPE WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF ARTISANAL DELICACIES AND DELIGHTS, CULTIVATED BY LOCAL PURVEYORS FROM FERTILE LANDS.

By DANIELLE AUSTIN

As the winter chill embraces the Bunbury Geographe region, visitors cozy up by rustic fireplaces, stacked with piles of jarrah logs, wrapping themselves in fuzzy woollen blankets. They indulge in a hearty grazing board brimming with local produce and savour a rich glass of red wine to ward off the cold. This idyllic scene is easy to recreate, thanks to the region's outstanding local produce purveyors, if you know where to find them.

Stop by a cheesemonger and stock up on sweet preserves and tangy pickles, or peruse fresh loaves from a local bakery as you collect juicy seasonal fruits. Better still, explore some of the many markets in the Bunbury Geographe region's bustling hubs of artisan producers and makers. They're brought together by common interests in good food, fine wine, and a sense of community and connection.

With boutique farms, bakeries and dairies scattered across the region, it



can be hard to know where to start. The cornerstone of your grazing board is a well curated selection of cheeses — and Bunbury Geographe has no shortage of exceptional dairy farmers and cheese producers. Synonymous with the Bunbury Geographe region is the **Hall's Family Dairy** Suzette cheese. While the creamy cheese, with its delicate smoky flavour, pairs well with local charcuterie, it really comes into its own on an after-dinner cheese board, says owner Suzanne.

"Combine the creamy flavour of our Suzette cheese with several different types of rich dark chocolate, local ripe fruit like berries or pears, nuts, crackers and local honey," says Suzanne, who also recommends pairing the spread with a glass of local vino.

**Harvey Cheese** is another long-standing and award-winning cheese producer to add to your hit list. To start, there's the requisite selection of aged cheeses, both natural and smoked, alongside brie, camembert and blue. There's also a range of marinated fetas, all boasting Mediterranean-style seasonings, haloumi, havarti, Swiss, and an Italian-style washed rind and smear-ripened St Duke's red. The extensive selection guarantees to surprise, intrigue, and satisfy any tastes. Onsite, you may also be tempted to indulge in a locally distilled tippie. St Duke's Distillery produces a selection of small-batch spirits using cows milk whey — a by-

product of the cheese making process — plus local botanicals.

According to **Melville Park** co-owner David Doepel, the perfectly curated cheese platter requires just a soft cheese, a hard cheese, and one in-between. Melville Park, a historic farm that has been transformed into a farm-meets-dairy-meets-distillery, has made sure to cover all those bases.

Through the recently rehabilitated dairy facilities, Melville Park is producing a camembert, gouda and an aged cloth-bound cheddar, as well as a pot set yoghurt — all made using milk sourced from local dairies. David's best advice for visitors seeking out quality cheese in the regions? Make sure your cheeses are ripe.

"If it's a soft cheese, it should be soft. In an aged cheese, you want the crunch of the calcium lactate crystals that develop over time, that's a good sign," says David. "Some cheeses are made to be eaten fresh, and some are meant to improve as they get old."

Having been on the search for the right property on which to live out their dream retirement, David, and partner Barbara Connell, made the move to the banks of Bunbury Geographer's Brunswick River several years ago. They were taken with the rich soils and ripe orchards of the area.

"We fell in love with the property, and then the region. It is a historic farm, and we consider ourselves custodians of it. We hope, in the time we've got it, to make it better."

There's also a carefully cultivated market garden and herbarium on site, where the team harvests seasonal fruit and vegetables, and the provedore selection is rounded off with eggs, nuts and baked goods, either made on site or sourced from local producers. David and Barbara proudly throw open the doors of the historic Melville Park barn to the public on Saturday mornings, with their plethora of fresh produce and artisan products available for purchase. Take a look at their Facebook page for the Friday Night Veggie Update detailing the latest scoop on what's fresh from the garden.

These adventurous producers' haven't stopped there. Their talents also extend to distilling and boutique cider production, too. You'd be forgiven for wondering where the link is between it all, but in actual fact, producing alcoholic beverages from fermentables is an age-old tradition among farmers.

"You don't waste it, you use it," says David, who specifically uses his and Barbara's home-grown sugar beets to produce their vodka, and apples to produce both their cider and apple brandy.



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BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE BECOMES AN ENDLESS TRAIL OF FARM GATES AND ROADSIDE STALLS WAITING TO BE EXPLORED.

**Note:** The ability to sell their beverages is currently pending approval of their producers licence. Until then, the brandy will continue to improve in barrel!

In the meantime, if it's vinos you seek, many local wineries make it easy to pair your bottle du jour with local produce by having a selection of preserves and pickles available on site. **Coughlan Estate**, for example, not only stocks its own homemade preserves at its cellar door shop, but also: Yabberup Studio jams, relishes, pickles and preserves, Rickles

Pickles, pastes and vinegars from Black Garlic Company, and New Leaf Orchard sparkling juices.

Many cellar doors offer curated selections of the best local produce in the form of grazing boards to pair with their bottles. Sample tapas-style bites at **Green Door Wines**, where a menu of grazing options accompany carafes of the Spanish and European-style wines. The Hall's Family Dairy Suzette cheese features as a highlight, alongside gruyere, chicken paté, duck rillettes, tomato chutney, olives, pickles, seasonal fruit, and a selection of artisanal crackers, lavosh and warm bread. Similarly, **St. Aidan Wines** offers an enviable antipasto selection. Much of which is sourced on site, with the kitchen team foraging from the well-stocked veggie garden to produce house-made tomato relish, apple and ginger chutney, and a sparkling apricot jam.

Venturing beyond the venues, there are many farmers' markets and farmgate stalls spread through the region. Having long been a popular stop with city dwellers on the road to explore the southwest, the **Bunbury Farmers Market** is iconic. Alongside an incredible selection of locally



Bunbury Farmers Market



Coughlan Estate

**FARM TO PLATE** Bunbury Geographe is blessed with fertile soils and ample space for producing exceptional produce.



St. Aidan Wines



grown seasonal fruit and veg, you'll find premium local seafood and meat, quality dairy products, and fresh pasta and homemade sauces. The pièce de résistance of the store are the seemingly endless shelves stocked with cream of the crop local produce — honey and nut butters, seed crackers and sweet biscuits, honeycomb and dried fruit, plus plenty more delights.

The **Bunbury Markets** is another Bunbury-based hotspot for fresh fruit, veg and protein. Held monthly in the Queens Gardens, this long-standing market facilitates the paddock-to-plate produce experience, with local growers selling as-fresh-as-it-gets produce to the community. Alongside the growers, local artists also exhibit their hand-crafted treasures, while

buskers may fill the air with sweet tunes.

If it's the open air you're after, **Produce in the Park**, also in Bunbury, operates the second and fourth Saturday of each month at Queens Garden and is bursting with produce direct from the farm to take home. Sample fresh donuts and a flat white, while picking up some eggs, honey, baked goods and more to take home.

Popular with the locals and all about healthy, fresh food to feed your family, **Boyanup Farmers' Markets** is held at Boyanup Memorial Park on the fourth Sunday of each month. Expect crisp produce with minimal food miles, from apples, pears and stone fruit picked in season from local orchards to hand-made cheeses, olive oils and honey, to pasture-

fed meats such as goat and lamb. Not only can you buy fresh eggs at the market, you can even purchase chooks for your chook pens in all shapes and sizes, or add to your home-garden with a selection of herbs. Pick up a coffee, French pastry and make a morning of it.

Head further south, Bunbury Geographe becomes an endless trail of farm gates and roadside stalls waiting to be explored. As you meander through to region, stop in at Donnybrook's **Fruit Barn**, pick your own produce at **Karintha Orchards**, or sample seasonal produce straight from the farm gates along South West Highway. Whichever corner of Bunbury Geographe you look, you'll find it is bursting with tantalising delights to stimulate the senses. **IG**



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Froth Craft Brewery

# BREWS WITH TUNES



KICK-BACK WITH A FROSTY BREW AND ENJOY LIVE BEATS BY LOCAL AND TOURING TALENTS AT SOME OF BUN- GEO'S GROOVY PUBS AND BREWERIES. *By* SARAH SCHMITT

**N**othing quite beats the combination of an icy cold beer set to the rhythm of a local band on a balmy afternoon. In the Bunbury Geographe region, live music pulses through the culture of its local pubs and breweries, regular hosts of soft Sunday tunes or touring headline acts. Whether you're looking to groove or simply take in the lively atmosphere, you'll find beats to drink brews to in Bunbury Geographe.

Starting in Bunbury, a fresh addition to the beer and live music scene is award-winning **Froth Craft Brewery**. Following the success of its Exmouth brewpub, this is the second iteration of a highly successful model of quality craft beers, fantastic service and contemporary live music, which saw it win Best New Venue in the 2023 WA Australian Hospitality Awards.

You'll find Froth in the heart of Bunbury on the corners of Carey and Victoria Streets. Using existing architecture with



Froth Craft Brewery



Froth Craft Brewery

**BOTTOMS UP** Discover a treasure trove of contemporary, classic and charming pubs and breweriers as you hop through BunGeo.

a contemporary overlay, the space is expansive and open with sunlight filtered areas for patrons to enjoy as they drink, eat and listen to live music.

Froth is quirky and rustic. Using reclaimed wood and a nautical theme, funky murals and fresh greenery, they've created a warm and inviting space. And that was intentional. Co-founder Pete Firth



says it was important to create a space that's "accepting and welcoming of people from all walks of life. We want people to show their individuality and diversity".

As a vibrant music venue, the programming is progressive and reflective of this diversity. Passionate about supporting local original talent, Froth has created a performance space with the artists in mind. "We always want to provide a platform for local aspiring artists", Pete says. It's also a venue you'll find well established names including John Butler, The Waifs and international acts such as You Am I.

With Froth's reputation as a quality venue to play at, there's no shortage of bands for its line-up and you can even come down for some comedy, or the under 18's open mic nights — a great hit with the locals.

The menu options are also reflective of the style and character of the venue, using local produce to create seasonal dishes that are easily paired to the variety of beers available.

Around the corner from Froth you'll find **The Prince of Wales Hotel**. This beautifully restored heritage hotel and bar goes off on Friday and Saturday night with live music ranging from hard rock to 90's classics, blues, folk and country. They've also got an impressive menu that offers a range of pub style meals.

Then down the road a bit is **The Burlington Hotel** plus **Indie Bar**, known as the 'Burly' to locals. It's a classic country pub that's been hosting live music for more than two decades. These days you'll find bands performing in the attached Indie Bar on Friday and Saturday nights, and with musicians from across Australia, original bands and cover bands bring a range of genres from Jazz and Blues to hard rock classics. Keep your eye on their socials for gig information.

Heading out of Bunbury now and into Australind you'll find **Treendale Farm Hotel**. Inducted into the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) Hall of Fame for winning best regional venue, three years running, this is the top place to visit with your family for a day of hanging out, enjoying good food and entertainment. With three playground areas for kids to relish, parents will love the chance to let them run amok while they indulge in a few drinks and listen to relaxed, chilled out weekend tunes. There are afternoon acoustic acts on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and DJs on a Saturday night in the sports bar. Plus, during school holidays there are activities for the kids during the daytime like face painting. Treendale Farm Hotel is the ideal bar with tunes to bring the whole family to.



Brugan Brewery

**LOCAL TALENT** Sit back and enjoy a cold beer and satisfying meal to the sounds of soft melodies and upbeat tunes.



Crown Hotel Collie

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Bush Shack Brewery



Bush Shack Brewery

“  
LISTEN TO MELODIES  
AND RELAX WITH  
FRIENDS WHILE TUCKING  
INTO THE CLASSIC,  
PUB-STYLE MENU

Next up, let's visit the Harvey Region. Here you'll find the **Brugan Brewery** in Wokalup. Extending onto the back of the old Wokalup Tavern, the open multi-level space of the Brugan Brewery is elegant with a modern industrial feel. It's the kind of place you can come along to and while away an afternoon. On weekends sit in the beer garden overlooking the fields listening to an afternoon acoustic session. While you do, sip on their inhouse brews and enjoy their seasonal paddock to plate menu, which offers share plate options along with pub classics.

Collie is a town with a rich history and wonderful historical buildings. The newly renovated **Crown Hotel** on Throssell Street is a bit of 'old world meets contemporary' when you walk inside. Murals adorn walls and its funky vibe and chill-out spaces invite you in to hang out.

As big supporters of the local south west music scene, you'll find music playing from Fridays to Sundays. From classic rock to country and original tunes, listen to melodies and relax with friends while tucking into the classic, pub-style menu.

Out a bit further into the countryside, located along South West Highway, is **The Kirup Tavern**. This is the spot to visit for those who love their blues, rock, country and folk music. It's a cosy and welcoming

setting, so come on in and enjoy the Sunday Session where local musicians from the surrounding areas will keep you entertained. While you're there, enjoy a hearty meal and a few drinks.

Housed in a renovated heritage building and overlooking the Capel River Bridge, the **Capel Tavern** is another regional delight to make your way to for a cold one. As is the **Boyanup Tavern**, just 15 minutes up the road. Both are classic country pubs worth a stopover on your road trip. Make sure to check their socials for up-to-date information on live gigs.

Before you leave the region, make sure to take a trip into the Ferguson Valley. You'll drive through spectacular countryside on your way to **The Bush Shack Brewery** on Ferguson Road. Surrounded by bushland, in the warmer months you'd be forgiven for making yourself comfortable on the deck and whiling away the day as the kids run around on the grass. Settle in and sip inhouse brews, listening to local musicians play acoustic sets on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. With a stunning modern menu to match the unique range



Always Good Nights

## ALWAYS GOOD NIGHTS

— Boutique music events

“I wanted to start something that really created a connection between the audience and the musician. That’s kind of where Good Nights was born out of.”

Created back in 2015, founder Kelsie Miller felt there weren’t many places around regional WA for musicians to play for a listening audience, where they could share their music in a safe and welcoming space. Now an in-demand music event artists are waitlisted for, you’ll find these boutique concerts taking place in unique and alternative venues around the BunGeo region. From old churches, galleries, warehouses and gardens, the location is as much part of the charm as the intimacy of each musical performance.

For Kelsie, perhaps one of the most unique spaces a show was put on, was in a crematorium. “We wanted to give people a really beautiful memory of that space outside of being at a funeral,” says Kelsie.

The style of music at an Always Good Nights show is as diverse as the locations in which they are held. With a focus on original music, Kelsie says she keeps a varied line-up in an effort to bring people a bit of something they might not have seen before. The atmosphere is always intimate and relaxed.

When you are planning your trip down to the BunGeo region, be sure to check out the socials for Always Good Nights where you’ll find up-to-date gig information; or sign up for the VIP list called The Patio Club, where you’ll be notified ahead of time on upcoming shows and discounted tickets.

[alwaysgoodnights.com.au](http://alwaysgoodnights.com.au) **BG**

of beers, including a chilli pilsner and chocolate stout, this is a star attraction when traveling through the Ferguson Valley. While in the area, consider visiting the **Wild Bull Brewery**. They may not have live music, but they are dog friendly and a great family destination. Hang out here with your best friend while enjoying a quiet brew.

When planning your ‘Brews with Tunes’ trip into the BunGeo region, be sure to check out the socials for all venues to keep up to date with their gigs and seasonal menus.



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# COOL OFF, FROM COAST TO HINTERLAND

DISCOVER ENDLESS WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES WITHIN BUNBURY AND SURROUNDS.

By HARRISON PLATT

**B**unbury, known as the 'City of Three Waters', is a captivating destination where the surrounding waters of calm Koombana Bay, the iconic Leschenault Inlet and the popular Back Beach make it the ultimate destination to dive into. As summer unfurls, the city's green spaces glow under the warmth of the sun, beckoning everyone to embrace the joys of the beaches. While in winter, waterways flow, ripe for admiration and perfect for becoming active on in spring. Koombana Bay is the ideal spot for a

safe and calm swim, with a friendly pod of over 100 wild dolphins frequenting its waters. Visit the designated interaction zone on the shoreline at the Dolphin Discovery Centre, hosted regularly in the warmer months. You'll also find, at Koombana Bay, the Bunbury Surf School awaits with all the stand-up paddleboarding and surfing gear you need to get out and embrace the waves. The adventurous can also ride the waves at Buffalo Beach, Casuarina Point, or Back Beach.

Beyond the water, Bunbury's waterfront transformation adds an extra layer of charm. The revamped Casuarina Boat Harbour is a beacon of leisure and entertainment, with new playgrounds,

**TAKE A DIP** Find countless places to swim on a sunny day, from Bunbury's coast to the Collie River.



Koombana Bay



Black Diamond Lake



Stockton Lake



Koombana Bay

picnic spots, and pathways weaving into the heart of the city, plus ample parking by Koombana Bay. New designated areas for boats coupled with plans for a boat racking and servicing area is setting Bunbury Waterfront up to become Western Australia's most modern and exciting urban ocean gateway. An added family bonus, the new Jetty Baths Park playground makes for a captivating spot to bring the kids.

Nearby, discover Leschenault Inlet.

Located on the inlet's foreshore, visit the impressive Koolambidi Woola, Bunbury's Youth Precinct, adding vibrancy to the community with opportunities for skateboarding, scootering or skating, mini golf, parkour and more. Discover the pirate-themed splash park near the Bunbury Foreshore Discovery Parks close by, another delightful oasis of fun for the family. With water jets, splash buckets, barbecues, and shaded areas for relaxation, it's set up for an afternoon of playful activity.

Meanwhile, Back Beach easily boasts some of the best sunsets you will ever find. An excellent spot for swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling.

Underwater, the area transforms into a kaleidoscope of vibrant marine life. The limestone reefs provide a colourful display of oceanic life, easily accessible from the shore between Bunbury and Stratham. For those seeking deeper immersion, Octopus Garden Dive Charters offers unforgettable scuba diving experiences, including exploring the mesmerising Lena wreck and diving out of Casuarina Boat Harbour.

Head inland, and the aquatic adventure extends beyond the immersive city, further up and down the coast and into the hinterland. Stretching beyond to the beckoning ripples of Wellington Dam,

the lively flow of the Collie River, and the vast coast from Peppermint Grove to Myalup Beach; Bunbury Geographe in its entirety is a treasure trove of water-based adventures. It's a place where stand-up paddleboarding offers serene moments on shimmering waters, with stunning locations like Stockton Lake in Collie and Harvey Dam presenting vistas that take your breath away.

Bunbury Geographe features a host of rivers and dams where freshwater fish and crustaceans can be found — including Collie River, Wellington Dam and Harvey Dam. Offshore fishing spots are also available in abundance, thanks to region's vast stretch of coast. Peppermint Grove Beach in Capel, the Hutt's–Dalyellup Beach, Back Beach, Bunbury Harbour, the Cut and Binningup Beach are all prime places to start. Meanwhile, if you're seeking a certain delicacy, surrounding inlets, estuaries and coast also offer plenty of places to scoop some blue swimmer crabs come December — all without the crowds you might find elsewhere.

Whether you take to the waters for high-adrenaline action, serene moments beside mirror-like pools, or to catch your next feast; Bunbury, the City of Three Waters, and surrounds truly captures the essence of water-based leisure. **IG**



Sykes Foreshore Splash Park

# HOORAY for Playgrounds:

## Discover the best playgrounds of Bunbury Geographe By JANICE PLATT

In Bunbury Geographe, playgrounds aren't just a space for play — they are catalysts for adventure, imagination, and the joyful laughter of children. This vibrant corner of the world is a mosaic of innovative play areas, each offering a unique blend of recreation and creativity. From the whimsical calls of nature playgrounds, where the wild-hearted can connect with the earth, to the exhilarating splash of water parks and the daring heights of skate ramps, Bunbury Geographe is a haven for families seeking the perfect blend of relaxation and playtime bliss. Discover some of the region's most immersive spaces to play...

### Big Swamp Playground | BUNBURY

Located outside the serene Bunbury Wildlife Park, Big Swamp Playground makes education as fun as it comes. With interpretation on a diverse range of indigenous species dispersed through the playground, young explorers are encouraged to discover the importance of ecological conservation, all while clambering on large, ship-like structures, making their way through a two-storey maze, and climbing towers.

Designed to be an all-inclusive space, the pathways and structures are wheelchair and pushchair friendly, ensuring easy accessibility for everybody.

**HOT TIP:** Visit the Bunbury Wildlife Park right next door where the kids can meet dingos, interact with the wildlife, and have kangaroos and birds feed from the palm of their hand.

### Mangrove Cove | BUNBURY

Take the family on a walk through this ancient mangrove on the banks of Leschenault Inlet before letting the kids run

wild in Mangrove Cove, a new all-abilities nature playground featuring climbing frames inspired by mangrove roots, ladders, slides rope nets and rope bridges for kids of all ages to explore.

A walkway weaves its way through the playground, leading to a lookout deck with a panoramic view over the Inlet — as well as the existing Mangrove Boardwalk that winds through the stand of white mangroves. Complete with barbecue, picnic and toilet facilities, the ground level of the playground



Big Swamp Wildlife Park



Capel Playground and Skate Park

includes a wheelchair accessible sand pit and tunnels, water play area, basket swing, drums, chimes and cubbies.

**Koombana Bay All-Access Playground | BUNBURY**

What could be more enchanting than a playground with the beach as its backdrop? Stroll along the scenic pathway that graces Koombana Bay, and you'll be greeted by an expansive playground that unfurls along the foreshore, offering stretches of joyful escapades against the serene hum of the ocean. Sitting at the heart of Bunbury, just a stone's throw from the Dolphin Discovery Centre, this all-access play space is an absolute winner,

promising an exhilarating time spent exploring great red climbing funnels, a complex network of pipes and pumps for water play, and an epic flying fox that will have the kids squealing for hours.

The best part? When the kids are ready for the next activity, they can just put their bathers on and run onto the beach for a dip in the ocean!

**Sykes Foreshore Splash Park | BUNBURY**

Few towns are lucky enough to have their very own themed splash park, but this one is a treasure trove with over 40 aquatic delights. Imagine a nautical paradise featuring a mammoth tipping bucket and

interactive sprays, all shaded to provide a cool retreat during the sunny season. Still need convincing? Sykes Foreshore Reserve also boasts an expansive boat-themed playground that's sure to captivate both the young and the young at heart. With thoughtful amenities like unisex baby changing facilities, barbecue spots, and picnic areas, this park has been meticulously designed with family at the forefront, ensuring a welcoming and enjoyable experience for all.

**HOT TIP: The Leschenault Inlet opposite the splash park has a little beach by the jetty, perfect for a paddle.**



Maidens Reserve Playground

**Maidens Reserve Playground | BUNBURY**

Nestled among the majestic Tuart trees of Maiden's Reserve, this playground has quickly become a cherished feature of the area. Kids are invited to venture through the Kanope Multiplay Unit, scaling its heights to gaze out over the encompassing bushland. Crafted to cater to children of all abilities, the playground is equipped with PlayMatta Safety Surfacing, recognised as the top environmentally friendly choice for uniform surfacing. Kids can enjoy a whirl on the Wheelspin Carousel, sway in the Pod swing, or send melodies to the cockatoos perched high in the trees with a play tube. With the addition of a charming Ladybug Springer and a natural balance trail, there's plenty to keep the little ones engaged and delighted.



Koolambidi Woola



Mangrove Cove

### Koolambidi Woola | BUNBURY

Koolambidi Woola is Noongar for ‘celebrating young people’, and what a space for celebrating young people it is. Bring the children and check out this brilliant space (don’t forget to pack the skateboards and scooters) with multi-sports courts, parkour spaces, skate park and multiple trampolines. Catering for beginners to advanced level skaters, there are jumps, ramps and rails to excite all abilities.

If skating isn’t your thing, there’s also mini golf, beach climbing nets, a concrete climbing wall and even a giant hamster wheel to keep everyone in the family occupied. Remember to pack your hats and sunscreen!

### Donnybrook Apple Fun Park

#### | DONNYBROOK

With its vast array of apple-themed and colourful equipment, from towering slides to interactive games, and zones designed for all ages, the Apple Fun Park is an ode to the famed Donnybrook apple and a testament to the joy of play.

Watch the kids experience the thrill of their lives as they take a spin down the curly apple peel tube slide or the speed tube slide after clambering up the 8m Apple Crate Tower. With 16 awesome swings — like the epic Hurricane Swing — trampolines, a giant hamster wheel and giant spinning orb, rock climbing walls and flying foxes, the opportunity for adventure is endless.

Green spaces intertwined throughout the play area make it an easy choice to while the day away here, with mature deciduous trees



Gravity ETC



Donnybrook Apple Fun Park

providing shade to parents watching over their children as they chugg around on the low ride-on mini train or splash around in the water in the nature play zone.

### Capel Skate Park | CAPEL

The Capel Region beckons all skating and BMX enthusiasts with its array of skateparks and pump tracks, seamlessly woven throughout the area. Make your mark at the Capel Skate Park, where half and quarter pipes transition into an ensemble of epic skating features, promising a perfect blend of challenge and flow for every skill level. Complete with a nature play area beside it, plus an amphitheatre, outdoor table tennis table, and half basketball court, this is the spot for

the adrenalin seeker in your family to test out their abilities!

### Gravity ETC | CAPEL

Located in Dalyellup, Gravity ETC is an exhilarating indoor playspace which makes for an active family day out. This state-of-the-art facility boasts a vast array of trampolines, providing an adrenaline-pumping experience. With areas dedicated to free jumping, basketball slam-dunks, and dodgeball, Gravity ETC caters to both the casual jumper and the sports enthusiast. Safety is a top priority, with well-trained staff and high-quality equipment ensuring a secure environment for gravity-defying fun. **IG**





# A Taste of Tours & Transport

ALLOW THE EXPERTS TO TRANSPORT YOU AROUND IN STYLE, SAMPLING THE BEST OF BUNGEO'S FOOD, WINE, BREWS AND VIEWS FROM COAST TO HINTERLAND.

### Dolphin Discovery Centre Ecotours | Bunbury

Specialising in marine eco adventures, the Dolphin Discovery Centre offers unforgettable educational and interactive experiences with dolphins in their natural habitat. Dive into the water to glide along with these playful creatures as if you're one of their crew or opt for the eco tour to admire them up close without getting your feet wet.

### Bunbury Geographe Tours | Bunbury

Bunbury Geographe Tours showcases the best of the Bunbury Geographe region through its mix of customised tour packages. Explore the Geographe wine region, take a tour of the countryside, dive deep into the Harvey Region, taste local produce and more. Hop on board a comfortable, air-conditioned bus accommodating up to 10 guests, with experienced drivers and guides.

### Ngalang Wongi Aboriginal Cultural Tours | Bunbury

Soak in the incredible stories and learnings of Aboriginal culture on a tour with Ngalang Wongi. Learn how to make weaving twine from river bulrushes, bush mercurochrome from tree sap and how to locate a bush chilli as you explore secluded locations along the Collie River while on the Estuary Walkabout Tour. Take the Dreaming Town Tour to see Bunbury through a whole new lens.

### Chariot Charters | Bunbury

Travel in style in Chariot Charters' retro replica of a 1927 coach to add a touch of luxury to your event. Available for private bookings with your own chauffeur.

### Good Vibes Tours | Ferguson Valley & Bunbury

Good Vibes Tours is all about bringing the best possible energy to your day of exploration. Whether you pick one of its well-curated group tour options like the 'Froth Frenzy' or 'Vino Ventures', or customise your own day of fine food, brews and wine, you're bound to finish the day in Bunbury Geographe feeling joyful.

### Hinterland Escapes | Ferguson Valley

Owned and operated by 'Fergie Valley' locals, Hinterland Escapes provides immersive escapades through the picturesque landscapes of Bunbury Geographe's hinterlands. Sample the best wineries, breweries, cafés and galleries of Ferguson Valley or Donnybrook and Balingup, or delve into the dreamy natural scenes and historic landmarks of Collie River Valley, among other group and tour options.

### Laffs Tours | Ferguson Valley

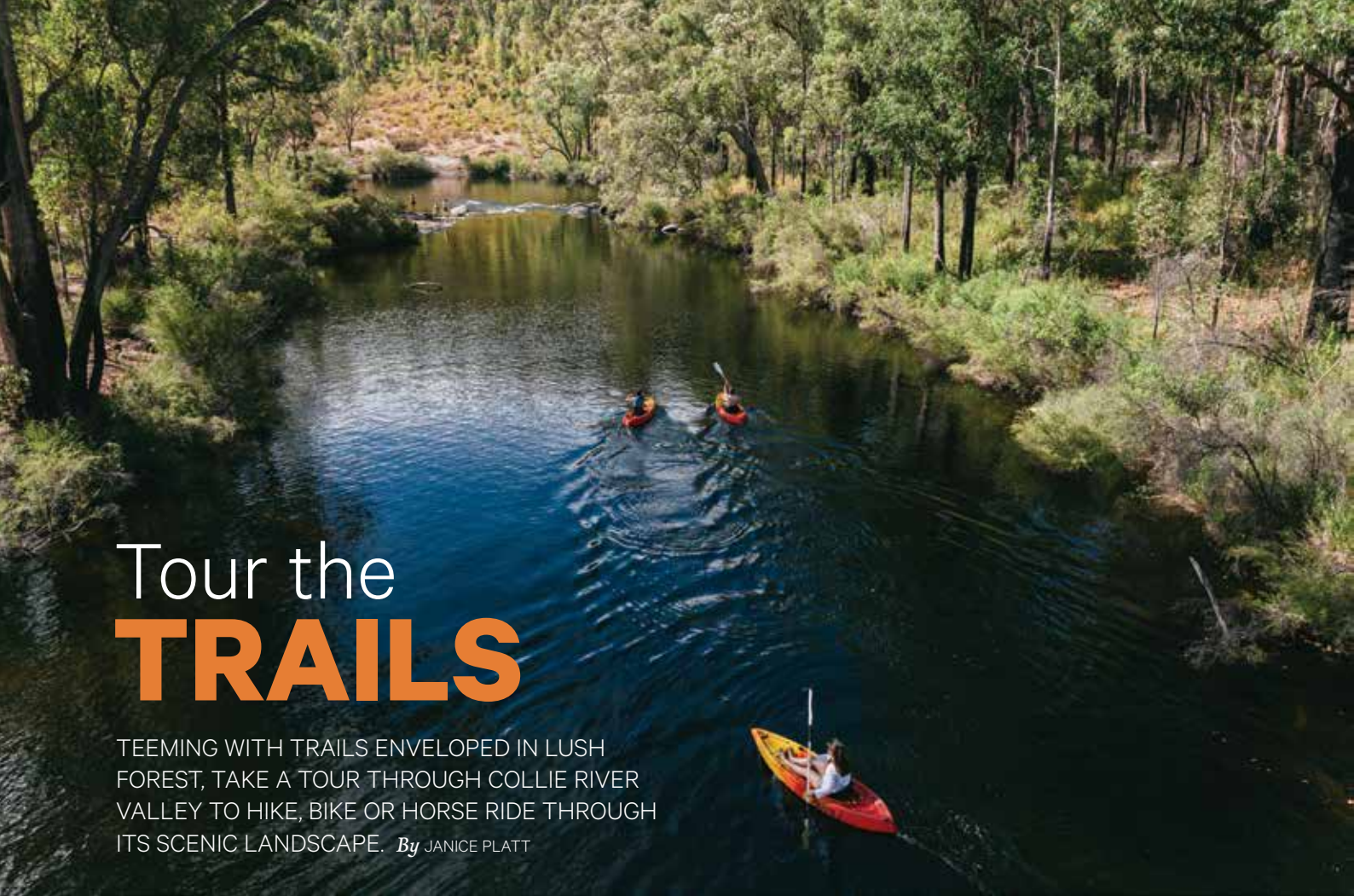
Laffs Tours offers a personalised approach to your Ferguson Valley adventure. Tailor-make your own tour of wineries, breweries

and natural attractions and jump on board its 14-seater bus to seize the day.

### A1 Bus Charters | Harvey & Ferguson Valley

Experience the rural serenity of the Harvey Region and Ferguson Valley on a cellar door tour with A1 Bus Charters, also specialists in hassle-free airport transfers, personalised bus charters for weddings and events.





# Tour the TRAILS

TEEMING WITH TRAILS ENVELOPED IN LUSH FOREST, TAKE A TOUR THROUGH COLLIE RIVER VALLEY TO HIKE, BIKE OR HORSE RIDE THROUGH ITS SCENIC LANDSCAPE. *By* JANICE PLATT

**B**unbury Geographe stands as a treasure trove of pristine wilderness and natural splendour, making it a must-visit for those with a thirst for adventure. As you delve into this region, each moment is a revelation, with the next hidden jewel waiting just around the bend to surprise and enchant you.

Have you heard of the Collie River Valley? It's a burgeoning hotspot for thrill-seekers, still under the radar for many.

Nestled within is the **Wellington National Park**, a sanctuary where adventure breathes and thrives. Here, weave through walking and mountain bike trails, glide on lakes with paddle boards, or cast a line during a fishing session. With an array of picturesque camping spots along the riverbanks, every day beckons you to chart your own journey of discovery and excitement.

Start your Collie River Valley adventure at one of the most unique attractions in the South West, **The Wellington Dam**. Here, a network of scenic walking and mountain biking trails converges, from easy strolls, to challenging hikes and rides, including the breathtaking **Jabitj Trail** (12km) leading to the tranquil Honeymoon Pool, and the inspiring **Sika Trail** (9.8km) taking you past Potters Gorge. It is also the canvas on which the world's largest dam mural,

*Reflections*, is painted — an 8,000 sqm mural by internationally renowned artist Guido Van Helten. Have a wander along the new Wellington Dam walkway for a different perspective of this epic mural.

The world-famous **Bibbulmun Track**, stretching 1000km from the Perth Hills to Albany, also cuts through Collie, making for



a scenic detour to the Wellington Dam via the Bibbulmun Wellington Spur Trail (19km).

Taking on the complete Bibbulmun Track is certainly not for the faint hearted. For those seeking just a leisurely slice of the invigorating journey and some local insights too, **Forest Explorers** is the expert offering guided walking tours through the forest. As a life-long lover of nature, Alison Melvin brings the region to life as she spotlights the stunning diversity of the surrounding ancient landscape and the coal basin beneath, which makes the region so unique.

Join Alison for Forest Explorers' Wildflower Wander tour in spring to learn about the non-indigenous and indigenous uses of the local flora. You'll be amazed at how small some of the incredible plant species are and the common names can make for interesting revelations too — egg and bacon plants anyone?

When asked what people are most surprised by when on tour with her, Alison laughs, "how many plant species there really are when you look closer at the environment!"

"Our creeks and river systems, high granite outcrops, savanna sand plains and laterite escarpment bring an amazing display of flora colour all year round," says Alison, who also offers a captivating tour of

the town's stunning mural trail.

For those who find their thrill on two wheels, Collie offers a labyrinth of mountain bike trails designed to elevate your pulse and challenge your skills. Navigate through lush forests, where each turn is a dance with nature and every descent a rush of exhilaration. Dare to conquer the **Munda Biddi Trail**, with its heart-racing descent towards the Collie River, and cap off your adventure with a detour to the enchanting Honeymoon Pool, a hidden gem that promises a serene finale to your adrenaline inducing journey.

Maximise your Collie River Valley adventure with Kym Gibson at **Adventure Connections**, where immersive, expert-led tours await. Kym's passion for Collie shines through in curated journeys that highlight the region's world-class mountain biking trails. It's not just a tour; it's an invitation to experience the thrill of the trail and the serenity of nature in this exceptional corner of the world.

"There is so much you can do and see, every day is an adventure", says Kym.

Jump on board Adventure Connection's tour 'Wellington Delights on E-Bikes' and cruise along Collie's forest floor; follow Collie River to Minningup Pool on its sunset tour;



Outback Horse Trails

or, if you're a foodie, work up an appetite e-biking through scenic landscapes before a taste sensation at **Hackersley Estate Winery**, in the Ferguson Valley,

"When people come to experience one of our tours, who may never have been on an e-bike before, it can change someone's life," says Kym.

If doing it on your own is how you prefer to adventure, local adventure business **TraaVerse** can take care of you with kayak and SUP hires, and transfers to the Bibbulmun and Munda Biddi Tracks. They even do food drops on the trails as part of their services if requested!

Looking for something a little different? Experience the abundant bushland around

Collie River Valley from up high. High atop a horse that is! **Outback Horse Trails** caters to riders of all levels, taking you on a gentle ride through the bush, or on one of their popular picnic rides. Cover the magnificent countryside on horseback and enjoy the remarkable views before tucking in to a picnic at the elegant **Harris River Estate Winery**.

According to owner Linda Yates, their guides provide a safe environment for complete beginner riders and the horses are highly trained to do their job enabling customers to feel completely at ease on their horse and out in nature, enjoying the views and tranquillity found only in Collie. **IG**



# Bringing WA closer

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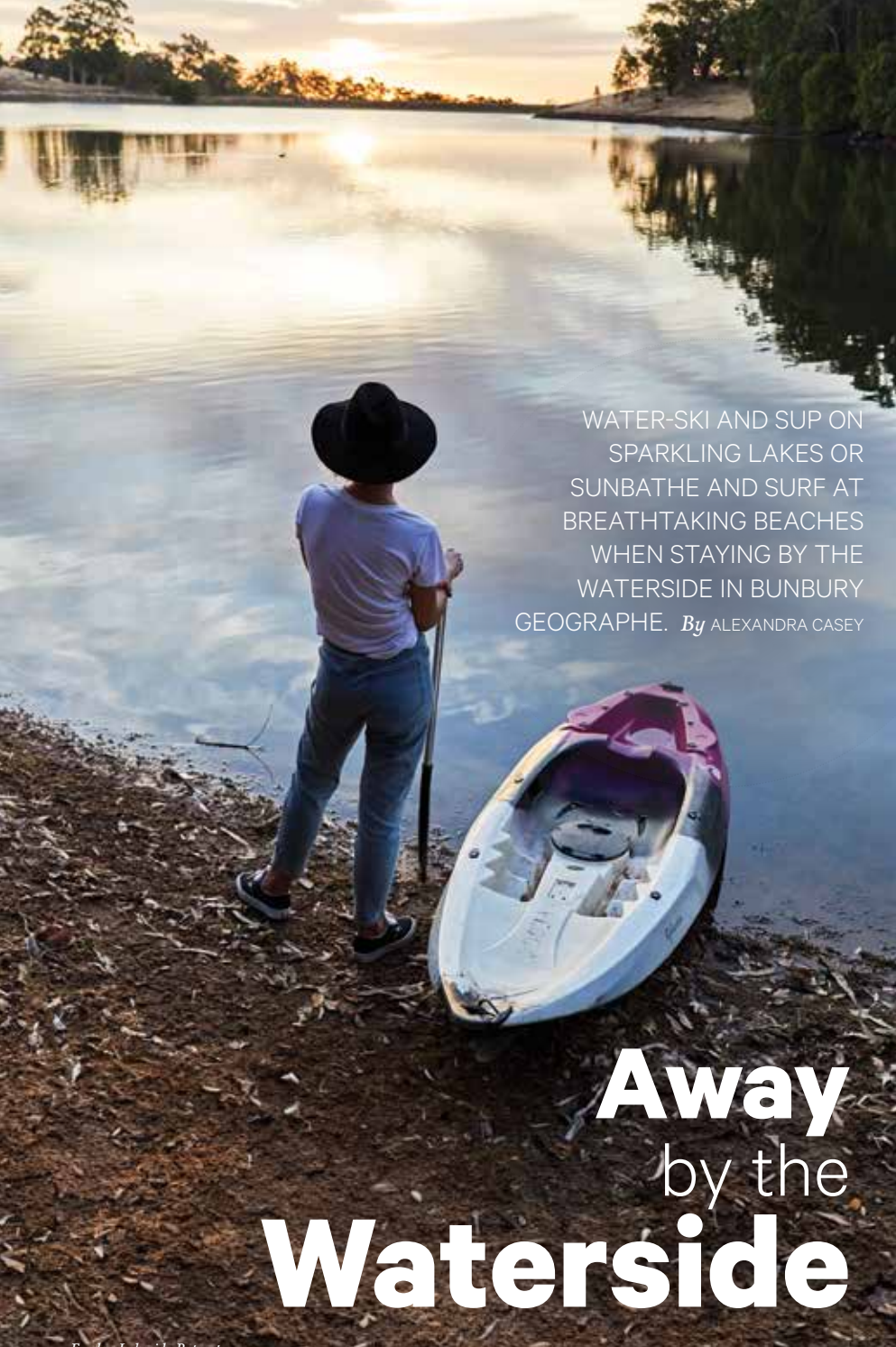
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Public Transport Authority





WATER-SKI AND SUP ON SPARKLING LAKES OR SUNBATHE AND SURF AT BREATHTAKING BEACHES WHEN STAYING BY THE WATERSIDE IN BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE. *By* ALEXANDRA CASEY

# Away by the Waterside

*Evedon Lakeside Retreat*



*Peppermint Tree Lodge*

**B**unbury Geographe is brimming with holiday spots with glistening water bodies beckoning visitors to come and cool off. Whether you're staying for a weekend getaway or a full-blown holiday, we've rounded up the best waterside accommodation options to add to your bucket list.

### **Peppermint Tree Lodge**

If you're looking for the perfect home away from home, Peppermint Tree Lodge's Horizons is a stunning beachfront holiday house, located only a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Perth at Peppermint Grove Beach in Capel.

The four-star, two-story architecturally designed "upside down" house provides a luxurious getaway for guests with Peppermint Grove Beach's unspoilt stretch of snow-white sand and clear water at the doorstep – about 80m away or a two-minute walk. The aesthetic is coastal, with the interiors featuring a spacious living area, kitchen and deck, which all take full advantage of the views of the Geographe coast. There's no better place to watch the sun go down. Visitors have the freedom to choose between a three-bedroom, two-bathroom (sleeping up to seven people) upstairs configuration, or a five-bedroom, three-bathroom upstairs and downstairs configuration (sleeping up to 12). If you're a surfer, locals tackle a small but well-defined break about 300 meters up the beach. For fishers, try your luck shore fishing. The home is also pet friendly so visitors are welcome to bring their furry friends, an obvious drawcard.

### **Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park**

Offering a blend of natural beauty and convenient amenities, Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park is situated less than half an hour from Bunbury and Busselton,



Lake Brockman Holiday Park



Peppermint Grove Holiday Park

surrounded by the scenic Tuart Forest and Geopraphe Bay.

Accommodation options at the park cater to every taste and need. Choose from cosy studio units, equipped with all the comforts of home, including ensuite bathrooms, TVs, air conditioning, and kitchen essentials for your morning tea or coffee. For those who yearn for the classic camping experience, spacious, grass-covered, and shaded sites also beckon. Positioned just a leisurely 350m stroll from the tranquil beach, these sites offer the perfect balance of outdoor adventure and serene beachside relaxation.

The heart of the park is Peppy's, a licensed restaurant acclaimed for its tantalising woodfired pizzas available every Friday night and a diverse menu on Saturdays. Enjoy the soulful rhythms

of live music hosted the final Sunday of each month, creating memories under the open sky. Beyond dining, the park is a hub of leisure and exploration. Test your skills at mini-golf, enjoy a game of tennis, or embark on an adventure in the surrounding region. With the Tuart Forest nearby, kayak along the peaceful Capel River, delve into the local wineries, or navigate the beach in a 4WD.

### Lake Brockman Holiday Park

When it comes to camping under the stars and roasting marshmallows on the open fire, what's not to love? Set in beautiful surroundings of the state forest, only 10 minutes from the Harvey townsite, Lake Brockman Tourist Park is a haven for all things camping, glamping and caravanning. Guests can opt for a powered and non-

powered site for their tent or motor home, or one of the cosy cabins fitted with a kitchenette and air conditioning.

For those looking for something more romantic, there's an adults only glamping retreat nestled in the woodland beside the crystal waters of Logue Brook Dam. Days here begin with a fresh coffee and breakfast on the café balcony overlooking the forest and dam, followed by waterside recreation and relaxation. Guests are free to swim, canoe, water ski or jet ski in the clear fresh water of the dam. The world-famous Munda Biddi Trail and Bibbulmun Track are located nearby and you can also fish for trout all year round and catch marron in-season. Dog owners can rejoice because your favourite four legged friends are welcome (excluding those staying in a cabin), but must stay on a lead at all times.



## Need to escape the rat race?

**Lake Brockman is a world away, right on your back doorstep.**

Nestled in the state forest and overlooking the blue waters of Logue Brook Dam, we are only an hour and a half south-west of Perth (off South West Highway, just before Harvey).

From family cabins, NEW family glamping tents to couples glamping (with a view), to powered and unpowered sites, we can cater for any camping set-up.

Every camp site has its own fire pit (during the winter months) where you can relax and unwind under the stars and roast your marshmallows around the campfire. Our campsites are also pet friendly.

Our café is open 7 days for great coffee, breakfast, lunch and light snacks.

Book your next camping getaway at **Lake Brockman Tourist Park** or **Logue Brook Campground** online today or call our friendly staff on **(08) 9733 5402**.

Email [lakebrockman@gmail.com](mailto:lakebrockman@gmail.com)

[www.lakebrockman.com.au](http://www.lakebrockman.com.au)

**G'DAY  
PARKS**





*Evedon Lakeside Retreat*



*Evedon Lakeside Retreat*



*Peppermint Grove Holiday Park*

### Discovery Parks — Bunbury Foreshore

Set between the Leschenault Inlet and white sandy beaches of Koombana Bay, Discovery Parks – Bunbury Foreshore is within walking distance of the city centre. The park offers a wide range of accommodation options to suit every budget and traveller, it's a particularly good option for families thanks to its fantastic facilities, including a tennis and basketball court, recreation room, swimming pool, bouncing pillow and sporting equipment hire. The park is adjacent to Sykes Foreshore shipwreck themed splash park and there's an adventure playground just

outside the gates, so the kids won't run short of things to do.

There is a wide range of accommodation options ranging from unpowered tent sites, through to new superior cabins — plus, pet friendly cabins and accessible options for people with a disability. What's more? The park is located opposite the Dolphin Discovery Centre, where adults and children can get up close and personal with wild dolphins.

### Riverside Cabins, Caravans and Camping

Perched on the Eaton Foreshore and opposite the Collie River, the caravan park

features a range of self-contained cabins and chalets adorned with everything you need to relax and rejuvenate after a day of driving or exploring the South West.

If you're a camper or caravanner passing through, there are large powered and unpowered sites with plenty of room for families and friends to cook up a feast in the new camp kitchen or barbecues peppered around the park. Located only 8km from the city of Bunbury, the park's amenities include a solar heated swimming pool, jumping pillow, tennis court, laundry facilities and small recreation room. It's also conveniently positioned close to the Bunbury Golf Club, Eaton Reserve sportsground, Australind Tavern and an adventure playground.

### Evedon Lakeside Retreat

Whether you're in the market for a romantic getaway or a family holiday, Evedon Lakeside Retreat provides an experience centred around leisure and relaxation. Nestled in the rolling hills of the Ferguson Valley, just short of two hours from Perth, there are six self-contained cabins and ten two-storey apartments, all situated amongst the trees on the banks of the lake and fitted with log fires and air-conditioning. Guests can spend the day bush walking, picnicking at the nearby Honeymoon Pool in Wellington National Park, exploring the Mt Lennard bike trails or kayaking, and when it's time to decompress in the evening, return to the creature comforts of the waterside holiday

homes. Expect sunsets over the lake from your private verandah, grazing boards of fresh produce, Devonshire tea, cakes and coffee at the café, and meals by the fire of the Lakeside Restaurant — what more could you want?

### Bunbury Seaview Apartments

Designed with the perfect holiday in mind, the four-star Bunbury Seaview Apartments is conveniently situated directly across the road from the turquoise waters of Geographe Bay. From single travellers to families, if you're looking for a holiday with the privacy of your own space and easy access to the ocean, there's a wide range of clean and modern apartments to suit everyone, and many have uninterrupted ocean views. There's the option to choose between one, two or three-bedroom apartments, with a courtyard or balcony. Some feature a kitchen, fitted with an oven, fridge, and stovetop and there's also an outdoor pool. Positioned only a stone's throw from cafés, restaurants and bars, you'll come for the vistas but stay for the vibes.

### Binningup Beach Caravan Park

Binningup is considered a well-kept local secret, situated at the gateway to WA's South West and characterised by a 40km



Riverside Cabins

stretch of white sandy beach, much of which is sheltered by reefs and known for creating idyllic swimming, snorkelling, scuba diving and boating conditions.

Located only steps from Binningup Beach, camping at the park is quiet and calming, and days are spent by the ocean, catching fish and building sandcastles with the kids. Guests can opt for one or two-bedroom cabins, two and three-bedroom

homes (some are even pet friendly), or powered grass sites to park the caravan or pitch the tent. There's a pool dotted with umbrellas and lounges, jumping pillow, café, bowling green, barbeque area and camp kitchen.

Expect live music on the grass every long weekend (weather permitting), bringing campers together with a community atmosphere. **BG**



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# Cabin Calling

HIDDEN IN THE FERGUSON VALLEY ARE THESE SECRET SANCTUARIES, WAITING TO BE FOUND.

By TORI WILSON

Every trip to the Ferguson Valley is a vision of lush rolling hills, sweeping vineyards and towering jarrah and marri trees; taking those who visit back to a state of simplicity, solitude and grounding serenity. It's the ideal location to get lost in, to retreat to and never want to leave. So, the concept behind husband-and-wife duo, Ashleigh and Jon Bramford's Hidden Cabins, is aptly at home here.

Fuelled by a passion for design and interiors, Ash and Jon have carved out intimate little spaces in Ferguson Valley where visitors are welcomed to stay and experience the innate calm the area has to offer, with beautiful, completely off-grid cabins as their base.

"We've always been drawn to the simplicity and beauty of the great outdoors, with camping trips being our go-to escape from the corporate grind. Yet, we couldn't help but wish for a way to hold onto the raw appeal of camping without the exhaustive prep work," says Ash.

"The idea of Hidden Cabins sprouted



from this very wish — a longing to blend the thrill of adventure with the comforts of a cosy retreat."

Margot and Henry are the names of the two enchanting cabins they have carefully constructed and tucked away on picturesque properties within the Valley. Following the creation of their first cabin, Florence, based in the Peel Region; Henry

was constructed mid-2022, with Margot the latest addition, added early 2023.

While Florence and Henry are adults-only retreats, set within bushland and on a vineyard respectively, Margot is the first Hidden Cabin to be designed with a family in mind. It reflects all the signature Hidden Cabin special touches and more, sitting high on the plains of an old dairy turned regenerative farm, right in the heart of the Ferguson Valley on Kaneang country. With no other man-made structure in sight, at Margot you are completely secluded with only the friendly farm cows as your neighbours.

"We design each of our cabins specifically for the property it's going to," says Ash. "We took a lot of inspiration from the old dairy on the farm for the design, creating our version of a modern barn. Margot looks right at home on the farm."

Sleeping four and dog friendly, Margot is the ideal base for getting the whole family off-grid and into nature. The loft style queen bed and under-bunk double bed are built with comfort and lazy mornings





**SECLUDED** Henry (left page) and Margot (right page) offer unparalleled intimacy, tucked away upon a vineyard and farm within the Ferguson Valley.

admiring the views in mind. While the addition of a small dining room under a large picture window is perfect for whiling away the afternoon with a boardgame or two. The outdoor bath is an extra special feature of Margot, inviting visitors to soak under a dusky amber sky or dazzling stars.

Powered by solar panels and gas; the off-grid set-up is completed with a waterless composting toilet and rainwater tank. Across each of the cabins, an indoor mini wood burner makes the intimate spaces even cosier in the cooler months, while fire pits and outdoor seating are perfect for making the most of clear, country skies at night. You'll also find beautiful linens and towels, freshly roasted coffee beans, a curated selection of boardgames and books and luxurious rain showers.

While it can be tempting to never leave the cabin at all, once guests decide to emerge from their sanctuary there is so much to explore around Ferguson Valley. Graze upon locally sourced produce platters while experiencing a blind carafe wine tasting at Green Door Wines, taste some exceptional expressions on the region at Willow Bridge Estate, or dine at the award-winning St Aidan Wines restaurant. To embrace the abundant nature that surrounds, wander the 600 metre Forest Path at Crooked Brook Forest; or make your way to Wellington National Park. While at the park, admire the world's largest dam mural, *Reflections*, before selecting from a network of scenic hikes and cooling off in the Wellington Dam or Collie River.

Ultimately, the Hidden Cabins experience is all about mindfulness and reconnection with nature. "It's like Bonnie and Clyde, or bacon and eggs. Humans and



nature just go well together," says Ash.

"Being out in nature and practicing mindfulness are crucial for mental and emotional well-being, acting as antidotes to the stresses of modern life. They encourage us to slow down, breathe deeply, and appreciate the now, which is essential for a balanced life.

"At Hidden Cabins, we've woven these principles into the very fabric of our guest experience. When you step into Florence, Henry, or Margot, you're stepping into a thoughtfully designed space that exists in harmony with its natural surroundings."

Hidden Cabins have been awarded or named as a Quality Tourism Accredited Business, Sustainable Tourism Accredited Business, EcoStar Accredited Business, SILVER in the New Tourism Business category at the 2023 WA Tourism Awards, and Finalist in both the Unique and Eco Tourism categories at the 2024 WA Tourism Awards.

**Visit [hiddencabins.com.au](http://hiddencabins.com.au)** **186**



## Destination

BREATHE THE FRESHEST SEASIDE AIR AS YOU SOAK UP THE STUNNING VIEWS, IMMERSIVE ARTS AND CULTURE SCENE, AND VIBRANT DINING FOUND IN BUNBURY.

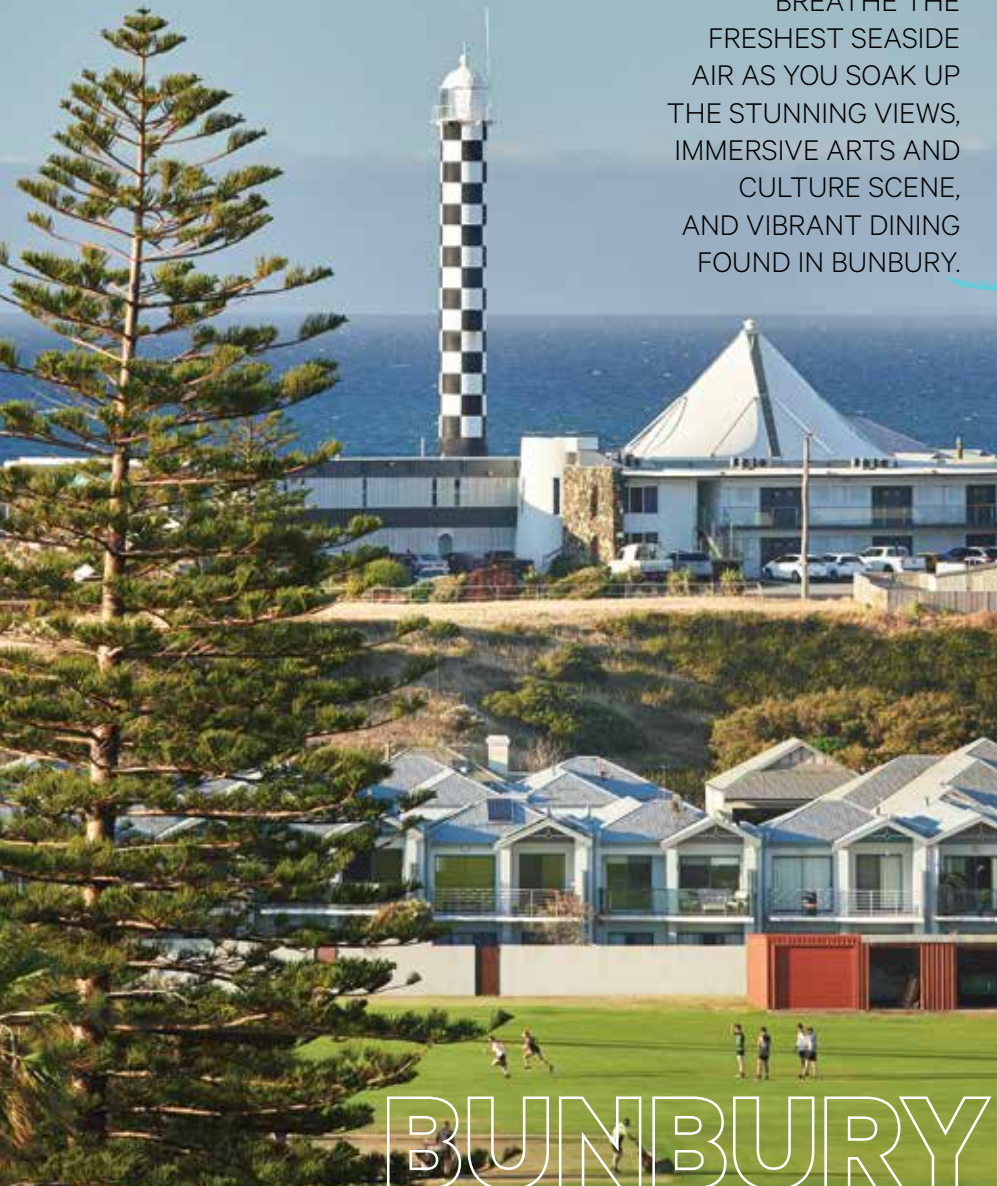


**BUNBURY, KNOWN FOR** its laid-back attitude and stunning waterways, boasts an array of captivating attractions and activities to see and do.

This foodie's paradise provides an assortment of culinary offerings. Be sure to check out the Victoria Street café strip or Marlston Hill Waterfront and East Bunbury, all fab food precincts to treat the tastebuds.

In Bunbury, creativity abounds. Here you'll find the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG), the premier gallery in the South West housing the biggest public art collection in regional Australia. Check out the city's bustling events calendar too for a dose of culture.

If it's a family getaway you're after, this is the place. Wander along the waterfront to enjoy the Koombana Bay foreshore and explore the new youth precinct named Koolambidi Woola, meaning 'celebrating young people' in Noongar language. Mangrove Cove playground, beside Leschenault Inlet, is another great attraction to take the kids to.



# BUNBURY





BUNBURY IS SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL WATERWAYS AND NATURAL ASSETS



Koombana Beach



Dolphin Discovery Centre



Dolphin Eco Tours

## Explore Bunbury...

### GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

#### Observe the city of three waters

Known as the 'City of Three Waters', the Indian Ocean, Koombana Bay and the lovely Leschenault Inlet surround Bunbury on its three sides. Connected to Victoria Street by a timber stairway, head up the steep path to the **Marlston Hill Lookout** for a 360-degree view. It sits on the site of Bunbury's first lighthouse. For a more rigorous climb, **Boulter's Heights** between Wittenoom Street and Haig Crescent also offers fabulous city views. Head over to **Mangrove Cove** and climb the illuminated lookout (affectionately known as the egg) for another spectacular view of the city, Koombana Bay and the Leschenault Inlet.

#### Meet aquatic and furry friends

The **Dolphin Discovery Centre** is your chance to enter the world of some of the ocean's

most peaceful and playful creatures. Learn all about underwater life with the impressive aquarium, touch pools and interactive digital dolphinarium within the centre. To get up close and personal with the dolphins, embark upon a **Dolphin Eco Cruise** or **Swim Tour** within the bay. If you don't mind getting your feet wet, dolphins visit the Koombana Bay most mornings during the summer, so it's the most accessible opportunity to observe them in the wild.

Did you know that the **Bunbury Wildlife Park** is home to over 260 furry, scaly and feathery animals? Observe iconic Australian animals including dingoes, kangaroos, wallabies, and even a hairy nosed wombat. The visitor experience is getting more interactive every year thanks to new farmyard friends.

Keeper Talks are a real highlight and you can end the day by visiting the **Big Swamp Parkland** next door — home to a variety of flora and fauna and an all-access playground.

### EAT & DRINK

#### Stock up on fresh produce

**The Bunbury Farmers Market** is a legendary local produce haven and if you haven't already heard about it, it's an essential to add to the list. Rated the No. 1 thing to do in Bunbury on TripAdvisor, it's brimming with fruit and veg, gourmet salads and picnic supplies, delicious French and local cheeses, freshly-pressed juices and more. Visitors can also celebrate all things fresh and artisanal at **The Bunbury Markets** (held on the first and third Saturday of the month) and **Produce in the Park** in Queens Gardens (held on the second and fourth Saturday).

#### Be sure to brunch

There are countless spots to indulge in a decadent brunch in Bunbury, and **Victoria Street Café** is definitely one of them. Open Monday to Friday, 7am to 3pm, select from slow roasted roma tomato bruschetta, brekky wraps, quiches and more.



Lost Bills



Indulge in a turmeric latte, cold-pressed juice or Mano a Mano coffee from the boutique, ethical coffee house **Townhouse Bunbury**, with its ever-changing menu based around quality, local produce. If you prefer to dine outside be sure to grab brunch at long-time local favourite **Benesse Bunbury** — check out the mural in the alleyway while you are there. **Little Spencer Coffee Co.** is a café and bakehouse offering quality coffee with indulgent pastries and artisan breads seven days a week. Also on Victoria Street you'll find **Look for Frederick** serving coffee, juices, and smoothies alongside gluten-free and vegan baked goods.

For waterside views, book yourself a spot at Bunbury's latest venue **The Cray** or the tried and true **Vat 2** nearby. There's also **Back Beach Café** and **Hungry Hollow**, plus **Dome Café** overlooking stunning vistas of Koombana Bay.

### Taste an array of international flavours

You can find a wealth of cuisines in this multicultural food bowl, from contemporary Australian dishes using local produce to authentic international fare. Found on Victoria Street, a custom-made charcoal grill and wood-fired oven take centre stage in the kitchen of the must-try **Market Eating House**, offering dishes inspired by the food of the Middle East and Mediterranean.

Down the road, **Funkee Monkee Eatery & Bar** offers modern Indian infused dishes. Or try **Jo's Curry House** for authentic Indian.

At **Nicola's Ristorante** you'll find authentic Italian, as classic as they come. More mouth-watering fresh pastas, breads and desserts of Southern Europe can be

found at **The Tramp Trattoria**, too.

For a casual burger, **Paddy's Patties** are different and delicious! This gourmet burger bar overlooking Leschenault Inlet takes Japanese influence from the heritage of chef and owner Norio Idei.

And for a sweet treat, you can't go past **Taffys** American-style salt water taffy and **Guardians of Happiness** for cupcakes and cookies.

### Hop about the small bars

With a suite of impressive small and boutique bars throughout Bunbury, we recommend frequenting a few to make the most of what's on offer. Start your night with a glass of local wine at **Mojo's** streetside sea container. This vibrant and award-winning bistro has one of the biggest wine lists in the region, including local Geographe wines, and museum wines from their cellar.

Then there's the award-winning **Yours or Mine**, which serves up incredible South American food, an eclectic wine list, craft beer and some of the best cocktails around. The eatery regularly hosts live music, often made better with drink specials for the evening.

Relax on the waterfront with a glass of local Geographe wine at the historic **Parade Hotel**, or tuck into pub grub at heritage-listed **The Rose Hotel & Motel**, serving customers since 1865.

Sport and pizza go hand in hand at **Last Slice**, a family-friendly spot offering New York-style pizza and sport on the big screen.

End your night at the iconic **Lost Bills** bar — a tiny space with big atmosphere. With an impressive craft beer list, eclectic spirits, and some damn fine wine.

If you're seeking a relaxed space with chilled-out tunes and modern food, the beer garden at **Zebu Bar & Kitchen** will take your fancy. Open seven days a week, it serves modern Australian cuisine, tapas and an extensive range of locally produced South West wines, local beers, and cocktails.

### Take a break at a brewery

You can find fantastic beverages in the form of fresh brews at the Bunbury outpost of **Froth Craft Brewery**. Open for lunch and dinner daily, Froth is dog-friendly and hosts regular live music and other vibrant events too. Check [frothcraft.com/bunbury/events](http://frothcraft.com/bunbury/events)

### Make your own gin

Become a distiller for the night and make your own boutique gin at **Cuprum Distillery**. These new gin-making masterclasses are highly educational and interactive. Learn all about the distillation process from the experts before mixing and matching botanicals to craft your own signature spirit. Enjoy Cuprum spirits as well as grazing board nibbles while you 'work'. Leave with your own 500ml bottle of gin. Book at [cuprumdistillery.com.au](http://cuprumdistillery.com.au)

## EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

### Discover art all around you

Bunbury is buzzing with arts and culture, so the best place to start to plan your art appreciation journey is at a **Bunbury Visitor Centre** — located at the Dolphin Discovery Centre and the Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre. Pick up a map before

taking a stroll through town to discover the impressive range of urban art murals, organised by independent arts group Six Two Three Zero.

If you fancy something unexpected don't forget to check out Six Two Three Zero's 'Outside the Box' initiative, which has transformed 20 electrical boxes throughout Bunbury into works of art in collaboration with local school students. Discover more at [sixtwothreezero.com](http://sixtwothreezero.com)

And of course, your arts experience wouldn't be complete without a trip to **Bunbury Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)**. This is the premier public art gallery in the South West. Look out for what's on show at [brag.org.au](http://brag.org.au)

Another must-visit location is **Wardandi Boodja** at Koombana Bay, Bunbury's most iconic piece of public art. The 5.5m steel bust reflects the spirit of a proud Noongar man.

### Watch a compelling performance

At **Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre (BREC)** there is so much to experience — live entertainment, film festivals, trade shows, glamorous gala events and more. Find out what's coming up at [bunburyentertainment.com](http://bunburyentertainment.com).

Creative talent abounds at the **Stirling Street Arts Centre**. Located among the trees, next to Queen's Gardens, it hosts cultural events, workshops and is all about supporting creative groups. An art market is hosted on the last Sunday of each month from February to October, with a special Christmas market popping up in December. Discover more at [stirlingstreetarts.com.au](http://stirlingstreetarts.com.au)

### Experience heritage in all its glory

Pick up a map from the Bunbury Visitor Centre and embark on the **Heritage Walk Trail** to appreciate the years gone by. Make sure to stop at the **Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre**, housed in the heritage-listed Paisley Centre on Arthur Street in the city centre, to peruse displays showcasing the colourful characters of this vibrant city.

## PLAN TO STAY

### Fit more in

Bunbury has so much to see and do that it's impossible to pack it all into a day trip. Book a stay in one of the family-friendly caravan parks, including the recently refurbished **Discovery Parks Bunbury Foreshore** along the Leschenault Inlet and across from the Koombana Foreshore. The kids will love the new on-site splash park and playground.

Plan a luxury waterside getaway at **Bunbury Hotel Koombana Bay, Mantra**

**Bunbury Lighthouse, Best Western Plus Hotel Lord Forrest** or **Bunbury Seaview Apartments**. Situated in the heart of Bunbury and a two-minute walk to Back Beach, Best Western Plus Hotel Lord Forrest boasts many deluxe hotel rooms, superior suites and one and two bedroom apartments facing the Indian oceans, for incredible Western Australian sunsets from its private balconies. There's also **Mercure Sanctuary Golf Resort**, too, a great option for those who enjoy a day on the green. **IG**



Bunbury Regional Art Gallery



### South West Art Now

16 March – 21 July 2024

### Bunbury 3 Waters Running Festival

14 April 2024

### The Bunbury Show

10-14 April 2024

### CinefestOZ Festival

31 August – 8 September 2024

### Christmas in the City

December 2024

### Skyfest

26 January 2025

### Bunbury Fringe Festival

January 2025

### Bunbury Beer Festival

February 2025

### South West Multicultural Festival

February 2025

*Dates are subject to change*



### BUNBURY VISITOR CENTRE

**Freecall** 1800BUNBURY

**Dolphin Discovery Centre**

Koombana Bay

**Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre**

1 Arthur Street, Bunbury, 6230

**T** +61 8 9792 7205

**W** [visitbunburygeographe.com.au/explore-the-region/bunbury](http://visitbunburygeographe.com.au/explore-the-region/bunbury)



Wardandi Boodja



ADMIRE ORCHARDS ABUNDANT IN FRESH FRUIT AND SERENE, TREE-FILLED FIELDS AS YOU SETTLE INTO THE CHARMING DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP REGION, BRIMMING WITH CHARACTER.

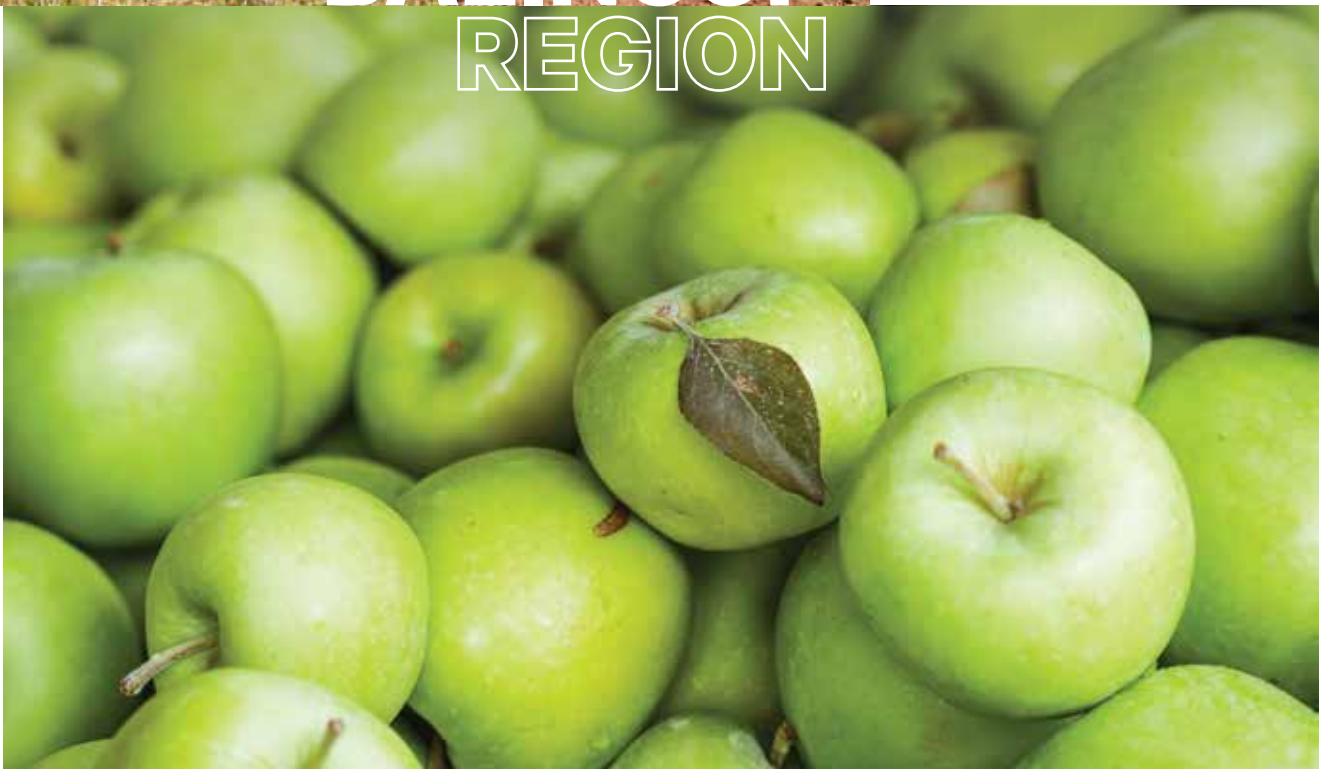
# DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP REGION

Golden Valley Tree Park



**TAKING ITS NAME** from a southern suburb in Dublin, thanks to the Irish settlers who arrived in 1842, Donnybrook has a rich history steeped in timber, gold, railways, Donnybrook stone, and thriving produce. Due to its fertile soils and perfect growing conditions, it's renowned as the apple capital of Western Australia. Today, you can eat your way through the region with quaint roadside stalls selling seasonal local produce. Make sure you stop along the way at the impressive wineries dispersed throughout the region.

South-east you'll find the lovely little town that is Balingup. With its streets lined with friendly scarecrows and stunning scenery no matter what time of the year, this special place is an inspiration to many artisans and romantics alike.



## Explore Donnybrook-Balingup Region

### EAT & DRINK

#### Find a coffee shop with soul

Located inside the **Goods Shed** at Station Square along Collins St, **Park Donnybrook** has breathed new life into the old bones of this heritage building. Built in 1893, this 'Standard 1st Class Country Shed' is one of only two surviving examples of its type. Grab a bite to eat and peruse interpretive panels showcasing Donnybrook history while there. Open from 8am to 3pm, Wednesday to Sunday, you can expect to find Southern Roasting Co coffee, fresh salads, baked goods and savoury tarts and toasties. Check Facebook for info on the occasional Friday night pop-up event, adding an extra boost of vibrancy.

**Café Tiffanys** and **The Orchard Café** are other local Donnybrook breakfast and lunch favourites, with fresh meals and ample charm. **The Donnybrook Bakery** is a classic, baking its delicious pies, bread and cakes daily and open 24 hours a day so you know it's always fresh, no matter the hour.

#### Call in to country pubs

**The Donnybrook Hotel** has always been a favourite spot for a good old-fashioned, country pub meal. The menu is jam-packed with juicy burgers, pasta, schnittys, steaks,



Donnybrook Apple Fun Park



Coughlan Estate

ocean treasures and more, plus a range for 'the little tackers'.

**The Kirup Tavern** is another classic with all the country pub favourites. Built in 1905, it still has many original features including the heritage façade.

#### Experience local wine

Donnybrook is perhaps one of the state's best kept secrets when it comes to its fine and alternative wines. Boasting some of the most noteworthy up-and-coming wineries in the Geographe Wine Region, you can expect to find James Halliday four star and above rated wineries including **Barrecas**, **Coughlan Estate**, **Mandalay Road** (by appointment only), **Oakway Estate**, **Smallwater Estate** and **Thompson Brook Wines** (which offers overnight parking for self-contained RVs). Small batch wines from the awarded **Bakkheia** are also worth seeking out.

Experience some incredible and interesting varietals like Barbera, Zinfandel, Durif, Malbec, Vermentino, Nero d'Avola and more at these unpretentious and intimate wineries. You'll often find the same people who grow the grapes and make the wine serving you at the cellar door with a smile. Stay for lunch at Oakway Estate for freshly made woodfired pizzas, or Coughlan Estate for flaky and fresh homemade pies or wholesome soups (check online for opening hours). Smallwater Estate's restaurant, now open Friday to Sunday, showcases local produce including marron farmed on the property. As one of the region's most heavily-awarded wineries it's well worth a visit, especially for its Shiraz.

Make your way to Balingup's **Packing Shed** and visit **Balingup Fruit Winery** for an iconic tasting experience of its delicious ports and liqueurs crafted from locally grown fruit.

## Destination

### Brunch in Balingup

Balingup is teeming with charming spots to stop for breakfast, brunch, or lunch.

Grab a big country sandwich served with a smile on the terrace at the cosy **Mr Foster's Café** or head across the road to **The Mushroom at No. 61** where the bakehouse pies served with chips and gravy are to die for. **The Green Man** café and providore serves wholesome meals including gluten-free options.

### GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

#### Hike a world-class trail

The Bibbulmun Track is an internationally renowned long-distance hiking trail stretching 1,000km from the Perth Hills to the south coast. Balingup is popular town to stop along the way for a scenic rest, or a good place to finish a shorter stint from Collie or Donnelly River Village.

#### Adventure in the urban parks

Donnybrook's **Apple Fun Park** is a headline attraction for families seeking a truly engaging play park to entertain the kids. The Apple Crate Tower is the highest of its kind in the South West, standing a whopping 8m. It features treetop suspension rope tunnels, a speed spiral tube, and a curly apple peel tube slide, providing plenty of thrills for the kids to enjoy. With 26 shade sails, 16 swings, trampolines, a giant spinning apple orb, giant hamster wheel and much more, you'll most likely need more than just a day to fully experience this exquisite world-class playground and community attraction. Go for gold on the flying foxes and low climbing rock walls or wander across the road to take to the pump track.

**Egan Park** around the corner also



Balingup Medieval Carnival



Linga Longa

includes a pump track, skills loop, learn to ride track and play nodes for the kids (and adults) to go wild testing out their bike and skating skills.

#### Picnic at Golden Valley Tree Park

Visit the stunning **Golden Valley Tree Park** in Balingup for a walk or a picnic surrounded by 60ha of landscaped park, picturesque hills, and impressive trees.

Dr Chrissy Sharp and her partner Andrew Thamo were the driving force behind the development of this breathtaking park. Prior to passing away mid-2021, Dr Sharp said the founding vision for the park was to provide a space for people to discover and learn about new species of trees they never knew existed.

The heritage-listed site has a collection of trees that were planted more than 100 years ago and is now the largest arboretum in WA. Beautiful any time of the year but visit in autumn for the most magical display of golden colours.

Dogs welcome!

#### Pick fruit fresh from the orchard

Donnybrook is a mecca for apple lovers, home to a range of varieties, which you can pick straight from the trees of the orchard. Visit **The Fruit Barn** in town to pick up a map during autumn apple season. Look out for fruit picking days on their Facebook page. During summer, you can also stop by one of the many farmgate stalls found along South Western Highway to stock up on sumptuous locally grown stone fruits.



Donnybrook Festival



### Defy gravity or meet animals

The **Linga Longa Bike Park** in Balingup is a premier mountain bike paradise with an expanding network of Gravity trails that offer approximately 200m of pure vertical descent. Look online at [lingalongabikepark.com](http://lingalongabikepark.com) to find out about its public Gravity days or book in for a private Gravity day to suit your schedule. Camping, glamping and shuttle services are available at Linga Longa Estate. Mountain bike enthusiasts are sure to have the world-class **Munda Biddi Trail** on their agenda too. You can tackle a section of the trail that passes through Donnybrook and heads south west towards Kirup and Ironstone Gully Falls before turning south.

**The Hygge Farm** in Southampton offers tours and interaction, education and wellbeing sessions with animals. It welcomes those with disabilities and neurodiverse conditions. Bookings are required.

### EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

#### The Packing Shed

**The Packing Shed**, located in the centre of Balingup and open seven days, 9am to 4pm, showcases enthralling exhibitions.

The **Heritage Exhibition** tells the story of Balingup and surrounds between 1855 and 1955. Displays include the history of four significant homesteads, a war exhibition (including a WWI uniform) and photographs and stories of individuals who made Balingup into a wonderful community.

Balingup is also home to **WA's Smallest Art Gallery**, where construction worker turned curator Sam Bariesheff showcases local sculpture, pottery and more in cosy surrounds.

#### Uncover treasures by local artisans

Balingup is such a quirky and creative town. You can find a world of wonderful crafted items and antiques at WA's largest independent craft outlet, **The Old Cheese Factory Craft Centre** and ample handcrafted gems at **Village Pedlars** along the main street. Visit **Cat and Canvas** for speciality yarns sourced from around the world.

While in Donnybrook visit **Donnybrook Artisans** in Central Arcade for some locally created treasures. It is open seven days a week and staffed by the artists.

Just out of town, you'll find several pottery studios, including **the Salted Earth Studio**, open 10.30 to 4.30 every Thursday; and **Cake Lady Ceramics** and **Clay Dragons**, available by appointment.

For a great read, there's **DonnyBooks**,



Balingup



#### DONNYBROOK VISITOR CENTRE

**A** Old Railway Station,  
South Western Hwy,  
Donnybrook, WA 6239

**T** +61 8 9731 1720

**E** [donnybrookwa@westnet.com.au](mailto:donnybrookwa@westnet.com.au)

#### BALINGUP VISITOR CENTRE

**A** South Western Hwy,  
Balingup, WA 6253

**T** +61 8 9764 1818

**E** [balinguptourism@westnet.com.au](mailto:balinguptourism@westnet.com.au)

**W** [balinguptourism.com.au](http://balinguptourism.com.au)

### Donnybrook -Balingup EVENTS

#### Donnybrook Station Markets

3rd Saturday of each month

#### Blackwood Valley Arts Trail

23 March – 7 April 2024

#### Donnybrook Festival

30 March 2024

#### Balingup Small Farm Field Day

6 April 2024

#### Festival of Country Gardens – Autumn

4 – 5 May 2024

#### Balingup Medieval Carnivale

24 – 25 August 2024

#### Annual Long Table Lunch in Orchard 160s Packing Shed

TBC

#### True Grit

TBC

#### Festival of Country Gardens – Spring Festival

October – November 2024

#### Tour of Margaret River – Road Cycling event (Balingup)

November 2024 TBC

#### Summer Solstice Markets (Kirup Hall)

December 2024

#### Christmas Twilight Markets (Donnybrook)

December 2024

*Dates are subject to change*

stocking a superb collection of new and second-hand books.

**Tinderbox** in Balingup is the spot to treat your skin, full of lovely hand-made lotions and potions that smell divine. Browse retro and vintage collectables and giftware Thursday to Saturday at **DazzleDust Emporium**. For scents, crystals, spells, teas, singing bowls and all things metaphysical, enter **The Lair of The Phoenix**, while **Wylding** is your spot for organic, wildcrafted, ethical, upcycled and recycled goods.

### PLAN TO STAY

#### Pick your retreat

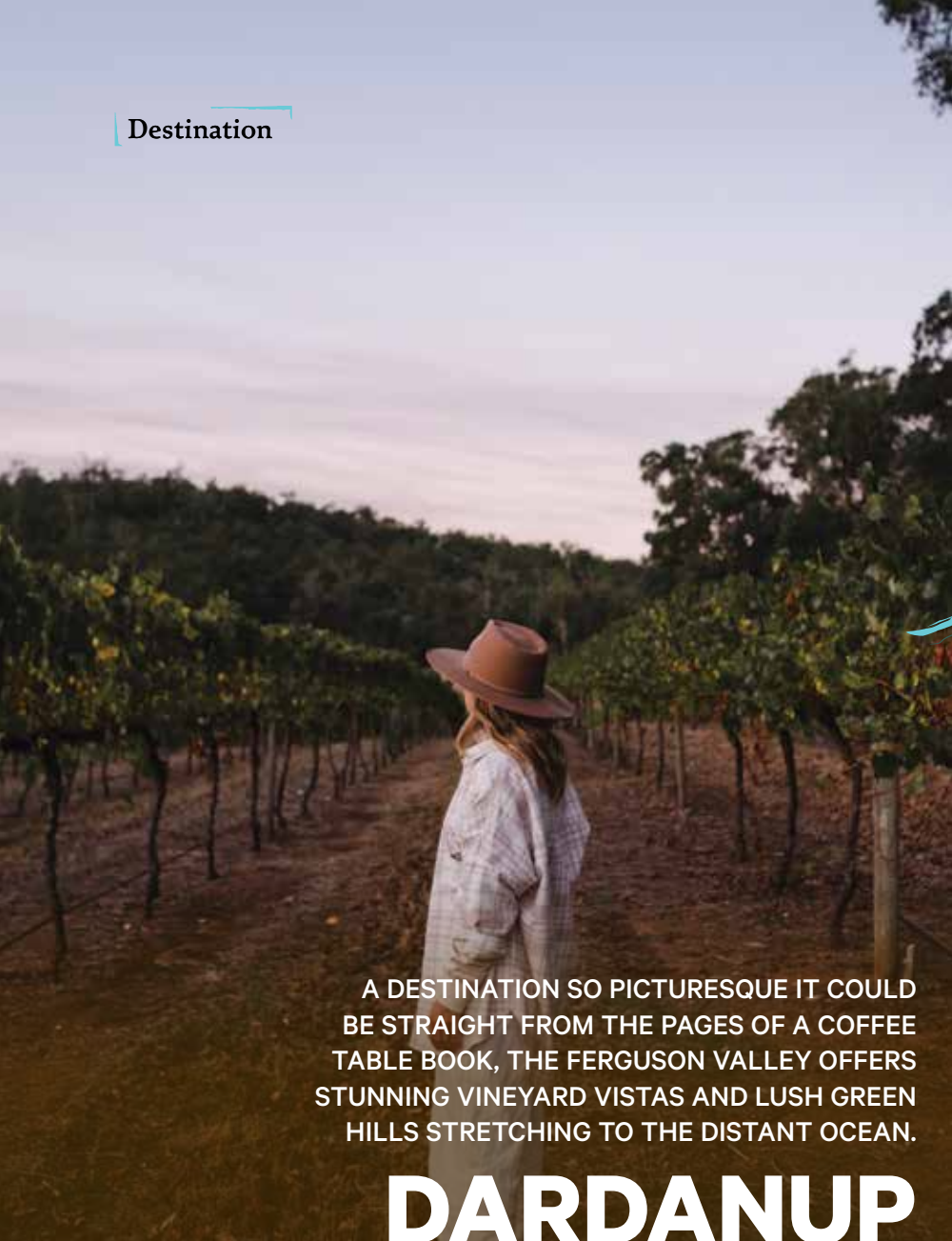
From heritage hotels and self-contained cabins, to interactive country life farm stays; there's an option for every type of accommodation experience desired across the Donnybrook-Balingup region.

**Balingup Heights Hilltop Forest Cottages** is blessed with spectacular views of the rolling hills. Nestled among native jarrah and marri trees you'll find six cosy bush cottages to settle in for the duration of your retreat.

At the intimate, adults-only **Little Hop House**, friendly farm animals roam outside your window.

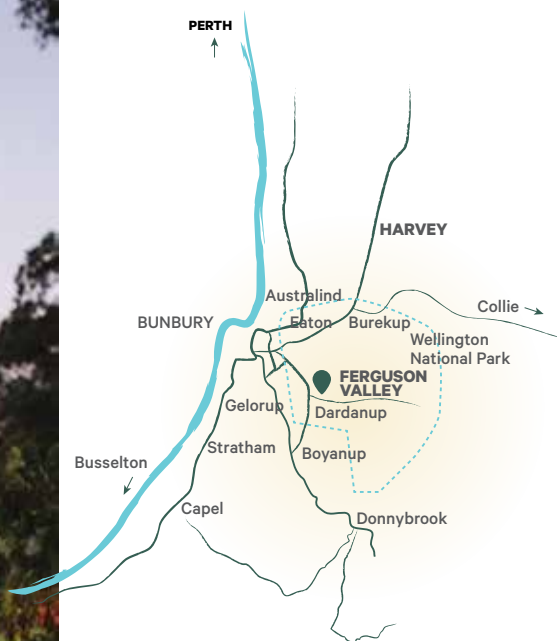
Just 1km from Balingup and adjacent to the Bibbulmun Track, **Jalbrook Estate** offers six deluxe rammed-earth spa cottages in a private haven of peace and tranquility.

Stay in a pine forest at **Lewana Cottages**, six heritage-listed former forestry workers cottages located 14km from Balingup. **IG**

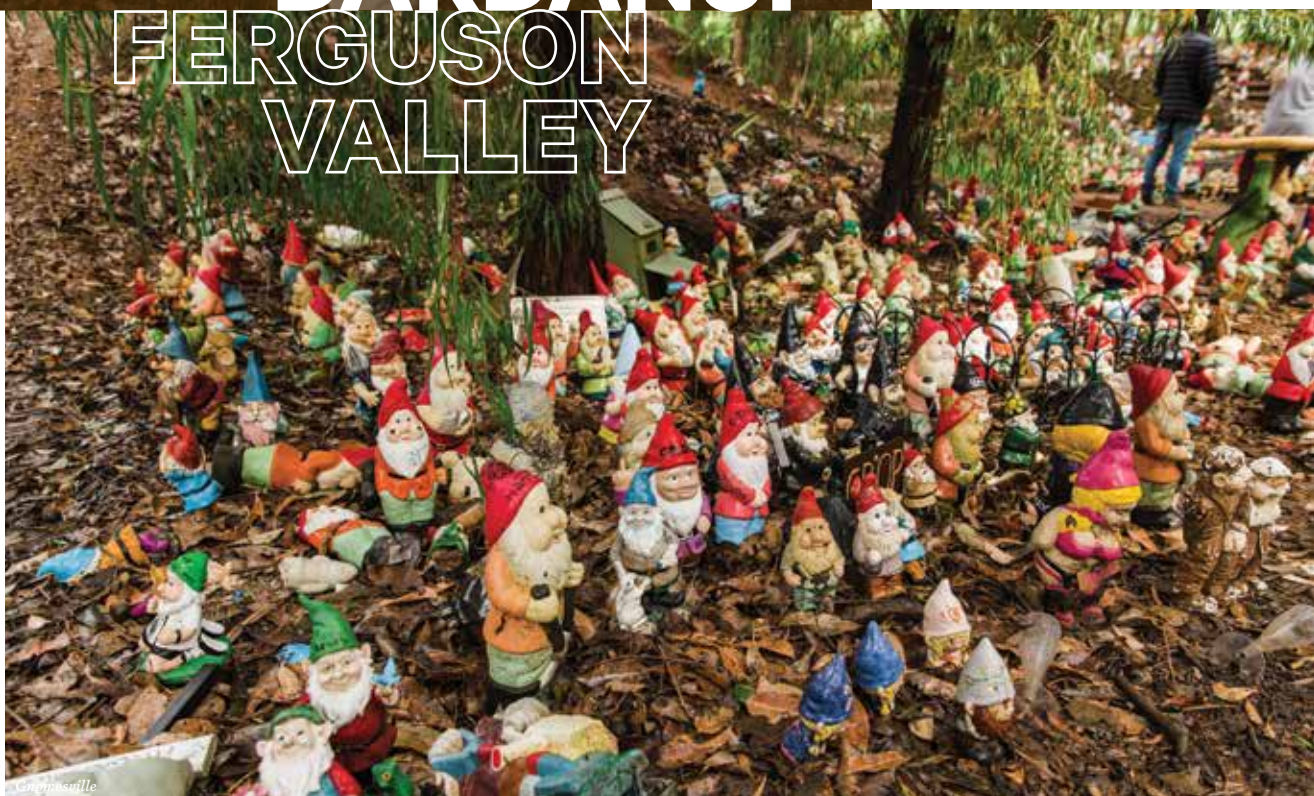


A DESTINATION SO PICTURESQUE IT COULD BE STRAIGHT FROM THE PAGES OF A COFFEE TABLE BOOK, THE FERGUSON VALLEY OFFERS STUNNING VINEYARD VISTAS AND LUSH GREEN HILLS STRETCHING TO THE DISTANT OCEAN.

# DARDANUP FERGUSON VALLEY



**WITH FANTASTIC RESTAURANTS**, iconic wineries, and enchanting places to stay, the Fergusson Valley is an idyllic location to settle in for a while, to relax and reconnect. Once a cluster of agricultural villages, the Fergusson Valley is now better known as a fabulous foodie destination, for its bounty of boutique wineries producing some of the Australia's best alternative wine varietals, as well as a handful of craft breweries. This authentic, hidden gem is a tranquil place to connect with nature and watch the world go by, feeling far away from the hustle and bustle of city life.



## Explore the Ferguson Valley...

### EAT & DRINK

#### Indulge in flaky pies and fresh bread

Housed in a red tin shed adjoining a modest 1960s brown brick home, the **Dardanup Baker** is entirely unassuming — but don't let this tiny pie, cake, and pastry shop fool you; it's legendary among Bunbury Geographe residents. If people aren't driving out to the countryside for their rustic fruit danishes and sticky cinnamon scrolls, they're definitely heading out for the surprise daily pie — think chicken in a rich, Thai green curry sauce, sticky soy pork, or slow-braised lamb shank encased in an impossibly flaky pastry.

#### Immerse yourself in the world of wine

The Ferguson Valley has established itself as a producer of some of the Geographe Wine Region's finest wines and is particularly renowned for its cultivation of some fantastic alternative varieties and small-batch wines. **Talisman Wines, St Aidan Wines, Green Door Wines, Willow Bridge Estate, Ferguson Falls Winery,** and **Hackersley Estate** are some of the recommended stops when visiting the Ferguson Valley.

Talisman Wines is a small, family-run winery known for boutique wines of exceptionally high quality. With its vineyard situated high in the hills of the Valley on one of the most elevated slopes, its superb fruit has rewarded it with consistent gold-medal performance and several trophies at the Geographe Wine Show.

Green Door Wines boasts incredible views from its cellar door so make time for a sit-down tasting experience at this gem of a spot. The grand green door imported from Morocco is a focal point and sets the tone for the interior. The Moorish theme of the winery and their tapas menu match the predominantly Spanish/European characteristics of the wines.

Willow Bridge Estate and Hackersley Estate have been highly commended with James Halliday acknowledging them both as 5 star wineries. Dine in at Hackersley from Friday to Sunday to indulge in its three-course set menu long lunch, which updates every eight weeks to reflect



Image: Dixon and Smith

seasonal produce. Enjoy stunning views overlooking the lake with cows grazing in the background. Booking is essential.

St Aidan Wines also serves up impressive seasonal fare. Book in for Moreish Monday to try a smaller selection of share plates and desserts. Menu choices become more extensive and just as delicious as the week progresses.

#### Find where the local brews flow

Quality craft beer also flows in the Ferguson Valley, with the **Bush Shack Brewery** and the **Wild Bull Brewery** both epic local favourites where the whole family can spend the afternoon.

Wild Bull's Black Angus porter will warm you up in winter or opt for a refreshing apple cider on a hot summer day. Meanwhile the giant Connect Four, playground and expansive lawn will keep the kids entertained.

Bush Shack is renowned for its family-friendly atmosphere and small batch brews. Tuck into its large and tasty menu with some crunchy Korean chicken wings or mushroom and Cabernet arancini balls to start, followed by a Black Angus and cheddar burger or jackfruit and bean tacos for mains.

#### Treat yourself to lakeside dining

Dine with stunning views overlooking the banks of Evedon Lake and the surrounding Ferguson Valley when enjoying a meal at **Evedon Lakeside Retreat**. You can nestle

in by the fire or take a seat out on the lakeside verandah, making this a fantastic spot seven days a week for coffee, house-made cakes, scones, tea and grazing platters, no matter the season. A breakfast menu is available Friday to Monday with woodfired pizzas on Friday night and a dinner menu on Saturdays.

#### Experience the best of the region

Take a short drive to Eaton to dine at **Small's Bar** — showcasing some of the best produce from the South West region. Select from a varied menu of classic and contemporary share plates, accompanied by the best of the South West's beers, wine and spirits.

#### Relax with a tour

Let someone else do the driving so you can experience the best of the region's brilliant food, wine, beer and spirits as you please.

**Hinterland Escapes** and **Good Vibes South West Tours** both offer immersive foodie journeys through the Ferguson Valley, with **Forest Explorers, Adventure Connections,** and **TraaVerse** also offering transfer, cycling and/or nature-based tour experiences.

### GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

#### Wander Crooked Brook trails

Known as a 'forest for all people', The Forest Path at **Crooked Brook** is a hidden jewel

## Destination

for those with limited mobility, providing easy access to an area of natural bushland in the Ferguson Valley. The path features interpretive signage about the flora and fauna and plenty of bench seats for sitting back and soaking up the serenity. Crooked Brook Forest is a stunning patch of old-growth jarrah forest that features four walking trails including a sealed 600m loop as well as 1.5km, 3km and 10km trails.

Explore the walk trails, enjoy a picnic by the billabong, wonder at the wildflowers in spring and try to spot some of the abundant but shy local wildlife when exploring the forest. If you're lucky, you may see the western brush wallaby, Gould's monitor, grey fantail, and the rare red-tailed black cockatoo.

### Connect with your inner tree hugger

The majestic **King Jarrah** is found along King Tree Road in the Ferguson Valley. Visit to view and learn about one of the park's largest jarrah trees. With a timber boardwalk and raised viewing platform, this site offers you a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with King Jarrah himself. Estimated to be between 300 and 500 years old, the King Jarrah Tree stands approximately 36m tall.

Go for a wander while you're there as the surrounding area is truly beautiful. The mature stands of Yarri, Jarrah, and Marri support an abundance of small birds and mammals. In the early morning, you need



Image Dixon and Smith

only sit for a short while to see many of the local species of bird such as the splendid fairy-wren, scarlet robin, grey fantail, inland thornbill, and golden whistler.

### EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

#### Wonder at the magic of gnomesville

The organically created **Gnomesville** is a quirky little wonderland brimming with around 10,000 gnomes placed there by members of the community and visitors alike. There are many versions of how Gnomesville started (almost as many as

**TAKE YOUR PICK** From bike rides in the fresh country air to charming and sophisticated wineries, to the quirky Gnomesville, there's an activity to suit any mood in Ferguson Valley.

there are gnomes). Ask a local for their version — or if you want to know from the gnomes perspective you can purchase the story book 'Gnomesville – the real story' from the Visitor Centre in Dardanup. Also look out for a convenient pop-up Visitor Centre stationed at Gnomesville to come.

#### Admire art through the Valley

Explore what is planned to become a 15-stop public art trail, winding throughout Ferguson Valley. The first completed artwork, by South West artist Andrew Frazer, is an installation located at the Pile Road pull-in bay and follows the trail theme of "Grow". Keep an eye out for new artworks.

#### Embrace history and heritage

The **Dardanup Heritage Park** is a world-class collection of agricultural and industrial machinery from Dardanup's pioneering past — the legacy of local businessman, the late Gary Brookes. Discover the steam/diesel sawmill, mill settlement, engines, tractors, dozers, military memorabilia and much more at this heritage hub. Open Wednesday and Sunday 9am to 4pm.

Continue your heritage journey by wandering through the **Dardanup Heritage Trail**, covering 12 historic locations across the townsite that tell rich stories of its formative years. Highlights include The Old State School, Dardanup Post Office and Thomas Little Memorial Hall. Stop for lunch along the way at the historic **Dardanup Tavern** (aka The Dardy). Built in 1905, it has bags of character. Find a map online at [dardanupheritagecollective.org.au](http://dardanupheritagecollective.org.au)



Pile Road Sculpture



Image Dixon and Smith



**PLAN TO STAY**

**Find your perfect retreat**

In Ferguson Valley you'll find some of the most idyllic places to stay.

**Wellington Forest Cottages, Peppermint Lane Lodge and Henty Lodge** are all fairy-tale locations nestled within the forest and scenic bushland, offering the ideal place to relax, reconnect, and rejuvenate.

**Skating Goose Farm** offers private and modern 'escape pods' surrounded by forest for the ultimate luxury couples' retreat. While **Hidden Cabins** also offer the most gorgeous little getaways for couples, with two out of three of its tiny, secluded cabins, *Henry* and *Margot*, based in the Ferguson Valley, surrounded by nature.



Boasting iconic views of the rolling Ferguson Valley hills, **Evedon Lakeside Retreat** surrounds a scenic lake, a stunning focal point for the property. One of the quaint lakeside cabins or two-storey apartments is the perfect spot to watch the sun go down.

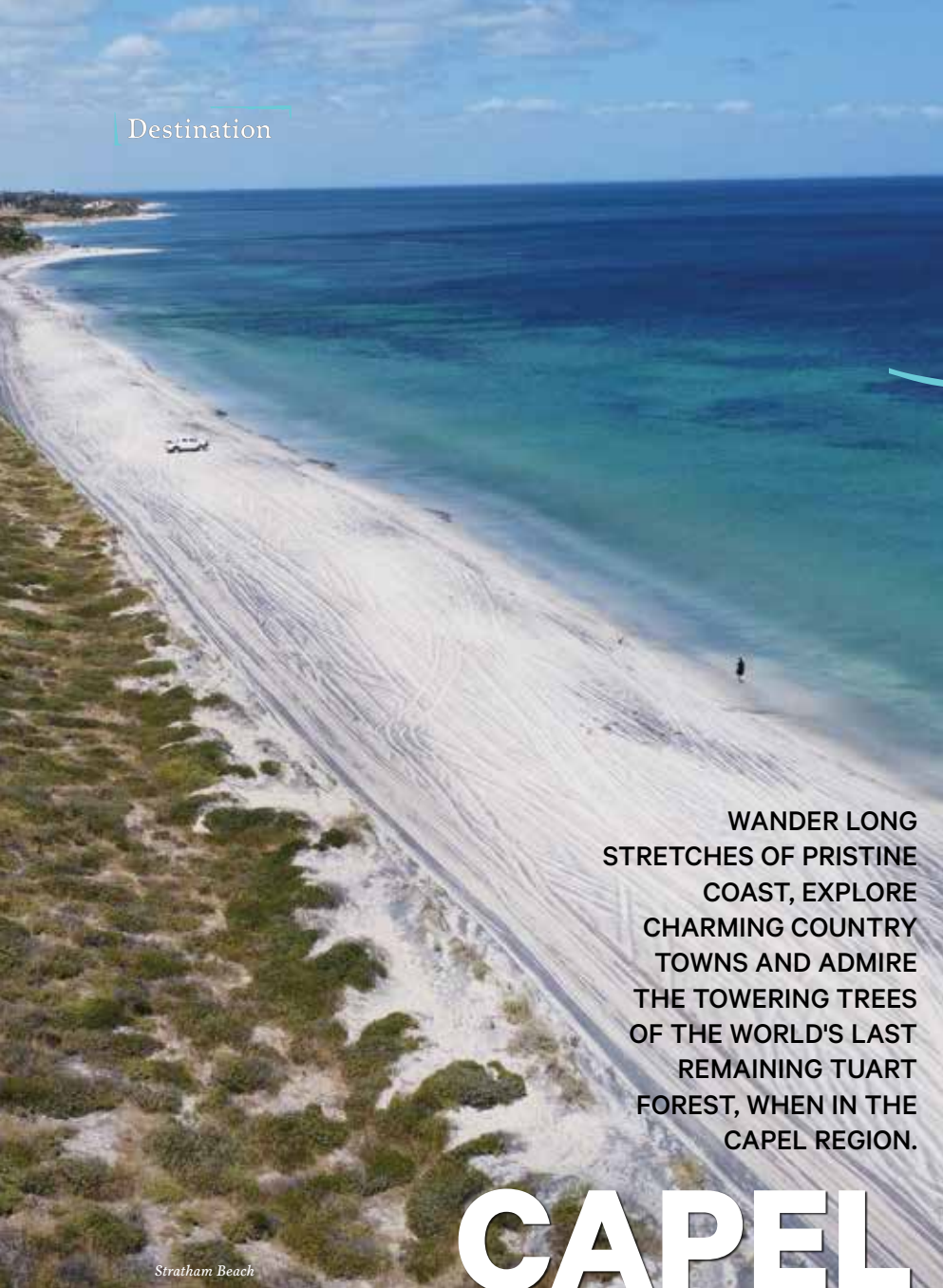
For a dose of farm life and an up-close experience with some friendly animals, **Ferguson Farmstay** is an obvious choice. Offering incredible views of the Valley, it's an ideal base for a family getaway. **Hope Springs Farm** offers a picturesque, country lodge-style experience. Play a game of

**FERGUSON VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE (DARDANUP)**  
**A** 5 Ferguson Road, Dardanup WA 6236  
**T** +61 8 9728 1551  
**W** fergusonvalley.net.au



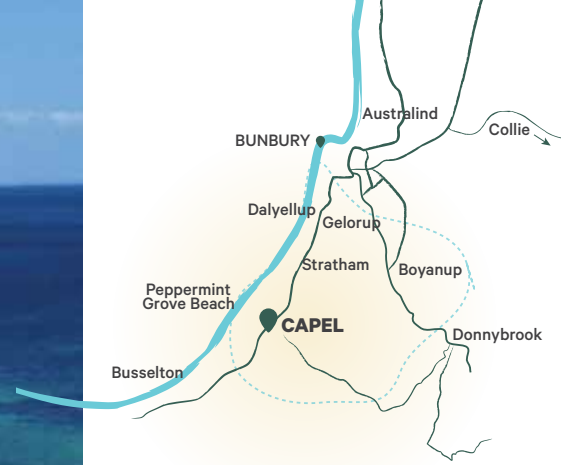
squash before taking a dip in the pool or a soak in the spa. Meanwhile, lush tropical gardens and a resort-style pool make **Ferguson Valley Escape** truly luxurious.

Wherever you stay in the Ferguson Valley, it will be scenic and serene **BG**



Stratham Beach

WANDER LONG STRETCHES OF PRISTINE COAST, EXPLORE CHARMING COUNTRY TOWNS AND ADMIRE THE TOWERING TREES OF THE WORLD'S LAST REMAINING TUART FOREST, WHEN IN THE CAPEL REGION.



**RENOWNED FOR ITS** ancient jarrah and tuart forests and 29km stretch of glittering beaches dotted with dramatic dunes, the Capel Region is a nature lover's paradise.

Roughly halfway between the centres of Bunbury and Busselton and nestled on the Capel River, you'll find Capel, an authentically rural but fast-growing township. Here the walls of the main street are lined with murals that reflect the town's culture and stories.

Peppermint Grove Beach, or Peppy Beach as the locals call it, is a particularly alluring and must-see location, being home to white sandy beaches and the fabulous **Peppermint Grove Holiday Park**; it's your ultimate hammock and chill destination.

Nearby, Boyanup is a quintessential dairy and cattle town boasting fantastic local produce.

A little further north, Dalyellup is a new, coastal suburb adjoining Bunbury with awesome beaches, 50ha of parks and gardens, 25km of cycleways and walking trails and its own piece of preserved tuart forest. Get ready to explore the mix of magical areas and activities that make Capel so inspiring.

# CAPEL REGION



Capel street mural by artist Erin Rafferty

**SCENIC** From stunning natural scenes to true country charm, The Capel Region is a picturesque place to explore.



Capel River Mouth, Peppermint Grove Beach

## Explore the Capel Region...

### EAT & DRINK

#### Freshly baked brunch and lunch delights

With classic egg dishes, a selection of filled croissants and sweet treats baked in store with love, **Capelberry Café** is a favourite for locals and visitors. It also serves a smashing lunch menu with burgers, salads, curries and more.

#### Indulge in fine wine

**Capel Vale** has been crafting elegant wines of provenance since 1974 and is an absolute must-visit for any wine aficionado. With a prolific history of being awarded Top 5 Star Winery in James Halliday's Australian Wine Companion among other accolades, it really is up there with the best.

**Kellivale Estate** is another cellar door well worth your time. This incredibly charming, boutique winery specialises in Spanish, French and Italian varietals.

#### Dine with country charm

It's hard to look past a country pub with old-world charm in Capel. Try **The Boyanup Tavern** in Boyanup or the historic **Capel Tavern** for a satisfying lunch or dinner. The Capel Tavern has the added bonus of a beer garden overlooking the Capel River, making it the perfect spot for a lazy Sunday sesh.

#### Go local at the markets

**The Boyanup Farmers Market** takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month and



Capelberry Café

is well worth a look in. It showcases the wonderful diversity of fresh locally-grown produce, including a rainbow of fruit and vegetables, premium pasture-fed goat and lamb, fresh seafood, goat's milk and cheese, sheep cheese, local honey, olives, nuts and more. You will also find freshly-roasted coffee, plenty of preserves and local wine in abundance, as well as artisan crafts and skincare.

### GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

#### Walk among giants

A trip to Capel wouldn't be complete without marvelling at the world's last remaining ancient forest of tuart trees, some 33m high and 10m in girth. Take a leisurely drive through **Ludlow Tuart Forest** in Tuart Forest National Park,

or embark on a walk, meandering for 1.2km through Usher (South Bunbury) to Dalyellup, gazing at the towering trees above. Take a picnic stop to soak in the serenity. This accessible and leisurely trail is suitable for cyclists, skaters or walkers, including those with prams. Home to the rare Western Australian ringtail possum, the forest is great for a night-time stroll to spot one of these furry friends in their natural environment. So, pull on your adventure boots and take a torch.

#### Relax at Peppermint Grove Beach

Get to **Peppermint Grove Beach** early and spend time at one of the Bunbury Geopraphe region's best beaches. Stretch out on the white sand with a book and settle in for the day, taking an intermittent dip in the tantalising waters to cool off as



the urge arises.

Get active and bring your kayak and meander up to the Capel River mouth. For fishing enthusiasts, bring your gear and settle in at one of the designated fishing areas to catch a feed.

### Pack a picnic for the falls

If you are heading south-east from Capel towards Donnybrook along Goodwood Road, come prepared with a picnic and stop for a while to admire the picturesque **Ironstone Gully Falls**. In winter the stream, having followed a course through one of the region's many fine jarrah forests, crosses under the road and gently rambles over a series of rapids. The falls drop

over a dramatic 9m ledge. From August to October, the surrounding countryside abounds with a stunning display of wildflowers. Enjoy the facilities provided at the site including barbecues, picnic benches and toilets.

### Walk by the water

Stroll along the banks of the river when walking the 1.3km **Preston River Ramble** in Boyanup. Starting in Lions Park and ending at the information bay on South Western Highway, the Preston River Ramble showcases significant aspects of the natural and cultural history of the area via engaging interpretive panels. Keep an eye out for native birds and watch the route come to life with wildflowers in spring.

The **Joshua Lake Walk**, also in Boyanup, is an easily walkable 1.1km loop trail. It circumnavigates the lake, and takes walkers through a mix of revegetated woodland and pleasant open grassy spaces. Along the way five interpretive panels explain both the natural and cultural history of this lovely place. Pack a picnic and relax for the day.

### Be brave and bold with an adventure activity

Attempt to defy gravity at **Gravity ETC** in Dallyellup! For the young at heart, bounce,

tumble, balance, flip and fly your way around 1,800sqm of indoor high-energy trampoline excitement.

Don't like being up in the air? What about learning the art of archery on the 15-target archery range at **Paintball Pursuit Fun Park** in Gelorup, where a trained instructor will teach you this ancient sport used in hunting and battlefield.

Get the adrenaline pumping here; groups and individuals can fight it out paintballing, or have fun trying their skills at axe throwing.

## EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

### Connect to heritage

Many Boyanup locals are history buffs with a passion for trains, and the driving force behind the **South West Rail & Heritage Centre**. Boyanup Foundation Blacksmiths, Capel Men's Shed, Preston River Old Machinery Group, Rail Heritage WA and South West Model Railway Group are the resident groups that call the centre home. The centre opens its doors with a special theme every fourth Sunday of the month, offering a glimpse into the past with all resident groups working and demonstrating the techniques and skills that define their activities. Come observe the heritage trains



and blacksmiths at work. Grab yourself a map to the **Boyanup Heritage Trail** while there and appreciate the major sites and stories of European settlement history of the town, as you explore the streets.

**Discover artisanal treasures**

The Capel region is speckled with an array of lovely arts, crafts, antiques and collectibles shops to explore. **Rustic French Living** in Boyanup specialises in French-inspired furniture, homewares, antiques and ladies clothing. For all things spinning, crocheting, chalk painting, wool, one-of-a-kind furniture, and rustic gifts a visit to **Craggy Pear**— located inside an old church — is a must.

**PLAN TO STAY**

**Wake up with ocean views**

Pitch a tent or book a studio at the **Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park**. You could also find a hammock-loving holiday home and make this your base for a bountiful experience across the Capel region. Visit the Holiday Park shop for handmade gifts or pop into the bottle shop for a nice drop of local white to toast the sunset. And don't forget to pre-order a woodfired oven pizza for a Friday night feast.

**The Peppermint Tree Lodge** offers



*Capel Region*  
**EVENTS**

**Dalyellup Easter Event**  
30 March 2024

**Gelorup Food Truck Sundowner**  
14 April 2024  
74 Hasties Road, 4pm – 8pm

**Capel 200**  
29 June 2024  
*Dates are subject to change*

**CAPEL REGION VISITOR INFO**

**A** Capel Library, Forest Road, Capel  
**T** +61 9792 7205  
**E** welcome@bunbury.wa.gov.au  
**W** library.capel.wa.gov.au  
OR visitbunburygeographe.com.au/  
explore-the-region/capel/



*Peppermint Grove Wetlands*

four-star luxury properties with superb beachside views for a truly relaxing experience. Its ethos is all about making its guests feel 'spoilt'. Family friendly and accessible, the **Stirling Estate Chalets** in

Stratham make a great base for exploring local attractions.

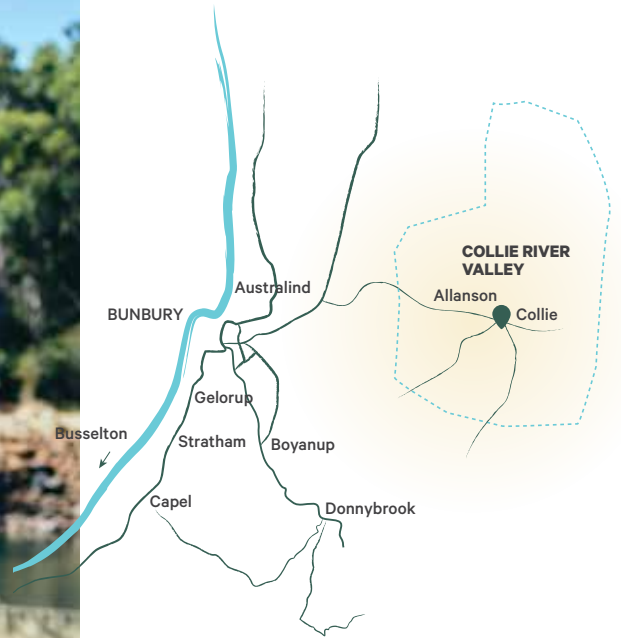
Keep an eye out for the new **Capel Marron Farm** coming in late 2024. **IG**



*Peppermint Grove Beach*



Outback Horse Trails



**ARE YOU SEEKING** adventure in the great outdoors? Whether it's camping, kayaking, hiking, or mountain biking, Collie River Valley at the top of the Darling Scarp is where you'll find it. Tracks and trails are in abundance in this scenic region with the amazing Collie River, the iconic Munda Biddi Trail and world-renowned Bibbulmun Track running through.

Set in the picturesque Collie River Valley, the town of Collie is located approximately 200km south of Perth via the South West Highway or Forrest Highway and only 60km from Bunbury.

Historically, Collie was considered a coal mining town with its heritage steeped in the industry, as well as forestry and railways. These days, Collie is diverse in its experiences, emerging as leading trails town, immersed in nature, plus featuring rich arts and culture, with a fabulous gallery punching well above its weight and an impressive mural trail running through the town.

# COLLIE RIVER VALLEY

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS, TAKE TO THE HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING TRACKS OR COOL OFF IN SCENIC, SWIMMING SPOTS WHILE IN COLLIE RIVER VALLEY.

# REGION



Stockton Lake

## Explore Collie River Valley...

### EAT & DRINK

#### Rise and shine

**The Wagon** is an absolute must-stop coffee spot for locals and cyclists looking for a caffeine fix. This lovely café is housed in a heritage train wagon and serves up fluffy buttermilk pancakes among other tasty brunch dishes. A licensed venue, **The Kiosk at the Dam** is another local favourite and a great base to begin or finish a day of exploring Wellington National Park. Enjoy a simple but satisfying menu of locally-sourced pies, freshly-made sandwiches and more.

For a low-sugar light refreshment or energy boost, head to iced tea and smoothie bar **Whisk Nutrition Studio** located in the centre of Collie. For something more substantial, visit **Barn-Zee's Burgers & Barista** in the historic Dorsetts Corner building.



Wellington Dam area

#### Tuck into top-notch pub fare

If you fancy some good honest pub fare, refurbished family-style hotel **The Colliefields** is open for dinner as well as breakfast and lunch. Also on Throssell Street, the recently transformed **Crown Hotel**, its bar and restaurant offers craft beers, signature cocktails, delectable bites and regular live music.

#### Sip and savour local tipples

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the balcony at **Harris River Estate** overlooking their expansive vineyard and jarrah forest. Sip on estate-made wine, or a refreshing gin and

tonic. Its collection of boutique gins features locally-sourced native botanicals, such as Lemon Myrtle and Wildflower. Horseriding is also available through **Outback Horse Trails**.

### GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

#### Take your bike out on hero dirt

Collie is fast becoming WA's major mountain biking destination, with its impressive network of trails that continues to expand and develop. With more than 20 trails for beginners and pros across Collie's **Wambenger Trails** network, there's plenty of opportunities to get your cogs turning. Check out the freshly added Kylie Track — 'kylie' meaning boomerang in Noongar language, indicative of the crescent shape of the trail. This 10km fun-flowing trail features a 300m technical alternate line for more experienced riders to test their abilities. Download the **Wambenger Trails App** to stay in the loop with all things Collie-trails.

The **Arklow Trails** have gotten bigger and better, with over 35km of trails to ride including a 9.2km green (easy) trail built to accommodate hand cycles.

The **Wagyl Biddi** trail, named after the mythical rainbow serpent, is a fun and easy flow trail on the edge of the town centre.

For the ultimate challenge, attempt the world-class **Munda Biddi Trail**, which diverts through Collie. Don't have gear? Hire your bike through **Adventure Connections**, who can also give you ideas of where to



Harris River Estate

## Destination

explore and offer guided tours that are rich in insights. Alternatively, hire your gear from the **Kiosk at the Dam** (open Wednesday to Monday) in the Wellington National Park.

### Enjoy a hike in the great outdoors

If you'd rather explore the stunning old-growth jarrah forests with your feet planted on the ground, embark on the famous **Bibbulmun Track**, which traverses the region. Commit to an overnight hike from Collie to Dwellingup or a leisurely day walk among the wildflowers. There are so many to choose from, with the wonderful Wellington National Park right on Collie's doorstep.

A new section of the 87km **Wiilman Bilya Trail** opened late 2022, with the entire circuit taking hikers through Wellington National Park and passing through Potters Gorge, enabling a multi-day hike around Wellington Dam.

For further insights on where to look for wildflowers, conservation, and the native flora and fauna, book a tour with local experts, **Forest Explorers**.

### Take a dip in a favourite swimming spot

Take a break from the beach and immerse yourself in one of Collie River Valley's many spectacular inland water spots. Start at the picturesque and culturally significant **Minningup Pool**, where the Collie River is at its widest, perfect for swimming, kayaking or picnicking. Follow the Collie River in Wellington National Park to uncover an array of natural swimming pools and, if the water level is high, it's a perfect place to kayak. Experience the intense blue waters of the stunning **Stockton Lake**, and get on the water with ease when hiring a kayak or paddle board from **TraaVerse**.

Located 10km south east of Collie is **Lake Kepwari**, an old mine filled with water from the Collie River. The calm waters make it popular for swimming and fishing (licence required), with a designated water ski area, boat ramp and bookable camping facilities available.

The serene **Honeymoon Pool** in Wellington National Park is a photo hotspot for good reason. It's a wide natural pool surrounded by graceful peppermints and jarrah and marri forest along the Collie River.

Not far away is another Instagrammable favourite – **Black Diamond Lake**.

### Rev your engines

If fast cars are more your style, get your adrenaline fix by zooming around a top-class Motorplex track. **Collie Motorplex** features a 2.7km race circuit, 1/8th mile club level



Adventure Connections



Forest Explorers

drag strip and purpose built burnout pads. With regular Champion's Ride Days and V8 Supercar hot laps and events all year round, it's sure to get the heart pumping!

## EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE

### Celebrate heritage

Check in with the Collie Visitor Centre for a rundown on events and activities, including plenty of family friendly things to do. The new heritage trail is one highlight, with the focus on Collie's heritage buildings and early Indigenous areas.

Visit [collie.wa.gov.au/news/collie-rail-to-river-heritage-trail/](http://collie.wa.gov.au/news/collie-rail-to-river-heritage-trail/)

Take a trip back in time and gain an insight into the lives of Collie's rugged underground miners at the **Replica**

**Underground Coal Mine Experience** at the Collie Visitor Centre, which has recently been refurbished. The replica mine was constructed in 1983 to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of coal discovery. Immerse yourself in a tour with a past miner (by appointment) and check out the restored locomotives while you are there. Pop across the road and pay a visit to the **Collie Coalfields Museum and Heritage Research Centre** too. With several sheds housing an eclectic mix of historical relics from iconic automotive artefacts to vintage typewriters, it's a real local history treasure trove.

### Explore the arts all around

Collie has carved a name for itself as a thriving cultural town thanks to its impressive mega mural by internationally-



## Collie River Valley EVENTS

### Collie River MTB Marathon

July 2024

### Collie-Donnybrook & Return Cycling Classic

August 2024

### Collie River Ultra Marathon

September 2024 TBC

### Collie Cup

October 2024

### Feast in the Quarry

October – November 2024 TBC

### Harness Racing

Oct – Nov 2024

### Wildflower Display at Collie Visitor Centre

September 28th – 13th October 2024

*Dates are subject to change*



COLLIE HAS CARVED A NAME FOR ITSELF AS A THRIVING CULTURAL TOWN



*Collie mural trail*

acclaimed artist Guido van Helten painted across **Wellington Dam Wall**. Collie's mural trail features more than 40 art works dotted throughout town. Need help finding them? Do a tour with Alison from **Forest Explorers**.

**Collie Art Gallery** opened in 2015 and was the first purpose-built A-class gallery constructed in Western Australia since the Art Gallery of WA opened in 1979. It showcases a diverse and impressive exhibition program — think Arthur Boyd, Howard Taylor and Guy Grey-Smith, and has one of the biggest art prizes in regional Australia — the \$50,000 Collie Art Prize. Visit [collieartgallery.org.au/collie-art-prize](http://collieartgallery.org.au/collie-art-prize)

### Get to the Goods Shed

Designed by the iconic C.Y. O'Connor, Collie's heritage-listed **Goods Shed** was once the hub for produce brought into town by the network of railway lines that ran through it. Today, it has been repurposed for fortnightly Sunday markets where you can find an array of local goods like candles, homemade wooden toys and clocks, cakes, fruit and vegetables, plants, crafts and more. Next door you can also discover the **Rolling Stock Shed** where restoration of old rail carriages takes place.

### PLAN YOUR STAY

#### Sleep under the stars

Whether you're seeking an experience in

### COLLIE VISITOR CENTRE

**A** 156 Throssell Street,  
Collie WA 6225

**T** +61 8 9734 2051

**E** [info@collierivervalley.com.au](mailto:info@collierivervalley.com.au)

**W** [collierivervalley.com.au](http://collierivervalley.com.au)



*Wellington Dam mural*

nature, some cosy creature comforts, or a delightful retreat, there are accommodation options for all in Collie. **Honeymoon Pool** and **Potter's Gorge** are must-visit hotspots for avid campers looking to kick back among the gumtrees or get out on the hiking or mountain biking tracks. **Lake Kepwari** is also a complete paradise if a weekend of water-based fun is for you.

For a great hiking base with all the creature comforts, there's the centrally

located **Black Diamond Lodge**. Park your caravan at the **Collie River Valley Tourist Park** or book a campsite near the Arklow Trails at **Collie Trails Retreat**.

The redeveloped **Collie Ridge Resort** now offers a rooftop bar, pool and day spa. Local bed and breakfast options include **Mandia Cottage and B&B** and **Whispering Pines B&B**.

Wake up to picturesque scenery at **Harris River Estate** by booking into one of its self-contained two-bedroom chalets. **IG**



Binningup Beach

BURSTING WITH FRESH PRODUCE  
THANKS TO FERTILE PLAINS,  
TASTE DIVINE FOOD AND DIVE  
INTO REFRESHING WATERWAYS  
IN THE HARVEY REGION.

# HARVEY REGION



**ONLY 90 MINUTES** from Perth and 90 minutes from Margaret River, you'll find the Harvey Region. Nestled in the naturally stunning South West, it comprises the towns of Harvey, Australind, Myalup, Binningup, Benger, Brunswick Junction, Cookernup, Yarloop, Wokalup and Roelands.

A place of endless beaches, rolling hills, and outdoor adventures, its fertile plains are adorned with white-fenced horse studs and impressive heritage properties. This region is perhaps best known for its fabulous local produce. Think Harvey Beef, Harvey Fresh and Peters' Creameries — plenty of the big guys grew in this region for a reason.

To the east, the Darling Scarp's ruggedly beautiful jarrah forest, rolling hills and natural waterways are an adventure playground with spectacular views. To the west, water-lovers can experience the Harvey Region's vast coastline at the seaside hamlets of Binningup, Myalup, and Australind.



Broccoli, Melville Park

## Explore The Harvey Region...

### EAT & DRINK

#### Sample the local produce

In Harvey, fresh produce comes naturally and can be found all around. Enjoy a slice of country life at **Harvey Farm Barn** and take a self-guided tour to meet all the friendly farm animals. Enjoy a picnic on the grass or look out for one of their guided education tours. **Melville Park in Brunswick** is another picturesque location where a historic farm is now a haven for local produce — from artisanal cheeses and dairy products, to home-grown heirloom vegetables, to small-batch spirits and ciders.

Speaking of cheese, take a trip to the iconic **Harvey Cheese** in Wokalup to try some of the award-winning cheeses at one of their free daily tastings. **Hall's Family Dairy** is another local producer, famed for its creamy and delicate Suzette cheese. For more wine and cheese pairings, stop by wine bar **GeoVino** in Harvey. Visitors to GeoVino can enjoy a beverage and nibbles, browse local wines and other gourmet goods.

And, of course, you can't pass up the local citrus scene, bursting with flavour. As you drive through the region, keep an eye out for roadside stalls selling oranges, mandarins and other seasonal produce. And, for a truly unique experience, climb the 14m Big Orange look-out tower at **Harvey River Estate Winery** to take in views of the Region from above.

**The Brunswick Show** in October is all about showcasing the best of Harvey produce. From potato digs to cheese making, visitors will enjoy a gastronomic feast of information on how food ends up in the fridge at home.

#### Eat up

Start your day with coffee at the iconic **Benesse Australind** or with good old-fashioned hospitality at **Cafe on Uduc**. Lovers of baked goods shouldn't miss Harvey's **Harper Street Bakery**, Myalup's **Miami Bakehouse** and **The Crooked Carrot**, or Brunswick's **Country Bakery**.

For a more substantial lunch-time meal, head to **Old Coast Road Brewery** — you can work off your meal or build up an appetite with a few rounds on the 18-hole Wonders of WA Mini Golf course. There's also **Brugan Brewery** — Wokalup's industrial-style microbrewery with a paddock-to-plate dining approach. **Treendale Farm Hotel** can cater to up to 1,000 people and was named Australia's Best Family Dining experience at the 2021, 2022 and 2023 National Australian Hotels Association (AHA) Awards for Excellence.

The **Brunswick Tavern** is another local favourite.



Brunswick Tavern



GeoVino



Benesse Australind



Leschenault waterfront, Australind



Boola Biddi Dreaming Centre

If you're itching to get back to the waves, grab a takeaway from **Harvey Fish and Chips**, **Australind Fish and Chips** or **Treendale Fish and Chips** and head to the coast for the perfect sunset meal.

### Enjoy beverage escapades

Explore Harvey Region's award-winning, boutique wineries including **Skipworth Wine Company**, **Harvey River Estate**, and **Vineyard 28** (by appointment only).

Wine enthusiasts will enjoy learning about the whole wine-making process, from vine to bottle, at **Vineyard 28's** A Taste of Italy Tour (bookings essential); while beer-lovers will appreciate **Brugan Brewery** in Wokalup crafting fresh brews with locally produced hops.

At **Old Coast Road Brewery** in Myalup you can enjoy craft ciders and artisan spirits as well as beers with your meal. Spirit lovers should stop by **St Duke's Distillery** at Harvey Cheese for a tasting of their award-winning gins and vodkas, crafted from whey, a byproduct of cheesemaking.

## GET ACTIVE & AMONG NATURE

### Saddle up

Take to your horse and ride the trail through the **Myalup Pines Forest** as you retrace the exact path taken by the 10th Light Horse Brigade, who patrolled the area during WWII. Stretching over 56km from Binningup to Mandurah, the trail is a great way to experience the Harvey Region for avid horse riders and history-buffs alike.

You've heard of dog-friendly, but there are few places in the South West more horse-friendly than the Harvey Region. In fact, you can ride right up to **Old Coast Road Brewery**, which provides a trough and



Lake Brockman

tie-up area for your horse to enjoy, while you refuel with a lunchtime feast.

### Take a hike

Don't miss the stunning **Wildflower Ridge Walk** off Honeymoon Road for views over Harvey Dam and the coastal plain. The trail comes alive during the spring wildflower season, when blooms of native flowers brighten the walk with glorious colours.

In Harvey, the **Weir Road Trail** to **Harvey Dam** is a top walk. Nature seekers should also venture to the **Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park** which boasts a range of trails, including the accessible **John Boyle O'Reilly Wetland Trail** (1km boardwalk), the **Belvidere Interpretive Walk** (1.5km), and the challenging 9km **Harris Track**, which extends from Belvidere to The Cut.

For a relaxing morning stroll, take a walk along the **Leschenault Waterfront Historic Trail** (following the Leschenault Estuary Foreshore between Eaton and Australind) and stop in at **Benesse Australind** for a coffee along the way. At Brunswick Junction, the **Brunswick River Trail** is a charming walk along the river. Afterwards, take a refreshing dip in the unique Brunswick River Pool (open in summer).

### Hit the road

Take **Mornington Road** from Harvey to Collie for a scenic drive with stunning forest and picturesque countryside views.

Closer to the coast, take the 13km drive (no thru road) along Lake Preston near Myalup or cruise through the beautiful paperbarks on Cathedral Avenue for a bit of kangaroo spotting.





Harvey  
Region  
**EVENTS**

**SWAS Albemarle  
Fun Run**

TBC, March 2024

**Harvey Show**

26 – 27 April 2024

**Brunswick Show**

26 October 2024

*Dates are subject to change*



**DESTINATION HARVEY REGION**

**E** info@harveyregion.com.au

**W** harveyregion.com.au

If you are up for some gravel road driving, go in search of one of Australia's largest jarrah trees, hidden deep in the **Harris River State Forest**. Located on Big Tree Road, the **Jarrah Hadfield** is more than 10m in circumference and over 260 years old!

**Play at wonderful waterways**

The Harvey Region is a magnet for those who love all things outdoors, especially water-based activities. With beaches, rivers and lakes, you'll always be able to find somewhere new for your next swim, fishing trip, surf, or boating day.

On the coast, Myalup and Binningup are the ultimate destinations for a chilled-out holiday. Expect endless kilometres of pristine beach, perfect for fishing, dolphin spotting, snorkelling, and the odd surf (try Weedies Break).

The **Leschenault Estuary** is a 14km long serene waterway in Australind, and the best place to scoop up a delectable feed of crustaceans in the summer. While you're there, take a walk along the foreshore, glide through the estuary's quiet waters in a kayak, or jump on your kitesurf to catch the coastal breeze.

Inland, enjoy the turquoise waters of **Logue Brook Dam** near Cookernup. Surrounded by jarrah forest, the lake is a haven for water skiing, canoeing, fishing, swimming, and sailing. **Harvey Dam** is another hotspot (famous for Rainbow and Brown Trout, as well as Redfin Perch). Climb the dam wall before rewarding yourself with a picnic by the picturesque **Gibbs Pool**.

**Get pedalling**

Road cyclists can wind their way through

the quiet country roads of the Region.

**Yarloop to Wokalup**, via Harvey and Cookernup, is a favourite.

MTB riders will love the Harvey Region section of the famous **Munda Biddi Trail** — officially the world's longest continuous off-road cycling track. To access the upper Harvey section of the Munda Biddi Trail simply jump on at the corner of Logue Brook Dam Road and Scarp Road.

**EXPERIENCE ART & CULTURE**

**Glimpse Aussie folklore**

The **Stirling Cottage Precinct** is home to a replica of Stirling Cottage (1880), owned by the first Governor of WA, Sir James Stirling, and the childhood home of Australian Snugglepot and Cuddlepie children's author and artist, **May Gibbs**. Visit the precinct to enjoy tea and homemade cake at **Stirling Cottage Kitchen** and then walk through the gardens to learn about May's adventures in Harvey.

**Boola Biddi Dreaming Centre** is a home for Noongar culture in Harvey and a hub for booking Aboriginal tours and experiences. While visiting, peruse locally made clothing, artwork, homewares, giftwares, books, bush ingredients and artefacts. The centre is open Thursday to Monday from 10am to 3pm including public holidays.

**Explore Harvey Region heritage**

The Harvey Region is steeped in history. Stretch your legs along the 900m return **Noongar Kaartdijin Bidee** (Noongar Knowledge Path), which runs along the banks of the beautiful Harvey River and features 10 different pieces of art that have been

created by the local Noongar community.

Step back in time on the **Harvey, Yarloop and Australind Heritage Trails**, following the maps to uncover intriguing historic sites. Among which include **St Nicholas**, the smallest church in Australia and dating back to the 1940s; **Henton Cottage**, from the 1840s and now home to the Australind Artisan Collective; and the unique **Harvey Internment Camp Memorial Shrine**, recognising the thousands of Italian and German men interned during WWII.


Culture lovers should also pay a visit to **Featured Wood Gallery** in Treendale, which showcases stunning quality timber artworks and furniture, with a gallery and museum.

**PLAN TO STAY**

**Connect to country life**

With so much to do in the Region, it's no wonder you might want to extend your stay. Some of the best farmstays (with mind-blowing views) in WA are within the Harvey Region, including **Blue Hills Farmstay**, **Vista Ridge Top Paddock**, and **Harvey Hills Farmstay Chalets**.


For a beautiful B&B, try **Chalbury Park** in Harvey. Family fun awaits at **Binningup Beach Caravan Park** or the **Australind Tourist Park**, while the perfect adults-only retreat can be found at **Lake Brockman Tourist Park's** glamping tents. **IG**



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