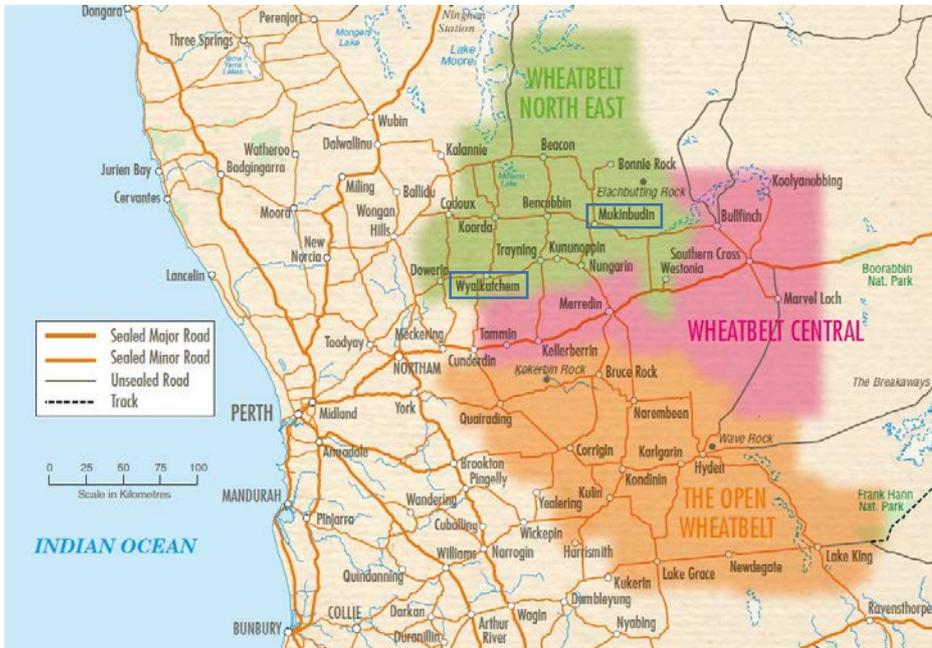


Journal of Trip to WA Wheatbelt, September 2019

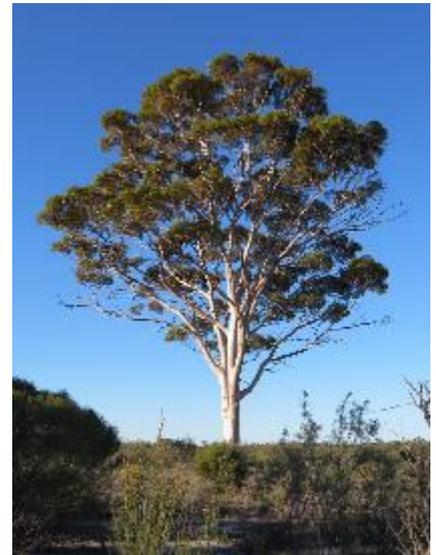
This Blog is based on the Facebook posts I made in connection with our trip to the WA Wheatbelt, 7 to 9-Sep-19, but in chronological order.

Saturday, 7-Sep-19:

Arrived in Wyalkatchem via Ellenbrook, Toodyay, Goomalling and Dowerin, completing the first leg of our Wheatbelt tour (220km from home by the route we took).



Typical Wheatbelt countryside and trees in the photos below. The first being the entrance to Wyalkatchem, where bulk grain handling was first introduced.



Wyalkatchem (“Wylie”)

Halfway between Wylie and Tammin is Yorkrakine Rock, a sacred (birthing) place for female indigenous folk. Lots of pools of water on top, and plants in the cracks, and some fauna, too - here an Ornate Rock Dragon.



A variety of lovely wildflowers on the roadside and in the bush on the way or in the Wheatbelt.



Chorizema Bush Flame



Wattle



Chorizema Bush Flame (close-up)



Solignum



Solanum (closeup)



Everlastings



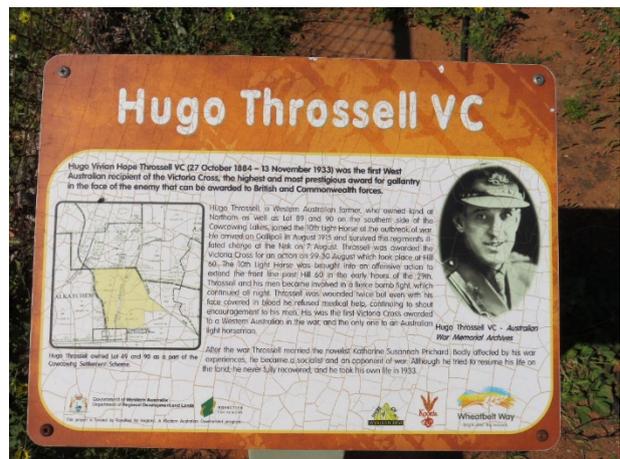
Leschenaultia



Leschenaultia

Sunday, 8-Sep-19:

First stop out of Wyalkatchem was the Cowcowing cemetery. Quite a small cemetery, on the side of the road, miles for anywhere. Some tributes to the early farming pioneers, as well as to Hugo Throssell, who had a small holding in this area, was the first West Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross, and though he returned to farming after the First World War, a sad ending.



Then via Beacon, and a wildflower reserve not excelling in flowers right now, on to Datjoin.

More granite outcrops: Datjoin Rock (where Lionel Brockman hid out from the police with his wife and children in 1970), more wildflowers (near Beacon).



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Then Beringbooding Rock with its water catchment (the tank holds nearly 10m litres).



Finally (Sunday) Elachbutting Rock, with impressive wave shape (rivals Wave Rock), a tunnel created when a whole slice slid off the rock, and a cave. 5km to drive around it!



Nearly end of day 2 of our Wheatbelt exploration, arrived in Muckinbudin.

Muckinbudin

Monday, 9-Sep-19:

First stop out of Muckinbudin was the Weira Reserve, where there is a great gnamma hole (natural depressions which indigenous folk have shaped to be very effective water collectors and storers).



Second Stop was at the Boodalin Soak, a watering hole used by those surveying for the Pipeline, and also frequented by the bushranger, Moondyne Joe.



Third stop today was the Edna May gold mine near Westonia. Closed several times during its life (because of the cost and flooding), last reopened in 2010 with the hope of recovering 100,000 ounces of gold; by 2016 they had recovered 450,000 ounces!



We stopped for coffee in Westonia, with some nice wildflowers on the edge of town.



Then just outside the town of Westonia is Sandford Rocks.



Another Ornate Rock Dragon.

Quandong tree (unripe fruit).



Drosera Spatulata (?)

Travelling down Great Eastern Highway back towards Perth, we followed the Goldfields Pipeline, as well as the Trans-Australian railway line (here seen near Kellerberrin).



We made a stop in Tammin, where Helen lived for a few years as a child. The school where her father (Frank Goddard) was Headmaster is totally changed now, though the Tammin Hall is perhaps much the same.



Next town after Tammin was Cunderdin, now the proud possessor of an Ettamogah Pub!



Next-to-last stop Monday was Bulgin Rock, between Cunderdin and Meckering; not a huge rock, but still some impressive views of the surrounding countryside; but the everlastings were the best we'd seen - as far as the eye can see (or camera trick you into thinking!). The rock itself had some fascinating markings...



Everlastings!



Then the last stop was in Meckering, site of a devastating earthquake on 14 October 1968, which destroyed the town. Here are some examples of the damage done – the buckled railway line, and the concertina'd pipeline.



And so we reach home (Trigg), on Monday evening, 9-Sep-19, greeted by this lovely sunset.

