

Welcome to Mullewa

Mullewa is proud to be known as the heart of wildflower country and the gateway to the north. Mullewa is also a vibrant, diverse and resilient community, rich in both natural and cultural heritage. Thank you for visiting our district - we have much to share with you!

A BRIEF HISTORY

Wajarri people have lived in and travelled through this country for thousands of years. Part of the broader Southern Yamatji group, their traditional lands extended east to Mt Magnet and Meekatharra and north to the Gascoyne River.

As they moved through the landscape they came to know this area as Mullawah (after the swans found on local pools) or Mooloowa, for the fog that often spills through the valleys and low country here.

In June 1861 John Davis, an early pastoralist from Champion Bay (Geraldton), wrote to the Government about taking up land around “Mullewa Spring”.

This appears to have been the start of European settlement in the area. By the late 1880s settlers had established a large building near the spring, to be used as a warehouse for supplies and produce.

Then, in the 1890s, gold was found in the Murchison, which heralded the arrival of the railway from Geraldton in 1894 – and sparked a surge of development that produced the town and district you can explore today.

MULLEWA TODAY

The Mullewa District has a population of about 450, of whom some 60% live in the town. Rainfall averages 333mm a year, and the district has become one of WA's primary agricultural areas, with broad-acre grain farms producing in excess of 250,000 tonnes annually.

There are deposits of mineral sands, manganese, kaolin and iron ore in the district. Mt Gibson Mining Ltd opened operations at Talling Peak late in 2003 mining for high-grade hematite (iron ore). In the 10 years to Feb 2014 they shipped in excess of 23 million tonnes to Chinese customers. Operations closed mid 2014.

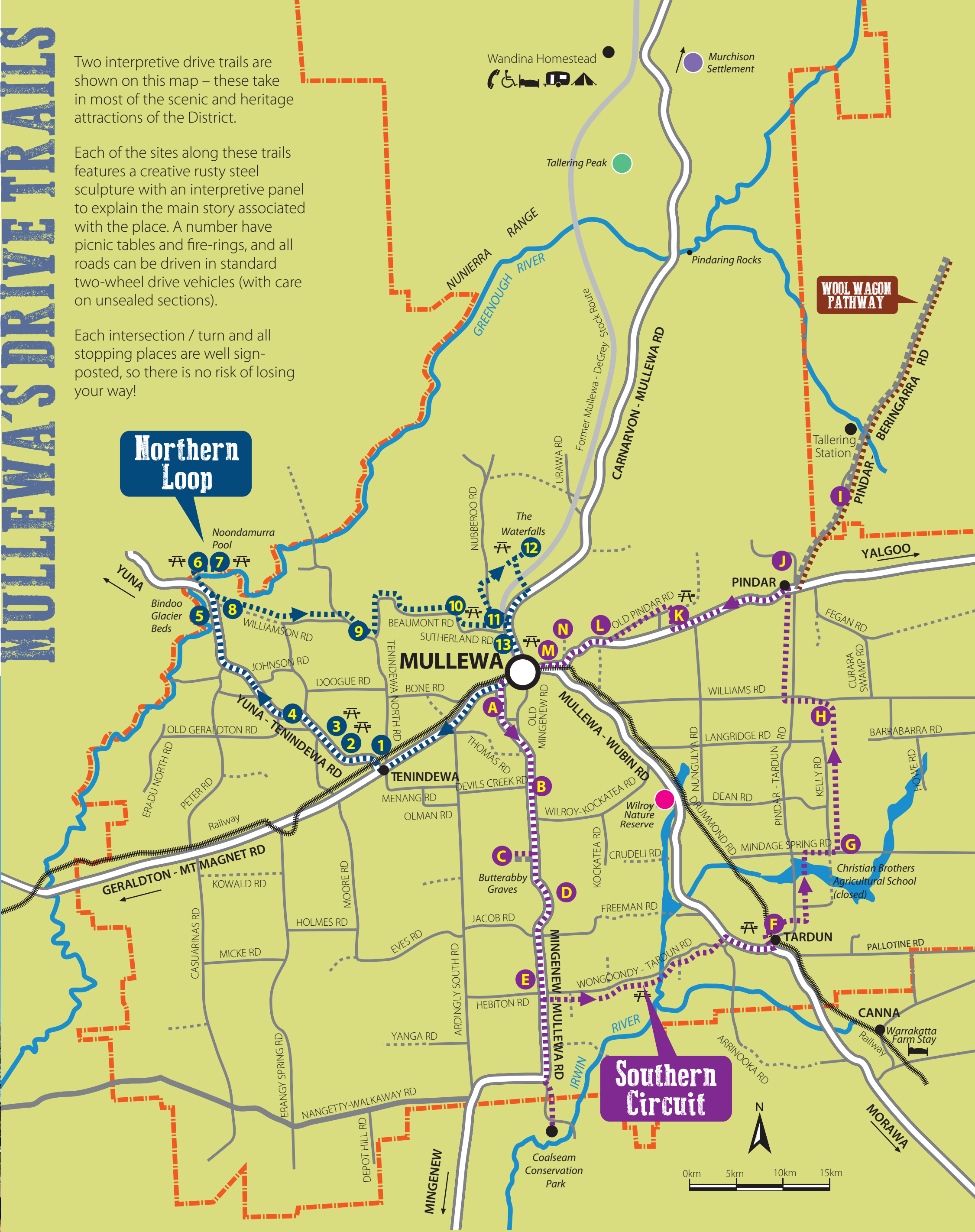
On the 1st July 2011 the Shire of Mullewa amalgamated with the City of Geraldton-Greenough to become the City of Greater Geraldton.

MULLEWA'S DRIVE TRAILS

Two interpretive drive trails are shown on this map – these take in most of the scenic and heritage attractions of the District.

Each of the sites along these trails features a creative rusty steel sculpture with an interpretive panel to explain the main story associated with the place. A number have picnic tables and fire-rings, and all roads can be driven in standard two-wheel drive vehicles (with care on unsealed sections).

Each intersection / turn and all stopping places are well sign-posted, so there is no risk of losing your way!



The Northern Loop (115km)

This route includes the old Tenindewa settlement and school (with its historic stone causeway across the lake), and the nearby Wolya Well, a vital water point on the original road to the Murchison.

You will then pass the fascinating Bindoo Glacier Beds on your way to the gorgeous Greenough River and Noondamurra Pool, a place of great significance to local aboriginal people.

Bindoo Hill Nature Reserve is a grand example of the diversity of this landscape (especially in spring), and the Homesteads and Carbon Capture sites tell two vastly different stories of farm life in this area.

The final section of the trail takes you to several historic sites on the old De Grey – Mullewa Stock Route, before returning to town via the poignant Pioneer Cemetery.

Suitable for all vehicles - with caution on gravel / sandy sections (40% sealed / 60% gravel). Travel in a clockwise direction - as shown on the map. Features 13 interpretive stopping places.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Tenindewa Stockyards | 7 Noondamurra Pool |
| 2 Tenindewa School | 8 Bindoo Hill Nature Reserve |
| 3 Wolya Well | 9 Homesteads |
| 4 Kockatea Gully | 10 Carbon Capture |
| 5 Bindoo Glacier Beds | 11 Perkins #2 Well |
| 6 Greenough River | 12 The Waterfalls |
| | 13 Pioneer Cemetery |

The Southern Circuit (145km)

Visit the tragic Butterabby Graves site, a raw reminder of the clash of cultures that occurred when European settlers moved into Wajarri country.

Then travel via atmospheric Wongoondy Hall to visit Coalseam Conservation Park, an eclectic mix of spring wildflowers, early mining history and stunning cliff-top views.

The once-bustling settlement of Tardun offers the bonus of also having Wildflower Way interpretive sculptures, and not far north is the remarkable Hawes-designed Christian Brothers Agricultural School (Note: no public access; view from Site or road only).

Next comes Pindar, with its historic stone hotel building and its annual wreath flower displays, and then a historic rail siding and a little-known World War II military camp. Return to town via the old showgrounds and Mass Rock, two places redolent of Mullewa's early history.

Suitable for all vehicles (60% sealed, 40% gravel). Travel in an anti-clockwise direction – go west then south towards Mingenew, then follow the directional signage to find 14 fascinating interpretive sites.

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| A Mullewa Cemetery | H Landcare |
| B Devils Creek Hall | I Wreath Flowers |
| C Butterabby Graves | J Pindar Hotel |
| D Broadacre Farming | K Beatty Siding |
| E Wongoondy Hall | L Military Camp #2 |
| F Tardun Hall | M Old Showgrounds |
| G Christian Brothers Agricultural School (closed) | N Mass Rock |

GASCOYNE MURCHISON OUTBACK PATHWAYS

These three long-distance tourism drives are a great way to explore the further reaches of the Gascoyne and Murchison regions.

- The Wool Wagon Pathway starts at Pindar and runs 1160 km north all the way to Exmouth.
- The Miners Pathway is made up of two loops centred on Mt Magnet (total 970 km)
- The Kingsford Smith Mail Run stretches 800 km between Carnarvon and Meekatharra.

An excellent Guide Book is available – ask at the Visitor Information Centre for more details.

WILDFLOWER WAY & MIDLANDS ROUTE

Part of the Exploring Wildflower Country project, the Wildflower Way presents 21 interpretive sites along the Mullewa-Wubin and Geraldton-Mt Magnet Roads.

The recently opened Midlands Route boasts 17 newly developed interpretive sites taking you on a journey through eucalypt bushlands and flat topped plateaus offering extraordinary views.

Steel sculptures and interpretive panels tell the stories of the natural and cultural history of the Midwest country. Maps available at all Visitor Information Centres on these routes.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST AROUND MULLEWA

Murchison Settlement. 200km north of Mullewa (and on the Wool Wagon Pathway), this tiny settlement is steeped in pioneering pastoral history.

Talling Peak and Gorges. The gorges are well worth exploring - access is via Wandina Station but please contact the Manager there prior to travel. The peak is prominent in your view from the gorges (but is not directly accessible).

Wilroy Nature Reserve. A great place to see both birds and wildflowers – and another interpretive site on the Wildflower Way.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- Mullewa Community Resource Centre & Visitor Information. **9961 1500**
- City of Greater Geraldton. **9956 6600**
- Mullewa District Office. **9956 6643**
- Geraldton Visitor Centre. **9956 6670**
- Mullewa District Hospital. **9961 6200**
- Mullewa Medical Centre (Doctor & Pharmacy). **9961 1063**
- Mullewa Police Station. **9961 6600**

NEIGHBOURING SHIRE COUNCILS

(for road conditions and other information)

- Shire of Mingenew. **9928 1102**
- Shire of Morawa. **9971 1204**
- Shire of Yalgoo. **9962 8042**
- Shire of Murchison. **9963 7999**
- Shire of Chapman Valley. **9920 5011**
- Shire of Upper Gascoyne. **9943 0988**

Road conditions. unsealed roads can be affected by weather and other factors – check before you travel, be sure to carry plenty of water, and let someone know where you're going.

Camp fires. you're welcome to have a barbecue or campfire, except in the prohibited burning season (October – March). Be sure to extinguish your fire before moving on.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under its Regional Partnerships program



Explore our rich heritage of people and place



PLACES OF INTEREST IN TOWN

- A

The Church of Our Lady of Mt Carmel. designed and built by priest architect Monsignor John Hawes during his 22 year stay in Mullewa. The church is considered to be one of his finest designs, and is classified by the National Trust.
- B

Monsignor Hawes Priest House Museum. attached to the church is the Priest House, which was Monsignor Hawes' home for many years. It houses many of his personal effects. Volunteers run tours in the wildflower season. For times, please drop into the Visitor Information Centre.
- C

Saint Andrews Anglican Church. a lovely old stone building on Padbury Street; the rectory next door was once considered the "finest house in Mullewa".
- D

Mullewa Town Hall and former Shire Offices. built in 1935, this classic art-deco building is a landmark in town. The old Shire Offices now house the Community Resource Centre and Visitor Information Centre.
- E

Helen Ansell Studio Gallery. Local wildflower and fauna artist. Original gifts and souvenirs.
- F

Mass Rock. a short distance east of town is the site where Monsignor Hawes held services for local Aboriginal people – ask at the Visitor Information Centre for directions.
- G

Masonic Lodge. a typical high-windowed but attractive stone hall, built in 1926 (cnr Jose and Molster St's).
- H

Aboriginal Art Workshop and Gallery. meet artists at work and purchase artworks (Jose St opposite Town Hall)
- I

Suzie's Aboriginal Art Studio. meet the artist. Original artwork of local stories, wildflowers and culture.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Mullewa Muster & Rodeo

On the Saturday of the West Australia Day long-weekend (late May or early June).

Outback Bloom - Mullewa's Wildflower Festival

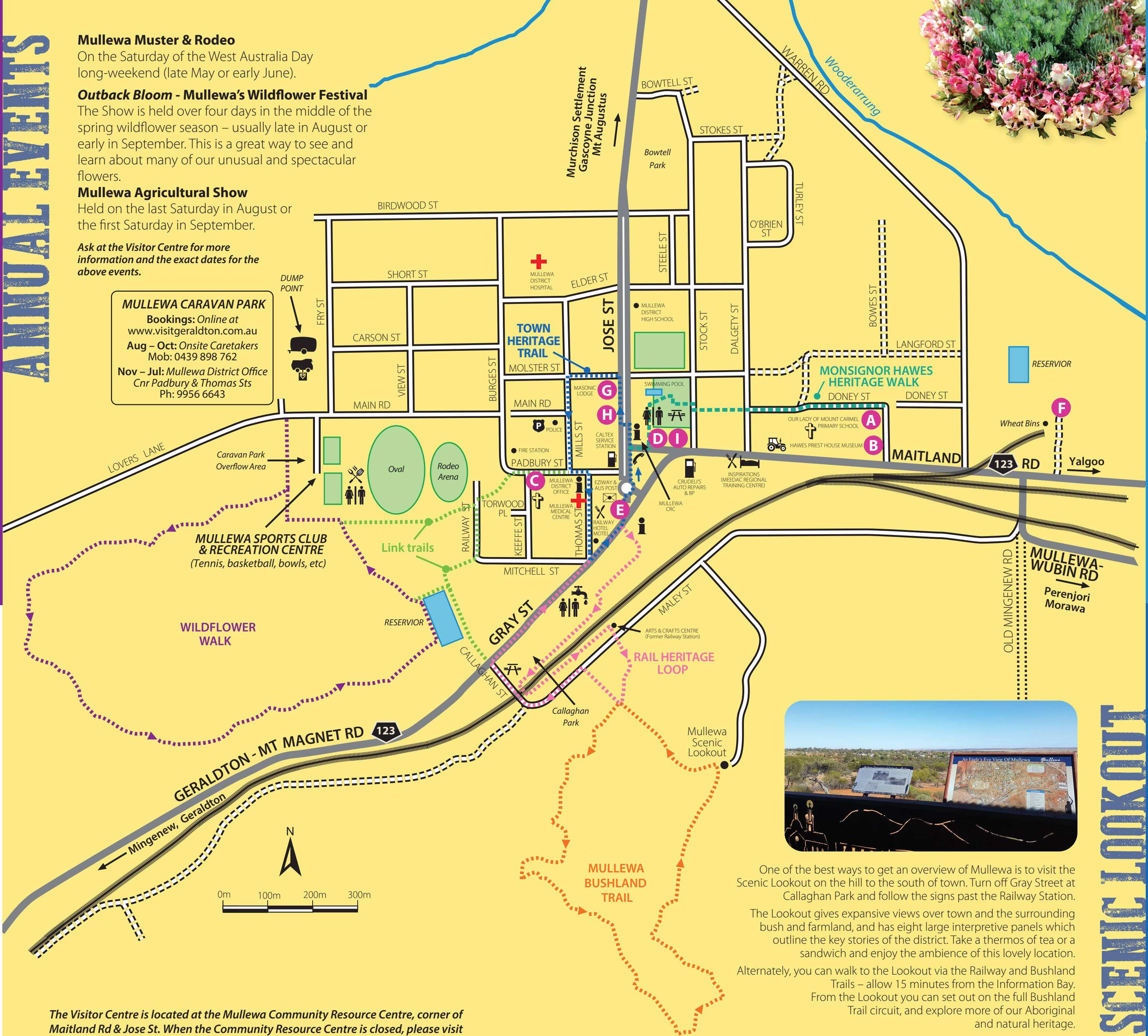
The Show is held over four days in the middle of the spring wildflower season – usually late in August or early in September. This is a great way to see and learn about many of our unusual and spectacular flowers.

Mullewa Agricultural Show

Held on the last Saturday in August or the first Saturday in September.

Ask at the Visitor Centre for more information and the exact dates for the above events.

MULLEWA CARAVAN PARK
Bookings: Online at www.visitgeraldton.com.au
Aug – Oct: Onsite Caretakers
Mob: 0439 898 762
Nov – Jul: Mullewa District Office
Cnr Padbury & Thomas Sts
Ph: 9956 6643



The Visitor Centre is located at the Mullewa Community Resource Centre, corner of Maitland Rd & Jose St. When the Community Resource Centre is closed, please visit the Mullewa District Office, corner of Thomas & Padbury St.

Walk trails in and around Mullewa

Tired of sitting in a car all day? Ready to stretch your legs and get some exercise? Well, what do you fancy – a walk in the bush, or a stroll around town? Mullewa offers richly interpreted trails in both environments – so go ahead, take your pick! Why not walk them all?

Remember to take a hat, some water and a camera and allow plenty of time to read the interpretive panels.

Mullewa Bushland Trail [2.3km]. a loop on a well-formed natural earth surface (allow at least 40 - 60 minutes). The trail starts and finishes at the Mullewa Scenic Lookout, or can be accessed from the Information Bay on Gray Street, via the Rail Heritage Loop. Interpretation focuses on natural heritage and indigenous culture.

Town Heritage Trail [1.1km]. this circuit starts and finishes in the Information Bay (allow 30 – 40 minutes). It uses wide flat footpaths and is a great way to see and learn about the town's built heritage.

Rail Heritage Loop [1.1km]. a loop trail, also starting and finishing in the Information Bay (allow 30 – 45 minutes). It links with both the Bushland Trail and the Wildflower Walk. Explore the fascinating history of the Mullewa railway precinct, once a major operational centre.

Wildflower Walk [2.8km]. this circuit starts and finishes on Lovers Lane, opposite the caravan park (allow 45 – 70 minutes). Alternately, access it from the Town Heritage Trail or the Rail Heritage Loop (see map). Interpretation identifies and describes some of the most common and spectacular species.

Monsignor Hawes Heritage Walk [600m]. a one-way walk – links the Town Hall to Hawes' church and museum, and showcases the work of this remarkable priest-architect right across the mid-west.

Pindar Town Trail [500m]. a short walk highlighting stories from the heyday of this small town.

WILDFLOWERS – MULLEWA ABLAZE

The Mullewa District comes alive in late winter and spring each year, when dramatic displays of wildflowers brighten the bushland and road verges. Everlastings form vivid swaying carpets across expansive plains, especially in pastoral areas, while shrubs, bushes and small trees spring to life in a blaze of colour. And, of course, the wreath flower is the star attraction.

Lechenaultia macrantha is known as the wreath flower because of its unusual circular shape. It grows well in disturbed areas, and so is commonly found on road verges or in gravel pits or areas that have been recently burnt.

It grows from a central root stock, with new branches being produced each year as older ones in the centre die off. It usually flowers between August and October, but this is determined by local rainfall events.

Areas east of Mullewa, around Pindar and through the farming country around Tardun and Canna often have excellent displays – but it is best to ask at the Visitor Centre for up-to-date information.

The Mullewa region is so rich in wildflower species because it straddles both geological and climatic transition zones. This produces great diversity across varying soil types and rainfall / temperature zones. Mullewa also contains both farmland, where human activity provides the "disturbance" favoured by many species, and vast pastoral properties, where nature remains little changed.

Plants of the *Asteraceae* or daisy family are short-lived annual herbs with soft papery flowers. Most everlastings fall into this family. Star species in the Mullewa area include the pink star everlasting (*Schoenia cassiniana*), the pom-pom everlasting (*Cephalopterum drummondii*), the splendid everlasting (*Rhodanthe chlorocephalum splendida*) and the pink sunray (*Rhodanthe manglesii*). The country east to Yalgoo and south-east to Payne's Find is renowned for its everlastings – but again, ask at the Visitor Centre

SERVICES IN TOWN

- Mullewa Community Resource Centre & Visitor Information (internet access). Corner of Jose Street & Maitland Rd. Mon–Fri; open weekends from August to September. **9961 1500.**
- Mullewa District Office (Council). for road conditions, caravan park bookings, library, licensing and visitor information. Corner of Thomas and Padbury Sts, **9956 6643.**
- District Hospital. Elder St, **9961 6200**
- Mullewa Medical Centre (Doctor & Pharmacy), Thomas St, **9961 1063.**
- Police Station. corner of Mills St & Main Rd, **9961 6600.**
- Post Office & General Store. Thurkles, Jose St, **9961 1010.**
- Mullewa Farm Supplies (gas, some camping gear). Maitland Rd, **9961 1001.**
- Service Stations
Crudeli's Auto Repairs. Gray St, **9961 1606.** Open Mon–Fri 7.30am–6pm, Sat 8am–12pm; closed public holidays. RAC roadside assistance, mechanic on duty, diesel, unleaded (no gas).
- Yarrumba Service Station & Deli. Jose St, **9961 1161.** 7 days; diesel, unleaded (no gas).

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

- Inspirations. Maitland Rd - accommodation, meals. **9961 1002.**
- Caravan Park. Lover's Lane, powered & un-powered sites available (no cabins), dump point booking details on map.
- Railway Hotel. Gray St - accommodation, meals. **9961 1050.**
- Rusty Jane's at the Sports Club. Main Rd, **0447 612 672.**
- Helen Ansell Studio Gallery & Café

OUT OF TOWN.

- Wandina Homestead (65km north) **9962 9597.**
- Tallering Station Camp Site (48km east) 0409 311 851.
- Wooleen Station (38km from Murchison) **9963 7973.**

