

Yanneymoon Hill Reserve

Offering spectacular views with a variety of bird life and flowers, Yanneymoon Hill Reserve covers 531 hectares and is located 75 kilometres north of Westonia. The eucalyptus garden species "Silver Princess" can be found in its natural state on top of the rock, as well as the Patricia's Spider Orchid, a rare species that is normally confined to the Moora/Watheroo area.



Chiddarcooping Reserve

Chiddarcooping Reserve is a DEC nature reserve covering 5,262 hectares of bushland. Located 50 kilometres north of Westonia, the reserve is abundant with unique flora and fauna and also contains granite outcrops and pools. The reserve is home to the lesser bottlebrush or Callistemon Phoeniceus, one of only two bottlebrush species native to south-west Western Australia, as well as the Cowslip Orchid.



Westonia Common

Westonia town-site is significant in that it has the unique charm of being nestled inside approximately 5,600 hectares of remnant bushland, known as the Common.

Woodlands & Wildflowers Heritage Walk Trail

Just outside the entrance to the caravan park, Mukinbudin you will find the start of the Woodlands and Wildflowers Heritage Trail. Follow the trail markers along this 4km walk trail through the Westonia Common woodland that will also take you into town and past historic points of interest. Keep an eye out for wildflowers in season.

Boodalin Soak

Boodalin Soak is located 6 kilometres west of town in the Westonia Common and can be accessed from Stoneman Road. The soak has great historical significance as a stopping place for travelers from York to Kalgoorlie. The well here was excavated and lined by the explorer C.C. Hunt with the help of convict labourers.



An interesting incident involving Moondyne Joe, Western Australia's best known bushranger, and his two companions occurred at Boodalin Soak in September 1866.

Moondyne Joe planned on escaping prison permanently by travelling overland to the colony of South Australia. After absconding from police custody Joe committed the biggest robbery of his career to equip his company for such a long and arduous journey, with himself and his companions stealing supplies from the Toodyay store of an old enemy. The gang then travelled east along Hunt's track with its convenient line of wells. Unfortunately the fugitives were sighted by sandalwood cutters near Youndegin and a police search party caught up with Joe and his friends at Boodalin Soak, where they were overcome and captured. One of the escapees suffered a gunshot wound during capture & was placed on horseback, with Joe & the other convict returning on foot to Fremantle prison. As punishment for escaping and for the robberies committed while on the run, Moondyne Joe received five years hard labour on top of his remaining sentence. Extraordinary efforts were also directed toward preventing Moondyne Joe from escaping once more, though Joe did succeed in absconding again.

Elachbutting Rock

Located approximately 100 kilometres north of the Westonia town site on a 466 hectare reserve, Elachbutting is a spectacular rock formation with similar features to the famous Wave Rock in Hyden. The rock has a number of large cavern areas, including a 30 metre long walk-through cavern and an unusual cave-like amphitheatre. Surrounded by natural bushland, it also holds a wide range of stunning wildflowers when in season, including masses of donkey orchids that can be found on the east side of the rock. Please be aware that dogs are not allowed at Elachbutting Rock.

Elachbutting Rock is also a bird lovers' paradise, with a massive range of bird species including wedge-tailed eagles, Major Mitchell cockatoos, golden whistlers and blue wrens.

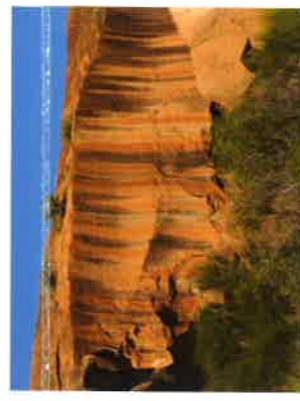
Elachbutting Well is another feature of this area. Located towards the rear of the rock, it is typical of the wells that were built in this area to provide a better natural water supply to the settlers.

Elachbutting Rock is easily accessed via well-maintained gravel roads. Parking facilities and a walk trail have been developed jointly by the Shire of Westonia and DEC. Elachbutting Rock also features a new barbeque and unisex toilet, picnic tables, and plenty of room to set up camp.



Baladjie Rock

Baladjie Rock is situated on a 546 hectare reserve. The rock is a popular picnic spot for locals and visitors alike and is located 42 kilometres north east of Westonia, just a few minutes off the Koorda-Bullfinch Road, and 55 kms north west of Southern Cross.



The main granite rock is nestled in an attractive woodland adjacent to Baladjie Lake. A cave is located on the upper eastern side of the rock and a climb up this side of the rock provides a spectacular view of the nearby lake system and surrounding landscape.

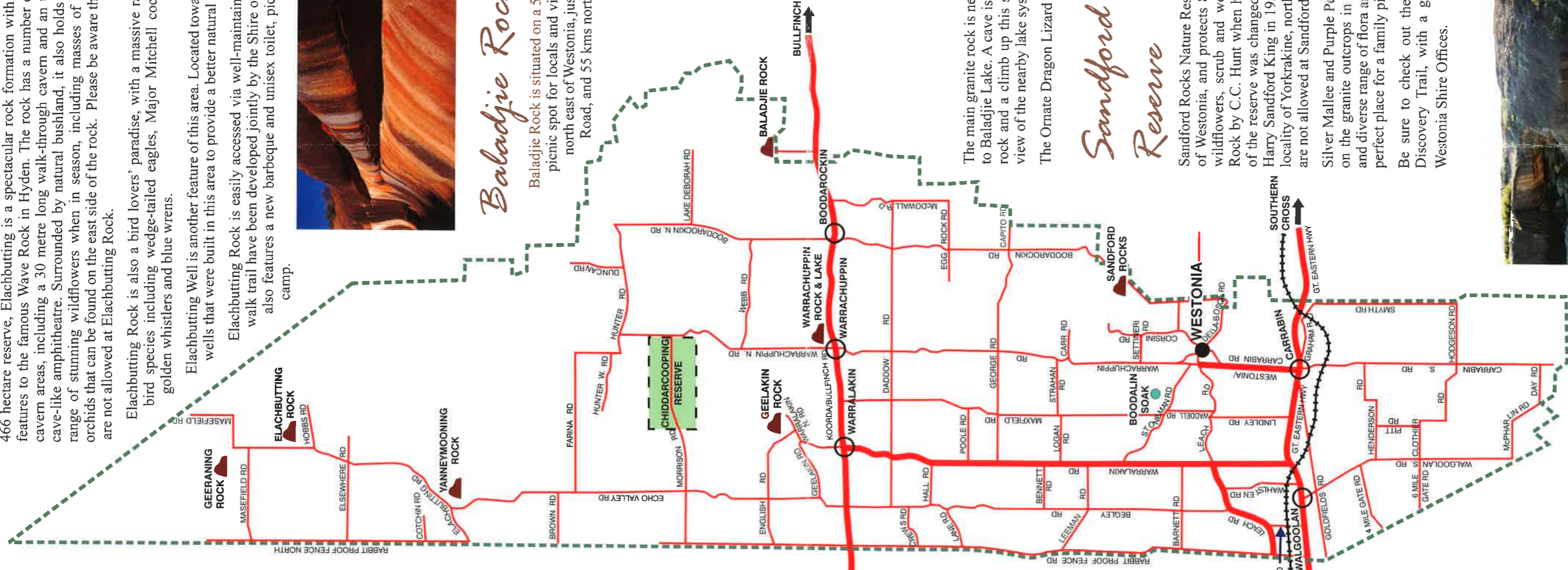
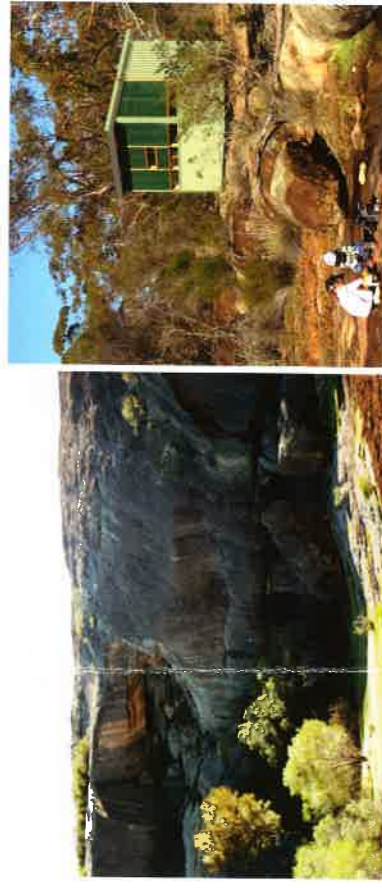
The Ornate Dragon Lizard is a popular resident at Baladjie Rock.

Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve

Sandford Rocks Nature Reserve is located 10 kilometres north east of Westonia, and protects 806 hectares of granite outcrop, pools, wildflowers, scrub and woodland. Originally called Yorkkrakine Rock by C.C. Hunt when he first discovered it in 1864, the name of the reserve was changed to Sandford Rocks after the surveyor Harry Sandford King in 1958 in order to avoid confusion with the locality of Yorkkrakine, north of Tammin. Please be aware that dogs are not allowed at Sandford Rocks.

Silver Mallee and Purple Peacock Beetles are thought to exist only on the granite outcrops in this reserve. The relaxing atmosphere and diverse range of flora and fauna at Sandford Rocks make it the perfect place for a family picnic.

Be sure to check out the 1 kilometre return Sandford Rocks Discovery Trail, with a guide booklet available free from the Westonia Shire Offices.



"Where the Wheatbelt meets the Goldfields"



(Look for the Australian flag flying just outside the office)



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Hood-Penn Museum

Entry to the Hood-Penn Museum is \$3 for adults and \$1 for anyone under the age of 18. The Hood-Penn Museum features a variety of scenes showcasing early life in the shire including a pub, a shop/hardware store, a petrol station/garage, a kitchen, a bedroom and a blacksmith/farm workshop. A vibrating interactive mine tunnel exhibit is also included within the museum that gives visitors an idea of what life in an early Westonian gold mine would have been like. The museum is open Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 4.30 pm and entry is via the shire office on the main street. Weekend between 10 am to 12 pm. Public holiday by appointment only. Cameras and wallets can be taken into the museum but handbags must be locked in a locker in the shire office foyer.



History

The town of Westonia owes its beginnings to the discovery of gold by a prospector known as Alfred David Weston. It was Weston's custom to camp and water his horses at Boodalin Soak (6 kms west of the town site of Westonia) close to which was a quartz outcrop which seemed to him a likely spot to find gold. In December 1910 his efforts were rewarded and Weston then made application for four goldmining leases. This signalled the start of the Westonia gold field. The locality became known as Weston and by the end of 1913 the town of Westonia had a butcher, baker, three or four stores and a hotel (the Club Hotel). The town was officially named Westonia in June of 1914, the Edna May Tavern (that is still operating today as the Westonia Tavern) opened in February of 1915 and the Westonia Road Board was established in 1916.



James' Coffee Palace, Westonia 1916

A month after Alfred Weston made his initial application for four gold mining leases, Edmund Annear of Burracoppin made an application for a mining lease three miles south east of Weston's leases at the Boodalin Soak, naming the lease the Edna May after an aunt.

History Contd.....

This lease became Westonia's Edna May Gold mine. The Edna May is currently operated by Evolution Mining who poured their first gold from the mine in April of 2010, which signalled its movement into full mining production for the fourth time.

Agricultural industries then developed in the shire in the 1920's & since then wheat/sheep farming has become the shire's primary industry. The mining industry however remains an important industry in the area.

Locality Profile

Located in Western Australia's wheatbelt, 316 kilometres east of Perth, 306 kilometres west of Kalgoorlie and 55 kilometres east of Merredin the Shire of Westonia is renowned for its stunning natural woodlands, breathtaking granite rocks, beautiful wildflowers and vast open skies.

The shire population consists of approximately 300 people spread across an area of 3,268 square kilometres and includes the towns of Waiigoolan, Carrabin, Warralakin and the main centre Westonia. The climate is moderate with cool wet winters and an average rainfall of 300 mm. Winter temperatures range from 0 to 27 degrees occasional frosts. Summers are dry and warm with temperatures ranging from 10 to 45 degrees Celsius. Some summer thunderstorms are also experienced.

Westonia's main industries are broadacre wheat and sheep farming, and gold mining. The Westonia township has excellent facilities, which include: Tennis Courts, Bowling Green, Swimming Pool, Community Resource Centre, Grassed Oval, Golf Course, Recreational Complex, Gymnasium, Caravan Park, Community Cooperative, Museum, Post Office, Historical Hotel & Shire Offices.

The Westonia Community Cooperative is located in Wolfram St & provides coffee, cake & lunches. The store has EFTPOS facilities & stocks a large variety of groceries, fresh fruit and vegetables, deli items and take-away food. A book exchange is also run allowing visitors to take a book from the shelf if they donate one to the exchange, or alternatively visitors can pay \$2 for a book & the proceeds are donated to charity - ph: 9046 7222.

The Westonia Post Office is located on Wolfram St & also offers bill payment facilities. The post office is also an agency for the Commonwealth Bank, Toll Ipcc and Avon - ph: 9046 7010.

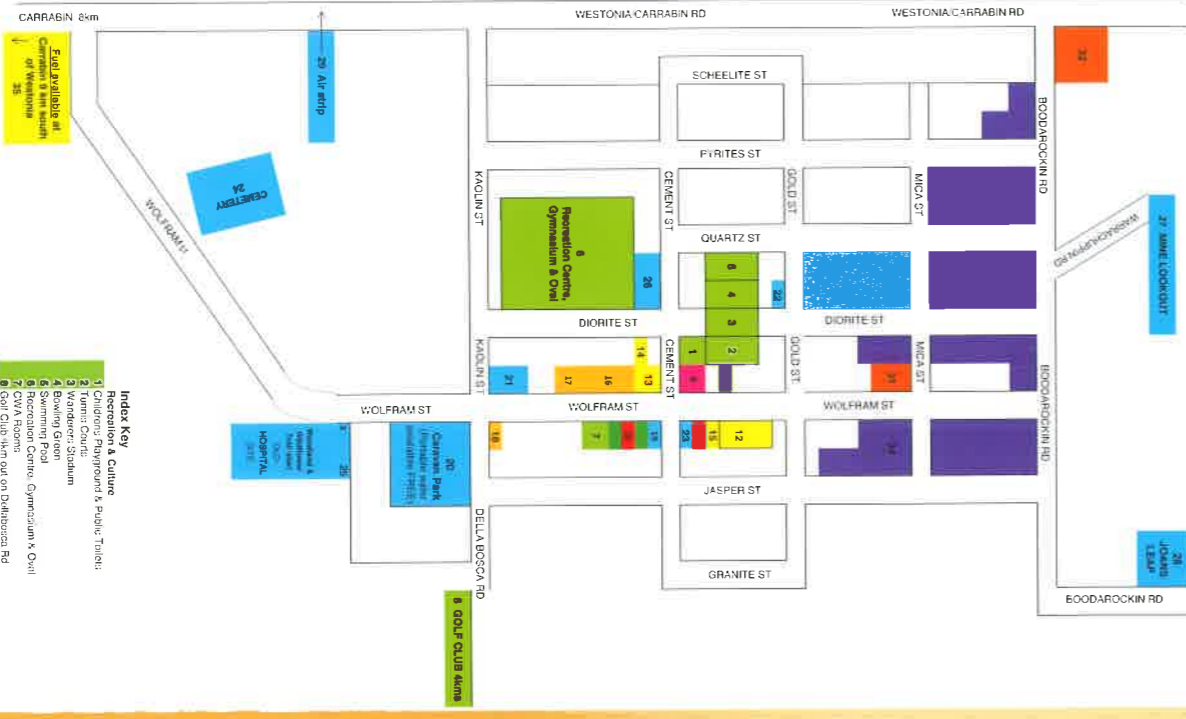
Westonia Gallery Café located on Wolfram street showcases local artisan products, Barista coffee, loose leaf teas, fair trade products, art, photography, jewellery, glassware & gifts. For more information please contact Pauline or Dennis on 08 9046 7200 or go to their website: www.westoniagallery.com.au

Wessey Woods (look for the Hi-Lo Construction sign) is located on Wolfram St & supplies local timber & beautifully hand crafted furniture - ph: 9046 7111.

The Westonia Community Resource Centre is situated on Cement St & offers internet access, Skype, tourist information, souvenirs, mobile phones, post cards & scrapbooking supplies. Faxing, photo printing, photocopying & laminating services are also provided (see www.westoniaacr.net.au), ph: 9046 7077.

The Westonia Shire Office is located on Wolfram St & provides transport licensing services, tourist information, caravan park receiving services and library services - ph: 9046 7063.

Westonia



- Buildings Available in Colour of Westonia**
- 18 Head-Penn Museum
 - 20 Westonia Caravan Park
 - 21 Westonia Recreation Centre
 - 22 Shire of Westonia Community Centre
 - 23 Westonia Tavern
 - 24 Old Masons Hall & Pastors' Theatre
 - 25 Old Westonia Caravan Park
 - 26 Old Westonia Caravan Park
 - 27 Westonia Community Centre
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- Index Key**
- 1 Children's Playground & Public Toilets
 - 2 Tennis Courts
 - 3 Bowling Green
 - 4 Recreation Centre
 - 5 Recreation Centre
 - 6 Recreation Centre
 - 7 CWA Rooms
 - 8 Golf Club (Main) on Dalkeith Rd
 - 9 Golf Club (Main) on Dalkeith Rd
- Significant Sites**
- 10 Westonia Recreation Centre
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Wolfram Street Facades

The Wolfram Street Facades project involves the construction of all new buildings in Westonia's town's centre in a 1920's historic style as well as the restoration & maintenance of all existing historic buildings in the town. The facades of the town's original bank, café, hotel, fire station, boarding house and green grocer store have also been replicated and front new buildings constructed in Westonia.



St Luke's Church

In 1916 Reverend Joseph Budge built St. Luke's Church as both a church & meeting place at Naretha, a camp along the Trans Australian Railway (in the vicinity of Cocklebidly, Western Australia). When the camp was disbanded in March 1918, the church was dismantled and railed to Kalgoorlie. The Bishop of Kalgoorlie, Dr Cyril Golding-Bird, then requested that the church be re-erected at Westonia, which was without a church and holding services in the town's school or Miner's Hall. The church was re-erected in Westonia in October of 1918. The architectural style of the building is typical of gold rush days with the use of weather board and iron.

48 hr stopover for fully self contained RV's only.

