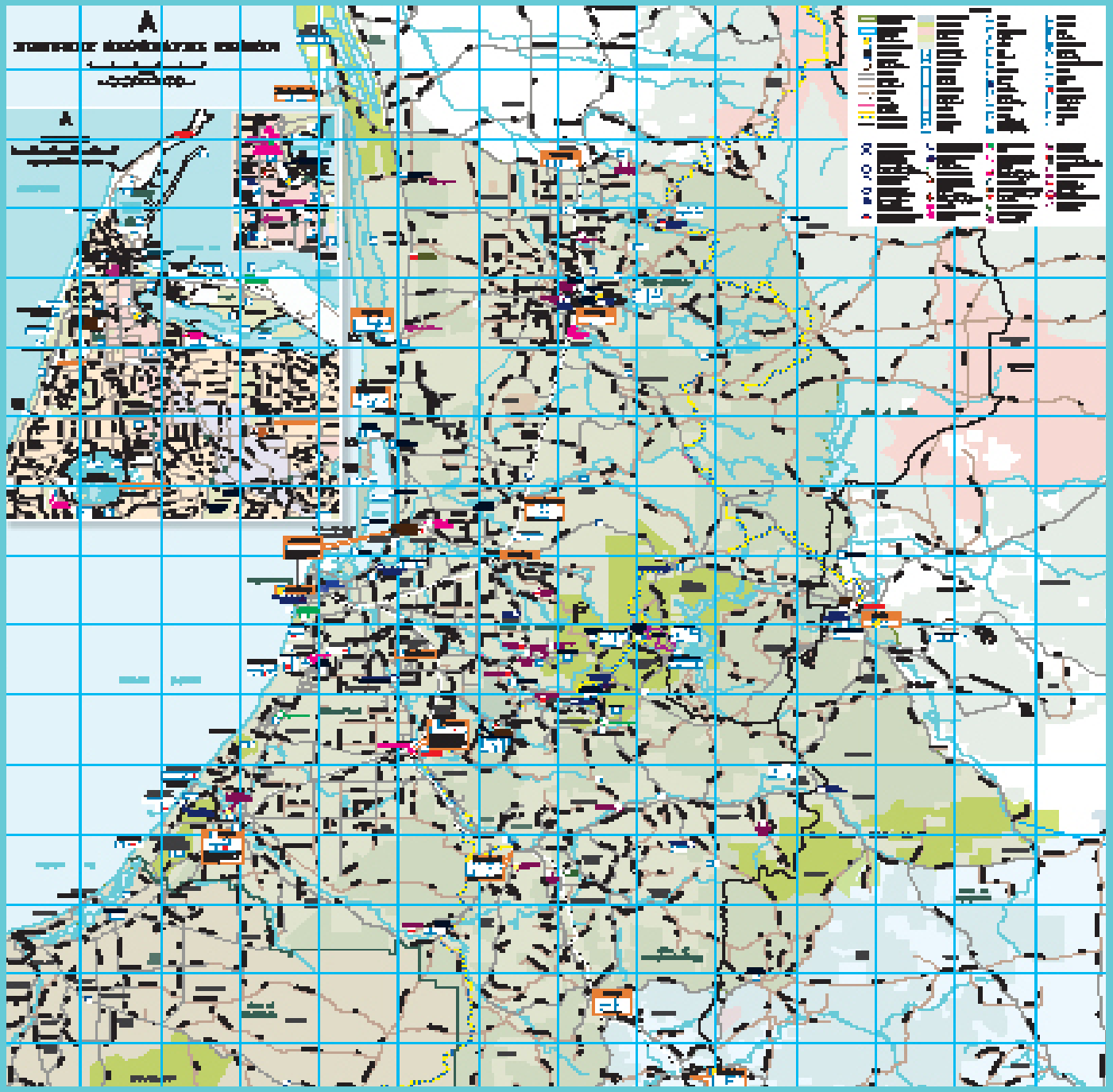
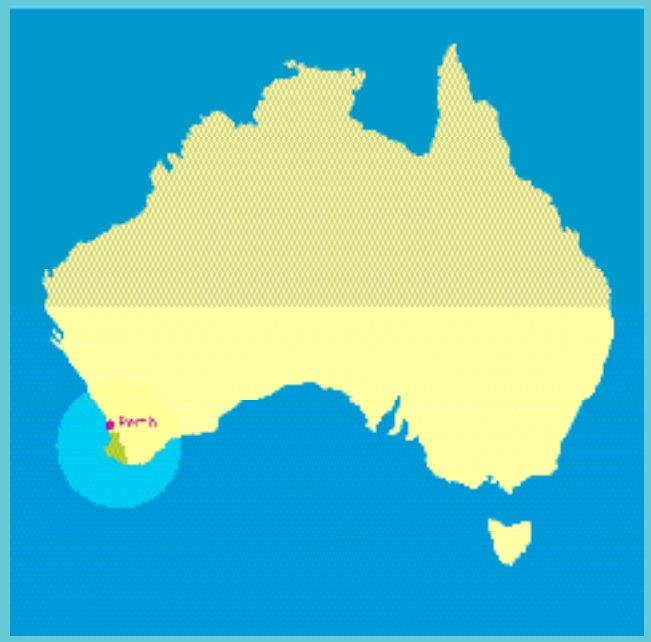
BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE

MEDIA KIT

2019

LOCATION





Bunbury is a vibrant seaside port city, undergoing an audacious renaissance scene, with a massive event calendar and an ever-growing collection of independent boutiques, small bars and produce-driven cafes. Only minutes away are the green pastures, vineyards, undulating hills, fertile valleys and quaint towns of the Geographe.

ReDiscover Bunbury street art

HIGHLIGHTS - BUNBURY

The new cool-cat in the tourism scene, Bunbury is bursting with must-do adventures.

INCREASE YOUR INTAKE OF ARTS & CULTURE

Ease yourself in with Bunbury's street and public art, the largest collection in regional Australia. Get your copy of ReDiscover and Outside the Box Street Art Map by Six Two Three Zero and find inspirational urban art and whimsical characters. Bunbury is also home to Australia's best performing entertainment centre (BREC), the largest WA regional art gallery (BRAG), and Australia's biggest music festival. Bless your cultural Charaka with legend festivals, mind-blowing art, and awesome music events.

SWIM WITH MAJESTIC WILD DOLPHINS

Koombana Bay is home to a large population of bottlenose dolphins and serves as a resting area and breeding ground. A group of around 100 to 150 dolphins is regularly seen in the bay and surrounding waters. Join the team at the Dolphin Discovery Centre, Australia's premiere dolphin centre, for an intimate swim with wild dolphins in their natural
environment. If you're not keen on getting wet, take a 1.5 hour Dolphin Eco Cruise within Koombana Bay. In January 2019, a new $12 million interpretive centre was opened including state-of-the-art facilities, exhibits and a cafe – all inside an iconic building designed by Bunbury's MCG Architects.

VISIT VICTORIA STREET

Wander down one of Bunbury's most-loved streets. It's known for cute, independent shops, restaurants, small bars and great street-side people watching. For dinner, Market Eating House is a perennial, local favourite and a West Australian Good Food Guide Top 25 Casual Dining Restaurant. Foodies should also venture to the Marlston Hill Waterfront or East Bunbury near the Parade Hotel.

FIND A TREDDLY

The city is eminently manageable by foot, but Bunbury is a great place to explore by bike too - Bunburians love the outdoors, so the city has a plethora of walking and bike trails. You can hire a bike from Melo Velo in Victoria Street. For an epic ride, take a Fat Bike Beach tour; the ride leaves their bike shop come cafe at 5pm and takes you into the beautiful Maidens, around an awesome loop and then back into the CBD along the beach.

Bread and Butter Woodfire Bakery, Bunbury

Meet our friendly resident wild dolphins

Dolphin Discovery Centre Swim Tour, Bunbury

TRAM IT

If physical exertion isn't your style, jump on a Bunbury Dolphin City Tram Tour. The beautifully restored tram spends 1.5 hours touring the City, so sit back and relax as you listen to stories about Bunbury's colourful past, maritime history and plans for the future.

FIND A BEACH

The serene Koombana Bay is one of only a few north-facing Australian beaches and with its new foreshore redevelopment its popularity, particularly amongst families is skyrocketing. Our resident dolphins love it too! On the other side of the CDB, Bunbury's Back Beach is the place to go for bodyboarding fun, or for those who like clothing optional head south to Mindalong.

TIME TRAVEL

The streets of Bunbury's CBD are filled with history and mystery. From a school attended by former WA Premier Sir Newton Moore, the family home of Western Australia's most famous pioneering family, impressive buildings built by a convict's son, 80s inspired Alan Bond architecture, to sacred sites of our Noongar first settlers. Make sure you stop at the Bunbury Museum & Heritage Centre too.

FIND MANGROVES AND MARITIME HISTORY

Bunbury's Mangrove Walk is a truly spectacular way to stretch your legs. The mangroves are a freak occurrence and the southernmost mangroves in Western Australia. Then, continue around the Leschenault Inlet, a serene waterway with a dual-use walkway that winds past the mangroves and toward a restaurant-fringed shoreline. Finish up at the Marlston Waterfront Precinct – see the bust of French Explorer Nicolas Baudin and read about the city's rich maritime history. Did you know that Koombana Bay holds the remnant of at least 13 shipwrecks!

HIGHLIGHTS - BUNBURY

GET ON A HIGH

Get on a high with a Scenic Flight. A scenic flight with the Bunbury Aero Club is a guaranteed boast-worthy trip. It's the best way to see the BG, with 30 min or 1-hour options. You can design your flight plan or, upgrade to a Trial Introductory Flight and learn to fly while you're at it. For something truly exhilarating take to the air with Bunbury Flying School in a NANCHANG CJ-6 aerobatic warbird plane with a tandem cockpit and overhead canopy for excellent visibility.

HAVE A WATER ADVENTURE

Set sail for a day on Ocean West Charters – they have a range of options including short bay cruises with the dolphins of Koombana Bay, to weekend holidays. Anchor for lunch, take a swim, or relax on the deck and soak up the sun. Or, join a crew at Koombana Bay Sailing Club for their Wednesday night twilight sail. If a slower pace is more your style, cruise the Koombana Bay and the Leschenault Estuary on the Elandra by Three Water Cruises. Have a truly memorable undersea experience, diving on Lena Ship Wreck with Octopus Garden Dive Charters. Finally, try the fastest growing water sport that's also loads of fun. On the shores of Koombana Bay, SUP Bunbury is a team of local SUPaholics run by ASI accredited SUP Instructor Mel Hynynen. If you've mastered your SUP board and ready for your next challenge then test your balance with SUP Yoga.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NOONGAR CULTURE

Taste black apples straight from the tree and wash your hands with foaming wattle leaves on an Aboriginal Heritage Tour. Local Noongar Tour guide, Troy Bennell has made sure the tours are in-depth and honour his Indigenous heritage.

STOCK UP ON FRESH PRODUCE AT BUNBURY FARMERS MARKETS

This place is legendary; so much so, many Perth 'golden-triangle' residents travel the two-hour drive to shop. The produce here – much of it sourced from surrounding farms – is mostly organic and explodes with flavour. Grab gourmet pies, the most amazing local and French cheeses, hand-pressed juices to go, and oh so much more. Alternatively, whet your appetite at a beautiful bi-weekly ode to all things fresh and artisanal at The Bunbury Markets Queens Gardens.

Warbird Experience, Bunbury

Ferguson Valley, Johanna Resta Photography

HIGHLIGHTS - FERGUSON VALLEY

As you move up the mountain to the Ferguson Valley, the land is peppered with vines, wineries, and the odd brewery. Dairying is still prominent, but lifestylers have moved in for the bucolic simplicity of country life. The Ferguson Valley produces some of Australia's best alternative wine varieties intermingled with stunning vistas over the lower coastal plains to the Indian Ocean. Eating and drinking aren't all that there is to do here – a large section of the region is covered in dense, ruggedly beautiful Jarrah forest and includes part of the very popular Wellington National Park.

FIND A WINERY, OR TWO OR THREE

Wine tasting is a must in the Fergie Valley with more than 20 vineyards and wineries producing impressive small-batch wines. Arguably, the most impressive winery in the region is Willow Bridge Estate - a 5 red star James Halliday winery. However, don't discount the small guys. Boutique producer Talisman is taking the award-scene by storm (The WA Wine Guide Small Producer of the Year 2017, 5 Stars James Halliday, Gold Perth Royal Wine Show and more), and many others are hot on their heels. On your wine journey, don't expect to drink and dash; our winemakers are passionate souls who love sharing their time with you. For the none wine lovers, two breweries in the region will tantalise your palate.

HIGHLIGHTS - FERGUSON VALLEY

DISCOVER THE QUIRKY GNOMESVILLE

No trip to BunGeo is complete without a visit to the very quirky Gnomesville. It's a special place where a gnome can join thousands of other gnomes to live happily ever after! Gnomesville is community driven-gnome village with over three thousand inhabitants. Bring along a Gnome and add it to the collection. Before you go, pick up a copy of the recently released, super-cute children's illustrated book, Gnomesville – the real story by Lesley Geers.

TRY TO WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND THE KING JARRAH TREE

Be awed by nature with a visit to the King Jarrah Tree – i it is the largest tree in BunGeo that is easily accessible. This majestic Jarrah tree is estimated to be between 300 and 500 years old. Standing about 36 metres tall, it has survived bushfires, storms, lighting and insect attack. Afterwards, head off on a walk through beautiful gum forests to shake out your limbs.

SEEK SOME MTB ADVENTURE

Get the cogs turning at the Mount Lennard Mountain Bike Network, near Pile Road in the Wellington National Park. Mount Lennard or Pile Road as it's known to the majority of mountain bikers is a fun area of trails that are for the most part built on a very gentle slope. The singletrack Grizzly trail is one of the more popular and technical trails of the collection; it weaves through the Jarrah forest providing more than enough obstacles, jumps and berms to keep even the most experienced riders on their toes.

LET'S EAT

A few foodie options to get you started; for a fab four-course degustation head to Hackersley Estate. Low key and a little arty, Hackersley sits in a cute cottage overlooking a lake with cows grazing in the background. Down the road is St Aidan's Winery; their European-trained Chef has a resume that will blow-your-mind. Small's Bar Eaton has a team drooling in talent that has roamed the region for the best of the best local produce. If you're after something simple, visit Ferguson Falls Wine Cafe, home to WA's Best Pizza Gold Plate Award! Or, if you a pie-lover, Dardanup Bakery is one of the best.

FIND ARTISTS HIDING IN THE HILLS

Visit one of the local galleries for unique artwork, ceramics, glassware, and jewellery. The best time to find them is during the Dardanup Art Spectacular and Trail when acclaimed artists such as Russell Sheridan and Linda Skrolys open their galleries and studios to the world.

Hackersley Estate

Gnomesville Johanna Resta Photography

TV Personality Lachlan Gilbert tackles the Mount Lennard MTB tracks

Find a fabulous view...

Green Door Wines

Ferguson Farmstay

HIGHLIGHTS - FERGUSON VALLEY

HISTORY BUFF SEVENTH HEAVEN

The Dardanup Heritage Park houses one of Australia's finest collections of historic agricultural items with more than 20 sheds full of beautifully restored gems. Next, it's time to wander through the 15 heritage sites on the 2.5km Dardanup Heritage Trail, including the first Catholic Church in Western Australia outside the metropolitan area. Stop for lunch along the way at the historic Dardanup (aka The Dardy) Tavern built in 1905.

FIND A VIEW - IT WON'T BE HARD

We're not bragging, but the majority of places in the Ferguson Valley are blessed with exceptional views. A BunGeo favourite is Green Door Wines along the spectacular Henty Road. Don't miss tasting the Tempranillo – it's the best in the Geographe and The James Halliday Wine Companion rated it 95/100. Order their 100 Mile Platter with sheep's milk cheese from Roelands, mixed olives from Boyup Brook, fruit loaf from Dardanup and much more. Prefer a view over water, try Evedon Park.

HAVE A FARM EXPERIENCE

Ferguson Farmstay offers gorgeous rammed earth accommodation on 45 hectares with uninterrupted views to the Indian Ocean, and a plethora of farm activities to keep the kids enthralled. If you're in need of some adult time, Peppermint Lane Lodge is a private adult retreat bed and breakfast located in Wellington Mills. Stay with the one you love or grab the girls for a weekend escape. And, the options don't stop there.

GET LOST IN NATURE

Eaton Foreshore Walk meanders for five kilometres along the picture-perfect Collie River. You will quickly forget you are so close to urban influences. Between Dardanup and Boyanup, are the ever-popular Crooked Brook Trails. The Forest Path at Crooked Brook is a hidden jewel for those with limited mobility, providing easy access to an area of natural bushland with interpretive signage about the flora and fauna and plenty of bench seats. Its beauty excels in spring when wildflowers come into bloom.

SAY HI TO THE WILDLIFE

The kangaroos are so friendly at Wellington Forrest Cottages that they'll even pose for a selfie - they love attention. Say hi over a fab coffee at this rustic but stylish accommodation and function property in the Wellington Mills forest.

Harvey, OK Media

HIGHLIGHTS - HARVEY REGION

Surrounded by fertile, irrigated plains on the banks of the Harvey River, Harvey is one of Australia's prime producing regions with a rich Italian heritage. During World War II about 1000 Italian men, including Australian-born and naturalised Italians were detained as enemy aliens in the State's first purpose-built internment camp. Many stayed on after the war, and their Italian influence still lingers. Paddocks are filled with orange trees, dairy cows and vines, with the occasional charmingly dilapidated barn, a white fenced equestrian stud, or an impressive heritage property that would be equally at home in an Australian Country Style magazine. Many of the big guys in food are based here – from Harvey Beef to Harvey Fresh; the list is impressive. As you head east, the region changes from farming land to ruggedly beautiful Jarrah forest and natural waterways for the outdoor-fanatics to explore.

Toe-dippers, anglers and skippers find themselves in Australind. Virtually surrounded by water, with 14 kms of Estuary at its door, the Collie and Brunswick Rivers running through it, and untouched beaches only minutes away, there's no better place for water lovers.

Myalup and Binningup Beach are seaside towns come hamlets most at home in relaxed mode. They are carefree destinations of decades ago. Children can explore their heart's content, and low-key adventures and heartfelt hospitality combine to make it a holiday many repeat, year after year. Stroll and loll, and greet anglers as they pull in a catch – a reef runs parallel to the shore offering great fishing particular from December to April. Even in summer, you'll often have the beach to yourself. And, in many places, you can drive along the beach too!

Brunswick is a little cow-mad and is colloquially known as the "Cream of the South West". This is the heart of dairying country. Peter's Creameries has been here for generations, and the surrounding region supplies the majority of Western Australia's milk supply. Set amid rolling hills at the base of the Darling Scarp, it has an extensive network of irrigation channels keeps the dairy pastures green all year round. Likewise, are the nearby peaceful hamlets of Benger and Roelands.

HIGHLIGHTS - HARVEY REGION

ORANGE FEVER
As you drive through Harvey, keep an eye out for roadside stalls selling oranges, mandarins and other local produce (in season). Stretch your legs with a climb up the famous ten metre high Big Orange, nestled in the grounds of the Harvey River Estate winery on the banks of the Harvey River. Owned by the Sorgiovanni family (of Harvey Fresh fame), the estate features a great cellar door. Winemaker Stuart Pierce has a prestigious Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy to his name.

CATCH A BLUE MANNA CRAB IN THE LESCHENAULT ESTUARY
This 14km long serene waterway in Australind is the best place to scoop up a delectable feed of crustaceans. While you're there, take a walk along the Leschenault Waterways Discovery Centre & Jetty Walk. Further around the Estuary is the Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park - just minutes from Australind and Bunbury yet feels like you are miles from civilisation. The Park is located on a thin peninsula, bounded on one side by the Indian Ocean and the Leschenault Estuary on the other. Locals love this place, especially for walk trails, fishing, 4W beach driving and snorkelling.

UNDERSTAND OUR WWII INTERNMENT HISTORY
Harvey's Internment Camp Memorial Shrine: the only roadside shrine of its type in the world, was built by prisoners of war in the 1940s. Afterwards, continue on the Harvey Heritage Trail Walk. History buffs – want more? Venture to Australind, one of the first settled areas in the region, founded by the British India Company to breed horses. A visit to Featured Wood Gallery & Museum is a must too.

FIND IT ON TAP
Love beer, gin and more, then head to the Old Coast Road Brewery & Geographe Distillery near Myalup. You'll have options galore with 20 taps of beer and cider all made on site, plus exceptional whisky and gin. BunGeo's favourite - Bellwether Single Malt Whisky.

SEEK MOSAICS AND MURALS
Be amazed at the Harvey region's huge Mosaic and Mural collection created by local artist, Anthea Ward. You will find these unique mosaics at the entrances to Harvey, Binningup, Clifton Park, Cookernup, Myalup and Yarloop. View other mosaics at the Harvey Visitor Centre and the Australind Shopping Centre.

Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park

WestOz Skydiving

Lake Brockman, Nomadika

HIGHLIGHTS - HARVEY REGION

SLEEP UNDER THE STARS
Sleep under the stars (or hire a glamping tent) surrounded by Jarrah forest and next to Logue Brook/Lake Brockman. The lake with crystal-clear water is a water-activity haven – think water skiing, swimming, fishing, marroning, canoeing, windsurfing and sailing. The Munda Biddi MTB Trail also passed through the site. You can't camp at nearby Harvey or Stirling Dams, but they are well worth a visit too.

VISIT MAY GIBBS' CHILDHOOD HOME
Wander through the buildings, cafe and beautiful gardens and mini orchard of the Harvey Tourist Precinct. View the replica Stirling Cottage, owned by Governor Stirling and the childhood home of May Gibbs, the creator of Australia's most iconic characters Snuggle Pot and Cuddle Pie.

BEACHES FOR MILES
Holidays in coastal locations that are busier than a shopping mall are so yesterday! The small coastal communities of Binningup and Myalup Beach are the ultimate destinations for chilled-out hammock lovers or those keen to provide their children with a holiday they had as a child. Expect endless kilometres of pristine beach (which you can 4WD on too), excellent beach fishing, snorkelling and...not much more.

MEET DAISY
Meet the Cow on the Corner and her friends in the streets of Brunswick. Created by artist, Elsie Manning, Daisy is a life-size replica of a Friesian cow and a fitting tribute to the local dairy industry. Don't forget your camera for a selfie!

WINE LOVERS - UNEARTH AN ARNEIS
Along the coastal plains, Geographe wine producers are excelling with full-bodied table wines, from the traditional French varietals such as Chardonnay (5th Estate produces the Geographe's best), to Italian and Spanish varietals – Arneis, Vermentino and Tempranillo to name a few. Have wine; now it's time for cheese and great larder provisions from HaVe Cheese. Indulge in one of the Cheese Cellar tastings to help you decide. They have milkshakes for the kids to sip and slurp too.

FIND AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST JARRAH TREE
Find Australia's largest Jarrah tree hidden deep in the Mornington State Forest near Brunswick Junction. Only accessible by 4WD, the Jarrah Hadfield is more than 10 metres in circumference – try wrapping your arms around that – and more than 260 years old. It's the region's best-kept secret.

Honeymoon Pool, @khanhsphotos

HIGHLIGHTS - COLLIE RIVER VALLEY

Climb the mountain to the top of the Darling Scarp and discover the beautiful Collie River Valley, which is quickly becoming Western Australia's MTB capital. Tracks and trails are in abundance, so whether it is a kayaking trip down the Collie River, a hike on the Bibbulmun Track, casting your line in our rivers and lakes or an afternoon bike ride through one of our beautiful Jarrah forests, you are sure to leave with a newfound appreciation for the beauty of this region. Or, get your adrenaline fix by zooming around the top class motorplex track. In between your adventures, head to Collie for awesome coffee, delectable treats and a fabulous little gallery that punches way above its weight.

PEDDLE IT OUT

Go off-road on an MTB track and criss-cross through the beautiful Collie River Valley. With more than 25 trails for beginner and pro, there's plenty of opportunities to get your cogs turning. New trails are popping up too including the recently opened Collie Wagyl Biddi trail network. These trails are a fun and easy flow trail on the edge of the town centre. For the ultimate challenge, attempt to Beat the Biddi – the world-class Munda Biddi Trail diverts through Collie. Don't have gear? Hire a bike from the Kiosk in the Dam in the Wellington National Park and tackle the nearby Mount Lennard Tracks or pick up a bike at Crank'n Cycles in Collie where the guys know everything there is to know about bikes and the trails around Collie.

HIGHLIGHTS - COLLIE RIVER VALLEY

SEEK A CAFFEINE HIT IN A POP-UP WAGON

Cyclists and other caffeine addicts should pay a visit to Wagon 537 - a pop-up cafe, located in a heritage train wagon. People rave about the coffee sourced from the Margaret River Roasting Co or try a cold press juice, green smoothie, turmeric and beetroot lattes, and gluten-free cupcakes. Another local coffee haunt is the historic Colliefields Hotel – it's purple exterior makes it hard to miss. For your sweet binge, you've got to try the salted caramel mega shake. If you fancy some good honest pub grub, then you're spoilt for choice with the Feddy (Federal Hotel) and The Vic among the favourites.

WATER WATER WATER

You may be inland, but there is no shortage of water adventure playgrounds in the Collie River Valley. Start at picturesque Minninup Pool, where the Collie River is at its widest, ideal for swimming, canoeing or picnicking. Follow the Collie River in Wellington National Park to uncover an array of natural swimming pools. If the water level's high, try it in a kayak. Or, try water skiing on the intense blue waters of Stockton Lake.

SEEK THE SERENE HONEYMOON POOL

SoPerth named the beautiful, serene Honeymoon Pool in Wellington National Park an Instagram hot spot. One visit and you will agree. It's a wide natural pool surrounded by graceful peppermints, and Jarrah and Marri forest along the Collie River. Sunbake on the wooden platform or find your inner child and try out the swinging rope. Be prepared to be invigorated - even in summer the water is cool and refreshing.

DISCOVER A LITTLE GALLERY THAT KICKS WAY ABOVE ITS WEIGHT

The Collie Art Gallery opened in 2015 and was the first fit-for-purpose A-class gallery to be built in Western Australia since the Art Gallery of WA was opened in 1979. Through a passionate team and local support, it showcases a diverse and impressive exhibition program – think Arthur Boyd, Howard Taylor and Guy Grey-Smith. Oh, and by the way, it has one of the most signnificant art prizes in regional Australia – the $50,000 Collie Art Prize (CAP).

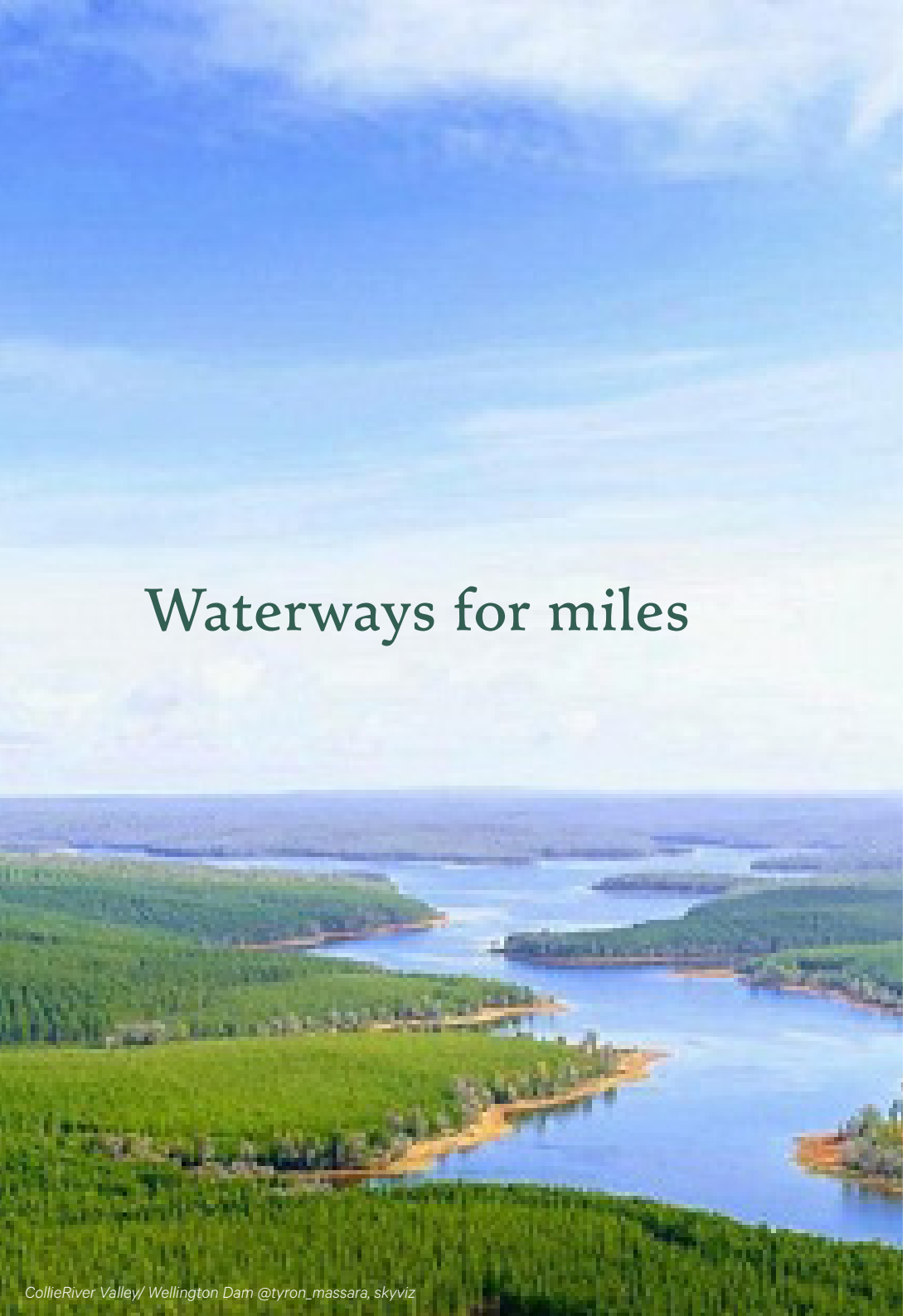
BURN SOME RUBBER

The recently expanded Collie Motorplex circuit is sure to get the adrenaline flowing, with events on every weekend. The burning rubber of the Gazzanats in March, to the beauty of the historic motorcycles, spectators are always welcome. Or try it yourself, with regular Champion's Ride Days and V8 Supercar hot laps.

Stockton Dam, Jaime Harris

Collie Art Gallery

Wagon 537



CollieRiver Valley/ Wellington Dam @tyron_massara, skyviz

HIGHLIGHTS - COLLIE RIVER VALLEY

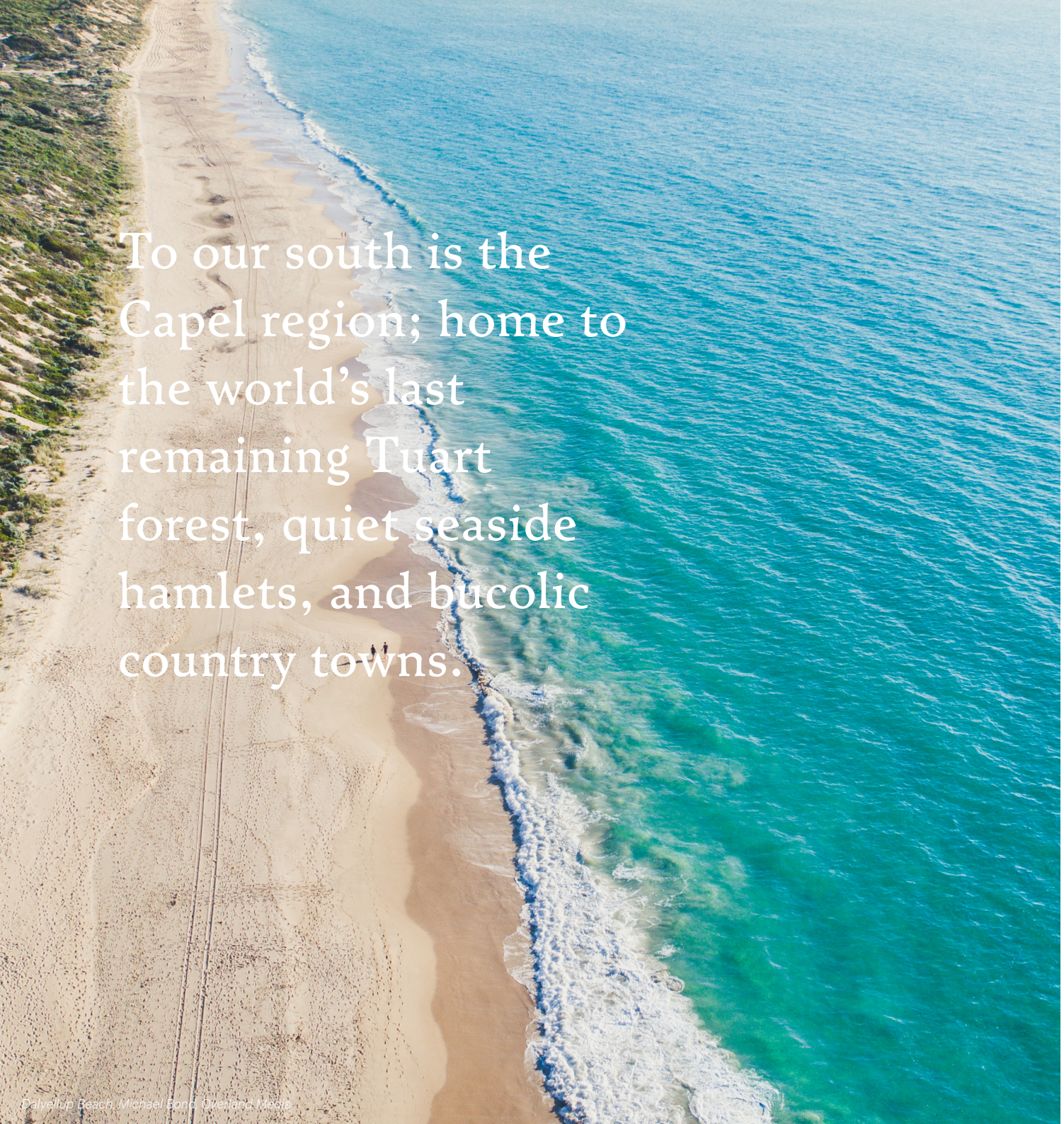
TRAVERSE WELLINGTON NATIONAL PARK
The central heartbeat of the region, exploring the 17, 000 ha Wellington National Park is a must-do on any itinerary to the Collie River Valley. Pop in for a day visit to the Kiosk at the Dam, or spend your time relaxing at the beautiful Potters Gorge campground.

TICK THE BIB OFF YOUR BUCKET LIST
The Bibbulmun Track has long since been an Australian bucket list hiking experience. It travels through Collie, so grab your pack, and be prepared for stunning surrounds and a lot of alone time with your thoughts. Not so serious; take the 10km scenic Collie River Walk.

UNDERGROUND ANTICS
Step back in time and gain an insight into the lives of Collie's rugged underground miners. The Replica Coal Mine at the Collie Visitor Centre 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 Coalfields Museum. Don't be deceived by the small entrance; this Museum is bursting with impressive and quirky items from the past. The collection includes rocks and minerals, woodwork by local miner Fred Kohler, a dollhouse and art, an array of historical typewriters and much more.

SNAP A SELFIE AT BLACK DIAMOND LAKE
Grab an inflatable toy and head to Black Diamond Lake. Rated as one of WA's Top 10 Instagram spots, a trip to Black Diamond is a must with its vibrant, crystal clear blue waters creating a photo frenzy. It was formerly an open cut mine site that ceased operation in the 1950s – so, check the water quality before diving in! Otherwise, it's perfect for a dip, SUP, canoe and kayak.

BEER, WINE, FOOD, HORSES AND MORE
Find a place where you can drink handcrafted beer, cider and award-winning wines at Harris River Estate Winery. Eat to your heart's content from the tapas menu and sleep the night overlooking the vines, a beautiful dam and Jarrah forest. This family-run property includes a 24-hectare vineyard and winery, cider-making operation, micro-brewery, equestrian agistment centre, restaurant and self-contained chalets. The Arklow MTB tracks are just down the road too!



Dalyellup Beach Michael Bond Overland Media

HIGHLIGHTS - CAPEL REGION

Nestled on the Capel River is the cute little town of Capel with a quirky sense of humour. Where else in Australia would they send you to hunt for the troll under the bridge? The creative journey continues down the main street with walls of murals reflecting the stories of the town, which was established in the 1890s. People are a little horse-mad in Capel as the home of 1999 Melbourne Cup winner Rogan Josh.

Located on the banks of the Preston River, Boyanup is your quintessential dairy town with lots of tree changers thrown in for good measure. Its farmers market held every fourth Sunday of the month is one of the best in the region. Many locals are history buffs with a fetish for trains, and the driving force behind the South West Rail & Heritage Centre. MTB addicts – Boyanup is also an excellent stop on the Munda Biddi Moutain Bike Trail.

Peppermint Grove Beach is a rejuvenating holiday destination that's a world away from the chaos of everyday life. Peppy Beach (as the locals call it) is home to white sandy beaches, the Capel River mouth, fabulous camping and much more… but, it's only minutes from an award-winning winery, 10 minutes from Capel and less than 30 minutes from Bunbury.

Dalyellup is a new, outer coastal suburb adjoining Bunbury with awesome beaches.

HIGHLIGHTS - CAPEL REGION

WONDER AT RARE TUART FOREST
Uncover the world's only remaining tall Tuart Forest in the Tuart Forest National Park. It's also home to the rare western ringtail possum. Go bushwalking, have a picnic or indulge in nature studies.

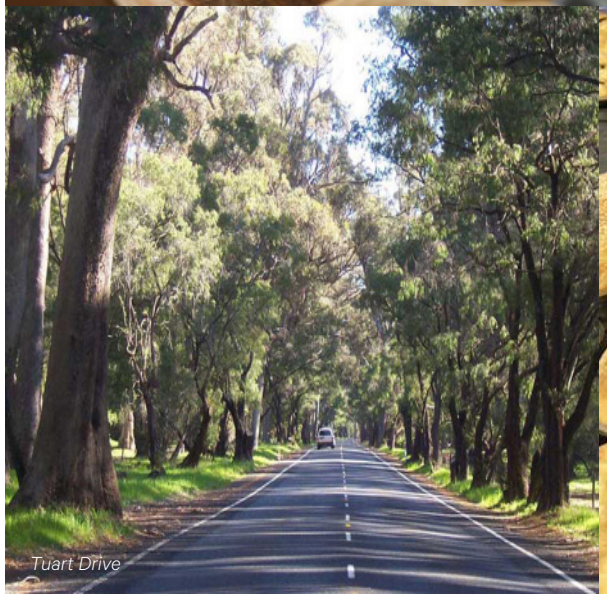
VISIT THE ICONIC CAPEL VALE WINERY
James Halliday agrees with the Australian Wine Companion nominating Capel Vale as 2019 Top 100 Wineries in Australia and a Top 5 Red Star Winery. Enjoy a late lunch at Match Restaurant. It's all about 'matching' food perfectly with wine. The view very pretty special too. Finish with a cheese plate and a glass of their delicious Geographe Merlot. If you have a sweet tooth, we suggest you book a High Tea. It's a delicious and decadent tradition that never disappoints.

WATCH A SUNSET AT PEPPIE BEACH
Get here early and spend time at one of the Geographe's best beaches for swimming, fishing, surfing and canoeing, including canoeing the Capel River. On weekends, join the locals for coffee at the Community Centre (it's an institution). Pitch a tent at the Peppermint Grove Beach Holiday Park or find a hammock-loving holiday home.

TACKLE AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
Outdoor pursuits are in abundance here, with a rousing round of golf at the Capel Golf Course under the gaze of the grazing kangaroos highly recommended. They even host outdoor movies in summer! The war begins at Paintball Pursuit near Stratham, where groups and individuals can fight it out. Many things in life are rewarding, but if they happen to be ultra-fun too, then they become a must-do activity.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A HOMEMADE PIE
The best value in the region has to be the Capel Bakery. It's super cute. Stock up on homemade pies, sourdough bread, and old favourites like Wagon Wheels and Butterfly cakes. The service is cheerful, the surrounds cosy, and the price is budget friendly. In season, you can also pick up some tremendous farmgate produce. You may find free-range organic eggs, seasonal veggies and fruits from Mostly Organics, jams and preserves, olive oil produced by local producer Goccio D'oro, as well as a select range of Handmade and Marina natural olive oil soaps and skincare balms.

Capel Vale Winery


Tuart Drive

Capel Bakery

HIGHLIGHTS - CAPEL REGION

PICNIC BY THE FALLS
Have a picnic at Ironstone Gully Falls and discover the wildflowers. 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 ledge of nine metres. From August to October, the surrounding countryside abounds with a stunning display of WA wildflowers.

FIND THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE
Your kids can decorate Gingerbread men while you sit back and indulge in all their fabulous delights at The Gingerbread House in Boyanup.

PRETEND YOU'RE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE
On the fourth Sunday of the month, the South West Rail & Heritage Centre in Boyanup opens its doors with a special theme each time. You can view the historic trains and carriages. See the Capel Men's Shed and the blacksmiths working in the traditional way.

HEAD TO THE MARKETS
If you happen to be in Boyanup for the fourth Sunday of the month, The Boyanup Farmers Market is just the spot to pick up some awesome produce, craft, wine, plants and all sorts of other bits and bobs.

SEEK CURIOSITIES AND COLLECTABLES
Afterwards, continue your curiosities and collectables hunt at the nearby Quirky Den. The Tree Memories Gallery which hosts fine woodcraft and Jalinda Orchard and Art Gallery are also worth a visit. BunGeo loves French brocade store, Rustic French Living which is housed in a beautiful old church in Boyanup. Enjoy morning tea as you wander through its unique French finds or head to Boyanup Bakery for a homemade pie.

RAMBLE THE REGION
The Preston River Ramble, Joshua Brook, Dalyellup Lakes and the Gelorup walk trails are a way to walk off the stiffness from sitting in your vehicle for hours while allowing you to take in the natural beauty of the area and capturing the history.

Ironstone Gully Falls, Jason Nesbitt

Rustic French Living, Boyanup

Boyanup Farmers Markets

This is apple country and home of the Lady Williams. Further down the road is Balingup - laid back, a little bohemian and one of the prettiest town in BunGeo.

Donnybrook orchards, Bianca Turri Photography

HIGHLIGHTS - DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

The Donnybrook-Balingup region is located among the picturesque Preston and Blackwood valleys, and is bursting with cute historic, produce-driven towns.

Donnybrook on the banks of the Preston River, colloquially known as the Apple capital of Western Australia. It was first settled in 1894 by five Irishmen and named after a suburb of Dublin in Ireland. After a short gold rush in the 1890s, miners turned their skills to growing fruit. The first Granny Smith apple tree was planted in 1900 and became the breeding ground for the Lady Williams apple variety. Today, you can eat your way through Donnybrook with quaint roadside stalls selling seasonal local produce from stone fruit and cherries in summer, famous Donnybrook apples in autumn, and more. Modern-day fossicking is also encouraged in the many local shops, antique stores and buildings made of famous Donnybrook Stone.

Balingup is surrounded by rolling hills, forests and orchards and is renowned for its spring blossom, amazing autumn colours and misty winter mornings. Laid-back, a little bohemian and creative, Balingup is a magical combination of stunning, natural beauty, cosy cafes, and buzzing markets. Super-cute shops fill the main street, and there is always a quirky event on offer.

The Donnybrook-Balingup region also includes the quaint, historic towns and hamlets of Brookhampton, Kirup, and Mullalyup, plus Yabberup, Mumballup and Lowden in the Preston Valley.

HIGHLIGHTS - DONNYBROOK - BALINGUP

MUNCH AN APPLE OR TWO
Donnybrook's known as the apple capital of the West. In season, pick your own or drive through the region and pick up local produce straight from the packhouse too. In springtime, paddocks come alive with trees of magnificent pink and white apple fruit blossom. September and October is BunGeo's favourite time of year and perfect for that cool selfie pic.

AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST FREE ENTRY PLAYGROUND
Take the kids to Australia's biggest free-entry playground. The Apple Fun Park in the heart of Donnybrook has play equipment for all ages – toddlers to teenagers. Older kids will love the four-level towers with slides, rope bridges and flying foxes, low rock climbing walls, and a spacenet, and two 9.5 m towers.

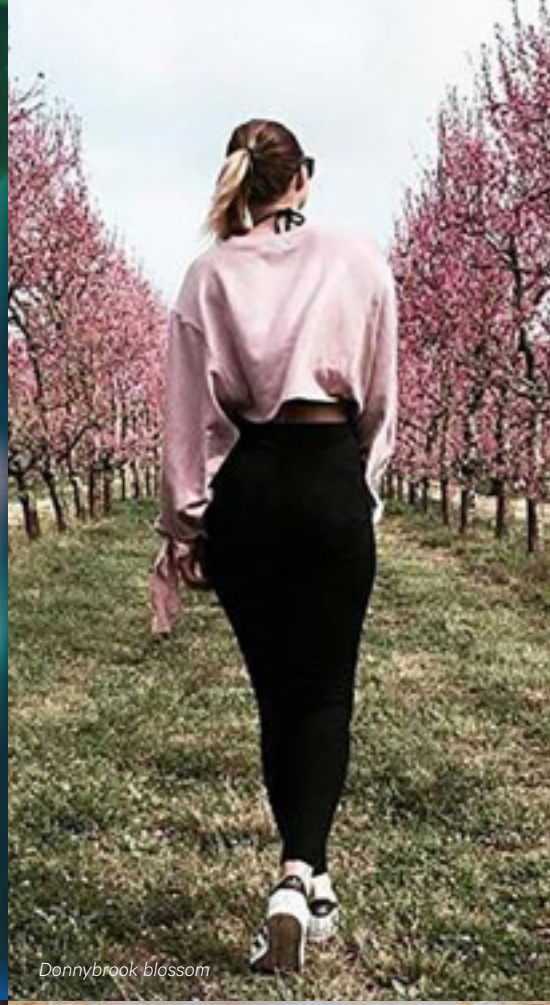
WALK ALONG THE PRESTON
Walk the peaceful path alongside the Preston River. The Preston River Loop traverses through a lush river ecosystem encompassing a suspension bridge and incorporates the Preston River Indigenous Walk Trail and Waugyl Sculpture Park.

STONE HAVEN
In Donnybrook, you will find beautiful Donnybrook Stone on fences, pathways, and as the foundation of many of its historical attractions such as the Soldiers Memorial Hall (1919) and All Saints Church (1906). However, due to its beauty and staying power, it also graces Australian landmarks including Federation Square in Melbourne and the WA Supreme Court.

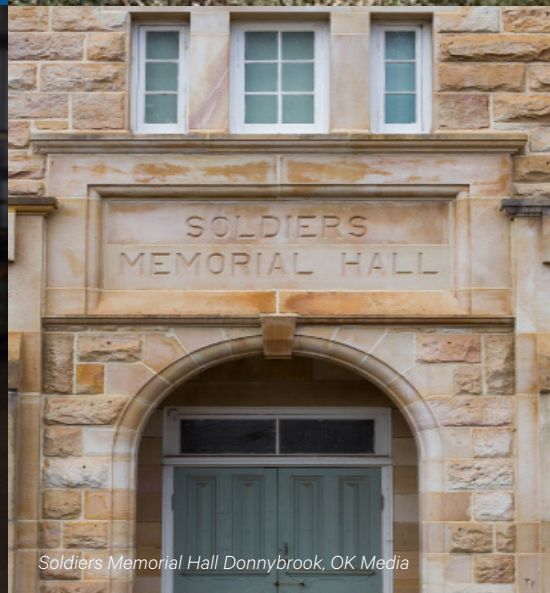
DEVOUR LOCAL FOODIE DELIGHTS
Scrumptious cakes from Lady Marmalades, a marron and chardonnay pie from Smallwater Estate, and continue the pie obsession with a Great Aussie Pie winning creation from The Mushroom at No 61. Indulge in authentic Asian fare at Village Harvest. Top it off with a tipple from the Birdwood Park Fruit Winery. Newy's Fruit and Veg in Kirup has the best selection of fresh fruit, veg and local produce in regional WA.

MTB MADNESS
Mountain Biking enthusiasts can hit the Munda Biddi Trail - a world-class, nature-based, off-road cycling experience. This unique 1000km trail has been built through an undeveloped natural corridor which stretches through unspoiled forest and bushland. Or stay at CycleTrek in Lowden or LingaLonga in Balingup. With the full gambit of gentle to challenging terrain and year-round cycling weather, you have the ideal setting for off-road cycling.

Donnybrook orchards, Dixon & Smith


Donnybrook blossom

Sheehan Orchards, Donnybrook, OK Media



Soldiers Memorial Hall Donnybrook, OK Media

HIGHLIGHTS - DONNYBROOK - BALINGUP

SIP AND SLURP WITH STYLE

With its Italian heritage, the region is home to some of the Geographe's best up-and-coming wineries. Here's a few to get you started...Barrecas was first established in 1994 by Fil Barreca after he worked on a Sicilian vineyard. Their reds steal the show; crowd favourite is the Barbera. Next, venture to Barton Jones - a 4 Star James Halliday winery with an ultra-cool solar powered, straw bale cellar door. If you're hungry, try a vineyard platter. Continue to Oakway Estate. The Vermentino is a BunGeo favourite and try a Ned's craft beer too.

GET SHOPPING

The Donnybrook-Balingup region is bursting with handmade gift items and curiosities. Stock up on handmade herbal products at the Tinderbox, find pottery and timber products at the largest craft centre in WA, the Old Cheese Factory Craft Centre, ogle at Donnybook's superb second-hand book collection, purchase divine alpaca knitwear from Jalbrook, treat yourself to stunning handcrafted jewellery at Balingup Goldsmith, and Ginger Gold's Vintage for antiques.

INHALE THE CRISP CLEAR MORNINGS

In winter, seek accommodation in the hills of Balingup and Lowden. Close your eyes and inhale the crisp, fresh scent of the morning. If you are high in the hills, the view will be a blanket of white until the mist dissipates. At night, clear skies give stargazers an awe-inspiring view of the constellations. Sitting by the fire with a cuppa and sweet treat makes you feel hugged from the inside.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST ARBORETUM

Wander through the Golden Valley Tree Park; Western Australia's largest arboretum, with 60 ha of exotic and native trees. It's a superb collection, recently named one of the top 5 locations in Australia to see autumn colours. Other attractions include a tree information gazebo, walk trails, lookout and the historic Golden Valley Homestead.

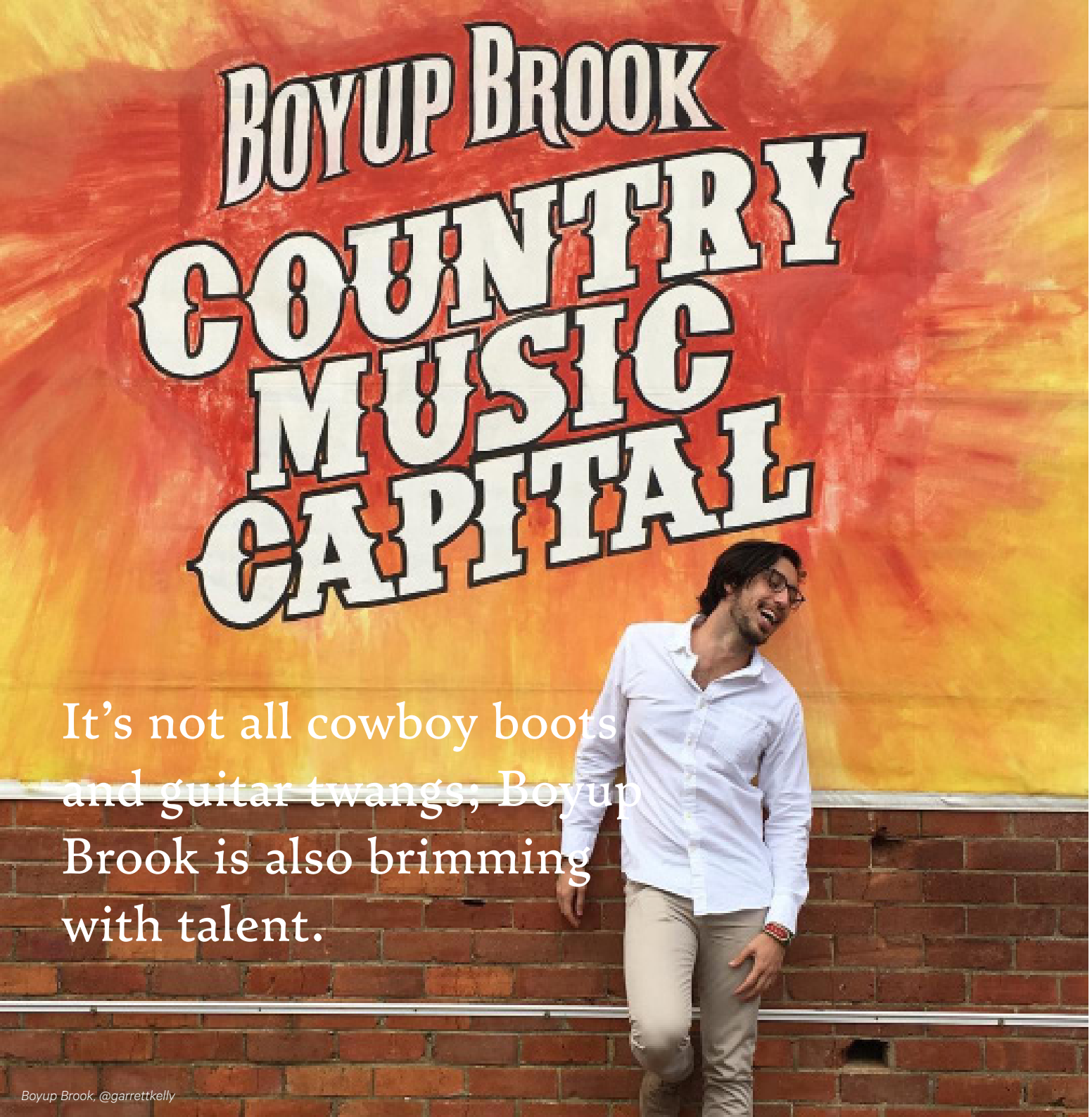
DO THE BIB BUCKET LIST WITH EASE

Walk a section of the Bibbulmun Track. This iconic 'bucket list' walk trail passes through the Donnybrook Balingup region on its way to Albany. Balingup is a popular base and stopover for walkers with many tourism operators welcoming walkers with 'refuelling' options and track drop-offs/pick-ups. Mumballup is another great rest point surrounded by Preston Virgin Forest. Grab a backpack and your walking shoes and discover the addictive appeal of this natural wonder.

Barrecas, Donnybrook

Golden Valley Tree Park, Balingup

Balingup Heights, @frommilesaway



It's not all cowboy boots and guitar twangs; Boyup Brook is also brimming with talent.

Boyup Brook, @garrettkelly

HIGHLIGHTS - BOYUP BROOK

Where an iconic river, undulating valleys, and rare flora and fauna meet broad-acre farming plains. Boyup Brook on the tranquil Blackwood River is the heart of Western Australia's country music scene. Each year, thousands and thousands descend on this small community to attend the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival. But it's not all cowboy boots and guitar twangs; Boyup Brook is also rural community brimming with talent. From creative artists to some of WA's best food and wine producers, this town will win you over with its warm hospitality and spirit. Highlighting the fact is Boyup Brook's obsession (in a good way) with collecting. From a world-famous rare Jewel Beatle and butterfly collection, a fantastic doll collection, a record and music memorabilia that will blow-your-mind, to one of Australia's largest collection of teapots; the people and things of Boyup Brook will intrigue and delight.

GRAB YOUR BOOTS AND HAT

This is home to WA's iconic Country Music Festival. A stellar line-up of leading Australian acts is always on offer when the event comes alive in February each year. Other features include the WA Country Music Awards, a famous Street Carnival, the Boyup Brook Ute and Truck Muster and a feast of Bush Poetry. You have to do this event at least once in your life! Throughout the year, you can visit 'Hot Country', the Country Music shop and stock up on all things country.

Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre & Rodeo, Boyup Brook

Carnaby Collection, Boyup Brook Visitor Centre

HIGHLIGHTS - BOYUP BROOK

A MEMORABILIA VENUE LIKE NO OTHER

Your jaw will drop at the Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre. This entertainment shed is decorated wall-to-wall and floor-to-rafter with memorabilia spanning 100 years. See life-size sand sculptures of Elvis and Johnny Cash and the 'record room' contains hundreds of records including an extensive Elvis Presley exhibit. The annual Harvey Dickson Rodeo is held in late October.

UNEARTH THE BEST COLLECTION OF BUTTERFLIES AND BEATLES OUTSIDE LONDON

View the beautiful Carnaby Beetle and Butterfly Collection, regarded as the best outside the British Museum of Natural History at the Boyup Brook Visitor Centre. Keith Carnaby was such a leading light in the field of entomology. The Visitor Centre also showcases the impressive Krandal Doll Collection, the Little Gallery, and locally made produce with Boyup Brook olive oil a must-buy.

CANOE THE MAJESTIC BLACKWOOD

Hire a canoe from the Flax Mill Recreation Complex and paddle down the majestic Blackwood River, the largest river in the South West. Peaceful stretches meander through farming country. To experience magnificent flora and birdlife, take a picnic and stop off along the way. For the more adventurous, the river and surrounds are suitable for longer treks that incorporate camping at various spots along the banks.

BE AMAZED BY HOLOGRAMS

Wander the streets of Boyup and be amazed by the hologram and sculptures, plus mural and a giant gnomon by acclaimed local artist Sandy Chambers. Boyup Brook's public art also encompasses impressive and large-scale metal works by Len Zuks and Harvey Dickson.

STEP BACK IN TIME

Boyup Brook oozes agricultural history. One of its first settlers was Sir James Lee Steere, a prominent politician and a member of member of the WA's powerful Six Hungry Families. At the Pioneers' Museum, see displays of historic agricultural, commercial and domestic equipment such as the first clover-seed harvester, developed by Boyup Brook local, the late PD Forrest, in 1910. Afterwards, take the Heritage Walk following 23 plaques around the town centre. If you're lucky, you may also be able to visit one of the district's first farms and the heritage listed Norlup Homestead, built by Commander Scott and convict labour.

HIGHLIGHTS - BOYUP BROOK

BE AWED BY NATURE
Surrounded by the 56,000 hectares Tone-Perup Nature Reserve, Perup Nature's Guesthouse is one of the best places in the South West to see native wildlife, including rare numbats, ringtail and brushtail possums, quenda, woylies and chuditch. From a family weekend away to large scale-group event, a stay at Perup is an excellent nature-immersion experience.

SADDLE UP
Saddle up and take a bushride through Jarrah forest. Beryl's Riding School offers rides through 80 acres of picturesque land between Collie and Boyup Brook. Trail rides start from $50 per person or they also run School Holiday Camps from $130 per day.

FIND THAT SPECIAL SOMETHING
The residents of Boyup Brook are a creative bunch, and the super-cute Visitor Centre is your place to go for authentic, locally-produced gifts and artworks. They also have a great range of delicacies and condiments - make sure you get your hands on a bottle of olive oil. If your shopping needs aren't sated, head up Abel Street to Youanme; a gorgeous little store that stocks an awesome range of gifts, homewares and fashion. Their shelves are filled with Theseeke, Ahoy Trader, The Beach People, Love Mae, Seed & Sprout, Bird + Kite, Cartel & Willow, Kip & Co, Indian Summer and Infamous Friends.

BE BLOOMIN' BEAUTIFUL
In Spring, go on a wildflower and bird watching ramble through the Boyup Brook region. You won't be disappointed. Pick up a map from the Visitor Centre and follow the Boyup Brook Flora Drives. If you are visiting September to mid-November check out the Blooming Wild Festival.

Perup Nature's Guest House, Boyup Brook region

SIGNATURE SIGHTS

What Makes Us Special

Willow Bridge Estate, Ferguson Valley, Overland Media

Lose yourself within Bunbury Geographe and tick our signature sights and experiences off your bucket-list!

WILD NATURE

Swimming with wild dolphins in Koombana Bay is a never-forget experience! For more amazing nature experiences in BunGeo we also recommending finding the elusive numbat at Perup Nature's Guesthouse, meeting our pup dingoes at Bunbury Wildlife Park or taking a selfie with ultra-friendly wild kangaroos at Wellington Forrest.

MTB ADVENTURE

BunGeo is home to the famous Munda Biddi Trail and more than 25 MTB tracks, with options for beginners and those that are up for a challenge. For a truly exhilarating day, organise a group of you and head to WA's premier private bike enduro park, Linga Longa near Balingup. With a shuttle service to ferry you to the top of the mountain, you spend more time having fun!

THE EPICENTRE OF ARTS & CULTURE

From awesome street art to Australia's best-performing arts centre, the BunGeo is the perfect place to increase your intake of arts and culture. Get your copy of ReDiscover and Outside the Box Street Art Map by Six Two Three Zero and find inspirational urban art and whimsical characters painted by leading WA artists on 20 electrical boxes scattered through the CBD.

TWO BOUTIQUE WINE REGIONS

Sip your way through BunGeo in the Geographe and Blackwood wine regions where you'll get to meet the makers first hand, plus an every-growing brewery, cideries, and distillery scene. Most wineries come with sensational views, but Green Door in the Ferguson Valley would have to offer some of the best! Don't drive - take a tour.

WORLD BIO HOTSPOT

4 National Parks, 1 Conservation parks, uncountable State Forests, South West's largest river systems, 14km's of estuary, 20 dams/lakes/swimming holes, one mountain, Australia's largest Jarrah tree, South West's longest beach, rare 130 million Basalt Rock, and the last remain stretch of Tuart forest. Ok, we know that's not one signature site, and that's the point as there are so many awesome Adventure - Nature experiences in the BunGeo. To get away from it all, hire a canoe and float down the Blackwood River.

REAL PADDOCK TO PLATE COUNTRY

From small roadside stalls to some of Australia's best food producers and chefs with a passion for providence and local produce, BunGeo is literally bursting with fabulous, home-grown food. Explore farm gates, farmers' markets, meet farmers, orchardists, shops and restaurateurs who are dedicated to growing, producing and serving the very best that the Geographe region has to offer. Pack a picnic rug, bring a few glasses and come and spend some time with us exploring the glorious produce and wine-ridden countryside.

MOUNTAIN HIGH

BunGeo is a spectacularly diverse landscape and the most undulating region in WA; from endless beaches to fertile coastal plains, you can then climb the Darling Scarp to Mount Lennard to take in stunning vistas. Head further inland through valleys and hills that take on a misty awe in winter.

PUMPING EVENTS CALENDAR

Locals mad about sport, festivals and the arts, providing something to keep you entertained every weekend. Legend music festival Groovin the Moo (GTM) trots into Bunbury every May.

INSTA LOVING LOCATIONS

Fill up your Instagram feed with brag-worthy images from Black Diamond Lake, Wyalup Rocks, Honeymoon Pool and more. We're not just saying this because we live here, but BunGeo is full of picturesque places to snap an Instagram moment. #BunGeo

TREKKING HIGHS

The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long distance walk trails, stretching 1000km from Kalamunda in the Perth Hills, to Albany on the south coast, winding through the heart of the BunGeo. With largely unspoilt hills, rivers and forest, as well as many cute towns along the way, the region is an ideal place for both the fit trekking enthusiast or the weekend bushwalker.

10 INSTA-WORTHY ATTRACTIONS

Black Diamond Lake, Collie, Annabel-para.com

From the obvious to the hidden (not for long), here's our must-see guide to BunGeo's most Insta-worthy locations! Grab your camera or phone and say cheese!

HONEYMOON POOL, COLLIE RIVER VALLEY
This popular camping and picnic area is located on the lower part of the Collie River and ideal for a chilled weekend outing amongst nature. Jump in

BUNBURY LIGHTHOUSE, BUNBURY
The lighthouse in Bunbury that we see today is relatively new - but its checkered exterior makes it a favourite with photographers. There have been multiple styles and alterations to the previous lighthouses that were used in Bunbury to guide the ships safely into Koombana Bay.

BLACK DIAMOND LAKE, COLLIE RIVER VALLEY
On a clear, sunny day Black Diamond sparkles and radiates a magnificent blue colour, making it some of the bluest water you will ever see. Grab a blow up flamingo and float the day away.

PAPERBARK BOARDWALK @ BIG SWAMP
Hidden in the centre of Bunbury is the Big Swamp Wetlands, home to over 60 species of birdlife, including the Australasian grebe, white-faced heron, dusky moorhen and purple swamphen. A wooden path winds through the wetlands and paperbarks creating mesmerising, eerie pictures.

WYALUP-ROCK POINT
Our rare 130-million-year-old Basalt Rock can only be seen on Wyalup Rocky Point in Bunbury, at Capel and Black Point in the Southern Forest and Valley's region. Wyalup Rocky Point is also of Indigenous significance. The waves plummet over these ancient rock formations. Sunset time is the best, where the light creeps down over the evening landscape, providing a dramatic backdrop.

GOLDEN VALLEY TREE PARK, BALINGUP
Beautiful all year round, people flock to Western Australia's largest tree park in Autumn to witness the golden colours and feel the sound of fallen leaves crunching under their feet. Make sure you capture a pic of the Tree of Life!

GNOMESVILLE, FERGUSON VALLEY
No trip to BunGeo is complete without a visit to the very quirky Gnomesville. It's a special place where a gnome can join thousands of other gnomes to live happily ever after! Gnomesville is community driven-gnome village with over three thousand inhabitants. Bring along a Gnome and add it to the collection. Creepy or cute it is sure to grab your imagination and send you into fits of giggles. Before you go, pick up a copy of the recently released, super-cute children's illustrated book, Gnomesville – the real story by Lesley Geers.

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY SWIM TOUR
People travel from across the world to catch a glimpse of our wild dolphins. More than 150 live in Bunbury's Koombana Bay, and they are often happy to smile for the camera. Either way, it's a lifetime experience!

DONNYBROOK APPLES & BLOSSOM
In spring people flock to Donnybrook and parts of Balingup- for the pink and white fruit bloom that creates a magical wonderland. Return in autumn, and you will be snapping trees laden with juicy apples.

LESCHENAULT ESTUARY
The stunning and serene Leschenault Estuary spans for more than 13 kilometres. A favourite spot for photographers is the Jetty Walk in Australind.

WANT MORE?
Wrap your arms around the **King Jarrah Tree** in Wellington Mill – while you're there get a selfie with a kangaroo, head to the lookout at **Peppermint Grove Beach** for beach views that go for miles, climb the **Big Orange** in Harvey or **Marlston Lookout** in Bunbury, **meet the cows** (real and metal) in Brunswick Junction for a moo-time, and capture the creativity of **Bunbury's amazing street art**, take a pic next to Bunbury's millennial pink art gallery - **BRAG**!

48 HOURS IN BUNGEO

Market Eating House, Bunbury

If you're only in BunGeo for a short stay, you're in luck. Here's our super-charged itinerary for 48 Hours in BunGeo. Lose yourself and unearth some of the region's best-known sights as well as explore some lesser-known treasures.

Day One – Perth to Bunbury

Say goodbye to Perth and drive south to Bunbury on Forrest Highway. Allow 1 hour, 45 minutes to 2 hours.

Where to Stay

Check into **Bunbury Hotel Koombana Bay**. Located on the historical Bunbury Waterfront, forming part of the prestigious wheat silos development, with views over Koombana Bay, and only a five-minute walk of Bunbury's CBD. It features 67 studio and deluxe studio rooms, two and three bedroom apartments, an indoor heated pool, tennis courts and the Hussh Body and Soul Day Spa.

Sundowners

Start your night with a cocktail at **Yours or Mine**, the Best Regional Small Bar at the 2019 WA Small Bar Awards. which serves up incredible South American food, an eclectic wine list, craft beer and some of the best cocktails..

Table for Two

Your next stop is **Market Eating House** in Victoria Street, described as a 'destination restaurant' – it's the sort of place you plan your weekend around. The food is sublime, the service sensational, and the atmosphere relaxed and cosy. Before returning to his hometown of Bunbury, co-owner (with his talented wife Bec) Brenton Pyke was the head chef of George Calombaris' Little Press & Cellar in Melbourne, and Perth small bar Andaluz. Put your faith in the kitchen and order the Feed Me or Feed Me More menu – who doesn't like a surprise?

Day Two – Bunbury

Be at one with Nature - you have three options to get up and close to nature in Bunbury – the City of 3 Waters:

Either welcome the day with an 8.30am **SUP Bunbury PaddleBoard and Yoga class (**by Treehouse Yoga) in Koombana Bay where you will have the opportunity to explore yourself through yoga and enjoy the healing aspects of nature. Bring sunscreen, hat and comfy clothes. Be reminded you may end up landing a pose in the water.

Or get up and close with the dolphins of Koombana Bay on an 8am **Dolphin Discovery Centre swim tour.** Accompanied by an experienced guide and trained volunteers you will venture into the open waters of Koombana Bay. Depending on dolphin sightings you will be guided into the water where the dolphins may elect to initiate interaction with you and your fellow swimmers. As they are wild dolphins interaction cannot be guaranteed. You'll be supplied a wetsuit, mask, snorkel and fins. Bring a waterproof camera. If you prefer not to get your feet wet, we suggest joining the 10.30am **Dolphin Discovery Centre's Dolphin Eco Cruise** tour in Koombana Bay. Dolphins can be seen frolicking, playing, sleeping and feeding. The informative commentary from the skipper of the boat will also keep you updated throughout the cruise.

A group of around 100 to 150 dolphins are regularly seen in the bay and surrounding waters. Approximately 20 to 40 of these are considered residents of Koombana Bay, and there is a group of ve or six dolphins that regularly visit the public interaction zone, with as many as 16 dolphins known to have visited at any one time.

Time for a Pit Stop

If you love water views, continue along Koombana Bay to the Marlston Waterfront for a devine breakkie or coffe at **Corners on the Bay**. Or head to the CBD and seek out a turmeric latte, cold press juice or Mano a Mano coffee from boutique coffee house and cafe, **Townhouse Bunbury** in Victoria Street. If the sun is shining, head to their banging backyard featuring murals by local artists.

Shopping Time

Victoria Street is full of little boutique stores that are big on style. Start at **Sabotage**. You're destined to do some damage here, with the leading Australian labels – think Assembly Label, Stevie May, Neuw Denim, One Teaspoon, and more. **Life and Soul Boutique** has some of our favourite brands (Auguste, Arnhem, Nobody Denim, Camilla & Marc, to name a few), as well as talented up-and-coming designers to discover. Seek out their collection of **ByHelo** jewellery – Canadian born, now Bunbury local, Heloise Fitzpatrick makes superb architecturally influenced designer pieces.

48 HOURS IN BUNGEO

ReDiscover Street Art, Bunbury

Next door is **The Green Depot**, a green jungle in the middle of the CBD. Owner Kim Rossiter has transformed an old workshop into an urban nursery. Behind is **Maker + Co COLLECTIVE** – a store with a difference. Local artists, artisans and ethical traders work together and exhibit their wares in an iconic CBD warehouse location. Just off Victoria Street, **Emporium of Eshe** is also worth a visit for gorgeous accessories and giftware. Source beautiful children's clothing, gift and toys at **Kidd&Co** for babies to 8-year-olds.

Late Lunch

Grab a quick bite to eat at **Cafe 140** and while you're there, take a swing. Their ramen with extra chilli on the side will cure any side effects from last night's antics. Then slip through the side door for the best organic, hand-rolled donuts in the region from the **Bread and Butter Wood Fire Bakery**. Make sure you also pick up one of their organic wood-fired loaves with homemade creamy butter.

Culture Up

Pick up a copy of the **Bunbury's new ReDiscover and Out of the Box Street Art Map by Six Two Three Zero** and discover the city from a different perspective. Bunbury is home to the largest collection of street and public art in regional Australia. Canvases are everywhere you look in BunGeo, which teems with vibrant street art. Spot everything from abstract, commissioned works, restaurant-themed façades and lots more in Bunbury. Find the whimsical characters painted by leading WA artists on 20 electrical boxes scattered through the CBD. On your journey, stop at the **BRAG – Bunbury Regional Art Galleries** – housed in a very distinctive pink convent. It's the perfect backdrop for an Insta pic. BRAG is home to the largest collection of public art in regional Western Australia and also offers a program of rotating art exhibitions.

Coffee Time

Venture down Central Arcade to **La Pause Miam**, a Parisian café with Scandi style. Expect everything from Parisian croquet madame, to duck burgers, bacon and eggs, and stacked pancakes. The pastries are baked fresh and melt in your mouth. Locals vote their coffee as the best in the city! Or, if you are on a health kick visit **Plant Organic Cafe & Market** for a green smoothie with home-made almond milk and a famous choc spirulina superfood ball.

Pre-dinner Drinks & Dinner

Start your night with a wine in **Mojo's Kitchen Bar & Bottleshop** streetside sea container. It has one of the biggest wine lists in the region, including local Geographe wines, and museum wines from their cellar. Exceptional sommelier, Jake Atkinson oversees the selection. Devour food from Head Chef Lee Collins (previously Eagle Bay Brewing) who is passionate about creating food from scratch.

If Asian cuisine is more your style, then you must head to **Toyko Jacks**. Find Japanese modern fusion/traditional accompanied with loads of fresh roduce including local produced Black Angus Beef, prime Esperance Lamb, Shark Bay and Exmouth Seafood, and local Biningup Whiting.

Party On

End your night at the ultimate hipster hang-out, **Lost Bills** – a tiny bar with a banging craft beer list, eclectic spirits, and some damn good wine. Or, see a show at **BREC** - Australia's premier entertainment centre.

Day Three – Collie River & Ferguson Valleys

Get Outdoors

Time to go bush-walking in the **Wellington National Park**. If you are more adventurous, find a friend to drop you upstream from **Honeymoon Pool** and then float on a tube down the beautiful Collie River. You may encounter some rocky parts – dependant on rainfall and dam releases – but that adds to the fun. Be prepared to be invigorated – even in summer the water is cool and refreshing. Honeymoon Pool itself is a wide pool in the river surrounded by graceful peppermints, and Jarrah and Marri forest. Sunbake on the wooden platform or find your inner child and try out the swinging rope.

Lunch – Option One

For a fabulously lazy long lunch, head to **Hackersley Estate**. Low key and a little arty, Hackersley sits in a cute cottage overlooking a lake with cows grazing in the background. Aaron and Arie Devitt serve up a sensational 5-course degustation. Start with a glass of Verdelho but finish with the Merlot. Between courses chill out on the lake's grassy bank with a glass in hand.

48 HOURS IN BUNGEO

Gnomesville, Ferguson Valley, Johanna Resta Photography

On the way, be sure to stop at **St Aidan Winery** for a wine taste. The name derives from the district's historic church that sits on its boundary. Their Zena Liqueur Muscat is the Geographe's Best Fortified. Enjoy it with a morning tea 'sweet bite' from their European-trained chef in their rammed earth cellar door and function centre. In summer, don't miss their outdoor Films on Ferguson.

No trip is complete without a visit to the very quirky **Gnomesville.** It's a special place where a gnome can join thousands of other gnomes to live happily ever after! Gnomesville is a community-driven gnome village with over three thousand inhabitants. Bring along a gnome and add it to the collection.

Lunch – Option Two

If you're after something simpler, head to **Ferguson Falls Wine Cafe**, home to the Best Pizza in WA (Gold Plate Awards)! In a small, intimate venue run by the Giumelli family (of course, they are Italian-Australian with some American thrown in too), you will unearth mouth-watering stone-baked pizza topped with farmhouse cheese.

Next head to **Green Door Wines** along Henty Road for some of the best views in the region. Green Door produce Spanish and Italian wine varieties served in cute carafes. Don't miss tasting the Tempranillo – it's the best in the Geographe and The James Halliday Wine Companion rated it 95/100. P.S: their wines are preservative free = minimal hangover.

Still hungry? Order their 100 Mile Platter with sheep's milk cheese from Roelands, mixed olives from Boyup Brook, fruit loaf from Dardanup and much more.

Find a Black Diamond

Take a drive through the forest to **Black Diamond Lake**, near Collie. Rated as one of WA's Top 10 Instagram spots, a trip to the lake is a must with its vibrant, crystal clear turquoise blue waters creating a photo frenzy. Black Diamond was formerly an open cut mine site that ceased operation in the 1950s – so, check the water quality before diving in! Otherwise, it's perfect for a dip, SUP, canoeing and kayaking. The lake has also become extremely popular with visitors bringing inflatable floats, because who wouldn't want to lay back and enjoy the beauty?

Then it's time to head home down the picturesque Coalfields Highway which boasts sensational views of the coast and the City of Bunbury. PS – if you need a coffee break: in Collie, visit **Wagon 537**, a pop-up cafe located in a heritage train wagon, that is reinvigorating Collie's food scene. People rave about the coffee sourced from the Margaret River Roasting Co or try a cold-pressed juice, green smoothie, turmeric and beetroot lattes, and gluten-free cupcakes.

Produce-driven Drive Home

On the way back to Perth drop into the **Crooked Carrot** near Myalup on Forrest Highway for a roadside stop oozing local quality produce. Try the trio tasting plate, venison pies and other delectable delights.

If you prefer a more scenic drive home, we suggest you take the South West Highway which follows the Darling Scarp and is dotted with historic farmland and equestrian properties.

Pit stop at **Ha Ve Harvey Cheese** for great larder provisions and award-winning cheeses. Indulge in one of the Cheese Cellar tastings to help you decide.

As you drive through Harvey, keep an eye out for roadside stalls selling oranges, mandarins and other local produce (in season). Surrounded by rich, irrigated plains on the banks of the Harvey River, Harvey is one of Australia's prime producing regions with a rich Italian heritage. Stretch your legs with a climb up the **Big Orange**, nestled in the grounds of **Harvey River Estate** winery. Owned by the Sorgiovanni family (who established Harvey Fresh before recently selling), Harvey River Estate features a great cellar door for tastings and last minute gifts.

OUR WINE REGIONS

Johanna Resta

Bunbury Geographe is blessed with not one, but two wine regions. The Geographe Wine Region spans the majority of BunGeo, with the Blackwood Valley Wine Region located on the outskirts of Balingup and Boyup Brook.

We don't have big businesses dominating our wine industry, just families dedicated to producing superb wine. Many wine producers predominately sell through family-owned cellar doors and local restaurants. The wine regions are perfect road trip destinations – connected by a maze of valleys and small, winding roads and stunning outlooks. Arguably, the most impressive wineries in the region are Willow Bridge Estate and Capel Vale. However, don't discount the small guys. Boutique producer Talisman is taking the award-scene by storm, and many others are hot on their heels.

GEOGRAPHE WINE REGION

Geographe is one of Western Australia's most captivating and diverse wine regions and with its proximity to Perth, ideal for short getaways. It has more than 30 small, family-run wineries making high quality, exciting small batch wines.

The influx of Italian immigrants to region area after the First World War acted a stimulus to the development of the area for growing grapes and producing fine wines. Two medical doctors, officially started the wine region in the early 70s; Barry Killerby of Killerby Vineyard and Peter Pratten who established the famous Capel Vale Winery.

The region is cooled by the afternoon sea breeze creating a long and stable growing season. Alongside the more well-known varieties there are plantings of many minor varieties such as Arneis, Bastardo, Cinsaut, Dolcetto, Barbera, Fiano, Graciano, Háslevelü, Muscadelle, Muscat Hamburg, Saperavi, Souzao, Tinta Cao, Touriga Nacional, Verdejo, Vermentino, Zinfandel and probably we are yet to discover. The strongly maritime coastal strip, to the rolling hills and river valleys of the Darling Range, gives rise to a number of microclimates making the region perfectly suited to many different grape varieties.

It sits between Margaret River in the south, Peel to the north and the Blackwood Valley to the east. To the west is the Indian Ocean and the stunning Geographe Bay. There are no official sub-regions. However, there are four distinct wine-producing districts. Harvey, the Ferguson Valley, Donnybrook and Capel/Busselton. One of the most popular areas in the Geographe is the Ferguson Valley. Good Food, Good Wine, Beautiful Scenery is the motto of Ferguson Valley. The wineries and localities are nearby, creating a fun and a fabulous wine touring experience. Indulging in wine and local food go hand-in-hand, and many vineyards include dining experiences right in the vines with a spectacular view across the Darling Scarp. geographewine.com.au

BLACKWOOD VALLEY WINE REGION

The picturesque Blackwood Valley Wine Region is nestled in the heart of the South West of Western Australia. Undoubtedly, the most scenic wine region in the state of Western Australia, the Blackwood Valley is home to 19 wine producers and 50 vineyards.

The Fairbrass family planted the first wine grapevines in 1976 at what is now called Blackwood Crest, inspired in part by the table grapes grown by Max Fairbrass's grandfather on the same property in the northeastern corner of the region.

With plantings of more than 450 hectares of premium varieties, the most prominent grape varieties of the region include Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon. There are smaller plantings of Riesling, Viognier and Pinot Noir.
The region is situated on the same latitude as Margaret River and shares many of the same basic climatic characteristics. Most notable of these are wet and relatively cool winters and proportionately warm, dry summers. Earthy undertones characterise the unique flavours of the area in the Cabernet and Shiraz, and golden honey flavours in white wine varieties.

There are no cellar doors presently open in the Balingup and Boyup Brook sub-regions. However, visits may be arranged by appointment. blackwoodvalleywine.asn.au

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW 1

Bunbury, a vibrant seaside port city, undergoing an audacious renaissance scene with regional Australia's largest collection of street and public art, a massive event calendar, and an ever-growing collection of independent boutiques, small bars and produce-driven cafes. It is also home to Australia's premier dolphin experience. Only minutes away are the green pastures, vineyards, undulating hills, fertile valleys and quaint towns of the Geographe region.

OVERVIEW 3

The Bunbury Geographe is situated 180 kilometres south of Perth in Australia's South West. World-class natural attractions, vibrant cafes, sensational food and wine, endless beaches, untouched forest, and a mass of excellent accommodation options make it the perfect destination. Bunbury is renowned as the City of 3 Waters surrounded by ocean, inlet, and estuary. Unearth its rich blend of maritime history, fascinating marine life, unforgettable natural experiences including Australia's premier dolphin experience, trendy eateries, small laneway bars, vibrant boutique clothing stores, cool street art and everything in between. Only minutes away are the green pastures, undulating hills, fertile valleys and quaint towns of the Geographe region. Venture through wineries, breweries, orchards and farm gates – this is real paddock-to-plate country. Seek out nature, with miles and miles of national park and state forest, five major river system, rare Tuart trees, bountiful dams, and natural waterholes. Tackle the Bibbulmun Track, one of the world great walks, or beat the Munda Biddi on your mountain bike. If the deep dark forests, boutique wineries and old pubs don't excite, then the sweet orchards dripping with fruit will delight.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Travelling by car

Travelling south by car takes approximately 1 hour 45 minutes. When travelling on the Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Highway. Visitors arriving via Perth airport can now take a very quick route along Roe Highway which flows directly into Kwinana Freeway (National Route 1- State Route 2). The alternative is the South West Highway; an inland route which is a little slower getting here, but very scenic.

Travelling by air

The Perth International and Domestic Terminals receive flights daily from all Australian cities, with car hire, bus transit and other modes of transportation available to those arriving. There are also charter flights available to Bunbury's airfield, including pick-ups from the Perth International and Domestic Terminals. **In March, Jetstar will begin flying from Melbourne to the Busselton Margaret River Airport, which is only 20 minutes from Capel and 40 minutes from Bunbury.**

Travelling by train and bus

Bunbury is accessible by rail with the Australind train departing from the Perth Railway Stations twice daily. The train takes approximately two hours and 30 minutes, making stops along the way. Southwest Coachlines and TransWA operate a daily service 7 days a week departing from the Perth. Visit southwestcoachlines.com.au and transwa.wa.gov.au

Getting around

Public transit buses depart regularly from the Bunbury Visitor Centre. Taxis' and Uber services are also available. A number of operators offer a range of tours for visitors to explore the region. In addition to sight-seeing tours, you can cruise along the Leschenault Inlet, go wine tasting, dive the Lena, learn the local Aboriginal culture, or take a horse ride in Harvey River Valley and more.

Visitor Information

There are 9 official visitor centres located across the Geographe. The main centre is the **Bunbury Visitor Centre:**
Haley Street, Bunbury
Open 7 days. Monday- Friday: 9am-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-4.30pm, Sundays & Public Holidays: 10am-2pm

welcome@bunbury.wa.gov.au
Freecall: +61 8 9792 7205

MAJOR EVENTS IN BUNGEO

Bunbury Street Pole Vault - January
Skyfest Bunbury - Australia Day
Boyup Brook Country Music Festival - February
Bunbury Fringe Festival - February
SW Multicultural Festival, Bunbury - February
Chef's Long Table Lunch, Bunbury - February
Bunbury City Classic Tri-series Triathlon - February
Krikke Boys Shootout - February
Harvey Harvest Festival - March
Ferguson Valley Music Trail - March
Bunbury Chinese New Year - March
Bunbury Cup - March
Tree Street Art Safari, Bunbury - March
Bunbury Geographe Gift - April
Bunbury 3 Waters Running Festival - April
Balingup Small Farm Field Day - April
Boyup Brook Pumpkin Festival - April
Bunbury Shift Youth Festival - April
Donnybrook Apple Festival - Easter
Dardanup Art Spectacular & Trail - April/May
Groovin the Moo, Bunbury - May
The Element Road Racing Series - May & August
Balingup Telling Tales - July
CinefestOz, Bunbury - August
Balingup Medieval Carnival - August
Festiv Arty, Collie - September
Collie Motorcycle Festival - September
Geographe Wine Show, Bunbury - September
Golden Valley Tree Park Spring Picnic, Balingup - October
Dardanup Bull & Barrel Festival - October
Ferguson Valley Open Garden Trail - October
Collie Adventure Race - October
True Grit Kirup - October
Blackwood Marathon - October
Harvey Dickson Rodeo - October
Art on Abel, Boyup Brook - November
Donnybrook Food & Wine Festival - November
Harvey Paddock to Plate - November
Christmas in the City, Bunbury - December.

What's new and what's to come in BunGeo!

New Developments

- **Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Stage 1:** Koombana Bay Foreshore, Bunbury: $10.8M including an iconic footbridge, amphitheatre, bbq areas, revamped kiosk, and an amazing kids playground with a zipline.
- **Dolphin Discovery Centre** ($12+M): state-of-the-art facilities in an interpretive centre, exhibits and a cafe all inside an iconic new building designed by Bunbury's MCG Architects.
- **Wagyl Biddi MTB Trail:** New MTB trail on the outskirts of Collie in the Collie River Valley designed by Common Ground Trails.

New Tourism/Business Operators

- **Mr Mustang Hire & Tours:** Cruise through the Geographe Wine Region in a convertible Mustang.
- **Traaverse:** A new Collie-based trail transfer business. You can leave your car parked safely in town, get dropped off at the MTB Trail Head then either ride back into town or call to be collected at the end of your ride. They also offer kayak and SUP hire, and small group tours.
- **Corners on the Bay:** After the huge success of Corners on King, owners have opened a gorgeous sister store at the Marlston Waterfront overlooking Koombana Bay.
- **Bunbury Geographe Tours:** Offering tours through the diverse Harvey region including cellar doors and other points of interest. Departing Bunbury and the Harvey Visitor Centre.
- **Coffee & Flour:** A new store has replaced the old Passionate Bakery in Bunbury, with amazing baked goods, coffee and other delights. Also offering a High Tea experience for visitors.
- **Last Slice Pizza:** New York-style pizzas have arrived in Bunbury. Owners, Casey Teede and Jeremy Doble use quality indegrients to create a low-grease thin and crispy pizza. Customers can order a 22 inch or by the slice.

Coming Soon

- **Airwave:** In November, the world's first inflatable reef will be installed along Bunbury's Back Beach. Airwave is a self-anchoring inflatable dome, shaped to mimic a surf reef's shallow leading edge to create barrelling A-frame waves as swell mass is raised. Installed close to the beach (approximately 40 metres), it has the advantage of being a very quick and safe paddle, ideal for beginner and kids, while still working for more experienced surfers in larger swells.
- **Black Diamond Lake:** Consulting company Harley Dykstra has recently completed a consultation on the development of a feasibility study into Black Diamond Lake, in Allanson.
- **Boodja Gin:** In December, Harris River Estate Winery will launch Boodja Gin, co-produced with Beelagu Moort. The gin is infused with awesome in-season Indigenous herbs.
- **Collie River Valley MTB Trails:** The WA Government is currently investing $10M in Collie River Valley trails over four years, creating 100 kilometres of epic MTB experiences between Wellington National Park and Collie.
- **Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront Stage 2 ($18M) & 3 ($65M): Stage 2 :** Enhancement of Casuarina Beach precinct. Stage 3: Delivered in two parts, will build a boating and marine industry precinct in Casuarina Harbour with breakwaters and improved pens for boat mooring.
- Cidery, Donnybrook.

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