

York & Surrounding Districts

SCENIC SELF-DRIVE TOUR

Tour No 5

Helena Road

All on unsealed roads (till you reach the Great Southern Highway) mostly through lovely bush.

- For bird watchers a Shire of York Bird Brochure is available from YIS in the Town Hall.
- A wildflower brochure from YIS is available in season (August – October)

Distance: Loop drive from YORK (approx 72 km) OR
Alternative route back to The Lakes from YORK (approx 52 km)



For Further information on this or other
Self-drive tours please contact
York Information Services

info@york.wa.gov.au www.york.wa.gov.au

9641 1301

BE PART OF “HISTORY STILL IN THE MAKING”

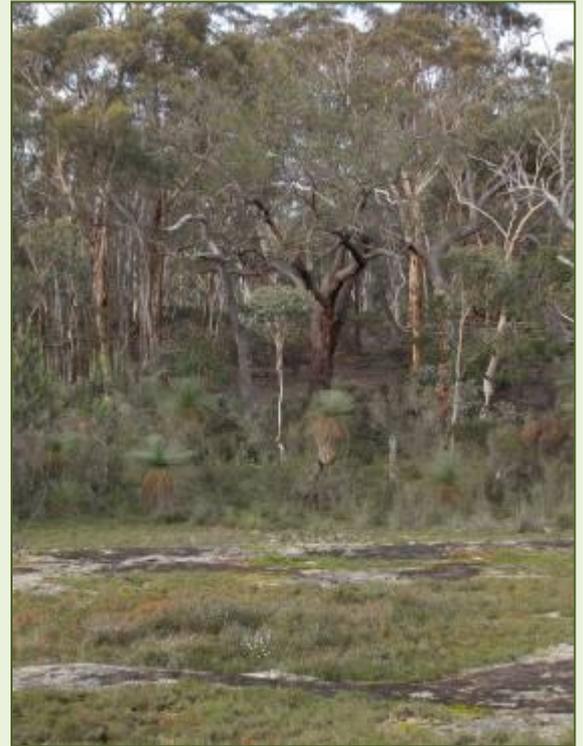
Protect, Conserve and Enhance

DEC Nature Conservation in the York Shire

Perth Hills District

Swan Region

In the Shire of York there are more than 30,000 hectares of bushland, including five Nature Reserves and two National Parks that are managed by the Department of the Environment and Conservation (DEC). DEC nature conservation officers are responsible for managing and protecting more than four Declared Rare Flora and 19 priority species of rare flora in the York Shire, protecting areas of high conservation value such as Wandoo National Park, working with farmers to enhance conservation areas effected by salinity issues and helping to protect our native fauna from feral animals such as wild pigs and foxes.



More than 30,000 hectares of bushland which are managed for nature



Nature Reserves and National Parks in the York Shire:

Wambyn Nature Reserve
Balkalling Nature Reserve
St Ronan's Nature Reserve
Cullen Nature Reserve
Warrinine Nature Reserve
Wandoo National Park



**Department of
Environment & Conservation
Perth Hills District
Ph: 9295 9100**

Commence at the York Town Hall (1911) (toilets, and parking nearby)

Set odometer at 0

Head south in Avon Terrace to crossroads, and

Turn right into Great Southern Highway (York–Lakes Road)

You are now climbing up out of the Avon Valley. **At 5.1 km** on the left you will pass Cut Hill Rd, and in the overtaking lane **At 6.5 km** on your right you will pass the road to the Golf Links (*wildflowers abound along there in season.*)

At 6.6 km turn left, almost immediately into Helena Road (unsealed).

There is a farm gate which you go through. It may be open or closed.

You ***MUST*** leave it as you find it as you are travelling through the private property of a farm. If the gate is closed beware of stock.

At 7.6 km is a derelict windmill and scattered trees on the left and white gum trees (Eucalyptus wandoo) on the verge on the right with occasional Red Gums (Euc. Calophylla) recognised by dark rough bark and big “honky nuts”.

At 9.5 km you will pass through another gate **please leave it as you find it.** Some revegetation planting on salt scalded area.

At 10km Faristurn Farm gate is on your left as you make a right–angled right turn entering an avenue of trees. Wandoo, Dryandra, Acacias, Casuarinas (She–oaks), and low shrub understorey (flowering in spring). Some of the Jam trees (Acacia acuminata), their name coming from the fact that when they are cut they smell of strawberry jam, have clumps of the parasite Mistletoe growing on their branches. When a lot of the parasite spreads on one tree, the tree will eventually die. The mistletoe has pretty red flowers in December/January.

At 11 km approx you will see Marri trees, big dark–trunked Red Gums (We also use the name Marri from the Nyungar language) these are scattered in the paddocks on the left and along the verge.

At 12 km note grass trees (Xanthorrhoea preissii) in the paddock on the right and at **12.2 km** on the left is a grove of young Quandongs with olive green leaves (Santalum acuminatum). When mature, these trees bear bright red fruit rich in vitamin C – formerly a useful food for the indigenous people. In bushy areas **beware of kangaroos and emus at any time of day or night.**

At 15.8 km there are cross roads – all unsealed. There is a sign on your left saying National Park. Continue on Helena Road which is well formed but unsealed, and go straight ahead into the catchment area for the Mundaring Weir goldfields and wheat belt water supply. **Please – no fires** in this valuable bushland.

At 16.7 km the road passes through long groves of She-oaks (*Casuarina obesa*). *The early settlers used these trees for roofing shingles.*

At 18.9 km grass trees and Zamias (palm-like cycads left over from the Dinosaur age) are scattered among the understorey. **BEWARE of KANGAROOS.**



At 20.7 km continue ahead notice that tracks go off – Deefor Rd to the left and Manna Flat Road to the right but these are not signed (as at 2006).

At 21.7 km Helena Glade Farm on the right.

At 22.5 km note a Survey blaze on white gum tree on the right. AR 91 2. These figures represent co-ordinates on maps to pinpoint positions for Dept. of Environment workers, fire fighters.



At 23.2 km Jarrah trees (*Euc. marginata*) appear in the bush. These have dark rough bark and are generally of more upright growth than the somewhat similar Marris and they have small gumnuts.

At 26 km **turn right** here at the T junction at Talbot West Road which is unsealed but very well formed. If you turned left you would get to Talbot Hall and eventually to Beverley.

At 27.8 km pass Kent Road which goes off to left – everlasting flowers abound here in spring, and grass trees can be seen in the forest. You are in unfenced bushland – so beware of kangaroos.

At 28.4 km Scattered Christmas Trees (*Nuytsia floribunda*) in the bush on your left which display vivid orange flowers December/January. *These spectacular trees are parasitic, needing a host plant to attach their roots to.*



At 29.4 km Pony Road goes off to right (not signed at 2006) and At 29.5 km pass Ridley Road on your left (not sign posted). You will also find on your left a section of land that is a declared jarrah die-back quarantine area. If you enter the bush here you must observe strict hygiene instructions to prevent the spread of this killer of our forests.

At 30.8 km the road bridge crosses the headwaters of the Helena River.

At 34 km approx the road comes into farmland and changes to bitumen with Marri trees on the verge and scattered in the paddocks. Pass Owen Road then Turkey Farm Road going off to right.

At 37.2 km **Turn right** towards Great Southern Highway at this crossroads at Yarra Road (sealed). Straight ahead is unsealed old Talbot West Road to Great Southern Highway. Left will take you down to the Brookton Highway.

At 38.9 km you will come to the Crossroads at Great Southern Highway also called York-Chidlow Road or colloquially the York-Lakes Road.

Straight ahead is Inkpen Road that leads to the Great Eastern Highway.

A **left turn** will deliver you to The Lakes, 13 km and then on to Perth or (Loop drive) A **right turn** will head you back to York.

If doing the loop drive after turning right the roadside trees are Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) with the grey rough bark and large gum nuts and the white trunked Wandoo or Powder Bark (*Euc. accedens*) whose trunks turn a lovely orangey colour in autumn.



At 49.8 km pass Berrybrow Road on your left. *This is a designated Wildflower Road and is worth a detour in the wildflower season if time permits.*



At 49.9 km pass the entrance to Mt. Observation Lookout and picnic area, on the right. *The Dept of Environment and Conservation has made an attractive area in the bush here for the public to enjoy. There are toilets, board walks, picnic tables, BBQs and a bird hide. Almost 7km due north from here on June 26th 1950, the ANA DC4 plane "Amana" crashed onto private farmland. An explosion was heard, then the crash, and all 29 crew and passengers died. It was the worst civil aviation crash in Australia up to that time, with almost nothing left to be seen at the site.*

Beverley have a memorial in their aviation museum in which they have a metal wheel from the Amana.

At 51.6 km you will cross 13 mile Brook.

At 51.9 km you will pass Wambyn Road on the left. *This is also a designated Wildflower Road*

At 53.9 km St. Ronan's Well is on the left. *There is permanent water here and in the early days as many as 16 wagon teams could camp the night there while carting stores or produce to and from Perth.*



At 55.3 km notice the gum trees on your left, these are the Powder Bark (*Eucalyptus accedens*) so called because you get a whitish powder on your hand if you rub the trunk.

At 56.3 km On the right in Wambyn Nature Reserve, see extensive revegetation plantings by the Department of Environment and Conservation in this badly degraded area.

Addressing the problem of salinity they have planted specially selected indigenous shrubs and trees. Then for two years they have returned with infill plantings to replace those lost through the depredations of rabbits, kangaroos and weather.

At 57.6 km see a breakaway in the bush on right. *This hill is associated with early Nyungar Fertility rites.* In paddocks on the left see deep "Whittington" contour banks trying to combat salt and water logging in the valley floor.



At 60.9 km you will cross Mulyininjin Bridge.

At 61.4 km you will cross 6 Mile Brook. On the right see the symbolic motor cycle memorial to Ray Makin. *Ray was a much respected figure in York who died when he crashed his motor cycle on this bend.*

At 62.5 km you will Cross Davies Bridge.

At 64.9 km onwards on the right see the excellent natural looking road side plantings by Men of The Trees and local volunteers.

At 65.6 km Ashworth Road is on the left where there are olive Groves and the York Olive Oil Company (*open Saturdays and Sundays and you can see the olive pressing in the Season June – July.*) Pass Helena Road which goes off to the right, where you left the Highway at the start of this journey.

Pass the road to the Golf Links on the left.

At 67.1 km Pass Cut Hill Road on your right.

At 68.9 km you will pass Morris Edwards Drive. *This was the old entrance road into York where you would be able to see some of the old cottages hidden under modern additions however these are still distinguishable by high rooflines and old style chimneys.* Glimpses of Mt Bakewell are now visible on the horizon at left.

At 71 km is the information bay on your left and Mt. Brown with its lookout vantage point is straight ahead on the other side of the Valley.

At 72.2 km you will have returned to the crossroads – turn left into the Avon Terrace for the York Town Centre.

As stated on the front cover you are amongst
“History Still in the Making”

Save Our Trees – please recycle this pamphlet

York Information Services



81 Avon Tce
YORK WA 6302
Ph: 08 96411301
Fax: 08 96412202

E-mail: info@york.wa.gov.au

Web: www.york.wa.gov.au