



## HARRISMITH NATURE RESERVE

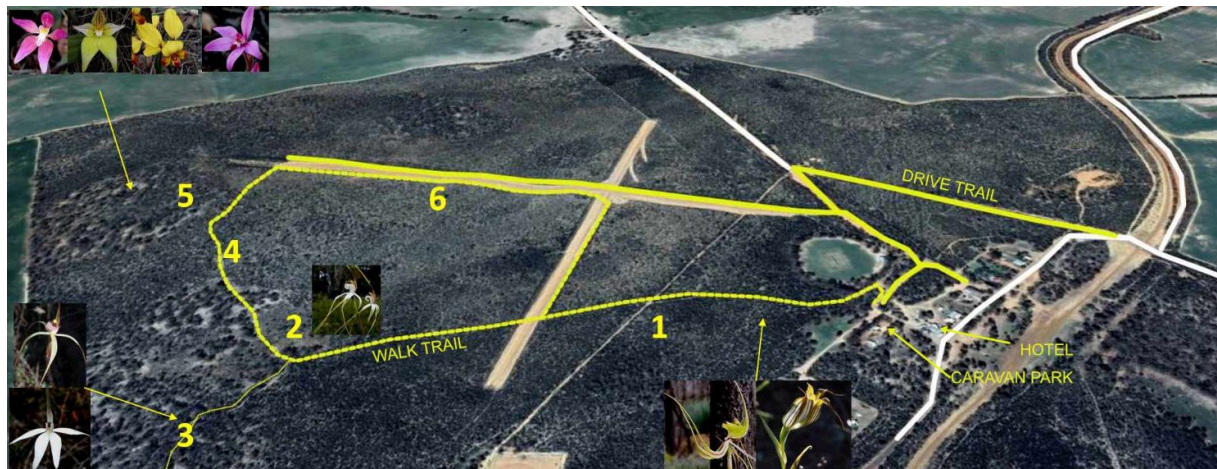
Harrismith reserve adjoins the township of Harrismith, 73 kilometres east of Narrogin and 55 kilometres south-east of Wickiepin. [The Oasis Hotel](#) has accommodation, lunches, drinks and snacks. With an adjoining caravan park, Harrismith is a good spot to camp overnight and enjoy the wildflowers.



The 3.5 kilometre gently sloping trail (level 2) is an easy walk, or cycle using a mountain/comfort bike. There is also a drive trail. The best time to visit is from mid-August to November, with October being peak time for verticordias and other flowering shrubs. As there are few trees on this walk, take water and walk at cooler times on hot days.

The reserve differs from others closer to Narrogin in having little woodland. The landscape is an upland gravelly plain, which is renowned for its [kwongan](#) heath wildflowers. The plain contains a few unusual circular woodland hollows, which were once wetlands millions of years ago. These are good spots for orchids and everlastings in spring.

Orchids flower in early/mid-September, but many kwongan plants flower later. At least two trips during the season are needed to see the full wildflower spectrum.



Numbers indicate trail sections described on the next page





**Section 1** is a gently sloping gravelly track through medium to tall kwongan shrubland, which is interspersed by small rock sheoak and cypress pine trees. Check for jug orchids (*Pterostylis recurva*) and green spider orchids (*Caladenia falcata*) in September.

**Section 2** starts at the picnic table where shrubland opens out at a very broad yellow sand hollow containing a few groves of eastern wandoo (*Eucalyptus capillosa*) trees). I found a few stark white spider orchids (*Caladenia longicauda* subsp. *eminens*) in early September

Beautiful *Verticordias picta*, *roei*, and *serrata* flower in late September to October.



An unmarked trail goes east from the picnic table to open wandoo and rock sheoak woodland (**Section 3**). Chameleon spider orchids (*Caladenia dimidia*), sugar orchids (*Caladenia saccharata*), common donkey orchids (*Diuris corymbosa*) and cowslip orchids (*Caladenia flava*) flower here in early to mid-September. Return to the main track to avoid getting lost, because the side trail continues for a long way before becoming a dead end.

The trail continues to a slight grey sandy slope (**section 4**) containing sphere banksia (*Banksia sphaerocarpa*), *Lambertia ilicifolia*, and roadside tea trees (*Leptospermum erubescens*) interspersed by rock sheoak and spindly mallees. Check the ground for cowslip orchids and painted sundew (*Drosera zonaria*).

At **section 5** the trail passes through prickly gravel scrub. This is the rim of 'doughnut' valley to the south, where you can see tree branches.

There is no trail down to the valley, but a moderately easy 20 metre scramble down the slope reveals attractive woodland. There is a variety of everlastings and other flowers on the slope and valley. if you are lucky, you may find the cowslip/little pink fairy orchid hybrid.

Cars can reach the picnic table on the trail adjoining the airstrip by using the drive trail.

**Section 6** follows the airstrip. There is a wonderful show of flowering shrubs by the airstrip in late September and October. Walk down the eastern airstrip to meet the track and return.



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