

FROM NEW VENUES WITH SEASIDE VIEWS TO GLAMPING ESCAPES BY THE LAKESIDE, THERE'S PLENTY THAT'S FRESH AND RIPE FOR DISCOVERY IN BUNBURY GEOGRAPHE.

By JANICE PLATT

Wambenger Trails

The Wambenger Trails network in and around Collie just keeps on growing. New mountain bike trails in Wellington National Park now link the Mt Lennard Trail Network to the Wellington Trail Network, creating an interconnected network of mountain bike trails stretching through the park.

The new trails include impressive and challenging descending trails near Honeymoon Pool (Cash Out, Send It and Breaker Breaker) that will leave you with a smile on your face, while the climb back to the top on Honeymoon's Over will get your heart pumping.

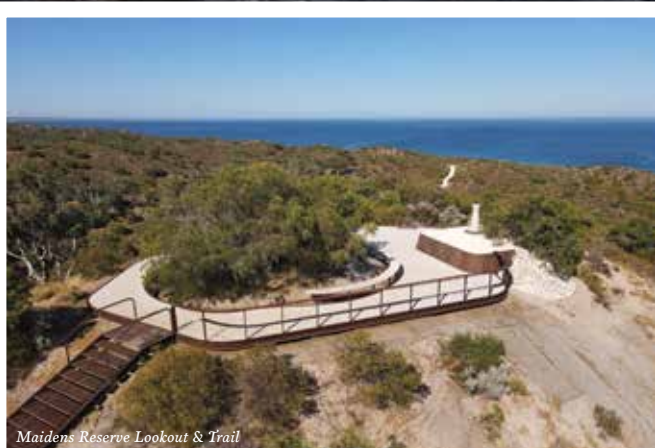
You can also now experience the Wellington Epic Loop, 60 kilometres of single-track mountain bike trails where you can experience everything that the Wellington National Park has to offer in one Epic ride. The Epic loop combines 15 green (easy) and blue (moderate) rated trails and you can start from the Kiosk at Wellington Dam or at the Pile Road Trail head. Look

for the 'Epic' trail markers on route. An Epic map is also coming soon.

Visit trails.wa.com.au/trails/trail-networks/wellington-national-park

Collie Cycling Guide

Pick up your ultimate guide to cycle and mountain bike trails in and around Collie. This comprehensive guide features recommended mountain bike routes in the mountain bike networks at Arklow, Wagyl Biddi and Wellington National Park trail networks. It also features eight road routes and nine gravel cycling routes close to Collie. A large fold out map helps you plan and choose the route that is best for you. You can pick up a copy at the Collie Visitor Centre (note there is a cost of \$12.99).



Maidens Reserve Lookout & Trail

Collie Trails

The Crown Hotel Collie

The team at Crown Hotel Collie has worked some serious magic worth marvelling at, transforming what was a pub in need of some love and new life, into a cool live music venue with reimagined funky spaces, a tantalising menu, and an enticing events calendar.

Taste delicious mainstays like the buttery, dry-aged steak, juicy steak sandwiches, and an ever-changing board of creative specials; accompanied by scrumptious Ferguson Valley wines, local beers on tap, or a fresh cocktail menu dreamed up by their talented mixologists.

Drop by and see what all the fuss is about.

Visit crownhotelcollie.com.au



Maidens Reserve Lookout & Trail

Bunbury Geographe is full of stunning natural vistas to take in, with Bunbury's Maidens Reserve scenic lookout and trail the newest addition to the list. Discover a new 670-meter pathway, fully accessible to wheelchair users, that guides you through the serene Tuart Forest to the scenic lower lookout, standing at 45 meters in height. For those seeking views from above, the upper lookout towers at 67 meters, connected by a series of 153 steps. Experience sweeping 360 degree views across Bunbury, Leschenault Inlet, Geographe Bay and Cape Naturaliste, from the top. Keep an eye out for interpretive signage to come.

Look for Frederick

Baked treats on Victoria Street anyone? Look for Frederick is the perfect CBD staple for those with a sweet tooth. Enter through its bubble gum pink doors into a baked treat heaven with ongoing displays of banoffee pies, lemon meringues, brownies, cinnamon scrolls and much, much more. Fortify yourself as you try to resist buying everything.

Little Spencer Coffee Co

The guys at Little Spencer Coffee Co have come far from their humble beginnings, serving premium coffees from their little coffee caravan. Now in their gorgeous café premises on Victoria Street adjacent from Guppy Park, Little Spencer Coffee Co is your new local — a haven for pastry, bread, and coffee lovers.

Along with their impressive croissant



selections (you'll have to wake up early to grab yourself an almond one), one of the best things on the menu is always going to be the bakehouse benny.

A bake space has recently been built as their HQ for producing the freshly baked bread, brioche, croissants, and pastries that fill the air with warm, sweet scents. The space is also planned to eventually double as an events space, so keep an eye out for activity. **Visit littlespencercoffeeco.com.au**

Boola Bidi Dreaming Centre

Witness the the world's oldest continuous culture at the Boola Bidi Dreaming Centre, a space proudly designed to showcase over 45,000 years of Aboriginal culture.

Jump on a tour, taste some bush food, learn about Aboriginal art, medicinal workshops, language and more. This hub of Noongar culture is based on the edge of the Harvey township where visitors and

locals alike can learn more about the rich history, culture and attraction of this very special part of the world.

Visit harveyabcorp.com.au/boola-bidi-dreaming

Glamping Tents at Lake Brockman Tourist Park

Lake Brockman Tourist Park has always been a favourite for visitors to Logue Brook Dam but we predict this beautiful park will soon see an influx of visitors on the waitlist, with the unveiling of their deluxe glamping tents.

Built with families in mind, kids and adults alike can now camp in pure luxury with the convenience of having a kitchen, bathroom, queen and bunk beds, sleeping up to five guests. Lounge about in your tent, overlooking breathtaking vistas of the glistening lake, or warm yourself by the firepit under dazzling stars in the

A Fresh Face!

Take a look at Bunbury Geographe's new and improved website for all the tips on where to explore within the region.

visitbunburygeographe.com.au



The Crown Hotel Collie



The Cray Bunbury



The Cray Bunbury

cooler months. there's no better place to turn off your phones and enjoy the freedom of being out in nature.

Visit lakebrockman.com.au

The Cray Bunbury

Bunbury's newest seafood restaurant had their grand opening on the 31st of January 2024 and promises crayfish as fresh as it gets, from sea to plate. Overlooking the serene waters of Koombana bay, the warm smiles and service paired with a truly decadent seafood platter will find you locking The Cray Bunbury in as your favourite local dining spot.

Featuring a full grilled local crayfish, grilled snapper, creamy garlic prawns, calamari, fresh oysters of choice, Moreton Bay bugs and more, The Cray Executive Platter will have you dining like VIPs. With king crab legs, seared abalone, clam seafood chowder and more, The Cray Imperial Platter will have you dining like royalty.

Visit thecray.com.au

GeoVino Extensions

Having completed renovations in November last year, GeoVino reopened its doors with a new, casual space for patrons to stay a while and experience the abundance of local wineries, breweries and distilleries within the Bunbury Geographe region. Already a provider of gourmet food and wine, GeoVino is now also a friendly, local hang-out. Enjoy a beer and some nibbles with friends, or pick up a Sangiovese to take home from its selection of international wines. Also look out for upcoming events, such as afternoons with a winemaker, beer spotlight sessions, gin masterclasses or workshops with local producers.

[Visit facebook.com/geovinoharvey](https://www.facebook.com/geovinoharvey)

Wyldling

Having opened its doors late 2023, Wyldling is a welcoming apothecary for all things organic, wildcrafted and spiritual. Feed both your body and mind here, selecting from the vast array of locally sourced medicinal

supplements, tinctures, powders and essences lining the walls; along with its collection of crystals, incense, otherworldly books and many more intriguing treasures. It'd be easy to spend hours browsing the selection on offer at this this community-minded wonderland.

Visit thegatheringvillage.org

Balingup Antiques

What do you do while strolling through the charming streets of Balingup? Pop into the newest antique shop for a sticky beak of course! Balingup Antiques is a short two-minute stroll from the main street and is an absolute haven for vintage collectables. Take the morning and poke about this overflowing shop, you never know what delightful vintage collectables you might find.

The Old Lyric Theatre

The brilliant team behind Market Eating House are thrilled to be repurposing the Old Lyric Theatre, home to one of Western Australia's earliest cinemas.



Keep an eye out for Azul, the stunning, resident peacock, who is soon to be the star of special "Picnic & Peacock Days" — encouraging more people to enjoy the gardens and admire flashes of Azul's brilliant colour. Azul, meaning blue in Spanish and colour of the sea, fits perfectly into the tropical oasis that is Ferguson Valley Escape.

Cheese and beverages by Melville Park

Artisanal cheese and dairy-product producers, heirloom vegetable farmers, and now distillers, Barbara Connell and David Doepel of Melville Farm near Brunswick, do it all. This entrepreneurial duo have been selling their heirloom vegetables from the historic Melville Farm barn on Saturday mornings since March 2023, adding their own hand-crafted cheeses to their offerings in December that year. The most recent addition to their repertoire of artisanal goods will be their collection of alcoholic beverages. Apple brandy, boutique ciders and vodka are all on the horizon, ready to be sold pending the approval of their producer's licence, which is currently underway. All beverages will be made using fermentables grown on the farm — including sugar beets for the vodka and apples from their orchard for the cider and apple brandy, or eau de vie de cidre.

Visit melvillepark.com.au

Award-winning drinks list by Mojo's

Mojo's Kitchen Bar and Bottle Shop has been awarded Best Listing of WA Wines and Best Restaurant Beer List in Australia by Australia's Wine List of the Year Awards. Up against impressive contenders like Wildflower and the Shorehouse, Mojo's has stood out from the crowd for its focus on small batch wines from independent and boutique producers, particularly low intervention wines that really highlight the terroir in which they were grown.

Mojo's commitment to local produce is stronger than ever, says owner Juliana Frisina. "Over the past year we've created new partnerships with organic growers and continue to champion fresh, local and low intervention producers.

"We're currently investigating the installation of infrastructure that will allow us to dry age our fresh fish, further reducing waste and helping us to improve flavour options."

Visit mojosrestaurant.com.au **16**



This new venture promises to turn The Old Lyric into the event space for weddings, corporate functions, private dinners, group workshops, and live music events with character and charm. Boasting a unique blend of old-world elegance and modern amenities, events in this exciting new space will be exclusively catered by the artisans at Market Eating House.

Visit theoldlyric.com.au

Ferguson Valley Escape

Indulge in pure luxury at the newest destination resort in the Bunbury Geographe region, Ferguson Valley Escape. Feel your stress wash away as you take a dip in the sparkling pool surrounded by lush tropical gardens before indulging in a massage by the lakeside lagoon.

Recently the winner for Lux Life's Travel & Tourism Award for 2024, this idyllic escape is perfect for family gatherings, retreats, weddings, or group getaways. A variety of room options is available, accommodating up to 20 people.



RELAX, STAY, CELEBRATE AT EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

Our cabins and spacious two-storey apartments are nestled in a spectacular jarrah forest on the banks of stunning Evedon Lake.

Cook up a gourmet feast in your kitchen or enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in the café/restaurant*. Every Friday is woodfired pizza night.

Fish, kayak or take a walk along the retreats many forest trails, ride out to the Mount Lennard MTB Trails or simply relax and unwind, watching the sunset over the lake from your own private balcony.

Superbly located in the South West's Ferguson Valley and Geographe Wine Region, nearby to Honeymoon Pool, Wellington Dam, Potters Gorge, just 20 minutes to Bunbury's beaches and two hours south of Perth.



EVEDON LAKESIDE RETREAT

Lakeside Cabins & Apartments
Restaurant/Cafe - Weddings - Conferences
Kayaking - Bushwalks - Fishing

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* Check website for restaurant opening hours. Log fires are seasonal

