

Julimar Spring is spectacular

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

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wildflower haven

WHETHER it is masses of creamy white *Trymalium* sp (soap bush) in swathes below the majestic gums, or oceans of white *Leucopogon pulchellus* (Bearded Heath) reaching as far as the eye can see, Julimar is a spectacular place during the spring.

Julimar has five major vegetation types, each making a visual impact upon the landscape.

All of these are open woodlands, resulting in stunning vistas of tall trees over colourful understorey species.

It is important to keep an eye on the ground as some of the plants and their flowers could be missed.

Whether it is colourful yellow carpets of *Hibbertia lasiopus* (Large Guinea flower) or nodding clusters of *Orthrosanthus laxus* (Morning Iris) scattered amongst the vivid blue of *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, the Blue Squill, you are sure to find something to catch your eye.

Other patches of yellow enticing you to explore further could be *Acacia pulchella* (Prickly Moses) or *Acacia drummondii* (Drummond's Wattle).

They could be tinged with mosaics of red, purple or orange, being various pea flowers, commonly given the blanket name of Egg and Bacon, but covering many different species.

Splashes of orange are provided by *Gastrolobium calycinus* (York Road Poison) and dashes of purple are provided by *Hovea* species.

While the most spectacular displays are found during spring, it is possible to find flowers all year round.

When you think about it this makes sense, as what are the nectar eating animals going to live off at other times of the year if there are no flowers?

You just have to work harder to find the flowers during those seasons.

Orchids also hide in Julimar.

From wee *Pheladenia deformis* (Blue Fairy Orchids), *Caladenia reptans* subsp *reptans* (Dwarf Pink Fairy Orchids),

Ericksonella saccharata (Sugar Orchids), numerous species of *Diuris* (Donkey Orchids) and *Pterostylis* (Greenhoods and shell orchids), glossy purple *Elythranthera brunonis* (Purple enamel Orchid), tall and small *Caladenia* sp (Spider orchids), tiny, delicate, sweet scented *Prasophyllum gracile* (Little Laughing Leek Orchid) and the rare *Cyanicula ixioides* subsp *candida* and *Cyanicula ixioides* subsp *ixioides* (White and Yellow China Orchids respectively), the variety in Julimar can assure you have a good hunt.

There are several roads entering off both Julimar and Dewars Pool roads to Julimar Conservation Park inviting you to enter, park, and explore on foot.

Some of the tracks are more accessible to two-wheel drives than others, so be careful.

Areas within the park are still quite wet during spring and will be especially so this year.

For identifying flowers, Florabase by the Western Australian Herbarium is an excellent tool.

Lists of expected species can also be found using the new platform Dandjoo (<https://dandjoo.bio.wa.gov.au/>).

The Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance is working to further the protection of this beautiful wildflower haven. If you are interested in supporting this endeavour, please contact us at julimarforest@gmail.com.