

# Safe Road Home Sculptures

## 1. Numbats

**Summary: Despite being the State's animal emblem, there are only about 1,000 numbats left in the entire state. They are under threat through habitat loss and predation by foxes and cats.**

Numbats are a symbol of both the fragility and resilience of nature. These unique marsupials, known for their striking stripes and long, sticky tongues, are a rare sight.

Numbats primarily feed on termites, consuming up to 20,000 a day. They play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance by controlling termite populations. Despite their small size, numbats are incredibly important to the health of their habitat.

Conservation efforts in Pingelly and surrounding areas are vital to ensure the survival of these fascinating creatures. Local communities and wildlife organizations work tirelessly to protect their natural habitats from threats such as habitat loss and predation by introduced species.

## 2. Pingelly Times

**Summary: The Pingelly Times, a weekly newspaper follows the tradition of the Pingelly Leader originally established in 1906.**

Following the tradition of the Pingelly Leader established in 1906, the Pingelly Times has become a cherished weekly newspaper bringing local news to local people. Today, it is run by dedicated volunteers and remains a vital source of local news, events, and stories.

The Pingelly Times is published 46 weeks a year, taking a brief recess during the summer school holidays. The proceeds from advertising and paper sales are reinvested into local community projects, highlighting its role in supporting and enriching the community.

## 3. Bushfire

**Summary: Bushfires are a constant threat throughout the hot, dry summer months in Pingelly. Bushfire volunteers stand between these fires and the community.**

Major fires have swept across large parts of this area, threatening to envelope whole towns. Pingelly has no paid firefighters and relies heavily on the dedication and bravery of its bushfire volunteers to protect lives, property, and the environment.

The community of Pingelly deeply appreciates the tireless efforts of these volunteers, who often put their own lives at risk to safeguard others. Their work is a testament to the strength and resilience of the local community.

## 4. Round the Houses

**Summary: This is a historic motorsport event first held in 1939. This event transformed the streets of Pingelly into a thrilling race track, where drivers showcased their skills and speed.**

The races were part of a broader tradition of "around-the-houses" events, which were popular in various towns across Western Australia before the establishment of dedicated race tracks. These events brought excitement and a sense of camaraderie to the towns, drawing spectators from near and far.

Although the original races in Pingelly ceased after a few years, the spirit of the event lives on. The community fondly remembers the days when the streets echoed with the roar of engines and the cheers of enthusiastic crowds.

Today, the legacy of the Pingelly Round the Houses Races is celebrated through local stories and memories, as well as an annual historical vehicle parade along the traditional race route.

## **5. ANZAC Memorial**

**Summary: Many young men from Pingelly and surrounding areas enlisted at the Pingelly Town Hall, driven by a sense of duty and patriotism. Now they are honoured in this same building.**

During World War I, the Pingelly Town Hall played a significant role as a recruitment centre for the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

The town hall became a hub of activity, with local families gathering to support their loved ones as they enlisted for service. These recruits went on to serve in various theatres of war, including Gallipoli, the Western Front, and the Middle East.

The Pingelly community continues to commemorate these soldiers through the Memorial Walk in the centre of Pingelly and the stories of each soldier displayed at the town hall where many of them originally enlisted. Their contributions and sacrifices are remembered and honoured each year on ANZAC Day, ensuring that their stories and sacrifices are never forgotten.

## **6. Steam Train**

**Summary: The railway connecting Perth to Albany had a water stop at the Avon Spring. This was then called 'Pingeculling', a Noongar name for 'Watering Place'.**

Pingelly is the source of the Avon River, which flows through the towns of Brookton, Beverley, York, Northam, Toodyay before joining the Swan River. The steam trains used the clear spring water at Pingeculling and established a siding there. This established Pingelly as the primary settlement in the region. The arrival of the Great Southern Railway in 1889 resulted in an economic boom for the district along the rail line.

## **7. House Moving**

**Summary: The original settlement of Moorumbine relocated about 10km to Pingelly between 1889 - 1898. Many simply moved their house on wagons to the new location.**

The railway siding built in 1889 turned Pingelly into the economic powerhouse of the region. This marked the beginning of Moorumbine's gradual decline. Many settlers relocated from Moorumbine to Pingelly. For many of these people moving house meant moving the entire house in sections to the new site. This was possible as many of the houses were made of wood. Stone and brick houses in Moorumbine did not lend themselves to relocation and so have remained in situ.

Pingelly also attracted many settlers from the Goldfields who were looking for an alternative and more secure means of income. There are records of at least one house being relocated from Coolgardie in the Goldfields (a distance of 500 kilometres) by bullock and camel trains!

Transportable houses continue to be popular in Pingelly due to the greater construction costs in regional areas.

## **8. Falling Stones @ Pumphreys Bridge**

**Summary: In 1957, stones fell from the sky unto Aboriginal camp at Pumphreys Bridge. The stones fell for 5 days. This was independently verified and investigated. Stones did fall, but no one understands what caused it.**

Summary from the West Australian, Wednesday, March 20, 1957

For five consecutive days, stones mysteriously fell from the sky onto an Aboriginal camp at Pumphreys Bridge. Despite moving the camp ten miles away, the stones continued to fall around the group. Dozens of curious locals also experienced the stone barrage at the camps when they went to investigate. The stones fell both during the day and during the night and were seen to fall inside the tents – without damaging the tents. However, when some of the group stayed one night inside a local house, the stones fell on the roof.

The Deputy Government Mineralogist found nothing unusual about the stones' composition. The stones, composed of laterite material common in the area, floated down and hit the ground with a dull thump. They were warm to touch. This mystery remains unsolved.

## **9. Pingelly Tigers**

**Summary: This Footy team broke barriers that allowed no more than three Aboriginal players in any local team, paving the way for several of the game's greats including Nicky Winmar, Leroy Jetta and Winston Abraham to take part.**

The Pingelly Tigers are a legendary football team with a rich history rooted in Pingelly. Formed in the 1960s, the team was established by a group of Noongar players in protest of a rule that allowed no more than three Aboriginal players in any local team.

This inaugural team paved the way for greater participation in AFL by Aboriginal people. Players came from up to 200km away. The team coached by Desmond Little, left a legacy in the AFL and included Nicky Winmar's father, Leroy Jetta's grandfather, Steven and Bradley Hill's grandfather, Gerald Ugle's grandfather, Ahsley Samp's grandfather and Winston Abraham's grandfather.

The Pingelly Tigers not only provided a platform for Indigenous players to showcase their talents but also became a symbol of resilience and community spirit. Their story is a testament to the power of determination and the importance of inclusivity in sports.

## **10. Travel in 1800's**

**Summary: Travel between Perth and Pingelly in the 1800's was mostly by wagon at a top speed of 15km per day. (These sculptures are at approximately 15km intervals.) The trip took several weeks.**

Traveling to Pingelly by wagons in the late 1800s was a challenging and lengthy journey, taking several weeks. The Old Beverley Road was a track connected Pingelly to Perth through Beverley – a route that extended the trip by several days.

Each wagon was pulled by a team of 6 or 7 horses. About 20 teams travelled together and undertook the journey in stages to allow the horses to rest, feed and water.

## 11. Boyagin Rock

**Summary: According to Noongar legend, Boyagin Rock is the resting place of the Wagyl, a dreamtime water snake that wound itself around the rock to form it. It also has stunning views and a popular walking trail.**

The rock holds great cultural importance for the Noongar people, who refer to it as “Boya” (rock) and “djinning” (looking or seeing), meaning “the rock that sees or is looking”.

Boyagin Rock itself is a significant natural landmark, rising 50 meters above the surrounding landscape and offering stunning views of the area. The rock and its surrounding nature reserve are home to a variety of unique wildlife, including numbats, goannas, echidnas, and tamar wallabies, making it a popular destination for bushwalking and nature observation.

## 12. Resurrection Plants

**Summary: The Resurrection Plant ‘dies’ from lack of water and dehydrates to a crisp, only reviving again when water is available.**

The Resurrection Plant (*Borya sphaerocephala*) found at Boyagin Rock is a fascinating and resilient species known for its remarkable ability to survive extreme conditions. Locally referred to as “pin cushions,” these tough little plants dry out during the hot, dry summer months, appearing lifeless and brittle. However, with the arrival of the first rains of winter, they “resurrect,” unfurling their fronds and turning green once again. These plants may be useful for some less than gifted gardeners!

This adaptation allows the resurrection plant to thrive in the harsh environment of granite outcrops, where water can be scarce for extended periods. The plant’s ability to go dormant and then revive with moisture is a survival strategy that has intrigued botanists and nature enthusiasts alike. This plant is being actively researched to improve drought resistance in crops.

## 13. Wandering

**Summary: In 1859, early explorers found their lost horses wandering by a spring that is now called Horse Well. These horses inspired the name ‘Wandering’ for the area and then town.**

In 1859, European pioneers exploring the vast landscapes of Western Australia stumbled upon a serene freshwater spring. Their horses, having wandered off, were found grazing contentedly around this spring, which would later be named Horse Well. This discovery marked the beginning of what would become the town of Wandering.

Seven years later, in 1866, the first settlers arrived. George and John Watts, whose wandering horses had led to the discovery of the area, were granted the first freehold lots. They established their homestead on what is now known as the local property of Grassdale. This marked the official settlement of Wandering, a town that grew from the serendipitous grazing of horses to a small but vibrant community.

## 14. A 4-Dog Night

**Summary: Locals have an expression “its 4-dog night” to describe how cold it can get in winter.**

Wandering, on top of the scarp is famous for its cold, especially when the sun goes down. On the coldest of nights, locals can be heard to say “its 4-dog night!” This phrase comes from the idea that you’d need the warmth of four dogs snuggled up with you to stay cozy.

## 15. Night Sky

**Summary: Away from the bright lights of the city, Pingelly offers some of the clearest and most stunning views of the stars. It has to be seen to be believed.**

Pingelly's the night skies are a breathtaking spectacle. On a clear night, the Milky Way stretches across the sky, a dazzling band of light that seems almost close enough to touch.

There are many Aboriginal stories about the night sky. One figure that can be seen is the emu formed by the dark spaces in the milky way. During different times of the year, the position of the emu in the sky changes, which is used to mark seasonal events. For instance, when the emu appears to be running, it signals the change in season and the time to collect emu eggs.

The lack of light pollution makes it an ideal spot for stargazing, and many visitors are awestruck by the sheer number of stars visible to the naked eye.

## **16. Farming revolution**

**Summary: Thanks to the wonders of modern machinery, farms have grown 100 times the size over the last 100 years.**

100 years ago farmers toiled on small 40-hectare plots, relying on sheer muscle power and rudimentary tools. It was a time of hard work and perseverance, with every harvest a testament to the farmers' grit and determination.

Fast forward to today, farms are 100 times the size on average thanks to the marvels of modern machinery. But it's not just about size and machinery. The spirit of innovation runs deep in Pingelly's farming community. Farmers now use tractors with GPS precision, drones to monitor crop health, sensors to track soil moisture levels, and employ data analytics to optimize yields. It's a blend of tradition and technology, where the wisdom of generations meets cutting-edge advancements.

## **17. Tulip Festival**

**Summary: Pingelly's historic Tulip festival and parade has resprouted in the form of the FAM Festival, a dynamic celebration of Flowers, Arts, and Music.**

Each year, the Pingelly came alive with colourful displays of tulips, attracting visitors from near and far. The highlight was passengers alighting from the train from Perth to enjoy the floral spectacle and community festivities.

The festival now continues as the FAM Festival, a dynamic celebration of Flowers, Arts, and Music. This modern incarnation retains the charm of the original tulip displays while expanding to include a diverse array of artistic and musical performances.

## **18. Wildflowers**

**Summary: Over 850 species of wildflowers bloom across this district in September each year.**

Each spring, the region bursts into a vibrant display of wildflowers, transforming the landscape into a colourful tapestry. The Tutanning Nature Reserve, located just east of Pingelly, is one of the prime spots to witness this natural spectacle. Here, over 750 species of wildflowers bloom, creating a stunning array of colours and shapes.

The Dryandra National Park, another nearby hotspot, is home to more than 850 floral species. After good winter rains, the wandoo woodlands come alive with blossoms, attracting visitors from all over. The Boyagin Nature Reserve also offers impressive wildflower displays, making it a must-visit during the spring season.

These wildflower displays not only highlight the region's rich biodiversity but also provide a beautiful backdrop for activities like bushwalking, bird watching, and photography.

### **19. Sheep**

**Summary: Shearing has become a globally competitive sport. On April 15, 2024, Luke Vernon set a new world record by shearing 500 Merino ewes in just eight hours – more than 1 sheep per minute.**

Sheep farming has been a cornerstone of this region since its settlement, produce high-quality meat and wool. Sheep shearing is now a globally competitive sport. On April 15, 2024, Luke Vernon set a new world record by shearing 500 Merino ewes in just eight hours. This incredible feat involved shearing each sheep in less than 1 minute.

Luke's achievement surpassed the previous record of 497 ewes, set in 2019. The event was a testament to shearer's skill, endurance, and dedication. It's amazing to see such remarkable talent and hard work being recognized on a global stage.

### **20. Pingelly Christmas Village**

**Summary: This magical annual event that transforms the main street of Pingelly, into a festive wonderland for the whole month of December. It is a must for anyone that loves Christmas.**

This magical annual event that transforms the main street of Pingelly, into a festive wonderland. First introduced in 2022, the Christmas Village quickly became a beloved tradition, drawing visitors from all over to experience its enchanting displays and activities.

Each December, the historic main street lights up with thousands of fairy lights, creating a dazzling spectacle. The Pingelly Christmas Village not only brings holiday cheer to the community but also showcases the town's vibrant spirit and hospitality. It's a must-visit destination for anyone looking to immerse themselves in the festive season.