

James Drummond

James Drummond travelled as far north as the Murchison River, inland to Kellerberrin and as far south-east as West Mt Barren (near Bremer Bay). He collected nearly 50,000 specimens and today there are 119 WA plant species named after him, such as *Acacia drummondii* (Drummond's wattle).

James Drummond moved to the Toodyay district in 1838. He established a residence at Hawthornden. In 1842 Drummond blazed a trail in a northerly direction from his home. The winding trail became known as Drummond's Track and was used by shepherds. In 1846 a Benedictine party trudged along it in mid-summer to found the mission at New Norcia.

The Old Plains Road developed along parts of the track and became the route to Geraldton from the Avon Valley. Although this road has now been bypassed by modern highways, it is still possible to travel along it from Toodyay to New Norcia.

Charles Gardner

In 1929 Charles Gardner was appointed the first Government Botanist and Curator of the State Herbarium. He was a passionate collector and over a period of 50 years traveled throughout WA.

Gardner set himself the task of re-collecting all of Drummond's specimens.

By the late 1940s there were two plants Gardner was very keen to rediscover: one was the *Grevillea candolleana* from the Toodyay district.

In 1947 Gardner set out from New Norcia with forester Dick Perry along Drummond's old route between New Norcia and Toodyay. Just after turning on to the old track, a patch of the grevillea was spotted in full bloom. This patch was probably the precise location where Drummond had made his collection a century before. The pair picked a sprig and placed it on Drummond's grave as they journeyed south past Hawthornden.

For more information on the area please contact

Toodyay Visitor Centre

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New Norcia Benedictine Community

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NEW NORCIA
BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY

BOTANICAL JOURNEYS

BETWEEN NEW NORCIA AND TOODYAY



Follow the journeys taken by James Drummond and Charles Gardner on their search for unique West Australian flora

Take a botanical journey and follow in the foot steps of James Drummond and Charles Gardner.

From New Norcia turn off the Great Northern Highway at Old Plains Road. From Toodyay turn off the Bindi Bindi Road onto Telegraph Road, and then follow Old Plains Road.

This path will take you through the back roads of Toodyay and Victoria Plains, past farmland and natural bush.

Most of Old Plains Road is unsealed so caution is advised.

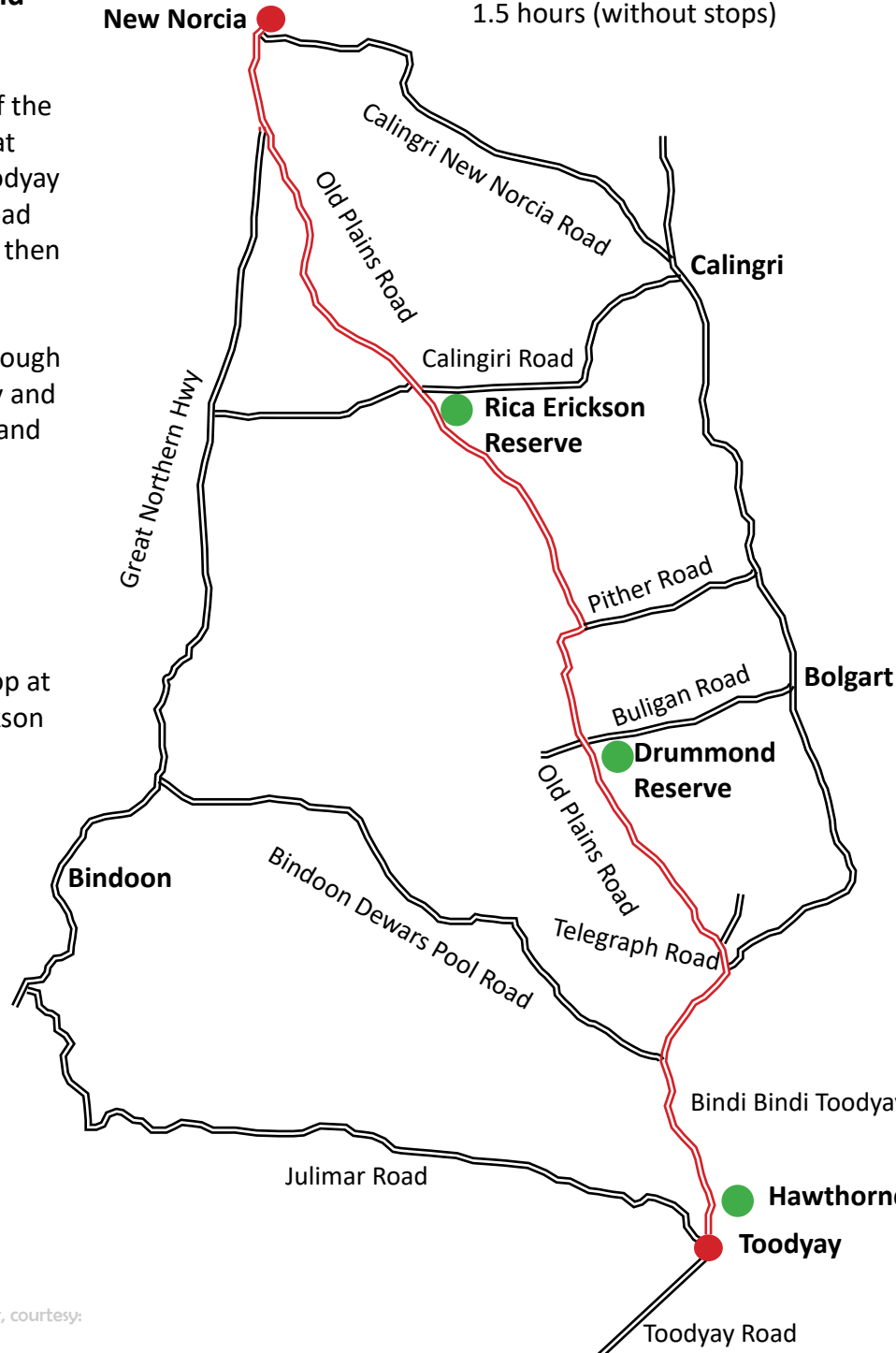
Along the way you can stop at Drummond and Rica Erickson Reserves.

Drummond Reserve

Quiet bushland of grass tree, sheoak, wandoo and wildflowers.

The reserve has over 400 species of native plants within its boundaries, including two rare and seven priority species.

Approximately 90kms,
1.5 hours (without stops)



Rica Erickson Reserve

Rica Erickson was a naturalist, botanical artist, historian, author and teacher. Growing up in the Goldfields of Western Australia, she developed an interest in birds and flowering plants.

Rica was an active member of the Bolgart Country Women's Association. In 1964 the CWA successfully petitioned the Victoria Plains Shire for the protection of 124 hectares along what had been Drummond's old track. In 1996 this reserve was named the Rica Erickson Nature Reserve.

The reserve is an open woodland growing over low heath. Spider Orchids are particularly good in Spring.