

LANDMARK POSTCODE

# 6084



Views overlooking Chittering Valley.

Story: Sheryl Allen

**LOCATION:** Chittering Valley  
1 hour north of Perth

**POPULATION:** 3,500

**INDUSTRIES:** Agriculture, horticulture,  
tourism

**CLIMATE:** Temperate  
Summer: 16.0°C – 32.7°C  
Winter: 6.4°C – 18.3°C  
Rainfall: 678mm

Just an hour's drive north of Perth is one of Western Australia's most delightful getaway 'experience' frontiers – Chittering Valley. Still in 'discovery' phase, it lures ever-growing numbers of savvy city-siders to enjoy its hidden treasures and diverse pleasures.

And why not? Chittering Valley has much to offer: sweeping scenic views, bushland environs, charming pastoral scenes, unique B&Bs, wondrous wildflowers, fine wine and fresh organic produce.

Landmark's Craig Hyne describes the landscape: "It's hilly, undulating country with a mix of verdant valley slopes, remnant bushland tracts and parkland cleared lots punctuated with citrus orchards, winegrape vinerows and olive groves. It has a visual character all of its own and a diverse culture to match."

From Bullsbrook in the south to Bindoon in the north, the valley envelopes the Brockman River.

Like the watercourse, the 76 kilometre Chittering Valley Wine Trail meanders at a relaxed

pace, passing boutique winery cellar doors, weekend markets, roadside produce stalls and quaint cafes and tearooms that invite you to sit and soak up the ambience.

The Chittering shire population is around 3,500. Because residents are not centred around a major town, rather a series of localities, it has evolved over time with a remarkable assortment of people.

"There are all sorts of interesting characters," confirms Craig. "Traditional, multi-generation mixed grazing farmers, new-age 'greenies', commercial citrus growers, novice winemakers, young families, retirees and a fair smattering of 'arty' folk. It's a great place to 'go under the radar' and just kick back and enjoy your lifestyle of choice."

Bindoon towards the north of the valley is regarded as the main settlement, with a population of 1,100. It is headquarters for local government offices, the Catholic Agricultural College and many other services including retail shopping.

Other localities include Chittering, Lower Chittering and Muchea.

"The valley is probably best-known for its citrus orchards – there are many commercial orange producers here, but there are also other types of mixed agriculture, horticulture and viticulture," says Craig "No doubt, the main focus has become lifestyle."

Perth is within easy commuting distance and for those seeking alternative or dream lifestyles, Chittering offers many advantages, affordability being a big one.

Craig affirms that. "We have a lot of interest from Perth buyers who weigh up that they can secure five acres and the opportunity for a rural lifestyle for around the same cost of a residential block in the capital."

"The Rosa Park subdivision at Lower Chittering is a great example – thirty-nine five-acre rural residential allotments, some cleared and some natural bushland. Tall Jarrah and Redgum trees, rolling hills and the sort of views city folk dream about. Close enough to town yet far enough to seem like a world away."

Whether you come for September's Flavours of Chittering Festival, October's Bindoon Show or an any-season picnic in one of many idyllic spots, you will be rewarded with a chance to meet some local fauna, birdlife and the very friendly locals.

It's no surprise that modern-day 'explorers' have been known to fall in love with the Chittering Valley and never go home!

#### CONTACT:

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#### PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: three bedroom home in Bindoon  
\$350,000 – \$450,000

Lifestyle: 5 acre new subdivision at Lower  
Chittering \$275,000 – \$325,000

Rural: 100 acre unimproved grazing lot,  
parkland cleared \$700,000 – \$900,000