

**MERREDIN DISTRICT THREATENED FLORA MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**WONGAN BALLIDU THREATENED FLORA RECOVERY TEAM  
Annual Report  
2003**

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For the Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team

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## Summary

- The Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team (WBTFRT) reconvened in May 2003 after a 15-month period of abeyance caused by the temporary absence of the Assistant Conservation Officer.
- In May 2003, a recovery team meeting was ~~held and held to~~ informed the team that Kate Roy-Chowdhury had been appointed as the assistant Conservation Officer, until 30 September 2003. Due to the short-term nature of the position, Kate would be concentrating on high priority on-ground recovery actions. Gillian Stack was introduced to the group at this meeting; Gillian was responsible for the completion of the Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Management Program.
- In December 2003, the Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team held their final meeting, ~~where at which~~ a decision was made to amalgamate the WBTFRT with the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team. This decision was reached due to the absence of funding for an assistant conservation officer and the potential that the recently formed Wongan Ballidu Bush Care group would assume many similar roles.

**1. Recovery Team Paul, Given the note above about the final meeting of the Wongan-Ballidu Team, I assume that it has actually been disbanded? In that case, the past tense should be used in the three paragraphs below, and is the very last paragraph of the report consistent with the Team's disbandment?**

The Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team ~~oversees-oversaw~~ the implementation of recovery actions for threatened flora in the Wongan-Ballidu Shire. The team ~~is-was~~ made up of a broad cross-section of people who ~~are-were~~ able to contribute to the recovery of targeted threatened species.

~~It has members~~ Members came from the Wongan-Ballidu Shire operations team, the Wongan-Ballidu Shire Council, the Department of Agriculture's Research Farm, the Wongan Hills Tidy Towns committee, a tree farm, naturalists and landholders as well as CALM staff from the Merredin District and from the Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit.

The following ~~are-were~~ members of the Wongan-Ballidu District Threatened Flora Recovery Team.

| Name                             | Organisation  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Paul Blechynden<br>(Chairperson) | District Manager, CALM                                    |
| Gillian Stack                    | WATSCU Woodvale, CALM                                     |
| Kate Brunt                       | Merredin district conservation officer, CALM              |
| Marianne Hasson                  | Shire liaison member                                      |
| Kate Roy-Chowdhury               | Assistant Conservation officer, CALM                      |
| Ian Smith                        | Volunteer community representative                        |
| John Milligan                    | District manager<br>Wongan Hills Research station<br>AgWA |
| Denis Mitchell                   | Wongan trees  |
| Andrew Brown                     | WATSCU Woodvale, CALM                                     |
| Ray Paynter                      | Toodyay <del>naturalists's</del> club                     |
| Mike Brennan                     | Ninan Farms   |
| Nigel Goode                      | Shire Works Manager<br>Wongan Ballidu                     |
| Sonya Thomas                     | Volunteer community representative                        |

## 1.1 Recovery Team meetings

Three recovery team meetings were held throughout 2003 in Wongan Hills.

The first meeting in May primarily focussed on reconvening the recovery team members, introducing new staff members and presenting and discussing works programs to be achieved by September 2003.

The second meeting focussed on discussing achievements towards the 2003 NHT scope items. Feedback was sought from the recovery team on a number of issues:

- The Wongan-Ballidu threatened flora management program draft
- Final draft of the rare flora garden sign and information leaflets
- Progress of the 'Friends' group
- Outstanding items in the WBTF project.

## 2. Staffing

Kate Roy-Chowdhury was appointed under a short-term contract to the Merredin District on the 3 March 2003 as the Wongan-Ballidu Assistant Conservation Officer. Kate continued in this role until 31 December 2003 due to the termination of external funding.

Gillian Stack was employed under a short term contract to complete the writing of the Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Management Program.

## 3. Funding

### 3.1 NHT

The Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team was funded until the 30 September 2003 by the original NHT1 project funding. The deadline for the conclusion of this project had been extended to this date due to the long period the Assistant Conservation Officer position was vacant and the need to complete priority works.

### 3.2 Biogene

Biogene funding was used to cover the employment expenses for Gillian Stack in completing the Wongan-Ballidu Management Program.

### 3.3 Bankwest Visa card

Three applications were submitted for Bankwest visa card funding and two of these were successful. The funding was gained in 2003, although project outcomes will not become apparent until 2005.

Funding was awarded towards propagating 100 plants of critically endangered *Lysiosepalum abollatum*. The total value of this funding was \$1200. Should propagation be successful, the plants will be used in a translocation in 2005.

Full funding was also awarded to Wongan-Ballidu Bush Care who requested \$2400 towards producing a calendar which would raise the profile of critically endangered and endangered species within the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu. The calendar will be produced for distribution in 2005.

## 4 Implementation of Recovery Actions

### 4.1 Critically Endangered

#### *Acacia pharangites*

- Seed was collected from *Acacia pharangites*

- The population was observed and it was noted that *Acacia pharangites* has recruited a number of new seedlings.
- 2.4km of fencing was erected by two neighbouring landholders to protect *Acacia pharangites* populations from grazing.

#### ***Grevillea dryandroides subsp. dryandroides***

- Five populations of *Grevillea dryandroides subsp. dryandroides* were surveyed.
- A translocation of *Grevillea dryandroides subsp. dryandroides* was completed on 8 July.

#### ***Lysiosepalum abollatum***

- The only existing population of *Lysiosepalum abollatum* was surveyed. New seedlings were tagged and recorded on GPS.
- A Threatened flora poster was produced for *Lysiosepalum abollatum* and is pending distribution.

#### ***Verticordia staminosa subsp. staminosa***

- 2km fencing was completed around remnant vegetation/rock where *Verticordia staminosa subsp. staminosa* occurs.
- One partial survey was completed
- Warning signs were erected at the site ~~of~~ where *Verticordia staminosa subsp. staminosa* occurs. Water corporation maintenance crews and neighbouring landholders frequent the area.
- Liaison with all land managers was completed.

### **4.2 Endangered**

#### ***Acacia pygmaea***

- Five populations of *Acacia pygmaea* were surveyed
- 1.5km of fencing was erected around the perimeter of remnant vegetation containing a population of *A. pygmaea* on Duncan Holme's property.

#### ***Conostylis wonganensis***

- No recovery actions were completed for this species.

#### ***Gastrolobium glaucum***

- Three populations of *Gastrolobium glaucum* were surveyed.
- A threatened flora poster was produced ~~for~~ *Gastrolobium glaucum* and is pending distribution.

#### ***Meleleuca sciototyla***

- The only existing population of *Melaleuca sciotostyla* was surveyed.
- A threatened flora poster was produced and is pending distribution.

#### ***Philothea wonganensis***

- One population of *Philothea wonganensis* was surveyed.

#### ***Stylidium coroniforme***

- No recovery actions were completed for this species.

### **4.3 Vulnerable**

#### ***Eremophila ternifolia***

- Two populations of *Eremophila ternifolia* were surveyed. One survey recorded double the number of plants previously recorded 2 years ago.

#### ***Eucalyptus recta***

- Five populations of *Eucalyptus recta* were surveyed.

- DRF markers were erected at two sites where *Eucalyptus recta* occurs.
- Liaison with all property owners with populations of *Eucalyptus recta* was completed.

***Microcorys eremophiloides***

- One population of *Microcorys eremophiloides* was surveyed.

***Rhagodia acicularis***

- Two populations of *Rhagodia acicularis* were surveyed.

**4.4 Priority species**

***Acacia cochlocarpa velutinosa***

- Volunteers spent a number of weekends surveying Priority one flora species *Acacia cochlocarpa velutinosa*
- Three populations were surveyed.

***Dampiera glabrescens***

- Two populations were surveyed.

***Dryandra comosa***

- One population was surveyed.

**5 Interim Recovery Plans produced in 2003**

Stylidium coroniforme (Approved September 2003)

**5.1 Completed IRPs**

- *Verticordia staminosa subsp. staminosa*
- *Acacia pygmaea*
- *Acacia pharangites*
- *Grevillea dryandroides subsp. dryandroides*

**5.2 IRPs in progress**

There are currently no IRP's in progress

**5.3 Threatened Flora Management Program**

The Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Management Program was completed in September 2003 and is undergoing departmental review before being forwarded to the Commonwealth for approval.

**6. Rare Flora Gardens**

The Wongan Hills Rare Flora Garden is located in the main street of Wongan Hills. The garden was redeveloped in 2003, which included the provision of valuable interpretative material including a full colour sign describing the significance of threatened flora and management strategies. Self-guided tour brochures were also produced to improve the visitors' appreciation of both the garden and threatened flora. The garden was officially opened in December 2003

**7. Translocations**

**7.1 *Grevillea dryandroides dryandroides***

The translocation of *Grevillea dryandroides dryandroides* was supported by the WBTFRT with some members assisting in the planting and maintenance of the translocation. Planting was completed in July 2003.

## 8. Education and Publicity

The following activities have taken place in order to increase ~~the communities~~community awareness of threatened flora:

- Three presentations at Wongan Hills District high school
- Presentation to Wongan-Ballidu Shire council & staff
- Distribution of Rare flora posters, stickers, fridge magnets.
- Information was displayed in the Wongan Hills Gala night
- Two Articles in the “Wongan Boomer”
- Information leaflet on the reserves in the Wongan Hills area was modified and reprinted
- Self-guided tour brochures were produced for the Wongan Hills Rare Flora Garden
- Full colour sign installed in the Wongan Hills Rare Flora Garden describing the significance of threatened flora and explaining the management practices.
- Produced 1000 copies each of Threatened flora posters for 5 different species.
- The Recovery team assisted with building support for establishing an environmentally focussed volunteer group. ‘Wongan-Ballidu Bush Care’ (WBBC) was established in September 2003 and now has a membership of approximately 12 active volunteers. Wongan-Ballidu Bush Care are currently working on projects including a Landscape visa card funded project to produce a calendar for 2005 promoting local critically endangered and endangered species.
- 130 hours was spent working with volunteers on rare flora activities.

## 9. Maintaining the District’s Threatened Flora Database

The Merredin District Enflora database was updated with new monitoring information from the Wongan Hills area. Rare Flora report forms continue to be entered, building up the knowledge of the District’s threatened flora conservation status.

## 10. Conclusion

The Wongan-Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team has achieved multiple goals with respect to threatened flora management. ~~Raising-These include:~~ raising awareness ~~of~~ rare flora in the community of Wongan-Ballidu; ~~improving knowledge~~ for management of rare flora in the Shire; and forming the Wongan-Ballidu Bush Care (WBBC), a conservation group who are focussed on a multi-faceted approach to environmental issues in the Shire.

The amalgamation of the Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Recovery Team with the Merredin District Recovery Team will ensure that the Merredin District Conservation Officer will be able to continue those high priority recovery actions and the WBBC and WBTFRM members will be able to attend the MDTFRM meetings.