



THREATENED SPECIES AND/OR COMMUNITIES RECOVERY TEAM

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Recovery Team name	Geraldton District Threatened Flora and Communities Recovery Team	
Reporting Period (Calendar Year)	Calendar year 2007	
Current membership		
	Member	Representing
1. Chair	Anthony Desmond, Regional Leader of Nature Conservation	DEC
2. EXEC OFFICER	Conservation Officer DEC Geraldton (position currently being filled by Catherine Page)	DEC
3.	Ann Carr	Dongara Regional Herbarium
4	Rotating Representative (was Nigel Rowe 2007)	Main Roads
5	Josephine Docherty	Mullewa Wildflower Society
6	Species and Communities Branch representatives (was Andrew Brown, Jill Pryde and Gillian Stack in 2007)	DEC
7	Jon Stevens	Westnet Rail (not an official member but attends regularly)
8	Jenna Brooker (previously represented by Irene Shepard)	Geraldton Regional Herbarium
Dates meetings were held	3 rd April 2007 (No meeting held late 2007 as the Flora Conservation Officer position was vacant)	
One to two paragraph summary of achievements suitable for WATSNU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of 2007 for the GDTF&CRT • Research into 3 different species response to disturbance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The <i>Gyrostemon reticulatus</i> induced recruitment trial was conducted in May 2007. <i>Gyrostemon reticulatus</i> is critically endangered and no living plants were known of at the time of the trial. Attempts were made to induce the recruitment of this species at a site where it was previously abundant. The trial was successful, and a small germinant, (identity unconfirmed) may have been located in the trial area in March 2008 - The response of <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> and <i>Pityrodia axillaris</i> was monitored and recorded at sites of existing disturbance. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive survey for new populations of DRF in 2007 resulted in the discovery of 16 new populations including 2 populations of critically endangered orchids and 6 populations of <i>Eucalyptus blaxellii</i>, increasing the number of known plants of the latter species considerably. • Surveys completed adjacent to existing populations resulted in significant increases in the number of known plants of <i>Beyeria lepidopetala</i> and <i>Pityrodia axillaris</i> (CR). • Seed was collected from 15 DRF species. Some of this seed will be used for future translocations • The community 'Shrublands of the Northampton Area, dominated by Melaleuca species over exposed Kockatea Shale' was surveyed and allocated Priority 1 status. • The GDTF&CRT 'spread the word' about Threatened Species and Communities in 2007 and presented at local primary schools, held community days and workshops, completed surveys with local community groups and produced a number of media releases.
List of actions undertaken by Recovery Team (from actions in Recovery Plan)	
KEY ACTIONS	
Action 1	80+ populations of 45 DRF and priority species monitored.
Action 2	16 new populations of DRF located. Specifically: 1 population of <i>Pterostylis</i> sp. Northampton (CR), 1 population of <i>Caladenia elegans</i> (CR), 2 new populations of <i>Caladenia barbarella</i> , 3 populations of <i>Caladenia wanosa</i> 1 population of <i>Caladenia bryceana</i> subsp. <i>cracens</i> , 1 population <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> , 1 population of <i>Beyeria lepidopetala</i> , 2 populations of <i>Eucalyptus beardiana</i> and 6 populations of <i>Eucalyptus blaxellii</i> .
Action 3	<p><i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> disturbance trial</p> <p>3 populations of <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> were accidentally disturbed in different ways. Monitoring was undertaken to record the response of the species to different forms of disturbance. The species has regenerated in some areas.</p>
Action 4	<p><i>Pityrodia axillaris</i> (CR)</p> <p>Survey of this species indicated that the population size had increased significantly since it was last recorded (38 plants were recorded from populations 4, 5 and 6 in 2001 and 86 plants were recorded in 2007). It is thought that the increase in population size may be the result of recent disturbance.</p> <p>Two monitoring plots were established in November 2007 at <i>Pityrodia axillaris</i> population 5b, north of Maya, in order to determine growth rates, phenology and plant longevity following disturbance. Population 5b was chosen as it is the biggest population and its history is reasonably well documented.</p>
Action 5	<p><i>Gyrostemon reticulatus</i> (CR) disturbance trial</p> <p>Disturbance trial completed in May 2007. Burning, smoke water and physical disturbance techniques were trialled. No seedlings germinated during 2007, but a small seedling may have been located in March 2008 (ID to be confirmed).</p>

Action 6	PEC survey The community 'Shrublands of the Northampton Area, dominated by Melaleuca species over exposed Kockatea Shale' was surveyed and nominated as a Threatened Ecological Community. The nomination was not supported pending further information and the community was allocated Priority 1 status.
Action 7	The Moonagin and Koolanooka Hills TECs were monitored and liaison occurred with landholders with regard to ongoing management and protection.
Action 8	Habitat planting with local school children completed at <i>Caladenia elegans</i> population 6 and <i>Pterostylis</i> sp. Northampton population 4 (Recovery action 14 of the <i>Caladenia elegans</i> IRP and recovery action 10 of the <i>Pterostylis</i> sp. Northampton IRP).
Action 9	Seed was collected from the following species: <i>Eremophila rostrata</i> subsp. <i>trifida</i> , <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> , <i>Grevillea murex</i> , <i>Halosarcia bulbosa</i> , <i>Grevillea phanerophlebia</i> , <i>Schoenia filifolia</i> subsp. <i>subulifolia</i> , <i>Stylidium amiable</i> , <i>Verticordia spicata</i> subsp. <i>squamosa</i> , <i>Caladenia elegans</i> , <i>Pterostylis</i> sp. Northampton, <i>Drakaea concolor</i> , <i>Caladenia wanosa</i> , <i>Hypocalymma longifolium</i>
Action 10	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three primary schools were visited in the Geraldton District (Geraldton, Northampton and Mullewa) with the aim of informing the students about Declared Rare Flora, and threats and recovery actions. DRF from the local area were the focal points of the education sessions. A teacher resource pack is currently being developed. • Croc fest is a workshop aimed predominantly at indigenous children, held annually in different towns. In 2008 it was held in Mullewa. A conservation officer from the Geraldton district ran a number of sessions on Declared Rare Flora at Croc Fest. • Officers attended the Mingenew Expo and Mullewa wildflower show, promoting DRF • Library displays providing information on DRF and TECs • Conducted a community day which focused on survey for new populations of DRF • Conducted surveys for new populations of DRF with TAFE and Green Corps Groups • Monitored populations of DRF with Landscape Expedition Group • A number of newspaper and newsletter articles and radio interviews regarding DRF
Action 11	<p>Education/Liaison with Stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops completed with Local Shires in conjunction with the Roadside Conservation Committee and the Landskills project (NRM funded) which aimed to increase awareness of DRF • Maps created for each Shire of the Geraldton District showing the DRF in the area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with stakeholders on site to identify and discuss issues with populations (Main Roads, Shires, Private property owners, Westnet Rail, Mining companies)
Action 12	<p>Feral Animal Control</p> <p>Pig control has been completed at Yuna where <i>Caladenia wanosa</i> and <i>Caladenia bryceana</i> subsp. <i>cracens</i> occur</p>
	<p>Weed Control</p> <p>Weed spraying was completed at a Shire Reserve where <i>Caladenia elegans</i> and <i>Pterostylis</i> sp. Northampton occur</p> <p>Paddy melon removal was completed at Moresby Range Proposed Conservation Park where <i>Caladenia hofmannii</i>, <i>Eucalyptus blaxellii</i>, <i>Grevillea bracteosa</i> and <i>Drummondita ericoides</i> occur</p>
Criteria for success or failure as described in Flora Recovery Plans or Interim Recovery Plans	<p>Criteria for success: The numbers of individuals within populations and/or the number of populations has increased.</p> <p>Criteria for failure: The numbers of individuals within populations and/or the number of populations have decreased</p> <p>As the implementation of IRPs is long term (i.e. 3-5 years), it is difficult to quantify their success or failure on an annual basis.</p>