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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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collected plants must be pressed and dried before either being mounted and incorporated in the Regional Herbarium or being sent to Perth. The plant specimens sent to Perth will be identified, mounted, databased and incorporated into the Research Collection. The correct names will be sent back to the Regional Herbarium as soon as possible. Also twice a year barcode numbers and any name changes will be sent to the Regional Herbarium to keep their collection correct and up to date. So being a member of a CRH involves collecting and maintaining plant specimens, both of which provide opportunities to learn more about the local flora and to help in a very significant way in its conservation.

7) What are the benefits to a community of having a regional herbarium?

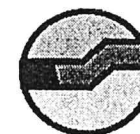
A participating country town has a collection of its local plant species, where the specimens are of a good quality, each accompanied by field notes and each correctly named. But, most importantly, each scientific name is valid. As anyone interested in plants knows, their names can change. This is really a good thing as it means that taxonomic research is alive and well. As more knowledge is gained, so the relationships of plants become more

clearly understood and sometimes this necessitates the changing of names. The CALM Herbarium is able to keep all Regional Herbaria alerted to name changes because each specimen (together with its field notes) lodged in Perth is entered on to their database, with each specimen having its own barcode number. In the near future it will be possible for all Regional Herbaria with suitable computers to access relevant information from the CALM database. Many communities already value their Regional Herbaria as a resource that can be used for a variety of purposes such as education, landcare, especially in revegetation, and tourism.

8) How does a community group join this program?

To join or get extra information about the CRHV Program,
ring 08 9334 0587 to speak to:
Jan Gathe - Coordinator,
Margaret Lewington - Assistant Coordinator
or Mike Hislop - Identification Botanist,
or write to:
Western Australian Herbarium
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
WA 6983

The Community Regional Herbaria Vounteer Program



Department of Conservation
and Land Management

Greening Western Australia



The Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Program

1) What is the CHRV Program?

This program was started in 1996 by the CALM Herbarium and Greening Western Australia to help country people identify and conserve their native flora, in exchange for pressed specimens that are added to the Research Collection in Perth.

2) What are Regional Herbaria?

The Western Australian Herbarium in the Dept. of CALM houses more than 430,000 plant specimens collected in this state and is the principal research herbarium in WA. Regional Herbaria are collections of plants from a particular region housed in that region. Some Regional Herbaria have been functioning for some time, eg.

Albany	-	14,000+	specimens
Karratha	-	1735	"
Manjimup	-	7152	"

But these are mainly collected, named and housed in CALM or Agriculture WA offices in those regions. The CHRV Program aims to develop a network of community initiated herbaria across the state.

3) Who are the volunteers?

The volunteers are city people with a

great interest and special knowledge of WA's unique flora. At present they number more than 20 and most give one day a week to this program. The volunteers identify, mount and label all the duplicate plant specimens sent from the Regional Herbaria, which are then incorporated into the Research Collection at Perth. Each volunteer selects 2 or 3 Regional Herbaria for which they are primarily responsible. This enables them to get to know both the people and the plants of these 2 or 3 regions. The volunteers also play a vital role in the running of workshops held in different country centres and in Perth each year.

4) Who can join?

This program is open to any community group - either country or urban - that is interested in their local flora. At present there are 57 community regional herbaria. Some have developed from already existing organisations as in:

Esperance - The Wildflower Society

Newdegate - the Rare Flora Group

Gascoyne Junction - the Upper Gascoyne Health and Recreation Group

but many have been formed by people specifically to develop a regional herbarium, as at Merredin, Ravensthorpe and Tammin. In some there is a close association with the shire, as in Serpentine/Jarrahdale, with the primary school,

as at Watheroo or the high school, as at Warwick.

5) How much does it cost?

There is no membership fee. Most groups have a room for working and housing the plant collection provided free of charge. Various bodies such as the Shire, CWA, schools or Landcare groups see the value of a Regional Herbarium and donate space. Old railway stations are very good - they are central, have large airy rooms, toilet and kitchen facilities and can be opened to the public. In a few Regional Herbaria the plant collection is kept in a member's home or shed. Files, mounting sheets and other materials required for storing and displaying the specimens are provided by Greening WA at no cost to the Regional Herbarium. Some cost might be involved in sending specimens to Perth, however most Regional Herbaria prefer to deliver the specimens themselves when someone from that country town comes to Perth.

6) What work is involved?

Being a member of the CHRV Program means collecting plant specimens in duplicate; one specimen remains in the regional Herbarium while the other goes to the CALM Herbarium in Perth. At the time of collection observations of the soil, other plants, locality etc. must be recorded as 'field notes'. The