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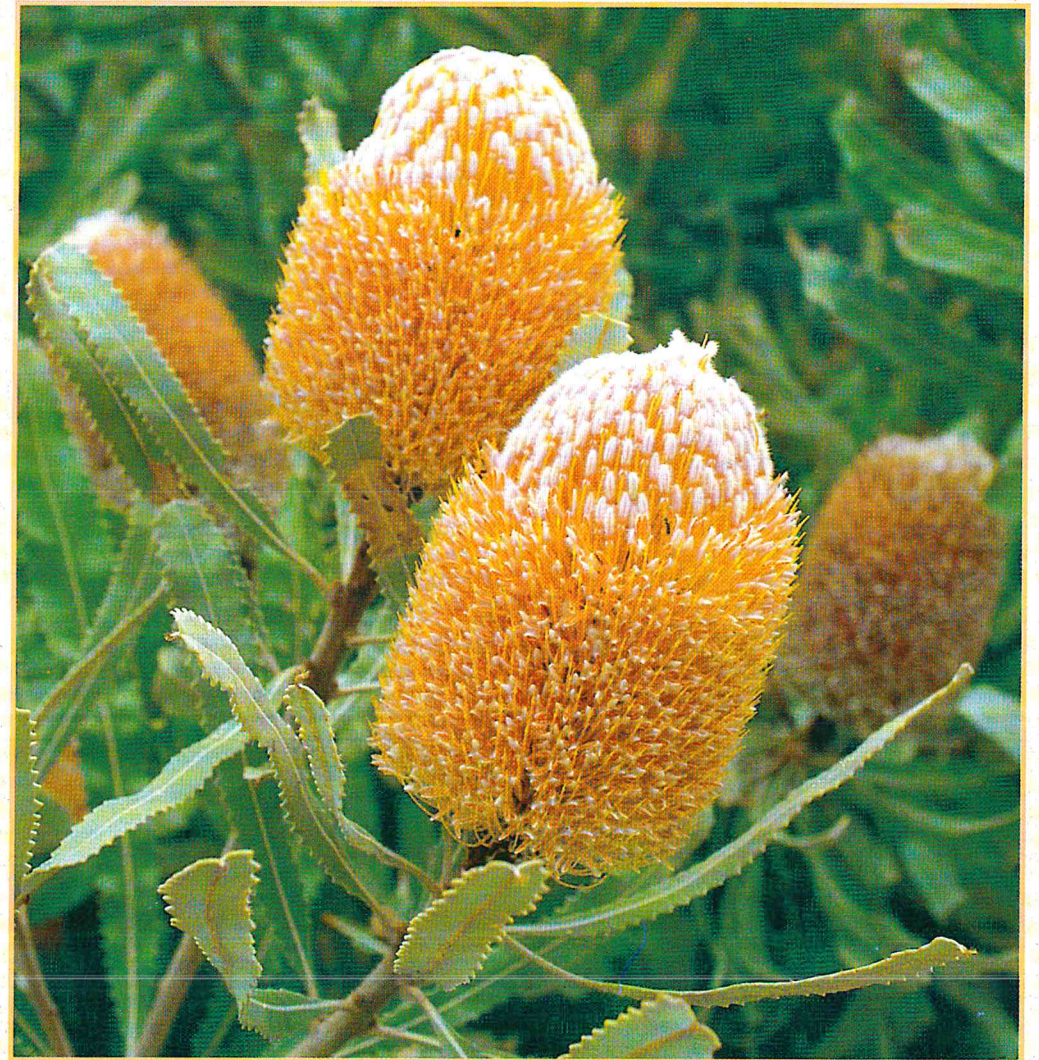
Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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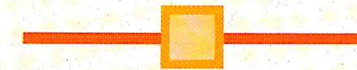


Found at its best following summer fire, yellow kangaroo paws often produce a blaze of colour on the sandplains north of Perth (left).

Cinnamon sun orchid is a rare species confined to the steep slopes of the Darling Range near Perth, and is characterised by its strong cinnamon odour (below).



WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S FLORAL HERITAGE



The wildflowers of Western Australia are renowned for their unusual forms and spectacular displays of colour.

With over 10 000 species, it is not surprising that many have developed special requirements for their survival. Fire, for instance, plays an important role in the life cycle of many W.A. plants. For other species an association with soil fungi is just as

important, but perhaps the most amazing adaptation is seen in our orchids. Many have developed specialised floral parts that not only mimic native insects but also give off chemical attractants (pheromones) in order to achieve pollination.

The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) has the responsibility of managing the numerous nature reserves, national

parks and State forest areas where large numbers of our beautiful wildflowers occur, including many of the 238 species currently regarded as endangered.

CALM's research, ecological and environmental protection officers gather information on many different plant species enabling management plans to be produced. Reserve officers and national park rangers play an important role in educating the public and locating new populations of rare species, and wildlife officers ensure that protected plants are not taken illegally. All are helping to ensure that our wonderful floral heritage will survive for future generations to enjoy.

The photos in the accompanying essay, taken by CALM Research Officer Andrew Brown, capture the colour and form adopted by some of Western Australia's magnificent flora.



Pink starbush is a rare species confined to a few lateritic hills in the Toodyay-York area (above).

Confined to the sandplains between Eneabba and Mogumber, Burdett's banksia produces spectacular displays of colour in summer (previous page).

The custard orchid is relatively uncommon and is found in scattered populations in low-lying areas between Northampton and Esperance (right).

The blue lady sun orchid can be found growing in a variety of habitats between Jurien Bay and Esperance (far right).



Rose banjine is a common species on coastal plains between Perth and Albany (above).



Snakebush produces carpets of flowers in late spring and summer. It is a low, spreading shrub found in coastal heath between Dongara and Albany (above).

