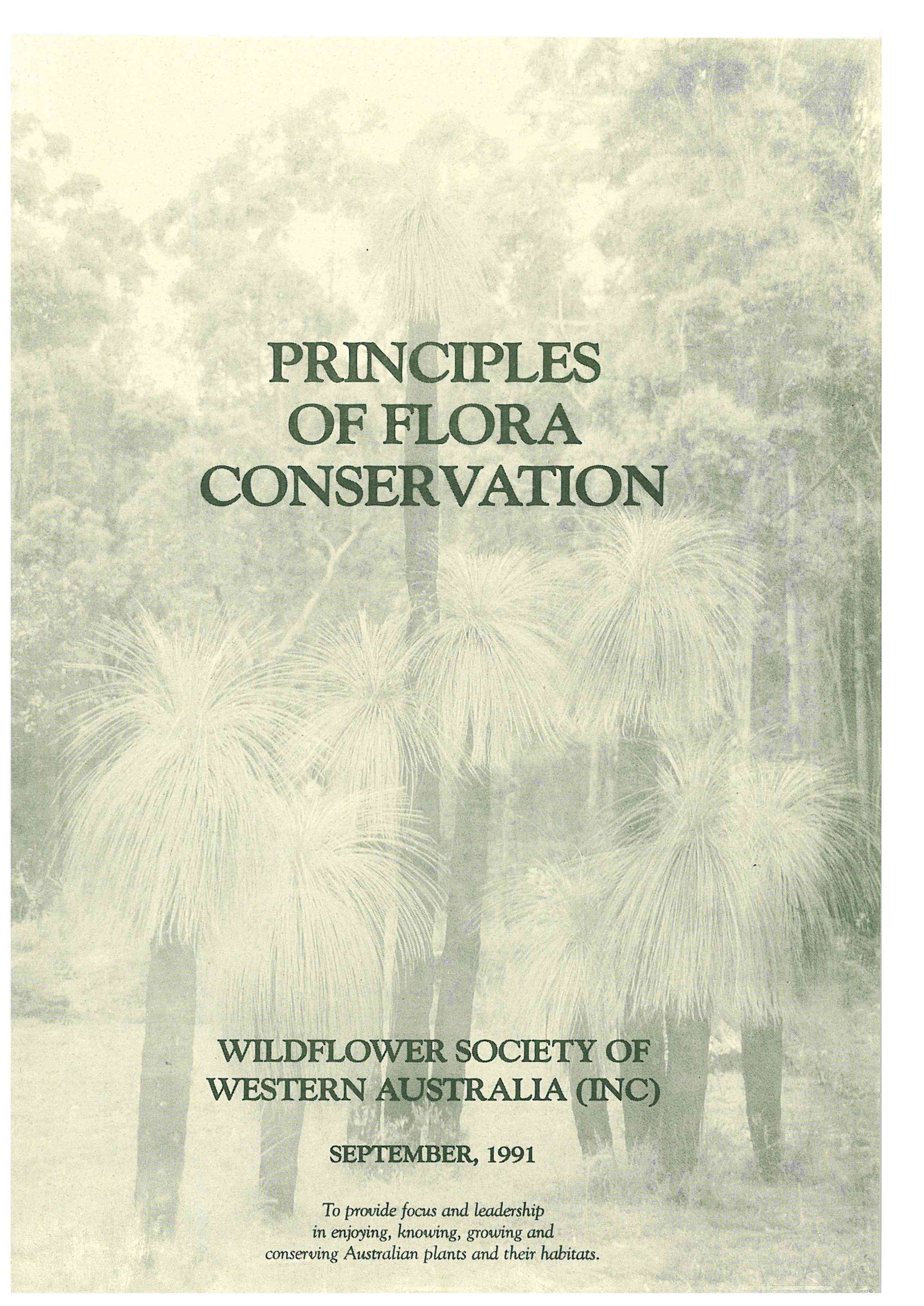


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Conservation and Attractions

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# PRINCIPLES OF FLORA CONSERVATION

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC)

SEPTEMBER, 1991

*To provide focus and leadership  
in enjoying, knowing, growing and  
conserving Australian plants and their habitats.*

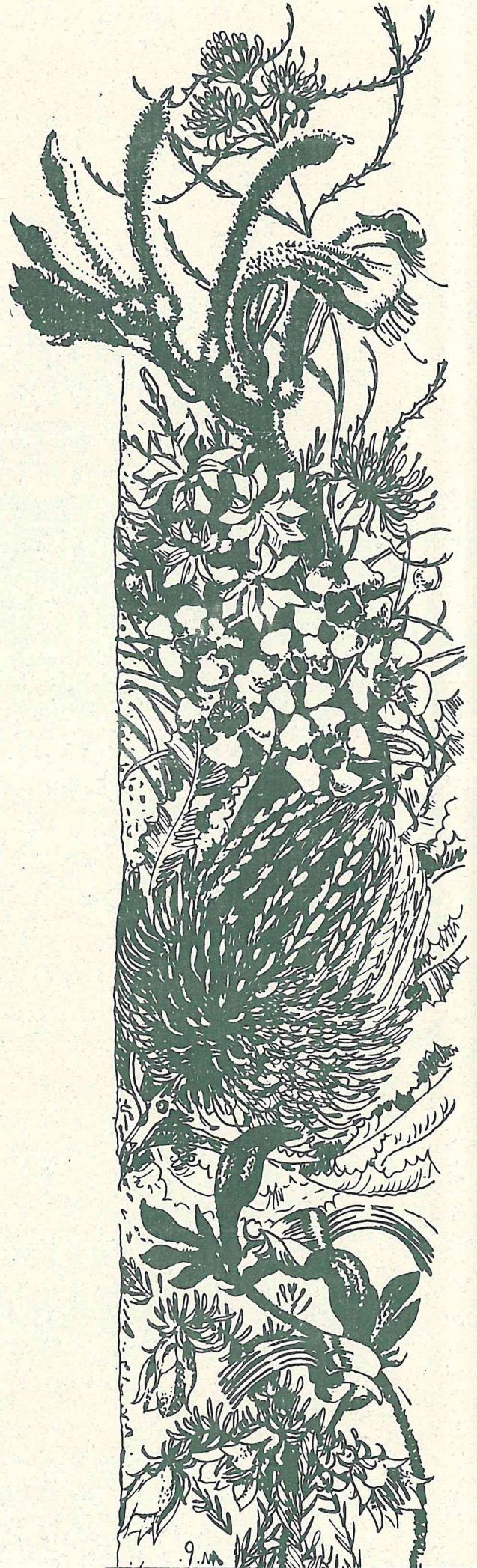
## PREAMBLE

The activities of human beings necessarily interact with the natural world. Since the industrial revolution, human activities have modified our global environment giving us uncertainties of climate change, acid rain, ozone depletion, extensive loss of natural ecosystems, disease and pollution to mention a few.

The loss of species is an advance sign of the accelerated destruction of natural ecosystems. We need to address this decline urgently. We all need to manage our activities and developments with much greater care and sensitivity towards other living things.

A key part is keeping people in contact with natural vegetation. This opportunity still exists in the Wildflower State of W.A. unlike the situation in most of Europe. But much needs to be done to educate the community, politicians and decision makers if we are to halt the loss of bushland and the decline in biodiversity in our own backyard.

The Wildflower Society of W.A. believes that the conservation of our remaining bushland heritage is of paramount importance. The philosophy of conservation of the beautiful and unique wildflowers of the West is encapsulated in these ten principles of flora conservation. They were officially adopted by the Society at its 1991 State Conference.



# WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.)

## REVEGETATION POLICY

### INTRODUCTION

A major aim of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia is the preservation of native flora. The natural Western Australian landscape is a valuable asset worthy of protection and conservation, thus retaining our sense of place.

Land clearing in Western Australia has resulted in extensive loss of native vegetation, habitat and landscape amenity. For example in the Perth metropolitan area and the wheatbelt only small patches of remnant vegetation remain. Many species of plants and animals are either extinct or threatened with extinction. Our unique Western Australian landscape has been modified and often bears little resemblance to that which existed before European settlement.

Clearing of native vegetation in rural areas has caused a rise in water table levels resulting in salinisation and waterlogging of soil. This has led to the continual degradation of remnant native vegetation and loss of productive agricultural land. This scenario is likely to increase dramatically in the short term.

Revegetation of rural catchments is one of the key strategies for controlling rising water tables and salinity. While commercial species (e.g. blue gums and oil mallees) are being used and are valuable to primary industry, indigenous (local native) vegetation can re-establish the Western Australian landscape amenity and provide habitat for our endangered fauna.

The aim of this policy is to provide a set of standards and guidelines to encourage the preservation and regeneration of indigenous vegetation.

### PRINCIPLES OF REVEGETATION

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To promote the use of local native species in revegetation projects
2. To encourage as far as possible the reconstruction of the vegetation community indigenous to the locality
3. To ensure that revegetation provides the basis for a sustainable functioning ecosystem
4. To encourage the establishment of native vegetation corridors throughout urban and rural landscapes

#### POLICY STATEMENTS

**1.1** Revegetation projects should use local native species, either grown from seed collected from the locality or by direct broadcasting of locally collected seed.

**1.2** Local seed orchards need to be established to provide a suitable source of seed from local provenance species for revegetation projects.

**1.3** Seed orchards should be designed to both maintain genetic integrity of each species and the intraspecific variation within each species, so that inbreeding depression and hybridisation can be prevented.

**2.1** Retention of remnant native bushland and natural regeneration is preferable to revegetation. An expressed intention of rehabilitation should not be taken as an excuse for clearing.

**2.2** On sites adjacent to native bushland local provenance species only should be used. Use of the same species from other locations can interfere with the genetic integrity of local species. Use of non local plants may also increase the threat of weed invasion.

**2.3** Sites that are modified or degraded in areas remote from remnant vegetation may need non local species for revegetation. Examination of flora growing in similar climatic and soil conditions should provide guidance.

**3.** Projects should aim to re-establish the biological, genetic and structural diversity of local native vegetation to ensure the provision of diverse fauna habitats. This will be more sustainable and will buffer the ecosystem against environmental fluctuations.

**4.** Where practicable, revegetation programs should be planned to link remnant vegetation in the region to provide flora and fauna corridors.

**WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (INC.)  
PRINCIPLES OF SEED COLLECTION AND USAGE**

**PREAMBLE**

For many years the Society has sold seeds to both Society members and the general public. Society members have donated time to collecting, selecting, preparing and distributing wildflower seed for sale. In times when wildflower seed was only available through specialist bodies these seed banks allowed Society members and the wider community access to a variety of seeds of our wildflowers in quantities suitable for home gardens at low cost. For many years this was a core activity of the Society and raised a large proportion of the Society's consolidated funds. Today wildflower plants and seeds are much more readily available to the home gardener through nurseries and seed merchants. Also revegetation programmes and bushland restoration have created a wildflower seed industry calling for the collection of tonnes of seed. This seed industry is regulated through the Department of Conservation and Land Management. As the peak community group concerned with flora conservation in the state the Wildflower Society serves on advisory groups related to this industry. The Society's Flora Conservation Principles are the basis for our advice on these groups and our own everyday activities. These factors and the continued loss of bushland areas in the state have resulted in the need to develop a Wildflower Society Seed Policy that complements our Principles of Flora Conservation.

This policy recognises that the Society has a role in supplying seed for home gardens and a commitment to ensure that seed sources do not compromise the preservation of our bushland.

**PRINCIPLES OF SEED COLLECTION AND USAGE**

**1. CULTIVATION**

Cultivation in gardens gives people the opportunity to care about, study and enjoy our flora and lessen human impact on our environment. The commercial collection of seed from the bushland is incompatible with flora conservation. All commercial production of seed should therefore necessarily be based on cultivation.

**2. SEED ORCHIDS**

Seed for cultivation in gardens and for most revegetation projects should be sourced from cultivated plants in seed orchards. Seed orchards should be designed to both maintain the genetic integrity of each species and intraspecific variation within each species. Seed collected from bushland can be used to establish orchards.

**3. REVEGETATION**

Revegetation projects range from habitat reconstruction for nature conservation to land reclamation and the appropriate source of seed will depend on the nature of the project. Habitat reconstruction that is adjacent to areas of bushland requires seed of local provenance. The more distant the revegetation is from natural populations the less stringent is this requirement and seed should then be sourced from seed orchards.

**4. RESTORATION**

Bushland restoration aims at maintaining the ecological integrity and evolutionary processes in bushland areas. Seed required for restoration work should be of local provenance, being seed collected from plants growing in the same community and position in the landscape within a reasonable distance of the bushland area being restored.

# PRINCIPLES OF FLORA CONSERVATION

## 1. HERITAGE

Wildflowers are our natural heritage held in trust for future generations. We have no right to destroy species.

## 2. ECOLOGY

Natural bushland is quintessential to this heritage. Human beings cannot reproduce the complexity and diversity of species and their ecology which have evolved over millions of years.

## 3. RESPONSIBILITY

Human beings are the ultimate custodians of life. We have the ability to destroy life, so must therefore assume the responsibility to preserve life. This responsibility lies with all levels of society; individual, community, government, and corporate.

## 4. INTRINSIC VALUE

All bushland has intrinsic value. The value of the life of any species cannot be measured in dollars.

## 5. BOTANY

The systematic botanical surveying of our flora and vegetation are essential. The undescribed flora requires urgent but rigorous scientific attention.

## 6. PRESERVATION

(i) Flora conservation embraces the preservation of the ecology of vegetation types. Reserves, whether public or private, should be ecologically viable and interconnected to allow the continued movement of species and hence future evolution and adaptation and longterm survival. Nevertheless, all reserves are worthy of preservation.

(ii) The ecological integrity of reserves is inviolate. The notion of exploration and mining in reserves is scientifically and morally unjustifiable.

## 7. RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Natural habitats of rare and endangered species must be preserved. Cultivation in gardens does not facilitate continuing biodiversity and species evolution.

## 8. HUMAN IMPACT

Human actions are changing the world and have impact on the flora. Changes include the Greenhouse Effect, acid rain, large scale land clearance and dieback. The greatest potential for survival in the face of environmental change lies with the most genetically diverse and healthy natural populations.

## 9. EDUCATION

The community has a right to know about, care about and enjoy our floral heritage. Community involvement and education are conducive to caring and enjoyment. Our children have the same rights. Furthermore, all children have the right of access to bushland within walking distance of home and school.

## 10. CULTIVATION

Cultivation of wildflowers in gardens enables people to study and enjoy our flora, and lessen impact on our environment. The commercial picking of wildflowers and collection of seed from bushland is incompatible with flora conservation. The commercial production of wildflowers and seed is therefore necessarily based on cultivation.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc)

P.O. BOX 64, NEDLANDS, 6009, W.A.

OFFICE TELEPHONE: (09) 383 7979 – 24 HOUR TELEPHONE SERVICE

#### METROPOLITAN BRANCHES

Perth

Northern Suburbs

Murdoch

Eastern Hills

Darling Range

Armadale-Kelmscott

#### MEETING DETAILS

Naturalists' Hall, Merriwa St.,  
Nedlands. 8pm 2nd Tuesday of month

Kingsley Hall, Kingsley Drive  
Kingsley, 8pm 3rd Tuesday of month

Murdoch University,  
Science & Computing Centre (car park A)  
7.45pm 1st Wednesday of month

Octagonal Hall, McGlew Road  
Glen Forrest. 7.45pm 4th Friday of month

Kalamunda High School, Canning Road  
7.30pm 4th Tuesday of month

History House, Jull St. Armadale  
7.45pm 2nd Thursday of month.

#### COUNTRY BRANCHES

Albany

Geraldton

Lesueur

Manjimup

Mukinbudin

York

Affiliated Groups

District Contacts

#### MEETING DETAILS

Resources Centre, Serpentine Rd  
Albany 2nd Friday of Month

The Residency, Marine Terrace  
Geraldton 3rd Monday of month

Meeting place rotated  
Pres. Don Williams ph. 096 523 035

Warren Community Centre  
(Opp. Woolworths) 3rd Monday of month.

Pres. Ms W Bayly ph. 090 487 060

Pres. J. Tonkinson ph. 096 411 602

Broome, Busselton, Carnarvon, Denmark,  
Esperance, Mandurah, Mullewa, Nickol Bay

Brookton, Cranbrook, Kalbarri, Kalgoorlie  
Pingaring, Ravensthorpe, Tambellup  
(Details from Office)