

Dragon Rocks give up rare flora secrets

ON the first weekend in November 19 rare flora volunteers, family and friends spent a camping weekend at Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve with officers from the Katanning and Narrogin CALM Districts.

This reserve comprises 32 000 ha lying between Hyden and Newdegate in the central eastern wheatbelt.

It has a complex natural system containing outstanding flora, fauna and landforms.

The reserve is managed jointly by the Katanning and Narrogin districts.

Due to the success of this campout, consideration is being given to making it an annual event at Dragon Rocks or at some other large, local nature reserves.

Twenty-eight vegetation associations occur at Dragon Rocks, including woodlands, mallee, kwongan heath and lithic complexes with granite rocks and breakaways.

A total of 576 plant species were identified for the reserve, including two species of fern, three gymnosperms and 571 angiosperms.

Of these species eight

by Greg Durell

gazetted rare plants occur along with 13 priority species while 61 are undescribed.

A rare mammal

The western mouse (*Pseudomys occidentalis*) is one of several rare mammals present on the reserve.

The chief aim of the weekend was to complete surveys on declared rare and priority flora species discovered during a recent survey on the Dragon Rocks Reserve.

Surveys were completed on populations of pink bract grevillea (*Grevillea involucrata*), Wittwer's grevillea (*Grevillea wittweri*), tinsel lily (*Calectasia arnoldii*), and twisted sheoak (*Allocasuarine tortiramura*).

As well as the work component, the weekend provided an opportunity to meet new people and stay with Geoff and Dianne McDonald who farm land near the Dragon Rocks.

The barbecue on the Saturday night at the McDonald's farm was a good opportunity to talk about recent discoveries.

It was great, too, to be able to 'rough' it on their property and eat all their koonacs (fresh-water crustaceans introduced into farm dams).

A spot of bird watching

As well as looking at plants, those interested in birds observed 32 bird species early on Sunday morning in salmon gum woodland on the reserve.

Forest ranger Darre Graham from the Narrogin District provided expert identification.

Expert display

In addition to gaining knowledge of reserve species, one anonymous group was also treated to an expert display of driving skills and the retrieving of a vehicle from the bog.

The interest was such that the womenfolk jumped nimbly out of the vehicle and took off for the bush - to look for plants, of course, which was why they were there, anyway.

The men were left to get themselves and the vehicle out of the mud.

The winch *did* come in handy.



Volunteers Rhoda Giles from Kulin (front) and Bob and Jan Smith from Darkan indulge in a spot of bird watching at Dragon Rocks.

Photo by Greg Durell



Rare flora volunteers
Searching for Allocastraria
fortirama at
Dragon Rocks N/Reserve.



Volunteers

Ms Anne Coates and Elizabeth
George searching for
Verticordia gracilis at Dragon
Rocks Reserve.

191136 0302 5 9 8 -1-06 2



Bird watching
Dragon rocks
Nature reserve.

+ pic

430 words

VOLFLORA.DOC

Dragon rocks reveal rare flora for volunteers

by Greg Durrell - correct spelling? Yes

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A total of 576 plant species were identified for the reserve, including two species of fern, three gymnosperms and 571 angiosperms.

Of these species eight gazetted rare plants occur along with 13 priority ~~taxa~~ species

any other
plant
and
taxa

The western mouse (*Pseudomys occidentalis*) is one of several rare mammals present on the reserve.

collections/
classifications?

The chief aim of the weekend was to complete fora surveys on declared rare and priority flora species discovered during a recent flora survey on the Dragon Rocks Reserve.

Surveys were completed on populations of (???) *Grevillea involucreta*, (???) *Grevillea wittweri*, (???) *Calectasia arnoldii*, and (???) *Allocasuarina tortiramula*.

common
names,
please

As well as the work component, the weekend was an opportunity to meet new people and stay with Geoff and Dianne McDonald who farm land near the Dragon Rocks.

The barbecue on the Saturday night at the Macdonald's farm was a good opportunity to talk about recent discoveries.

Grevillea involucreta - ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Pink Bract *Grevillea*.

Grevillea wittweri - WITWER'S *Grevillea*

Calectasia arnoldii - Tinsel lily

Allocasuarina tortiramula - TWISTED SHEOAK.

It was great, too, to be able to 'rough' it on their property and eat all their koonacs (???)

As well as looking at plants, those interested in birds observed 32 bird species early on Sunday morning in salmon gum woodland on the reserve.

Volunteer (???) ^{Forest Ranger} Darren Graham from the Narrogin District provided expert identification.

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The interest was such that the womenfolk jumped nimbly out of the vehicle and took off for the bush - to look for plants, of course, which was why they were there, anyway.

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Was this a volunteer botanist, ornithologist, etc? - you may be provided expert identification.
Forest Ranger.

Fresh water crustaceans, which are introduced into farm dams. ~~They~~ ^{They}



1. Volunteers ? Yes.
2. I need names, please
and
3. Photo taken by ?

from Kulu

Rhoda Giles & In front of picture.
Bob + Jan Smith from Darkan.

G Dwell took the picture.

NARROGIN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT
HOUGH STREET, NARROGIN 6312

Date:

25/11

Please deliver the following

message to:

Verna Costello.

Branch:

At:

Corporate Relations

From:

G.Dunn

No of papers [incl face sheet]:

4

Operator:

ep.

Extra Information:

Please advise us on 098 811 113 if the message was illegible or incomplete.

Narrogin's phone numbers: 098 811 113 District Office

Office 811 444 Wheatbelt Manager's

811 696

* 811 645 Fax Number