

Rare garden planted

PRIMARY school students and Wongan-Ballidu Shire Council members and staff recently joined personnel from CALM and Kings Park and Botanic Garden at the planting of a rare flora garden.

Representing CALM were senior botanist Ken Atkins, Merredin district manager Mike Fitzgerald, administration officer flora Mike O'Donoghue, and contract consultants Ann Cochran and Anne Kelly.

The garden, the first of its kind to be established by a local authority, displays a selection of some of the 60 rare and poorly known species occurring within the shire boundaries.

It is next to the information bay on the main road through Wongan Hills, and was established as part of the recovery plan for the Wongan triggerplant (*Stylidium coroniforme*).

The recovery plan is being funded by the

Australian Nature Conservation Agency and implemented by CALM, with help from the Wongan-Ballidu Shire, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Main Roads and the Water Authority of WA.

It is hoped the garden will raise public awareness of the significance of local flora and lead to the discovery of new populations of the rare and threatened species in nearby areas.



*Merredin District Manager Mike Fitzgerald and Wongan-Ballidu Shire Engineer Peter planting a Sandpiper Wattle, *Acacia denticulosa*. Photo courtesy Central Districts Gazette*

