



CALM volunteer Margaret Brims shows technical officer Nicky Robinson and consultant botanist Brendan Lepschi a carefully pressed specimen of the presumed extinct *Scaevola macrophylla*. Photo by Verna Costello

## Scaevola rediscovered

by Neville Marchant

HERBARIUM specimens of a member of the *leschenaultia* family thought to be extinct have been rediscovered in the Albany Regional Herbarium.

Recently the 13,000 plant specimens, of the Albany Regional Herbarium have been databased and electronically linked to CALM's Herbarium in Como.

A duplicate of a specimen from the Albany Regional Herbarium's

accommodation in the new CALM premises was sent to Perth as part of the vouchering of all of specimens held in regional herbaria.

One of the CALM Herbarium volunteers, Margaret Brims, working on the newly arrived *leschenaultia* family material, made the exciting discovery.

Margaret realised that the material she was looking at was the presumed extinct species *Scaevola macrophylla*, so with barely concealed excitement she asked CALM botanist Brendan Lepschi, if she was

correct.

Brendan, who works on rare and endangered collections, confirmed her discovery.

Previously *Scaevola macrophylla* was known only from early historical collections made towards the end of the last century and housed in the Melbourne Herbarium.

Now WA has three more collections made by Eileen Croxford of Albany between 1987 and 1990 from an area east of Albany.

Field work this spring has examined the size of the population to assess its conservation needs.



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