

Volunteers find another *Pimelea* population

by Mike
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A RARE Western Australian wildflower, the summer pimelea (*Pimelea rara*) may no longer be quite so rare, thanks to the efforts of CALM volunteers Fred and Jean Hort.

This elusive, small, white-flowering shrub was first collected by James Drummond in 1873. However, no further collections were made after 1919 and the plant was presumed to be extinct.

Early specimens were collected from Parkerville. However, this general area gave few clues to its precise location, and made surveys difficult.

In addition, the summer flowering time of *Pimelea rara*, which is unusual for Pimeleas, may have contributed to the scarcity of collections. Most Pimeleas flower during July-November.

CALM initiated some publicity about the plight of *Pimelea rara* in 1986. As a result, the WA Wildflower Society carried out surveys during the summer of 1986-87.

In January 1987, Wildflower Society member Mrs Lorraine Graham found a white-flowering pimelea near Bickley, and CALM'S WA Herbarium botanists confirmed that she

had rediscovered *Pimelea rara* after an absence of 67 years!

This year Mr and Mrs Hort have undertaken further surveys for *Pimelea rara*. Quite remarkably, they discovered 45 new populations between Mundaring and Nanga.

The summer, pimelea is now known from more than 60 populations, with an estimated 4000-plus plants.

CALM may now be in a position to reassess the plant's conservation status and make a recommendation to the Minister for the Environment regarding its listing on the Schedule of Declared Rare Flora.

The interest and enthusiasm of Mr and Mrs Hort and other CALM rare flora volunteers is gratefully acknowledged by CALM.

Their discoveries serve to motivate and encourage the ongoing work and commitment of many individuals dedicated to documenting the distribution of the State's rare flora.

Left: Jean and Fred Hort preparing to hunt for Pimelea rara. Photo by Jim Tonkin

