



*Left to right: Val Crowley and Lyn White from the West Arthur Regional Herbarium working with Thelma Palmer, Volunteer from the Community Regional Herbarium Volunteer Program. Photo by Fang Chang Sha*

## Wildflower workshop a winner

**THE opportunity to learn the skills of using a 'dichotomous key' to identify our flora was grasped with enthusiasm by Regional Herbarium Volunteers.**

In mid-October the Community Regional Herbarium Volunteer Program hosted a two-day workshop at the WA Herbarium. Twenty-five participants from as far afield as Darkan, Narembeen and Geraldton and as close as

by Jan Gathe

Cockburn and Bennett Brook worked hard to identify 50 different native plants.

To do this they had to master the use of the dissecting microscope, learn all about flower structure and overcome the intricacies of the dreaded dichotomous key. They were ably assisted in these tasks by 11 WA Herbarium Volunteers who work in the Community

Regional Herbarium Volunteer Program.

The 22 volunteers in this program have identified more than 8000 plant specimens in the past three years so they were well-qualified to pass on their knowledge and experience.

Because of the interest in this workshop, a third day was scheduled and this enabled other country participants as well as other WA Herbarium volunteers to hone their skills.



*Plant Identification workshop in full swing. Photo by Fang Chang Sha*