



Bill Coad (Perth volunteer), Chris Hollister (Perth volunteer), Geoff Brand (Serpentine-Jarrahdale Regional Herbarium) and Jan Gathe (Project Co-ordinator) examine some of the plant specimens collected and processed by the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project members. Photo by Verna Costello

Herbarium celebrates a milestone

A SPECIAL event was celebrated recently at the CALM Herbarium in Kensington.

During the four years it has run, the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project has contributed 10,000 plant specimens to the State Research Collection housed in the CALM Herbarium.

The specimens represent an equal total of duplicate specimens in the various regional herbaria.

This innovative program now has more than 80 community groups that collect, press and maintain herbaria of their local plants.

Working with them are 25 of CALM's Kensington Herb-

by Jan Gathe

arium volunteers who identify the plant specimens and help in the processes needed to incorporate them into the CALM Herbarium records.

All of the information included with the specimens is added to the CALM Herbarium's large database, and is available through the FloraBase website, a vital tool in the conservation of the State's unique plants.

Included in the 10,000 specimens were:

- many that extended the known range of the species
- priority species

- declared rare flora species
- species thought to be extinct
- species that had been collected only once or twice before
- new species that had not been named or described before.

Members of the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project are, therefore, adding significantly to the dissemination of knowledge about our native plants.

The people who had been involved in the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project from its inception in 1996 were invited to morning tea at the Herbarium. Some of those able to attend were

- John Holley (Natural Heritage Trust)

- Beth Hughes (Greening Australia WA)
- Joanna Seabrook (Greening Australia WA Foundation Board Member)
- Dr Steve Hopper (Kings Park and Botanic Gardens)
- Leigh Sage (original co-ordinator of the project)
- Dr Ken Atkins (Principal Botanist, CALM Wildlife Conservation Section)
- CALM's Perth Herbarium volunteers
- Regional Herbarium representatives

CALM Executive Director Wally Cox also attended and met many of the volunteers, examples of whose excellent work were on display.