



*These lever arch folders are less than half of the collection, containing Rottnest Island flora specimens, recently handed over to the Rottnest Island Authority by the CALM Herbarium. Poring over them are, from left, Noreen Kennealy, Elizabeth Rippey, Jon Dodd, Jan Gathe and Neville Marchant. Photo by Verna Costello*

# Rottnest acquires herbarium

**NEXT time you go to Rotto, instead of heading for the Quokka Arms, make your first stop at the Museum, where there's a display featuring some of the island's plants.**

These pressed and mounted plant specimens will have come from the newly-formed Rottnest Island Regional Herbarium.

This important collection of plants growing on Rottnest is an outcome of a Rottnest Voluntary Guides' Association (RVGA) major project.

Over the past three years, the 40 Guides involved (assisted by Dr Jon Dodd and Elizabeth Rippey), collected, documented, pressed and collated close to 300 different collections, which include both native plants, and 'aliens' that have

by Jan Gathe

become naturalised on the island. A number of these are of species that have never before been collected on Rottnest.

A collection of this size and standard is an outstanding achievement and represents many hours spent in the field and indoors identifying and processing the specimens.

This hard work and commitment by the RVGA was celebrated recently when the herbarium was officially handed over by CALM's Herbarium Director Neville Marchant to Claire Wright representing the Rottnest Island Authority (RIA).

The new herbarium is one of 74 across the State, all of which are electronically linked to the CALM

Herbarium databases, which enables access to information about the plants in their collections.

This linkage also ensures that the Regional Herbaria are kept informed of any name changes that may be made to specimens in their collections.

The new Rottnest Herbarium makes a highly significant contribution to the Island's natural history knowledge base, and its value will become even more evident as visitors want to learn more about the natural history of the island.

The Rottnest Voluntary Guides are congratulated for their foresight and effort in creating this Regional Herbarium, which furthers knowledge and enhances conservation of the flora of this special part of Western Australia.