

ENDANGERED!

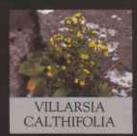












PORONGURUP PLANTS

THE Porongurup Range National Park, a line of granite hills 30 km north-east of Albany well known for its scenic views and walks, has a rich flora of about 500 species of flowering plants. Many, including the karri, are at the inland margins of their geographic range.

Five plants are confined within the Park boundary: Brachysema subcordatum, Hibbertia bracteosa, Billardiera granulata, Apium prostratum ssp. nov. and Villarsia calthifolia. Because of their limited range, any long term change in the climate (viz the greenhouse effect) or park management (increased tourism, frequent bushfires) could be disastrous. The species are

constantly monitored. All were surveyed in 1986 and populations mapped.

Billardiera granulata, a post fire vine, is very abundant, although only found within the Range. The others are less common and have been gazetted rare.

Brachysema subcordatum, Hibbertia bracteosa and Villarsia calthifolia are largely confined to the Range's massive granite slopes. They are currently secure, being in a National Park, but could be damaged by trampling (along walk trails), drought (there was a massive collapse of Hibbertia bracteosa in 1986, but numerous seedlings were recorded after good rains in 1987/88) and fire (all are killed by hot fires, although seedlings of Villarsia calthifolia have

only been found after fire has killed the adult plants).

All are very attractive and easily grown. Villarsia in particular could prove a very attractive pot plant.

The final plant in this group is Apium prostratum. It is a subspecies of native celery. First collected by botanist Baron Ferdinand Von Mueller in 1867, it was rediscovered in 1986 along creeks in the karri forest in the Park. The area where it grows has been invaded by the garden escape, Myosotis sylvatica (Forget-me-not), but given correct management it is likely that the Apium will continue to form part of the rich floral heritage of the Porongurup Range. TEXT - GREG KEIGHREY

LANDSCOPE

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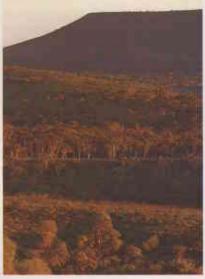
Effluent disposal ponds from industry disfigure an idyllic strip of coastal land. But restoration work and a new conservation park are planned for the Leschenault Peninsula, near Bunbury. Turn to p.8.



Wood that was once only suitable for firewood can now be used to make high grade furniture. Find out how on p.24.



With spring approaching, the bush beckons...but without proper planning your walk could turn to disaster. See p.40.



A spectacular landscape, with an astounding array of plants and animals lies inland from Jurien Bay. Read about the Mt Lesueur area on p.28.



A population explosion of coraleating snails threatens the unique reefs of Ningaloo Marine Park. How does CALM plan to counter their attack? See p.14.

COVER



In W.A.'s far north, Aboriginal rangers with ties to land now in national parks draw on the traditional wisdom of their people for use in Park management. Photo-Robert Garvey

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Editor: Carolyn Thomson
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