

FLOWERING SPLENDOUR

Every now and again certain eucalypt species put on a spectacular show of mass-synchronised flowering such as that of the marri in the summer and autumn of 1988 (*LANDSCOPE*, Winter 1988). This summer it was the red-flowering gum.

These striking gums literally exploded into flower, providing what many Walpole locals say was the best show for about 30 years.

In the wild, red-flowering gum is only found on the sandy interdunal plains of the Walpole-Nornalup National Park and in a few small outlying populations in Mount Frankland National Park.

However, it is widely planted throughout Australia as an ornamental.

Flowering occurs in mid-summer and provides a welcome food source for nectar-eaters such as the honey possum, and a glorious sight for park visitors.



The varying hues of red-flowering gum (Eucalyptus ficifolia).

Photos - Tony Tapper

Photo (left) - Cliff Winfield



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Each weekend, hundreds of novice scuba divers take the plunge. Get the most out of your diving on page 10.



How do birds fly? How do some reach speeds of over 80 kilometres per hour? Learn about avian aerodynamics on page 28.



A very different landscape replaces what was once a thriving timber industry. Rediscover Cannington in the 1850s. See page 42.



Western Australia grows some rare and stunning native spider orchids. Their alluring nature will delight the reader on page 34.



Seaweed! Delicate and beautiful, or slimy and smelly? Decide for yourself on page 20.

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Back in the early 1970s, Western Australia proclaimed the numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*) as its State emblem which may have saved its life. With the help of scientists and new techniques, these delightful creatures are now fighting back against extinction. See page 15.

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