

FEATHERFLOWER FOUND

A secret that went to the grave with its keeper was unlocked recently by a Three Springs Shire employee, resulting in the discovery of a population of the critically endangered white feather flower (*Verticordia albida*).

The beautiful flowers of this plant had, in the past, been picked by a local farmer for Christmas decorations, but he would not reveal their location. However, his daughter knew the general area and she passed on the information to Shire gardener Charles Strahan. Armed with this knowledge, Charles and two members of CALM's WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit surveyed the area and were successful in locating 14 plants.

It was a particularly exciting

discovery, as before this, the species was known from only two populations, with a total of 136 plants, less than two kilometres apart, growing on a narrow road verge and on private property.

CALM is currently preparing an interim recovery plan to guide the conservation of the species.

Charles' enthusiasm for seeking out populations of threatened plants has also improved CALM's knowledge of the range of several other species. Such interest at the local level is keenly sought by CALM as local people are often very familiar with their patch and are in a position to take advantage of the kind of information that led to this discovery.



Featherflower (Verticordia albida). Close-up of the flower (inset). Photos – Felicity Bunny

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LANDSCOPE

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This killer whale, photographed at Ningaloo, is one of 36 marine mammals living off the WA coastline. Read about them on page 16.

Thanks largely to CALM's fox-control programs, the recovery of the woylie has been so swift that the species has now been taken off the threatened fauna list (see page 10).



Spring flowers thrive on a moss carpet—one of the range of attractions on offer in the Porongurup National Park (see page 28).



LANDSCOPE Expeditioners made some interesting discoveries during last year's expedition to Queen Victoria Spring. Read all about them on page 23.



The rose mallee is just one species benefiting from action by recovery teams working together for conservation (see page 36).

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COVER

*A new book, Broome and Beyond, takes an in-depth look at the plants, such as this *Pittosporum molluccanum*, people and cultures of the Dampier Peninsula, in Western Australia's Kimberley Region. The story on page 48 takes a brief glimpse into this exciting new book.*

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