

## BORONIA: HOW MANAGEMENT OF WILDFLOWER COLLECTING HAS PAID OFF

Wild populations of one of Western Australia's most popular, sweet-smelling wildflowers have shown early signs of recovery throughout the south-west, following intensive management by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM).

Brown boronia (*Boronia megastigma*) has long been a target of commercial and personal flower pickers for its decorative sprays and valuable oil that can be used as a flavour additive in food. But owing to a period of intensive harvest demand on wild populations, yields from public lands had become unsustainable.

CALM principal botanist Dr Ken Atkins said that because of the concern over harvesting levels, the Department implemented a management plan for the species four years ago. Under the management plan, people need a licence to pick the flowers from Crown land, even for personal use, or to sell boronia taken from private land.

Dr Atkins said the plan, introduced with the endorsement of the WA Flora Industry Advisory Committee, also included the provision for the introduction of a harvest quota system to restrict the amount of boronia that could be taken from the forest. Quotas were introduced to reduce harvest rates to what were believed to be sustainable levels, taking into account successive dry seasons which had resulted in poor



flowering and some plant deaths.

"At these relatively low harvest quota levels, illegal harvesting was also having a major impact on the conservation of the species, and had the potential to jeopardise the livelihood of people in the industry," Dr Atkins said.

To counteract illegal harvest of the species, a tagging system to help identify legally sourced brown boronia was introduced last season. Private property producers as well as Crown land collectors were given tags to show the legal source of all boronia sprays entering the market.

Dr Atkins said that the tagging proved a great success in reducing the illegal harvest of the plant, and would continue to be used for future management of the boronia harvest.

The harvest quotas and the tag system, together with the improved growing season this year, has resulted in some early recovery of the plants in the bush, indicating that the industry is now being managed on a sustainable basis.

"CALM is seeking the cooperation of everyone involved with boronia, either picking, growing, selling or buying it, to help in its management and continued recovery in the bush," he said.

"We ask that people buying brown boronia, whether from florists or from other outlets for cut flowers, to ensure that the sprays they are buying are legally gathered."

"This is the only way we can ensure the industry will continue, and that boronia will always be available from the native forest."

*Boronia boronia* (B. megastigma).

Photo – Andrew Horan

To help overcome the pressure on wild populations, CALM and Agriculture WA have also been promoting commercial production of boronia on private land.

For further information on boronia collection and selling, or to report illegal operators, please contact the nearest CALM office, or the Duty Wildlife Officer at CALM in Como on (08) 9334 0224.



# LANDSCOPE

VOLUME THIRTEEN NUMBER 1, SPRING 1997



*The threat from below . . . How can we defeat our greatest environmental enemy? Read about salinity and what we can do about it on p. 10.*



*Dryandra, one of the last refuges of the native wildlife. Now you can experience this woodland wonderland for yourself. Find out how on p. 36.*



*Europeans brought alien plants and animals to WA's rangelands, which have since become degraded. What can be done? See p. 42.*



*One of the best aids to plant conservation is completely invisible. See our plant DNA story on p. 18.*



*How old is the Stirling Range? Read about this stunning area in our story on p. 48.*

## FEATURES

<b>HALT THE SALT!</b> CARIS BAILEY, KEIRAN MCNAMARA & SYD SHEA.....	10
<b>MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE</b> MARGARET BYRNE & DAVID COATES.....	18
<b>GARDEN PLANTS GONE WILD</b> PATRICK PIGOTT & ROGER ARMSTRONG.....	23
<b>FITZGERALD RIVER NATIONAL PARK</b> ANGELA SANDERS.....	28
<b>A WONDERFUL WOODLAND</b> ANTHONY DESMOND & MICHELLE BOOTHEY.....	36
<b>RESCUING THE RANGELANDS</b> TONY BRANDIS.....	42
<b>SEABED TO MOUNTAIN TOP</b> IAN HERFORD.....	48

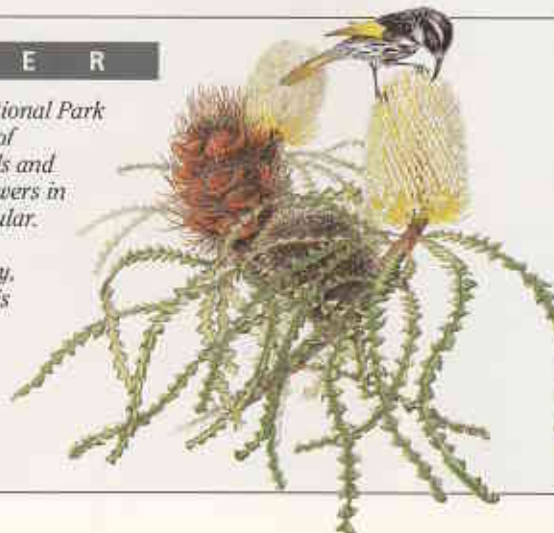
## REGULARS

<b>BUSH TELEGRAPH</b> .....	4
<b>ENDANGERED</b> THREATENED 'ROCKS' IN LAKE RICHMOND.....	47
<b>URBAN ANTICS</b> BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE.....	54

## COVER

*The Fitzgerald River National Park boasts a startling array of habitats, mammals, birds and other species. Its wildflowers in spring are often spectacular. Our story on p. 28 is a fascinating tale of variety, beauty, and threat in this aged land.*

*Illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky*



**Executive Editor:** Ron Kawalilak  
**Managing Editor:** Ray Bailey  
**Editor:** David Gough  
**Story Editors:** Mandy Clews, Verna Costello, Carolyn Thomson, Mitzi Vance  
**Scientific/technical advice:** Andrew Burbidge, Ian Abbott, Paul Jones, Keith Morris and staff of CALM's Science & Information Division  
**Design and production:** Maria Duthie, Sue Marais  
**Finished art:** Maria Duthie, Sue Marais, Gooitzen van der Meer  
**Illustration:** Gooitzen van der Meer, Ian Dickinson  
**Cartography:** Promaco Geodraft  
**Marketing:** Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498  
**Subscription enquiries:** ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437  
 Colour Separation by Colourbox Digital  
 Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print  
 © ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.  
 Visit **LANDSCOPE** online on our award-winning Internet site **NatureBase** at <http://www.calm.wa.gov.au/>



Published by Dr S Shea, Executive Director  
 Department of Conservation and Land Management,  
 50 Hayman Road, Como, Western Australia