

BEQUEST BENEFITS ANIMAL AND PLANT CONSERVATION

A modest plaque hidden in bush near Lake Kwoornicup would be missed by most people passing through, but its presence commemorates a 40-hectare land bequest that will benefit animal and plant conservation.

The land was bequeathed to CALM by the late Mrs Sarah Gill, and in accordance with her wishes, it has been gazetted as an Class A nature reserve for the purpose of 'Conservation of Flora and Fauna'.

The reserve was part of the Gill family farm, which is located about 40 kilometres north-west of Mount Barker. It includes a bluegum plantation and two lakes, providing a valuable refuge for waterfowl and other animals such as the brush



Left: Left to right, Charlie, Elizabeth and husband Kerry (sons and daughter-in-law of the late Mrs Gill) with the commemorative plaque.

Photo – Greg Mair/CALM

wallaby, quenda and echidna. A flora search in October 1998 yielded almost 100 species, and future searches

should see more species added to the list.

Gill Nature Reserve is within the Upper Kent

catchment, which is under the focus of the National Dryland Salinity Research, Development and Extension Program.

Western Australians have much to be grateful for with such a generous bequest, and the continuing commitment by Mrs Gill's family will see many WA plants and animals thriving where they might otherwise have disappeared.

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LANDSCOPE

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Western Everlasting, see page 22, follows the same successful approach to protecting threatened plants as Western Shield did for mammals.



Beneath its black and burnt exterior, the common balga is giving up its secrets. See 'Believing the Balga' on page 10.



For 25 years, CALM's Wildlife Research Centre in Woodvale has been 'A Centre of Diversity'. See page 36.



The spectacular coastline of Torndirrup National Park has been years in the making. See page 28.



Read how locals, CALM and other agencies are working together to save the Lake Muir-Unicup wetlands. See page 49.

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'Moving Mala' (page 17) tells the story of the translocation of these endangered mammals from Australia's Central Desert Region to a small island off WA's north coast.



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