

RESCUING A THREATENED PLANT COMMUNITY

Help is at hand for a rare and endangered plant community near Carnamah.

The Inering System is a Threatened Ecological Community composed of tamma thickets, wattle scrub and melaleuca thickets, and contains a number of Priority flora including *Scholtzia* sp. Prowaka Springs, *Epitriche demissus* and *Acacia nodiflora*. The community originally covered four hill ranges, between Carnamah and Three Springs. However, grazing, weed invasion and fragmentation have left only 653 of the original 2175 hectares, mainly on the Inering Hills.

Landholders lucky enough to have portions of this threatened community on their land have long recognised the uniqueness



Photo – Sheila Hamilton-Brown

of the hills, and have been keen to protect them. Thanks to the collaboration between the Department of Conservation and Land Management's WA Threatened Species and Communities Unit (WATSCU) and the local Yarra Yarra Catchment Group, this protection is being successfully carried out.

WATSCU and the Yarra Yarra Catchment Group have successfully sought funding from the Lotteries Commission for 45 kilometres of fencing material. This is to be shared by six farming families and will allow about 200 hectares to be fenced.

Many of the remnants are small (no more than a few hectares) and highly

fragmented. In some cases, where the remnants cross more than one tenure, boundary fences will be allowed to deteriorate so that the remnants will join up. At the same time, most of the landholders have demonstrated their commitment to the long-term protection of their remnant vegetation by joining the department's Land for Wildlife program—a voluntary nature conservation scheme that gives advice, encouragement and assistance with gaining on-ground support. These measures will help to prevent the Inering System Threatened Ecological Community from sliding closer to total destruction.

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LANDSCOPE



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The first stage of a long-distance mountain bike trail, that will ultimately lead from Mundaring to Albany, is now open. See page 49.



Discover the underwater wilderness of the Geographe Bay, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, Hardy Inlet area, a potential marine conservation reserve, on page 18.



Little was known about the distribution of the dalgyte, or bilby, in the south-west forests until scientist Ian Abbott interviewed old timers. Turn to page 28.



Older piles of the Busselton Jetty are crowded with marine life, but it was not always so. How do marine animals gradually colonise the piles? See page 34.



The Stirling Range National Park experiences many extremes of weather, from snow falls to bushfires. Find out why on page 10.

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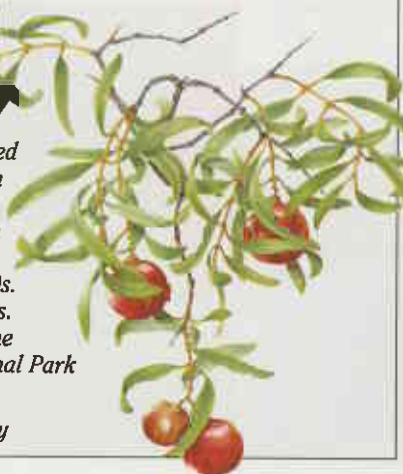
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COVER

Quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*) is one of the most widespread plants in Australia. This small, upright tree is most easily recognised by its bright red fruits, which are edible and also contain a nutritious nut. It belongs to the same genus as the famous sandalwood, which was one of Western Australia's major exports in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Members of this genus are root parasites. *Quandong* grows in dense stands in some areas within the Woodman Point Regional Park (see story on page 42).

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky



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