

Rare Plant Discovery

MOGUMBER BELL

(*Darwinea carnea*)

A press release by the W.A. Herbarium early in 1978 revealed the re-discovery of the "Mogumber Bell" near Narrogin.

This species had not been sighted for many years and it was thought it might even be extinct. Its stronghold was once Mogumber, near New Norcia. There are now only six plants known in existence in the wild and these are found on a small stony ridge south of Narrogin.

A concerned conservationist, from Narrogin, told Dr. N. Marchant of the W.A. Herbarium of the plants' existence. Dr. Marchant has been successfully propagating the species from cuttings at the Herbarium.

The actual location of the plants is being kept a well-guarded secret.

A wildlife officer has since visited the area and saw the plant growing amongst *Dryandra nobilis* and *Beaufortia* on a small laterite ridge. The area was un-cleared and had been fenced off to prevent the invasion of rabbits. The whole area only comprises of 0.5 ha and is completely surrounded by cleared cultivated land.

The "Mogumber Bell" is an extremely rare and endangered plant and it is vital to conserve the last known specimens as far as possible, in their natural habitat. Accordingly a project is underway to protect them and this is being supported whole-heartedly by the land-owner.

