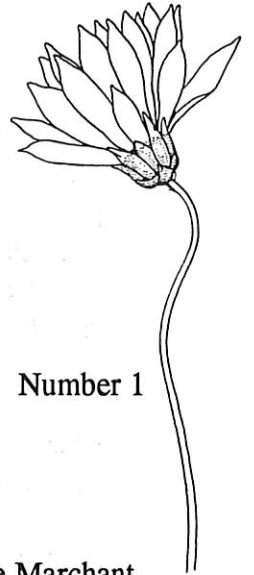




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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Kevin Kenneally recently took over the Herbarium volunteers program from Neville Marchant, who did such a worthy job designating volunteer tasks to our cheery band during the first year of the program.

In similar vein to Dr Marchant, a past president of the Wildflower Society, Kevin has also enjoyed a long and dedicated involvement with volunteer and amateur enthusiasts at all levels. He is a past president of the WA Naturalists Club; current president of the WA Gould League and in the late 1970s he undertook an extensive overseas tour to study the role of volunteers in other countries.

His involvement with the Nats began during his teens and he has been on the State council since 1963. During the 1970s he coordinated a biological study of the Wongan Hills area. This involved surveys by groups of volunteers once a month over a four year period, culminating in 1977 with publishing "The Natural History of the Wongan Hills", as one of the Nats handbooks. Over more recent years Kevin has been an honorary life member of the Nats and he succeeded D.L.Serventy as scientific editor of the journal "Western Australian Naturalist".

In 1979 he took a six month overseas Churchill Fellowship study tour of 26 herbaria and associated institutions in Britain and Europe, and two large national parks in the USA. His resultant report to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust was titled "Methods of Encouraging Amateur Participation in Natural History Data Collecting". Whilst on this study tour he began an advisory role on the Australian environment to scientific producer David Bellamy.

Over the past six years Kevin has also been president of the WA Gould League and this year was appointed national director.

When quizzed on his approach to the volunteer movement Kevin sees natural history as an integrated part of life and living, rather than an academic subject. He realises that most people are too busy in their parenting years to become deeply involved with nature and it is only when their families have left home are they able to turn their attention to those things that really interest them.... "Why throw away those mature years when so much can be done in the field of natural history" says Kevin. Daphne Edinger, his volunteer assistant of seven years, is testimony to Kevin's dedication to the worthwhile role of the movement!

Neil Coy

INTRODUCING KATH TRENDALL

When I first met Kath Trendall she was a member of the volunteer mounting team (the "Mounties"). I was on the look out for someone to stencil folders and without knowing it was directed to the perfect person for this project - Kath. As it turned out, Kath had a background in printing and was very interested in undertaking the task. Now, every Thursday for half a day, she reproduces latin botanical names on to 40 folders per week. These folders are used to protect and identify the valuable plant specimens housed in the Herbarium.

Kath was born in the U.K. but in 1954, soon after marrying her husband, moved to Uganda where they lived for eight years. However, in 1962 with the emergence of the tyrant Idi Amin, Kath and her husband packed their bags again and this time came to Australia.

Kath is a keen weaver, but on arrival in Australia she realized she wasn't going to be able to purchase the kind of loom she required. She made her own! Kath weaves with all types of material; her 2,000 silkworms even produce enough silk for her to weave "half a hanky!" Kath's expertise and love of weaving lead her to the Fremantle Arts Centre where she became the resident weaver from 1973-1979.

When Kath left the Fremantle Arts Centre she bought an old Platon Printing Press and began publishing limited edition books. Typesetting by hand and printing on handmade paper, her first book "Dyes From Western Australian Plants" was produced in 1979. This edition was bound in cloth woven by Kath. Another popular edition was "Silkworms" and in keeping with the theme she chose to produce it on Japanese Mulberry Paper.

With all her interests and a busy schedule, Kath still found time to volunteer at the Herbarium. Kath said "everyone should contribute to the running of a community in a voluntary capacity. It's the only way to make the world go 'round'".

Vicki Hamley



PRIORITY SPECIES FOUND

When Josephine Docherty was identifying plants in the Reference Herbarium, for the Mullewa Wildflower Show she found that two of her specimens were on CALM's Priority Flora List.

Bob Backhouse had previously spent weeks comparing the specimens in the Reference Herbarium with the Declared Flora Notice 1991 in the Wildlife Conservation Act and CALM's Priority Flora List for Western Australia. Those specimens which were on either list were clearly indicated by attaching appropriate stickers. This was a time consuming project, however, the effort is paying off by increasing CALM's knowledge of populations of this rare or poorly known species.

If a rare or poorly known specimen is identified by visitors using the Reference Herbarium, they are directed to contact Ken Atkins, Senior Biologist Flora at CALM's Wildlife Branch, and notify him of their discovery.

Declared Rare Flora have been thoroughly surveyed and are definitely known to be rare. Priority species, on the other hand, are poorly known and CALM need more information about them. Some of the priority species may in fact turn out to be common and taken off the list while others may be deemed rare and then put on the Declared Flora Notice.

Labelling the specimens in the Reference Herbarium with the status of the species is helping to facilitate the exchange of knowledge on the occurrence of these sometimes poorly known plants.

Vicki Hamley



Bob and Barbara Backhouse with Josephine Docherty showing priority species.

NEW VOLUNTEER PROJECT

CAPTURING FUNGAL INFORMATION

Joanna Ferns, who has previously been working with Ray Cranfield on the HERBIE label generation program, will commence databasing information that had not previously been captured in the UWA Fungal collection.

The UWA Fungal collection was transferred, amalgamated and databased with our own in 1989.

Joanna will be working in the South Wing Undercroft under the supervision of Cheryl Parker.

Cheryl Parker

FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR

It is now approaching the first anniversary of the formation of the "Friends of the Herbarium".

Much has been accomplished in this first twelve months, mainly due to the enthusiasm and hard work of our team of volunteers. Special thanks go to Barabara and Bob Backhouse for having overseen much of the program in its formative stage, and a big thank-you to all volunteers for their sterling efforts.

In a State as large as Western Australia, with such diverse and spectacular wildflowers, the role of CALM volunteers is instrumental in contributing to the conservation of its flora.

I look forward to the next twelve months as an opportunity to consolidate our efforts and make volunteering in the Herbarium a pleasurable and rewarding experience.

Kevin Kenneally
Volunteers Co-ordinator