New flora Interim Recovery Plans approved (continued)

to the species are road, track and firebreak maintenance, insect infestation, altered fire regimes, weed invasion and rabbits.

Kunzea acicularis

Kunzea acicularis is an attractive pink-flowered species formally described by Hellmut Toelken and Gillian Craig in 2007 from specimens collected north-east Ravensthorpe in 2001. The name acicularis refers to the 'needle-like' bracts.

Plants grow to 2m tall with few erect stems, each of which is irregularly branched. Young branches are densely covered with fine spreading hairs. The inflorescence comprises three to five pink to mauve flowers. *Kunzea acicularis* is similar to the southern form of *K. preissiana* with both having similarly-lengthed bracts. However, *Kunzea acicularis* is distinguished by being usually taller, having broader leaves and different-shaped, long-pointed bracts on the inflorescence, as well as longer, acute, triangular calyx lobes.

The species is known from one population north-east of Ravensthorpe where it grows in pale orange clay-loam soil in open mallee woodland and heath. The main threats to the species are narrow distribution, road maintenance, altered fire regimes, *Phytophthora* dieback and potential future mining operations.

Pearl-like androcalva (*Androcalva perlaria*)

Androcalva perlaria (formerly *Commersonia* sp. *Mt Groper*) is a spreading shrub first collected by Ray Cranfield and Dave Kabay from north of Mount Groper in 1993. The species was formally named by Carol Wilkins in 2011 from specimens she collected east of Wellstead in 2006.

Plants grow to 50cm high by 1m wide and have shallowly to deeply lobed grey-green leaves. The cream and white flowers appear between September and December with spot flowering at other times of the year. The fruit is green-grey in colour with a velvety hairy covering.

The species is found over a range of approximately 33km around Wellstead, approximately 100km east of Albany, growing sandy-clay soil in seasonally-waterlogged sites. Five populations are known, four of which are extant and together contain 207 plants. Live plants are absent from a fifth population where the species is thought to persist as a soil stored seed bank.

The main threats to the species include grazing, mining, altered hydrology and water quality, weeds and inappropriate fire regimes.

For more information please contact Andrew Brown: phone (08) 9334 0122 or email andrew.brown@dpaw.wa.gov.au.

Above top *Androcalva perlaria. Photo – Shane Turner* **Above** *Daviesia dielsii. Photo – Lorraine Duffy*

Re-introduction of chuditch into Flinders Range National Park, South Australia

By Abby Thomas

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) are medium-sized marsupial carnivores that once occupied approximately 70 per cent of the Australian mainland, ranging throughout much of central, western and southern Australia, including most of South Australia (SA). Chuditch have declined from their former range probably due to fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*) predation and competition. They are now only extant in Western Australia between Kalbarri and Esperance, where they are listed as threatened fauna under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*. The estimated population size is between 10,000–12,000 mature individuals.

In SA, chuditch are listed as endangered (presumed extinct) under the SA *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, and were last recorded in the SA landscape in the 1950s, with the last museum specimen being collected in February 1933. The SA Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) Bounceback program is a long-running landscape-scale conservation program that aims to restore the semi-arid environments of the Flinders, Olary and Gawler Ranges in South Australia.

As part of the program, a translocation proposal between DEWNR and Parks and Wildlife was approved to re-introduce wild chuditch from WA into Flinders Range National Park. The aim of the translocation is to re-establish a self-sustaining population of chuditch outside WA. Chuditch were considered the ideal species for re-introduction as they were previously known from the area, and possibly less sensitive to cat predation than many other locally extinct mammals. They are an opportunistic generalist that adapts well to different environments and an important totem animal for Adnyamathanha people of the northern Flinders Range.

As part of Parks and Wildlife's recovery program, chuditch have successfully been translocated by Parks and Wildlife to Julimar Forest, Lake Magenta Nature Reserve and Kalbarri National Park in WA.

Between March and April 2014, Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers trapped chuditch from two populations – Julimar State Forest (proposed Conservation Park) and Perup Nature Reserve. Over two trapping periods, 20 females and 17 males were captured and consequently transported and released into Flinders Range National Park. Between the time of capture and the flights to the Flinders Range National Park, the chuditch were housed and cared for at the 'chuditch hotel' (Native Animal Rescue facilities) in Malaga.

Above top Chuditch caught in camera monitoring. *Photo – Parks and Wildlife*

Three months of intensive monitoring by DEWNR staff, using aerial radio tracking, camera monitoring and trapping, indicates that the released animals are in good physical condition and settling into their home ranges with many females now carrying pouch young. The translocation will be deemed successful if these translocated animals continue to thrive and reproduce within the Flinders Range and become a self-sustaining population. This chuditch release will contribute to the national recovery of this species and will be a land mark as the first reintroduction of chuditch outside WA.

For more information please contact Abby Thomas: phone (08) 9219 8636 or email abby.thomas@dpaw.wa.gov.au.