

BUDDY KENT'S property at Bodallin was recently surveyed as part of the Wildflower Society of WA's "Bushland Plants Survey Program", which is a joint WSWA, NHT Bushcare, CALM Volunteer and Ecoplan project. During 1998, six properties were surveyed. Buddy's is south of Bodallin, in Yilgarn Shire. It is a wheat and sheep property of 2552 ha, with 845 ha of bush.

The bush block we are surveying is the largest remnant on the property. It is fenced and certainly in recent times has not been used for timber cutting, firewood collecting, grazing or dumping, nor has it been burnt for more than 40 years. It has four corridors leading from it, two of which link it to a nature reserve that has extensive granite outcrops, including an area which appears to be about the same size as the bush block. On Buddy's property there are also areas of laterite breakaway, heavy gravel and deep sand, mostly all interconnected by bush corridors/windbreaks. The surrounding properties were originally cleared in 1927, but this area was considered 'light/poor' and clearing didn't start until 1958.

So far 25 people (including 12 from Bodallin, Merredin and Southern Cross; 11 from Perth and 2 from Bunbury) have joined in volunteering to either assess the site, select the sampling plots, survey the bushland plants, assist with identification or revisit the plots in search of additional species.

The initial survey was done on 8-9 Sept 1998, with the revisit on 31 Oct. We have surveyed 15 sites, which have ranged from 6 species in a 10x10m plot to approximately 40 species under salmon gum. The first herbarium day when we sorted the specimens into families and genera, and some to species, was on 30 Sept.

Botanically speaking it is part of the 'Avon District' of the 'South West Province', where the vegetation includes woodlands of gimlet (*Eucalyptus salubris*) and salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*), mallee and shrublands. Thus far, six mallees have been identified:

LFW NEWS

Bushland Plants Survey Program - Buddy Kent's bushland at Bodallin

by Colma Keating

Burracoppin mallee (*E. burracoppinensis*); gooseberry mallee (*E. calycogona* var. *calycogona*); tall sand mallee (*E. eremophila* subsp. *eremophila*); Tammin mallee (*E. leptopoda*); Boorabbin mallee (*E. platycorys*) and *E. subangusta* subsp. *subangusta*.

Apart from this survey and being a member of *Land for Wildlife*, Buddy is also involved in Birds Australia's "Birds on Farms" project. He made us all very welcome and participated in all aspects of the program including the herbarium day in South Perth.

Three of the highlights for me are:

- the excitement of people in amongst bushland plants
- the volunteers generosity with their time and knowledge
- the enthusiasm and commitment of our host, Buddy Kent.

[This program was written up in WW 2/2, p 13. If you would like to be involved in future surveys, ring Ann Gunness on (08) 9524 2221 - Ed.]



Surveying site BBOD 01, 8/9/98. Buddy is on left. (photo: C. Keating)



Gimlet woodland (photo: B. Kent)