

## REVEGETATION

IN 1999 the Waddy Forest LCDC (Coorow) obtained NHT funding to survey the flora of its remnant vegetation. Surveys of 33 remnants in the district were carried out by Prof. Stephen Davies and landholders. The aim was to provide information about the biodiversity of the various remnants with the aim of establishing the priority for preservation, by fencing, of the remnants, and to determine the value of linking some of them by planting corridors of vegetation.

The Waddy Forest LCDC is near the western edge of the Yilgarn Craton, a mass of Archaean granites,

### FLORA ROAD FOR WADDY FOREST

*Fiona Falconer*

gneisses, metasediments and basic rocks intruded by dolerite dykes and quartz veins. The granitic rocks date from 2,800 to 3,000 million years ago in the west near the Darling Fault, to 2,500 to 2,800 million years in the east.

The streams drain into an extensive system of salt creeks, lakes and pans that flow through the catchment as an S-shaped ephemeral watercourse. This rises in the north-east of the district and flows south-westerly to leave the catchment in the south-west.

A key finding of the surveys was the relative importance of the salt creek system for Priority Flora and its value as a corridor through the catchment. It was recommended, therefore, that corridors be planned to link remnants on the upper slopes of the landscape with the salt creek system.

As a consequence, vegetation along the Coorow-Latham Road through the Waddy Forest LCDC, was identified as the main corridor linking the upper catchment to the saline drainage system. In addition, the quality of the vegetation was seen to meet the criteria for declaration as a 'Flora Road', with its multiple values as a conservation corridor including:

- watertable and erosion control
- movement of wildlife
- comprises remnants of pre-existing vegetation communities which have been diminished, destroyed or are under threat from salinity across the wheatbelt (eg Salmon Gum woodland)
- rare fauna habitat
- tourist route
- seed source for revegetation

Cultural and historical sites are also situated along this section of road, including:

- Wynmara Well
- Waddy Forest townsite
- a pioneer grave.

Submissions to the Coorow Shire and to the Minister for the Environment for declaration as a Flora Road were ultimately successful. Waddy Forest LCDC appreciates the support of David Lamont from the Roadside Conservation Committee, including the provision of signs to identify the Flora Road.



Wynmara Well, Coorow-Latham Road



A fine avenue of Salmon Gums, Coorow-Latham Road