

News

GREAT TIPS ON BEAUTIFUL PLANTS

For some, bushland management is on a grand scale, for others the work is in the detail.



Barbara Abbot explains how to take a cutting, while Peter Lightfoot looks on.
Photo: A. Baxter

At the request of some *Land for Wildlife* members in the Wheatbelt Region, a very successful training day was held on propagating bushland plants. Barbara Abbott, a *LFW* member from Brookton, has devoted her life to preserving some of the special plants in the area. Barbara's background is in propagating plants

from cuttings and after moving to Brookton, she obtained permission from the Shire to take cuttings from attractive flowering plants that were about to disappear under the grader at the rubbish tip! She shared her experiences in what makes a good cutting and when to take cuttings for different plant species.

Of course the law dictates where and how plant material can be taken and sold and DEC's Great Southern District Wildlife Officer, Cameron Craigie, detailed this process.

The training day was held on Shirley and Jim Wells' property at Moorumbine, east of Pingelly. The Wells bought their six hectare property in 1998 with the intention of creating a seed production area for local plants. 10 years later they are now picking local seed from the revegetation and have reached Shirley's goal of creating habitat for blue wrens!

Peter White, DEC's Wheatbelt Region Nature Conservation Advisory Officer, used this setting to talk on seed collection. Participants learnt about the importance of identifying plant species, which plants to collect from within the general population, determining the collection time, collection techniques, seed extraction and cleaning, storage and general hygiene and safety issues.

For *LFW*, success comes when inspiration leads to informed action.

Avril Baxter