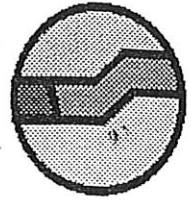


The Plant Press

Western Australian Regional Herbaria Newsletter



Volume 8 June 2000

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WE NEED OPERATING FUNDS

The NHT funds, which support your Regional Herbarium staff, the identification and processing of your specimens and the training programs, run out in January 2001. If you want the Regional Herbarium program to continue then please include us in any grant applications.

If you or any of your contacts are preparing a grant application, your group and the regional Herbarium Project can mutually gain. Don't forget that every specimen collected, identified, databased and incorporated in a herbarium is worth \$52. That is \$52 each! If you are asking for funding for a plant survey of an area then if we have or can obtain the boundaries (i.e. latitude and longitude) then we can trawl through our databases to find out how many specimens have been collected since the herbarium collection began the century before last!

With nearly 500,000 specimens in the State Collection, your Group may be surprised to learn how many specimens come from a particular catchment area; the larger the area the more specimens you can access. If you tell us what you are doing, we will let your organisation, Landcare group, Bushcare Group or whatever, use the figure of \$52 multiplied by the number of specimens as collateral in a grant application. For example, if we have 2000 specimens recorded for your catchment or other area, then you can put \$104,000 as

Newsletter of the Community Regional Herbarium
Volunteer Program
Editor: Margaret Lewington
ph 9334 0587
email: <margl@calm.wa.gov.au>

an intellectual property value which is available to you. This doesn't mean we have the cash to put into your project - it means we can give you a notional value. As well we can tell you what are the information gaps your grant can address. So, we can give you a map of where information on plants has already been gathered; this would enable you to present a more focussed application for funding. Also, we can give you an up-to-date species list, greatly reducing your identification task. **SPEAK TO US FIRST**; please don't commit these specimen and intellectual property values without clearing it with us. You can't obtain the necessary information from FloraBase; your group needs to work with us.

If you put our collective input (your local knowledge and the data recorded in the State Collection) as a notional value then you can seek funding for your identification, databasing and incorporation into the herbarium. Any specimens you collect will value-add to existing data and can be shared. It is a constant source of amazement that the Commonwealth funds many projects also the State yet there is no requirement to put voucher specimens into the State Collection. It is a waste of taxpayers' money to do otherwise and is unscientific but that is another story.

It costs the Herbarium \$5 to database each specimen, even if the data is submitted in "MAX". Other figures now accepted as an Australian standard are, for each specimen: collecting costs \$14; identification \$13, preparation, labelling, mounting and handling \$16 and a conservative maintenance value of \$4. The total is \$52. If you

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Notable Collections



The small-flowered myrtles form one of the more attractive elements of our heathland flora and occur throughout southern WA. They belong to the genera *Scholtzia*, *Thryptomene*, *Astartea*, *Baeckea* and *Micromyrtus* (hence the apt and widely used acronym for the group - STABM) together with *Rinzia*, the more recently named *Malleostemon* and the soon-to-be-published *Euromyrtus*.

It is fair to say that the morphological characters that separate these genera are rather cryptic and at the species level the differences can be very subtle indeed. With only the sparse detail provided in Blackall and Grieve III or Bentham's treatment from the nineteenth century available as texts, identifications have often been tentative at best. The problem has also been compounded by the sure knowledge that there were at the least significant numbers of unnamed species.

Because of these particular difficulties the group has long been a source of frustration for West Australian botanists, amateur and professional alike. It has probably also contributed toward a tendency for the group as a whole to be relatively undercollected statewide (i.e. many enthusiasts past and present have avoided collecting them because they were aware that the chances of being able to provide a reliable name were not good).

In the last decade or so the situation has slowly improved as Perth-based taxonomist Malcolm Trudgen's revisionary work has developed. The primary focus of Malcolm's studies has been the multilocular genera (i.e. those genera with more than one ovary compartment - *Baeckea*, *Scholtzia*, *Astartea*, *Rinzia* and *Euromyrtus*) and especially *Baeckea*. It became apparent to Malcolm at an early stage that the current generic concept of *Baeckea* is too broad

and that it should be separated into smaller natural groupings of closely-related species. The first of these segregated genera to be split from *Baeckea* were *Rinzia* and *Euromyrtus* but several others will follow. In fact when the work is completed, the genus *Baeckea* in its new, more narrowly defined sense will not be represented in WA - but that is still in the future!

In the course of Malcolm's studies, large numbers of new WA taxa from the group have been recognised - about 130 across all the genera with significant numbers added every year. Most of these have not yet been formally named and are referred to by manuscript or phrase names (see 'The Plant Press' Vol. 3 for definition of the latter term). Partly because the group has been relatively poorly collected, many of these taxa are known from only a few collections and consequently are Priority taxa.

A number of these poorly-known and possibly rare taxa and one or two completely new ones have been collected through the regional herbaria network. The Midwest region of the state is a particular hotspot for the small-flowered myrtles and predictably enough Don and Barbara Bellairs of the Kalbarri Regional Herbarium, Josephine Docherty at Mullewa Regional Herbarium and Robyn Soullier of Mingenew Regional Herbarium are at the top of the list of interesting 'STABM' collections.

The Midwest region of the state is a particular hotspot for the small-flowered myrtles

The Bellairs have made the first collections of two taxa within the group - *Malleostemon* sp. Hardabutt Rapids (a Priority 1 taxon) and *Scholtzia* sp. Z Bend (Priority 2). The latter they recently recollected from a new locality and this represented only the second collection.

Josephine Docherty's most recent accession contained 4 unnamed Priority taxa from the group. These included two *Scholtzia* species - *S.* sp. Geraldton and *S.* sp. Gunyidi, both known only from three other collections (the former a

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10,000 Vouchers!!

Congratulations to all Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project members

Late in February, just on 4 years after the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project started, we passed the 10,000 vouchers mark! This was a wonderful achievement and called for a celebration. So a morning tea with a large cake was planned to take place at the Perth Herbarium on 24th March. Invitations were sent to all urban regional herbaria and about 10 country ones, mostly those close to Perth. Representatives of 6 of the urban regional herbaria were able to attend but unfortunately none of the country representatives were able to make it.

All the many people who worked so hard to get the Project up and going were invited and many of them came along to help with the celebrations. CALM's new CEO Wally Cox and John Holley, WA Administrator of the NHT, were both present and able to meet the volunteers and see over the Herbarium and the good work being done by the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project.

About 15 of the more interesting vouchers, together with photographs of the workshops held in various country centres and at Perth were put on display. Some of the vouchers were:

Hydrocotyle vigintimilia ms Priority 1, only the third known collection - Scadden Regional Herbarium

Jacksonia debilis ms Priority 1, a range extension, previously known only from the Newdegate area - Bruce Rock Regional Herbarium

Hemigenia ramosissima Priority 2, thought likely to be extinct, the first collection since James Drummond's nearly 150 years ago - West Arthur Regional Herbarium

**Scleroblitum atriplicinum*, first WA record of this alien plant in WA, though previously known from eastern Australia - Ravensthorpe Regional Herbarium

Verna Costello of CALM News was very busy so we look forward to an article in the next edition.

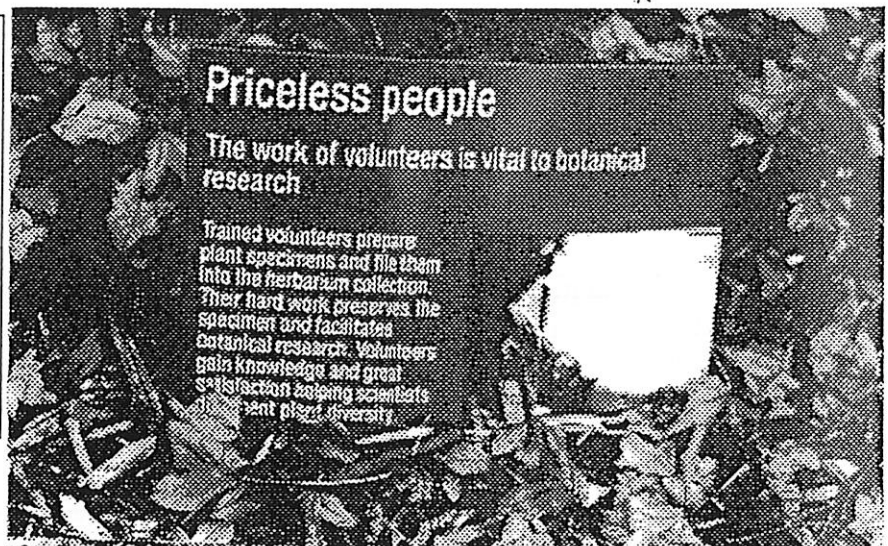
Jan Gathe

New Herbaria

Since "The Plant Press" Vol. 7 came out, we have received first boxes from Beverley, Cape Naturaliste and Tambellup, as well as many boxes from established herbaria.

A great effort, congratulations!

Notice in the grounds of Melbourne Herbarium. Photo, Gillian Smith



Slime Moulds

For all those folk in the Regional Herbaria who find the wetter months a bit "slow" for collecting, how about a nice little sideline.

The Myxomycetes, or slime moulds, are very poorly represented in the Perth Herbarium and we could do with a helping hand. They are mostly very tiny - 1-5 mm tall. You can spot them once you get your eye in - they can be red, yellow, white, gold, black or brown. A hand lens will help you to see the intricate shapes they can form. They can have a stem with a top that is a cylinder, sphere, net-like, smooth or rough, or may be attached directly to the substrate, which can be leaf litter, compost, bark, grass. Look for them after it has rained. In the fruiting stage they are not slimy, so don't be put off. And they may occur from deserts to the snowline!

Anyone interested in finding out more about them contact the Herbarium and we will fill you in.

Margaret Brims
Perth Herbarium Volunteer

Flora Image Database

As you can see from the list below, we are now moving into the Papilionaceae and would be grateful for any slides or prints you care to lend us.

SLIDES SOUGHT

Bossiaea except *B. eriocarpa*
Brachysema
Crotalaria
Desmodium
Dillwynia
Eutaxia
Gastrolobium
Glycine
Indigofera
Jacksonia
Latrobea except *L. diosmifolia*
Oxylobium
Phyllota
Psoralea
Pultenaea except *P. pauciflora*
Rhynchosia
Sesbania
Sphaerolobium except *S. medium*
Swainsona except *S. canescens*, *S. formosa*,
S. pterostylis
Templetonia except *T. retusa*
Tephrosia

While they are here we keep them locked away. As soon as the slides and prints are scanned they are all returned to you.

If you are especially interested in a genus (or genera) we are able to supply you with a list of images we wish to have for FloraBase.

Kath Napier

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We Need Operating Funds

do the collecting and identification then we need to request \$25 per specimen from an external grant. This sounds a high figure but not in comparison with the value of accumulated knowledge.

Costs of materials, incorporating specimens into your regional herbarium and maintaining them need also to be considered for grant applications.

Neville Marchant

STOP PRESS: York Workshops:
River Conservation Society
 Sat 29 July 10.00am-3.30pm
York Gum: Malcolm French
 Sat 26 August 10.00am-3.30pm
Grasstrees & Kingia: Dr Bill Loneragan
 (Tentative) Sun 3 Sep
Weeds in Bushland: Dr Neville Marchant
 More info.: Dr Cicely Howell 9641 1842

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Notable Collections

P2 taxon, the latter P1), *Malleostemon* sp. Erangy Springs (another P1 taxon known only from two other collections) as well as *Baeckea* sp. Walkaway, a relatively well-collected P3.

Robyn Soullier has made a number of interesting botanical finds on her property near Yandanooka. Notable among these are two more taxa of small-flowered myrtles, one of which is certainly new and the phrase name *Scholtzia* sp. Yandanooka has already been assigned. The other is a *Baeckea* from the difficult *B. grandiflora* complex. Although the latter is probably distinct, Malcolm Trudgen felt that to be sure he would need to spend time looking closely again at the group as a whole.

The last of these notable myrtle collections was made by one of our newer recruits to the regional Herbaria network, Joan Flint of the Woollocutty district, NE of Hyden. This is another relatively undercollected part of the state and among Joan's first collections was an unfamiliar 'STABM'. What was particularly unusual about this one was that staminodes were present in the flowers as well as fully-functioning stamens. This is a characteristic of the unilocular genera *Chamaelaucium*, *Darwinia* and *Verticordia* and should not occur in multilocular *Baeckea*! Malcolm recognised the specimen as belonging to a taxon that not surprisingly didn't well fit into any of the current generic concepts. It also reminded him that this taxon hadn't yet been added to the WA Plant Census and so it became *Baeckea* sp. Merredin and Joan's became only the seventh collection of this anomalous plant.

Mike Hislop



Regional Herbaria Contact List

To assist you in contacting your liaison person in Perth and your neighbouring regional herbaria, we have included for regional herbaria a 4-page contact list with this issue of 'The Plant Press'.

A liaison person is not listed for some regional herbaria in CALM offices and those which have not recently been active.

Please check the information for your regional herbarium and let us know if anything needs to be updated.

Liaison People

To assist you in contacting your liaison person, here is a list of them and the days they are in the Herbarium.

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Pat Angel | Tue am, pm |
| Bill Coad | Mon/Tue/Wed am, pm |
| Peter Davies | Tue am, pm |
| Vere Fairbairn | Wed am |
| Jonica Foss | Wed am, pm |
| Carolyn Garavanta | Fri am, pm |
| Patricia Gurry | Wed am, pm |
| Maureen Hart | Tue am |
| Chris Hollister | Thu am, pm |
| Jean Hooper | Tue am, pm |
| Yvonne Hutton | Wed |
| Kim Macey | Fri am, pm |
| Frank Mansfield | Fri am |
| Jeanette Newman | Thur am, pm |
| Gwynneth Oxnam | Wed am |
| Thelma Palmer | Tue/Thu am, pm |
| Rae Papenfus | Thu am, pm |
| Joyce Pitfield | Wed am, pm |
| Bruce Robinson | Wed |
| Gillian Smith | Thur am, pm |
| Kim Spence | Fri am |
| Gwen Watson | alt. Fri |

Mike Hislop Mon—Fri
Margaret Lewington Mon/Tue/Thu

ph. 9334 0587, fax 9334 0515,
email margl@calm.wa.gov.au

Locality details

Now that quite a few groups have access to GPS units, it is important to remember that we do need full locality details as well as lat/longs. GPS units have a certain inbuilt inaccuracy (thanks to the US military, who run the system) and do need to be calibrated correctly to produce reliable lat/long information. Calibration is usually done when GPS units are initially sold.

If we have good locality details as well, we can verify the lat/long data. In a couple of cases, the locality details and lat/long did not match up, but we were able to find the problem by looking on a map — if no details are given, there is no way of checking. The sort of details we need are those that can be found on a map, e.g. Road verge east side of Smith Road 200 m north of junction with Brown Road. On a property away from roads, this can be more difficult, but a mud map can often be a help if you relate it to roads and give distances.

KNOW YOUR FUNGI

Katie Syme

will be holding fungi workshops at

Merredin 8th-9th July

Narrogin 21st July

Fungal expert and artist, Katie is co-author of the book "Fungi of Southern Australia". The workshops will consist of a talk with slides, an identification session and a field trip.

For Merredin contact:

Heather Adamson, ph 9041 2488 - fax 9041 2454 - email heathera@calm.wa.gov.au

For Narrogin contact:

Avril Baxter, ph 9881 9218 - fax 9881 3297 - email avrilb@calm.wa.gov.au

Organised by
Community Herbarium Programme
Fungimap
Land for Wildlife

Flora Information Systems and Regional Herbaria

The first workshop for the year 2000 took place from 4-7 April and involved the Kojonup, Albany and Busselton Regional Herbaria. The aim was to show participants how the various regional herbaria and the CALM Perth Herbarium can work together to both collect and provide flora information to the many people in landcare, rehabilitation, etc. in their district.

The Perth contingent included 7 botanists, led by Dr Neville Marchant, Director, CALM Herbarium, and 5 Perth members of the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project.

The response from the country was really encouraging with 25 participants at Kojonup, 41 at Albany and 31 at Busselton. Topics that were discussed and illustrated included:

- * Community Regional Herbaria
- * the need for plant vouchers
- * FloraBase
- * MAX - computerising plant records
- * The potential future use of electronic information systems being developed by the CALM Herbarium

The CALM Herbarium sees the Community Regional Herbaria Volunteer Project playing a most significant role in both the collection of flora information and the dissemination of this information to those people in the country who are working towards a healthy, sustainable environment.

Jan Gathe

Correct mailing address

When sending items to us, please add to the address:

- a) one of our names or
- b) 'Regional Herbaria Program' or
- c) 'Plant Identification Unit'

so it will come straight to us.

WA Herbarium, Locked Bag 104,
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

WHICH COLLECTOR WAS THAT?

We can look up a plant in Florabase and find its description, where it occurs and perhaps a picture, but what do we know about the person who collected it, and does it matter?. Some recent experiences caused me to ponder this question.

Case One While on holiday in England in 1998 I saw in Norwich Museum a collection of herbarium specimens gathered from around the world including many from Australia, mostly Victoria but a few from WA and Queensland. They had been presented to the museum by a Miss A. M. Barnard. The Australian specimens were collected between 1852 and 1886 and many had been identified by von Mueller. Their collectors were F.W. Barnard and F.G.A. Barnard. Fortunately there was a handwritten catalogue of the collection, and the curator very kindly photocopied this for me.

On holiday again this year, but in Melbourne, I decided to investigate the Barnards at the Herbarium Library. I showed the catalogue to the librarian to check whether they had any record of the collection.

Previous enquiries of Herbarium staff had indicated that the backlog of specimens on site was more than enough for limited resources to deal with, but I felt it would be useful for at least a record of the English collection to be held. Biography files in the library revealed that F.G.A. Barnard (1857-1932) was, together with his father, a foundation member of the Victorian Field Naturalists Club. Perhaps F.W. Barnard was his father, as his were the earlier collections, but where did Miss A.M. Barnard fit into the family? I know I could find answers to these questions, but I had limited time in Melbourne (and Norwich). For the time being I was happy that a copy of the title page of my catalogue was placed in the Barnard biography file.

"Why would biographical information on collectors be of use? Recently I had good reason to wish it were available."

Case Two During the holiday mentioned above I was staying with friends in Melbourne who are members of the Field Naturalists Club and, as a result of this connection, I was introduced to Dr Tom May, mycologist at the Herbarium. After a quick tour of the Herbarium, I attended a talk he was giving to the Botanical Illustrators Support Group, which is part of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens. To emphasise the importance of illustration in fungal identification Tom began his talk by describing the detective work which had been necessary to identify some historical specimens. The dried specimens were unidentifiable but were eventually matched with numbered sketches in a notebook. The difficulty was that both the collector and artist were a Miss M. Wehl, known to be a niece of von Mueller, but several of his nieces were Miss M. Wehl and it was important to know whether the drawings were linked with the specimens.

Case Three You may well say that such mysteries would not bother us these days when more complete collecting information is recorded and locations accurately described (not just "Swan River Colony" or "Gippsland"). Why would biographical information on collectors be of use? Recently I had good reason to wish it were available. Serena Marner, a friend of mine who is manager of the Sherardian collection at Oxford, asked if I could find out information on a Miss Payne who, in 1941, had collected plants in WA which are now in the Oxford collection. I started by looking in Florabase for collectors called Payne. After all, botanical madness could run in families, and there might be a connection with a modern collector, even if Miss Payne gave nothing to the WA herbarium which she apparently had not. It was then that I realised that an initial and surname were not enough to tell me the sex of the collector, a fairly basic bit of genealogical information.

A database of collectors? What do you think?

Gillian Smith, PIU Volunteer

ABN and GST

The introduction of the ABN and GST on 1 July 2000 has implications for the Regional Herbaria Project. Essentially, it would be preferable for all herbaria to obtain an ABN, especially if they apply for grants. Whether they need or choose to have GST will depend on their expected turnover of funds and whether they would like to claim back GST on their inputs regardless of their turnover. Some Regional Herbaria may come under another non-profit organisation such as an LCDC. If this is the case, they will need to decide whether they would like to be a separate entity and do all their own accounting/reporting or whether they would be happy to become part of the larger entity, allowing them to apply for grants and manage finances etc.

If you are registered for GST, then GST is payable on any grants you receive and you claim input tax credits on purchases. If you are not registered for GST, then GST is not payable on the grant and the grantor is not entitled to input tax credits. You will pay 10% GST on purchases as an end user. See page 28 of the 'Charitable, Religious and Non-profit Organisations' booklet which has been enclosed.

I have gone through the application form and have checked the following questions with the ATO:

- ⇒ 10 & 11 the answer is 'NO';
- ⇒ 12 the answer is 'Yes'.
- ⇒ 20 the answer is 'of other circumstances' (the last box) and the details only need to be 'need to apply'.
- ⇒ 31 the answer is 'Agriculture'.
- ⇒ 32 You can put whatever you like - 'collecting and identifying local flora specimens for research and education' as an example.
- ⇒ The Public Officer and Associated individuals can include president, secretary, treasurer, etc.

Agriculture WA and the ATO have set up a toll-free GST Information Line specifically for farmers, landcare groups etc. It operates Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm and they are happy for you to use this service for any queries. The number is: 1800 198 231.

Agriculture WA and ATO are also planning a series of workshops (no charge) in the next few weeks which you would be welcome to attend. The dates are not to hand yet, please contact us if you would like to know.

GST Workshops for Landcare Groups.

Dates and Venues:

| Date | Time | Town | Venue |
|--------|------|------------|--|
| 13 Jun | 7pm | Midland | Midland Town Hall, Great Eastern Hwy, Midland |
| 15 Jun | 10am | Kalgoorlie | AgWA, Wilson Street, Kalgoorlie |
| 19 Jun | 7pm | Perth Swan | Catchment Centre, 108 Adelaide Tce, East Perth |
| 22 Jun | 10am | Carnarvon | TBA |
| 26 Jun | 10am | Karratha | TBA |
| 28 Jun | 9am | Merredin | AgWA, Great Eastern Hwy, Merredin |
| 29 Jun | 10am | Moora | TBA |

What will the Workshops cover?

- * the Workshops are being run by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), and are designed specifically for landcare and catchment groups.
- * ATO will be sending two field staff that have special knowledge of the non profit/landcare area.
- * ATO has been provided with a detailed list of "frequently asked questions" that landcare and catchment groups have about the GST
- * ATO has also been asked to run through some real life "case studies" to assist in explaining how the GST will work
- * details of the new grants ruling from the ATO (from mid-May).

Who should attend?

The following people should try and attend:

- * CLCs, project officers etc
- * members of non-profit landcare, catchment or other environment groups
- * staff of government agencies working with landcare groups
- * members of LCDCs

More info?

If you need any further information, let me know.

Jean-Pierre Clement
 Policy Officer
 SRD Program; Policy & Legislation Group
 Agriculture Western Australia
 PO Box 483, Northam WA 6401
 Ph: (08) 9690 2197
 Fax: (08) 9622 2147