

## Carnivorous plants provide funds

By Tammy Pinkerton

A dedicated team at UWA's School of Plant Biology in Kings Park has come up with a new way to help fund the expansion of a living collection of carnivorous plant specimens for educational and display purposes.

In late 2012, Dr Shane Turner proposed a collaboration of research scientists and volunteers from the Friends of Kings Park propagate and sell potted carnivorous plants to home gardeners. The proposal was embraced with enthusiasm by a loyal team of volunteers known as the Orchid Carers.

On the eve of celebrating 10 years' work on the conservation of rare WA orchids, the group embarked on this new challenge of propagating and growing carnivorous specimens. Now known as the Orchid and Carnivorous Plant Group, volunteer Lyn Rowland explained that the new project has worked in well with their annual program propagating and maintaining the orchids.

The Friends of Kings Park now have two species of carnivorous plants available to the public: *Drosera binata*, a hardy insectivore that the Friends had been using for years in their glasshouse to snare insect pests such as fungus gnats and other small bugs. The pygmy drosera is a daintier and more ornamental predator, however both put on a striking display of flowers.

The relationship of science working together with the community, Dr Adam Cross explains, is a mutually beneficial cycle. The plants grown and sold help raise funds for projects such as the field trips, lab work and the living collection of the research team. This in turn helps the science team and volunteers develop a range of these intriguing plants for the public.

**Contact:** Tammy Pinkerton, King Park. 9480 3679 or [email](#).

## Feral bees in bushland reserves *By Una Bell*

One problem that has not received much attention is the increase of feral bees in bushland reserves. Apart from taking food resources from native birds and animals, the bees are using nesting hollows for hives.

Black Cockatoo Reserve in Mundaring has seen an alarming increase in feral bees. In 2004 there were only six hives, but in April 2015, the number had risen to 36, and this was despite attempts to control the bees. Funding of \$5500 was successfully sought from SALP (2015) for BEE-GONE: Restoring Fauna Habitat in the Bugle Tree Gully Catchment. In order to gain a better understanding of the problem, and also to find a sustainable solution, UWA bee researchers have become involved in the project. We need to find the best method to control and manage bees, including those in backyard bee hives and manage bushland reserves.

So far, the Friends group, Green Army, and the Shire of Mundaring Bushcare Team have been involved.

At the moment we don't have all the answers, but we're working on it.

**Contact:** Friends of Black Cockatoo Reserve. 9295 1668.



*Nesting hollow with feral bees, Bugle Tree Gully Park, Mundaring. Photo – Una Bell.*

## Rallying together for Ruabon-Tutunup

By South West Catchments Council

The Ruabon-Tutunup Rail Reserve is one of only two remaining intact vegetation linkages that cross the Swan Coastal Plain, from the scarp to the coast. The linkage provides important habitat and contains several occurrences of threatened ecological communities and threatened flora.

The South West Catchments Council (SWCC), Shire of Busselton and Parks and Wildlife staff have been working with adjacent landholders to protect and enhance the conservation values of the reserve since 2011. Over the past year, weed control, revegetation, pest animal control, dieback control and fire management activities have been undertaken.

In response to community requests to reduce fuel loads in the reserve, a fire management committee was established and prescribed burns were conducted in June 2015. It is hoped that natural regeneration will now follow and that species that have reduced in population size or are now uncommon in the reserve may germinate, increasing species. In the next three years, weed control in the reserve will have a particular focus on the areas that were burnt this year.

This project is supported by the SWCC, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

**Contact:** Sarah Molloy, SWCC. 9781 3112 or [email](#).