



# DIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2000

## Welcome to *Diversity*

*Diversity* is the newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team. This team coordinates implementation of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Management Program (MDTFMP) and a variety of Interim Recovery Plans. The Management Program is jointly funded by the Natural Heritage Trust and CALM.

Issued four times per year, this newsletter will provide information to community groups, Shires, Recovery Team members, Threatened Flora & other Volunteers, other organisations and departments involved in the program, as well as the general public.

## RECOVERING THE WESTERN CYPHANTHERA

Anne Cochrane (Manager of the Threatened Flora Seed Centre) & Dr. Colin Yates (population ecologist CALM Science) undertook research in May 1999 on the soil seed bank and the disturbance response of the Western *Cyphanthera*, *Cyphanthera odgersii* subsp. *occidentalis* (pictured right).

The taxon is extremely rare with only one single remaining wild population. Because there was a lack of natural recruitment, a trial burn at Cowcowing was carried out to determine the effect of fire on population dynamics.

The trial proved successful with many seedlings germinating as a result, showing the *Cyphanthera* is killed by fire but is capable of regenerating from seed. This finding brings us a step closer to understanding the ecology and biology of one of WA's rarest species.

## MERRALL'S TRIGGERPLANT – NEW POPULATION DISCOVERED

During a Remnant Vegetation Course held on a private Land For Wildlife property south of Doodlakine in early March this year, Heather Adamson discovered a new population of Merrall's triggerplant, *Stylidium merrallii*.

This triggerplant has pinkish purple flowers with white throats on top of long glandular stems. Ranked as Vulnerable it is usually associated with granite outcrop aprons, but until now has never been recorded this far south.



## What's Flowering Where?

### JUNE

- ❖ *Acacia lobulata* (CR) Chiddarcooping
- ❖ *Verticordia staminosa* subsp. *staminosa* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Boronia adamsiana* (VU) Mukinbudin
- ❖ *Drummondita wilsonii* (P1) Parker Range
- ❖ *Daviesia debilior* subsp. *sinuans* (P3) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Leucopogon amplexens* (P2) Tammin, North of Kellerberrin
- ❖ *Grevillea nana* subsp. *abbreviata* (P2) Wubin, Dowerin
- ❖ *Acacia cochlocarpa* subsp. *velutinosa* (P1) Manmanning

### JULY

- ❖ *Acacia vassalii* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp. *magna* (CR) S Cunderdin
- ❖ *Acacia volubilis* (CR) Cunderdin
- ❖ *Acacia botrydion* (P1) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia ascendens* (P2) Chiddarcooping

### AUGUST

- ❖ *Philothea basistyla* (CR) Trayning
- ❖ *Conostylis albescens* (P2) Booraan
- ❖ *Melaleuca sciotostyla* (E) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Trymalium densiflorum* (P1) Trayning
- ❖ *Tetratheca deltoidea* (CR) Mt Caroline
- ❖ *Acacia subflexuosa* subsp. *capillata* (CR) S Cunderdin

There are lots more species flowering at this time of year. For further info on these and other species, please contact the Merredin District office.

# Grevillea pythara habitat rehabilitation

In 1998 a BankWest Landscape Conservation Visa Card Grant was gained to rehabilitate the only known population of *Grevillea pythara*. This low spreading shrub is Critically Endangered and occurs on a strip of degraded roadside near the town of Pithara. Under the grant its habitat will be revegetated using seed collected from nearby plants that are now being propagated by Mary Squire.

This action will directly benefit by stabilizing its habitat through improving soil structure, reducing the effects of agricultural practices and weed invasion. The population has already been fenced, the next stages involve weed control, planting out of seedlings and installing tree guards.

Community involvement will play a major role with local volunteers involved in collecting seed, planting seedlings and ongoing monitoring. If you would like to become involved please contact Karen at CALM's Merredin office on (08) 9041 2488.

## SURVEYS IN THE WONGAN HILLS

CALM's Merredin office applied for NHT funding to undertake widescale surveys of threatened flora in the Wongan Hills in late June and Spring 2000. The Wongan Hills is a very rich and important part of Western Australia's flora and little is known of the diversity and rarity of species in this area. The project involves surveys of many rare flora species in the hills by volunteers, collation of the data and publication of the findings to assist the MDTFMP.

The Toodyay Naturalists Club will be closely involved, and anyone else is most welcome to register their interest. Further information can be obtained from Mike at CALM's Merredin office on (08) 9041 2488.

♣ **You can ring Mike at CALM Merredin to register your interest in surveys for Spring 2000.**

## HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER?

You can become a CALM Volunteer and help survey and protect rare flora by contacting CALM's Merredin office to obtain a Registration Form on (08) 9041 2488.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

The local community plays a key role in the MDTFMP. Success and continued funding of the MDTFMP depends on how involved the community is. You can help CALM to demonstrate the success of the MDTFMP by regularly sending in a rare flora report form, a record of the numbers of hours spent surveying or helping to manage threatened flora.

### RARE FLORA REPORT FORMS

These forms provide vital updates on how existing populations of threatened plants are going and where new populations occur.

**Over the last 3 months only 2 RFRF's were received for 2 species.**

Please make some of your valuable time available to complete and send in your RFRF's. These forms can be obtained from the CALM office at Merredin.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

If you would like to set-up or be involved in a local community group to help CALM's threatened flora recovery team, please contact a local flora volunteer in your area or CALM's Merredin office for further details.

#### Some Local Flora Volunteer Contacts

|               |            |          |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| Mary Squire   | Mukinbudin | 90471140 |
| Robert Boase  | Dowerin    | 96341047 |
| Donna Canci   | Cunderdin  | 96351040 |
| Hazel King    | Beacon     | 96864041 |
| Elaine Hudson | Kalannie   | 96671021 |

## Conservation Codes Explained

There is often confusion about the codes used to describe Declared Rare Flora (DRF) and Priority Flora. DRF includes taxa which is deemed to be either rare, in danger of extinction or in need of special protection and have been gazetted as such. DRF has 3 further divisions based on the likelihood of taxa becoming extinct:

- **Critically Endangered (CR)**
- **Endangered (EN)**
- **Vulnerable (VU)**

Another category of DRF is **Presumed Extinct Taxa (X)**. These have not been collected or verified over the past 50 years despite thorough searching.

A large number of other taxa are listed as priority flora. These are poorly known and are potentially rare or threatened but can't be classed as such until adequate survey is carried out. There are 4 sub-divisions of these:

- **Priority One (P1)** - known from less than 5 populations which are under threat, are under consideration for DRF, but urgently require further survey
- **Priority Two (P2)** - also known from less than 5 populations, at least some of which do not appear to be under immediate threat, but need urgent further survey
- **Priority Three (P3)** - known from several populations, at least some of which are not under immediate threat, but need further survey
- **Priority Four (P4)** - considered to have been adequately surveyed, while rare are not currently threatened, require monitoring every 5-10 years.

### DIVERSITY

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**News, stories, snippets of information and other contributions are most welcome to this**