



DIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team

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Spring 2000

Welcome to *Diversity*

Diversity is the newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team. This team coordinates the 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.



Pythara Grevillea Habitat Rehabilitation Underway

With a BankWest Landscape Conservation Visa Card Grant and the help of local volunteers, rehabilitating the only known population of *Grevillea pythara* is well underway.

This recently discovered *Grevillea* is Critically Endangered and only occurs on a narrow weed-infested road verge near Pithara. The species derives its name from a nearby farm, hence the spelling Pythara.

In August, Conservation Officer Karen Bettink and local volunteers Colin Warnes, Gary Butcher, Margaret Bather and Bill Carter installed tree guards and planted seedlings propagated from local species. The population was also controlled for weeds and has been fenced.

CALM is continuing to monitor the species, research its biology, and undertake further surveys for new populations jointly with local volunteers. These actions will help ensure the long-term preservation of Pithara Grevillea in the wild.

GASTROLOBIUM DIABLOPHYLLUM-A REAL PRIORITY

Gastrolobium diablophyllum (pictured above right) is one of the rarest and poorly known or collected species of native poison plants.

It has been collected from two sites, but is currently only known from one vulnerable population near Dulyabin in the Shire of Yilgarn, where it can be found in heath with scattered mallee. The species is a small shrub to 80cm high featuring distinctly shaped leaves and yellow and red flowers during September.

The unusual *Gastrolobium* was first collected in 1982 and was added to CALM's "Priority One" flora list in 1999. Species on this list are in urgent need of further survey to determine their true conservation status in the wild.

CALM is therefore undertaking monitoring and surveys for new populations, which may see its status change from Priority One to Declared Rare Flora in the near future.

What's Flowering Where?

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ *Tetradlea deltoidea* (CR) Mt Caroline
- ❖ *Acacia sciophanes* (CR) Mukinbudin
- ❖ *Acacia semicircularis* (V) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia denticulosa* (V) Beacon-Mt Churchman
- ❖ *Acacia dura* (P2) WHills, Elphin
- ❖ *Cyphanthera odgersii* subsp. *occidentalis* (CR) Cowcowing
- ❖ *Acacia pharangites* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Gastrolobium hamulosum* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia congesta* subsp. *wonganensis* (P2) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Eremophila viscida* (CR) Westonia
- ❖ *Gastrolobium glaucum* (E) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Philothea wonganensis* (CR) S of Trayning
- ❖ *Philothea basistyla* (CR) Trayning

OCTOBER

- ❖ *Rhagodia acicularis* (V) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Microcorys eremophiloides* (V) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Grevillea dryandroides* subsp. *dryandroides* (CR) Ballidu
- ❖ *Eremophila resinosa* (CR) Yellowdine, Wyal.
- ❖ *Acacia botrydion* (P1) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia ascendens* (P2) Chiddarcooping
- ❖ *Eremophila ternifolia* (E) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Roycea pycnophylloides* (CR) Meckering

NOVEMBER

- ❖ *Hemigenia viscida* (E) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Daviesia spiralis* (V) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Gyrostemon reticulatus* (X) Wubin, Kalannie

There are lots more species flowering particularly during September and October. For further info on these and other species, please contact the Merredin District office.

SURVEYS IN THE WONGAN HILLS

Earlier this year CALM's Merredin District Office applied for NHT funding to develop a recovery plan for the Threatened and Priority flora endemic to the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu.

The Shire contains a unique concentration of rare, threatened and poorly known flora species that amount to nearly 40% of the Merredin District's total. The most important areas within the Shire for flora conservation include:

- Cadoux-Manmanning. *Eucalyptus recta* is a mallet known only from a few prominent laterite hills associated with the Cadoux Fault line and, with a height of 10 metres, is the largest species covered by the Wongan-Ballidu project.
- The Ballidu area. *Grevillea dryandroides* subsp. *dryandroides* is known only from a few road and rail verges near the town, and is currently classified as critically endangered. *Dampiera glabrescens*, a Priority 1 species, is also restricted to the Ballidu area, where it is currently known from only one population occupying road and rail verges.
- The Wongan Hills. These contain the greatest concentration of threatened species in the Shire. 10 Threatened taxa and 8 Priority taxa are endemic to the Hills, or to the sandplain on their eastern side.

Three major surveys have been undertaken jointly by CALM and the Toodyay Naturalists' Club over the last year. A number of new and substantial populations have been discovered for Threatened species such as *Acacia pygmaea*, *Acacia semicircularis*, *Acacia vassalii* and *Microcorys eremophiloides*. However, a small number of species including *Acacia pharangites* (Critically Endangered) and *Lysiosepalum abollatum* ms (Priority 1) are still known from very small populations despite extensive surveys.

CALM will be working with the Toodyay Naturalists' Club on a number of other joint surveys in the coming year. If you would like to join in these surveys, please call Project Officer



Toodyay Naturalists' Club members and CALM staff at a recent

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR SPRING SURVEYS?

You can become a CALM Volunteer and help survey and protect rare flora by contacting CALM's Merredin for more information on (08) 9041 2488.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

The local community plays a key role in the MDTFMT. Success and continued funding of the MDTFMT depends on how involved the community is. You can help CALM to demonstrate the success of the MDTFMT 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. 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

RARE FLORA GARDENS UPDATE

Rare Flora gardens are not your average garden, they contain unique, interesting and often endemic varieties of plants. They are also an important way of showcasing the Wheatbelt's diverse flora for everyone to admire.

In September with the help of Tidy Towns volunteers and the local Shire a busy bee day was held to improve the Wongan Hills Rare Flora Garden. Nine new plants propagated by Kings Park nursery were added, and everyone lent a hand for weeding, pruning and mulching.

There are other Rare Flora gardens at Wyalkatchem and Beacon in the recently completed Beacon Botanical Park. CALM Merredin is also working with Cunderdin District High School to establish a similar garden for students,

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Edited by Karen Bettink & Paul Roberts, CALM Merredin.
PO Box 332 Merredin WA 6415.
Phone: (08) 9014 2488
Fax: (08) 9041 2545
E-mail: karenb@calm.wa.gov.au

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