



Diversity

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team

Volume 1, Issue 5

Spring 2003

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 Department of Conservation and Land Management (DCLM).

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.

New population of Large-fruited Tammin Wattle

Large-fruited Tammin Wattle (*Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp *magna*) is a ground hugging, sprawling, leafless shrub, up to 30cm high and 50cm across. This wattle is distinguished by its large flowers seen between May and July.

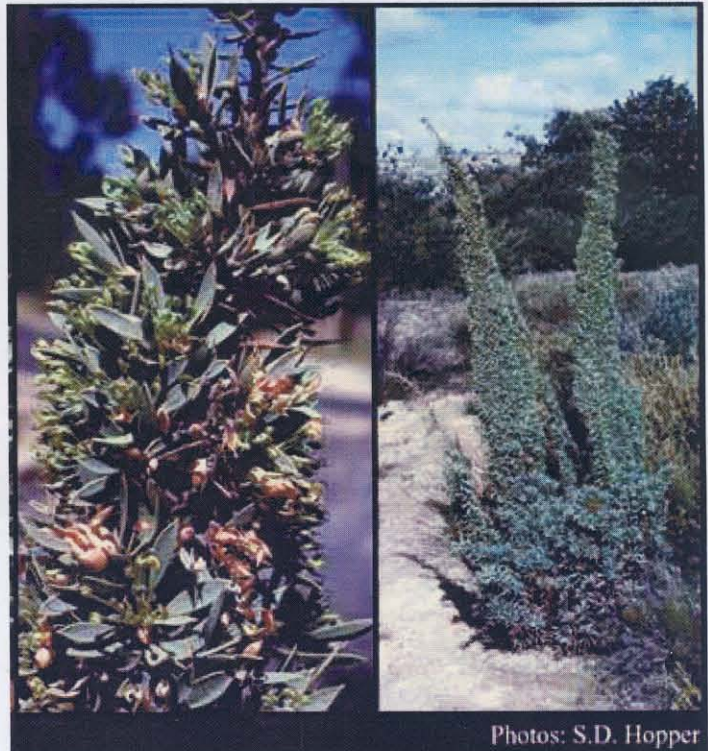
The wattle is restricted to a small area south of Tammin and Cunderdin and appears to be a geographically restricted disturbance opportunist, with very specific habitat. Many of the known populations are restricted to roadsides.

Recently a new population of the Critically Endangered Large-fruited Tammin Wattle was located on private property as a part of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Programs surveying and searching project. The population consisted of 7 healthy plants. The survey also located a new population of the Endangered Column Hakea (*Hakea aculeata*)

Column Hakea is a slow growing shrub that can reach up to 3m tall, with several upright stems growing from the base. The leaves end in a needle-like point. It has a yellow, strongly scented flower that can be seen between September and October.



Above: *Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp *magna* – Kate Brunt
Right: *Hakea aculeata* – FloraBase



Photos: S.D. Hopper

Ballidu volunteers lend a hand for conservation.

Kate Roy – Chowdhury
(Wongan Ballidu Conservation Officer)

Five enthusiastic volunteers from Ballidu lent a hand for conservation, when they helped plant 80 Critically Endangered Phalanx Grevillea plants into a site near the township.

The Phalanx Grevillea (*Grevillea dryandroides dryandroides*) is only known from 5 populations and there are now less than 100 plants left in the wild.

The CALM's Translocation Project Officer, Leonie Monks explained the purpose and benefits of translocation. "We collect genetic material from existing populations, either seed or cuttings and then propagate these with the help of experts at King's Park. The aim of a translocation is to establish a new population of plants with local genetic variety. A translocation is successful if the plants establish and recruit further seedlings on site."

The plants have been planted into an area of similar soil type and near a natural population of Phalanx Grevillea. The plants growing in the wild are subject to threats such as salinity, road and rail maintenance and weed invasion, which place them at risk of extinction.

Kate Roy-Chowdhury, a conservation officer from CALM Merredin commented, "The site was identified and planted several years ago, but the plants failed to survive the incredibly dry seasons. This year is looking a lot more favourable."

Volunteers Marianne and Geoff Hasson, Pam and Peter Toster and Jenny Lathlain worked together to plant and peg down wire guards around each plant to prevent grazing from kangaroos and rabbits. Each plant was marked with a numbered aluminium tag and the appearance and size of the plants were noted.

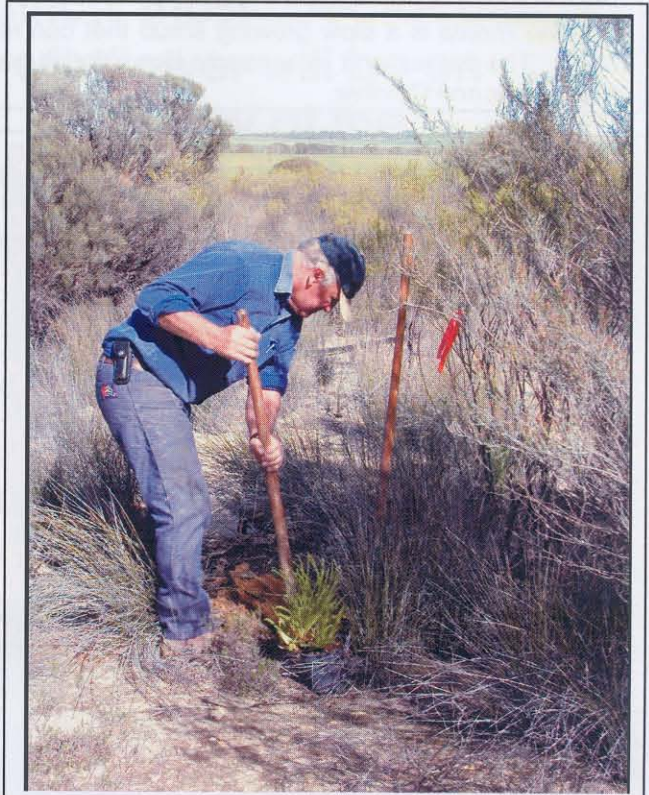
Leonie commented, "These plants will now be monitored every year to see how many have survived and whether they are producing seed and recruiting. Translocation is a relatively new conservation measure to guard against extinction, so we need to monitor sites to find out how successful this technique is and work out ways we can improve it in the future."

CALM would like to thank the volunteers for their enthusiasm and support in this project.



Grevillea dryandroides subsp. *dryandroides*

Photo: A. C



Above Right : Local volunteer Geoff Hasson planting Phalanx Grevillea – Kate Roy- Chowdhury
Above: Phalanx Grevillea – FloraBase

New Grevillea named after Mary Squires

Source: Newsletter of the Land for Wildlife Scheme Vol 7, No.2.

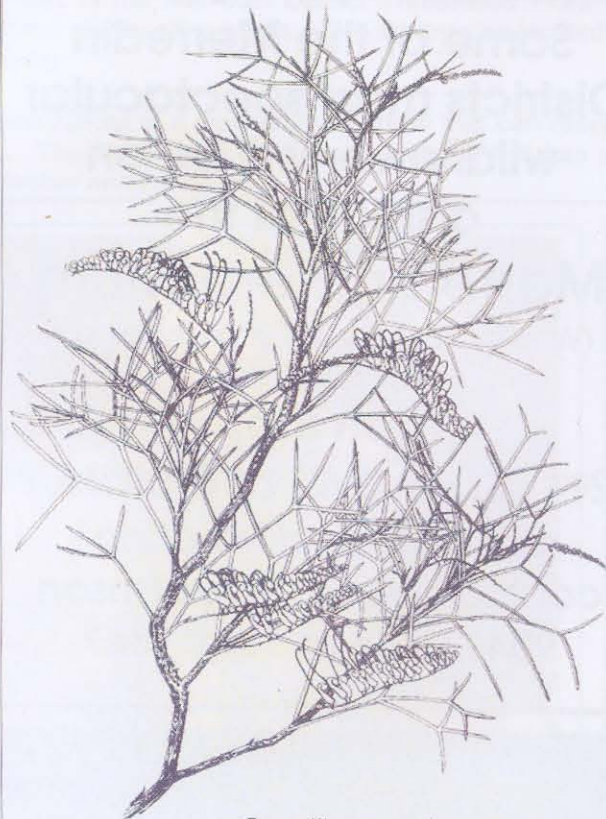
Mary Squires of Mukinbudin and the Merredin District Recovery Team has been honoured with the naming of a newly identified Grevillea. Mary showed the unusual Grevillea to Neil Marriott and Peter Olde and as a result it was named *Grevillea squiresae*.

The Grevillea is a one metre high shrub with pendent red flowers. *Grevillea squiresae* is known from two populations, both near Mukinbudin. It grows in yellow sand in low heath with *Melaleuca*, *Dampiera* and *Baeckea* spp and flowers in the spring time.

Like many of our rarer plants, it is confined to a few populations on road verges.

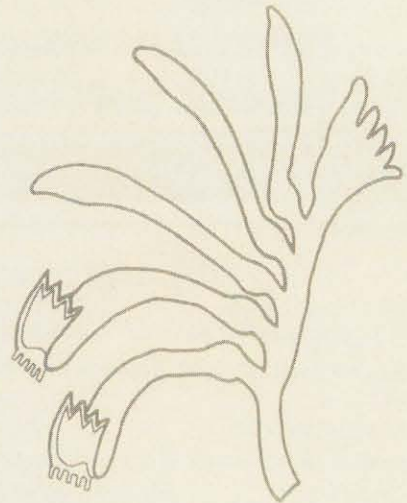
Grevillea squiresae has been ranked as a Priority One under the Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora.

Up coming activities to be undertaken as part of the management of this P1 species will be the erection of DRF markers, the notification to the Shire of its presence on the roadside and further surveying in the surrounding remnant vegetation.



Grevillea squiresae

FLORA ROAD



Flora Roads

Flora Roads are significant sections of road having a special conservation value due to the vegetation growing on the road reserve.

Flora Roads are sign posted so that the areas can be identified, this in turn provides additional protection to the vegetation by ensuring that all road users and road managers are aware of its significance.

A road can be identified as a flora road if it meets some or all of the below values:

1. The roadside must contain significant populations of native vegetation
2. The native vegetation must be in as near to its natural condition as possible
3. The roadside may be the only remaining example of the original vegetation within a cleared area
4. Rare or endangered plants may occur on the roadside.
5. It may provide nest site and refuges for native animals
6. It may act as a wildlife corridor, linking significant patches of remnant vegetation.

If you are aware of a road that could be a potential Flora Road and would like to nominate the road please contact either Kate Brunt at CALM Merredin on 9041 2488 or Kate Jackson at the Roadside Conservation Committee on 9334 0174.

What's Flowering Where? SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

❖ <i>Hemigenia viscida</i> (E)	Wongan Hills
❖ <i>Daviesia spiralis</i> (V)	Wongan Hills
❖ <i>Gyrostemon reticulatus</i> (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.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR SPRING SURVEYS?

You can become a CALM volunteer and help survey and protect rare flora by contacting CALM Merredin for further information on (08) 9041 2488.

Rare Flora Forms

Rare Flora Forms provides vital updates on how existing populations of threatened plants are going and where new populations occur. The local community plays a large role in providing CALM with updates on populations and the location of new populations. CALM encourages as many people as possible to become involved in monitoring threatened plants.

Rare Flora Forms can be obtained from the CALM Merredin Office.

The Merredin Wildflower Society

Presents

Merredin Regional Wildflower Display

Some of the Merredin
Districts most spectacular
wildflower will be on
display at the

Merredin Herbarium

(West end of the Westrail Building -
Barrack Street)

on the

2nd, 3rd and 4th of October

For further information
contact: Heather Adamson
9041 2488 or 9041 1347

DRF activities in the Merredin District over spring:

- Weed control on a number of populations
- Fencing of 2 critically endangered flora populations on private property
- Surveying for the CR *Caladenia drakeoides*
- Seed collection from a number of CR populations
- Surveying for *Acacia volubilis*, *Acacia sciophanes* and *Cyphanthera odgersii* subsp. *occidentalis*.
- The completion of 5 Interim Recovery Plans for CR species.

If you would like to be involved in any of the above activities or require further information contact Kate Brunt at the CALM office on 9041 2488.

DIVERSITY

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