



Diversity

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team

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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.

Diversity's Species of the Season: Wyalkatchem Foxglove

Pityrodia scabra (Vulnerable)

This shrub grows to approximately 1 metre tall, it is covered with sticky, branched hairs. Its linear leaves are 5 to 12mm long in whorls of three and flowers between the months of May and November.

The plant was once only known from the Cowcowing area, however in 1997 2 new populations were located east of Beacon and Widgimooltha, however it is possible that the three populations may represent different subspecies. The only plants remaining in the Cowcowing area are on private property and are a result of a translocation, CALM Merredin plans to carry out disturbance trials in the future in an effort to encourage regeneration.



Pityrodia scabra

Photos: S.D.Hopper, A.P.Brown & K.Dixon

New population of Drummond's frankenia

Up until 1998 Drummonds frankenia (*frankenian parvula*) had only been collected once by James Drummond in the Mount Caroline area and was presumed extinct. Recently populations have been located in the Cunderdin area and the Yellowdine area.

Drummonds frankenia is a small shrub with creeping stems, producing numerous short, upright branches and has tiny leaves 1.5 to 3mm long, the flowers on the end of the branches, may be solitary or in heads of 2 or 3.



Frankenia parvula

Photos: K. Bettink

Recently the populations at Cunderdin, located on private property was fenced to protect the plant from grazing by sheep.

WATSCU has made a commitment to surveying and searching for new populations of threatened flora that are effected by salinity. As a result, a botanist, Diana Papenfus was employed to try to find new populations of several critically endangered species, Drummonds frankenia being one of them. In September Diana was successful in locating a new population of *F.parvula* in the Yellowdine area.

We are also hopeful of having located a new population on private property near Mount Caroline (could this have been Drummond's collection site?) - although this has yet to be confirmed. If so, this is a significant find and will improve the status of this species.

The Critically Endangered *Roycea pycnophylloides*, found along the Mortlock River near Cunderdin as well, has also been searched for this year. Diana has been very successful with this species. At least five new locations have been found near Hyden and Mt Caroline.

Recovering Threatened Flora in Merredin District

Vanessa Clarke has recently been appointed on a 10 month contract to implement recovery actions for 9 species of Western Australia's most threatened flora that occur across more than one agricultural region. Four of these species occur within the Merredin region and include the Hinged Dragon Orchid *Caladenia drakeoides*, the Wongan Cactus *Daviesia euphorbioides*, Varnish Bush *Eremophila viscida* and Hook-point Poison *Gastrolobium hamulosum*.

This project has been funded by the National Heritage Trust for recovery actions such as: further survey to try and discover new populations; weed control; monitoring of existing populations; habitat rehabilitation; fencing and translocation trials.

These actions are consistent with the actions listed for the 'Recovery Plans' written by CALM to manage each species. Vanessa will be working with the Merredin Conservation Officer, Kate Brunt, and with Recovery Teams within each district and hopefully with interested locals, "friends of" groups and any other community groups or individuals interested in conserving our State's threatened flora. Vanessa will be based at CALM Woodvale, in Perth but will regularly be travelling the Wheatbelt region. She can be contacted on (08) 9405 5168 or via email

vanessacl@calm.wa.gov.au if anyone is interested in assisting or would like more information.

Below: Vanessa Clarke



Florabase is a website that delivers the latest authoritative information about Western Australian flora in an accessible and interactive manner. Information is presented in a thematic way, so that users focused on particular components of the states flora, such as the conservation taxa or naturalised weeds can readily keep up to date.

Users can also find information by browsing or searching the site to explore their own special interests. Florabase contains information on all the WA's plant families, genera and species as well as the largest database of botanical literature and (for registered users) the collecting details of over 575, 000 vouchered herbarium specimens from across the state.

Florabase2 can provide information and photo's like the following example:

FloraBase²
the Western Australian Flora

Myosporaceae: *Eremophila*
Eremophila pinnatifida Chinnock ms **i** *Eremophila pinnatifida* ms

Conservation Status: **Declared Rare**
Name Status: **Current**

Description:
Shrub, ca 0.6 m high. Fl. purple, Sep. Loam.

Distribution: SW, A/W.

Contributed by H. Coleman on Monday 17 March 1997

Find related books in the Botanical Library

Map by Paul O'Leary, WA Herbarium, Current at August 10, 2002

Eremophila pinnatifida Photos: A.P. Brown & S.J. Patrick

Publication or other use of images or descriptive text on this site is unauthorised unless written permission is obtained from the Western Australian Herbarium, CALM. Appropriate acknowledgement of the Herbarium must always be given. <http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/>

Description text generated using DELTA data format and DELTA software: Calveit (1990) and Calveit, Fains and Zunker (1992) onwards; 1995 onwards; 1990.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN Herbarium DEPARTMENT OF Conservation

<http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au>

Varnish Bush Regeneration Project Results: In the winter edition of "Diversity News" readers were told about a regeneration project for Varnish Bush (*Eremophila viscida*) on private property near Pithara. The site was recently monitored with positive results, 25 seedlings were located in two plots. The plot that under went both the burning and raking treatment responded best with 22 seedlings. There are concerns about the seedlings ability to survive the up coming months, it is anticipated that watering will be required to ensure the seedlings survive the summer.

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Edited by Kate Brunt, CALM Merredin.
PO Box 332 Merredin WA 6415.
Phone: (08) 9014 2488
Fax: (08) 9041 2454
E-mail: kateb@calm.wa.gov.au

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