



DIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora and Communities Recovery Team

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Welcome to Diversity

Diversity is the newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora and Communities Recovery Team. This team coordinates the implementation of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Management Program (MDTFMP) and a variety of Interim Recovery Plans. *Diversity* promotes the involvement of CALM volunteers in participating in rare flora conservation activities in the Merredin District.

Issued three 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.

Wongan Cactus (*Daviesia euphorbioides*) Regeneration Project

A Regeneration Project was undertaken on the 25th May 2005 on a roadside population in the Shire of Dowerin. The objective of the project was to stimulate germination of new seedlings.

A 1998 CALM Science prescribed burn at this site resulted in the emergence of 16 seedlings. It is hoped that this burn will yield similar results.

The area burnt included two dead *Daviesia euphorbioides* plants. The plot was filled with leaf litter and branches to enable enough heat to be generated. After burning the area was sprayed with smoke water. Weed control was also carried out using herbicide to eliminate weed competition.

The site will be regularly monitored for new seedlings as protective fencing will be required to protect the new growth from damage, particularly from parrots. Results will be published in *Diversity*. Thank you to those that participated in the burn project.



Wongan Cactus Burn Project – Photo: Joel Collins

Recovery Meeting at Dowerin Shire

On the 30th May 2005 the Merredin District Threatened Flora and Communities Recovery Team Meeting was held at the Shire of Dowerin with 17 members attending. Following the meeting, a field visit to the property of Robert and Beth Boase of Dowerin provided the unique opportunity to view the natural organic saline seep listed as a threatened ecological community (TEC), and the declared rare flora population *Verticordia hughanii*.

This meeting also provided the opportunity to discuss rare flora management in the Shire of Dowerin with the Recovery Team presenting the Shire with the publication 'Western Australia's Threatened Flora'. It was also announced that each Shire in the Merredin District will receive threatened flora location maps for their office and vehicles to aid in rare flora conservation.



ENVIRONMENTALLY
SIGNIFICANT SITE

What's Flowering Where?

With an early start to the growing season for 2005 many species have begun flowering earlier than usual with ideal conditions prevailing over the Wheatbelt.

LATE MAY/JUNE

- ❖ *Acacia lobulata* (EN) (Chiddarcooping NR)
- ❖ *Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp. *magna* (EN) (Tammin & Cunderdin)
- ❖ *Verticordia staminosa* subsp. *staminosa* (CR) (Wongan Hills)
- ❖ *Boronia adamsiana* (VU) (Mukinbudin & Mount Marshall)
- ❖ *Acacia vassalii* (CR) (Wongan Hills)
- ❖ *Acacia cochlocarpa* subsp. *velutinosa* (CR) (Manmanning)
- ❖ *Tetradlea deltoidea* (CR) (Mt Caroline NR)

JULY

- ❖ *Acacia volubilis* (CR) (Cunderdin)
- ❖ *Acacia botrydion* (P4) (Wongan Hills)
- ❖ *Acacia ascendens* (P2) (Chiddarcooping NR)

AUGUST

- ❖ *Philotheca basistyla* (CR) (Trayning)
- ❖ *Conostylis albescens* (P2) (Merredin)
- ❖ *Melaleuca sciotostyla* (EN) (Wongan Hills)
- ❖ *Trymalium densiflorum* (P1) (Trayning)

New Populations Found!

There have been several recent discoveries of new populations of threatened flora in the Merredin District, highlighting the continual requirement of on-going surveys for threatened flora in the Wheatbelt.

- 1) *Daviesia euphorbioides* (critical): Consisting of 1 young plant this new population occurs in the Shire of Dowerin, and was discovered by a community member who reported it to the Merredin Office.
- 2) *Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp *magna* (endangered): Discovered in the Shire of Goomalling, this population consists of 150 plants and constitutes a significant range extension for the species. This population was discovered after routine monitoring of a priority 3 taxa that also grows on the same road-verge.
- 3) *Acacia volubilis* (critical): Consisting of 3 plants, this new population was located after surveying road reserves in the same area of existing populations.
- 4) *Acacia arcuatilis* (priority 2) new population in the Shire of Dowerin and *Acacia lirellata* subsp. *compressa* (priority 2) in the Shire of Kellerberrin.



Acacia ataxiphylla subsp. *magna* Photo: Joel Collins

Up-coming Rare Flora Recovery Actions for Winter in the Merredin District:

- Weed control on a number of critically endangered populations
- Establishment of the *Daviesia euphorbioides* translocation site at Dowerin
- Monitoring and surveying of DRF and P species
- Recruitment trials
- Rare flora garden plantings

Diversity's Species of the Season:

Daviesia cunderdin

(Critically Endangered)

Daviesia cunderdin is an erect shrub to approximately 1.6 m high with pungent phyllodes (modified leaves) with a mass of red flowers seen in May.

This species is found in the Shire of Cunderdin and is currently known from 1 population consisting of 11 plants. This species has also under-gone a translocation with 19 plants surviving in a near-by remnant bushland on private property, providing an additional population and security for the long-term survival of the species.



Daviesia cunderdin flowering May 2005

Photo: Joel Collins

Wongan-Ballidu Bushcare Group Survey for Phalanx Grevillea at Ballidu

A recent survey for the critically endangered *Grevillea dryandroides* subsp *dryandroides* was carried out in Ballidu with the help of 17 volunteers from the Wongan-Ballidu Bushcare Group followed by a BBQ lunch. The survey concentrated its efforts in bushland at the Ballidu golfcourse. A new sub-population was discovered on the day consisting of 5 plants, a superb result all round.



Wongan-Ballidu Bushland Group Volunteers Photo: Joel Collins

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News, stories, snippets of information and other contributions are most welcome to this newsletter. Interested individuals who would like to volunteer for rare flora conservation work please contact Joel at the CALM Merredin District Office.