



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. The Recovery Team is made up of people who are able to contribute to the recovery of targeted threatened plant taxa.

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*) Translocation.

On the 25th of August 75 *Daviesia euphorbioides* seedlings were planted out at Hind Marsh nature reserve in the Shire of Dowerin. This translocation is the first of its kind for the species and is an important step to help secure the population genetics that make up the western limit of the species distribution.

Two age groups were translocated out with the 1 year old plants already flowering and setting a small amount of seed this summer!

To date the translocated plants have taken well with no deaths recorded. The plants are being reticulated by drippers once a week for 20 minutes through the first summer.

CALM Merredin would like to thank the Shire of Dowerin for carting water to the reticulation tank and to Robert Boase for assisting in the fencing and reticulation set-up.



Wongan Cactus Translocation – Plant measurements taken by Leonie Monke and Gillian Stack – Photo: Joel Collins

Eremophila vernicosa – New Population Discovered

A joint survey in September 2005 involving CALM's Moora District (Gina Broun), Merredin District (Joel Collins) and the Species and Communities Coordinator (Andrew Brown) led to the discovery of 2 new populations of *Eremophila vernicosa* (resinous poverty bush).

The first population was reported by local landholders who noticed the plants growing on a narrow road reserve in the Shire of Coorow. This population consisted of 67 plants some of which being over 1.5 m in height.

The second new discovery happened while carrying-out opportunistic surveys further west in the Shire of Dalwallinu. Remarkably similar habitat was located with a small corner paddock bushland block containing 5 plants and 1 plant found on the Shire road reserve. A further intensive survey of the bushland remnant will no doubt increase the total number of plants in this new population.



Eremophila vernicosa – Photo: Andrew Brown

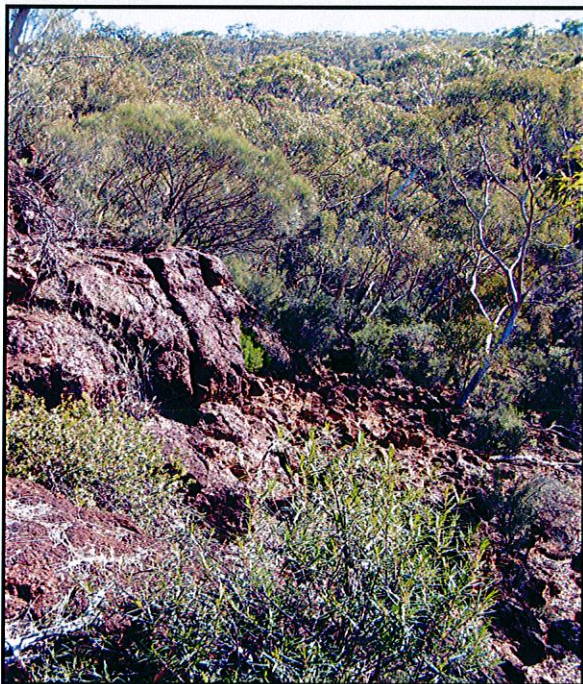


Critical habitat – Mallee over Melaleuca thicket growing on low laterite hills – Photo: Andrew Brown.

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) *Grevillea dryandroides* ssp *hirsuta* (vulnerable): Consisting of 30 plants this new sub-population was occurs at Durokoppin NR in the Shire of Kellerberrin and was discovered by a PHD student working in the reserve.
- 2) *Stylidium merrallii* (vulnerable): Discovered by Heather Adamson in the Billyacatting Hill reserve while carrying out fauna trapping.
- 3) *Daviesia dielsii* (endangered): Consisting of 2 plants this new population was located after surveying Bell road in the Shire of Dalwallinu.
- 4) *Grevillea bracteosa* (endangered) Consisting of 1 plant located on Bell road in Dalwallinu.
- 5) *Acacia pharangites* (critical) Discovered by Ian Smith, a local bushcare community group volunteer, who found the new population in the Wongan Hills NR (Mt Matilda). This population consists of 30 plants and is a very significant find as the only other known population occurs at Mt O-Brien.
- 6) *Microcorys eremophiloides* (vulnerable) Also discovered while surveying for *Acacia pharangites* at the Wongan Hills NR. Consists of 2 plants.
- 7) *Dampiera glabrescens* (Priority 1) Discovered through the Bell road survey in Dalwallinu shire. The species has only been recorded 50km south at Ballidu.



Microcorys eremophiloides (foreground) at Wongan Hills NR – Photo: Joel Collins.

Diversity's Species of the Season:

Stylidium merrallii

(Merralls Triggerplant)

Stylidium merrallii is a rosetted perennial herb with pink or white flowers usually seen in October and November. It grows in sandy loam within the granite outcrop environment.

This species is found in the Central Wheatbelt and is currently known from 5 population recorded on the CALM rare flora database.

Recently a new population was discovered by Heather Adamson (Land for Wildlife) at Billyacatting Hill reserve in the Shire of Trayning with over 1400 plants recorded over 2 sub-populations.



Stylidium merrallii flowering late November – Photo: Joel Collins

Wongan Cactus Regeneration Project Results

In the winter edition of *Diversity* 2005 (Vol. 2 issue 1) readers were informed of the prescribed recruitment burn of *Daviesia euphorbioides* on a roadside population in the Shire of Dowerin in May. To date 25 seedling have established at the site, an ideal result! The young plants have been fenced with on-going weed control carried-out to eliminate competition, particularly from African lovegrass.



Wongan Cactus seedlings – Photo: Joel Collins

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