
DISCOVERING DRF - JACKSONIA VELVETA

by Lyn White



THERE'S always an air of excitement when Val Crowley of Darkan suggests having a look through the bush at Dardadine, the property now owned by my two sons and managed by the younger, Jody. You never know what she might discover!

It was the unusual shape of the leaf which attracted her attention one day in July last year. Val did not recognise it as anything she had seen previously. Between flowering seasons, but with some old flowers still attached, it was obviously a pea and similar to, or possibly the same as the *Jacksonia* in the rare flora book. Only two populations of this are known to exist - one near Collie, the other Woodanilling.

Val needed to see it in flower, and with each visit our excitement increased! It was a long wait however, for they did not appear until late October. Each time, though, we discovered more plants, eventually estimating a dozen adults and a similar number of seedlings.

This same bushland is also host to the Priority Species *Stylidium coatesianum*, *Persoonia sulcata*, *Synaphea flabelliformis* and *Xanthorrhoea brevistyla*. (A photo of Val surveying the *Synaphea* is in the Autumn 2000 edition of "Landscape".) Remnant bush in our agricultural area is worth very little cash money, but what price its real value?
