



DIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter of the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team

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Winter 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 CALM.

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.

Eremophila viscida Regeneration Trial

A Regeneration Trial was undertaken on the 8th of May. The objective of the project was to enhance conditions for the regeneration of *E. viscida* plants by stimulating seed germination using raking, smoke water treatment and burning.

The site selected for the project is on the property of Bill and Helen Pipe of Dalwallinu. This is one of the larger populations of *E. viscida* however many of the plants were in poor health and dying with very few young plants within the population.

Four plots were identified to undergo some form of treatment in order to stimulate seed germination. The treatments included; raking and smoke water treatment, a burn and a burn followed by raking the plot.

The plots that under went burns were filled with leaf litter and branches from surrounding vegetation to enable enough heat to be generated.

Bill and Helen are currently fencing the population and on-going monitoring will take place over the up coming years. Results will be published in *Diversity*.



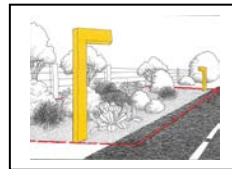
Prescribed burn of *E. viscida*. Photo Kate Brunt

Dalwallinu Shire moves to protect Declared Rare Flora (DRF) along roadsides.

Dalwallinu Shire has taken steps to ensure that all DRF and priority species on the shire's roadsides are protected and clearly identified.

Shire workers have undertaken an audit of the known roadside populations to identify where DRF markers are present and where markers are needed.

All the DRF markers required will installed be done so in the up coming month. Kate Brunt, Conservation Officer will assist to ensure that Dalwallinu Shire are able to identify the plants in the future.



What's Flowering Where?

JUNE

- ❖ *Acacia lobulata* (CR) Chiddarcooping
- ❖ *Verticordia staminosa* subsp. *staminosa* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Boronia adamsiana* (VU) Mukinbudin
- ❖ *Drummondita wilsonii* (P1) Parker Range
- ❖ *Daviesia debilior* subsp. *sinuans* (P3) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Leucopogon amplexens* (P2) Tammin, North of Kellerberrin
- ❖ *Grevillea nana* subsp. *abbreviata* (P2) Wubin, Dowerin
- ❖ *Acacia cochlocarpa* subsp. *velutinoso* (P1) Manmanning

JULY

- ❖ *Acacia vassalii* (CR) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia ataxiphylla* subsp. *magna* (CR) S Cunderdin
- ❖ *Acacia volubilis* (CR) Cunderdin
- ❖ *Acacia botrydion* (P1) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Acacia ascendens* (P2) Chiddarcooping

AUGUST

- ❖ *Philotheca basistyla* (CR) Trayning
- ❖ *Conostylis albescens* (P2) Booraan
- ❖ *Melaleuca sciotostyla* (E) Wongan Hills
- ❖ *Trymalium densiflorum* (P1) Trayning
- ❖ *Tetraloche deltoidea* (CR) Mt Caroline

Interim Recovery Plans for the Merredin District

Interim Recovery Plans (IRPs) outline the recovery actions that are required to urgently address those threatening processes most affecting the ongoing survival of threatened taxa or ecological communities, and begin the recovery process.

Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit (WATSCU) of DCLM have been successful in obtaining funding from the Federal Government in order to complete IRPs for some of the Critically Endangered species with the Merredin District. The following species will have an IRP written over the next 12 months.

- *Acacia volubilis*
- *Daviesia microcarpa*
- *Eremophila virens*
- *Eremophila viscida*
- *Philotheca basistyla*
- *Roycea pycnophylloides*
- *Verticordia hughanii*

WATSCU has also submitted an application to complete the following IRPs over an 18 month period.

- *Acacia ataxiphylla ssp magna*
- *Acacia lobulata*
- *Eremophila resinosa*
- *Grevillea dryandroides ssp hirsuta*

For further information on IRP writing contact the DCLM Merredin Office.

HOW CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR SPRING SURVEYS?

You can become a DCLM volunteer and help survey and protect rare flora by contacting DCLM 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 DCLM with updates on populations and the location of new populations. DCLM encourages as many people as possible to become involved in monitoring threatened plants.

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

New Faces in DCLM Merredin District

Kate Brunt - commenced in January this year as the Merredin District Conservation Officer. Kate's role is to assist the Merredin District Threatened Flora Recovery Team in implementing the Threatened Flora Management Program for the area.

Kate Roy-Chowhury - Is the new Wongan Ballidu Conservation Officer, Kate is implementing the Wongan Ballidu Threatened Flora Management Program for the area along with the Wongan Ballidu Recovery Team.

Paul Blechynden - Is Merredin's new district Managers and is responsible for the overall management of DCLM outputs in the Merredin District

John Pridham - Is Merredin's new Wildlife Officer and can be contacted at Merredin for a range of wildlife issues.

All of the above staff can be contacted at the Merredin DCLM office on (08) 9041 2488

Rosemarie Rees - Has recently started at WATSCU on Threatened Ecological Communities, she can be contacted at DCLM Woodvale.

Protection of *Tetratheca deltoidea* at Mount Caroline.

Mount Caroline is well known for providing habitat for the threatened Black Flanked Rock Wallaby. However it also home to the only known population of the Critically Endangered *Tetratheca deltoidea* or Granite Tetratheca.

Granite Tetratheca is a delicate, leafy trailing shrub that grows up to 1m in height. The plant produces a pink flower between August and December.

Plants typically grow in clumps, and climb or twine through neighbouring plants. Plants spread by producing suckers from underground stems.

It had been identified that the population was under threat from grazing by Black Flanked Rock Wallabies, other Macropods and Rabbits. The plants were once protected by the surrounding vegetation however the lack of available food for fauna has meant that the plant is now at greater risk.

In order to protect the plant fencing was constructed by DCLM staff in March to exclude fauna from the plants, in helping to secure the population.



The alluring strongly scented, dark pink flowers of *Tetratheca deltoidea*. Photo - Luke Sweedman

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