

# Mt Marshall Flora Identification book



The Mt Marshall Native Plant Herbarium Group began in the early 1990s. Plants were collected, preserved, photographed data noted for each specimen. Each specimen was then identified to the best of their abilities while quite a few specimens were identified by the WA State Herbarium. While the collection was initially housed at individual members' houses, it was moved to the Beacon Central Building once this building was completed to improve public access to the herbarium.

In 2010 the specimens were becoming old and fragile. The Mt Marshall Native Plant Herbarium Group applied for funding to Wheatbelt NRM under the Small Community Grants scheme to protect the data by scanning the specimens, and then formatting them into a book and database, making the flora data more widely available to the public and creating a natural resource management tool that everyone in the community can access and use.

Firstly a Workshop and history session was held in Beacon, attended by Mt Marshall Native Plant Herbarium Group and community members, to allow decisions on the formatting of the book. One of the

members of the groups said, "*While out collecting specimens we all used to joke about would it be great if we published a book, now that dream is coming true.*" A method was developed for the scanning of the specimens, and then a training session was held on how to scan the specimens. Several volunteers were involved in the scanning process, and the material was then collated into chapters

based on plant families. Community volunteers then edited each chapter, with the edits being incorporated into a database, then the book was published. The database was also burned to disc, and made available free to interested parties. A volunteer said, "*The Herbarium project has been great to work on as I have learnt so much about the plants in and*

## Wheatbelt NRM Small

### Community Grants 2011

**Recipient:** Beacon Progress Association

**Amount Funded:** \$ 6,594

**People Involved:** 11



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**Beacon Native Plant Herbarium  
Group Members**

Marilyn Dunne, Marian Kirby,  
Hazel King and Rita James

(Not present are Anne Shipway  
and Helen Shemeld)

*around Beacon. I now also know the names of my favourite plants and flowers in the bush."*

A major decision that was reached at the workshop was to change the name of the book to the Beacon Native Plant Herbarium, as while initially they had planned to travel widely over the Mt Marshall Shire to collect specimens they only travelled around Beacon.

This project was a culmination of twenty years of community work, involving hundreds of hours of community volunteering. Volunteers took pride in the quality of their work, and were also able to learn about the local flora. There was also an increase in their confidence and sense of achievement and belonging.



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