

ENVIRONMENT



A selection of orchids growing in Julimar State Forest.

More protection needed for Julimar's precious orchids

Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance

Jacque Lucas

JULIMAR Forest is 28,000ha of beautiful wildflower country with a vast number of species, many of which have not been extensively researched.

A search conducted last year from the former Naturebase, by the Western Australian Herbarium for the Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance, reported 515 species of plants within a 12km radius of the centre of Julimar.

I have personally found 31 species of orchids in Julimar since I began exploring the area in the 1990s.

A further three species, the red veined shell orchid, slender hammer orchid and star orchid, have been reported to the herbarium, but I have not had the privilege of seeing them in Julimar.

The star orchid, which is listed as nationally threatened, is also within the search area.

Julimar has suitable habitat for this threatened species.

The white china orchid can be found, especially after fire.

I have observed it down the slope from a fire ground, in an unburnt area, suggesting some chemicals from bushfire smoke may trigger its germination.

The yellow china orchid is also found within Julimar.

This species will flower without the need for fire but is more prolific in fire ground areas.

In the spring that followed a December 1997 bushfire there were patches in Julimar where you could barely walk without stepping on either a white or yellow china orchid.

It was a sight I will never forget.

Both the white and yellow china orchids are classified as priority species in need of further protection.

Julimar is a floral wonderland in desperate need of the protection afforded by being declared a national park.

Julimar is a suitable habitat for many more orchid species, such as the blood spider orchid, but it is yet to be thoroughly botanically catalogued.

If you wish to join us in the push to protect the Julimar Forest habitat you can sign our petition to the State Government.

Or join us on our Fungi Foray on August 6 at 10am, to discover more about the fungi of Julimar.

For more information, look out for our Julimar Conservation and Forest Alliance facebook page, or email us at julimarforest@gmail.com.

Rediscovering the work of Gilbert and his potoroo

Toodyay Naturalists' Club
Desrae Clarke

THE NAT'S club held its 2023 Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 15.

Sharon Richards was elected president for her third year, along with Desrae Clarke as secretary and Charmian St John as treasurer.

Following the AGM and General Meeting Greg Warburton gave us an interesting insight into the life of Englishman John Gilbert (1812-1845).

A noted explorer, naturalist and taxidermist, Gilbert spent considerable time in the south-west of the state and in the company of the botanist James Drummond.

He also worked under John Gould, as Gould's principal collector of animal and bird skins, together with plants, to be identified and despatched to England.

Unfortunately, Gilbert is rarely remembered for his work when naming items of natural history.

However, the small mammal, Gilbert's potoroo (*Potorous gilbertii*) holds his name.

Fearing to be extinct since the early 1900s, the potoroo was rediscovered in 1994 at Two

Peoples Bay Nature Reserve near Albany.

In natural history all sorts of odd things can happen, such as finding a white magpie or kangaroo that are not albino, cross-pollinating plants, flora and fauna out of their usual area, and suchlike.

For a second time, photos have been received from community members of a grey kangaroo with two young of the same size in her pouch.

The sightings were several years apart and from different areas of the Shire.

When experts were notified, it was stated that a kangaroo does not have twins.

One wonders.

The next Nat's meeting is to be held Saturday August 19 from 7pm at the Anglican Church Hall, with a presentation of a Landscape research expedition to the Gibson Desert.

The Toodyay Nats are always eager to hear of observations of natural history from community members with the observer recognised in the data held by the Nats.

It is so important to document this information for the future.

To contact the club the email is info@toodyaynats.org.au, website is at www.toodyaynats.org.au or 9574 5574.



The doe and her twins. Photo: Bec Creeper.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Governance Officer (Full-time)

An opportunity exists for an experienced, dynamic and highly motivated professional to join the team at the Shire of Toodyay in the role of **Governance Officer**.

The Governance Officer will play a critical role in providing quality oversight of organisational governance, compliance, and related organisational risk management for the Shire. Other key activities of this role include management of statutory registers, leases and agreements; and leading regular policy reviews.

Applicants must have proven knowledge and experience, excellent time management, analytical skills, and a great eye for detail. Commitment to working in a team environment to achieve continuous improvement is essential.

To attract the right candidate, the Shire is offering a base salary of \$69,000-\$72,000 per annum, plus superannuation. Other benefits include professional development opportunities, uniform allowance, additional superannuation contribution and income protection.

Application packages are available on the Shire website at www.toodyay.wa.gov.au; or by contacting the Records Officer on 9574 9300 or via records@toodyay.wa.gov.au.

Applications should be marked "CONFIDENTIAL – Governance Officer" and forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Toodyay:

- By mail to PO Box 96, Toodyay WA 6566;
- In person to the Shire of Toodyay Administration Centre, 15 Fiennes Street, Toodyay, during opening hours;
- Via email to records@toodyay.wa.gov.au; or
- Via Seek.

Applications close **4.00pm, Monday 7 August 2023.**

Suzie Haslehurst
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Applicants must have the right to live and work in Australia.

The Shire is an Equal Opportunity Employer that values and respects diversity in its workplace.

Please Note: Canvassing of Councillors will disqualify. The successful applicant is required to obtain a current Federal Police clearance and pre-employment medical, and provide evidence of all claimed qualifications prior to commencing employment.



Toodyay International Food Fest



Saturday 12 August 2023

10am - 4pm

Celebrate the Avon Descent's 50th anniversary in picturesque Toodyay

- Live music across several stages
- 30+ food vans
- Children's activities and entertainment

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