

DO YOU KNOW THIS SPECIES?

Olearia pannosa subsp. *cardiophylla* Velvet Daisy-bush
 Family: ASTERACEAE

Photography & text by Margaret MacDonald



Perhaps one of the most spectacular of our local flora species when the plant is in full bloom, the Velvet Daisy-bush is very rare in our area and indeed in Victoria.

Listed as vulnerable on the *Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, the species is very limited in distribution with populations being found in and near the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Rushworth, Wedderburn and Anglesea.

Growing in coastal woodland area east of Anglesea, we have very healthy populations on Point Addis roadside, the Ironbark Basin Reserve and on private property in the area.

ANGAIR has carried out surveys of these populations in conjunction with DSE and DNRE in

1997, 2003 and 2009. These surveys were carried out in spring when the flowers were at their peak and our members were very excited to see the plants in full bloom, observe them setting seed and then watching small seedlings appear. The results of the three surveys indicated that we had very healthy populations of this rare species.

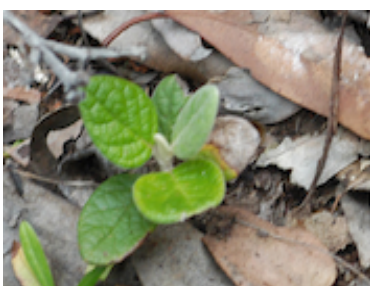
In April this year ANGAIR members responded to an invitation from Chris Lindorff, Corangamite Regional Manager of Trust for Nature, who was keen to survey all currently known populations across Victoria as part of a Threatened Species project. The aim is to provide a current status of all Victorian populations that can then be documented on flora databases. This will help to formulate management plans for the protection of this rare species. Although the results of this recent survey have not yet been analysed it is apparent that the species continues to do well in the district. However, due to the dry conditions of the last few years, fewer seedlings have appeared.

The flower heads of the Velvet Daisy-bush are most spectacular ranging from 35-75mm across. Each head has 8 to 18 white ray florets surrounding a central cluster of 30 to 60 yellow tubular florets.

The upper surface of the soft heart-shaped leaves is dark green with impressed veins. The undersurface of the leaves and branchlets are densely covered with short buff-coloured hairs.



Pollinator at work



Young seedling



New buds



Setting seed

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