

# Your home new focus for nursery

LAUREN PEDEN

NEW Leschenault Community Nursery manager and Boyanup horticulturalist Helen Doe is overseeing an increase in the diversity of native plants produced for both South West re-vegetation and gardens.

The nursery grows about 200 indigenous local plant species and has between 90,000 and 130,000 plants on hand.

But the introduction of new varieties of water plants this year and orchids by 2011 is set to see these figures increase.

"The orchid program was a little element that was missing, and they should be ready by next year," Mrs Doe said.

Water and waterway health is high on her priority list, and over the next few months she will be working hard to enable the nursery to provide a diverse range of rushes, sedges and water-loving plants to restore waterways and enhance dams.

"The nursery, which is the only one in the Bunbury area, has been running for more than 10 years, with the main body of work being producing plants for revegetation," she said.

"Certainly when you are doing revegetation you don't want to be

introducing a species that comes from somewhere else because even if it is just from Geraldton, if it comes down here and gets a little bit of extra water it can go mad."

Mrs Doe said the nursery was also encouraging local gardeners to use South West indigenous plants.

"This is because it becomes both a waterwise and a fauna-friendly garden," she said.

"I certainly think people are becoming a lot more aware of it now but we feel we need to be a bit more prominent among the public.

"We used to open up maybe two or three times a year to the public and it might be just selling plants that we had extras of, but what we are going to be doing now is actually produce plants that are ideal for people's gardens."

Nursery management board chairman Carolyn Switzer said all profits go back into the community.

Profits are ploughed back through donations to schools, information to customers, and research to develop stocks of hard-to-grow species.

This year the nursery will open not only on the second Saturday of every month from April through to September, but also every Tuesday morning for information and to provide plants.



Leschenault Community Nursery manager Helen Doe ensures quality local plant stock is available to maintain the beauty and diversity of the South West environment. PICTURE: DAVID BAILEY