

News Release

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Roadside gem pops up again

Spiny Daisy Recovery Team member, Anne Brown of Greening Australia, was driving along a road near Telowie in the southern Flinders Ranges last week when she spotted a familiar grey foliaged shrub out of the corner of her eye. On closer inspection she saw that it was the elusive Spiny Daisy.

The Spiny Daisy is one of the most endangered plants in the world. Thought to be extinct, the Spiny Daisy was rediscovered on a roadside near Laura in 1999 by Paul Slattery, a local landholder. Within a year, another two populations were found on roadsides near Laura and a fourth population was found on a roadside near Hart. Since then, despite a number of searches, there have been no more sightings, until now!

"I couldn't believe it ... I've driven along this road many times and never seen it – the recent rains must have freshened the foliage and made the grey stand out," Anne said.

The recent discovery of the fifth Spiny Daisy population is the first recorded for the Telowie area, and it gives members of the Recovery Team new hope that there could be more populations in the region. Members of the Recovery Team are always on the lookout for new populations of the Spiny Daisy.

"It's a hardy plant with distinctive grey leaves, twin spines on the end of the branchlets and small yellow flowers," Anne said.

"The recovery of this amazing plant is only possible because of the successful partnership between staff from the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board and the Department for Environment and Heritage, members of the Recovery Team and community groups, and of course the local councils who manage the roadsides that the Spiny Daisy calls home," said Annika Everaardt, Department for Environment and Heritage Threatened Species Community Liaison Officer.

As is the case with many discoveries, a combination of knowledge, persistence and good luck is required.

"There have still been no records of the Spiny Daisy on private property, and the Recovery Team urges any landholders who think they may have this unique plant on their land to give them a call," said Annika.

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Images are available on request from Annika Everaardt.