NATURE in FOCUS

Bulletin No. 2

Presented by "As It Is" **Photography** Jenny Rose

Trachymene coerulea

""If you go into the bush today

You're in for a big surprise"

Trachymene coerulea is also known as **Rottnest Island Daisy** and **Blue Lace Flower.** It is an annual or biennial herb. This plant grows and flowers from October to February and grows on sand and limestone on the Swan Coastal Plain and on Rottnest and Garden Islands. It has a blue to blue-mauve flower. The flowerhead is an umbel—an inflorescence in which several flowers arise at the same point. The flowers are pollinated by insects. The seeds are spread by wind or animals moving past and knocking the plant so the seeds fling off.

On Rottnest Island, **Rottnest Island Daisy's** summer growth is very important. Its seeds are added to direct seeding mixes for re-vegetation. Its summer growth protects newly emerged seedlings of other plant species from sun and wind, giving them a better chance of survival.

In our local bush these plants are flowering now, creating a blue-mauve carpet in the understorey. It is quite a sight, especially as not much else is flowering at the moment. One of the easily accessible places to see this lovely spectacle is in the bush adjacent to Old Bunbury Road (OBR): Park at the east end of the chain-link fence (400m east from Old Coast Rd), enter the bush from OBR about 4m east, follow the foot track about 100m to the formed track and turn east for about 300m. You will be delighted!!!