



© Gavin Phillips RBGDT

***Olearia flocktoniae*** is a small, short lived shrub which only grows on the Dorrigo Plateau of north-east New South Wales (NSW). This Endangered plant grows mainly on the side of roads in state forests and also within the Nimboi-Binderay National Park. Reaching 2.5 metres tall and having white daisy-like flowers, the Dorrigo Daisy Bush only lives for 2 or 3 years. This pioneer species colonises disturbed locations and then may disappear over time as other longer lived species become abundant. These factors leave *Olearia flocktoniae* at risk from vehicle damage and local extinction.

### Description

*Olearia flocktoniae* is a small, short lived shrub which reaches 2.5 metres in height. The leaves are narrow and soft, ranging from 1-5 millimetres wide and 2-9 centimetres long. The leaves sometimes have finely toothed (jagged) edges. It can have single or multiple stems at its base. The flowers of *Olearia flocktoniae* are up to 2.5 centimetres wide and look like daisy flowers. The petals are white and occasionally have a purple tinge.

### Distribution

*Olearia flocktoniae* has a very restricted distribution, being found only on the northern fall of the Dorrigo Plateau in north-east NSW. The species occurs mostly on road verges in state forests and also in Nimboi-Binderay National Park.

### Key Facts

**Common name:** Dorrigo Daisy Bush

**Historical notes:** First recorded in 1911, not seen again until 1985 and presumed extinct until then.

**Conservation status (state):** Endangered (NSW)

**Conservation status (EPBC):** Endangered

**Maximum height:** 2.5 metres

**Lifespan:** Short lived (2-3 years)

## Habitat and Ecology

*Olearia flockitoniae* is a pioneer species that requires frequent disturbances to persist. This means it is often the first plant to grow in disturbed locations. These locations include roadside verges and timber plantations adjacent to wet eucalypt forest or rainforest. Over time, other more long-lived species may colonise these areas causing *Olearia flockitoniae* to disappear from places where it was once abundant.



© Gavin Phillips RBGDT



© Gavin Phillips RBGDT

## Threats

Due to its preferred habitat and short lifespan *Olearia flockitoniae* is at risk from the following threats:

- Encroachment and competition for habitat with other native or exotic plants.
- Damage by vehicles to plants growing along the roadside.
- Poorly timed road maintenance can destroy fruits before the plants have completed their life cycle.
- Small populations which fluctuate can result in local extinctions.

## Conservation activities by the Australian Seed Bank Partnership

Under this project, staff from the Australian PlantBank and the Australian Institute of Botanical Science, Australian Botanic Gardens, Mount Annan, secured diverse seed collections for this species across its range, including from new habitats discovered after the 2019-20 bushfires. Plant occurrences, health and abundance records were also shared with project and land managers to educate about the ecology of the species, especially regarding its disturbance regimes and abundance.

## References

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/threatenedspeciesapp/profile.aspx?id=10577> and <https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Olearia~flocktoniae>

Download other fact sheets in this series at:

<https://www.seedpartnership.org.au/initiatives/bushfire-recovery/banking-seeds-for-bushfire-recovery/>



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL  
BOTANIC GARDENS



Australian Network for  
Plant Conservation Inc



Department of  
Biodiversity, Conservation  
and Attractions



Government  
of South Australia  
Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

Botanic Gardens of  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



ROYAL  
BOTANIC GARDENS  
VICTORIA



The Royal  
BOTANIC GARDENS  
& Domain Trust

This fact sheet was  
produced with funding  
awarded under Tranche 2  
of the Australian  
Government's Bushfire  
Recovery for Wildlife and  
Habitat Community  
Grants Program.