



NEWSLETTER

May 2018

P.O. Box 111, GLEN FORREST, WA 6071

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th Friday of the month. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Committee 2018

President: position vacant

Vice President: Fran Kininmonth

Treasurer: Robert Atkins

ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au

Secretary: Sandy Stone

Email contact

For all email contact to individual Committee Members (except the Treasurer) please use the WSWA's generic email:

eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

with a wealth of knowledge. He will be telling us about a trip to Sumatra with some colleagues from Kings Park, in search of *Rafflesia*, the world's biggest flower – and possibly its stinkiest too. It's often called Corpse Flower due to the revolting smell it emits during the 3-6 days that it is in flower. In fact, the best way to find it is 'follow the smell'! The search was successful and Neville will share with us the journey, occasion and some knowledge of our own parasitic plants.

Coming Events May

Tuesday 1st May

Committee Meeting

7.30pm, Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th and 23rd May

Seed Cleaning Group

9am: Octagonal Hall

Saturday 12th May

Plant Sale

Octagonal Hall, open to buyers from 9am. **What job will you be doing? (Set up Friday.)**

Monday 14th and 25th May

Propagation Group

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Friday 25th May

Evening meeting

Neville Marchant

"Rafflesia and knowledge of other parasitic plants"

Neville will be well known to many people, as he has been involved with the Wildflower Society from its inception. He is an entertaining speaker

Future Events June

Tuesday 5th June

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 6th and 20th June

Seed Cleaning Group

9am: Octagonal Hall

Monday 11th and 25th June

Propagation Group

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Friday 22nd June

Evening meeting

Sean Tomlinson

"Wildflowers from the perspective of insect pollination around the Gngangara Mound"

Sean is a Research Fellow at Curtin University who is studying this topic. He will discuss the inter-relationship of plants and animals and what happens when the system is disturbed – perhaps by bushland clearance or weed invasion that removes the habitat for a necessary insect pollinator.

There will be a Botanical Ramble arranged for the month of June.

Wildflower Society of Western Australia, important dates in June...

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June
State Conference and Annual General Meeting

Hosted by Armadale Branch

This is when representatives of all the Branches get together to report on activities and inspire each other. This year is especially important as it is the 60th Anniversary of the Society. Fran Kininmonth will officially be representing the EHB, but all members are invited. For details, see the WSWA Newsletter that you will receive very soon.

22nd, 23rd and 24th June
"Beauty from the Bush"

An exhibition of artwork from a range of wonderful artists at Avocados, Cnr Mount St and Brookton Hwy, Kelmscott 8am to 4pm

And for long-term planning ...

The **ANPSA** (was **ASGAP**) **National Conference** will be held in **Albany** on **30th September to 4th October 2019**. More details in the main Newsletter.

LIBRARY

Remember – the library is open during the meetings of the Propagation Group and the Seed Cleaning Group, as well as during the main meeting. Use it! It contains lots of great reading material!

REPORTS

Busy Bee – new path!

The green garden shed behind the Octagonal Hall has a new ramp, after the Propagation Group said they had difficulty getting their bags of potting mix into the shed. John Bates and Robert Atkins got to work. John salvaged bricks from the shire transfer station, laboriously cleaning old mortar off. They then purchased sand and slabs and donated their half-used bags of mortar mix and got to work one Wednesday morning. The Prop Group is happy as the members can now trolley their bags of potting mix right into the shed. **Well done, guys!**

A good morning's work at our Busy Bee. We now have a functioning septic tank, a beautiful path for our shed and a cleared garden ready for the Plant Sale. Thanks to all! *Pam Riordan*



Friday 27th April

John Ewing

"Difficulties in trying to ID Red Wispy Spider Orchids"

John shared his passion for orchids, especially *Caladenia*, the Spider Orchids - and most especially the Wispy Red Spider Orchids.

He introduced the topic by showing examples of different orchid genera, including some excellent photos of the very extraordinary Underground Orchid. With many of the examples, he challenged the audience to provide the common name and – all credit to our knowledgeable audience - we did! But then he got into the Wispy Red Spider Orchids, and we were swamped with minutiae.

There are currently 14 species of Wispy Reds and John distributed a table with 18 features that can be used to correctly identify a specimen. He explained using words and photos that you need a combination of things, which together will perhaps, possibly, give you the correct determination! Wow!

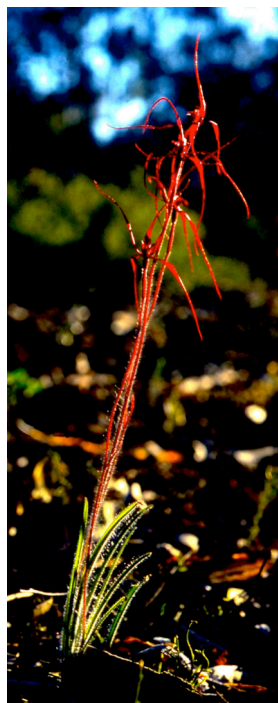
Questions afterwards raised matters such as pollination, DNA studies, association with fungi and speciation; it was clear that the audience was amazed by the variety of these plants.

(Incidentally, when I arrived in WA in 1970, and started to ID orchids, there was only one wispy species, called *C. filamentosa*, and it had both red and yellow varieties. Rica Ericson, in her delightful book "*Orchids of the West*" describes it as common and widespread, with much variation in size and colour. This name is now confined to an Eastern Australian species known as Daddy Long Legs. Now in WA there are all these red ones and equal if not more, yellow and green ones!)

John finished by saying that he would attempt to identify photos, if certain conditions were adhered to. Firstly, there should be three shots; whole plant, close up of flower full face and close up side on. Secondly, all photos must include a tape measure to give scale. And not a loose one either, a rigid metal tape should be used! Clearly the photo here is not useful!

This slide was labelled "Blood Spider Orchid, *C. filifera* Talbot W Rd, York 19/8/94". I wonder if I got it right, all those years ago?

Penny Hussey



PLANT OF THE MONTH

One for the garden?

Eucalyptus landsdowniana Crimson Mallee



Although at EHB we talk mostly about local native plants, our gardens often contain species from other places. Some of these fit very well into a native plant display.

One such is *Eucalyptus landsdowniana*, Crimson Mallee, which comes from the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, which is, of course, similar Mediterranean climate to WA's South-west). It is a rather open mallee that produces these lovely red flowers now, in April, when not much else is out. It is hardy and drought-tolerant and, though the above-ground parts will be killed in a fire, soon afterwards it will shoot strongly from the lignotuber, as it has done at my place.

Read about it, and other attractive species, in the excellent book "*Smaller Eucalypts for Planting in Australia*" by Dean Nicole. Borrow it from the Club Library – it's a fascinating read!

Penny Hussey

The views and opinions expressed in the articles in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia



State Council hard at work on 28th April



Beast of burden!!!



This is *C. chapmanii*. I'm sure it is because Eric Chapman showed it o me! Haddleton Springs NR. 2/10/90