



# NEWSLETTER

June 2018

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

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

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## Committee 2018

**President:** position vacant

**Vice President:** Fran Kininmonth

**Treasurer:** Robert Atkins  
[ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au](mailto:ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au)

**Secretary:** Sandy Stone

**Email:**

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

[eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/easternhillswildflowersoc/>

invasion that removes the habitat for a necessary insect pollinator.

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## Future Events July

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Committee Meeting  
7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July**

Seed Cleaning Group  
9am: Octagonal Hall

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

Propagation Group  
12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.  
Bring your lunch.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

Evening meeting  
Todd Buters

"Use of drones to monitor mine site restoration projects"

Monitoring mine site restoration efforts is crucial as it provides early warning of potential restoration failures, which greatly improves the chances of restoring the environment in a timely manner. Drones are a cheap, easy to operate means of surveying large areas in a short amount of time. Able to be outfitted with a variety of sensors, do they represent the future of aerial monitoring of flora, fauna, and geological features? Todd Buters will present the results of his research.

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## Coming Events June

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Committee Meeting  
7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> June**

Seed Cleaning Group  
9am: Octagonal Hall

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Propagation Group  
12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.  
Bring your lunch.

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

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

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. Fran Kininmonth will officially be representing the EHB, but all members are invited. For details, see the WSWA Newsletter.

### 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. More details in the main Newsletter.

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### PLANT LEARNER'S GROUP

Lee Roberts and I have the idea to start a self-learning group called the "Plant Learners" Group". We're thinking of meeting fortnightly, with the plan of using the resources we have here at Octagonal Hall, such as our herbarium and library, and also Florabase, to teach ourselves more about our native plants. Each session we plan to look at two plants, one whose identity we know and a second one whose identity we don't. We will analyse the first one and attempt to identify the second one.

Later in the year Janet and Penny are going to run Beginners' Plant ID workshops so we will be able to link into those too. We'll also try and link our studies into the monthly talks and walks. If you feel you would like to learn more about native plants but need the encouragement and help of others, please contact me at [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com).

*Pam Riordan*

### CHILDREN'S ENVIRO WORKSHOPS Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> OR 14<sup>th</sup> July

Last year the Education Subcommittee of the Wildflower Society ran a day of workshops for children, aimed to encourage them to learn about and be inspired by our wildflowers. This year they have offered to hold these workshops at the various branches. They are free.

We are going to host a morning on either 8<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> July. There will be 2/3 sessions.

"Fabulous Fungi", "Leaf Litter Creatures" and/or "Plants and People". They are very hands on, and will involve short walks through

the bush, turning ipads into microscopes and looking at plants from an aboriginal perspective. Please try and encourage grandkids, or other children you know, to come along. They need to register and they will rotate through the 3 activities during the morning. They are most suited to the 6-12 year old age bracket. The exact date will be confirmed very soon, but note that both dates are in the school holidays - when parents are looking for things to keep their kids busy! For more information or to secure a place please contact [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com)

*Pam Riordan*

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## 2018 Plant Sale

This year's Plant sale must have broken all records for the hottest ever. 30 plus degrees I think! It was also very warm setting up on Friday and plants required a good soaking with water later in the day.

Sales and income were slightly below those of 2017. This could well be the result of a lack of rain prior to the Sale as in previous very dry years sales have been reduced. We appear to have sold over 4,500 plants (not all grower returns are in at this point) which is a great effort. This equates to around 71% sale rate. Thank you to all growers for all your enthusiasm and work over the past 12 months and particularly over summer. Our Branch growers, this year were Joy Collins, Mitzi Wehlack, Lee Roberts, Robyn Rudeforth, Ralph & Lynn Darlington, Sue Birney, Amanda Shade, Jo Sutherland, Sandy Stone, Colleen Haley, Stephen Lenghaus, Kathy Wood and Janet Atkins. We also had a significant contribution from the Northern Suburbs Branch Nursery for which we thank them very much.

Thank you to all other members who helped out with the myriad of tasks that makes for a successful and smooth event. A new 'event' this year was a sausage sizzle ably run by John Bates with his assistant Alasdair Adam. Catering for the public and 'workers' was organised by Francisca Lebel. This was greatly appreciated – particularly the access to continual cups of tea in the heat of the front yard bitumen.

A lot of time and effort goes into organisation in months leading up to the Sale. Mitzi does a wonderful job producing the catalogue and signage once grower lists are submitted. The catalogue was ready 2 weeks

prior to the Sale this year and was available on line almost immediately. Extra price sticks always need painting each year. Joy Collins looked after this and ensured that there was no stick shortage. Marilyn Myers, Pam Riordan and Pauline Sawyer spent Friday setup day sorting and bundling all the coloured labels for the sale tables. June Barkman, as she has done for a number of years now, maintains and organises the distribution of the large advertising banners. June as co-ordinator of the Seed Bank also has that set up for seed sales inside the hall. Sybil Speak, again this year brought up a supply of botanical books to sell from Perry House.

Robert Atkins (Treasurer) has a regular little band of people out in the Cashier Tents counting sticks and handling cash. A big thankyou again to the Mundaring Bendigo Bank for sending along staff with their EFTPOS machine. EFTPOS takings now represent more than 50% of our overall turnover. This is a wonderful free service that saves our members a lot of time and effort and probably helps with sales.

Janet Atkins

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## Evening Meeting

On the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Dr Neville Marchant presented a talk entitled "*Rafflesia* and some parasitic plants of WA." *Rafflesia arnoldii* (known as the corpse flower) is a parasitic plant of vine roots from Sumatra with the largest single flower on Earth and was collected by Arnold Raffles (botanist) in 1818 and was sent via Banks and Brown to Kew.

WA has at least 72 species of parasitic plants most attacking the host's roots to derive water and/or nutrients.

Genus *Amyema* (showy mistletoes) are of Gondwanan origin, are unrelated to European mistletoes and are widely distributed by the Mistletoe Bird.

*Cuscuta* (Dodder) is a world-wide genus related to Morning Glory, which wraps around the host's stems and its haustoria invade the host's vascular system. It locates a potential host by airborne chemicals.

*Cassytha* (Dodder Laurels) lose their chlorophyll after successful host invasion and thus become energy-dependent on the host.

Seeds of *Orobancha minor* (Broomrape), a common weed, send out root-like growths which invade host's roots and stems and

again have no chlorophyll and so are totally dependent on the host.

*Olax* (Olacaceae) Order Santales are partial parasites and include sandalwoods and quandongs.

*Nuytsia*, a root hemiparasite, is not a true tree, its winged seeds develop haustoria with hard knife-like projections which encircle host roots crushing, cutting and thence invading the host vasculature.

*Pilostyles*, formerly thought to be related to *Rafflesia*, is an endophyte of legumes and comprises strings of intravascular cells, the flowers being the only parts which burst through the surface of the host.

John Bates

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## BOOK REVIEW

**"Growing Australian Native Plants from Seed." Author: Murray Ralph. Second edition. 2009**

This book is available from the Wildflower Society at Perry House and it is a revised edition from Murray Ralph's original copy published in 1997 which is kept in the Octagonal Hall Library.

I read this book in conjunction with "Australian Seeds" by Luke Sweedman as an invaluable guide to sowing seeds in preparation for next year's Plant Sale.

The all-important seed dormancy designed so that a seed survives until favourable environmental conditions arrive such as fire, or prolonged rain is described thoroughly in this informative book.

Sometimes the seed coat physically restricts germination which stops the embryo from receiving necessary oxygen and water. During natural conditions of weathering or fire these seed coats are broken down.

Occasionally there is another dormancy called "after ripening period" especially in native grasses and Asteraceae family. During natural conditions, even though the seed has been released, these species will only mature three to twelve months after collection unless other treatments are used.

There are several treatments to promote germination in species which have "after ripening period" and these include smoke, dry storage and various chemicals.

The book lists the names of native seedlings alphabetically so that it's easy to find how to

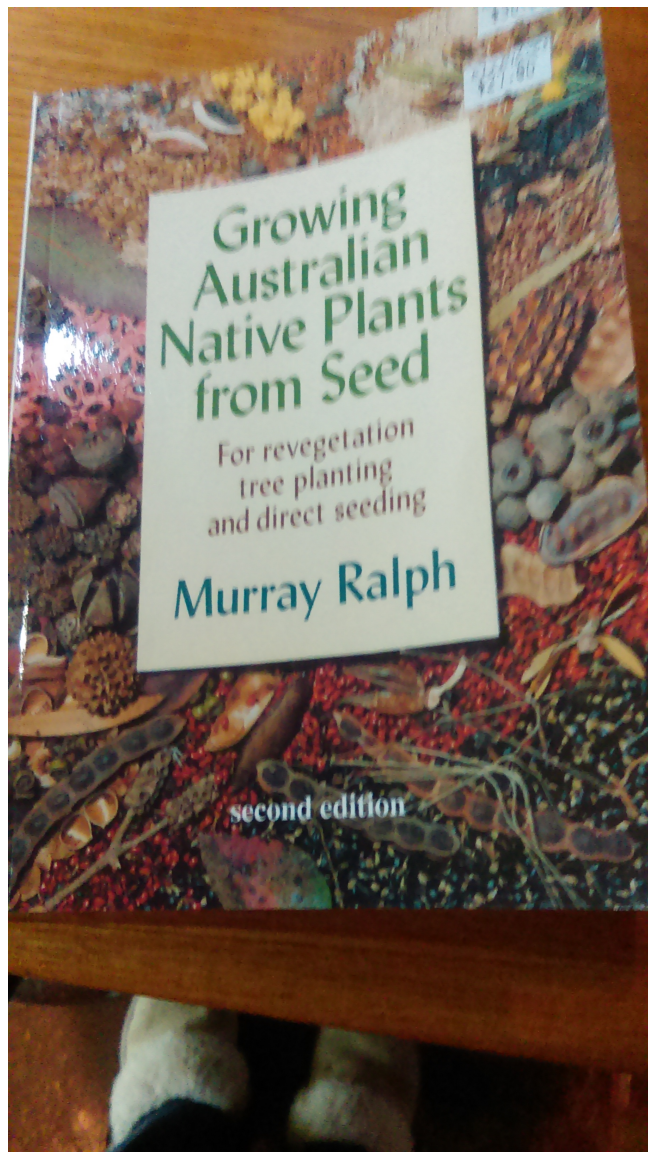


germinate your seeds, it also has sections on suitable mixes, and direct seeding.

Another easy to read paragraph with illustrations is on "growing seedlings in containers". Too often I over-water or prick the seedlings out in a manner detrimental to the health of the seedling.

All areas and procedures growing native seed are covered in this delightful, easy to read reference book.

Sandy Stone



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Trymallium angustifolium*



EHB's ramble to Jan Pitman's property at Gidgegannup last year noted two species of *Trymalium*, the large Soapbush, *T. floribundum* (or *odoratissimum*) growing along creek banks and in run-on sites among rocks, and the smaller, less conspicuous *T. ledifolium* which prefers open granite country. But there was also a third plant, not in flower, about which we were not sure.

Well, Jan has sent in the photo, proving that it is the third species found in the Hills, *Trymallium angustifolium*. It is much less common than the other two, but that may be because it is seldom noticed, being smaller, and it flowers at the end of autumn.

All three plants are worth having in a native garden, and groups of Soapbush are spectacular when in flower. However, they are not easy to germinate in a seed tray, though they germinate in huge numbers after a fire.

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

