



# NEWSLETTER

November 2019

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 7.00pm for 7.30pm](#)

---

## Committee 2019

**President:** Alasdair Adam  
**Vice President:** Pam Riordan  
**Treasurer:** vacant  
**Secretary:** Sandy Stone  
**Minutes Secretary:** Penny Hussey  
**Committee Members:** John Bates, Lee Roberts, Fran Kininmonth

### Email:

For all email contact to individual Committee Members 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/>

---

## Coming Events November

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Committee Meeting  
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November

Propagation Group and  
Plant Learners' Group  
Will both start again –  
12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.

### Seed cleaning Group

This group is in recess

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Evening Meeting

### AGM

Followed by:

### "Millipedes"

Cathy Car

Cathy will tell us about some of the amazing animals she has been studying. They are quite diverse (how many species in the South West?) and also important in the bushland ecosystem. They are a lot more interesting than you may think!

Followed by end-of-year-Christmassy supper.  
Stay and chat!

---

## Future Events December

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Committee Meeting  
4.00pm, Octagonal Hall

This will be the first meeting of the new committee, and will, among other things, set out an agenda for activities in 2020. **If you have ideas for talks, excursions or other events, please contact a member of the committee or send an email to the EHB email address.**

**Next year's programme will start again on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.**

---

## REPORTS

### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October

Day Excursion

**Robin Andersson's garden, Boddington**

The addition of a new book to our library –  
"10 Years of a Native Garden" by Robin

Andersson was the incentive for a trip to Boddington. A group of 12 enthusiasts visited the Andersson's property on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October.

Robin has kept a meticulous diary of her gardening successes and failures over 10 years of establishing a native plant garden. Replete with beautiful photographs as well as advice, her book is a delight.

Most of the garden soil (apart from the house sand pad) is mainly clay which probably holds water better than sand and her plants thrive, being watered only when Robin feels they need it. The use of ground cover plants such as *Kennedia microphylla*, various *Grevilleas* etc, keep the soil cool. The use of rocks and logs add to the attraction of the garden areas with small paths encouraging one to explore.

After a wander around the garden we enjoyed a marvellous lunch, lots of chatter and questions before heading back to Perth.

Robin is still keeping a diary about her gardening experiences so perhaps we can look forward to another interesting book to add to our library!



There were many *Eremophilas* in the garden, including this beautiful Silky *Eremophila*, *E. nivea*

A plant that intrigued us all was a grey-leaved perennial with tall yellow drum-stick inflorescences. We decided it was an *Asteraceae*, a bit like a *Crasspedia*, and certainly not Western Australian. Robin had

kept the label – it is *Pycnosorus globosus*, Billy Buttons, a plant that is widely distributed in the Eastern States. The Internet says that it is propagated by cuttings.



Mal Myers

---

### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

“Western Australia’s Arid Lands – the myth of empty space”

Wendy Thompson

Wendy Thompson, when stationed at CALM Kalgoorlie, took part in a number of biological survey expeditions to the Gibson Desert and Central Ranges Regions. She started by showing maps to illustrate the locations of these remote regions followed by descriptions of the types of landforms and vegetation communities found there.

In the Gibson Desert you can find claypans, sandplains and sand dunes, each with their characteristic vegetation that includes annuals only seen after a good season, when the desert can, indeed, bloom in great swathes of colour. The Central Ranges are rockier and with stony soil, ephemeral creeklines, the occasional waterhole and woodlands of the statuesquely beautiful Desert Oaks (*Casuarina decaisneana*).

Land tenure in these areas varies from Vacant Crown Land and special leases to Nature Reserves and Aboriginal Reserves. Before anything can be arranged, detailed consultation

with the Aboriginal communities takes place, and members of the community will accompany the expeditions. Their knowledge of country is astonishing, but it was hard to explain that animals were not being caught to eat! Wendy's description of people and places was an interesting window into a different world.

In all, the Central Ranges expedition collected 410 plant taxa from 59 families, the most common being peas (including Acacias), grasses, Daisies and Mallows. There were only 11 weed species!

Thank you Wendy, for a fascinating glimpse into a region most of us are unlikely to see.

Penny Hussey

---

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019**  
**Botanical Ramble**  
**Zig Zag, Gooseberry Hill**

On a warmish day, 14 of us met at the top of the old Zig Zag Railway line in Gooseberry Hill National Park. It was lovely to have several visitors from other branches and overseas, especially since two of them travelled all the way from Victoria! Well, perhaps not just for our bush walk, but we were glad that they took advantage of it whilst they were here, especially since they were very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about our local plant species. It is good to see that people are finding us on Facebook and our website.

What a rich and diverse Park this is!. Our leader Penny assured us that we could visit every month and see something different. As it was, we enjoyed a variety of habitats and orientations as we went from one zig to the next zag.

Some of those that we saw included *Melaleuca parviceps* (rough honey myrtle), *M. radula*, Stylidiids, including *S. affine* (queen triggerplant), *Agrostocrinum hirsutum* (formerly *A. stypanroides*) (false blindgrass), *Beaufortia purpurea*, *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, *Dampiera linearis*, a solitary blue *Lobelia rhytidosperra*, the lovely variable pea, *Gompholobium polymorphum*, Hibbertias, including *H. subvaginata*, *Conospermum huegelii* (slender smoke bush) various grasses, a

*Pimelea* and lovely splashes of yellow autumn lily (*Trycoryne elatior*), some of them growing in the most hostile terrain.



*Lobelia rhytidosperra*. Photo: J. Barkman.

At our last zag, we had a geology lesson – we were standing on the edge of our rift valley, formed after the split-up of Gondwana. The flatness of the hilltops was due to the weight of an ice sheet, some 3 kms deep, from the time when we were joined to Antarctica.

Thank you, Penny, for sharing some of your vast knowledge with us. A very enjoyable morning.

June Barkman

---

## QUIZ

What is this **weed**? We saw it on the walk!



Yes, all right, of course it is a *Watsonia*, but do you know which species? It is a bit unusual. It flowers later in the year and is an attractive pale lilac.

(Answer at end of Newsletter.)

Penny Hussey

---

## Answer to Quiz:

---

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Velleia trinervis*

This is a delicate perennial herb from 29-50cm high. The leaves form a basal rosette. The flowers are typical Goodeniaceae shape, yellow with a brown centre and are produced from August to January.



It occurs in winter-wet depressions on the Coastal Plain and Darling Range from Perth to Harvey, also from Jurien Bay to Cape le Grande.

It was named by J. Smith after his friend Thomas Velley (1748-1806), Lieutenant Colonel of the Oxford Militia and an amateur botanist who specialised in seaweeds and other marine plants.

It is usually seen as sparsely scattered small, individual plants but it can be seen en masse on the west side of Albany Highway near Gleneagle.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

---

It is *Watsonia marginata*. It comes from the Cape region of South Africa and was presumably imported as a garden plant, as it is undeniably pretty. It persists around old townsites between Perth and Albany.

Several years ago - 20? – I was involved in a big effort to remove Watsonias from the accessible parts of the Gooseberry Hill bushland. Mostly this was *W. maireana*. *W. marginata* did not occur on the north-facing flank of Gooseberry Hill, though it did occur in the Watsonia Road bushland. Perhaps it would be worth trying to remove this population while it is still limited in size?

*Penny Hussey*

---

## NEW BOOK

*10 Years in a  
Native Garden*



*Robin Andersson*

This is Robin's book. It is in the library. It's well worth reading!

---

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