



WILDFLOWER SOCIETY
OF WA (INC.)

EASTERN HILLS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER

February 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 Kinninmonth
Treasurer: Robert Atkins
ehbtreasurer@inet.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

Library

EHB has a superb botanical library. When you arrive at the Hall, before the meeting starts, pop in and look at the wealth of information that awaits you. Borrow one – or two – and enjoy words and pictures at your leisure.

Coming Events March

Tuesday 6th March

Committee Meeting
7.30pm, Octagonal Hall

Monday 12th and 26th March

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

Wednesday 14th and 28th March

Seed Cleaning Group
9.am Octagonal Hall

Saturday 17th March

Blue Sky Festival
Sculpture Park, Mundaring
10.00 am – 4.00 pm

Our branch will have a presence and of course we would like you to visit our display and even stay a while if you can. However there is a lot happening at this event which is devoted to a range of environmental and sustainability issues. There will be lots of displays, along with talks on community solar energy, how to build bird nesting boxes and waste-less living. You'll find electric cars, recycling workshops, a junkadelic instrument workshop, a clothing swap and a demo of a plastic crushing machine. Eric McCrum will be hosting a "Nature Roadshow", offering to identify anything you bring him! Of course there will also be lots of performers, entertainment and food. Hope to see you there.

Friday 23rd March

Evening Meeting
Eddy Wajon
Roadside Conservation

Eddy is passionate about conservation and sustainable development and has a long history of putting the needs of nature conservation into the wider agenda. He practices what he preaches, too, on his own property. He will remind us of why roadside vegetation is important and what we can do to help conserve it.

There will be no Botanical Ramble arranged until cooler weather arrives..

Future Events APRIL

Tuesday 3rd April

Committee Meeting
7.30pm, Octagonal Hall

Monday 9th and 23rd April

Propagation Group

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

Wednesday 11th and 25th April
Seed Cleaning Group
9am: Octagonal Hall

Monday 16th April
Garden Busy Bee
9.00am

The garden will need to be tidied up ready for the Plant Sale on the 17th of May. Put the date in your diary and come and help.

Friday 27th April
Evening Meeting
Ken Atkins
"Conservation of Threatened Flora –
Legislation, Policy and Practice"

Western Australia is well known as a centre for flora diversity, with the south-west being recognised as a world biodiversity hotspot. To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, the area has to have a high level of flora endemism, but also have been subject to a high level of habitat loss. To maintain the flora diversity of WA we need to have effective biodiversity legislation, practical policies and effective flora conservation practices. Ken will present information on the existing, but dated, legislative protection currently in operation in WA and the policies that have been developed to make this legislation work for flora conservation. He will also present the new Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and explain the changes to legislation for flora conservation, and how this will improve our capacity to conserve the State's flora. Examples will be given of some of the flora conservation practices that are being undertaken in Western Australia to try and reverse the impacts of the range of threatening processes impacting our flora.

Date to be arranged
Library Morning Tea

The Library contains files and boxes of archival material that is all taking up storage space, but is never looked at. It is necessary to decide what to do with these materials. The Librarian, Fran Kininmonth, is going to organise a morning tea, sometime in April, to make a decision. If you are interested in the historical

background of the Eastern Hills Branch, please contact Fran to offer your help. It would be a shame to lose important materials for want of knowing why they are important. Contact:
Frankininmonth2004@yahoo.com.au

Future Events, MAY

Plant Sale 2018

Saturday 12th May (9.00am -2.00pm)
Octagonal Hall
Please put this date in your diary.

Growers

- **Is there anyone growing for the first time??** If so, please contact Janet Atkins 9295 2954 or atkinsrj@inet.net.au
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- Sunday 1st April for preliminary plant lists
- Sunday 22nd April for final plant lists
- These can be sent to both
- Janet Atkins atkinsrj@inet.net.au and Mitzi Wehlack (for the catalogue and signage) sangrila@primus.com.au

All Members

- **Friday 11th May – Set Up Day**
8.00am -10.00am – Setting out benches and last minute yard tidy up
10.00am -3.00pm – Grower delivery of plants
3.00pm –dark- Sorting of plants on benches
- **Saturday 12th May – Sale Day**
8.00am-9.00am – final placement signage and tidy-up
9.00am-2.00pm SALE
2.00pm onwards –clean up
Catering Coordinator Francesca Lebel

If you would like to be involved please contact Janet 92952954 or atkinsrj@inet.net.au . I am about to set up rosters. There are tasks for everyone. We need plant sellers, cashiers, caterers, manual labourers and signage sorters etc. This is the main fundraiser for our Branch of the WFSoc with 40% of the earnings going to the Branch. The growers have been working hard all year (particularly over

summer). It is a fun couple of days and a good opportunity to get to know other members and learn a lot about our wonderful WA flora.

Janet Atkins

REPORTS

Friday 23rd February
“Seaweeds of the West Coast”
John Huisman

This detailed and eye-opening talk started with John saying that he was a phycologist, a botanist who deals with algae, a word which seemed to be new to most of us. In fact, the whole talk was probably new to most of us!

It seems that, throughout the history of European settlement of Australia, there have been very few people interested in the diversity and taxonomy of seaweeds. He illustrated his readings from historical papers with photos of seaweeds taken at Rottnest, and what a huge diversity they were! The one that intrigued me most was something that looked like a miniature Norfolk Island Pine – which, apparently, no longer grows at Rottnest, the sea must have cooled?

Early taxonomists used morphological features for classification, but recent use of DNA sequencing has led to a vast increase in knowledge – and new species! John illustrated this with examples from his biological survey of the Pilbara and Kimberley coasts, undertaken in association with marine biologists from the WA Museum. He pointed out that the waters off the Kimberley are a very difficult environment to study, as there are huge tides, swirling currents and opaque muddy waters – as well as sharks, sea snakes and crocodiles. He described some of the extraordinary life cycles of red algae, emphasising how little we know about them. As an example, he showed a stiff, knobby, twiggy thing, which appears to be a red alga living symbiotically within a shell created by a sponge, with green alga living in the mucus on the outside of that ... life takes some strange forms!

John finished his talk by wishing that more people would take up the study of seaweeds, as they are beautiful and fascinating, and there is so much more to be learnt about them. However, to be able to

do that, a person has, like a fish, to be prepared to swim underwater ...!

This was a very interesting talk, delivered with humour, that held everyone spell-bound, realising that here was a branch of botany about which they knew almost nothing.

Penny Hussey

NEWS

Bush Workshops with the Educational Sub-Committee

Following the success of our kids EXPO last year, and in keeping with our aims, the Educational Sub-Committee has decided to offer a modified workshop program to the metropolitan branches of the WFS between April and November. We will offer 2-3 workshops per branch per session, with 2-3 of us presenting on the day. These workshops are for children from 7-16. There will be at least two presenters for each workshop so we will divide the group into younger and older children if necessary. We will include a walk in each session.

I've left a draft copy of our workshops with Fran. Please have a look at what we can offer and if you would like us to come up, please choose a day (Saturday or Sunday), and 2-3 workshops. We will rough out a 'Timetable of Events' so we don't clash with other groups such as the Nats Club.

Our aim is to encourage younger people to take an interest in the bush and hopefully come to love and value it as we do and to inspire them take a role in its conservation.

If our branch doesn't have enough young people who would be interested but is aware of other groups in the hills who would benefit from these workshops, or if you have any questions, please contact me as below:

Mob: 0421 351 468

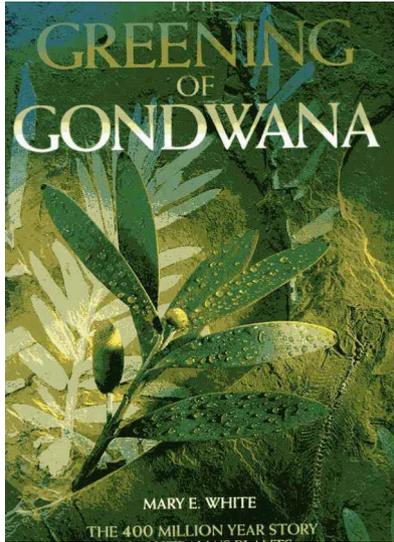
Email: seas@iinet.net.au

Amanda Spooner

BOOK REVIEW

Title: "The Greening of Gondwana"
Mary E. White.

There is an old adage "Never judge a book by it's cover"; however on reading the title, I did just that. And luckily I did.



The Greening of Australia retells clearly, with colourful diagrams, photos & not complicated scientific language, the fascinating story of Australia's floral history. The book explains their genesis, right through to the last stages of evolution-yes! accompanied by many explanations to the final settling of the land mass plates into Gondwana; describing the many floral (& a few others) changes with intrusions like the arrival of the white people, accompanied with crops of exotic plants.

Reading this one can easily trace the evolution of our plants - from life that was confined by water and the land - barren. Then is the emergence of a world transformed into a green, vibrant place; finally vegetated & coloured by our magnificent flora.

To my biggest surprise & pleasure (for I'd studied Geology for a few years, prior to embarking on a teaching career) the book contains many, many amazing, greatly enlarged & therefore well detailed photographs of a great variety of fossilized plants. Through these one can easily visualize the world as it was, even in pre-ancient times. Such is their variety that we are informed of past climates, arrangements of ancient landscapes and facts about the ever- changing surface of the earth's crust.

Fascinating stuff! The photography alone is intriguing for a photographer; also the information is easy to absorb & understand while covering the discipline of

Geoscience by combining several other disciplines- one of which, of course is Botany.

I'd love to keep the book on my book shelf, to have it handy to frequently delve into, enjoy the fascinating story & intriguing photographs & the forms they reveal so well.

Fran Kininmonth-

[When you've read this wonderful book, get up to date with the next one "After the Greening" and then "Running Down". They will help answer your questions of "Why does this grow here?" *Editor*]

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Microcorys longifolia

Family: Lamiaceae

This is a shrub to 1.3m spreading to 1.5m. It has greyish linear leaves. The tubular flowers are reddish-pink and are produced in Sept-Nov.

It is found around granite outcrops including on Thomas Road, Mundaring, and Nelson Road, Darlington. It occurs in the Darling Scarp and Range near Perth as far north as Calingiri, though it is never common.

Robyn Rudeforth



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

