



NEWSLETTER

April 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 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
* this is ANZAC Day, so the date may change, please check first.

Monday 16th April

Garden Busy Bee
9.00am

The garden will need to be tidied up ready for the Plant Sale on the 12th of May. Put the date in your diary and come and help – then enjoy the sausage sizzle afterwards!

Friday 27th April

Evening Meeting

John Ewing

“Difficulties in trying to ID Red Wispy Spider Orchids”

John is a Hills resident with a passion for orchids, especially *Caladenia*, the Spider Orchids. He has spoken at the Orchid Society meetings and given a presentation at a recent conference. He has also sought out orchids in their European settings on several occasions. His other passion is Eremophilas.

Unfortunately, the originally scheduled speaker **Ken Atkins**

“Conservation of Threatened Flora – Legislation, Policy and Practice”

is unable to attend due to a family tragedy. He will give his presentation in August.

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



Library Matters

Archives: The morning tea has had to be postponed to later in the year. It has taken longer to do research and there have been a few personal issues to deal with. However, it is falling into place nicely so far.

To those long-standing members who are keen to participate, brush out the cobwebs

from your memories and one could even start making some notes, if inclined.

If you wish to put your name down to join this important occasion for our branch

Email: frankininmonth2004@yahoo.com.au

or ph: 94783384. There is an answering machine but as these messages can blur, one needs to speak carefully and clearly. Thanks.

Library. The library is now a lot tidier, with more space for visitors to COME – BROWSE – BORROW. This will still be an honour or self service operation, but instructions are clear and easy to follow, with all records easily available.

Cathy and I will endeavour to be there each Wednesday at 4pm (phone first if you wish) and the hall is also open when the Seed Group or the Propagation Group are in action, so access to borrow is also available at those times.

There is a very wide range of subjects in the Library, so it's your library to USE!!! Come & cuddle a BOOK!

Fran Kininmonth

Future Events, MAY

Tuesday 1st May

Committee Meeting
7.30pm, Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th and 13th May

Seed Cleaning Group
9am: Octagonal Hall

Monday 14th and 28th May

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

Plant Sale 2018

Saturday 12th May (9.00am -2.00pm)

Octagonal Hall

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

As usual, we need boxes, lined with newspaper, suitable for packing plants into – please start saving. These can be dropped off at the Octagonal Hall and left on the south side near the kitchen door. However, please only bring them the week before the Sale, not any earlier.

If you would like to be involved please contact Janet on 92952954 or atkinsrj@inet.net.au . Rosters are set up. There are tasks for everyone. We need plant sellers, cashiers, caterers, manual labourers and signage sorters etc.

A new item this year is a sausage sizzle to run from 9.00am Saturday morning – we have a coordinator but need some other hands. If you have skills in this area and prefer to stay away from selling plants, this could be a spot for you! We would also appreciate some cake/scones/slice donations for morning teas.

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.

All help will be appreciated. It would be great for from the point of view of organisation for volunteers to make contact before the Sale. I will be away from the Octagonal Hall collecting and delivering plants for a good bit of Friday 11th (set up day) so if I am unaware that you are coming to help it make take a while to make use of your services.

Janet Atkins

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 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.

[What about an excursion to Drummond Reserve in Toodyay to see our own member of the Rafflesiaceae, Pilostyles? Anyone interested? Editor]

REPORTS

Blue Sky Festival

On Saturday 17th March, the Eastern Hills Branch participated in the Blue Sky Festival at Mundaring. Held in and around Sculpture Park, the festival focused on sustainability and environmental issues. Our display had a theme of Wattles - get rid of the weeds and grow local. With the help of photographs and actual foliage samples, we were able to demonstrate the difference. We gave away propagation kits comprising pre-treated acacia seeds - we had *A. alata*, *A. celastrifolia*, *A. pulchella* and *A. dentifera* - and starter pots containing seed raising mix. These were popular and quite a lot of people already knew of the proliferation of some of the eastern states wattles such as Flinder's Range Wattle.



The festival had many community groups participating such as the Naturalists, Kanyana,

St Barbe's Nursery and a range of talks on nest boxes, bushfire preparation, battery storage and revegetation. The Tiny House was very interesting as was the entertainment from the Junkadelic band! The festival was supported by The Mary Bremner Small Funds bequest via our branch.

Pam Riordan

Friday 23rd March
Evening Meeting
Eddy Wajon
Protecting Remnant Roadside Vegetation

Eddy Wajon is well known to many Wildflower Society members as he has both campaigned and acted for conservation over many years. In this presentation, he spoke with passion and commitment about the plight of roadside vegetation, mostly in farming areas.

He showed examples of illegal clearing by Local Government, which have increased since the closure of many grain-carting rail lines. He explained the procedure for obtaining clearing permits, but maintained that the responsible organisation, now called the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) does not act as an advocate for the environment in this process. (This sparked some debate from within the audience!)

He then explained the Australian government policy of "Safe Roads" which aims to eliminate serious road trauma by protecting drivers from themselves; even if they are drunk, drugged or way outside the legal driving regulations, nothing they do should result in death. This sparked debate about personal responsibility, litigation (who can I blame for what was my own fault, and so extort money from), and "The Nanny State". This is the rationale behind clearing vegetation from roadsides.

There are other road management options that can increase road safety, including lower speed limits, road safety barriers, and road edge identification devices. Eddy gave examples of how these have been used and emphasised that barriers are by far the most effective, but unfortunately also the most expensive.

He finished by outlining what the Wildflower Society's Roadside Vegetation Sub-committee had done and what it had achieved, then spoke about how other people could help raise awareness of the problem and influence their Local Government.

I personally found the talk deeply distressing, as from 1986 to 1992 I was employed by CALM in the position of Executive Officer to the rejuvenated Roadside Conservation Committee. We mapped conservation values, wrote tourism booklets, held workshops and visited Shire Councils on a regular basis. We had a good understanding going in most Shires. It seems that things have gone backwards since then. Sigh.

It is a pity that more members did not attend this talk as it provoked a strong debate and challenged us to act to promote the ideals the Wildflower Society holds dear. However, at the request of a member who could not attend, it was taped, and the PowerPoint slides are available if you would like to both watch and listen in your own home. Contact Robert Atkins.

Penny Hussey

NEWS

Could you lead a public wildflower walk in John Forrest National Park?

The Branch has received an enquiry from staff at John Forrest NP to ask if EHB Members would care to take guided Wildflower Walks in springtime. Is anyone interested in this? It would be an excellent opportunity to spread the Wildflower Society's message out to a wider audience. If you would like to help, please give your name to a member of the Committee.



This is common in the Hills (eg JFNP) and is just starting to flower. Do you know it?

Photocopying in the Hall

After years of frustration with its idiosyncrasies, the large photocopier will be decommissioned. The small one has also died. A new photocopier/scanner/printer has been purchased. It has been decided not to charge members for its use.

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



[How many people know this? I've never seen it. Perhaps we should have a ramble later in the year, in Darlington, to find and photograph it! Editor]

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