



NEWSLETTER

August 2018

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

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th Friday of the month. **Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm**

Note
time
change

Committee 2018

President: position vacant

Vice President: Fran Kininmonth

Treasurer: Robert Atkins

ehbtreasurer@inet.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

Facebook:

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

Coming Events August

Tuesday 7th August

Committee Meeting
7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 1st, 15th and 29th August

Seed Cleaning Group
9am: Octagonal Hall

Friday 24th August

Evening Meeting
"The New Biodiversity Act"

Ken Atkins

Why can't I clear that useless bit of bush?

It has taken over 20 years to replace WA's aging Wildlife Conservation Act with more up-to-date legislation, covering current threats to our native biota. And bigger penalties to hit wrongdoers with, too! Ken Atkins has been involved in the process from the start and will explain what the new Act and its regulations will mean to the future of conservation management in WA.

Ken has worked with mining companies in the Pilbara, then he joined CALM (now DCBA), first in the Wheatbelt, and latterly with a State-wide remit as manager of Species and Communities Branch. He is very interested in the management of rare plants and, of course, the new legislation will affect that.

Ken is a good speaker, and this is a topic that everyone managing native flora should understand.

Saturday 25th August

Botanical Ramble

Gooseberry Hill below Statham's Quarry

10.00 – 12.00 am. Leader Penny Hussey
Meet at entrance to Statham's Quarry on Ridge Hill Road. Park in lay-by on western side of the road, 50m south of the quarry gate.
This will be a gentle walk, passing from disturbed vegetation into almost pristine.



Monday 27th August
Propagation Group - restart
12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.
Bring your lunch

Future Events September

Tuesday 4th September
Committee Meeting
7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 12th and 26th September
Seed Cleaning Group
9am: Octagonal Hall

Saturday 15th September
Jan Pitman is hosting a WSWA "Open Garden" event. To find out more, contact WSWA on: enquiry@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Monday 19th
Propagation Group
12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.
Bring your lunch.

Friday 28th September
Evening meeting
"Calothamnus – more than one-sided"
Alex George

Alex George has spent a lifetime studying, naming and writing about WA native plants, first at the WA Herbarium, then in Canberra as Executive Editor of the "Flora of Australia". He will be well known to Wildflower Society members, as he often has articles in the WSWA Journal.

His favourite families are Proteaceae and Myrtaceae, and tonight he will tell us about one of his favourite genera, *Calothamnus*, the One-sided Bottlebrushes, which are endemic to WA. We might hear about some of their relatives, too.

FUTURE EVENTS

Botanical Ramble, Mokine Nature Reserve Toodyay
Saturday 6th October, led by Janet and Robert Atkins
All day excursion, bring lunch.
Further details including map in the next Newsletter, or contact the Atkins on: ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au

Hunt for *Pilostyles*
Date not set

Excursion to Wongan Hills
22nd – 23rd September
This excursion will be going ahead, but at the moment accommodation details are not finalised. Contact Fran on: frankininmonth2004@bigpond.com

Plant ID Workshop
Leaders: Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey.
This two-day workshop will be on Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th October from 10.00am to 3.30pm in the Octagonal Hall.
Cost: Members \$20.00 and non-members \$30.00. Maximum attendance, 20 people.
To reserve your place, contact: ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au

Octagon Art Group Exhibition
27th - 28th October
Octagonal Hall.
Our seven artists will display a variety of works for sale, on different media, including cards.

Come, enjoy, and buy a Christmas gift!
Francisca Lebel



Painting by B. Whitby

REPORTS

Evening Meeting July
"Using drones to monitor rehabilitation projects."

Todd Buters introduced himself as a commercial pilot who has become interested

in how drones can be used to assist scientific work. He is currently doing post-graduate study at Curtin University into the use of drones to monitor rehabilitation in extensive or difficult of access areas.

To illustrate the latter use, he described working with a friend on Theda Station in the far north of the Kimberley. The area is a vast sandstone plateau split by ravines, and covered with Speargrass that can grow 2m tall. Thus access is very difficult. Being studied is the biota of rock pools on the sandstone flats. The drone can quickly photograph large areas that a computer programme can stitch together to make a digital map. Depending on the type of sensors used in the cameras, this can pick up pools and terrain, allowing interconnectedness of the landscape to be understood.

Another site is at Murdoch where, flying low, individual seeds can be seen. He is trying to create an 'image identification process' that will reliably identify individual plants in the vegetation mosaic. Using near-infra red sensors, the health of plants can be seen too.

Clearly the technology has great potential to survey large areas cheaply, and provide many types of data. However, there are some problems yet to be solved before it can be used commercially.

Questions ranged from the accuracy of the data to privacy laws. With emerging technology such as this, legal aspects tend to be a grey area.

Todd is clearly enthusiastic about his subject – but I am not sure I understood all the techno-bits!

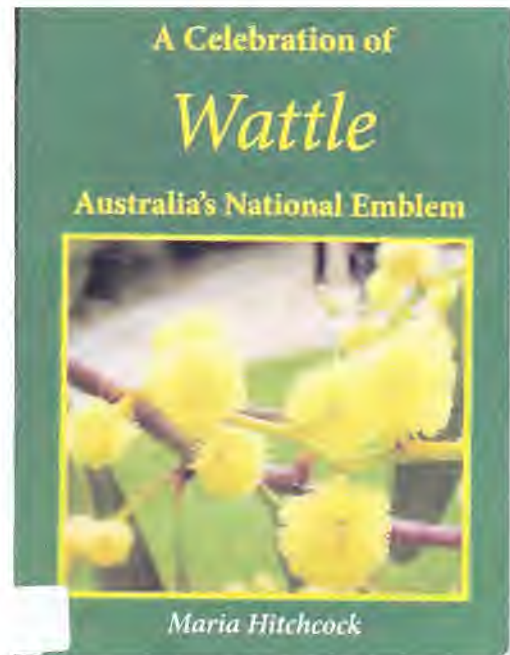
Penny Hussey

BOOK REVIEW

A Celebration of Wattle - Australia's National Emblem

A well-illustrated book that is the story, among several others short and long, about Maria Hitchcock, a child of refugee parents, who was introduced to our dainty wattle on a Wattle Day in the 1980s. Maria was approached by a teacher for material about Wattle Day. This quest opened many doors and exposed a treasure trove of history, literature, music and also other curriculum topics that had been largely ignored or forgotten in modern times.

Much of this "treasure trove" is included, making this an excellent resource for teachers and those who are maybe seeking ideas for a reason to celebrate our unique flora and history at a local government, or community group level of activities.



This book also tells of Maria's fraught, lengthy campaign battle, to eventually have the wattle enshrined as our National Floral Emblem and the formal gazettal of National Wattle Day - September 1st.

Other chapters give us an earlier historical background, including a myriad of activities in which our parents and grandparents may have participated during their school years, especially if they lived in the "eastern states". Western Australian society does not appear to have embraced many of these activities, with the possible exception of the Shire of Dalwallinu, which has (at time of publication) a Wattle Week Festival, held during the second week of September. A sign on a stone wall at an entry to the shire reads "Welcome to Dalwallinu, a Place of Wheat & Wattle".

Bruce Maslin, a now retired Senior Principal Research Scientist (then attached to the Western Australian Herbarium and an expert of this genus over many years of research), gave permission to use the descriptive information from the World Wide Wattle website, in compiling the captions that accompany the many charming wattle photos and paintings spread throughout these pages.

If you are a lover of many aspects of genus *Acacia*-e.g. retaining the name, allergies, propagating Acacias from seed and many, many other facts & ideas, THIS IS THE BOOK FOR YOU.

The sad news is we have only one book in our comprehensive library, so don't delay your desire to read up on this in-depth publication of the genus *Acacia*.

Fran Kininmonth

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Dodonaea ceratocarpa



Spreading upright shrub to 2.5m high with small ovate leaves spotted with pale oil glands.

The inconspicuous flowers appear from May to October. The 4-winged fruits colour an attractive purple-brown when ripe.

It occurs in near-coastal areas from Perth to Israelite bay.

Locally, it occurs on granites in the Darling Range, including in the Helena Valley. It can be seen in Walyunga National Park, along the walk trail between the two picnic sites.

Grows easily from seed.

Robyn Rudeforth



A Wattle Day brochure was prepared by the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Department of Administrative Services after the proclamation in 1988 to distribute to the public. It contained a few seeds of the emblem and instructions for growing them.

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

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