



NEWSLETTER

September 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

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 September

Tuesday 4th September

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 12th and 26th September

Seed Cleaning Group

In recess

Saturday 15th September

Jan Pittman 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.

Excursion to Wongan Hills 22/23 September

Cancelled

Due to (a) dearth of accommodation and (b) lack of interest from members.

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; in Kew representing Australian Herbaria, 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 October

Tuesday 2nd October

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Saturday 6th October

Botanical Ramble, Mokine Nature Reserve
Toodyay

Led by Janet and Robert Atkins

Meet at Mokine Reserve, on Leaver Road at 10:00am. Bring your morning tea, lunch and a chair.

How to get there?

Preferred Route: Travel on Great Eastern Highway east from Mundaring to The Lakes (BP Roadhouse), turn right onto Great Southern Highway (follow direction sign to York, black line on map), to Wambyn Road and turn left, turn right at T junction on Leaver Road.

Alternate Route: Travel on Great Eastern Highway east from Mundaring to Baker's Hill.

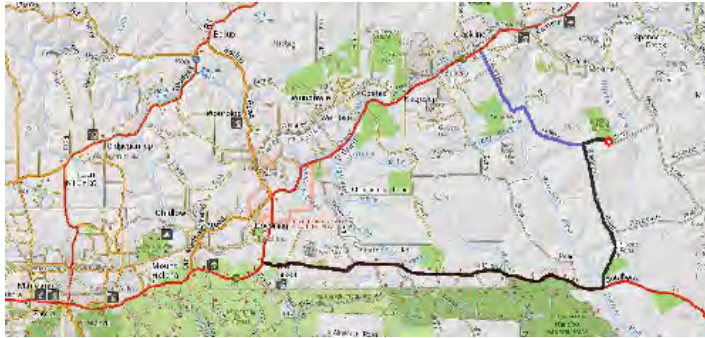
Just past Baker's Hill turn right onto Decastilla Road (blue line on map), onto Leaver Road.

Travel time from Mundaring is approximately 40 minutes.

What will we do?

Meet for morning tea at 10:00am. Three walking routes have been set out to cover a range of soil, topography and vegetation types, designed to maximize the variety of wildflowers to see. All radiate out from the meeting point and most are easy walking. You can walk a distance that suits you.

There will be a guided walk before lunch and one after lunch finishing about 3pm.



Monday 8th and 22nd October

Propagation Group

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Wednesday 10th and 24th October

Seed Cleaning Group

In recess

Plant Identification Workshop

Saturday 13th and 20th October

10.00am to 3.30pm Octagonal Hall

Leaders: Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey

Cost: members \$20.00, non-members \$30.00

Day1: Introduction; flower and inflorescence structure; tools, lenses, microscopes, scans, terminology, books, electronic; stem and leaf structure; all topics theory and practical

Day 2: recognising 12-16 common WA plant families, theory and practical.

Study aids and materials will be provided.

To reserve your place, contact:

ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au

Register now, minimum 10, maximum 20.

Friday 26th October

Evening meeting

"The Canning Stock Route"

Stephen Lenghaus

EHB member Stephen Lenghaus will take us for a trip along the Canning Stock Route, a drive that most of us have heard about, but few of us have actually undertaken. It has history, amazing desert scenery and, often, dramatic driving experiences!

And, of course, there are, in season, magnificent wildflowers.

27th - 28th October

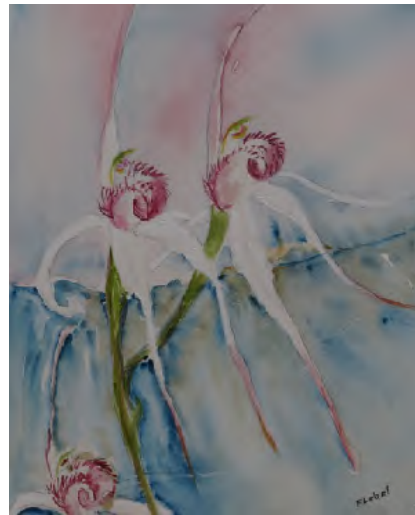
Octagon Art Group Exhibition

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 F. Lebel

Future Events

23rd November

Evening meeting

AGM

All committee positions vacant.

Please consider nomination.

Followed by:

"Wildflowers in the Mediterranean"

Penny Hussey will take a lighthearted look at some of the floral beauties and curiosities you can find while exploring the ruins of ancient civilisations around the Mediterranean.

REPORTS

Evening Meeting August

“The new Biodiversity Conservation Act”

Ken Atkins is Manager of Species and Communities Branch within the Department of Biodiversity and Attractions, and has been working for the DBCA through four of its previous incarnations. In all of this time, he has been managing WA’s flora and fauna under the 1950 Wildlife Conservation Act. As you may imagine, this is now somewhat dated and for at least 30 years biologists have been trying to get a new Act through Parliament. Well, surprise, surprise! It’s happened!

Simply and clearly, Ken described what the old Act did and what changes will occur under the new one, illustrating pertinent points with specific examples.

Firstly, he reminded us of what a wealth of biodiversity our State contains, and how little is still known about it. Flora, for example, has 12,521 known taxa, 62% of which are endemic to WA – and new species are still being discovered all the time. (Concerning fauna diversity, we are still waiting to hear from Cathy Car how many new species of millipedes she is going to describe!) Ken then spoke of threats such as clearing and dieback.

The new Act will change licencing arrangements – not least by having an on-line application process. There will be a special licence for bioprospecting, another for flora dealers and another for biological survey. The case of Sandalwood (previously regulated under legislation passed in 1929!) was discussed in detail, including log tracking systems and DBCA’s staff efforts at recording individual plants within private property locations, in an attempt to minimise theft of these very valuable trees from Crown Land.

For listing of Threatened Flora categories and – new now – Threatened Ecological Communities, the IUCN criteria are used, and all jurisdictions within Australia (except SA) are now all the same, making cross-border matters easier.

The audience, many of whom were from other branches of the WSWA, asked numerous questions, mainly concerning the operation of picking licences and the regulations covering the sale of Threatened Flora species that have been sourced from

plants already in cultivation. More details can be found on DBCA’s website.

Penny Hussey

BOTANICAL RAMBLE

Saturday 25th August

Statham’s Quarry, Gooseberry Hill

A beautiful sunny day greeted the 16 people who joined me for a ramble into Beelu National Park via the northern edge of the Statham’s Quarry area. The first part of the walk was steep – downhill then up – as we passed through land degraded by past quarry activities, then we reached the park, and the change was spectacular.



Tumbled granite rocks, bedecked with flowering shrubs and bursting with life after the recent rain, surrounded our track. Birds sang, there were tadpoles in a stream - a world away from wars and back-stabbing politicians!



Prickly Dryandra, *Dryandra armata*, was just starting to flower. It is common in this vegetation type. (You can call it *Banksia armata* if you really want to!)

BOOK REVIEW

Nicolle, Dean. *Taller eucalypts for planting in Australia: their selection, cultivation and management*. Lane Print, 2016.

Nicolle, Dean. *Smaller eucalypts for planting in Australia: their selection, cultivation and management*. Lane Print, 2016.

This pair of books will be a boon to people like me who can only recognise the most common eucalypts that grow locally. Each volume follows the same format, containing an extensive listing of species, each with coloured photographs showing the flowers, buds and nuts as well as the whole tree.

There are quite detailed notes on cultivation and care of each, including climate and soil type, a selection of similar species which could be planted as an alternative, and distribution maps.

These attractive volumes will provide a useful reference for identification as well as a handbook for growers.

Pauline Sawyer

The vegetation here is standard 'Helena Complex' valley slope granite stuff, but still interesting for its remarkably undisturbed state. It has even been 10-12 years since it last burnt! We meandered along, talking and photographing. Although we were a bit slow, I think everyone enjoyed themselves, even those who were not members of EHB, but had heard of the walk by some electronic means.

Incidentally, somebody asked me what the name *Trymalium* means and I had to admit I didn't know. Well, I looked it up in F. Sharr's "*Western Australian plant names and their meanings*" and it comes from the Greek *trymaila*, meaning the eye of a needle, in reference to the three slits at the summit of the fruit when it opens. (If you haven't got a copy of Sharr, ask Alex George at the next meeting when his update will be published!)

Penny Hussey

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Acacia denticulosa
Sandpaper Wattle

This striking, eye-catching plant is an open shrub to 4m high and 3m wide. It is sure to provoke interest in anyone who sees it.

The phyllodes are quite large with wavy margins and a rough surface – hence the common name.

The flowers are long golden rods in September-October.

It occurs naturally from Wongan Hills to Nungarin to Coolgardie, mainly around granite outcrops.

Grows well in gravel around Mundaring. It can be seen locally on the western side of Seabourne Road, Parkerville.

It is propagated easily from seed that has been treated in hot water.



Robyn Rudeforth

Octagonal Hall Cleaning

The Eastern Hills Branch occupies the Octagonal Hall, 52 McGlew Road Glen Forrest. The hall is used for meetings and workshops about 5 times per month.

Expressions of Interest are invited from members interested in assisting the branch with regular cleaning at the hall twice per month for about an hour per session, between February and November. Equipment and cleaning products are supplied.

If you are interested email ehbtreasurer@inet.net.au for more information.

Robert Atkins
Hon. Treasurer

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