



NEWSLETTER

October 2018

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

**Note
time
change**

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 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/>

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.

A few places still remaining. To reserve your place, contact:

ehbtreasurer@inet.net.au

26th October

Evening meeting

"The Canning Stock Route"

Stephen Lenghaus

Coming 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

Seed Cleaning Group

In recess

Monday 8th and 22nd October

Propagation Group

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Saturday 13th and 20th October

Plant Identification Workshop

10.00am to 3.30pm Octagonal Hall

Leaders: Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey

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

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.

Future Events November

Tuesday 6th November

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 5th and 19th November

Propagation Group

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Wednesday 10th and 24th October

Seed Cleaning Group

In recess

Friday 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.

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

Future Events

Australian Plant Society National Conference,
Albany. Sept/Oct 1019

This promises to be a superb event, with stimulating speakers and fascinating excursions. Note the dates in your diary now! Check the WSWA Newsletter for details of how you can help.

VALE

Pieter Van Der Meer

Pieter Van Der Meer passed away on the 19th September 2018. Pieter and Bertje joined the Wildflower Society Eastern Hills Branch in 2005. Peter was the Branch Treasurer for much of the time between joining until November 2009. During this time he migrated the branch financial ledger from a paper base to computer. He designed and set up a series of spreadsheets on the computer which automated the monthly reports and annual financial statements incorporating error tests to identify when incorrect figures had been entered or entered

in the wrong place. A truly remarkable effort for which I, as current Treasurer and amateur book keeper, am for ever grateful!

Robert Atkins

REPORTS

Evening Meeting September

“*Calothamnus* – more than one-sided”

Taxonomic botanist, historian and latin scholar, Alex George, gave a detailed (but not too technical!) talk on the Western Australian genus *Calothamnus*, known commonly as the One-sided Bottlebrushes. They were first collected by French explorers in the early nineteenth century, and the original ‘type specimen’ can still be found in the Paris Herbarium.

The 41 species grow mainly in the South-west of WA, though some do extend into the arid zone. And, as he showed us, not all have the flowers arising from only one side of the stem.

The plants are shrubs, though in the absence of fire, they may grow to tree size. After fire, some regenerate from seed, and some from lignotubers. And one astonishing species, found on Peak Charles, actually has tuberous roots – the only species in the family Myrtaceae to do so! So, of course, it is called *C. tuberosus*.

The commonest species, *C. quadrifidus*, is very variable, and has 9 subspecies. Alex said it took Neil Gibson and himself 3 years to get them sorted out! This gave an insight into the complexity of the science of taxonomy.

Another really interesting story concerned *C. lateralis*. This has two forms, one found in the Stirlings and one on the Scott River Plain. The species was first collected by James Drummond, but where? He would just put the location as ‘Swan River Colony’ – not very helpful! Studying the original specimen in Kew Herbarium, Alex found it contained a clue – flowers of a *Grevillea* found only on the Scott River. Problem solved!

This was a fascinating talk, full of interesting facts about a beautiful group of plants.

Penny Hussey

Celebrate an ancestor!

After the meeting, Alex asked Robert Atkins if he was aware that his Great Grandfather has a plant named after him, *Maireana atkinsiana*? William Atkins came to WA in 1881 to manage the Jarrahdale Timber Mill. He later was elected MLA for Murray from 1902-04.



M. atkinsiana, the Bronze Saltbush, is a tangled shrub to about 60cm high with pink fruits turning bronze at maturity. It grows on flat saline soils around salt lake systems throughout the southern shrublands, from Carnarvon to the Nularbor and the edge of the Great Victoria Desert,



If anyone is travelling out that way, perhaps they could collect some seed, which could be grown to plant in the Hall grounds?

Has anyone else got a 'family' plant that we might be able to grow?

BOTANICAL RAMBLE

Saturday 6th September
Mokine Nature Reserve, York

All the way alongside the drive out to Mokine Reserve, roadside plants were in glorious flower, and the reserve itself proved to be a treasure trove of fascinating species. It is granite – sometimes exposed in tumbled boulders – with clay soils and some gravel. The area is transitional between the Darling Range and the Wheatbelt, and much of the vegetation is open Wandoo/Jam woodland over diverse low shrubs. At this season, where it has not been disturbed, the ground was bright with a mass of colourful annuals and geophytes.



A carpet of pink – *Rhodanthe manglesii*, Nodding Pink Everlasting

The 13 attendees spread out, calling out to each other as interesting specimens were located, and everyone's camera got a big workout! Sadly, we didn't find the rare plant Pam was searching for, but it wasn't for want of looking!



A small group of the Darling Range Donkey Orchid – recently named *Diuris ostrina* after a decade of being called *D. sp* 'Darling

'Range' - was found. This late-flowering Donkey Orchid is not common, so it was an interesting discovery.



The floor of the Wandoo woodland was dotted with colour; here a low-growing *Hibbertia* sp. provides contrast to the tiny, usually inconspicuous perennial, Orange Sundew, *Drosera miniata*.

On the way home, we stopped at Drummond Gum Reserve, a revegetated gravel pit and rock dump vested in the Vale of York Committee. The unusual mallee, *Eucalyptus decurva*, was promised, but the revegetation was so dense that I couldn't find the *** things!

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, and Pam has promised to put images of the species seen onto the EHB Facebook pages, so that those members who weren't able to attend can see what they missed. Thank you to Robert and Janet Atkins for leading us on the ramble.

Penny Hussey

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Beaufortia macrostemon
Darling Range *Beaufortia*

This is a low, spreading shrub, 40cm high x 80cm wide.

The leaf colour is grey – the young leaves are covered with dense, silky hairs – and this provides a striking contrast to the red and green heads of flowers, produced from September to January.



It is propagated by seed sown in spring, and regrows after fire from a lignotuber. The germination rate is good.

It grows in gravelly soils and does best in full sun.

It occurs on the eastern side of the Coastal Plain and also on the Darling Scarp and Range.

Locally, it can be seen off Glenburn Road, Glen Forrest.

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. **An honorarium will be offered.**

If you are interested email ehbtreasurer@iinet.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