



# NEWSLETTER

November 2018

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

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.  
4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

**Facebook:**

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

---

## Future Events December

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**Propagation Group**

Last meeting of the year, with lunch. Venue to be decided.

**The next Newsletter and the next general meeting will be in February 2019.**

---

---

## Coming Events November

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

Committee Meeting

7.30pm: Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning Group**

In recess

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November**

**Propagation Group**

12.00 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

**Evening meeting**

**AGM**

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

### Native Plant ID Workshop

What a fantastic two Saturdays we had at the Plant Workshops run by Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey. We were a group of one dozen students of varying experience and knowledge. The first day we were introduced to the concept of naming plants, followed by a look at the anatomy of flowers. That was quite challenging, trying to identify the "bits". I'd always been told flowering plants flaunt their sexual parts and that is exactly the case. But which bit is "he" and which is "she"? We had fun dissecting the plants and looking at them through magnifiers and a microscope. Then we had a session on where to find information - the use of keys and Florabase. By the end of the day I knew how to tell a melaleuca from a callistemon!

When the afternoon schedule said "leaves" I thought that would be easy. However a short time later I was wondering "when is a leaf a leaf"? Yes they can be confusing too. And how many leaf shapes can there be??? Crenate? Palmate?

Janet and Penny had collected lots of samples so we had excellent illustrations of what they were talking about.

We returned on the second day to work our way through many families, learning the characteristics that make the species belong to that family. Did you know that Kunzeas tend to retain their petals but not their fruits? Or that Grevilleas tend to have different colours on each side of their leaves? Daviesias always have triangular pods, the sepals of Jacksonias usually bend backwards! Many gems were dropped, how many will I remember?

During the week between the 2 workshops, Janet and Penny whipped up a very useful manual with all the families and their characteristics. They had it printed and distributed to all the participants. It's a great resource, simplified for those beginning their journey into the world of wildflowers.



The amount of hours of preparation put in by Penny, Janet and Robert (who ensured that the technology worked) was obvious. They had collected countless samples for us to examine.



Everyone agreed the workshops exceeded their expectations. One participant who had travelled from Fremantle said *"Thanks to Penny and*

*Janet, in two short days my knowledge and appreciation of our native plants has increased enormously, and I am encouraged to learn more."*

I was surprised more members, from our branch and other branches, did not take up this opportunity. I hope we can see further workshops, perhaps specialising in particular families. We are very fortunate to have in our branch such knowledgeable and skilled presenters.

*Pam Riordan*

## Evening Meeting October

"The Canning Stock Route"

Stephen Langhaus

The meeting commenced with passing around plants that were flowering at the moment in members' gardens, together with discussion on how to grow them. Then, since the speaker had been delayed, Janet and Robert Atkins took us on a trip through some of WA's inland areas, including the Kimberley, highlighting the floral species found along the way.

When Stephen arrived, he continued the theme of inland travel, and illustrated a trip along the Canning Stock Route. Stephen himself has studied in a number of disciplines, and is widely travelled; he currently works for the Department of Agriculture in the biosecurity field.

Stephen started with some history of the route and explained that most parties travel south to north because of the configuration of the 400 or so red sand dunes that have to be crossed along the way.

We travelled north, looking at the wells, campsites, flora and occasionally fauna that were encountered. Much of the route traverses Aboriginal-managed land, and occasional burn-offs were noted.

Although the area is officially 'desert', it was well covered in vegetation - whenever there was a high enough hill to see across this incredibly flat landscape. It was interesting to see the way the vegetation changed as the group got further north. However, might I suggest that, if he gives this talk again, Stephen first deletes all the photos that are out of focus, leaving the viewer to enjoy and marvel at the diversity of this wild region, without being distracted by poor images.

*Penny Hussey*

## Grounds tidying

A big 'thank you' to the nine people who spent two mornings pulling weeds and raking up fallen leaves and sticks so that the property is safer for summer. Three huge trailer-loads of debris were hauled away! There is still more that could be done, though, if you could spare an hour or so.

Once the tall grasses were pulled up, we were surprised to find two magnificent plants of the local creeper *Billardiera (Pronaya) fraseri*. They must have been planted some years ago, and have been quietly growing ever since. Clearly, if you are on laterite and would like a beautiful, non-invasive twiner, this would be worth a try. Before next meeting, nip out the back and have a look. It will probably still be in flower.



## NOTE:

Photos taken during the Mokine Reserve ramble were put on the Society's Facebook page but a viewer took exception to our identification of the orange sundew as *Drosera miniata*. Apparently it is a newly-named species, *Drosera albonotata*, published in 2018. "Look at the base of each petal", he said, "they are white. And the filaments are purple, in *D. miniata* they are white." We live and learn – what an exciting place for botanists WA is!

It is apparently a Priority 2 species.



---

## Octagonal Hall Cleaning

The Committee is very pleased to report that Rosy Brooks has volunteered to take on the Hall cleaning. Thank you!

---

## Darling Range NatureBase

Retired zoologist, computer whiz and Hills resident, Lesley Brooker, has created a database of plants and animals found in the Hills. It will be very useful for anyone wanting to learn about anything from worms to *Wurmbea*.

To download this file, go to: -

<https://lesmikebrooker.weebly.com/flora-and-fauna.html>

Click on "Darling Range Download".

It will appear in your browser (may be slow). Save onto your computer and open in Adobe Reader. Feedback requested!

## For Sale

Brother MFC model J6910DW inkjet colour copier, scanner, and printer. Some spare ink cartridges included.

**Best offer**

Contact

Treasurer: [ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au](mailto:ehbtreasurer@iinet.net.au)



## For Sale

Metal slide projector stand, approx. 1.5m high.

**Best offer**

Contact Treasurer: [ehbtreasurer@iinet.net](mailto:ehbtreasurer@iinet.net)



## COLLECT SEEDS NOW!

**Wattles, peas and everlastings should be ready very shortly. Urgently needed for the seed bank.**

---

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Kennedia coccinea*  
Coral Vine

This can either be a light climber that twines around other plants for support, or a ground cover.

The flowers occur in dense clusters on long stems in August-November. They are yellow-centred with either orange, pink, mauve or red as the main colour. The leaves are made up of three large leaflets.

It occurs on the Swan Coastal Plain, Darling Scarp and Range, north as far as Eneabba and south to the Stirlings and Porongorup Ranges and Cape Arid.

It propagates easily from pre-treated seed.



The ground-cover form was seen in masses along Great Eastern Highway in an area which had been burnt in 2017. The climbing form can be seen scattered throughout local bush areas.

*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.