

# NEWSLETTER



April 2019

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 2019

**President:** Alasdair Adam  
**Vice President:** Pam Riordan  
**Treasurer:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Sandy Stone  
**Minutes Secretary:** Penny Hussey  
**Committee Members:** John Bates, Lee Roberts,  
Fran Kininmonth

### Email:

For all email contact to individual Committee Members 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/>

---

## Coming Events April

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April**  
Committee Meeting  
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Propagation Group**  
12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.  
Bring your lunch

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Seed Cleaning Group**  
9am Octagonal Hall  
NB: WE NEED FRESH MELALEUCA SEED!

**Plant Learners' Group**  
No meeting in April.

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April Evening meeting

Terry Houston  
"Our Native Bees"

Terry Houston is the author of "A Guide to Native Bees of Australia". Australia's abundant native bees are incredibly diverse in their appearance and habits. Some are yellow and black but others have blue stripes, are iridescent green or wasp-like. Some are social but most are solitary. Some do build nests with wax but others use silk or plant material, burrow in soil or use holes in wood and even gumnuts! Terry will take us through the fascinating world of native bees.

---

## Future Events May

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
Committee Meeting  
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Propagation Group**  
12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.  
Bring your lunch

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**Seed Cleaning Group**  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Plant Learners' Group**  
12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.  
Bring your lunch

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May Evening meeting

John Ewing

### “Orchids in Strange and Faraway Places”

John Ewing has been heavily involved in the WA Orchid Study and Conservation group as well as the “Adopt an Orchid” programme. He has seen more than 400 species of orchid and will attempt to show us many of them in this presentation.

---

## Creating a Garden using Western Australian Natives Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 1-2pm Boya Community Centre

This is a short workshop designed to entice the novice gardener to try gardening with native plants. Lisa Passmore will conduct the workshop and we hope to promote the use of local plants, especially those available at our plant sale. So tell your friends! To register email Lee at [lee.roberts205@gmail.com](mailto:lee.roberts205@gmail.com)

---

## Plant Sale 2019 Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May (9.00am -2.00pm) Octagonal Hall

### All Members

- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> May – Sale Day**  
8.00am-9.00am –final placement signage and tidy-up  
9.00am-2.00pm SALE  
2.00pm onwards –clean up

We still need volunteers to help with serving teas and with selling plants and setting up Friday. Thanks to all those who have volunteered so far. Please contact Pam at [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com) if you are happy to volunteer.

We also need donations of cakes, biscuits, sandwiches to sell on Saturday. They can be dropped off Saturday morning.

### Also needed:

**Boxes/icecream containers for people to carry home their plants. These can be left anytime on the LHS verandah**

*Pam Riordan*

---

## Visit to Herbarium Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May

This will include the reference Herbarium as well a visit to the Threatened Flora Seed Centre with Dr Andrew Crawford.

---

## NEW BOOKMARKS

The Blue Sky Festival ran us out of our bookmarks. We would like your nominations for a hills plant to illustrate the next batch. Email us with your choice!

---

## SOCIAL MEDIA GROUP

It's a fact that social media is extremely useful in spreading your message. How many people look at the Wildflower Society facebook page? It's a great source of learning plants as people post photos and someone will always identify them. Our own facebook group page has nearly 200 members.

However we realise it could be utilised more effectively. We're looking to find people who have experience or want to delve further into the intricacies of sharing, liking, posting etc. Ideally we would form a small group who would be willing to explore the options and share new ideas.

At our last Friday night meeting we had several young people who came just because they saw the talk promoted on Facebook.

Please send an email to our generic email address if you are interested in this area.

And don't forget to join our group and like and share our posts.

## **SUPPER** and the Eastern Hills Branch

If you have been to our last couple of meetings you will have noticed that we have re-instigated supper. It has proven very popular and gives everyone a chance to socialise after the talk. It only needs 2 or 3 people to bring a plate so please volunteer to take a turn.



in remote communities. In his work he compiled a list of 16 different words the Aboriginals use for fungi and he continues add to it.

These plant forms, surprisingly, have religious significance for persons as widespread as North American Indians, landed groups from Mexico through to the Australian Aboriginal, who mentions them in Dreamtime stories about ancestral beings. Here too, Arpad found them associated with medicinal uses-i.e. stemming blood flow, as wound dressings and even baby powder. Navajo Indians also used them similarly for sores, scratches, abscesses. Some other Indian groups used them to smoke bees out of their homes.



---

## **REPORTS**

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019** **“Puffballs” by Arpad Kalotis**

For me, this evening’s talk about the fungi groups- Pisolithus / Selerdermatales, presented a diverse amount of unexpected, varied & intriguing information about the fungi often commonly referred to as “Puffballs”. Until now, I’d just known them as the fungi that “popped up” in the lawn and around the garden shortly after the autumn rains commenced. As I thought most of them are poisonous (& many of them are well left alone and not to be harvested for a meal) my reaction was to kick them apart, a reaction followed from earlier years.

Arpad Kalotas has studied this and other groups extensively, over many years. In part, through gathering information about their many aspects while working with Aboriginal groups in scattered parts of the desert interiors of Northern Territory & Western Australia, alongside other studies and his working on environmental & cultural projects

Other uses are for cosmetic uses, cooking-some types can be used but only at the early white stage, with disposal of skins & stalks being necessary. Apparently some types served with fried crispy bacon have proven to be delicious. Fashion also has a mention too, through their application in the dying of yarns & fabrics, often by groups re-discovering very early methods of these techniques.

Many of the fungi group have excellent food values, with research being carried out into their pharmaceutical properties, alongside anti-bacterial and antifungal uses as well. If any member is wanting further information, there are several books about this (now, for me) fascinating topic in our library. E & OE (but not too many, I trust!!)

*Fran Kininmonth*

### **Blue Sky Festival**

Our branch again participated in the Blue Sky Festival at Mundaring. This year we teamed up with Kaarakin, the Cockatoo Conservation

Centre, and we're sure the live cockatoo helped bring the visitors to our display! We had a theme of "Food for Cockatoos" and we gave away lots of seeds from banksia, hakeas and even a few marris.



Thanks to June and to Sandy for all the seed donations, John for putting up the marquees and Lee, Paula, Fran and Sandy for their work. Amanda Spooner and Cathy Levett from the Education Sub-Committee also came along with their i-scope and their insect hotels, so that created interest with the kids. There were many interesting talks and a variety of displays from community groups and commercial organisations. We were located in "Nature Alley" along with the Naturalists, EMRC, Nearer to Nature and the NRM, so we felt it was a worthwhile day.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Grevillea manglesii subsp manglesii*  
Also known as *Grevillea glabrata*

A spreading shrub 2.5m high x 3m wide. Leaves are divided with sharp points on the new growth which is a bronze-red colour. Flowers are usually white, though some are very pale pink. Flowers July-February. It grows in thickets along creek banks and within 200m of creeks in gravelly clay.

It tolerates full sun as well as dappled shade and is also frost hardy.

It propagates readily from seed and responds well to pruning.

Its natural habitat is restricted to the Darling Range from Wooraloo to Helena Valley and south to Mt Dale. It can be seen growing along the Railway heritage Trail from Stoneville to John Forrest National Park.

*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.