



NEWSLETTER

May 2019

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

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th 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

Facebook:

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

Coming Events May

Thursday 2nd May
Committee Meeting
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

PLANT SALE 2010
Saturday 11th May
Octagonal Hall
9.00am – 2.00pm



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

Plant Learners' Group
Same time and place as the Propagation Group.

Wednesday 8th and 22nd May
Seed Cleaning Group
9am Octagonal Hall

Friday 24th May
Evening meeting
“Orchids in strange and Faraway Places”
John Ewing

John saw his first WA native orchid in Darlington in 2001. Up until then John only knew about tropical orchids that you could buy in a shop. He joined the WA Native Orchid Group and is now the President.

Recently, John became involved with the ADORP (Adopt an Orchid Program) where he has been studying *Caladenia dundasiae* (Patricia's Spider Orchid). This is part of a large study program arranged by DPAW (now called DBCA) which studies more than 30 rare orchids with nearly 100 people involved. In addition John has sought to do his own research into Donkey Orchids. There are at least 26 different species in the group John has studied and he has found at least one further unnamed species. So the challenge grows.

Wednesday 29th May
Excursion
Visit to the Herbarium at 11am to tour the Seed Centre and the Reference Herbarium with Dr. Andrew Crawford.

The Herbarium is housed in the Science Centre at DBCA, Dick Perry Drive, Kensington, but it is suggested that participants meet at the Octagonal Hall beforehand to car pool.

You must book a place with Fran Kininmonth at the evening meeting on the 24th or before, Frankininmonth2004@yahoo.com.au

Future Events June

Thursday 6th June
Committee Meeting
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 10th and 24th June

Propagation Group

12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.
Bring your lunch

Plant Learners' Group

Same time and place as the Propagation group

Wednesday 5th and 19th June

Seed Cleaning Group

9am Octagonal Hall

Excursion

Saturday 15th June

Talbot Road Reserve

Leader: Penny Hussey

Details next Newsletter

Friday 28th June

Evening meeting

"Bushland Survey at Hamelin Station, Shark Bay"

Judith Harvey and Sarah Luxton

The presenters will describe and illustrate the bushland survey carried out by members of the Wildflower Society, together with Bush Heritage. This is a little-known but fascinating botanical area, where the arid zone and the South-west floras meet. It should be a fascinating talk.



PLANT SALE

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered for the plant sale. We'll be setting up Friday 10th from 8am and on Saturday 11th we'll be getting ready from 8am. We still need plenty of boxes for people to carry home their purchases and of course cakes and biscuits are welcome for us to sell. They can be dropped off Friday afternoon if that is suitable (and if they are in sealed containers) ; otherwise first thing Saturday is good. Growers please bring your plants from 10am Friday. There will be a drop off parking area in the street in front of the hall.

The plant sale is a huge effort from the growers, from Mitzi who has compiled the catalogue and then from all the dozens of volunteers who help set up and conduct the sale. We hope it will be as successful as ever and look forward to seeing everyone there. This year Cathy Levett from the Education Subcommittee will be running her I-Scope activity from 10am to 12 noon for the children.

Bendigo Bank will again be helping with the EFPTOS facility and this year for the first time we have to add GST to the plant prices.

If you have any questions please contact Pam on 93782523 or pamela.riordan@gmail.com.

REPORTS

Friday 28th April 2019

."What's interesting about native bees?"

Terry Houston

Because he has spoken to the EHB before, this evening Terry wandered through a whole series of interactions between native bees and flowering plants, giving a fascinating insight into the complexity of our local biodiversity. First, he clarified the popular concept that bees were deliberately pollinating plants, pointing out that actually they were robbing them of nectar and pollen. It is the plant that has so modified itself that pollination occurs as a result of these attacks.

He described the ways in which bees can carry pollen back to their nests to feed their young, showing photos to illustrate how the hairs on body or legs may be curved, to help hold the pollen. One strange bee (a *Leioproctus*) makes a pollen ball under its proboscis! Sounds very awkward!

Most of our bees are solitary, and he described how the burrows are constructed, or already made hollows used, and urged us to put 'bee hotels' in our gardens. One type of bee makes foam to seal the underside of the lid of the brood chamber.

Native bees main predators are parasitic wasps, that lay eggs onto the bee larva in the brood cell, but there are also Cuckoo Bees, who do the same thing.

Bees are not always easy to find, as their emergence from the pupal state is often brief, and greatly determined by the season. As an

example, he outlined the case of the bee *Sperocolletes*, of which one specimen was collected from Rottnest in 1937. Nothing more was seen of it, so it was thought to be extinct. Then --- in the 1990s, one specimen was collected from Banksia woodland north of Perth. And no more since!

For those of you who missed this talk, you missed a stunner! **But don't despair, you can buy the book**

Penny Hussey

AMAZING OFFER!

“A Guide to Native Bees of Australia”
by Terry Houston
Pub CSIRO 2018

Normally retails at \$50.00

But (during the month of May only) Terry has copies that he will sell to members of EHB for **\$35.00 !!!**

Contact Fran Kininmonth by email to reserve your copy.

Frankinmonth2004@yahoo.com.au

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

Creating a Garden using Western Australian Natives

Linda Passmore

This free event was held on Wednesday 1st May in the Boya Community Centre, primarily to advertise the Plant Sale to a different audience.

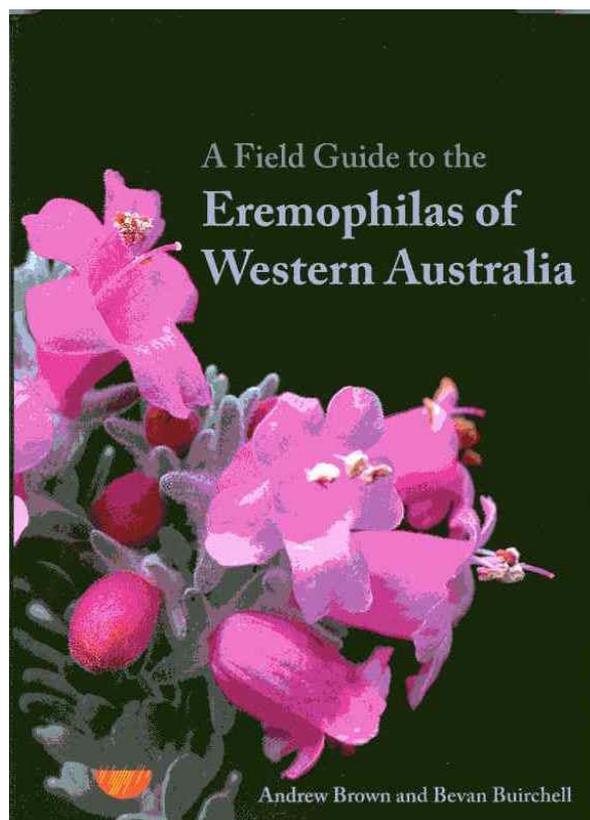


It was very successful, with 37 people attending. Report next month.

BOOK REVIEW

A Field Guide to the Eremophilas of Western Australia

Andrew Brown and Bevan Buirchell.
Simon Nevill Publications, 2011
Library shelf number 582.9562 BRO



This colourful and varied genus has a great many fans, and some members will already be familiar with this book, which was published in 2011.

The volume provides a comprehensive coverage of the great variety of this colourful and hardy plant in Western Australia, containing descriptions and photographs of 289 taxa, including 219 species, 69 subspecies and one variety. Of these 57 were unnamed at the time but thought to be distinct.

The introduction gives a general overview of the genus, its discovery, distribution and habitat plus lists of priority species. Each species has coloured photos showing detail of the flowers as well as the shape and size of the shrub as a whole. Also included are: the derivation of the name, flowering time, good descriptions and

distribution maps, as well as other notes on points of interest.

The authors are both well known for their work in Western Australia and have produced an attractive and informative book, which will encourage growers and assist identification.

Pauline Sawyer

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Catspaw
Anigozanthos humilis



This small, pretty plant is the most common and widespread of the kangaroo paws; it grows from Kalbarri to Dunsborough and east to Hopetoun.

It is a rhizomatous perennial, with flowering stems growing from 10-30cm in height, though the linear leaves are much shorter. The flowers can be red, yellow or orange, and are quite striking in appearance, attracting birds to collect nectar. They are produced between July and October.

The plant prefers an open position on sandy soil but can cope with sandy gravel or loam, but it must be well-drained.

It is propagated from seed, which needs to be dry-baked at 80°C for an hour. Seedlings will flower within 18 months. It grows well after fire.

Robyn Rudeforth

EUROPEAN WASP ALERT!



If you think you see one of these invaders, contact Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development for info sheets and how to obtain more information.

WEEDS

Angled Onion on its home turf

For those of you who have the occasional tussle with Angled Onion, *Allium triquetrum*, here it is growing naturally among tumbled limestone rocks on an old droving trail near El Burgo, at the foot of the the Sierra del Nievas National Park, in Andalusia, Spain.



I had to restrain myself from pulling it out!

Penny Hussey

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

