



NEWSLETTER

Please
note:

June 2019

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

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th Friday of the month. Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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 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

This group will go into recess from the end of June

Plant Learners' Group

Same time and place as the Propagation Group.

Wednesday 5th and 19th June

Seed Cleaning Group

9am Octagonal Hall

This group will go into recess from the end of June.

Excursion – Botanical Ramble

Saturday 15th June

Talbot Road Reserve

Leader: Penny Hussey

10.00-12.00noon. Meet at the western end of O'Connor Road, which turns west off Talbot Road, Swan View. This will be an easy, meandering walk. However, because of the late season, it is not certain what will be in bloom.

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, illustrated by superb pictures.

Future Events July

Thursday 4th July

Committee Meeting
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

In recess

Monday 8th and 22nd July

Plant Learners' Group

Seed cleaning Group

In recess

Excursion Botanical Ramble

Saturday 20th July
Glen Forrest Conservation Area

10.00-12 noon. Rycroft Road, eastern end.
Leader: Joy Collins

Friday 26th July
Evening meeting
“Fortescue Wetlands”

Mike Lyons

In the Pilbara, the upper Fortescue Valley floodplain has a large number of diverse wetlands, containing unusual biodiversity. Managing them to maintain the flora and fauna presents a unique challenge.

While the nearby Hamersley Gorges are often visited, these arid area wetlands are not so well known. This should be an extremely fascinating talk.



Babe-in-a-cradle, *Epiblema grandiflorum*, one of the glorious rare species discussed. Photo, F. Kininmonth

Best wishes to ...

EHB's President, Alasdair Adam, has had his operation and is recovering at home. On behalf of all members, we wish Alasdair a rapid recovery and look forward to seeing him back in action. Best wishes from all of us!

REPORTS

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

John Ewing talked about the excitement – and sometimes the frustration – of searching for rare and elusive orchids in out of the way places. Many species grow in swamps or among rocks, or don't always flower every year, in addition to being small, cryptic, and hard to spot. But it makes it all the more exciting when it is found!

He illustrated his talk with photos of plants and habitat, but was careful not to explain just where the Underground Orchid was found – after eight hours of searching!

This month the talk was on quite an early date, which might explain why many members forgot that the meeting was on, and so missed an enthusiastic celebration of WA's orchid biodiversity.

Wednesday 29th May
Excursion

**AN INTRIGUING VISIT TO THREATENED
FLORA SEED CENTRE, KENSINGTON**

A recent visit to the Threatened Flora Seed Centre, housed in the Kieran MacNamara Science Centre, provided a group of our members with an enlightening experience as to the value for our environment of this facility- which “provides critical assistance to the survival of plants” which have become at risk in their natural environments. This work is continued in partnership (2001) with the Millennium Seed Bank Project, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK; at the only such centre in Australia.

Dr Andrew Crawford showed us through the refrigerated storage spaces where firstly the seeds are kept prior to selection, treatment etc. We next viewed, in petri dishes with a neutral agar, particular species' seeds, selected by a staff person. These seeds are kept in another space at 15C until germination takes place. The white radical and green cotyledons are then pricked out and placed in a special seed raising mix until they shoot further. These later move onto KPBG nursery (a school was also assisting with this part of the process) for translocation back into the bush; presumably to

areas requiring re-introduction of these either Rare & Endangered or Priority Species.

WHY SAVE SEEDS? Conserving seeds is a means of saving a natural resource in a cost effective and efficient manner by which genetic diversity can be conserved & utilised. "Good quality collections with a broad genetic base are required to reinforce & benefit species survival".

Fran Kininmonth

PLANT SALE 2019

We had yet another successful plant sale on a perfect day. A very big thankyou to all involved; it was pleasing to see so few plants left over at the end of Saturday. We took \$18,000 including a GST component and once the final figures are out, we will make about \$6000 for the branch.



This year to celebrate our success and to thank all the volunteers we held a lunch at the hall.



The plant sale has been going for about 40 years and over the years it has been fine tuned so that

it runs so smoothly. The growers grow the plants, then a multitude of volunteers make labels, package seeds, clean up the garden, prepare and serve food, arrange plants, move trestles, erect marques, take money advise purchasers and clean up! Mitzi and Joy coordinate many of these activities and their contribution was acknowledged. It was a great opportunity for members to socialize. We would love to see this many people at our Friday night talks!

Pam Riordan

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hakea obtusa



This plant forms a dense rounded shrub about 2m high and wide. It flowers from June to October. The flowers are white when they first open, then turning pink and finishing a deep red. The three colours appear on the bush all at the same time as successive flowers open.

The fruit is very knobbly. In old bushes the stem may completely enclose the fruit.

It grows in loamy clay, gravel and ironstone in full sun and is frost tolerant.

Hakea obtusa is very ornamental and attracts honeyeaters. It is propagated by seed and does well in cultivation.

Originating from the Ravensthorpe area, including the Fitzgerald River National Park, some nice specimens can be seen locally alongside the path which connects Cockatoo Drive and Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

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



Planting Day

Susannah Brook Reserve

Sunday June 23rd at 9.30am

- ◆ **Details:**

- ◆ Holes already prepared for planting
- ◆ Wear closed in shoes and gardening gloves
- ◆ Bring drink bottle, sunscreen and hat

- ◆ Sausage sizzle afterwards
- ◆ Hot tea and coffee available
- ◆ Children welcome, treasure hunt for them later
- ◆ Please RSVP via email for catering purposes

- ◆ Location: Strawberry Hill Drive Gidgegannup 6083.
- ◆ See over for map
- ◆ For further information contact Sandy:
- ◆ sandyroger.stone@gmail.com