



# NEWSLETTER

Please  
note:

August 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 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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## 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/>

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## Coming Events August

### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Committee Meeting  
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**  
**Plant Learners' Group**  
**Seed Cleaning Group**

**These groups are in recess**

### Excursion – Botanical Ramble

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Moola Road Reserve

Leader: Mitzi Wehleck

10.00-12.00noon.

Meet and park at Lot 155 Glenburn Road (south off Thomas Road into Moola Road, then west into Glenburn); there will be a sign at the gate. The walking track has one steep section but it is not difficult

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Evening meeting

“DNA and the Marsupial Mushrooms”

Elaine Davison

Fungi are an important food for many of our smaller marsupials, as anyone who has been to Dryandra Woodland and noticed toothmarks in the toadstools will know. Many of the spores consumed remain perfectly identifiable in their scats. DNA technology can now link this bit of the foodchain more closely together, and illuminate the astonishing complexity of our native ecosystem.

Elaine Davison is a plant pathologist who has worked on diseases in native plants and horticulture. She is currently particularly interested in Amanitas (Ooooh! Poisons!!!!)

This will be a fascinating talk, right at the cutting edge of modern technology.

Put it in your diary!

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## Future Events September

### Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Committee Meeting  
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Propagation Group**

12.00 noon to 3pm. Octagonal Hall. Bring your lunch.



**Please note:** Due to the small numbers turning up to the group twice a month, I have decided to reduce the number of propagation sessions to one per month. This works out to be the second Monday of each month.

The duration of each session is officially noon to 3.00pm, but you are welcome to stay longer if you wish, just lock the hall behind you.

Sandy Stone

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Plant Learners' Group**

Will start again, at the same time as the propagation group, 12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.

**Seed cleaning Group**

This group is in recess

**Excursion Botanical Ramble**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>?? September** (to be decided)

Coolgardie Road Granites

Leader: Mitzi Wehleck

10.00 – 12.00 am

The area is valley top vegetation, with extensive granites. Granite flora is quite distinctive, and should be in good bloom. May be orchids on the shallow swards.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

**Evening Meeting**

**"Grasses of the Perth area"**

Una Bell

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## Future Events

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Evening meeting**

### AGM

**All committee positions vacant**

**Please note: Almost the entire membership of the current committee has indicated that they will not be standing again in 2020. If we do not have sufficient nominations for a new committee, the Eastern Hills Branch will have to close down.**

**Do you want this to happen? If not, please volunteer to help. It is not an onerous task!**

## QUIZ

What is this? We saw it in the Superblock.



It is a small, knee-high shrub, widespread throughout the Darling Range and down as far as Ravensthorpe. It has stiff rigid leaves with a sharp point.

The hairy petal turn-backs are a good clue to the family.

But it is the very long corolla tube – two or three times the length of the leaves - which is the key to the genus.

(Answer at end of Newsletter.)

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## REPORTS

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Evening meeting**  
**"Fortescue Wetlands"**

Mike Lyons gave an interesting talk about a surprisingly little known area of the State. Surprising because many people visit 'scenic attractions' nearby, such as the Hamersley and Chichester Ranges or Millstream, but race their cars through the Fortescue Valley, probably without even glancing at the plains and low vegetation either side. Well, flat the Fortescue Valley may be, but it is not boring, once you stop to look!

The kinds of wetlands are very varied. Firstly, there is the Fortescue Marsh, a 1,000sq km area of shallow pools, swamps and marsh. There is always some water, but it only fills totally after a cyclone. It is extremely important for waterbirds. A new species of samphire was

discovered there, *Tecticornia medusa*, whose flowering stems flap outwards from the main plant like Medusa's hair. The area has now mostly been consolidated, and transferred into vacant crown land, with the hope of making it a conservation reserve. However, this action is currently being held up because of issues with native title.



Besides this large area, there are numerous other pools, claypans and flooded grasslands, which are very diverse in form and biodiversity. For example, a micro-invertebrate study found some 600 species, which is equivalent to over half of all the species collected in the whole of the Pilbara.

Management to maintain this biodiversity is difficult, partly because of the vast area involved, but also because of the land tenure. Cattle can severely damage the edges of pools, especially as they start drying up. Discussions are being held with pastoralists about this and other matters – and with miners about aquifer matters.

Next time you are in the region, stop and take a look!

Penny Hussey

quite warm and only sprinkled on us two or three times during the walk.



*Magpies on a railing?!! Neville Baines took the photo.*

The landform is Darling Range lateritic plateau, supporting Jarrah/Marri woodland in good condition - that is, where *Phytophthora Dieback* does not occur. But because of the confused seasons this year, very little was out, and what flowers that were seen were somewhat battered and drooping. But *Hovea pungens* (Devil's Pins) was making a brave show, and so were several *Daviesias*. We noted some interesting *Acacias*, and a group of huge mushrooms, one almost the size of a dinner plate. Where there was plenty of *Parrotbush* in flower, many small birds were taking advantage of the nectar.

The extra species noted have been added to a previous plant list for the Superblock Please contact me if you would like a copy emailed to you.

Thank you, Joy, for an interesting and entertaining walk.

Penny Hussey

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Botanical Ramble**  
**Glen Forrest Conservation Area**

Braving the overcast weather, a small group of hardy walkers assembled in Glen Forrest for a wildflower ramble. Joy Collins led us first through the Glen Forrest Conservation Area, then down into the Superblock for a circuit that included the dense tangle that was once the Seed Orchard. Despite the gloomy skies, it was

*Eremophila subteretifolia*  
Lake King Eremophila

This is a totally prostrate plant, ideal for edging borders. It can grow up to 20cm in height, and 1-5m wide. The flowers are orangey-red to yellow and are produced during summer, from November to March.

The species is found in the Lake King to Ravensthorpe area and grows in white sandy loam over clay under *Eucalyptus*

*kondininensis* woodland at the edges of salt lakes – often only a few centimetres above the exposed surface salt line.

Robyn Rudeforth

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## Answer to Quiz:

It is Pin Heath, *Styphelia tenuiflora*, in the Southern Heath family Epacridaceae (or, as some taxonomists now say, all part of the northern hemisphere Heaths, Ericaceae).

With those very long, narrow corolla tubes, what sort of animal do you think might pollinate it? (The colour gives a clue as to when, in the 24 hours, pollinators might be expected.)

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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 Australi



*Eremophila subteretifolia*

Photos: M. Hancock & J.D. Start

Although it is rare in the wild, it has been brought into cultivation, using cuttings. With its prostrate habit and summer flowering, it would be an interesting addition to any garden.

**Wildflower Society**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### Mary Bremner Bequest Grant Program 2019 applications OPEN NOW

**Do you have a project idea to Know, Grow, Enjoy or Conserve  
WA wildflowers?**

Funding is available to volunteer community groups, Society sub-committees and Branches across WA.

The two types of grants are:

- Small grants: up to \$2,000
- Large grants: from \$2,001 to max \$20,000

For grant guidelines, see [www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/about-us/mary-bremner-bequest-grant-program/](http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/about-us/mary-bremner-bequest-grant-program/)

**Call** (08) 9383 7979 on Tuesdays or Thursdays

**Email** [enquiry@wildflowersocietywa.org.au](mailto:enquiry@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

**Applications close 4.30pm 1st October 2019**