



NEWSLETTER

October 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

Please
note:

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 October

Thursday 3rd October

Committee Meeting

4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 14th October

Propagation Group and

Plant Learners' Group

Will both start again -12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.

Seed cleaning Group

This group is in recess

Thursday 24th October

Excursion – all day

Wildflower Garden at Boddington

Meet 9.00am at the Octagonal Hall. Bring lunch. If there are 12 people who want to go, a bus will be arranged. If not, we could car pool.

If you are going, you must book with the EHB email, see above.

Friday 25th October

Evening Meeting

“A discussion on Western Australia's Arid Lands”

Wendy Thompson

Dr Wendy A. Thompson is an ecologist and Louisiana transplant in Australia for nearly 20 years, by way of Sydney, Kalgoorlie and Perth. After completing her PhD at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Wendy found herself undertaking botanical surveys in the deserts of Western Australia. The talk will highlight some of those desert journeys and the importance of biological survey in Western Australia. Since moving to Perth, she's worked in research, environmental regulation, policy, land management and monitoring, with a keen interest in bridging the gap between science and policy.

Excursion – Botanical Ramble

Saturday 26th October

A gentle wander off the Zigzag

10.00 – 12.00 am

Gooseberry Hill is an extremely diverse and attractive floral wonderland, and in early years excursion trains puffed up the Zigzag Railway to take trippers to Kalamunda for floral excursions. We will meet at the top of the Zigzag, and then convey down, stopping at various locations to leave the cars and walk look at the different plant communities.

We will be walking (and scrambling) on this excursion, but it will be easy, so even the 'mobility impaired' should have no problem!

But, the road is narrow and mostly one-way, so the fewer cars we can fit into, the better. Could people, perhaps, car-pool?

Meet at the big pull-off/lookout at the top of the Zigzag, coming from Kalamunda. It's a big space, lots of room – and lots of plants!

Future Events November

Thursday 7th November

Committee Meeting
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Monday 11th November

Propagation Group and
Plant Learners' Group
12.00 noon to 3pm. Octagonal Hall. Bring your lunch.

Friday 22nd November

Evening Meeting

AGM

Followed by:

“Millipedes”

Cathy Car

Cathy will tell us about some of the amazing animals she has been studying. They are quite diverse (how many species in the South West?) and also important in the bushland ecosystem. They are a lot more interesting than you may think!

Followed by end-of-year-Christmassy supper. Stay and chat!

Future Events December

Thursday 5th December

Committee Meeting
4.00pm, Octagonal Hall

This will be the first meeting of the new committee, and will, among other things, set out an agenda for activities in 2020. **If you have ideas for talks, excursions or other events, please contact a member of the committee or send an email to the EHB email address.**

QUIZ

What is this? We saw it on the walk!



In the shade of Jarrahs or among tumbled boulders, this stunningly beautiful perennial plant twined up shrubs and flowered in cascades of creamy-white, four-sepaled flowers (this genus has no petals). The leaves have three ovate leaflets on petioles that often twine. The fruits develop into a mass of seeds with long, hairy awns.

This is an easy one, isn't it?

(Answer at end of Newsletter.)

Penny Hussey

REPORTS

Friday 27th September

“Grasses of the Perth Region”

Una Bell

Una Bell, our very own grass expert, gave us a fascinating talk on the survival of native grasses in the Perth region in historical times. She quoted passages by various early botanists and explorers that mentioned grasslands or grassy country, then went on to say what species those grasses were likely to be, and how she had searched for the plants at the site written about. In some cases they were still there, in others, gone. We have – or had – some 350 species of native grasses in the south-west of WA.

Una took us through some of the commoner grass genera in the south-west, with interesting snippets of information about them. For example, Wallaby Grasses used to be called *Danthonia*. Then it was changed to

Austrodanthonia. Now, there is yet another name, *Rhytidosperma*. “But this is all wrong” she told us. “The person who named it, made a mistake!” Apparently, he extracted a wrinkled dead grub from the grain, and thought it was a seed – so called it “wrinkled seed”!

The whole presentation was more like a discussion group than a lecture, with members of the audience querying and debating interesting points. This made for a very stimulating talk. Thank you, Una.

Penny Hussey

Saturday 28th September
Botanical Ramble
Coolgardie Road Granites

Eight of us meandered gently through a flowering wonderland, exclaiming in delight as we spotted something new. From festoons of climbers twining around supports, tangles of low shrubs with colourful flowers, to wet granite swards spangled with tiny but exquisite beauties, this was a walk to keep all of us – especially photographers – marveling at the variety around us.

This small reserve, vested in the Shire, is surrounded on all sides by private land but remains remarkably weed-free, except along track edges. Where an interloper was seen, it was, if feasible, attacked and destroyed. Phil was especially good at this!



The granite swards were extremely interesting, with forests of Giant Sundews, drifts of Vanilla and Bee Orchids, a large colony of the tiny, lolly-pink bladderwort, Pink

Petticoats, Yellow Butterflies just 4cm high, and six different small daisies.



Thank you, Mitzi, for leading us to such a lovely, unsigned hidden jewel.

Penny Hussey

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Dryandra praemorsa
(syn, *Banksia undata*)



This shrub grows to 3m tall and 2m wide. The leaves have cut-off ends and are dark green above and hairy white below.

The bright yellow flower heads are large with a lemony scent. They are produced from August to October. Seeds are shed annually, and propagation is by seed.

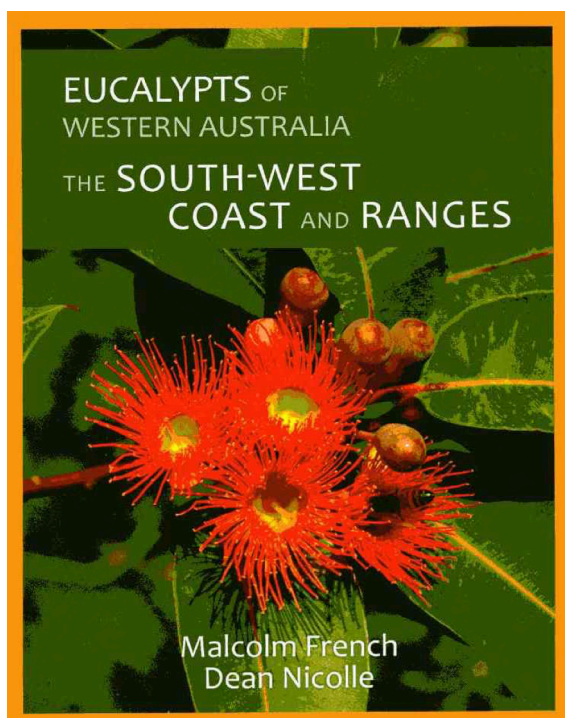
The plant grows in lateritic and granitic soils in jarrah/marri forest, often adjacent to

granite rocks. It occurs between Clackline and Dwellingup. Locally, it can be seen in the Quarry Reserve, Parkerville, along Clifton Road.

Robyn Rudeforth

NEW BOOK

“Eucalypts of Western Australia: the South West Coast and Ranges”
Malcolm French and Dean Nicolle
rrp:\$49,95



Malcolm French needs no introduction to EHB members, as he has spoken at evening meetings, communicating his love of our glorious eucalypts. He often writes in collaboration with the South Australian grower, Dean Nicolle, and this latest book continues the excellent tradition begun with “Eucalypts of the Wheatbelt”.

This newest book contains descriptions of 147 species and subspecies found along the coastal areas from Dongara to Hopetoun,

and inland across the forested Darling Range (all the bits not covered by the Wheatbelt book).

As well as clear text with lots of fascinating detail, there are maps, excellent photographs and even, in some cases, paintings of seedlings. It really will help you to distinguish these sometimes confusing species.

It is a superb book, and a worthy addition of the library of all wildflower lovers.

It is possible that the Wildflower Society may obtain copies of this book for sale to members at a reduced price.

Answer to Quiz:

This plant is *Clematis pubescens*, Traveller's Joy or Old Man's Beard. The species which grows on sand and limestone by the coast is *C. microphylla* – as the name implies, it has much smaller leaves. They are in the Buttercup Family Ranunculaceae.

Great to have in your bush garden!

Both of the common names were first borne by an English species. The name for the fruiting heads, Old Man's Beard, is self-explanatory – but it could have been referring to 'Old Nick', the Devil, since, by twinging through hedgerows, it can cause immense trouble to hedgers. Traveller's Joy, however, is a name made up by the herbalist John Gerard in 1597 because he saw it as “decking and adorning waies and hedges” so travellers must enjoy it!

Names are what you like to call things!

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