

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

Committee 2020

At the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 22nd November 2019, the following were elected to the Management Committee of the Eastern Hills Branch:

President: vacant

Vice President: Joy Collins

Treasurer: vacant (Robert Atkins to continue as Book-keeper)

Secretary: Andre Lebel

Committee Members:

June Barkman

Peter Day

Penny Hussey (as Newsletter Editor)

Fran Kininmonth

Francisca Lebel

Mal Myers

Maxine Tyler

Robin Rudeforth

Email:

For all email contact to individual Committee Members please **only** use the WSWA generic email address **if you do not know their private email address**

eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Facebook:

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

Coming Events

Thursday 5th February

Committee Meeting

4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 10th and 24th February

Plant Learners' Group

12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.

Wednesday 12th and 26th February

Seed cleaning Group

9.00am, Octagonal Hall

Monday 24th February

Propagation Group

The year's activities will start at 9.00am, in the Octagonal Hall. We will be meeting only once a month.

Friday 28th February

Evening Meeting

"Eucalypts of Western Australia – the South-west"

Malcolm French

Those of you who know Malcolm's superb "Eucalypts of the Wheatbelt" will be delighted to



Eucalyptus macrocarpa, Mottlecah

hear that he is completing the coverage of the genus in the south-west of WA by bringing out this book, covering coastal and higher rainfall areas.

He will talk about the distinctive environment of the area, and how it has led to a diversity of very unusual eucalypt species. The illustrations are bound to be superb – look at the examples here!



Corymbia ficifolia, Red-flowering Gum

The Committee has decided to have a **Quiz** as part of the meeting, so make sure you have your thinking caps on! You will be asked to get together in groups of 4, so, as a ‘think tank’, you should find the questions pretty easy! There will be prizes!

Also, please bring anything interesting from your garden or local bushland to put on the **‘nature table’** for discussion by members. Maybe you’d like to know the name of a plant, or how to treat its seeds for germination – or even a rock or some other object of natural history interest. Lets share our knowledge, folks!

Future Events March

Thursday 5th March
Committee Meeting
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 9th and 23rd March
Plant Learners’ Group
12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.

Wednesday 11th and 25th March
Seed cleaning Group
9.00am, Octagonal Hall

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th March Blue Sky Festival

Mundaring

This event highlights ‘sustainability’ in the Mundaring Shire and once again EHB will have a stall. The Saturday is mainly talks but Sunday is the main day for families.

A number of helpers will be needed, contact Fran Kininmonth for more details:

frankininmonth2004@yahoo.com.au

Monday 23rd March

Propagation Group

9.am, Octagonal Hall

Friday 27th March

Evening Meeting

“Hyden: Wildflower journeys throughout the year”

Eddy Wajon

Hyden’s Wave Rock is a world famous tourist destination, and it lies within a lovely piece of woodland – as do a number of other attractions in the area. No matter what month of the year that you visit, there will always be something floral to see, whether it be delicate orchids on the granite swards in winter, or mallee bark shimmering salmon-pink in the summer sun.

Eddy will show us some of the fascinating changes that occur as the seasons change. If you are expecting to take overseas visitors there, you need to hear this talk and be primed on what to look for!

There will also be a Quiz and a Nature Table

REPORTS

**Annual General Meeting
Friday 22nd November 2019**

The President gave a consolidated report covering all aspects of the Branch’s activity over the preceding year. The Book-keeper also provided a financial report. If any member who was not present at the AGM would like to read these, please pick up a copy at Octagonal Hall.

It was proposed that a contractor should be employed to tidy up the debris in the back yard as a fire management precaution. Since the cost exceeded \$500, it was necessary that the general membership endorse the expenditure. The motion was carried.

Speaker: Cathy Car: "Millipedes"

Cathy Car's very entertaining and informative talk started by outlining how she got interested in the group while in Rhodesia, and what the differences are between centipedes and millipedes (one leg per segment or two – not millions!) and that millipedes are not carnivores.

There are eight different Orders of millipedes, and Cathy is particularly interested in the taxonomy of the 'bumpy' millipede group.

Many Australian millipedes are in this group (but not the pest Portuguese millipede). WA has perhaps 170 species in this group, but she hasn't named all of them yet! Many are short-range endemics with poor dispersal features and are very susceptible to disturbance of their leaf-litter habitat. There have been no collections in the Kimberley.

She explained that the way to tell the species apart was to study their male genitalia! Amazing - the audience was astonished by the diversity. (Cathy sent me a copy of her slides, but unfortunately they are too large to include here.)

Millipedes are one of the oldest groups known from the fossil record, but there is still a great deal not known about them. The talk finished with a discussion about this, especially the fact their ecology and role in the litter community is very poorly understood.

Thank you, Cathy, for a fascinating talk!

Penny Hussey

IN FLOWER THIS MONTH

Grevillea manglesii
Smooth Grevillea

The main flowering period for this plant is spring, but if the conditions are favourable it will continue flowering right through summer. The flowers are not spectacular (but there are a lot of them) and they attract insects rather than birds.



Smooth Grevillea grows quickly and forms a large shrub, up to 3m tall and wide. It can be pruned into a topiary shape if required. Like all disturbance opportunists, it is relatively short-lived, and will be looking scraggly by 10 years old.

The genus grows in the Hills from Woorooloo to Gleneagles and Pinjarra. There are three sub-species. The one illustrated, from the Helena Valley, is subsp. *manglesii*. Its leaves are fairly broad. Subsp *dissectifolia*, which grows in the Dwellingup-North Bannister area, has narrow, needle-like leaves, while subsp *ornithopoda* has leaves of varying width but only three points. It occurs in the southern part of the range, from Pinjarra to Cookernup.

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