



NEWSLETTER

March 2020

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 2020

President: Vacant

Vice President: Joy Collins

Treasurer: vacant (Robert Atkins Bookkeeper)

Secretary: Andre Lebel

Committee Members:

June Barkman,
Peter Day,
Penny Hussey,
Fran Kininmonth,
Francisca Lebel,
Mal Myers,
Maxine Tyler,
Robin Rudeforth.

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 March

Thursday 5th March

Committee Meeting
4.00pm: Octagonal Hall

Monday 9th and 30th March

Plant Learners' Group
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Monday 23rd March

Propagation Group
12 noon to 3pm, at the Octagonal Hall.
Bring your lunch.

Wednesday 11th and 25th March

Seed cleaning Group
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Sunday 15th March

Blue Sky Festival, Mundaring

Eastern Hills Branch of WSWA will be joining in the sustainability, environmental activities & fun at the Blue Sky Festival, Sunday 15th March. We will be there to spread the news about our lovely wildflowers - where to see them in the Mundaring Shire, information about walks in the springtime, and also information about growing them in your "hills" garden.

See you there at our stall, between 10am-2pm as you enjoy the festival.

Thanks to members who have volunteered their time to assist.

In depth information about the festival is available on their Website & Facebook page.

Friday 27th March

Evening Meeting

"Hyden: Wildflower Journeys throughout the year."

Eddy Wajon

Hyden is an important tourist destination in WA, and with good reason. Not only does it have the unusual Wave Rock, but the flora surrounding the town and in other near-by reserves is diverse and can be spectacular. Even in summer, mallee bark can shimmer gold in the bright sunlight.

Eddy knows the area well and is both a good botanist and photographer. Come and be enthralled by the beauty of our State, and make notes on where to take your visitors to give them an outstanding glimpse of our floral wealth.

There will also be a Quiz, and please bring specimens for the Nature Table.

Future Events April

Thursday 2nd April

Committee Meeting
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 8th and 22nd April

Seed cleaning Group
9am Octagonal Hall

Monday 20th April

Plant Learners' Group
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Monday 27th April

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

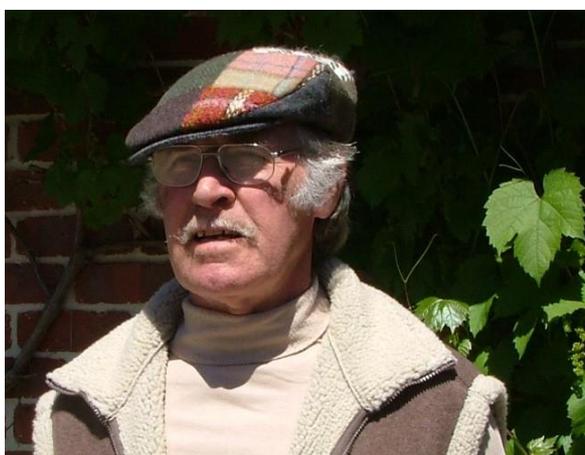
Friday 17th April Evening Meeting

"Trip to the Carnarvon Range"
Fran Kininmonth
Fran will show us the landscapes and vegetation in and around the Carnarvon Range, in the desert area of WA. This is a remote area, but its isolation has led to the growth of a unique flora.

Note date change due to clashes with other events.

There will also be a Quiz, and remember to bring specimens for the Nature Table.

Vale Arthur Blundell



Arthur passed away in Queensland after a battle with cancer of the oesophagus on February 1st 2020. He had been a helicopter pilot in Queensland and when he retired came to WA,

He became a member of Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society in 2002 and immediately entered into all the Branch activities with great enthusiasm, learning much about the WA bush and its flora over the next fifteen years.

He started a small group to make a herbarium collection of local plants (especially his 'Harem' of Alva and Twink!) and he constructed a cabinet to house it. He also constructed the wall-boards of "Fruits of the Forest" - collections of seed cases of various species.

Arthur was the Branch Treasurer from 2009-2013; worked at the maintenance of the Hall and garden and was one of the men who came to Seed Cleaning sessions.

He initiated a survey of the flora at Morangup, making a month by month flora species list, and followed this up by joining the main Society flora survey team working over many areas of the SW, followed by assisting with the naming and cataloguing at the Herbarium. His assistance coping with an awkward-minded printer was much appreciated by the then editor of the newsletter.

Arthur, and his wife, Gail, were generous with their time and hospitality and loved sharing their love of the bush with other members.

Joy Collins and Mal Myers

REPORTS

Friday 28th February

"Special Eucalypts of the South Coast"

Malcolm French

Malcolm took us on a visual extravaganza of the beautiful South Coast, showing the spectacular scenery of remote areas to which you have to travel to find rare plants. His passion, of course, is for eucalypts, and he made the audience chuckle by referring to other things (eg *Hakea victoria*) that got in the way of his photos of mallees as weeds!

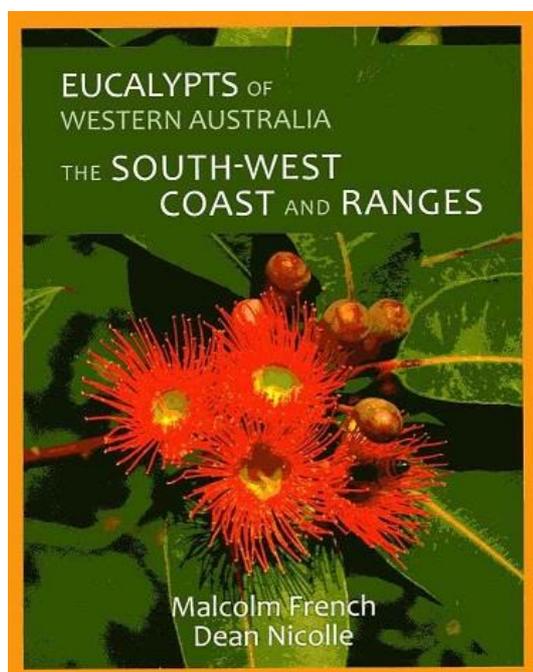
The plants that he showed us were often just small populations hidden in gullies, many wind- and salt-pruned in exposed situations. He illustrated their differences in leaf shape and

flower and fruit colour, lamenting that they were not in cultivation.

Many of the plants were from the Ravensthorpe area, which we were surprised to hear is the epicentre of eucalypt diversity. He seems to have had some discussions with that Shire about planting local natives – with varying results!

Malcolm brought some of his recent book “Eucalypts of the South Coast and Ranges” for sale at a special discount for WSWA members. If you haven’t got a copy, why not borrow it from our library? Its well worth studying!

Penny Hussey



Prior to the main speaker, everyone gathered in groups of four to partake in the **Quiz** that had been put together by Francisca Lebel and Penny Hussey. Ten photos were shown, with questions attached, the total possible points being 15. The winning group got all the questions right, but there were a couple that people found tricky. For example, everyone asked for a hint on this one.



9 What is the Noongyar name for this plant?

TOTAL = 1

Do you know it without the hint? Answer at the end of the Newsletter.

In keeping with the theme of the main talk, the **Nature Table** was covered with specimens of various eucalypts, that generated a lot of interest and discussion during supper. It seems that Malcolm’s plea to “plant WA eucalypts” has been well and truly taken up by our members!

WSWA State Council Meeting

22nd February 2020

preceded by a morning seminar

“Fire, Prescribed Burning and Native Flora”

Three people from EHB attended, two (Joy Collins and Fran Kininmonth) as official Branch delegates. The event was well attended, with many people up from the country.

The seminar, which was chaired by the WSWA President, Kevin Thiele, was addressed by four speakers, one from DFES, two from DBCA and one a Consultant. Fire is a complex subject, and planned burning is contentious, so a lot of interest was generated.

The State Council meeting decided to follow up the seminar by creating a “position paper” on planned burning, and EHB will be contributing ideas to this. If any members have specific opinions about this topic, please send them to the Secretary for consideration by the Committee. It is expected that the Paper will provide guidance to Branches and members when they are dealing with questions that involve planned burning.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Scaevola aemula



image from "Planting Man"

This is a low-growing ground cover, spreading to around 1m.

The fan-shaped, mauve-blue flowers are produced in spring and summer (November to March).



It grows well in semi- to full shade and benefits from summer watering.

It propagates readily from cuttings.

This plant has a wide distribution from coastal areas near Sydney, across semi-arid areas to WA and down to Tasmania. In WA it occurs in the Austin (Mt Magnet – Leonora), Darling, Eure (Esperance), Stirling and Warren Districts.

Robyn Rudeforth

ANSWER:

What is the Noongyar name for the WA Christmas Tree?

(The hint was "There is a power station at Collie named after it".)

Got it now? Muja, of course!

[Put your thinking cap on for the next quiz! The questions will mostly be very straightforward, but there might be one or two tricky ones! And this time we really will have some proper prizes!]

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