



NEWSLETTER

August 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: vacant

Committee Members:

June Barkman,
Peter Day,
Penny Hussey,
Fran Kininmonth,
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/>

Thank you:

Committee members were very sorry to hear that Andy and Francisca Lebel had resigned. They both contributed greatly to the running of the Branch; Andy was a very efficient Secretary. Thank you both for your work.

This leaves important vacancies, especially the secretarial position – is there a member who would be willing to help by joining the Committee? Please contact through the email above.

Coming Events August

Thursday 6th August

Committee Meeting

4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 12th and 26th August

Seed Cleaning Group

9.00am. Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

No meeting

Tuesday 25th August

Bushwalk with the Darling Range Branch

Piesse Brook, Kalamunda 9.30am

Leader: Lynda Tomlinson

Meet at the parking area at the National Park Gate (turn downstream off Hummerston Road). Wear stout shoes, there are some hilly stretches on this walk.

Friday 28th August

Evening Meeting

(Please remember social distancing, and use hand sanitiser when you arrive.)

Address by Kevin Thiele

Kevin Thiele has been re-elected as President of the Wildflower Society. He wishes to speak to all the Branches, to discuss the vision for the future of the Society. Please have your ideas and questions ready.

**“Tarin Rock Research Project
Jolanda Keeble.”**

Tarin Rock, a Nature and a Water Reserve in the southern Wheatbelt located between Dumbleyung and Lake Grace, is an oasis of native flora surrounded by farmland. The reserves are very rich in native flora (over 300 species recorded for Tarin Rock Nature Reserve alone) of which many are listed as threatened and priority species for conservation.

Jolanda Keeble has taken an interest in these reserves with the intent of producing a

book on the flora to provide information to local landholders and visitors to the area, and to provide the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions with additional flora information to guide the management of the nature reserve. She will provide an overview of her project and findings of the systematic surveys she has carried out over the last 2 ½ years.

Jolanda came to WA from the UK in 2004. She holds degrees in both Botany and Zoology and a Masters in Ecology. In WA she has worked in the oil and gas industry, and also as a tour guide to remote sites. She is also active in the Wildflower Society and The Naturalists' Club.

Pease bring specimens for the Nature Table. Because of having two speakers, there will not be a Quiz.

Future Events September

Thursday 3rd September

Committee Meeting

4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th and 23rd September

Seed Cleaning Group

9.00am. Octagonal Hall

Saturday 12th September

Botanical ramble

Chittering

Leader: Rosanna Hindmarsh

Monday 21st September

Propagation Group

12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Tuesday 22nd September

Bushwalk [with the Darling Range Branch](#)

Walliston Recreation Reserve, 9.30am

Evening Meeting

Friday 25th September

“Early Botanical Collectors in WA.”

Alex George

Since Europeans first came here, Western Australia's astonishing biodiversity has inspired many people to collect and preserve specimens for study. William Dampier, an English privateer collecting at Shark Bay,

commented on how many blue plants there were. Unfortunately many of his specimens were lost in a shipwreck, but later collectors were not so unfortunate.

Alex George will be familiar to most Wildflower Society members. An eminent taxonomist and prolific author, he has published not only on botany, but also on historical topics, and even a textbook on botanical Latin! This talk should give some illuminating and little-known facts about people who, like us, were fascinated by our flora.

REPORTS

Friday 24th July “A Year at Hyden”

Eddy Wajon knows the south-eastern Wheatbelt well, since he has a property at Box Hill, so he was delighted to be commissioned by the owner of a Hyden tourism operation to write a book on wildflowers specifically for that area. It is to be in full colour, with clear and straightforward descriptive text, geared to be easily usable by the average tourist. And because people come in all seasons – even on Christmas Day – it should be laid out by month, as well as Eddy's usual colour. After a year of intensive study and photography, the book is almost ready! He showed lots of slides to give us a feel for what is to come!

The audience was stunned into attentive silence by the beauty and diversity of the flora found within a 50km radius of Hyden. Superb close-up photos with excellent depth of field brought even the smallest flower into clear focus. There was a chorus of groans, however, when the very frequent name changes were mentioned! Just when one thinks one has learnt a name it becomes something else! It was interesting to note that Eddy specialises in making up his own common names, since he feels that the average reader relates more to English than to Latin. This is not a stance with which all taxonomic botanists would agree!

The book will only be available from one outlet in Hyden, but maybe the Wildflower Society's book sales experts may be able to organise a bulk purchase.

Eddy went on to say that he is currently starting a book on the Great Western Woodlands, a paper on 17 years of

regeneration after fire on his Box Hill property, and a submission on fire and biodiversity to be sent to the current Royal Commission on last summer's wildfires in the Eastern States. That lot should keep him busy for a while!

The 22 attendees gave Eddy a rousing vote of thanks for a very informative and entertaining talk.

Penny Hussey

July Quiz

To the surprise and consternation of the Quiz compilers (Penny Hussey and Francisca Lebel) we found one of our quiz subjects had recently been given a name change!

Most of the Leucopogons are now *Styphelias*, so this thing is now *Styphelia nitens*, not Nodding Beard-heath any more! And, apparently, a whole lot of *Astrolomas* and other things in the family have changed. In fact, is the family no longer *Epacridaceae* at all but now subsumed into *Ericaceae*?



Photo: Francisca Lebel

Urban Bushland Council "Prescribed Burning and Biodiversity" a talk by Prof. Kingsley Dixon.

Two members of EHB attended this talk on 22nd July. As always, Kingsley delivered a carefully-reasoned account, drawing on literally hundreds of previously published papers, which lead to the inevitable

conclusion that, if frequent, large-scale prescribed burning is continued on the current scale, it will lead to a catastrophic loss of native biodiversity.

Do we in SW WA really want to live in a savannah woodland, with the ground layer dominated almost exclusively by South African grasses? Because that is where we are heading. The Wildflower Society has a Sub-committee looking at producing a position paper about this, for use in presenting the fire and biodiversity facts to all sectors of the human community.

If you would like to read an important paper on this subject, compiled by a number of prominent biologists (including Kingsley) please request it via the EHB's generic email address.

Penny Hussey

Report and thanks from the Susannah Brook Catchment Group



Site 1, Susannah Brook Reserve. June 2020. Planted winter 2019. Site 2 in the foreground which has since been planted

Susannah Brook Catchment Group has been able to revegetate a very degraded area of bushland funded by Western Australian Government State Natural Resource Management Program.

In 2021 Site 3 on the Reserve, will be planted with native tube stock grown by Robyn Rudeforth and generously supported by Eastern Hills Branch of Wildflower Society's donation.

The group is confident the continued return of fauna will demonstrate regenerated bush and wetlands are paramount in establishing a Wildlife Corridor on degraded farmland.

Thank you Eastern Hills for your expertise and kind donation, we are sure the success rate of the seedlings will be apparent on other sites.

Sandy Stone

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Acacia celastrifolia
Glowing Wattle



(photo: Wikipedia)

This is a bushy shrub up to 3m high and 2 wide. The phyllodes are rounded with a short point, pale brown when young, darkening to blueish-grey. It has lightly perfumed showy cream or yellow globular flower heads appearing between April and August. The seeds are an important food source for granivores, especially bronze-winged pigeons.

It is an attractive plant even when not in flower and can be used as a medium screening plant, though, like many wattles, it is not long-lived. It propagates readily from seed, after being soaked in boiling water overnight.

It occurs naturally on the eastern edge of the Darling Range and into the western edge of the Wheatbelt from Mogumber to Wagin. It grows well on laterite or granite soils. A nice planted stand can be seen along Kintore Road, Parkerville.



Glowing Wattle after rain

Robyn Rudeforth

Gardening Definitions

Hoe: gardening tool whose name derives from the fact that when the blade is stepped on, its handle delivers a sharp rap to the gardener's brow, at which point he cries out "ho!" or "ohh" or "holy"!!!!

Robyn Rudeforth

BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION

By Chrissy Weldon and Christine Creswell

When: 1st – 30th August 2020

At: Old Courthouse Bond Store, Queen Street, **Busselton**

A place to purchase that special Christmas present, perhaps?



7th – 19th September

Always a great show!

Further details / event bookings will soon be available @ www.wildflowersRavensthorpe.org.au

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