



NEWSLETTER

September 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/>

Coming 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
Blackboy Ridge, Chittering 10.30am – all day
Leader: Rosanna Hindmarsh
(Detail regarding this day excursion later in this Newsletter.)

Monday 21st September

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

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 plants for study. William Dampier, an English privateer collecting at Shark Bay in 1699, 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.

Pease bring specimens for the Nature Table.
There will be a Quiz!

Sunday 27th September

Bushwalk with the Darling Range Branch
Walliston Recreation Reserve, 9.30am
Leader: Lynda Tomlinson
(Details later in this Newsletter.)

Future Events October

Thursday 1st October
Committee Meeting
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 7th and 14th October
Seed Cleaning Group

9.00am. Octagonal Hall

Monday 12th 19th October

Propagation Group

12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

Evening Meeting

Friday 25th October

“Orchids of WA’s Eastern Granites”

Andrew Brown

Andrew Brown will be well known to most members through his superb orchid and eremophila books. He will talk tonight about one of his favorite orchid hunting grounds.



Diuris hazeliae. Photo: Andrew Brown

He writes:

“As you travel eastwards from Hyden to the Lake Johnston-Balladonia area, rainfall drops dramatically and the further east you go the more intermittent and unreliable it becomes. This is not ideal for native orchids and means that, over much of this area, only the hardiest species can survive. However, there are places that provide habitat niches for orchids. These are the granite outcrops which capture the often meager rainfall in soil pockets and run-off areas and enable 41 orchid species to flourish. In this talk, I will cover six of my favorite eastern granite outcrops, found between Lake Johnston and Balladonia, and talk about the orchids that grow on there.”

Sounds fascinating, eh!

REPORTS

Friday 24th July

“Tarin Rock Research Project

Jolanda Keeble described how she decided to document the flora of Tarin Rock Nature

Reserve, east of Dumbleyung. It was fascinating to learn of all the different planning stages that needed to be gone through – accommodation, licences, fire history, flora lists etc – before she could commit to the project. It was also interesting to compare her approach to that of Eddy Wajon, who spoke about Hyden plants last month. But it seems Tarin Rock is well worth the study!

The reserve is quite varied, mostly kwongan with mallee, but some woodland and ephemeral wetlands, with probably around 500 different species of plants. She explained how she had made up a field ID book of photos from FloraBase showing what was supposed to be there, then set out to look for them. So far she has found over half, taking a voucher specimen, a photograph and recording details of the location. She has found several rare species, and also a whole lot of species that were not on the list in the first place. Now she has the difficult task of selecting which species to include in the book.

The talk was followed by a lively discussion about the location and her methods of study. Thank you, Yolanda, for a fascinating insight into the difficulties of research and survey.

Kevin Tiele, WSWA’s President, did not arrive to give his scheduled talk.

There were superb floral specimens on the nature table, many from Janet Atkins, which prompted a lot of discussion.

Penny Hussey

EXCURSION DETAILS

Wildflower Walk, Blackboy Ridge Reserve, Chittering.

Saturday 12th September. Meet 10.30am

This is a day excursion, so bring your lunch, our hosts will provide tea and coffee. There will be two walks, one before lunch and one after.

Wear walking boots and clothes suitable for the weather on the day.

To get there: Take Gt N Hwy towards Muchea. Turn right into Wandena Road. Turn right into Muchea East Road. Continue through Lower Chittering onto Chittering Road. Blackboy

Ridge Reserve is on your left after you have passed the Julimar Rd turn-off on your right. It will take about an hour, depending on where you are starting from.

Wildflower Walk, Walliston

September 27 @ 9:30 am - 12:15 pm

Meet at the junction of Grove Road and Palmateer Drive in Walliston 6076. Finish 12 15 pm.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Please give your full name and phone no. If then unable to come please let us know. This is an easy walk on flat ground. Please phone Lynda on 92918753 or email lktom555@gmail.com if wanting to come so that the walk can be confirmed. Phone contact on day of walk is mobile 0491605839. Organised by the Darling Range Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Acacia acuminata
Jam Wattle

This is a tall shrub or small tree 2-5m high. The young shoots are covered with golden hairs and the phyllodes are long and narrow with a curved tip. Cylindrical yellow flower heads are produced between July and October. Freshly-broken new wood smells of raspberry jam – hence its common name.



Grown from seed soaked in hot water overnight. The seed is extremely long-lived,

lasting for at least 90 years in soil, waiting for the correct conditions to germinate

Jam Wattle grows well in Perth, forming a small tree providing dappled shade. It is a good host for mistletoe, which provides nectar in summer and later succulent fruits. You may even see a Mistletoe Bird coming to the berries!

It was of great value to early settlers, as Jam is one of the most termite-resistant timbers known and as a fence post, outperforms everything – including iron pickets! Also, it is a beautiful timber with deep mahogany heartwood and a paler outer. A historic homestead near Northam has a staircase hand-rail of polished Jam, it is 10m in length. Clearly before clearing, Jams could grow very large!

It is very widespread, occurring across the Wheatbelt to Shark Bay and Mt Singleton and across to Kalgoolie and Salmon Gums. It often grows as the middle layer in wheatbelt woodlands.



This is how we usually think of Jam trees, in woodland with York Gums and an open understorey that is mostly weedy, but sometimes gloriously covered with everlastings. This was taken in Mokine NR, York, on an EHB excursion in October 2018.

Robyn Rudeforth

Please check the message on our website from the Seed Collecting Group:

**WE NEED SEED!
LOTS OF SEED!!
ALL SPECIES OF NATIVE
PLANTS!!!**

Everyone knows about our annual pant sale. However not everyone knows how the plants appear each May. The very healthy plants begin their life as seed, collected mostly from private property of members. However seeds come inside nuts and they need to be extracted and cleaned. This is done by a dedicated team of members who usually meet twice a month for several months of the year. This seed is filed and stored at Octagonal Hall and is available for purchase by anyone at a very low price. The growers take the seed and germinate it, which is often a tricky business, sometimes requiring pre-treatment of the seed with smoked water, or by boiling. This takes place during spring and then of course the seedlings have to be nurtured during our long hot summer. For many of the hills growers they are watering their plants using precious tank water. By May the plants are ready to be sold in the "forestry" pot size that is so prevalent at our sale

We need more seed!

Please work out how you can collect more to help our growers.

Check the website page for details of how to do this.

It is important to keep the fresh-picked fruits and seeds dry and insect-free during storage. Keep them in a dry place and add a small quantity of insect-killing powder to the bag before storage.

[When I was actively doing this, I used moth balls – naphthalene – but I think these are now illegal, aren't they? They deterred everything!
Editor]

WEED WATCH

Have you seen this?

This brilliant yellow flower looks very similar to its cousin, Guildford Grass, except that it is a beautiful buttercup yellow. It grows in similar places too, woodlands and sedgeland, especially if they have been disturbed.

It grows from a corm, producing one or two narrow, almost tubular leaves with the flowers appearing in winter and early spring. Before it flowers, it could easily be overlooked, but once those petals open, you can't miss it!

This is *Romulea flava*, native to South Africa, and perhaps brought here as a garden ornamental. The photo is of var. *minor*.

The next time you are rambling in Wandoo woodlands, look out for it. It is actually quite common, especially on the western edge of the Wheatbelt. The photo was taken just east of York

Penny Hussey



Gardening Definitions

Nursery: The only known place where money does grow on trees.

Robyn Rudeforth

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