



# NEWSLETTER

October 2020

P.O. Box 111, GLEN FORREST, WA 6071

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

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## 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](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

### Facebook:

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

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## Coming Events October

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October**  
**Committee Meeting**  
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October**  
**Seed Cleaning Group**  
9.00am. Octagonal Hall

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Excursion Morangup Nature Reserve, Tooday**  
Leader: Mitzi Wehlack  
Meet 10.00am (See details later in this Newsletter.)

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### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October

#### Propagation Group

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

### Evening Meeting

#### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

“Orchids of WA’s Eastern Granites”

#### Andrew Brown

Andrew Brown will be well know 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 meagre 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!

# Future Events November

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Committee Meeting

4.00pm Octagonal Hall

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November

Seed Cleaning Group

9.00am. Octagonal Hall

## Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Propagation Group

12 noon to 3pm, Octagonal Hall.

Bring your lunch.

## Wildflower Ramble

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am

John Forrest National Park

Leader: Penny Hussey

(Details later on in this Newsletter)

## Evening Meeting

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

## AGM

There will be a quiz and supper afterwards.

(Details later in this Newsletter.)

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## EXCURSION DETAILS

### Wildflower Walk, Morangup Nature Reserve, Toodyay

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Meet 10.00am Leader:  
Mitzi Wehleck

The walk will be in the morning, so we suggest you bring your lunch, then there could be a second walk in this very beautiful and diverse reserve.

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

**To get there:** Take the Toodyay Road. Go through Gidgegannup and past Noble Falls picnic area. Continue as the main road bends left, then right again. Go past Morangup Rd to the north – when you reach the next road, Black Swamp Rd, Morangup NR starts on your left. Go a little further, past the Marris to a gate leading to a track north. Signs will be there to guide you in. (If you are not sure, look it up on Google maps!!!)

## Wildflower Walk, John Forrest NP

**Saturday 124<sup>th</sup> November.** Meet 9.30am at John Forrest Tavern parking area, outside the Ranger's Office. Note – there is an entrance fee to the park.

At this time of year it could be hot, so this is a meander along the river in deep shade. What we see in flower depends on whether it has been very hot and dry. You might like to bring lunch and sit at the shady picnic tables admiring the Splendid Wrens, perhaps going for another meander later.

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## AGM

Friday 27 November

All positions will fall vacant

We urgently need a

Chairperson, Treasurer and  
Secretary

Also, up to 8 Committee Members

## Could you help?

It is not onerous!

It's also a great pleasure to meet and work with other like-minded people to "know, grow, conserve and enjoy" our wildflowers.

**For supper – bring a plate to share!**

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## REPORTS

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

“Early Botanical Collectors in Western Australia”

Alex George took us through a roll-call of distinguished botanists who have influenced plant knowledge in Western Australia, from 1698 to the present day. He showed images of the collectors and some of the plants they found, together with stories and anecdotes to show them as personalities.

The oldest examples of plants collected in WA and still preserved today are two sheets from the collection of Vlaming when he explored the Swan River area in 1697. (He was the bloke who named the island off the coast "Rats Nest" - Rottnest in Dutch - from the big rats they saw there. An insult to Quokkas!) The plants were leaves only, and both were thought to be ferns. But one was *Synaphea acutiloba*, the leaves do look a bit ferny!

From there we went on to Dampier and his praise of blue flowers, Vancouver on his way to North America and various French expeditions. One of which contained as naturalist Jean-Baptiste Louis Claude Theodore Leschenault de la Tour. Alex commented that it was a good thing the Robert Brown at Kew chose only one of his names to attach to a new genus, *Lechenautia*. And he changed the spelling to 'latinise' the word!

After European settlement, of course, we come to names that are more familiar to us, such as James Drummond and Georgiana Molloy, Rica Ericson and Eileen Croxford, who was a stalwart of the Albany Branch of the WSWA.

We all learnt something! Thank you, Alex, for helping us to appreciate our State's rich botanical history.

The Quiz was prepared by Francisca Lebel and Penny Hussey and all groups did well, the winners scoring 12.5 out of 15 points.

The nature table had a magnificent display of colourful flowers, many from Janet Atkins.

*Penny Hussey*

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## Wildflower Walk, Blackboy Ridge Reserve, Chittering.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September.**

It is a shame more people did not turn up for this, as our hosts, the Chittering Landcare Group, had made an effort of show us the area. Although the track was steep at first, there were a lot of plants in flower and the weather was kind.

The group has produced an attractive and informative booklet about walks in the area. Contact the Chittering Landcare Centre to find out more:

[chitteringlandcate@iinet.net.au](mailto:chitteringlandcate@iinet.net.au)

*Joy Collins*

## Wildflower Walk, Walliston

**Sunday September 27**

This walk was very well attended – 44 people turned up! Consequently the attendees were asked to form two groups and I was asked to lead one (although I had never been to this part of the Kalmunda Railway Reserve Heritage Trail before!) It proved to be Jarrah and Forest Sheoak woodland on laterite, weedy at the start but it got better as we progressed.

My group was slow, as there was so much to look at, and all participants very interested. It was a delight to see the children (and their parents!) triggering Triggerplants, especially when we came across a population of Cowkicks (*Stylidium schoenoides*) which has huge flowers and can pack a good wallop on little fingers!

My personal favourite involved a weed and a native. We examined Baboon Flowers (*Babiana angustiflora*) first and I explained that if you ever saw a single pleated leaf like that, be careful, because it could be the native *Patersonia babianoides*. Some time later, one of the ladies called out "I've found the native Baboon Flower!" And so she had!



*Patersonia babianoides*. There are two plants here.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Darwinea pinifolia*



All Darwineas are attractive, but this one is rather special!

It is a prostrate or low spreading shrub up to 25cm high and 60cm wide. It has short, narrow leaves and the young shoots are often reddish. The deep red flowers are carried in heads and cover the bush between September and November.

It is found on the Darling Scarp (Swan River area) north to Badgingarra, and grows as an understory plant amongst mixed shrubbery of hakeas, isopogons and acacias.

The propagation is by cuttings.

Locally it can be seen on the hillside above Padbury Terrace, Millendon.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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## Gardening Definitions

Perennial: any plant which, had it lived, would have bloomed year after year.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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

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

## We need more seed!

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

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## WEED WATCH

### Have you seen this?



African Love Grass  
*Eragrostis curvula*

This is a major bad guy, causing serious degradation in bushland. It is a perennial, with an extremely strong root system, so it is difficult to remove. It grows in summer, so herbicides in winter/spring have no effect on it. Because of its dense clumping habit and production of a lot of highly-flammable stems and foliage it increases the fire-risk where it occurs.

Young seedheads are black. This plant has shed all its seed and thus appears golden-yellow.

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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