

# NEWSLETTER

November 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 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

**Propagation Group** In recess

**Wildflower Ramble**  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am**  
John Forrest National Park  
(Details later on in this Newsletter)

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

## AGM

**All positions will fall vacant**  
**We urgently need a**  
**Chairperson, Treasurer and**  
**Secretary**

**Also, up to 8 Committee Members**  
Who will include a Garden Organiser, Hall Organiser, Librarian and Newsletter Editor.

## Could you help?

It is not onerous!  
Its also a great pleasure to meet and work with other like-minded people to "know, grow, conserve and enjoy" our wildflowers.

The Quiz will be 'retrospective' of the year 2020.

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

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## Coming Events December

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**Committee Meeting**  
4.00pm Octagonal Hall

There will be no General Meetings in December or January. The next General Meeting will be on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021.

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# EXCURSION DETAILS

## Wildflower Walk, John Forrest NP

**Saturday 14<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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## REPORTS

### Wildflower Walk, Morangup Nature Reserve, Toodyay

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October.**

Seventeen people joined Mitzi Wehleck for this excursion, including some visitors. It was a glorious day and the reserve was full of interesting plants, many in brilliant flower. Thanks to permission from DBCA, we were able to drive into the reserve and park on a cleared area well away from the road.



*Verticordia citrella*

We first walked along the track to the north, stopping frequently to observe, photograph and discuss the various vicissitudes that have happened to this land, that have led to the plant

community we now see. (The cleared area is the site of an old slag-heap from Wundowie Iron and Steel, and is dominated by a dense stand of Maltese Cockspur, *Centaurea melitensis*, not common in the Perth area.) With this exception, the reserve is remarkably weed-free.

One of the most interesting plants was *Verticordia citrella* which is only known from this general area. It has very small flowers, and was buzzing with small wasps, presumably the pollinator. This area had been subject to a fire several years previously, so we speculated whether it was stimulated by that event.



*Calytrix oncinophylla* with *Hibbertia acerosa*

Another colourful small shrub was this *Calytrix*. It had rather small flowers and leaves, but the total effect was eye-catching. Because of the small leaves, it was thought it might be *C. brevifolia*, but it turned out to be *C. oncinophylla*.



Lunch was under the shade of a spreading Marri, and everything from horticulture to world politics was discussed. Photo: R. Atkins

After lunch, Mitzi led us to another area, where she was sure she could find a Dragon Orchid. It took a fair bit of searching, but indeed a small population was found. There was some discussion whether the group was still in its own

genus, *Dragonorchis*, or whether it had reverted back to *Caladenia*. It seems that it is the latter.



*Caladenia (Dragonorchis) barbarossa*, Photo M. Wehlack

There were lots of other plants, and Arthur Blundell's plant list will be amended to include this latest information. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this list, please contact the Secretary.

Thank you, Mitzi, for leading us on a lovely walk.  
*Penny Hussey*

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## “Orchids of WA’s Eastern Granites”

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

The largest audience of the year assembled to hear Andrew Brown describe the orchid species found on six granite outcrops in the South-eastern part of WA. All these sites are relatively undisturbed, with vegetation in a pristine condition. Two were accessible by ordinary car, but the others needed 4WD – indeed, after a recent huge bushfire that will have damaged the tracks, some might not be accessible for years.

Rainfall is low in these areas, meaning that much of the surrounding woodland is not suitable for orchids, but the granite channels the meagre rainfall into small soil pockets where orchids can flourish. In total, there are 41 species found on these rocks, some on only one, but others more widespread.

Taking each rock at a time Andrew summarised its orchid flora, and illustrated the most interesting. The most common genera seemed to be *Caladenia* and *Pterostylis*, but there were many others. Often they grow in large colonies, that are perhaps clones. How many flower, depends on the season.

This was a fascinating talk that highlighted how much of our vast State is still botanically unexplored. Afterwards, Andrew was besieged by people with questions, waving laptops and phones containing pictures of species for him to identify. Thank you Andrew, for sharing your time and expertise.

*Penny Hussey*

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Thomasia paniculata*



photo: Internet

This is an erect shrub up to 1.5m tall in the Perth area, but it can be taller in its southern range,.

The whole plant is quite hairy. The leaves are long ovals, with kidney-shaped stipules, and are hairy on both sides. It bears clusters of pinky-mauve flowers from September to March.

Cultivation is from seed or cuttings.

This plant occurs on the Darling Range in Jarrah or Karri forest from Perth to Denmark, often growing along watercourses or associated with winter-wet swamps. It is seen locally near Lockwood Road.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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## WEED WATCH

Have you seen this?



This head is often conspicuous in weedy bushland at this time of year and the starry white segments float in the wind and get caught in everything. It deceived me recently when I saw a *Hakea erinaceae* seedling apparently bearing dozens of these starry white 'flowers'.

But of course, on looking closer, they are not flowers, at all! They are seeds of a plant in the Daisy family.

Each segment, called an achene, is the remains of a whole flower. It bears the seed, with at the top five petal-like scales and a tuft of hairs at the base.

The flower is a pale yellow daisy. Held on a slender stem on an annual with feathery, deeply dissected leaves. It flowers in early spring.



It is, of course, *Ursinia*, *Ursinea anthemoides*, widespread across the south-west, found in disturbed areas and along roads. It comes originally from South Africa.

This plant now forms part of the annual flora in many areas, including bushland. Effectively, it fills a space once occupied by everlastings.

If you are managing a small piece of bushland, you can attempt to eliminate it by hand weeding, but those seeds fly a long way, and are very fertile. It is here to stay!

There are more 'ecosystem altering' weeds to spend your precious time getting rid of!

*Penny Hussey*

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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