

NEWSLETTER

February 2021

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 2021

President: Penny Hussey
Vice President: Fran Kininmonth
Treasurer: Peter Day
Secretary: Janet Atkins
Committee Members:
June Barkman, ,
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 February

Thursday 11th February
Committee Meeting
3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 17th February
Seed Cleaning Group
9.00am. Octagonal Hall

Monday 22nd February
Propagation Group
12 noon, Octagonal Hall

Evening Meeting
Friday 26nd February 2021

Bush Tucker Plants

Natasha Bowden, SERCUL

Natasha is Education and Promotions manager, SERCUL, Beckenham. She will discuss the names of the Aboriginal seasons and the movements of people back and forth from the lowlands (rivers/lakes/seashore) in certain seasons, back into the hills and more sheltered regions for the cooler months.

Coming Events March

Thursday 4th March
Committee Meeting
3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 3rd, 17th, and 31st March
Seed Cleaning Group
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Monday 22nd March
Propagation Group
12 noon, Octagonal Hall

Evening Meeting Friday 26th March
Members' Night

Come and share some interesting plant moments with other members! Show and tell – the wonderful everlastings at Paynes Find – an orchid on Mt Kinabalu – a new species found in your bush block – something you would like identified - or whatever! Put your pics onto a memory stick in Powerpoint if possible, please, maximum 10 slides. Talk for around 5 minutes. We look forward to sharing some fascinating plant stories!

Don't forget specimens for the nature table!
There will be a Quiz to start the year off!

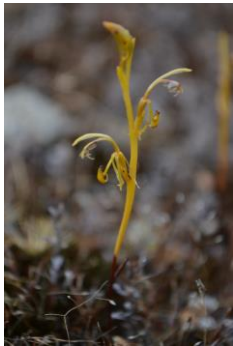
COVID NOTE: Unless there should be a sudden, State-called lockdown announcement, the meetings will go ahead. But please wear your masks if required.

REPORT

Wildflower Walk, John Forrest NP

Saturday 24th November

Despite the poor weather forecast, five hardy souls met in John Forrest National Park to see what interesting plants we could find. And we were rewarded with something really unusual!



First we walked east from the facilities area to a large granite outcrop to the north of the old railway track.

We were in search of the Elbow Orchid, and found a population of around a hundred plants in full flower. This plant has an extraordinary life history. Not only does the labellum look and smell like a female thynnid wasp, thus duping the male into trying to mate with it but instead carrying pollen to another flower, but it dies from the base up, the flowers living on the nutrients stored in the succulent stem. Indeed, early botanists were astonished to find the buds continuing to open, even when they were squashed in a plant press! The rock also had a magnificent display of *Verticordia plumosa*, and many other plants too.

We turned back and followed the track westwards until we came to the crossing at National Park Falls. There we turned back and walked eastwards along the track that follows the river bank, where we saw two beautiful climbers, the Jacaranda-blue *Billardiera (Pronaya) fraseri*, and the pristine white Wedding Creeper, *Marianthus candidus (Billardiera candida)*.



But it was a little further along that track that we noticed the most exciting find – something I had only seen once in my life before – *Anthocercis gracilis*, the Slender Tailflower. It is easy to miss if you are not looking, as it is inconspicuous; a low shrub, slender and almost leafless with pendulous yellowish green flowers. It is rare, listed as Threatened, and known from only a few locations on Darling Scarp granites. It may be more common than currently known, as it is a short-lived fire disturbance opportunist and not easy to spot.



A few weeks later I returned to the same location with DBCA Mundaring Flora Officer, Kim Kucera. We found not just one but twenty or so plants close by, even with a couple of flowers still. This was really exciting, as it is a new population! In Sept/Oct 20021 DBCA will undertake a full survey to determine the extent of the population. They will let us know when, in case any members would like to join in this detailed search.

Penny Hussey

VALE Margaret McCrum

Margaret Joan McCrum (nee Sewell) was born on 28th August 1936 and sadly died on 21st December 2020.

She was a keen sportswoman, enjoying an active life, swimming, playing tennis and basketball. She worked as a clerk at the Bank of NSW, studied nursing at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, worked at a poultry farm and later in life earned her Certificate in Library Practice.

She married Eric McCrum on 12th January 1957 and they had four children. In 1969 she joined Eric in Papua New Guinea when he became a Patrol Officer, living in Popondetta, and working at the local bakery. They lived there for four years returning to Perth for the children to go to high school.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Petalostyles labicheoidea
Butterfly Flower



Margaret and Eric loved travelling around Australia, visiting the Pilbara, Kimberley, Queensland, Tasmania, etc. and Margaret became a first class photographer as she recorded their travels.

Margaret started writing to a pen pal in England when she was 10 years old and they corresponded for over 40 years before Margaret visited England in 1988 and they met for the first time. An amazing commitment that continued for many more years.

“Unflappability” (if such a word exists) was the characteristic most remembered by Margaret’s friends and family. Nothing seemed to faze her and if she saw something that needed to be done she would get in there and do it.

She was an active member of both the Naturalists’ Club and the Wildflower Society always ready to help with activities, whether it be providing soup for Eastern States visitors at an ASGP Conference or stepping in as Wildflower Society President when the position couldn’t be filled. To say that we will miss her is an understatement. Farewell Margaret from all your friends in the Eastern Hills branch of the Wildflower Society.
Mal Myers

Donation from Containers for Change scheme

The Hills ‘Containers for Change’ scheme is a charity operates in Mundaring and Kalamunda and is a charity that organises the collection and recycling of the materials listed in the State Government’s “10c for a container’ initiative. The money donated by the Government, is donated to local charities. They have already helped the CWA and the Firies. .

This month, \$75 was received by EHB. When asked if they had a preference for what we did with it, we were told “Something that benefits wildflowers”. Good news, eh?

This is an upright open shrub to 2m tall and one metre wide, belonging to the same family as the Cassias.

It has pinnate leaves and bright yellow flowers 3cm across. In cultivation in Perth it flowers from October to February.

In WA, it is widespread in the Pilbara, growing on stony hills and creek banks. It is also found in SA, NSW and QLD.

Petalostyles germinates easily from spring-sown seed, and it should be protected from cold winds and frosts. Plants should be mulched with good-quality compost.

Robyn Rudeforth

Susannah Brook update

Susannah Brook Catchment Group has been successful in achieving a new grant of \$19,154 from the West Australian Government’s Natural Resource Management program. This is on top of our current grant from the same body, so allowing the group to complete the main outcome of establishing a Wildlife Corridor along Susannah Brook in the Reserve. The Branch’s generous donation will ensure an exceptionally good variety of local provenance seedlings.

It will be a busy year 2021; volunteers working on both sites, 3 and 4, with weed control

throughout the year, maintaining sites 1 and 2 already revegetated, and planting local native seedlings in the winter. Please spare the group some of your time to assist with planting. Here are the dates:

Thursday July 8th Time TBA (it will be in the morning on all days)

Saturday July 10th.

Thursday July 15th

Sunday July 18th.

More details with a map and directions will be available nearer the dates. Morning tea will be provided with snacks and home cooked cakes.

Sandy Stone Vice Chairperson SBCG Inc

0458875734

susannahbrookcatchmentgroup@gmail.com.

Help for wildlife after fire?

Robyn Rudeforth suggests that members might like to donate old towels, sheets or pillowcases to the Chidlow wildlife Hospital to help with the treatment of injured animals. She says that if you drop stuff off at her place, she will deliver it.

Mundaring Garden Centre
1145 Coppin Road
Mundaring.

WEED WATCH

Tolpis barbata
Tolpi or Yellow Hawkweed



When walking along bush tracks in summer, have you noticed this? It is quite widespread, though inconspicuous, especially when not flowering. Just one of those 'daisy-things'!

Tolpis is an annual growing, in good conditions, up to 40cm with a basal rosette of leaves and spindly, widely-branched stems. The bracts around the inflorescence are long and narrow, giving the bud a spiny look. The inflorescences are made up of only ray florets, yellow on the outside and bronze in the centre. Very distinctive.

The plant is widespread in the SW of WA, as part of the annual flora of disturbed areas such as track edges, and of dry shallow soil on granite outcrops. It flowers during summer.

The plant is widespread throughout the Mediterranean lands. It probably came here in soil around plants brought in by early settlers. It is too common in WA to try to eradicate it now, unless you are working on your own small patch.

Penny Hussey

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