



NEWSLETTER

March 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/>

COVID NOTE: Unless there should be a sudden, mandatory lockdown announcement, the meetings will go ahead.

Coming Events March

Thursday 4th March Committee Meeting 3pm.
Octagonal Hall.

Wednesday 3rd, 17th and 31st March

Seed Cleaning
9am Octagonal hall

Monday 15th 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 no Quiz this month.

Coming Events April

Thursday 1st April
Committee Meeting
3pm. Octagonal Hall.

Wednesday 14th and 28th April

Seed Cleaning
9am Octagonal hall

Monday 19th April

Propagation Group
12 noon Octagonal Hall

Evening Meeting

Friday 23rd April

Shelley James

“From Red Box and Beyond – Western Australian Herbarium collections and their use in biodiversity science”

Herbariums contain centuries of botanical specimens gathered from around the globe. Changes in research and technology make the information contained in these specimens even more important in documenting the impacts of global change.

In this presentation, she will describe how the Western Australian Herbarium fits within the global network of herbarium collections, why continued advocacy for high research quality botanical collecting and preservation of collections is needed, and how current efforts to efficiently digitize and provide online access of our herbarium collections is increasingly important and valuable for the documentation and discovery of the flora of Western Australia and to global biodiversity research.

Dr Shelley James is the Collections Manager of the Western Australian Herbarium, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. She has been a botanical research scientist for more than two decades, and her research has taken her to the far reaches of the globe to see and explore some of the world’s most fascinating ecosystems, including Hawaii, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and now Western Australia. Shelley earned a Doctor of Philosophy (Botany) in 1999 from the University of Western Australia. Upon completing her PhD, Shelley was appointed as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Botany, University of Hawaii. She subsequently worked in the Herbarium Pacificum and the Pacific Centre for Molecular Biodiversity at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii for 14 years, and later as the iDigBio Data Management Coordinator with the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Her most recent work focuses on the expansion and improvement of herbarium collections and biodiversity data, to better our conservation efforts in Western Australia, Australia and around the world. She collaborates nationally and internationally with collections, research, cyberinfrastructure, and education communities.

REPORT

Bush Tucker Plants

Evening meeting, Friday 26th February

Natasha Bowden, the Education and Promotions manager at SERCUL, Beckenham, started off by describing the major aim of the programme under which she works, which is to limit the amount of Phosphorus reaching the water system, both surface and underground. One way to do this is to encourage people to plant native species in their gardens, as these require less phosphorus fertiliser than introduced species.

She then discussed how the Wadjuk people, who lived around the Perth Metropolitan area, utilized their plant resources. She described the annual summer migration down the rivers to the coast, then back east across the Darling Range to the Avon Wheatbelt and then, as winter ended, back down to the coast again.

In each of the six Noongar seasons, she chose three plants that would have been used at that time, and also mentioned fauna used as food. This talk was packed full of information and kept the audience enthralled.



For example, Coastal Pigface, *Carpobrotus virescens*, produces seeds in a white pulp which can be eaten fresh or dried. The juice

from the leaves can be used to treat stings, scalds and burns. The leaves can also be boiled and eaten as greens.

Two groups tied for top place in the Quiz, both with 12 out of 16 correct answers. Well done folks!

Penny Hussey

PLANT SALE 2021

Saturday 8th May

(This will go ahead Covid permitting.)

Plant Sale Committee

Mitzi Wehleck - Signage and catalogue.

Contact sangrila@primus.com.au Janet Atkins – General Organisation/Rosters etc atkinsrj@inet.net.au

Joy Collins – Pricing and supplies colljoy@inet.net.au

Peter Day Treasurer - Grower Payments etc pandcday@inet.net.au

Growers with plants for sale please make contact so that we are aware of your intentions to supply plants. This is particularly important if you are a first time grower. All welcome no matter how small a quantity. Peter can send you a copy of an excel sheet for grower lists, if you wish to use it (does all the calculations for you).

Important dates

1st April – for preliminary lists. Need species but not necessarily numbers at this point. However numbers would be good if you have them. This is for work to commence on the catalogue and signage to be sorted. We endeavour to have coloured signage for all species and listing on the catalogue where number are 10 or more. This does mean combined numbers with other growers. 25th April - for final lists with accurate numbers. Please send to **Mitzi**.

Help Needed

This is the Branch's main source of income with growers donating 40% of their takings. They have been very busy for at least the past six months looking after all their charges. Help setting up on Friday 7th May and selling/cleaning up on Saturday 8th May would be greatly appreciated. We will also

be supplying refreshments for members helping out so will also need some catering help. We have decided not to provide refreshments for the public this year in light of the uncertain Covid situation. If you are able to help out please contact **Janet**.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Isotoma petraea

Rock Isotome



This beautiful herbaceous perennial grows in cracks and crevices on rocky outcrops over much of Australia's arid regions. Depending on the season, it can grow from 10-30cm tall. It is in the Lobelia family, and produces masses of showy, sky-blue flowers from June to December – again, depending on the seasons.

In WA it is widespread on suitable rocky habitats from Newman to Geraldton, through the Wheatbelt and east to Kalgoorlie and the edge of the Nullarbor.

Propagation is by seed.

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

