



WILDFLOWER SOCIETY  
OF WA (INC.)

EASTERN HILLS BRANCH

# NEWSLETTER

June 2021

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

### Facebook:

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

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**COVID NOTE:** Once again, we must emphasise that scheduled events will go ahead – provided there is not a mandatory restriction due to Covid19. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with those!

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## Coming Events June

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

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June**  
Seed Cleaning  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group** In recess

## Evening Meeting Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June

Vanessa Brown: UWA and Kings Park Science

### “Banksia Woodland Restoration with Seed Enhancement Technologies”

Vanessa graduated from Curtin University with a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology in 2017. Now doing a PhD, she is studying seed enhancement technologies and how they can be used to overcome restoration barriers in severely disturbed areas after mining, pine plantations or agriculture, in order to improve the restoration of Banksia woodlands.

There will be a Quiz.

Don't forget to bring specimens for the Nature Table.

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## Coming Events July

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July**  
Committee Meeting  
3pm. Octagonal Hall.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
Seed Cleaning  
9am Octagonal hall

**Propagation Group** In recess

**Evening Meeting  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**  
“Slime moulds”  
Karina Knight

Karina Knight was the Collections Manager at the Herbarium, and was involved in the

huge transfer of the specimens from the old building to the new one.

She has always been interested in fungi, which are quite difficult to curate, and she worked with Margaret Brims when she became interested in slime moulds, taking over her work with these peculiar organisms when Margaret passed away.

Slime moulds are very strange organisms indeed. Sometimes they behave like an animal, sometimes like a fungus. Are they a collective of single cells, or a truly multicellular organism? Also they are much commoner than you might think! Prepare to be amazed!

There will be a Quiz.

Don't forget to bring specimens for the nature table.

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## REPORTS

### 2021 PLANT SALE

This year's Plant Sale turned out to be very successful. Lots of people turned up and bought lots of plants. A number of growers completely sold out and the others were left with very few to take home. We had 12 different growers (including the Northern Suburbs Branch Nursery) contributing this year. There was quite a diversity of plant species available for sale including quite a number which we have not had previously.

Seed sales from our Seed Bank were also exceptionally good, breaking any record that anyone can recall. Sybil (from the Management Committee) also brought along books to sell, as she has done for many years now. Books sales were also excellent.

The Sale was a 'off again on again' affair in the preceding weeks as the COVID issue decided to put in another appearance. Luckily we were cleared to go a week before the designated date and compulsory mask wearing was dropped 9 hours before gates opened which made life easier. COVID check-ins went smoothly with everyone seeming cooperative which was wonderful. Refreshments for visitors were not provided for the first time in years, as we were not sure how to handle them in a COVID environment.

EFTPOS (provided as a community service by the Mundaring Bendigo Bank)

sales outstripped cash sales almost 2:1 this year. Fortunately we had 2 machines to deal with the sales rush. Robyn and Cathy become eftpos chicks for the day and did a great job. The other cashiers (Bill, Jan, John and Robert) also worked very hard all day. There is no time for boredom cashiering.

Thank you to all members who came along and helped with plant sales. The outcome was wonderful with the level of sales achieved.

The pre-organisation and setting up of the Sale is quite a big affair and thank you to all who helped in any way. A few key individuals need to be mentioned. Mitzi, who collates the grower lists into a brilliant catalogue/grower guide, puts in many late nights on the computer. This was a bit of a tense affair this year wondering whether or not we would be able to go ahead. Mitzi also generates all the coloured species labels for the tables. Joy makes sure we have any required supplies; this includes all the coloured pricing sticks. Mal, June and Pauline look after Seed sales and also spend Friday sorting out the coloured labels into correct bundles to go on the tables. Peter, our Treasurer, underwent induction this year, managing all the Sale Finances – a big job. He seems to have survived the experience.

Lastly, but not least, we must say big thankyou to Paul who took on the night security job. Apparently there was one intruder – a very furry one walking along the verandah rail.

This year's Plant Sale was very important as last year with no Sale the branch had very little income. As it is our main source of income we would love to have some more members starting to grow. It is very rewarding and the numbers of plants need not be great. There is a lot of satisfaction seeing the plants that you grow go out the gate in someone's basket. It is also an excellent community service providing well-grown, well-priced W.A. plants to the local community.

*Janet Atkins*

### Evening talk, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May "A Lost Garden"

Despite the warning of wild weather, some 20 people turned up to hear Alex George speak about the native plant garden that was developed around the then new Herbarium

building that was constructed on part of the Agriculture Department's land in 1968/69. The site was part of a pine plantation, and at first the grounds were landscaped with lawns under and around the remaining pines.

However. The botanists felt that it would be appropriate to create a garden that would showcase native plants – and this meant the pines would have to go. Under the then Curator, John Green, Marion Blackwell was contracted to develop a landscape plan. Despite opposition from some members of the mainstream department, the pines were removed and planting commenced in 1978.

Many of the plants had been raised for research study, and Banksias, especially, found an honoured place in the new garden. Trickle irrigation was used through the first couple of summers, to ensure the plants got good root development, then away they went. Speciality gardens, such as a wetland, were created, and winding paths made it a delightful place to stroll.

But gradually, over time, funding to maintain the garden dried up, and when the Herbarium moved to a new location in the Kieran McNamara Science Centre, it was left to itself. For those who knew and helped develop the garden, it seems a sad end to a lovely place.

Unfortunately, about halfway through this talk a heavy squall rolled in, drumming violently on the Hall's tin roof. The new microphone that Peter Day had organised had to be turned up to its loudest, so that the audience could hear at least some of the talk that accompanied the photos.

As the rain continued to teem down, everyone, including Alex, stayed to supper and that is when he answered numerous questions.

The Quiz was won by a group that got 15 out of 20 correct – a truly excellent result! And there were some superb flowers on the Nature Table, including the striking arid zone pea, *Crotalaria cunninghamii*, the Bird Flower. So it was a great evening despite the weather!

*Penny Hussey*

*Note from the Quiz:*

One question referred to the trackmarks in sandstone in Kalbarri. They were made by Sea Scorpions (Euripterids). I found this pic

on the internet, but our species may not have been exactly like this.



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## Future events

**25th - 27th August 2021**  
**A CHANCE TO VISIT TWO**  
**REGIONAL FLOWER SHOWS**  
**Mullewa Flower Show and Three Springs**  
**Flower and Art Exhibition**

Drive yourself or car-share.

Book your own accommodation.

\* Leaving together from Octagonal Hall or Midland on Wednesday 25th August. Visiting wildflower spots on the way to an overnight in Morawa.

\* Thursday 26th August - to Mullewa Flower Show - overnight in Three Springs.

\* Friday 27th August - Three Springs Flower Show before returning to Perth in time for the evening meeting.

As well as visiting the two Flower Shows we will be stopping at various beauty spots on the 3 days. Download "Wildflower Way, Midlands Route" for route map. A full itinerary will be available at our next meeting, in the newsletter and on our Facebook site.

**There are vacancies in both Morawa and Three Springs at the moment but early booking (individual responsibility) is advisable.**

Morawa Hotel or Everlastings Guest House  
Three Springs Hotel

**Details: frankinmonth2004@yahoo.com**

*Mal Myers*

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# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## *Lechenaultia Formosa* Red Leschenautia

This is a small prostrate or domed ground cover with bright red flowers through autumn into winter. The two upper corolla lobes are erect and joined together, the three others broadly winged.



This is a widespread plant, found throughout the Wheatbelt and the eastern edge of the jarrah forest from Geraldton to Eucla.

Several colour variants do occur in the wild and, since it is propagated by cuttings, have been brought into cultivation. Thus all shades of red, orange and yellow can be found in nurseries, including bi-coloured flowers.

This species does well at the front of a garden bed, in pots or in hanging baskets but always requires well-drained soil.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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## WEED WATCH

### *Tribolium uniol* Haas Grass

This is a tufted perennial growing to about knee height. It flowers over summer and

reproduces from its light, long-lived seed, which can germinate in large numbers after fire



Brought from South Africa to trial as a pasture grass, it was planted in CSIRO's paddocks in Kelmscott, where it was found to be useless as a pasture plant, but from where it has spread out into the coastal plain, scary and hills. In the Hills it loves granites and other shallow soils, including under jarrah and wandoo.

I first came across this plant when I was showing a visitor from South Africa around the Ellis Brook Valley. I pointed out a grassy tuft and said "I don't know what that is". He replied dismissively "That's *Tribolium uniol*". Oops! This was some time before *Western Weeds* was even thought of, and it was uncommon then. Not so now in the hills above where it was originally planted! But, I have only once seen it in Mundaring Shire, on the railway reserve in Boya.

If you should find a plant, along a road or on a granite outcrop, remove it, taking care not to shake the seeds off. We really don't need it here!

*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 Australi