



NEWSLETTER

July 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: 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!

Coming Events July

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

Wednesday 7th and 21st July
Seed Cleaning
9am Octagonal hall

Propagation Group In recess

Evening Meeting

Friday 23rd 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.

Coming Events August

Thursday 5th August

Committee Meeting
3pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 4th and 18th August

Seed Cleaning
9am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group In recess

25th - 27th August 2021

Excursion

Morawa – Mullewa – Three Springs

(see detail below)

**Evening Meeting
Friday 27th August**

Ken Patterson

“The rehabilitation of Piesse Brook”

Piesse Brook runs down from Pickering Brook to join the Helena River just above the Pumpback Dam. It passes through areas of orchards and farmland where, over the years, the natural stream-side vegetation had been replaced by weeds such as Blackberry and Watsonia which had spread down into the national park. So a Friends Group was formed to start doing something about this.

I researched the Friends of Piesse Brook action group and was amazed by the steadfast implementation, organisation and diligent applications to improve that lovely part of the Hills environment. Wow!! If all such groups were fortunate enough to have the same dedication and input, what magnificent changes will be made for our natural environment.

Ken will explain what they have done and illustrate his talk with excellent ‘before and after’ photos.

Fran Kininmonth

REPORTS

Friday 25th June

“Improving Banksia woodland restoration with seed enhancement technologies”

Vanessa Brown started off with a few alarming statistics about the extent of Banksia woodland destruction since the start of European settlement, and just how altered the land is left after such activities as sand mining and pine plantations. All this is so extreme that Banksia Woodlands on the Swan Coastal Plain have been declared a ‘Threatened Ecological Community’.

And as for restoration, how on earth do you start on an artificial land surface without a scrap of biologically active material left? Well, of course, a cover would soon establish itself – but do we really want to return the site to a wasteland of weeds? If we want native plants back, we have to be proactive, and put them there!

In EHB we are familiar with the technique of ‘direct seeding’ championed by the late Joanna Seabrook, and many members will have helped in the Seed Orchard she got established. But, seed is expensive, and even under the best of conditions, seedling survival is not high. So, anything that can improve the germination and survival of seed is worth investigating. This is where Vanessa’s research comes in.

She told us about coating the seeds with ‘activated carbon’ to make the growth more resistant to the herbicide used to control weeds. The method of coating caused some laughter – she runs the mix through a pasta machine to make ‘seed spaghetti’! So far, her trials at Gngarra and Gingin are looking hopeful, although Covid restrictions have set everything back.

There were many questions from the knowledgeable growers in the audience. Very many thanks, Vanessa, for highlighting so clearly the many problems faced in Banksia Woodland restoration.

The Quiz was won by a group who got 17 out of 20 questions correct - well done folks! The nature table showcased some superb specimens.

Penny Hussey

WSWA AGM

The AGM of the Wildflower Society of Western Australia (of which EHB is one of 12 branches) was held at the end of June. Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey attended as Branch delegates. The Constitution was amended and the draft Prescribed Burning Policy was (sort of) approved. Kevin Theile remains as President, but at the end of this year he will be leaving WA to return to NSW, so hopefully someone else will step up. Full details will be in the next WSWA Newsletter.

Penny Hussey

Excursion details

**25th - 27th August 2021
Mullewa Flower Show and Three Springs
Flower and Art Exhibition**

Drive yourself or car-share.
Book your own accommodation.

* **Wednesday 25th** – 8.30/9.00am Leave Octagonal Hall. Wongan Hills for m/t and look around. Approx 1hr Dallwallinu for lunch. To Perenjori, Caron Dam and Orchid Ridge. Morawa, overnight stay.

* **Thursday 26th** - to Cannan, m/t and wildflowers. Mullewa, lunch, Flower Show Depot Hill wildflower walk, Coalseam NP, - overnight in Three Springs.

* **Friday 27th** - Three Springs Wildflower and Art Exhibition before returning to Perth in time for the evening meeting.

Please let Fran know if you are intending to join the excursion.

frankinmonth2004@yahoo.com

Mal Myers

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Darwinea oldfieldii



This is a small domed shrub that can grow up to 1m tall and wide. It has small, neat leaves and flowers in dense terminal clusters. A very attractive small shrub for borders.

The flower colour comes from the bracts which are usually red, but can vary from pink, through mauve to purplish-red. They are produced from winter into spring.

This plant occurs in the Irwin District, including Kalbarri NP, growing in heathland on sandy gravel.

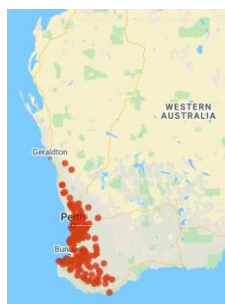
It is propagated by cuttings.

Robyn Rudeforth

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THIS!

Babingtonia pelloeae

Two similar species of *Babingtonia* occur in the Kalamunda and Mundaring Shires, *Babingtonia camphorosmae* (Camphor Myrtle) and *Babingtonia pelloeae*. The more common species, *B. camphorosmae*, occurs west of a line from Three Springs to Mount Barker (map 1); while *B. pelloeae* (previously known as *Babingtonia* sp. B) occurs in a discrete area between Gingin and Karragullen, mainly along the eastern escarpment of the Darling Range (map 2). These are the only species of *Babingtonia* known to overlap in range.



The genus name *Babingtonia* honours botanist and entomologist Charles Cardale Babington, nicknamed "Beetles Babington" at university. Apparently, he overlapped at Cambridge with Charles Darwin, and in 1829 they argued over who should have the pick of beetle specimens from a local dealer. However the species *pelloeae* was named after Melbourne-born West Australian, Emily Harriet Pelloe (1877/8–1941), who helped bring the south-western Australian wildflowers to public attention in articles and books ... particularly with the publication of her wildflower paintings and botanical observations in *Wildflowers of Western Australia* (Pelloe 1921). She collected *B. pelloeae* in Kalamunda in January 1925, and the species was apparently not re-collected until the 1980s (Rye 2015).

B. camphorosmae and *B. pelloeae* are easy to tell apart in the field. The more common *B. camphorosmae* has 8-13 stamens opposite the sepals, with gaps opposite the petals. *B. pelloeae* has 12-26 stamens in a continuous circle. A quick check can be made by photographing the flower and then enlarging the photo in the viewing window of your camera or phone



Babingtonia camphorosmae



Babingtonia pelloeae

I have photographed *B. pelloeae* in Kalamunda National Park at Gooseberry Hill in December 2015, December 2020 and January 2021; and in Korung National Park at Karragullen in November 2017 and January 2021. Both species grow in the same area at Gooseberry Hill.

Lesley Brooker

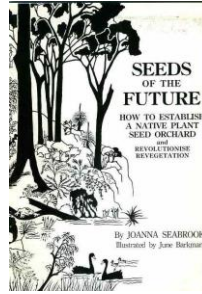
WEED WATCH

Apologies: Peter Day took me to task after last month's Newsletter saying that I clearly did not know much about the spread of Haas Grass in central Mundaring Shire! He has been weeding it out for 20 years or more! Thank goodness for reserve 'Friends' like Peter, unsung heroes!

Penny Hussey

BOOKS

EHB LED THE WAY!

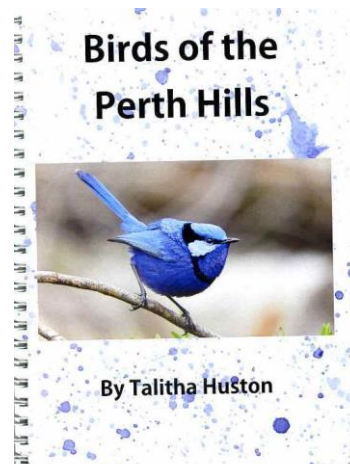


The need for reveg is not a new idea! This book was published by EHB in 1987 – 34 years ago. Joanna Seabrook wrote it, and June Barkman's

delightful pictures illustrate it.

Borrow a copy of this and other of Joanna's books from the Library. Good ideas do not go out of date!

Do you like birds? You'll love this!



Talitha Huston started researching, photographing and writing this when she was 14. Now, at 16, she has published her work. It is superb!

Looking for a present for someone? Or for your own bookshelf? Talitha financed this herself (check-out chick!) and any profits will be given to Kanyana Wildlife Centre. Ring DBCA Mundaring and ask for Bob Huston (her Dad) to find out where one can be bought.

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 Australi