



# NEWSLETTER

August 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 August

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning** In recess

**Propagation Group** In recess

### Excursion

**25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

**Mullewa Flower Show and Three Springs Flower and Art Exhibition**

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

\* **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** – 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 26<sup>th</sup>** - to Canna, m/t and wildflowers. Mullewa, lunch, Flower Show Depot Hill wildflower walk, Coalseam NP, - overnight in Three Springs.

\* **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** - 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](mailto:frankinmonth2004@yahoo.com)

*Mal Myers*

### Evening Meeting

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 It passes through areas of orchards and farmland where, over the years, the natural stream-side vegetation had been replaced by weeds such as Blackberry and Watsonia which these have spread down into the national park.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*

**Wildflower Ramble**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August**  
Martin Road, Mundaring  
10 – 12 am

Led by Janet Atkins and Robin Rudeforth

Meet 0.8km down Martin Rd from Philips Rd. Verge parking. Mostly flat walking but some gentle slopes.

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## Coming Events Sept.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**  
Committee Meeting  
3pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September**  
Seed Cleaning  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
Propagation Group.  
Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
Shelley James, Collections Manager, WA Herbarium

**"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, Shelley James 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. It should provide lots of food for thought.

Don't forget specimens for the nature table! There will be a Quiz this month.

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Wildflower Ramble**  
Details next month.

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## REPORTS

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

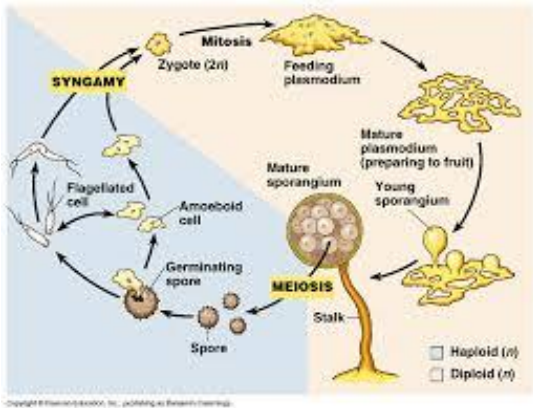
Karina Knight has recently retired from the WA Herbarium, where she started to get interested in Slime Moulds by helping Margaret Brims who had found these odd organisms while looking for fungi. No-one in WA had ever studied them before, so Margaret did a lot of international networking, raising the species known to occur in WA from 21 to 141. They are notoriously difficult to curate, so this is where Karina came in. When Margaret passed away, she took over the interest.

Slime Moulds are very peculiar organisms, so different from everything else that they are in a Kingdom of their own, the myxomycetes.

They grow in moist places, among leaf litter or under tree bark, feeding on bacteria and minute fungi. The diagram below shows the life cycle, which is much too complicated for me to try and explain. Look it up on the internet!

To study them you need a powerful microscope, although the slowly-moving mass called a plasmodium can be seen with the naked eye, though the sporangia are measured in fractions of a millimetre. With 194 species now known in WA, and many more still being studied,

myxomycetes are yet another example of how biodiverse Australia is.



below: eggs of a plasmodium and sporangia



Once again there were some superb plants on the nature table, and in the Quiz, one group got 15 out of 20 correct. Well done folks!

*Penny Hussey*

## MISSING BOOKS

While conducting an inventory of the books in our Octagonal Hall library, it was found that a number of books appear to be missing. Cards, but no associated book. Could all members please check and see if you have any of these titles, forgotten on your shelves? If

so, please return them and leave a note to indicate they are one of the missing books.

- Nuytsia : Bulletin of the WA Herbarium - volume 1 - Number 1 A/N 520
- “ “ “ volume 2 - Number 1 - 6 A/N 510 - 516
- “ “ “ volume 5 - Number 1 A/N 490
- Euphorbia terracina - guide to biology & control & assoc safety issues A/N 619
- Coastcare info kit A/N 634
- Horticultural botany 1 A/N 250
- Australian plants (bound periodicals) A/N 379
- Western Australian wildflowers - Emu souvenirs A/N 330
- Wildflower discovery : a guide for the motorist A/N 86
- Wildflowers of the West - Mulgrave A/N 338
- Wildflowers of the western state A/N 329
- “Orchids of Western Australia” - Dixon, Kingsley A/N 296
- “A Phylogenetic analysis of Diurideae (Orchidaceae) A/N 346
- “What’s in a name? Proteaceae” - Cayzer, Linda ; Whitbread, Greg A/N 212
- “Your Australian garden” Betty Chandler ; Thistle Y. Harris A/N 251
- “Killers at large : collected information” A/N 474
- “Rambler’s harvest” A/N 651
- Powell, Robert ; Emberson, Jane “Growing locals” A/N 37
- Marshall, John - wildflowers of the West Coast Hills region A/N 163 (A/N 234 added)
- Marshall, John - wildflowers of the West Coast Hills region A/N 196
- Seddon, George - Sense of place A/N 443
- Morcombe, Michael ; Morcombe, Irene -
- Wildflowers of the North and Centre A/N 383
- Wildflowers of the East Coast A/N 382
- Hosel, Jutta - Wildflowers of South-East Australia A/N 381
- Clarke, Ian ; Lee, Helen - “Name that Flower” A/N 100
- George, Alex S - “Orchids of Western Australia” A/N 121
- Christensen, P ; Annels, A; Liddelow, G; Skinner, P
- Vertebrate fauna in the southern forests of Western Australia A/N 99
- Handreck, Kevin Arthur - “What’s wrong with my soil” A/N 15
- Kilgour, Sharon - “Managing dieback in bushland” A/N 211
- French, Jackie - “Organic control of common weeds” A/N 384
- Horsfall, Mary - “Creating your eco-friendly garden” A/N 623
- Wrigley, John Walter ; Fagg, Murray - “Rockery

plants" A/N 52

• Crook, Ian G - "Nature reserves of the Shire of Serpentine - Jarrahdale" A/N 78

• Ogden, Helen - "Flowers of Western Australia" A/N 158

• Olde, Peter ; Marriott, Neil - "The Grevillea book" volumes 1-3 A/N 130, 190, 191, & A/N 192

• Wheeler, Judy ; Marchant, Neville ; Lewington, Margaret

• "Flora of the South West" vol. 1 introduction A/N 288

*Fran Kininmonth and Mal Myers*

## THANK YOU

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Guichenotia macrantha*  
Large-flowered Guichenotis



This plant is a shrub up to 2, high and 105m wide. The leaves are long and narrow and are covered with close grey hairs.

The flowers are large, hanging bell-shaped and pinky-mauve, growing in clusters of 2-4 and flowering between July and September. The colour is actually provided by the flower's calyx.

The plant grows from the Murchison River to south of Merredin, mostly on sandy gravel.

Plants can be raised from seed or cuttings and react well to a light feed of blood and bone in early spring, and a light prune after flowering. A very rewarding plant when grown in full sun.

The photograph was taken in the Wildflower Garden run by the York Branch of the Wildflower Society, when the Seed Cleaning Group went got a visit in early

August. Why not visit them? The group meets at their propagation nursery there every Tuesday morning from 9am.

*Robin Rudeforth*

## WEED WATCH

Golden Wattle  
*Acacia pycnantha*



Many years ago, Eastern States tree wattles were planted along Mundaring Weir Road as part of gravel pit and dieback rehabilitation. They have spread. Several years back CALM (as it then was) removed most of the mature trees along the roadside – not without complaint from people who liked their beauty. Later, there was a severe fire.

The local Mundaring branch of the Department was urged to control seedlings stimulated to germinate by the fire. But there was no money or manpower. Now, if you drive along the road, especially on the south side of the river just after the Weir, you will see a dense hedge of these wattles dominating the understorey for kilometres at a time.

Weed removal MUST be followed up in subsequent years to deal with regrowth, or the initial effort is simply a waste of time.

*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 Austr