

# NEWSLETTER

September 2021



P.O. Box 111, GLEN FORREST, WA 6071P

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 Sept.

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

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<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**  
Glen Forest Superblock and Nyania Creek  
10.00 – 12.00 noon.  
Leader: Penny Hussey

Meet: Corner of Sealey Rd and Tillbrook St, Glen Forrest. Verge parking. This is an easy walk, but full of interest – for bird and fungi people as well as plant lovers - along

a creek, under Marri and Wandoo woodland and some revegetated areas.

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## Coming Events October

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Propagation Group.**  
Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**  
Leonie Monks  
“Threatened Flora Translocations”

Leonie Monks works on the management and conservation of Threatened Flora, including the value of fire and of intact insect populations in plant life cycles. She will tell us how the Spiral-fruited Wattle was brought back from extinction, and give details of the huge amount of planning that goes into Flora Management Plans.

This talk should open our eyes to the complexity of complexity of the natural world that links plant to place.

There will be a Quiz. Don't forget specimens for the Nature Table.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Wildflower Ramble**  
Details next month.

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## REPORTS

**Excursion to the Midwest**  
**25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August**

Ten little, nine little, eight little .....

12 wildflower enthusiasts set out but only five returned! Such is the allure of our flora to entice people to stay a little longer, venture a little further!

Our three day trip mainly to visit the Mullewa and Three Springs Wildflower Shows

was a delight. The Shows were a credit to the enthusiasm and expertise of the volunteers who collected and named the extensive displays. These were a real help in identifying the many unfamiliar plants that we saw in the bush.



*Isopogon adenathoides*, a previously unknown isopogon.

On the way there and on the return journey we were also able to visit many wildflower sites - Mt. O'Brien, Mia Moon old school (between Dallwallinu and Wubin), Perenjori-Back Bowgada Road gravel pit, Canna Dam, Coal Seam Conservation Park, etc, to see

plants in their natural habitat. The “linger longers” also immensely enjoyed the flowers in Depot Hill Reserve... next time!



Mia Moon (old school site) with gnamma hole and granite rocks



Coalseam Conservation Park from the lookout – just a small part of the Park's everlasting display

Amid the profusion of colours bordering the roadsides we travelled, there were carpets of everlasting, Plume Grevilleas, Wreath

Lechenaultias, Prostantheras Dampieras and numerous Acacias. And of course, there were many that we could not identify (even with the help of the local flora guides).

Our thanks must go to Fran who organised the trip and chose and researched the various sites of interest for us to visit.

Hopefully our wandering members will remember to return!

*Mal Myers*

**Evening Meeting Friday 27th August  
The Rehabilitation of Piesse Brook  
Ken Patterson**

Ken started off, somewhat shamefacedly; he had loaded the wrong presentation onto his memory stick, and so he would be talking primarily about weeds.

He started with the history of the Friends of Piesse Brook, which was formed in the 1990s primarily to address the weed problem in the lower region of the Brook, where it runs through the National Park. Originally, work was done with landholders upstream where it drains orchards and pasture, but a lot of resistance to removing bankside vegetation was encountered. So latterly, the work has concentrated within the National Park.

The most difficult weeds to be tackled were Giant Reed (because it is so hard to tackle) and Watsonia (because it is so extensive). It was soon found that the original task was too big for volunteers alone, so that it was important to obtain a grant to employ a contractor to do the initial hard work. Later on, when the target weed had been mostly cleared, volunteers could take over the continuing maintenance. Herbicide is used, as the task would be impossible without it. Ken himself started working on Watsonia upslope, to prevent re-infection from above. Finally, local seed is collected, grown on, and planted into the weed-free areas.

Ken emphasised that work such as this is hard, time-consuming and probably never-ending, but also immensely satisfying, as it contributes to the preservation of a beautiful piece of natural bushland.

Once again, there were some beautiful plants on the nature table, including a rare *Hakea* from Badgingarra. Two teams tied for first in

the Quiz, getting 17 out of 20 questions correct. Well done, folks!

*Penny Hussey*

**Wildflower Ramble  
Sunday 26th August  
Martin Road bushland, Mundaring**

Janet Atkins and Robyn Rudeforth led us on a walk through this reserve in Martin Road, Mundaring, less than a kilometre from the Sculpture Park. It was a drizzly day, but only threatened to rain as we were returning to our cars. There were 11 hardy souls, including some visitors (one from Spain).

This reserve had been burnt during the previous year. Janet pointed out the difference in regrowth between a gentle, controlled burn done in autumn (along a roadside, opposite a residential area) and a general, more fierce burn (further into the reserve) done in spring just as plants were flowering and setting seed. In the first area there were abundant plants flowering but in the second area flowering was much sparser, with many plants not appearing at all this year. Resprouters, with their underground reserves, were the most successful ones.

We saw *Xanthorrhoea gracilis*, putting up their tall, delicate flowering spikes, *Hakea amplexicaulis*, *Grevillea wilsonii* coming into flower, *Grevillea pilulifera*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, a *Pimelea*, several peas including beautiful *Bossiaea pulchella*, a *Dampiera*, several orchids and lots more. Well worth visiting, as there are many more plants still to come into flower.



*June Barkman*



# PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Banksia menziesii*  
Firewood Banksia



This small, spreading tree has thick, rough bark. Some plants arise from a lignotuber, from which they can resprout after fire. The leaves are slightly wavy, edged with small pointed teeth.

Flowers appear in autumn and winter. The showy inflorescences are 10-20cm long and may contain hundreds of flowers. The buds are a silvery-grey, changing to red tipped with silver, and turning golden as they open. Some plants, however, have lemon yellow flowers and there is also a superb chocolate variety.

Firewood Banksia grows in sandy soil from Kalbarri to Pinjarra and inland to the Avon district. Much of the area where it originally occurred had been subject to land clearing. It is also vulnerable to Phytophthora Dieback. It is an important food source for nectar-feeding animals. It is propagated by seed.

Firewood Banksia can be seen locally in Talbot Road Nature Reserve and along Midland Road in Bushmead.

*Robin Rudeforth*

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## WEED WATCH

*Cardamine ?hirsuta*  
Flickweed

This little pest is spreading around gardens in the wetter Southwest, as people carry it home with the plants they have bought at plant nurseries. It produces dozens of seeds and, when ripe, a single touch and the pods (arrowed) fly open shooting the seeds as much as 50cm away.

If planting seedlings in bushland for revegetation, please take care to remove any Flickweed seedlings there may be in the pot! And go back after a month to remove new seedlings that have appeared!



*Penny Hussey*

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## NEWS

### Updated Florabank Guidelines released

These are the best practical guidelines for **native seed collection** as used in Australia. It contains 15 modules which follow the native seed supply chain from collection, through processing to propagation and planting. All people working with native seed will find this information useful.

The Guidelines were originally published in 1999/2000 and have recently been updated. The updated version is available to download for free from the Florabank website: [www.florabank.org.au/guidelines](http://www.florabank.org.au/guidelines)

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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 Australia