



# NEWSLETTER

November 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](#)

## 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/>

**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 Nov.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November

Committee Meeting

3pm Octagonal Hall

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Seed Cleaning

9am Octagonal Hall

### Monday 15<sup>h</sup> November

Propagation Group.

Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

### Evening Meeting

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November

## AGM, see note on page 3

Talk: "The Woorooloo Bushfire and its aftermath" by Jan Pittman and Pam Riordan.

There will be a Quiz and a nature table

### Wildflower Ramble

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November

Nan Macmillan Reserve, Glen Forrest

Meet 10.00am, Verge parking, north end of Bilgoman Road, just before Ft Eastern Hwy. Firebreak tracks, mostly flat.

Leader: Penny Hussey

## Coming Events

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Committee Meeting

3pm Octagonal Hall

**The next General Meeting of the Eastern Hills Branch will be on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

## REPORTS

### Evening Meeting Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

"Using Translocations to help preserve WA's Threatened Species"

Leonie Monks

Leonie Monks has been working to conserve rare flora at what is now DBCA for over 20 years. WA has some 12,000 native plant species so it is inevitable that some will be

threatened with extinction unless given a helping hand. Currently there are some 440 designated Threatened Plants.

She outlined some of the threats that they may face – not the least of which is human-caused climate change – and what we might be able to do to combat these. One possibility is to move the plants somewhere else – translocation. But if this is to be successful and lead to the creation of a self-sustaining new population, there are many factors that have to be considered in choosing a site.

Using a number of different examples, she discussed some problems that have had to be overcome on the 146 sites containing 74 different plant species that are currently active. One important one was herbivore, including kangaroo, grazing. At first individual plants were protected with wire cages but that led to column-shaped plants, as every leaf outside the wire was consumed! Now, the whole site is expensively fenced. Growth and long-term survival much improved! Another important trial involves large water tanks attached to trickle irrigation.

Another trial involved fire and the Matchstick Banksia, *Banksia cuneata*. If seedlings were planted into an area after it had been burnt, the survival rate was much higher than when seedlings were planted into unburnt bushland.

She emphasised the need for a translocation site to contain the full range of genetic diversity known for that species, illustrating this with the detailed genetic study made of *Lambertia orbifolia* and *Acacia cochlocarpa* (shown below).



This talk was a clear and detailed account of how much research we need to do in order to conserve our precious biological diversity.

Janet Atkins was Quizmaster this month and most of her questions related to the drier areas of the State. The winning group got 23.5 out of 30 and were rewarded with packets of everlasting seed. There were also some superb flowering species exhibited on the nature table.

*Penny Hussey*

## Suggested Walk

There was no official Wildflower Ramble organised for this month, but at the meeting, Peter Day suggested that people might meander along the firebreaks in the bushland of Nan MacMillan Reserve at the north-western end of Bilgoman Road, Glen Forrest. It had been control-burnt 2 years ago and is currently has a superb floral display, especially Kangaroo Paws. I took his advice and indeed it was both colourful and interesting.

The Kangaroo Paws were indeed magnificent, and so were the fringe lilies, cottonheads, dampieras, various peas, triggerplants, sun orchids and lots of other things, including many small plants in open areas.



One example is this little plant, which is often overlooked, or dismissed as simply being 'a borya'. It is a *Laxmannia*, or Paper Lily, so called because the perianth segments in this genus are chartaceous, which means papery. It used to be in the Liliaceae, but has now been split into the Asparagaceae. There are four species in the Perth Region and this is the most obvious, *Laxmannia squarrosa*.

It grows on shallow soil on granites or, as here, on laterite. In the Darling Range the plants mostly have sessile inflorescences, as seen here, but elsewhere they may grow on long stalks, or both! It has been called 'False Borya' because of its similarity, when not in flower, to that genus. But the leaves are not stiff and prickly, like Pincushions.

Along the edge of Bilgoman Road there are a lot of introduced plants – perhaps the area had once been an orchard? One you don't see often was Common Privet, *Ligustrum vulgare*. This is one of the few plants that can withstand the heavy pollution in 19<sup>th</sup> century England's coal-fire heated towns, so it was commonly used for hedging. It was in full flower and announced its presence before it came into view with its distinctive heavy, strong, rather foetid smell. I searched around for young plants, but could not find any, so we should probably not worry about this naturalising.



My "Weed of the Month"!

Penny Hussey

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will commence with a Quiz which will be a 'retrospective' of the year's activities and introduction to the 'President's Report'. Then the meeting proper.

### Please note: the following motions will be put at the AGM

#### Issue 1

As you know, persons who have been members of the Wildflower Society for 30 years or more are offered Life Memberships. As part of this their WSWA membership fees have been paid by the Branch. The Committee recently moved: "That the Branch discontinue payment of annual subscriptions for Branch Life Members and that the decision will be raised at the AGM and take effect from 2022."

#### Issue 2

Our projection equipment is aging and many presentations suffer from poor colour or sizing. Consequently the Committee moved: "That the purchase of a new projector and laptop be investigated."

As the cost will be somewhere between \$2,000 and \$3,000, it is necessary to have approval from the members at the AGM.

Please think carefully about how you will vote. If you are unable to attend the AGM, your vote will be accepted via the generic email

#### Election of Committee

All positions vacant. Required

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

4 to 6 Committee Members

There are several tasks that need an organiser, and the holder of the position does not have to be a member of the Committee. They are:

Librarian

Speaker and Excursion Organiser

Propagation Group Coordinator



Seed Cleaning Group Coordinator  
Garden Group Organiser  
Hall Organiser  
Newsletter Editor

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Pterochaeta paniculata*  
Woolly Spikes

If you feel that you could fill one of these positions – or help do it – please put your name forward.

**At some stage during all of this there will be a requirement for insurance purposes – a fire drill!**

This little 'everlasting' is found in woodland in the Hills and out into the Wheatbelt, but it is often overlooked as it seldom grows larger than this. The whole plant is densely woolly. The leaves are small and linear.



## NEWS

### Wildflowers on TV!

Lynda Tomlinson, Chairperson, Darling Range Branch of WSWA, was recently filmed at Crystal Brook Lookout, Lesmurdie, as a 'guest expert' - the segment to appear on Chanel 9's "Destination WA" programme. This is a regular at 5.30pm on Sundays. Look out for Lynda and the Hills Wildflowers!



Here you can see Lynda discussing a plant with the presenter, with the soundman, cameraman and producer. You can also see that most of the colourful shrubs are past their best, alas!

The plant was once put in the genus *Waitzia* but is sufficiently distinctive to have been given its own genus.

The inflorescence heads are sessile and are surrounded by straw-coloured, woolly bracts. It flowers at the beginning of summer. The seeds are typical of daisies, with a fluffy parachute enabling them to be dispersed by wind.

The dried plant persists into summer and, with the sun at the right angle, can shimmer like silver-gilt.

This is not something you will find in Nurseries, but it does have its own bijou charm. If you have Wandoo soils on your block, why not collect a few whole plants when the seeds are shedding, store them in paper bags, then scratch them in lightly in spring. One established, they should continue.

*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 Australia