



# NEWSLETTER

April 2022

**EHB NO LONGER HAS A POSTAL ADDRESS**  
Use the email, please.

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 2022

**President:** Penny Hussey  
**Vice President:** Alisdair Adam  
**Treasurer:** Peter Day  
**Secretary:** Janet Atkins  
**Committee Members:**  
June Barkman  
Mal Myers  
Maxine Tyler  
Robin Rudeforth

### Email:

**For all contact**  
(including 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 RULES

Please have masks and inoculation certificates at hand ready for whatever covid rules might be in place at the time of the meeting.

*EHB Committee*

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## Coming Events April

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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** ←  
**Propagation Group**  
Octagonal Hall, 1.00pm  
(Date changed because of clash with Easter Monday.)

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**  
"Investigating the impacts of climate change, drought and heat on forest die-off"  
Katinka Rithrol

The forests that occur in the South-west of WA have, over millennia, become finely adapted to our difficult climate. But extremes can cause widespread damage – even death – and it could take the forest a long time to recover. Extreme droughts, or extreme frosts, may kill large areas of tree canopy. Increasingly, we are becoming aware that the climate is changing, and these extreme events are becoming more frequent and more severe.

Katinka is conducting research in DBCA and UWA to study, and try to predict, what effects climate change will have on the ecology of our forests. Will the flora and fauna be

resilient enough to survive? Or is a massive extinction even inevitable? Horrifying? Come along and find out.

There will also be a quiz and a nature table.

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## Coming Events May

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

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Propagation Group.**  
Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
“Alice Springs and surrounds”  
Ken Wadley

Ken had a most interesting trip to the ‘Red Centre’ and he will be showing us some of the beautiful landscape and fascinating flora to be seen in this region. An inspiration for your next holiday?

There will be a quiz and a nature table.

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## REPORTS

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

“Pollination and Pollinators  
in the South-west of WA”  
Byron Lamont

Byron Lamont treated the small audience to a comprehensive portrayal of the methods flowers use to get their pollen from anther to stigma. Things may be left to chance – like, will the wind blow in the correct direction? – but many plants have elaborate modifications to ensure that chance has nothing to do with it.



*Verticordia huegellii*. Don't go to the red ones, folks, no rewards there!

Byron described and illustrated local examples of the unique pollination systems designed to attract insects, birds and mammals. Features such as nectar, concealed in such a way that only particular creatures can access it, pollen that has to be buzzed out, scent, colour, shape --- astonishing diversity. He has put a lot of effort into studying *Verticordias*, whose flowers change colour after pollination, to signal to the insects that it is not worth wasting time on those ones. And what about those orchids that mimic female wasps (to try to mate with them, but get pollen instead!)

This talk gave us an insight into the amazing complexity of natural ecosystems, and how the loss of one small part might lead to collapse of another.

Although it has been so dry, the nature table had a lot of species still in flower., including Tapeworm Plant (see ‘Plant of the Month’). The Quiz was won by a group that got 16 out of 20 correct. Well done! But the one question that no-one knew: “What king – or kings – was *Kingia* named after?” **What about you, reader? Do you know the answer?**

*Penny Hussey*

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## SPECIAL OFFER

**1 packet of native plant seed in return for help with seed cleaning!**

Join the group on Wednesday, 20th April between 9.00am and 12 and learn more about the plants that you grow.

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# Due to Covid

## the EHB Plant Sale is CANCELLED

However – the plants have been grown, and are ready to sell, so .....

All members will be emailed the link to the WSWA website when the list of plants for sale has been established, so that you can find the lists and choose your plants. The link can also be found on the WSWA Facebook page.

**You will need to buy from each grower individually, and by appointment only.**

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Platysace compressa*  
Tapeworm plant



One of the few plants that comes into flower in late summer, this is a perennial that can grow to knee height, but often flops over. The basal leaves are few, and wither early. The flowers are very small, dull cream in colour and easy to miss. It may continue flowering until May.

The common name for this plant does not seem very appropriate when you find it growing on laterite in the hills around Perth, but on the South Coast, where it is more common, the stems are flattened on either side, looking, indeed, like the segments of a tapeworm.

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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 WesternAustra