



# NEWSLETTER

May 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

Covid rules are now relaxed, though you might well decide to still wear a mask when inside.

*EHB Committee*

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## Coming Events May

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3 pm 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' where he travelled on some of the lesser-known roads. This is one of the only geographically-designated 'deserts' in the world that is still covered by vegetation – but for how much longer?

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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## Coming Events June

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

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9am Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Propagation Group**  
Octagonal Hall, 1.00pm

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
"The flora of Badgingarra NP"

### **Fred and Jean Hort**

How many of our readers have visited Badgingarra National Park? Yes, I am sure you all know where it is and have driven past it several times. It is that patch of undulating scrub along the Brand Highway on the way to Geraldton and all points coastal north. But have you ever stopped to look at it? Fred and Jean Hort did, and discovered an absolute wonderland of fascinating plants.

The Horts are a retired couple who have made it their mission to discover rare plants – and insects – and spiders -- and birds - and mammals and ... With superb photography and entertaining commentary you will be astonished at the diversity, and inspired to visit yourselves. Perhaps an excursion later in the year? Its not far from Perth.

There will also be a quiz and a nature table.

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## **REPORTS**

### **Evening Meeting Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**“Investigating the impacts of climate change, drought and heat on forest die-off”**

**Katinka Ruthrof**

What an excellent presentation by Katinka . She was so enthusiastic and interacted with the entire audience of 8! Everyone was asking questions and it proved to be a very vibrant session.

The summer of 2011 brought a severe heatwave which followed a very dry 2010 winter. It was considered both a marine and terrestrial heat wave with high temperatures in both the ocean and on the land. Although the average maximum was only 2 degrees higher than the long -term March average over the period 1971-2000, when the last 30 years were compared to

the previous 30 years, the number of days over 40 had doubled.

It was observed that the northern jarrah forest had been severely affected. An aerial survey revealed that some sites were especially affected. As a result of this, Katinka’s group chose 20 sites off Brookton Highway to investigate in terms of die off and resilience. 12 sites were followed for 4 years. Both severely affected sites and less affected sites were studied.

In the severely affected areas, they found that large old trees were replaced with high densities of short, multi-stemmed trees. Canopy dieback enabled resprouting among drought affected stems as well as seedling development. In less affected areas, resprouting and seedling development were minimal. This is probably due to competition for soil moisture from overstorey trees.

The areas most affected seemed to occur on shallow soils, often over granite.

The thick resprouting layer and smaller stem size probably increases the vulnerability of the area to fire. Katinka also mentioned that the loss of biomass may destabilise carbon storage capacity of the trees, turning some ecosystems into carbon sources rather than sinks!

An interesting fact was that the wood borers proliferated...they liked the soft new wood of the new growth on the jarrahs.

Jarrah survives because of its ability to resprout. However, as the climate warms, the forest may be transformed from tall open forest to short closed woodlands. She briefly mentioned the technique of thinning as a way of survival, but I understand that is somewhat controversial!

*Pam Riordan*

[Apology: I had the date in my little diary as the ‘last Friday in the month’ and so missed the whole meeting. And I had been really looking forward to Katinka’s talk! I understand that it was excellent, and very informative. It also meant that you were

not subjected to a Quiz; never mind, it'll turn up in May! ]

*Penny Hussey]*

Please note: the attendance at this meeting was very low. Maybe others, like me, got the date wrong. Maybe covid is the problem. But please – **come to meetings!** It is disappointing for a speaker to travel to us, only to have a very small audience. If numbers do not pick up, the Committee will have to consider no longer holding an evening meeting.

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### Who are the 'kings' in Kingia?

In the April Newsletter, I repeated the one quiz question that no-one knew the answer to: "What king – or kings – was *Kingia* named after?" What about you, reader? Did you know the answer?

In case you didn't – it's not royalty, but two early Australian explorers and collectors. The first was Philip Gidley King, who came out with the First Fleet, was Governor of NSW, set up Norfolk Island and made botanical collections everywhere he went. The second was his son, Philip Parker King, born in the Colony, who, early in his career in the Royal Navy, was sent to explore and chart Australia's coastline. His voyages in our north are very interesting – read up about him!

*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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## Seedlings for sale

Since the EHB Plant Sale is not operating this year, don't forget to order your seedlings from the growers!

All members have been 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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## **Watercolours WA 2<sup>nd</sup> International Watercolour Exhibition Fremantle 2022**

### **Watercolour Painting 1 Day Workshop**

**Instructor: Jan Pitman**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

10.00am to 4.00pm

Moore's Building, Henry St, Fremantle,  
upstairs in Galley 4

Cost \$100

For further details, especially of what to bring, and to make a booking, contact Jan:  
Phone 0408 024 854

Email: rothiemay@harboursat.com.au

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## **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

### ***Verticordia staminosa***

There are several subspecies, this article will concentrate on subsp. *staminosa*.

This is a low shrub to 60cm tall and 90cm wide. The flowers are perbulous, changing colour from greenish-yellow to yellow and aging to red. It usually flowers between June and September, but it can produce flowers after seasonal rain in summer and autumn.



There is only one recorded naturally-occurring site in pockets of soil on granite slopes.

In cultivation it is drought and frost hardy. It attracts birds and insects. Grows in full sun. Propagation is from cuttings.

*Robin Rudeforth*

[Many years ago, after I had been in Australia some three weeks, I went to

Wongan Hills to spend a weekend with a friend whom I had met teaching in London – and who had persuaded me that I would like WA. She took me to see ‘the sights’, and on one large rock I picked a bit of a pretty plant saying “What’s this?” “Don’t know” was the answer, “and you are not allowed to pick wild plants in WA!”

I decided to take the bit and use it as an excuse to check out the Herbarium. The Duty Botanist took one look at it and “Where did you get this? It hasn’t been collected for 50 years!” If you would like to see a picture of the little sprig I picked, and you have a copy of the ‘4 authors’ book “Flowers and Plants of WA” (published I think in 1973), look it up! *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 Australia.