

# NEWSLETTER

June 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](#)

---

## 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/>

---

## COVID RULES

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

---

## Coming Events June

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

**Committee Meeting**

3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning**

In recess

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Propagation Group.**

Octagonal Hall, 12 noon.

**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

---

## Coming Events July

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**Committee Meeting**

3pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning**

In recess

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Propagation Group** May be in recess

## Evening Meeting

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### “Dirt-poor soils, pesky parasites and friendly fungi shape plant diversity in south-western Australia”

Hans Lambers, School of Biological Sciences, UWA

Southwest Australia is a biodiversity hotspot, with greatest plant diversity on severely phosphorus-impooverished soils. Non-mycorrhizal plant families (e.g., Proteaceae) feature prominently on the poorest soils, and are uncommon on richer soils.

Almost all Proteaceae produce cluster roots, which mobilise scarcely available phosphorus. Australian Proteaceae also use phosphorus very efficiently in photosynthesis, and show a tremendous capacity to remobilise it from senescing leaves. These traits explain their ecological success on impooverished soils.

Why do species with a superior phosphorus-acquisition strategy coexist with ones that are less effective? Facilitation by neighbours definitely plays a role, and nutrients mobilised by Proteaceae are also used by neighbours without this strategy. It is only part of the story, however, and native parasites (oomycetes or water-moulds) also contribute to the megadiversity in the southwest.

**Weather permitting, we will be starting our Wildflower Rambles in July. Don't expect a marathon bushwalk! These are gentle walks, stopping frequently to study the plants – or fauna, fungi or anything else interesting!**

## Wildflower Ramble

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July

10.00-12.00 am

Prrobably to the Superblock, Glen Forrest. Details next Newsletter

Leader: Penny Hussey

# REPORTS

## Evening Meeting

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May

### “A Jouney to the Red Centre”

Ken Wadley

The atmosphere at this meeting was superb! The Hall was full, with 25 people, including seven visitors who said that they were going to join! It was such a pleasure to welcome the visitors and chat with old friends. Thank you also to members who responded to my note in the last Newsletter, by explaining why they were currently unable to attend Friday meetings – it was great to hear from you.

Ken Wadley took us on a trip to the Red Centre, but it wasn't just a travelogue. By presenting the talk as a series of themes, he described landscapes and micro-climates, vegetation types and adaptations to survival, including the role of plants in providing food and shelter for desert fauna. He showed a short video of a few budgies at the side of the road, then suddenly about a thousand of them swirl out from the grassland behind.

We moved to the role of humans in the landscape, from petroglyphs to Albert Namatjira's Ghost Gums against rugged hills. He described the modern (since 1970) dot painting art form, a development of the technique of body-painting, explaining how important the sale of these artworks is to the financial well-being of desert communities (giving the women, especially, an income aside from welfare). Also discussed was the role of weeds and the major degradation being caused by feral camels.

And what of the future? Eventually, the whole route will be bituminised and tourist facilities provided. A trip across the centre will become more easily

accessible, and the visitors will bring income to those who live there.

Despite some problems with the projection equipment, the Quiz proved challenging for some, but was won by a group who got 13 out of 15 answers correct. Brilliant!

Joy Collins brought some seedlings for sale which were snapped up while people were having supper - gorgeous cake! Thank you, Ken, and everyone, for a very pleasant evening.

*Penny Hussey*

---

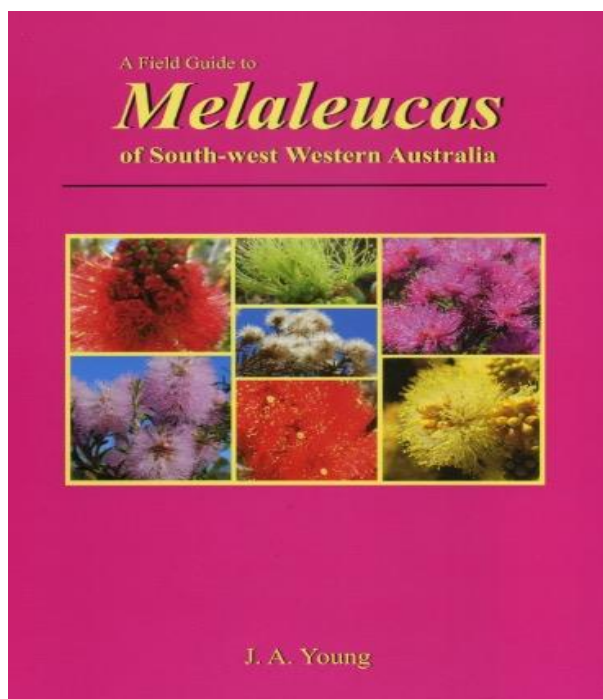
## NEW

### IN THE LIBRARY

**“A Field Guide to the Melaleucas of South-west Western Australia”**

**By Jennifer Young**

Cost from WSWA: \$31.00 for members



This superb book should be on every wildflower-lovers' bookshelf! Each of the 164 species endemic to the South-west

occupy a whole page, with description, location map, colour pics and sometimes line drawings. The photos show the whole plant and close-ups of the flowers. A feature is a scan of a small twig which very effectively shows the arrangement and shape of the leaves.

The book does not have a key, but just look through it and you will find your plant - even those pretty, small, pink ones you find in the Hills, that were once all called *M. scabra*!

The books are almost sold out, but the WSWA at Perry House does still have a few left.

*Penny Hussey*

---

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Hypocalymma xanthopetalum*

Golden Myrtle



This is a small spreading shrub up to 1m high and wide. With age, it becomes multi-stemmed at the base.

The leaves are narrowly ovate and sometimes hairy when young.

Masses of flowers occur along all branches. The main flowering occurs from June to October, but it can also flower throughout the year, after rain.

It grows in deep sand or lateritic soil on the eastern side of the Coastal Plain from Muchea north to Three Springs and Coorow. It grows best in full sun.

This plant is propagated by cuttings, but they are not easy to grow. If it does become established in a garden, the plant is spectacular, and is a magnet for nectar-seeking fauna.

For a good example, look at the one on the right-hand side as you climb up the steps into the Octagonal Hall!

*Robyn Rudeforth*

---

**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

**Two places still left!** For further details, especially of what to bring, and to make a booking, contact Jan: Phone 0408 024 854  
Email: rothiemay@harboursat.com.au

---

## WEED ALERT



For those of you who weren't there, last month's quiz featured this plant. Do you know it? It comes from Southern Europe.

It is a stiff, upright annual, growing to about knee high. It is common in disturbed areas such as roadsides, waste ground and overgrazed paddocks. Bushland will be invaded if it is disturbed, especially after fire; the fluffy seeds can fly a long way. It grows and flowers during the hottest, driest months of summer – it must have an extremely efficient root system. The whole plant is covered in sticky hairs.

Control by herbicide is not very efficient, as the hairs form a protective barrier, however you can easily pull it up. But be warned! Your hands (or gloves) will soon be covered in a green, sticky, **unpleasantly stinky** goo! This, of course, gives the plant its common name, **Stinkweed**. The scientific name is ***Ditrichea graveolens***.

*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.