

**2022 PLANT SURVEY PROGRAMME**

**A Wildflower Society of Western Australia (Inc.) project**

Welcome to the Wildflower Society of Western Australia's 2022 Plant Survey Programme (WSWAPSP).

This letter outlines the programme for 2022 and invites your participation. If you know others who may be interested in the programme feel free to pass a copy onto them.

The Wildflower Society, through the Society’s Plant Survey Programme, has been contributing to flora and vegetation studies since 1988. Each year the WSWAPSP Committee, a subcommittee of the Management Committee of the Society, puts the programme together. Many of our surveys have no direct funding, coordination being funded through our workshop program and contract surveys. If you, or someone you know, who is interested in commissioning a survey in the future please contact us by email (plant.survey@wildflowersocietywa.org.au).

This year we are focusing on monitoring and embarking on the following:

* A two-day trip to Wongan Hills to assist Jolanda with plant surveys for her new book
* Two two-day trips to the Julimar Conservation Park
* Wheatbelt Woodland baseline surveys
* Flora surveys of Biljedup A-Class Reserve, Gracetown

COVID warning: Precautions will be taken, and the program cancelled according to government health advice.

**FIELD SURVEY and HERBARIUM SESSIONS**

PLEASE SEE INFORMATION BELOW AND **RETURN ATTACHED BOOKING FORM** **BY SUNDAY 31ST JULY**

1. **WONGAN HILLS**

Jolanda surveys the flora of the reserves around Wongan Hills including Gathercole NR, Elphin NR, Mount O’Brien, Mount Mathilda, the former Water Reserve (now Conservation Park), the former AG Research Station Reserve and some town reserves. This session is to assist her with these surveys and involves walking the existing trails, photographing and documenting common, priority and rare flora. Some level of fitness is required and a willingness to share your photos for her new book.

**Location:** Wongan Hills is 175km NE from Perth (2 to 2.5 hr travel time)

**Date:** Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August (not including travel time)

**Time:** 8:30am – 4:00pm each day

**Accommodation**: Wongan Hills Caravan Park has chalets and caravan/camping sites but is heavily booked by mining contractors. So booking early is recommended Tel: 08 96711 009 or Mob: 0427 000 328. The Wongan Hills Hotel has hotel and self-contained motel rooms. Tel: 08 96711 022 Email: info@wonganhillshotel.com.au. There are also RV friendly parking places (with no facilities provided) in and around town. Otherwise, New Norcia would be the closest to stay for the weekend (60km from Wongan Hills).

**Leader:** Jolanda Keeble

**Herbarium session:** Wednesday 12 October 10:30am - 4:00pm

1. **Julimar Conservation Park (Julimar)**

This Northern Jarrah Forest gem is poorly known as is much of the state’s unique Jarrah Forest. Being so close to Perth it is a regular haunt for nature enthusiasts, walkers and mountain bikes. It has also been a key area for the control of feral animals and the release of a number of threatened fauna.

Each year the program aims to survey an area suitable for day trips. Julimar fulfilled this requirement.

In addition mining is proposed north-east of the Julimar, and potentially through much of the centre of the Park.

To better understand the vegetation and flora values of Julimar and the Northern Jarrah Forest Subregion two field survey sessions are planned this spring. This information is planned to be used by the Society to support a higher conservation ranking for the Park (i.e. National Park status like Dryandra Forest).

As there is a degree of urgency for this study the Management Committee has approved a grant of around $30,000 from the Mary Bremner Grant Program to support the project, especially the preparation of a report.

**Location:** 100 km NE of Perth (~1 hour travel distance)

**Date:** Saturday24th and Sunday 25th September; Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th November (not including travel time).

**Time:** 9:00am – 4:00pm each day

**Accommodation:** As Julimar Conservation Park is close to Toodyay (30 km), view the shire website for accommodation options: www.toodyay.wa.gov.au/visit-toodyay/accommodation

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**Project leaders:** Greg and Bronwen Keighery

**Herbarium session:** Wednesday 16th November and 18 January 10:30am - 4:00pm

1. **WHEATBELT WOODLANDS**

Following the 2020 survey, with Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (WbNRM), we may be revisiting the survey sites this year looking at impact of stock on remnants native vegetation. WbNRM are currently looking at both existing sites that can be re-surveyed and a number of locations for additional sites. **Please register your interest to be contacted when this is finalised.**

**Location:** tba

**Date:** tba

**Time:** tba

**Project Leaders:** tba

**Accommodation:** provided

1. **BILJEDUB RESERVE, GRACETOWN**

Biljedup Reserve (A 8428) is an enclave of the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park and is approx. 250 hectares. It has long been recognised as having a remarkable selection of flora, and a survey was recently proposed by Andrew Webb of DBCA and Jane Scott, and to this end, a Regulation 4 Lawful Authority has been issued to John Hill, with a key to the gates with which the reserve is secured.

Following discussions with Andrew Webb and Ben Lullfitz, also of DBCA, the survey proposes to not only map the flora, but also soil types and vegetation types and health, across the Reserve. DBCA have provided their soil and vegetation maps of the Reserve, but we hope to refine these with more detail.

Some initial reconnaissance is already being done informally by John Hill, Jane Scott and Jenny Kikeros, to try and establish how to run the survey when it begins.

This survey will likely take in excess of a year, and will involve a number of local members, some of whom are already licensed herbarium collectors. **Please register your interest to be contacted when this is finalised.**

**Location:** Approximately 2km. ENE of Gracetown (269 kilometres south of Perth).

**Date:** tba

**Time:** tba

**Project Leader:** John Hill

**Accommodation:** There are various accommodation options in and around Gracetown and Margaret River, which is less than 20km from Gracetown.

**HERBARIUM SESSIONS**

**Survey Related Sessions**

Initial plant identification sessions for each survey begin on the dates mentioned above. These sessions involve sorting, and identification of quadrat vouchers, data entry and specimen labelling and mounting. All herbarium sessions will be conducted in the Reference Herbarium of the WA State Herbarium. We strongly encourage those who participate in the field surveys to try and make time to help process the vouchers.

**The Wednesday Herbarium Group**

A group of survey volunteers meet regularly on Wednesday at the WA Herbarium to complete identifications from the survey sessions. Volunteers are at the Reference Herbarium from 10.30 am – 4.00 pm on Wednesdays throughout the year. Anyone is welcome to come. We provide informal training in plant identification for volunteers as required.

**DBCA VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION**

Since the early 1990s we have been registered as a DBCA Community Involvement Programme. This means we are covered by insurance and eligible for volunteer rewards.

**IF YOU WANT TO BE REGISTED OR IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED** please fill in the enclosed form (DBCA form 205) and return it with your application form. One DBCA form is required per person.

**WILDFLOWER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

We strongly encourage all people who regularly participate in the Bushland Plant Surveys be members of the Wildflower Society of WA. The many benefits include a discounted flora licence (you apply), newsletter, and notification of the talks, excursions workshops and training sessions across the many branches.

**REGISTRATION OF INTEREST**

Numbers are limited and places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To register your interest in Field and Herbarium Sessions:

Please complete the relevant enclosed application form andthe DBCA registration form if required (see above). **Return by Sunday 31st July 2022** by email to

plant.survey@wildflowersocietywa.org.au.

You will be notified of the sessions for which you have been successfully registered, including detailed arrangements for the surveys.

Cheers

Jolanda Keeble, Judith Harvey and the Plant Survey Programme Committee

Plant Survey Programme

Wildflower Society of WA