

NEWSLETTER

Jul 2022



EHB NO LONGER HAS A POSTAL ADDRESS

Use the email, please.

Meet: Octagonal Hall, 52, McGlew Rd., Glen Forrest.
4th 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

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 July

Thursday 7th July

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning

In recess

Monday 18th July

Propagation Group.

12 noon Octagonal Hall. Bring your lunch.

Evening Meeting

Friday 22nd 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-impoverished 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 impoverished 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.

There will also be a quiz and a nature table

Wildflower Ramble

Sunday 24th July

10.00-12.00 am

The Superblock, Glen Forrest. Meet at the Seed Orchard parking area, off Ryecroft Road, northern side, just south of the tuning into Duffield Rd.

Leader: Penny Hussey

Coming Events August

Thursday 4th August

3pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning

In recess

Wednesday

Propagation Group

May be in recess – check with Sandy Stone, (08) 0412 608 968

Evening Meeting

Friday 26th August

“Native Grevilleas”

John Ewing

“In this presentation the focus will be on ‘Priority Species’ of WA native species. These are not ‘Threatened’ which are the rarest some of which are in danger of extinction. DBCA monitors most of these. My project, as a DBCA volunteer, is to monitor the P1 and P2 species. We shall have a little tour of these looking at a range of the 42 species in these two categories.

“In the process we will be having a look at how can native grevilleas be identified. Part of this tour-de-grevillea will be to give you an idea where some of the species are located and to explain what you need to do if you find one that you think is rare and want to have your plant identified. This is more complex than just taking a nice picture and sending it to me (or someone else like Rob Davis who is a

DBCA botanist) and expecting a definitive answer. However, I will set out some guidelines.

“At the end I want to explain how each of you can make a contribution to the study of these priority species. It turns out to be quite a challenge, but lots of fun.”

Wildflower Ramble

Sunday 28th August 10.00-12.00am

Leader: Mitzi Wehlak

Exact location: tba

REPORTS

Evening Meeting

Friday 24th June

“The Flora of Badgingarra NP”

Fred and Jean Hort

The presentation started with a request – had any audience member seen the odd endemic conifer, *Podocarpus drouyninus* anywhere locally? It is common in the wetter south-west, but the few that have been located around here are the northern-most known. A researcher wants to collect its DNA for study. [See note late in this Newsletter.]

Fred (who did most of the talking) explained that they are plant hunters, observers and finders, passing location information into the Herbarium through photographs and vouchered specimens. Just over a year ago, they were asked by the Ranger if they could take some photos to illustrate a newly-constructed walk trail in Badgingarra National Park. They set to with a will!

At first glance, this NP looks uninteresting. Gently rolling on sand with occasional gravel, and covered with a featureless uniformity of low scrub. But as the season advanced, and they got

further into this large reserve, they realised it is a floral wonderland!

They then showed a series of superb photos (mostly taken by Jean) giving a little chat about where each was found and any interesting points – rare? – totally new species? – range extension? – or just beautiful! At times the audience gasped at the beauty, and at the skill that made a 5mm black *Drosera* flower fill the whole screen.

This was a mind-blowing floral extravaganza that held the audience spell-bound. Thank you to Jean and Fred for inspiring us to visit that really not-so-boring place!

The Quiz must've been too easy! Two groups got 17 and a half out of 20 – very well done, folks!

Penny Hussey



This is the fruit of *Podocarpus drouynianus*, and shows why it is called "Bush Plum". The photo was taken from the website of the Geographe Community Nursery at Busselton, which has plants for sale. The personnel are all associated with the South West Capes Branch of the Wildflower Society. The next time you are down that way, call in. It is well worth a stop!

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hakea neurophylla
Pink-flowered Hakea



This is an open, upright shrub to 2.5m. The thick, rigid leaves are an attractive blue-grey in colour with strongly marked veins. The scented flowers are white to deep pink, growing wing from leaf axils. They put on a showy display from July to August.

It grows in sand and lateritic gravel. It is found from Mt Lesueur east towards Coorow. It is propagated from seed. It does best in full sun and is frost tolerant.

Robyn Rudeforth

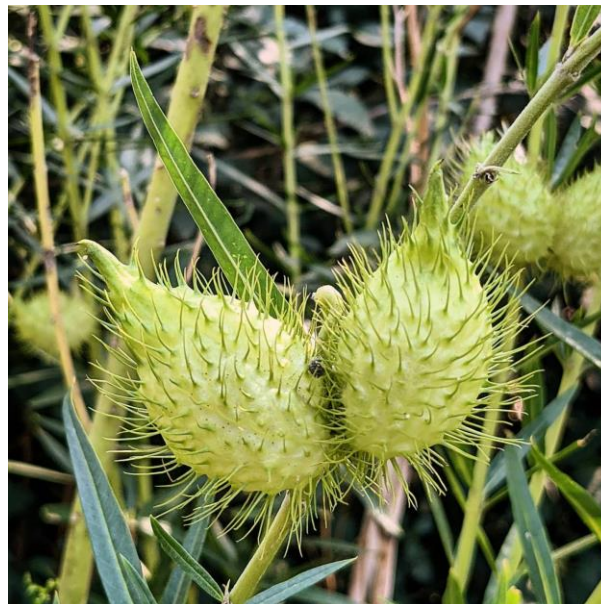
NEWS

The **Mundaring Camera Club** is organising a presentation and workshop by wildflower photographer Beth Baker on Sunday 21 August, 2pm, location TBA.

The Club welcome members of the Eastern Hills branch to attend at no cost.

For more info, contact Odile Pouliquen-Youngon 0419 178 861 or email: pouliquen-young@westnet.com.au

Western Australian Visitor Centre has produced a “**Wildflower Tracker App**”. It has got lots of information about where things can be found.



WEED ALERT

Gomphocarpus fruticosus
Narrow-leaved Cottonbush

This pesky thing is still flowering, but some fruits are ripening and soon will be releasing their fine, fluffy seeds. Get rid of it before the seeds fly! Remember the old adage: “One year’s seeding, seven year’s weeding!”

It is no longer a Declared Weed, but that shouldn’t stop you pulling it up (though it is an excuse for government authorities not to expend cash on its control on their land). It has an unpleasant sap, which can cause dermatitis in some people, so wear gloves. Burn or solarise the debris.

Penny Hussey

IN THE LIBRARY

The Branch library has lots of great books that can be borrowed. Have a look the next time you are in the Octagonal Hall.

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.