



# NEWSLETTER

November 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 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 Nov.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning**  
In recess. Restart in February 2023

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November**  
**Propagation Group.**

Octagonal Hall. 12 noon.

### Evening Meeting

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**AGM:** followed by **Members' Night** and  
supper

Details follow on page XX

### Wildflower Ramble

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Nothing arranged at present, although it could be discussed at the Members' Night.

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## Coming Events Dec.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**Committee Meeting**

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Planning meeting for 2023.

**Eastern Hills Branch  
shuts down for the  
summer, taking up  
activities again in  
February 2023.**

You can, however, still  
contact the committee via  
the email address.

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# REPORTS

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October**  
**“The Life and Times of Emily Pelloe”**  
Alex George

Emily Pelloe was a pioneer author and illustrator of botanical information in WA. She popularised our wildflowers by producing books and having a regular wildflower column in the local newspaper. Alex brought her to life (despite having mislaid his electronic presentation!) with information about her life gleaned from a various sources, including current family descendants.



It was clear that he was in awe of her achievements. Not only was she an accomplished artist, but her botanical descriptions are very good – where, he asked, did she get her information from? At that time (1920s) there was only one published Flora, Bentham's *Flora*

*Australiensis*, published from 1864-78. This would have been in the State Library, and perhaps this is where she met the young Charles Gardner, even before he became Government Botanist.

She illustrated her *Wildflowers of Western Australia* with colour plates showing arrangements of flowers, but in St. Catherine's College, UWA, is a collection of some 400 paintings, mostly of individual plant species, done between 1918 – 22. Alex is trying to convince her family to produce a book about her, which would reproduce some of these previously unpublished paintings.

Emily Pelloe has largely been forgotten, but she was clearly an important and influential person in her time. Public interest in wildflowers and concern for their conservation owes a lot to her.

The nature table had a number of interesting species, thank you to the members who brought them. The Quiz was won by a group who got 13 out of 18 correct. Well done folks!

**Wildflower Ramble**  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

Darlington South-east Parklands.

Six people joined me for this walk through Jarrah/Marri forest and over granites. Despite the fact that the main spring flowering season was over, enthusiastic spotting noted over 50 plants, including *Dryandra bipinnatifida* (not *Banksia*!!!) *Xanthorrhoea gracilis*, *Thomasia glutinosa* and *Daviesia cordata*, where we observed how the bracts grow to surround and protect the pods, giving the plant its common name of Bookleaf.

Most of the group went on for a longer walk down into The Gorge, but 3 of us turned back while still on the level of the plateau. It was lovely weather and I think we all enjoyed ourselves!



Massed display of *Verticordia plumosa* at the edge of a granite outcrop.

**But note:-**

While looking at a tiny orange pugmy sundew ( possibly *Drosera hyperostigma*) I described this group of sundews' unusual and very odd method of vegetative reproduction. Everyone looked at me with some scepticism! "Truly! I read it!" I said. But I began to doubt – surely I wasn't fantasising – was I? So I looked it up!



Photo from the internet of *Drosera hyperostigma* showing gemmae in the centre. (Our plant was very dry, and the leaves were folded tightly into the centre of the plant.)

Here is the extract, from *Carnivorous Plants of Australiam* Vol 2, by Alan Lowrie: -

"Pygmy *Drosera* exhibit two distinctive characteristics which separate them from other types of *Drosera*. The first feature is the ability of pygmy *Drosera* to produce gemmae in autumn. Gemmae

are asexual vegetative buds that have the ability to develop into plants. Gemmae are produced by the plant at the centre of the rosette.

"Gemmae are often arranged in a compact cluster at the centre of the plant. This cluster of gemmae is held together by long stipules arranged in a ring. As more gemmae are produced, they are placed under extreme tension against the outer stipules. The gemmae are now loaded and the slightest trigger, for example a well-aimed drop of rain, causes the cluster to explode. The stipules are able to fling the gemmae in all directions and up to two metres in distance away from the parent plant."

There you are, folks! Ain't nature wonderful!

*Penny Hussey*

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## Next month – AGM +

All Committee positions will be vacant. Please consider nomination!

In addition, there are other things that need to be done, such as organising suppers, tidying the hall and keeping us up to date on the WSWA's website.

Please remember that a Society such as this can only operate because people volunteer to help.

After the AGM, we will enjoy a 'Members' Night'. Please select no more than 10 of your favourite pics, and give us a little talk about them. It could be flowers in your local bush block – or overseas – how your native garden is growing – or the birds that come into it – or pics taken on an excursion – or whatever!

After this we will have supper. Please bring something to share, so that we can chat and enjoy each other's company at the end of the club year.

**See you there!**

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Stylidium affine*  
Queen Triggerplant



This is one of the larger Triggerplants, it can grow to 50cm tall. It has a tuft of long, grass-like leaves from which arise the stout flowering stalks bearing an inflorescence of up to 20 flowers.

The flowers are quite large, up to 15cm long (great for demonstrating the 'trigger' to

kids!) and can be pink, pale mauve or even white. They are produced from September to November.

Queen Triggerplants grow on the lateritic soils of the Darling Scarp and Plateau, in Jarrah forest or under Wandoo. They are often found around granite outcrops,

Propagation is by seed. This lovely little perennial plant grows well in gardens, and looks superb in dappled shade in a border. The photograph was taken in Joy Collins garden.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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*Its seed collecting  
time!*

We need more seeds for the see bank, especially of the more common species. You can collect from your own, or friend's blocks with permission.

**So, get collecting  
everyone!**

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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.