

NEWSLETTER

February 2023



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 2023

President: Penny Hussey

Vice President: Alisdair Adam

Treasurer: Peter Day

Secretary: Janet Atkins

Committee Members:

June Barkman

Kate Driver

Mal Myers

Maxine Tyler

Robin Rudeforth

Email:

**For all contacts, please use the
WSWA's generic email:**

eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/easternhillswildflowersoc/>

"The Poison Plants (*Gastrolobium* species) in the early Swan River Colony"

Neville Marchant

The early Swan River Colony was racked by a potential catastrophe when stock, grazing in bushland, died in convulsions. Considering how important they were for the Colony's survival and how difficult and expensive it was to bring them here in the first place, this clearly had the potential to cause the settlement to fail.

There was a desperate search for answers. Snake bite? Something they had eaten? An answer had to be found - quickly.....

Neville Marchant is an excellent speaker. This should be a fascinating talk!

Coming Events Feb.

Thursday 2nd February

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 8th and 22nd February

Seed Cleaning

9.00am Octagonal Hall

Helpers welcome!

Propagation Group.

In recess.

Evening Meeting

Friday 24th February

Coming Events March

Thursday 2nd March

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Planning meeting for 2023.

Wednesday 8th and 22nd March

Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

In recess

Evening Meeting
Friday 24th March
“Mound Springs in the Kimberley”
Mike Lyons

Ground water naturally contains dissolved minerals, and where it comes to the surface they may be deposited. You may have seen the spectacular terraces at Yellowstone, USA; Rotorua NZ or Pamukkale, Turkey. Australia's mound springs are not as speccy, but just as interesting.

The best-known ones are out in the central inland, upwellings from the Great Artesian Basin, but you may also know of those near Perth, such as in Neaves Road Reserve. Mike will tell us about the springs in the Kimberley and the fascinating flora (and fauna?) that they support.

IMPORTANT DATES

PLANT SALE

Set up day Friday **May 12th**
Sale day: Saturday **May 13th**

Keep both days free!

Planning and growing is underway for this year's plant sale. This annual event is the main fundraiser for Eastern Hills and well known and supported by the community. Set up will be Friday 12th May. Volunteers will be needed in all sorts of roles for both days and any help will be much appreciated. Further details will be in future Newsletters. If there is anyone who would like to sell plants for the first time please contact the coordinators Joy, Janet and Mitzi on the Branch's email: [eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.a](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)
[u](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

Workshop Using Florabase for Plant ID - A beginner's Guide

With Janet Atkins

Saturday 11th March.

1.00pm – 4.00pm

Our new big TV screen connected to the internet makes a workshop like this possible. We can all sit around and watch! Florabase is continuing to develop, is still a work in progress and has many features that can be unlocked.

Numbers will be limited to 20. No cost for Wildflower Society members and \$10.00 for any non-members. You can book by emailing [Eastern Hills](mailto:EasternHills@wildflowersocietywa.org.au) on eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au Places will be allocated on a first in basis.

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY STATE MEETING

Saturday **24th** and Sunday **25th** of June

EHB is the host this year! We'll need lots of help to ensure it runs smoothly – please keep these days free.

REPORTS

Evening Meeting
Friday 25th November 2022
AGM followed by Members' Night

The AGM was attended by 17 members and one visitor. It went very smoothly – including the mandatory fire drill – and the Minutes have been emailed to all

members. The last year's Committee was thanked for their efforts and a new Committee elected unopposed (see names on the first page of the Newsletter).

The General Meeting which followed immediately was opened by a visitor, Stevie Bourne, who spoke passionately about conserving forests, focusing primarily on the need to raise awareness among the general public of their vulnerability. She hoped that groups such as EHB would organise events to highlight this during December, but was disappointed to hear that we did not hold meetings during that month.

Three people gave short presentations:

- Janet Atkins showed members of the pea family that were growing magnificently in her garden;
- Fran Kininmonth showed plants growing near Lake Ballard in the Goldfields; and
- Penny Hussey highlighted some of the things you could learn on a wildflower trip.

The nature table had a number of interesting species, thank you to the members who brought them. And there were superb munchies for supper!

Penny Hussey

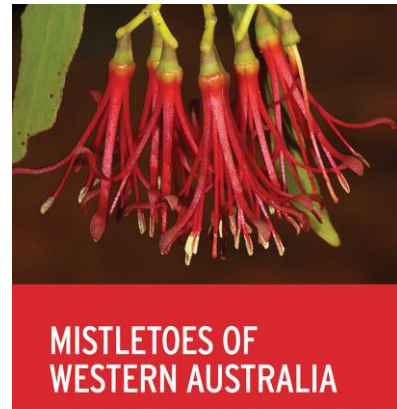
LIBRARY

A donation of a large number of books from Peter Ray's family has been a windfall for our library with over 50 books now to be added. Thanks to Janet's and June's hard work the initial process is well under way and the books will be made available as soon as the reference cards have been finalised.

Part of the donation consisted of non-floral books - general gardening books, and naturalists' books - birds, bees, mammals etc. These are available to the members if interested, plus any botanical books not needed for the library.

Some of the donated books will be available for members to look through at the meeting in Friday 24th February

Mal Myers



Will be in the library soon!

ART AWARD

Boyup Brook Art Awards

Boyup Brook Art Awards are to be held on 17th-19th February this year with the theme "Focus on Flora" Paintings, textiles and sculptures will be exhibited, all of which are expected to be for sale. Prizes will be awarded in all sections.

For more information, especially if you wish to submit an artwork, please either phone 9765 1169 or email: artawards@boyupbrook.org

(Apologies for the late notification. We received the information in December, but do not send out a Newsletter in January.)

Plant of the Month

Clematis pubescens
Travellers' Joy (flowers)
and Old Man's Beard (fruits)



This climbing plant uses its leaf petiole to twine around branches as it scrambles over vegetation. The leaves consist of three leaflets with white patterns on them.

The flowers are produced from July to October. They are white, and grow in clusters. The male flowers have numerous stamens, while the female flowers have 40 or more staminodes. The fruits have long arms which are densely covered with long white hairs – hence the common name.

This plant grows on the Coastal Plain and Darling Range from Wanneroo to Bunbury and Collie and extends south-west to the Oldfield River.

It grows well as an understorey plant, and is propagated using fresh seed.

Robyn Rudeforth.

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.