



NEWSLETTER

March 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

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/>

Members of the Committee are sorry to say that Kate Driver has resigned from the Committee, as unfortunately the meeting date corresponds with her study times

Coming Events March

Thursday 2nd March

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 8th and 22nd March

Seed Cleaning

9.00am Octagonal Hall

Helpers needed – easy work, pleasant company!

Monday 20th March

Propagation Group

12 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall

Bing your lunch.

New members welcome, whether you are already growing or just thinking about doing so. Come along and find out what you can achieve!

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, watch and take notes! Florabase is continuing to develop, it 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. Places will be allocated on a first in basis.

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.

Coming Events April

Thursday 6th April
Committee Meeting
3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 5th and 19th April
Seed Cleaning
9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group
Monday 17th April
12 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall
Bing your lunch.

Evening Meeting
Friday 28th April
"Western Australian Plants for Hills Gardens"
Janet Atkins

Anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting Janet's garden will know that WA plants can be spectacularly lovely, even on laterite and in heavy shade under large established trees. So come along and find out how this green-thumbed gardener manages it! Raising seedlings and cuttings too!



IMPORTANT DATES

PLANT SALE

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

Set up Friday 12th May - 8- 10.00 am – Set up Benches, 10.00 am – 3.00pm Help Growers deliver plants to benches, 3.00 pm until complete sort plants on benches. Also label sorting in the Hall.

Plant Sale Saturday 13th May helpers arrive 8.00am – 9.00am. Complete setting at 9.00am
Sale begins 9.00am – 2.00pm.
2.00pm helpers dismantle and clean up 2.00pm to ...4.pm?

Important Dates for Growers
Preliminary lists- final date 1st April
Final Lists (i.e. complete with numbers) 25th April

Any new growers can you please make contact so further communication can be via the Grower Group Email.

We are looking for volunteers to help on both days and need a catering corps to feed helpers on both days. If you think you may be able to assist we would like to hear from you!

All communication can be via the Branch email

eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au

Quiz Night with Prizes

BirdLife WA and Wildflower Society WA combined event

When: May 11th Thursday 7:30

Where: Tamala room Eco Centre Perry Lakes Drive

How much: \$20 per table (4-6 persons)

Save the date! Come and enjoy the fun!
Bring some cash for a great raffle!
More details to follow...

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 24th February 2023
“Chingarrup Sanctuary and
Gondwana Link”
By Eddy Wajon**

Eddy Wajon came to speak to us at short notice, when the advertised speaker could not attend to health reasons, but he kept us enthralled for nearly an hour and a half.

First, he described how the property he and his wife Donna bought (in 2002) fitted in to the landscape connections of the “Gondwana Link” project, before going on to describe the property. It consists of 572ha of bush and farmland, east of the Stirlings and north of Boxwood Hill. Undulating country, it is adjacent to a creek reserve and colourful breakaways.

So far, he has recorded 605 species of flora and showed superb photos of some of the more interesting, accompanied by stories of where they were found and their ecological significance. There are 50 different orchid species, for example!

Revegetation of former paddock started in 2004, the aim being to create habitat for diverse species of wildlife, especially the malleefowl. Superb photos taken by fixed cameras showed how successful this has been! So far, they have recorded 6 land mammals; 6 bats; 12 snakes; 20 other reptiles; 120 birds; 55 ants; 50 spiders; 35 native bees; 300 moths; 100+ more insects and 26 aquatic species. And that's just the start! No wonder we are a biodiversity hotspot!

But it has all involved a lot of hard work and trials, not all of which have worked. Constant feral animal and weed control is necessary. Eddy was also very critical of regulations which have meant that he can no longer maintain pit traps to monitor the success of the work. He also acknowledged that fire needed to be used for regeneration, but admitted that it was just too dangerous to do so.

He concluded by saying that every piece of remnant was precious, as once an area has been cleared it can NEVER be replaced with all its original species. That indigenous community is lost for ever.

The audience showed their appreciation with applause, and continued with questions through and excellent supper.



(Photo from the internet: “Esperance Wildflowers”)

Eddy showed some intriguing photos of what he said were the flowers of *Callitris roei*, Roe's Cypress-pine. I was a bit sceptical, it is after all, a gymnosperm, and I had not seen anything like it – Janet though it could be a floral mimic, to entice pollinating insects. Hmmmm, I mused. By the next day, Janet had found this pic. Eddy was right (he usually is!).

We emailed Byron Lamont who, as you remember from his recent talk, has been studying pollination and he replied in part:

“All conifers have what is called a scale complex of minor and major scales that are aggregated into cones in such conifers as *Pinus* but there is only one in *Callitris* although it is still called a cone (that does not seem accurate). Of course, they have male and female cones on the same plant (and the male in *Callitris* really is a multiscale complex so cone seems accurate in this case). The 3 exposed ovules produce conspicuous nectar drops that serve well to catch the airborne pollen. I could well imagine some insects, especially the notorious European honey bee, stealing nectar from these receptive cones but have never seen it.”

Thanks Byron! There is still so much to learn about our wonderful flora!

Penny Hussey

LIBRARY

Cataloguing of the books donated to our library is still continuing. It is a lengthy business, due to having to write out multiple cards for each book. But, with help, it should be completed soon.

At the February meeting, many books not suitable for our library were available to choose from. It was pleasing to see that quite a number were taken, in exchange for small donations given to the Club. Some will still be available at the March meeting. Quite a lot are gardening books. See if there is anything that interests you – Roses? Camelias?

Plant of the Month

Billardiera (Pnonaya) fraseri
Elegant Pronava



This is a twining shrub up to a metre high and wide, depending on the support available. The flowers are lilac-blue and produced in clumps at the top of the stems. It flowers prolifically in December to March, when little else is out.

The fruit is a succulent cylindrical berry. It is grown from seed or cuttings.

It occurs on the Coastal Plain, Darling Scarp and Darling Range near Perth, extending north to Yanchep and Muchea and east to Bruce Rock and Cape le Grand.

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 A