

NEWSLETTER

April 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/>

Coming Events April

Wednesday 5th and 19th April

Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Thursday 6th April

Committee Meeting

3 pm 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!

Coming Events May

Thursday 4th May

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 3rd, 17th and 31st May

Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

Monday 15th May

12 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall

Bing your lunch.

Evening Meeting

Friday 26th May

“Myrtaceae”

Barbara Rye

Barbara Rye is a taxonomic botanist who has worked for a long time at the Herbarium, most recently revising the classification of Myrtaceae. New names!

Nes genera even! She will describe the whys and wherefores and show us a way round the changes that have occurred. Essential listening if you want to keep up to date! She is also a long-term contributor to 'Flora of Australia' and will also fill us in with what activities are happening in that area.

This should be a really informative evening - and help you to understand more about the 'stabms'!

Everyone who likes to know what plants are called, really needs to come to this talk – with your notepad (or electronic version)!

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

Please can you also help with these?

1. Welcome donation of boxes. Please not until the week prior to 13th. Can be left on the south side of verandah.

2. Some donations of cake/ biscuits etc for morning/ afternoon teas for volunteers on both days (ie Friday 12th and Sat 13th). Also any volunteers to help provide teas and lunches to volunteers working at the Sale on Sat 13th.

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!

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.

And bring your friends to the Sunday activities!

REPORTS

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

This event, hosted by Janet Atkins and held on Saturday 10th March in the afternoon, proved to be very popular – in fact, more people turned up than expected. Janet had her laptop linked to the big screen as she demonstrated various features of Florabase. Many of the attendees followed her moves on their own devices.



She explained that the programme had not been set up as an identification tool, but rather as a listing of all specimens held at the WA Herbarium in Perth. Nevertheless, there were features that could be used to help you identify a plant. The most important of these were the interactive keys. Easier to use than the binary keys found in Floras, you could use any feature to start with – say 'leaf shape' – and soon whittle down to 5 or so 'possibles' from which you could work further with books. A great improvement when starting with a huge genus such as *Acacia*!

Janet did say that although the language was relatively non-technical, a user still needed to understand basic botanical terminology.

Everyone seemed to find the event useful, and there was strong support for Janet's suggestion of holding similar workshops in spring, each devoted to identification within a single family. Watch this space!

Penny Hussey

Mound Springs in the Kimberley Friday 24th March

Mike Lyons' presentation took us to a world few of us have seen – tiny pockets of lush rain forests on the edge of salt marshes in the Kimberley. Quite astonishing places with flora, and fauna, very different from their surroundings. Survivors from a wetter epoch, perhaps?

Essentially, mound springs are places where geology brings aquifers containing freshwater to the surface. Often this water contains minerals which are deposited at the surface, giving the name 'mound spring'. Most are found along the coast, but there are some inland. Mike described groups of similar springs, in the Kimberley and down into the Pilbara.

One important feature of these areas is that, because of their dampness, they don't burn thus permitting the survival of their unique species. However, grazing by cattle, or feral camels, can do a great deal of damage. Feral plants such as Date Palms, Bananas and Neem trees can also cause problems. Managing these is an important issue.

We were all amazed at the floral beauty and variety of these areas, which contribute so much to the diversity of our northern regions. A fascinating talk, received with applause.

Penny Hussey

Weed Alert

NOTE: for those who don't know Neem:

Neem, *Azadirach indica*, is in the family Meliaceae, very similar to its close relative *Melia azedarach*, which in SW WA we call Cape Lilac.



Pic from the Internet, Neem in a banana plantation

Native from Assam across to Vietnam, it has been widely planted across the tropics, including Australia, primarily for shade but also for its reputed medicinal properties. It has naturalised along the Ord River and has the potential to become a major weed. (Incidentally, the name 'Azadirach' comes from a Persian word which means 'noble tree'.)

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.

A number of the donated books have now been catalogued and are now on the

shelves ready for borrowing. Check them out the next time you are in the Octagonal Hall!

There are still some books and magazines available for taking home – small donation for the books, please. Quite a lot are gardening books. See if there is anything that interests you – Roses? Camelias?

Just coming into flower

Styphelia propinqua
(*Leucopogon propinquus*)
Common Forest Heath.



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