

# NEWSLETTER

May 2023



## 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 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](mailto:eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietywa.org.au)

### Facebook:

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

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## Coming Events May

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9.00 am Octagonal Hall

## PLANT SALE

Cardboard boxes needed – leave on south verandah. Also helpers for workers' lunch.

**Set up day Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sale day: Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Set up** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> May helpers arrive 8.00am. Complete setting at 9.00am

**Sale begins 9.00am – 2.00pm.**

2.00pm helpers dismantle and clean up 2.00pm to ...4.pm?

**Propagation Group**  
**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

12 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall  
Bring your lunch.

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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! New genera even! She will describe the whys and wherefores and show us a way around 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 device!)

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## Coming Events June

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Seed Cleaning**  
9.00 am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June**  
12 noon to 3.00pm, Octagonal Hall  
Bring your lunch

**NOTE: There will not be an evening meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June as we will be preparing for the State Conference on the following day.**

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## WILDFLOWER SOCIETY STATE MEETING

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 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!**

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## REPORTS

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April**  
**“Western Australian Plants for Hills Gardens”**  
**Janet Atkins**

A large number of wildflower lovers and gardeners gathered on a very cold evening to hear Janet's talk. It was, indeed, fascinating. First, she described her block and its settlement history, pointing out that there are a number of very large mature eucalypts which cast heavy shade, so she was going to concentrate on plants that could flourish in this environment.

She then showed photos and described a large number of plants, family by family, starting with Sterculiaceae (now Malvaceae). We were all astonished by the large number of Thomasias, Lasiopetalums, Guichenotias etc which demonstrate a wide range of plant form and flower colour. Not all the plants are locally native and she explained that she often sourced tubestock from the Kings Park sale.



*Thomasia macrocarpa*. Excellent in shade, including under Wandoo.

From there we went on to acacias, various proteaceae, myrtles, daisies, peas – and so on! Nuggets of growing information were also given, such as – don't put young plants on irrigation, as the big tree roots will soon seek out the source and rob the seedling.

Realising that we would forget many of the names, Janet handed out a list of the plants she discussed (115 of them). She also noted that many of the featured species would be available for purchase at the upcoming plant sale.

Because of the cold, the seated part of the meeting terminated then, without a formal question period, though Janet was besieged by people afterwards.

Also very popular were the packets of everlasting seed, as it is the perfect time to plant them. There were also some interesting plants on the Nature Table.

Cups of hot drinks were welcome, as were the cake, sandwiches, cheese and biccies provided by members.

**This is a good time to thank the many members who bring along something to nibble after the meeting. You don't even have to be reminded to do it! We are deeply appreciative – thank you all very much indeed!**

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## Weed Alert

Flinders Range Wattle  
*Acacia iteaphylla*

Eastern States Wattles in bushland are easiest to spot when they are in flower. The earliest of them to flower is Flinders Range Wattle. It is a large bush with long, greyish phyllodes and pale yellow flowerheads in small sprays from the leaf axils, in April and May.

This plant is a prolific seeder and the seeds are both very fertile and long-lasting in the soil. It is spread by movement of seeds and soil by machinery and can also germinate in bird droppings. It is an important weed that can come to dominate an area, out-competing everything else. It also increases the fire hazard of any area it inhabits, including road verges. After the fire, there will be a wheatfield of young seedlings.

If you have this plant in any areas of bushland you are caring for, please remove it. When small, you can pull it out. Larger plants can be cut, and the stump painted with herbicide.



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## LIBRARY

The library is looking excellent, with its newly added books swelling the ranks on the shelves. Why don't you have a look to see if there is something you would like to borrow?

We have a number of hard-to-find titles that are very useful, like the Grevillea books, Hakeas, Melaleucas and others.

*Mal Myers.*

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## Plant of the Month

*Callistemon phoeniceus*  
Lesser Bottlebrush



A large shrub up to 3m tall and 3.5m wide. (Dwarf garden forms are also known.) Large, brilliant red flower spikes are found from spring to early summer. It can be spectacular in full bloom.

It makes a good screen and windbreak, is frost-hardy and drought-resistant. Propagated by seed.

It grows from the Murchison River to the Fitzgerald NP and east to Kalgoorlie. Locally, it is found along the Helena River, where it prefers sites with good water – the banks of the river (see pic) or downslope of granites where there is a good run-off.

*Robyn Rudeforth*



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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 A