

# NEWSLETTER

July 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

Robyn 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 July

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**Committee Meeting**

3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July**

**Seed Cleaning**

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**

In abeyance until September

**Evening Meeting**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July**

**“Discover Robert Brown, Botanist with  
Mathew Flinders”**

Bevan Carter

Mathew Flinders is a fascinating personality (he had a delightful black and white car called Trim), and Robert Brown is a towering figure in 19<sup>th</sup> century botany.

This talk is taken from the book “*Robert Brown – botanist with Mathew Flinders*” written in 2001 in collaboration with Janet Gathe and Mollie Edgecombe to celebrate the “Investigator’s” voyage around New Holland. Later they have written “*The Vanishing Floral Heritage of the Swan Valley*”.

This all should be most interesting as it concentrates on Brown’s floral discoveries in the Swan Valley. What was it like, eg, to be the first European boat’s crew to eat *Zamia* nuts?

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

**Wildflower Ramble**

**Kalamunda National Park**

10.00 am to 12 noon

**Leader: Lesley Brooker**

Meet: eastern end of Hill St, Gooseberry Hill. The road ends there, in a turning circle. Mostly flat - we will be walking on the lateritic top of the range, not taking any steep slopes. Beautiful Jarrah/Marri woodland with a leader who knows the area very well.

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# Coming Events August

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Committee Meeting  
3 pm Octagonal Hall

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> August

### Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

### Propagation Group

In recess

### Evening Meeting

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August

**“A cute question – what makes WA’s curly-whirly leaves to curl?”**

**Tony Scalzo**

You will have noticed them – a number of WA’s plants have leaves which curl, think of *Hakea stenocarpa* for example. And *Thelymitra spiralis* has a leaf like a corkscrew. Why? What odd quirk causes them to do this?

Tony Scalzo is the Editor of the Kings Park Magazine “For People and Plants”, and he recently collaborated with Neville Marchant to write an article on this topic. This will be an interesting talk, illustrated with superb photographs.

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August

### Wildflower Ramble

10.00am to 12.00am  
TBA

collecting a hired ‘portapotty’ (which proved to have a hole in its roof!).



Saturday was the Wildflower Society State Conference and AGM, and was attended by delegates from most of the Branches. It was organised and run by the Executive.

On Sunday we designed a program that we hoped would bring people together and showcase the role of EHB and its members in spreading the word about the value of wildflowers throughout the community. We started with a Quiz (won by the group containing Eddy Wajon – no surprise there!), then Ken Paterson talked about 20 years of Landcare along Piesse Brook, June Barkman about the Seed Bank and Janet Atkins about the Plant Sale. Sandy Stone and Kathy Wood briefly described their projects, then in the afternoon people split into two groups to visit them. Everyone seemed to enjoy everything!

Numerous EHB members pitched in to help. And as a result, the weekend ran smoothly without a hitch. The catering group, especially, were wonderful! Delicious food, served on time and cleared away quickly and neatly. At the very end, even some visitors helped to clean the Hall! What super people there are in the wildflower-loving community! My deepest thanks to all of you.

*Penny Hussey*

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## REPORTS

### WSWA State Conference

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June

This year it was our turn to provide the venue and catering and to organise the events for the second day. This involved a tremendous amount of work by a large number of people doing everything from sweeping floors to making cakes and

## Showcasing our crafty members!

The Quiz prizes were flower-related items made by members. Cathy Day’s pottery, Jan Pittman’s cards and Robyn Rudeforth’s bookmarks. We will highlight

them in forthcoming newsletters. There is more than one way to spread the love of flora!



The lace bookmarks which were given out to people as prizes at the State Conference were made using an ancient craft called tating. This is a form of knotted lace which is made using a tool called a shuttle.

The bookmarks were modelled on *Rhodanthe chlorocephala*, *Xerochrysum macranthum* and *Schoenia filifolia*. They are lightweight, non-fragile and easily packed for sending as gifts to share the beauty of some of WA's wildflowers.

Being handmade and designed by myself, they are unique and only available from me. Phone 0448 271 493 and leave a message.

Robyn Rudeforth

**Wildflower Bush walk in Blue Wren Reserve. State Conference June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

A very quick power point on Blue Wren Reserve was shown to the Conference attendees before lunch enabling the participants to choose which regeneration walk they would like to experience. The other walk was along the Heritage trail close to Octagonal hall with Kathy Wood. Blue Wren Reserve occupies 13 hectares and is u-shaped between 5 acre lots with homes built in the late 1980's.

About 20 participants took part in the excursion and many remarks were made about the *Xanthorrhoea preissii* coverage and the local native species in the remnant bush.

At present, *Hibbertia*, Holly leafed *Hovea* are in flower and *Lomandra nigricans*

which has white flowers edged in purple. A feral *Acacia pycnantha* was identified by Janet and will be removed from the area of remnant vegetation.

We looked for bunny orchids but didn't find any, it may be too late now. The group walked as far as the large ephemeral dam where the Friends group has recently planted local provenance seedlings adjacent to Susannah Brook creek. The group was shown one of the areas where we had successfully broadcast native seed given to us by the Eastern Hills WFS in 2010.

The sun shone on us all and we made our way back to the cars after one and a half hours' strolling.

Sandy Stone



*Hovea chorizmifolia*.



## Wattle Workshop Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July



This was well attended, with 18 people and buckets full of wattles. Janet and Penny did an excellent job with the preparation and presentation of this workshop.

The next ID workshop will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> Sept and will focus on Fabaceae, the peas.

Further details next month.

insects, reptiles, mammals etc which inhabit this ecosystem.

We now have a copy in our library, thanks to the generosity of the McCrum family and eagerly await the next book, which he tells us will be about granite outcrops.

*Mal Myers*

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## Plant of the Month

*Hakea multilineata*



A large shrub to small tree up to 5m tall by 2-4m wide.

It produces masses of bright pink flowers in racemes up to 70cm long from July to October. The flowers produce copious nectar and attract both birds and bees. The leaves are long and narrow, with numerous linear veins.

It grows naturally in gravelly loam on lateritic rides or sand. In gardens it requires good drainage and full sun. It is frost tolerant. Propagation is by seed.

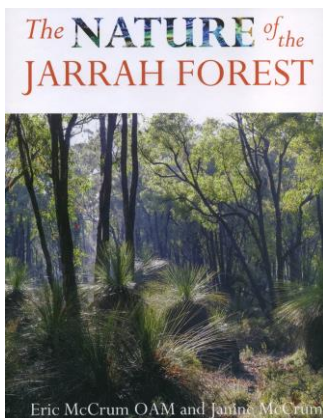
The natural distribution is from Brookton to Menzies and Coolgardie to Hyden.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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## Hot off the Press!

“The Nature of the Jarrah Forest”  
Eric and Janine McCrum



This is the first in a series of books planned by these authors. It is full of Eric's beautiful photographs and covers not only flora, but also the birds, fungi,

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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

