

NEWSLETTER

August 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

Robyn 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 August

Thursday 3rd August

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 9th & 23rd August

Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group In recess

Evening Meeting

Friday 25th 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. It is sure to be an interesting talk, illustrated with superb photographs.

Sunday 27th August Wildflower Ramble (day out)

Wallaby Hills Nature Reserve, York

Leader: Janet Atkins



Meet (at 10.00am for morning tea, if wished), walk starts around 10.30am. Bring your m/t and lunch – hot water for drinks will be provided. The map shows the location, some 20kms east of York. You will see a small track leading to a parking pull-off among the Wandoo.

We will ramble through the reserve perhaps returning to the cars for lunch, perhaps carrying it with us (depending on the weather). This reserve consists of Salmon Gum and inland Wandoo country with a diverse understorey, mostly in good condition.

Much of the walk is flat or gently sloping, and you can walk as far, or as little, as you like.

For detail of what you might see (235 spp), search for Lesley Brooker's Wildflower Guides: <http://lesmikebrooker.com.au/Wallaby-Hills.php>

It is possible that people from other branches may join us, and on the way home, you might like to visit the York WS's garden. It is absolutely superb, and will be a picture at this time of year.

Coming Events Sept.

Thursday 7th September
Committee Meeting
3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 6th & 20th September
Seed Cleaning
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Workshop:
Papilionaceae – the Peas
Saturday 9th September
1.00pm to 4.00pm
Octagonal Hall
Leaders: Janet Atkins and Penny Hussey

The next ID workshop and will focus on Fabaceae, the peas. Keys, both written and electronically interactive, will be used – you might care to bring your laptop or other device. It is essential to register, if you wish to attend.

Cost: free to WSWA members. Non-members: \$10.00.

Propagation Group
Monday 18th September
12 noon to 3pm Octagonal Hall
Bring your lunch

Evening Meeting
Friday 22nd September

“The effect of Prescribed Burning on Native Vegetation Communities”
A/Prof Philip Zylstra, Curtin University

With prescribed burning regimes, several questions arise, regarding its usefulness as a wildfire control measure, and whether it is ecologically sustainable to preserve the natural community – flora and fauna. Opinions differ on these and many other points. Prof Zylstra and his students have been investigating many aspects of this management technique, leading to some very interesting conclusions.

Anyone who has had anything to do with fire in bushland needs to come and hear this.

We must point out, though, that he actually lives in NSW so will be presenting this electronically, via Zoom. The presentation will come up on the screen and we will hear him talk. Later, he will face us for questions, and he will see you, too, when you ask them. We have not used our new screen for this before, so we hope it all goes well!

Wildflower Ramble
Sunday 24th September
Eastern Mundaring Shire
Leader Mitzi Wehlack
10am to 12 noon
Details next month

REPORTS

Friday 22nd July
“Discover Robert Brown, Botanist with Mathew Flinders”

It was a small but select group that turned out on a wet and windy evening to hear Bevan Carter talk about the botanist Robert Brown. But the talk was not quite what we expected! In fact, he told us about the events in his life which had turned him from a teacher to a publisher,

with Robert Brown and Mathew Flinders one step along the way.

It was, however, quite interesting as he described how he and a group of friends set out to survey flora in the Swan Valley (mostly Caversham) and the help he, as a non-botanist, was given in plant identification. He had some of his books – on Flinders and plants from the Swan Valley named by Robert Brown which he gave to interested members.

The nature table was covered in floral beauty, and afterwards there was a delightful supper.

Penny Hussey

Sunday 30th July
Wildflower Ramble
Kalamunda National Park
10.00 am to 12 noon
Leader: Lesley Brooker

Despite threatened storms, 26 people joined Lesley and Mike Brooker for a gentle ramble through the Jarrah/Marri Forest. Besides EHB members, there were also DRWS members and quite a number of visitors. Lesley had printed out a list of 30 plants that should be in flower so that people could tick them off as they were seen. In fact, there were lots more that would flower in other months.

As we walked, there was much discussion about Phytophthora Dieback and prescribed burning on a 7-year cycle, both of which have a profound affect on the vegetation community. But the area was delightfully weed-free!

The rain held off and, although the large group split into smaller ones, everyone seemed to find lots to look at. Thank you very much to Lesley and Michael (who talked birds) for sharing their knowledge with us all.

Penny Hussey

LIBRARY

The Eastern Hills branch have a set of "**Flora of the Perth Region**" Marchant *et al*, which are surplus to our needs.

This book is out of print, and selling for hundreds on the internet. Our copy is in good condition. Although these books were published in 1987 and are missing more recent discoveries, they hold a wealth of detailed information about local flora. They have good keys and **any person who is serious about our local flora should have a copy. Now is your chance!**

Sale by tender - put in your bid and the highest offer will receive the prize.

Contact:

- eastern.hills.branch@wildflowersocietyw.org.au

Mal Myers

Have you seen this?



It is the most beautiful 'coffee table' book I have seen in years.

"Natural Connections: celebrating 40 years of the Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show"

Compiled and Edited: Kim Bennett and Richenda Goldfinch

Illustrated by 23 artists.

Published in 2022, this book is a compilation of flora and fauna notes about

individual species, together with historical snippets and anecdotes from people involved with the Show. Superbly illustrated in a variety of styles, this is a book to treasure, to dip into, to share when you need to convince someone that conservation matters.

Visually stunning, easy to read, magnificent, uplifting, superb – need I go on? Don't be put off by the price (\$95.00), it will be a joy forever.

Penny Hussey

Plant of the Month

Labichea lanceolata

Tall Labichea



This is a large shrub up to 3m high and 2m wide. Its leaves and seed pods have a sharp point on the end which, with its dense growth, make it a good hedge when planted *en masse*.

Its flowers are bright yellow and are produced over a long period, from July to November.

The plants like to be well-watered, and grows well alongside creeks and rivers, as well as downslope of granite outcrops where it receives run-off. It can also be found on lateritic soils.

It occurs from the Murchison River to Beverley and across to Cape Arid.

Propagation is by 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.