



NEWSLETTER

September 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 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

Leasers: 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

Meet at "Arcadia", 142 Glenburn Road (off Moola Road), Glen Forrest. Drive onto the property to park.

If lost (!) call Mitzi on 0417 096 645

Coming Events Oct.

Thursday 6th October

Committee Meeting

3 pm Octagonal Hall

Wednesday 4th & 18th October

Seed Cleaning

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

Monday 16th October

12 noon to 3pm Octagonal Hall

Bring your lunch

Evening Meeting

Friday 27th October

"Lord Howe Island"

Eddy Wajon

Lord Howe Island is a small island way out in the Pacific Ocean off the east coast of Australia. Like many isolated islands, much of the flora and fauna is unique. Eddy will give us a description of what the place is like, illustrated, of course, by his excellent photographs. You might be inspired to consider this your next holiday destination!

Sunday 29th October

Wildflower Ramble

tba

(Maybe another day excursion.)

REPORTS

Friday 25th August

"A cute question – what makes WA's curly-whirly leaves to curl?"

Tony Scalzo

The presenter first discussed the mathematical arrangement of plant growing points (called the Fibonacci Series) leading to spiral arrangements in compound inflorescences such as Sunflowers and Banksias, giving local examples of where this can be seen. He then moved on to spiralling in leaf arrangement and within the leaves themselves.

Many local examples were shown, some quite rare, such as *Patersonia spiralifolia* which is found at Badgingarra. At Kings Park, he is working on bringing this one into cultivation.

Does the spiral give leaves an evolutionary advantage? Perhaps it is stiffer, to minimise damage if water stressed? Perhaps it allows different parts of the leaf to be shaded at different times of the day, again, linked to water conservation? And perhaps it is just happenstance!

Geneticists have found a number of genes which can cause plant parts to twist, sometimes only clockwise and sometimes only anticlockwise. But no-one has worked on our particular species. So, there is a lot yet to discover! Thank you, Dr Scalzo for making us stop and think about why things happen – and also for donating a nice seedling of *Hakes stenocarpa* as a door prize.

The meeting started with a short quiz which was won by a group with 8 out of 10 correct answers. Well done! The nature table was covered in floral beauty,

and afterwards there was a delightful supper.

Penny Hussey

Sunday 27th August

Wildflower Ramble

Wallaby Hills Nature Reserve, York

Leader: Janet Atkins

On a glorious spring day, Wallaby Hills NR was sparkling with colour and echoing with the sound of numerous birds. Unburnt for many years, the understorey was dense and diverse, varying in composition as soil and shade changed.



Olearia rudis

26 people turned up (well, 28 if you count a couple who said "We saw it on your website but we are not with you, we decided we would like to explore it for ourselves." Huh!) Besides EHB members and friends, there were people from NSB and from York Branch, who promised that we would not be disappointed. True!

Mostly we walked under Wandoo or Sheoak woodland. Well over 30 species were seen in flower, many from familiar genera but different species from our usual Hills area. Lunchtime discussions ranged from the geological formation of the Yilgarn Craton to the early 20th century practice of ringbarking to clear woodland for grazing – and everything in between!



Parrots (probably 28s) have got at this long-unburned *Xanthorrhoea drummondii*

It was a lovely site, many thanks to Janet Atkins for suggesting it, and to Lesley Brooker or her web-book (230 pages) to help with ID.

On the way home, some members called in to the York Branch's superb 2ha native garden and nursery. Seedling sales were negotiated!

Penny Hussey

LIBRARY

Our thanks to the successful new owner of the two-volume set of "Flora of the Perth Region". (It was the highest of three bids.) This money will enable us to add more books to the library.

Mal Myers

Plant of the Month

Lambertia multiflora

Many-flowered Honeysuckle

This is a shrub 2.5m tall to 2m wide. It has elongated, tubular yellow flowers in clusters of seven at the ends of branches. (Red flowers are known to exist elsewhere, and may occur locally.) The linear leaves are in whorls of three and are up to 7cm long.



(pic from internet)

It occurs in the Darling Range and the eastern side of the Coastal Plain, usually on sandy gravel, from Dardanup to Eneabba, flowering from June to December. Propagation is by seed.

A small population occurs near the Darlington winery. It is also in the Hawkvale Reserve in Maida Vale.

Robyn Rudeforth

The Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show is on this month!

11th – 23rd September 2023

For full programme of events, workshops, talks, walks etc:

www.wildflowersravensthorpe.org.au

Interim Report



The Pea Workshop was very successful, with 18 participants. A full report will follow later. But one point that was highlighted is that we do not have a WiFi code. Thus, participants could not log in their devices to the internet. This question will be investigated further by the Committee.

Penny Hussey

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.