



# NEWSLETTER

October 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 Oct.

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

**Committee Meeting**

3 pm Octagonal Hall

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October**

**Seed Cleaning**

9.00 am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

12 noon to 3pm Octagonal Hall

Bring your lunch

**Evening Meeting**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> October**

**Wildflower Ramble**

Wandoo National Park.

Leader: Robyn Rudeforth

Meet 10.00am at 'The Lakes Roadhouse', at the junction of Great Northern and Great Southern Highways.

It is intended to then travel in a tag-along convoy, mainly along Talbot West Road, stopping every so often to explore different vegetation types – wandoo and powderbark woodland, banksia thickets, wet flats, etc. This is a superb area of bushland, well worth more detailed explanation when you have more time.

We will find a nice spot for lunch, then either return the same way or continue along a scenic route to York before returning.

It would be helpful if you would let us know that you are coming by leaving a message on the EHB email.

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## Coming Events Nov.

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Committee Meeting  
3 pm Octagonal Hall

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Nov

#### Seed Cleaning

9.00am Octagonal Hall

#### Propagation Group

#### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November

12 noon to 3pm Octagonal Hall  
Bring your lunch

#### Evening Meeting

#### Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

#### AGM

President and Treasurer's reports.  
All positions vacant

#### "Oceanic islands: wonderful sites for invasive plants"

Penny Hussey will talk mainly about Madiera and the Azores – a weedy person's paradise – as well as superb scenery and nice plonk!

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## Suggested for December:

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December

**Seed collecting expedition to St Roman's Well Reserve, York.  
Probably 10am, bring your lunch.**

This small area, vested in WANPARA, has 30-year-old direct-seeded revegetation, designed and organised by Penny Hussey. Wide range of local species, lots of seed to collect.

This may or may not happen, depending on the weather.

**You MUST REGISTER**, using EHB's email, if you intend to come, so that you can be contacted if cancellation occurs.

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## REPORTS

### Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

#### "The effect of Prescribed Burning on fire threat in Native Vegetation Communities"

A/Prof Philip Zylstra, Curtin University

A disappointingly low number of people were present to listen to this talk – perhaps you stayed home watching the footy? Or you didn't care to watch zoom? Or you forgot, as it wasn't the last Friday? Whatever, you missed a cracker.

We are told by the Powers That Be that burning off reduces the fuel load and therefore reduces fire threat. But, for how long? Philip Zylstra's research has shown conclusively that fire hazard is reduced for the first 3-4 years, but after that, as the shrub layer thickens, it increases exponentially until about 20 years, decreasing thereafter as shrubs die back. So, if you want to use fire to reduce fire threat, you must burn at least every 5 years.

Looking at WA's Jarrah forest, how much of it is in the highest fire risk time, 5 – 20 years since a fire? Two-thirds of the DBCA forest is now in that range. What was it like at the time of first European colonisation? There are numerous accounts of early settlers "galloping their horses" through the forest. You couldn't do that through dense scrub but you could in long-unburnt forest, as it would have opened up as the shrub layer died back.

He started off by debunking the accepted model of calculating forest flammability – fuel load x rate of spread. It originated from a paper about the management of a Long-leaf Pine plantation in Texas in the 1950s. The landowner was using frequent fire to maintain the pines whereas without it, succession would

occur and the pines would be replaced by an oak and hickory forest.

And so it went on. He pointed out that the Forest Dept and CALM's researchers had shown these findings long before. An early Conservator of Forests, Charles Lane Poole 1916-1921, said, in effect "don't burn the forest as it creates a fire-promoting understorey". He resigned because no-one was listening to him.

The audience was rapt, and there were several in-depth questions, including from visitors involved in their own bushland management. Everyone agreed that the Zoom worked extremely well, and that next year we should look for other interstate – or even international – speakers.

*Penny Hussey*

Ps: Why don't you Google Philip Zylsra and read his paper on prescribed burning in the SW of WA? Very clear. Very informative.

**Wildflower Ramble**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Eastern Mundaring Shire**  
**Leader Mitzi Wehleck**

26 people enjoyed a 2-hour wildflower ramble through the forest next to Mitzi Wehleck's place in Glen Forrest. A gloomy, cloudy Sunday morning changed to a sunny but cool day right on 10.am.

Although some parts of this block are forested there is a substantial proportion of open rocky terrain leading to quite a diversity of flora to be seen. The larger spectacular species to be seen in flower were *Daviesia cordata*, *Pimelea spectabilis* and *Grevillea bipinnatifida*. There were a few orchids to be seen and lots of the smaller understorey. There was a lovely patch of *Labichea punctata* along with some *Gastrolobium* species and the

beautiful *Conostylis setosa* were just opening up.

Thank you to Mitzi for organising the morning and arranging safe parking on her property. It was lovely to have some visitors from other Wildflower Society Branches and quite a few non-members joining us.

*Janet Atkins*

## REPORT

### Papilionaceae ID



The relatively new 'Pea Key' on Florabase generated some enthusiasm to run this 'pea' ID workshop. As most would know there are so many apparently similar pea flowered plants across WA with a notoriously bad reputation for identification.

The interactive 'Pea Key' on Florabase is a good step in busting open this difficulty. It is an interactive electronic key that allows use of the material that you might have rather than dictating the features that you need as in the old dichotomous keys.

The workshop commenced with an introduction from Penny regarding the worldwide distribution and importance of pea flowered plants. We then looked at basic anatomy of peas and the bits to look at that might differ between species. The final session (after a good afternoon tea – thankyou to the cooks!) was spent investigating the interactive pea key using

our beautiful new screen connected to the internet via laptop and phone.

*Janet Atkins*

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## LIBRARY

Our library is very comprehensive! If you are looking for something to help you know or grow native plants, browse the shelves!

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## Plant of the Month

*Grevillea crithmifolia*



This shrub has two forms, a spreading low bush to half a metre high and rounded shrub up to 1.5m.

The leaves are small, usually divided into three. The flowers are produced from June to September in dense clusters at the end of short side shoots, and may be white, cream or sometimes even pink. It is bird attracting. In a garden it can look spectacular – the prostrate version especially, trailing over a low wall or down a bank.

It occurs naturally on sand and limestone soil along the coast from Watheroo to Mandurah, with an outlier at Dongara. It

does, however, adapt well to gravelly soils.

It is propagated by seed or cuttings and can be found for sale in many nurseries.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

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## WEED ALERT



**Its Gladi time!**

Spring and early summer is a great time to spot gladioli in the bushland, because they become conspicuous when they flower. There are pink ones *G. caryophyllaceus*, wavy yellow-green ones *G. undulatus*, white ones (above) *G. angustua*, scarlet ones *G. watsonius*, and lots of others!

In all cases, remove them from the bush – and put them in the garden!

They are

## GOOD in the Garden Bad in the BUSH

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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