

NEWSLETTER

December 2023 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 2024

President: Pam Riordan
Vice President: Maxine Tyler
Treasurer: Peter Day
Secretary: Janet Atkins
Committee Members:
June Barkman
Sarah Dudley
Penny Hussey
Philip Lane
Mal Myers
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

DECEMBER

Thursday 7th Dember
Committee meeting

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

JANUARY

No events planned

FEBRUARY

Thursday 1st February
Committee Meeting

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning

Wednesday 7th February
9.00 am Octagonal Hall

Evening Meeting

Friday 23rd February

7.30 pm Octagonal Hall

SEED COLLECTING



Robyn Rudeforth and Janet Atkins collecting seed from Saltbuster, *Melaleuca thyoides*. Look out for some seedlings in the next Plant Sale!



Happy Christmas everyone!

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.

Eastern Hills Branch Wildflower Society of Western Australia

President's Report November 2023

Since November 2022, the Eastern Hills Branch (EHB) has continued to be active throughout the year, holding nine evening meetings with an average attendance of 18 people. (There was no meeting in June, as we were setting up for the State Conference.) Thanks go to all the speakers for giving so generously of their time and expertise to expand our knowledge of the world of wildflowers. Thanks also to Fran Kininmonth, who organised the programme.

This year the Plant Sale in May was very successful. Thank you to Janet Atkins, Mitzi Wehleck and, literally, dozens of others who worked so hard to make it a great event. Especial thanks to all the growers. We even had a Wheatbelt grower attend this year. The Propagation Group, run by Sandy Stone, makes a huge contribution here. As does the Seed Cleaning Group, organised by June Barkman.

There were three Wildflower Rambles held on the Sunday after the evening meeting, in July, August and September. All were very successful, with 26 attendees at each. Thanks to Lesley Brooker, Janet Atkins and Mitzi Wehleck for leading these.

Three Workshops were run this year, organised by Janet Atkins with assistance from Penny Hussey. The first was a very successful "Introduction to Florabase" which was oversubscribed and rather crowded, yet everyone said they found it very useful. This was followed by two workshops looking at individual families, the first, in July, on Wattles, the second in September, focussing on Peas. Both were successful, with 18 persons attending. A few people who attended later joined the Wildflower Society.

In June, it was EHB's turn to host the WSWA State Conference, attended by delegates from many areas of WA. The first day was the AGM, held in the Octagonal Hall. The second was organised by EHB, to showcase how WSWA members spread their knowledge of wildflowers to the wider community through craft and landcare. Thank you to the presenters, especially Sandy Stone and Kathy Wood, who led the landcare site visits. Thank you also to the many members who helped in so many ways – cleaning, ordering, feeding, ticketing etc! – to make the days run smoothly. Our visitors were all very complimentary.

A new projection system has been installed in the Octagonal Hall, with a large, wall-mounted screen directly connected to a computer. This has provided much clearer images for presentations. Thanks to Peter Day who organised most of this. We tested it out with a 'Zoom' talk given by a person from Sydney. It went well, and we may arrange more such events.

The 'nature table', where examples of native plants flowering at that time are exhibited, has continued during the year and invariably initiates much discussion. Thanks to all the members who bring specimens, often sourced from their gardens.

The idea of occasionally having a quiz to start off the meetings continued, as members had indicated that they liked the idea – and learnt a few things as well, often the presenter does too!

The meetings conclude with a supper, when members can talk informally among themselves or with the speaker. Thanks to the many people who brought edibles, and especially to Mal Myers who did most of the organising.

When the meeting opens, someone is always at reception to make sure everyone signs in, an insurance requirement. Many thanks to everyone who has done this. Thanks also to the donors of prizes, Jan Pittman with beautiful plant-themed greetings cards, and Zanthorrea Nursery for purchase credits. Also thanks to Cathy Day, for the lovely mugs that are given to visiting speakers.

A huge job was continued during this year – to do a stocktake of the library, bring the records up to date and include the new volumes generously donated by the families of deceased members. It is now a very comprehensive botanical library, containing many out-of-print books, and well worth consulting. Soon, the list will be able to be consulted electronically, making it much easier for people to access the list and so borrow books. Many thanks to Librarian Mal Myers and her several helpers.

The much-needed repair to the Heritage Wall abutting the street has not been done. Apparently, it is very difficult for the Shire of Mundaring to find an appropriate contractor. However, barriers have been erected to separate it from walkers on the footpath. The problem of possums in the roof is still on-going. An inspection by Peter Day and Robert Atkins revealed that the galvanised iron roof has rusted through in places and so rain is contributing to the ceiling problem. The Shire is conducting its own inspections.

The Hall has to be kept clean by relying on users to tidy up behind themselves wherever the hall is used. This arrangement seems to be working satisfactorily. Joy Collins does a great job ensuring that the hall supplies are kept up to date. This year, we found that the septic system was almost blocked by roots, and a plumber had to be called to fix it. The garden is kept neat and safe (fire regulations) by a small group of dedicated persons. Thank you to Pam Riordan and the Garden Committee for their excellent work.

Ten Newsletters have been produced, listing the current and forthcoming month's events; reports of past events and relevant news items. Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, especially to Robin Rudeforth for her 'Plant of the Month' and to Janet Atkins for taking on the job of Editor during the editor's absence. Pam Riordan has organised the email distribution.

This has been a pleasant year as President, made possible by the support of a hard-working Committee. I must especially thank the Treasurer, Peter Day, and the Secretary, Janet Atkins, both of whom have coped with mountains of electronic data to ensure that everything runs smoothly. An organisation such as this could not operate without having a core of volunteers pitching in whenever something needs to be done. Thank you to everyone. Together, we make the Wildflower Society of Western Australia the friendly, informative and entertaining organisation that it is. Long may it continue! Our wildflowers, and the natural areas they grow in, still need friends!

BMJ (Penny) Hussey AM
President
November 2023