



# NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## 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 2024

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

### Thursday 1st February Committee Meeting

3.00pm Octagonal Hall  
(The temperature was 44°C on the day – we would have air-fried in the Hall! Went to Boya Library instead! Much cooler!)

### Seed Cleaning

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February  
9.00am Octagonal Hall

### Propagation Group Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Check – if it is VERY HOT, may be cancelled. (See also notes on p.2)

### Evening Meeting

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Greg Keighery

**“The Importance of Botanist Robert Brown”**

7.30 pm Octagonal Hall

The nineteenth century botanist was talked about on a number of occasions during 2023. Greg Keighery will tell us about his life and why he has had such a lasting influence on Australian botany. Greg is an excellent speaker – you'll enjoy this (and won't get caught out in a quiz again!)

The start the year off, there will be a quiz. And don't forget the nature table, if you have anything flowering at this time!

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## COMING EVENTS: MAR

### Thursday 7th March Committee Meeting

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

### Seed Cleaning

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March  
9.00am Octagonal Hall

### Propagation Group

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March  
12 noon Octagonal Hall  
Bring lunch.

### Evening Meeting

Friday 22nd March

Steve Hopper

**“The genus *Haemodorum*”**

Prof. Steve Hopper needs no introduction to members of the Wildflower Society, having been a leading botanical researcher for many years. As a post-graduate student, he worked on the family Haemodoraceae while studying Kangaroo Paws. (Have you read his super little book “*Kangaroo Paws and Catspaws*” that was published in 1993? If not, it’s in the library!)

Recently he has been studying the type genus for the family, *Haemodorum*, the Bloodroots. They are those spindly things that produce black flowers in early summer. Distribution, pollination, aboriginal uses - be prepared to be amazed!



*Haemodorum laxum*

As Steve now lives in Albany, this will be a ‘Zoom’ meeting, but you will be able to ask questions directly.

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## PLANT SALE

This year the Plant Sale will be on  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

Setting up day will be on  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

Please put these dates in your diary.

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## IOUS

We currently have quite a few IOU notes sitting in the hall for prop or seed purchases. We know that a lot of us no longer carry much cash but can you please make a point of replacing any IOU’s you have left in the hall with cash. Thanks for your cooperation; we want to continue to operate on this honour system.

*Pam Riordan*

## Members of the Propagation Group -

**The tin is full of IOUs.**

**Please pay what  
you owe!**

**ASAP!**

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## GARDEN GNOMES

Our gardening group meets once a fortnight, usually on Monday mornings, to look after the hall garden. This means, raking leaves, weeding, pruning, watering and planting. This year it will be a little more interesting as we need to rehabilitate the area that was destroyed by the tree and fence coming down out the back. We usually work for about 2 hours before adjourning for the essential café coffee. Please contact Pam on [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com) or 93782523/0408909897 if you think this is for you.

*Pam Riordan*

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## SPECIES PLANTED IN THE OCTAGONAL HALL GARDEN

The EHB Committee has decided as a principle that:

"From henceforth, only WA plants will be grown in the Octagonal Hall garden. Eastern Australian species will not be planted. It was agreed that this is a great opportunity to showcase our beautiful flora in a garden display."

The Seed Bank group have already adopted this principle.

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## WANTED: SOCIAL MEDIA GURU

We are looking for someone to increase our branch's presence on social media. To advertise our events, post photos of activities and generally promote us.

You don't need to be a botanist, we can supply lots of photos. We would like you to review our settings and connections with other groups on facebook. Basically we want someone who KNOWS how to get the most out of facebook and for that matter other digital media sources. Contact Pam on [pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com) or phone 93782523/0408909897

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## CLEANER WANTED

**Do you know anyone who might want a casual cleaning job?** About 2 hours a fortnight to clean the Octagonal Hall. Perhaps a student? Hours can suit the person.

[pamela.riordan@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.riordan@gmail.com)

or ph 93782523 / 0408 909 897

## IN THE LIBRARY

We all need to be conscious of our water use and we have a number of books in our library which might teach you a few new tricks!

"*Good gardens, less water*" K A Handreck

"*Plan your garden to conserve water*"

"*The water efficient garden*" Archer et al

"*Correas for waterwise gardens*" M Hitchcock

" *Water conservation*"

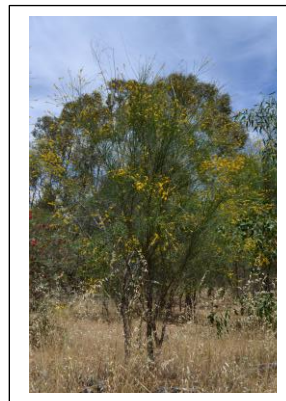
Happy reading!

Mal Myers

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Viminaria juncea*



Swishbush

This fast-growing shrub or small tree can get to 5m high. The branches are slender and hang down, giving a weeping effect. The leaves are mostly reduced to slender phyllodes, but on seedlings and juvenile leaves there may be one to three leaflets.

Yellow flowers are produced all along the slender branchlets, giving it another common name of Golden Spray. They create an attractive display between October and December. They sway easily in the wind.

This plant can be found across the South West from Kalbarri to Revensthorpe, in winter-wet locations, such as stream-banks, around lakes and depressions and on the run-off side of granite outcrops. It is a disturbance opportunist, growing quickly after a fire or flood, but may be relatively short-lived.

Propagation is by seed.

*Robyn Rudeforth*

'five small crescent-shaped shields' – twice. The shields concerned are the tiny calyx lobes – not the eye-catching five-pointed leaf at all!

This plant is common but often overlooked as it is not spectacular! Look out for it, the next time you are walking in the Jarrah forest.

*Penny Hussey*

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## Flowering in Summer

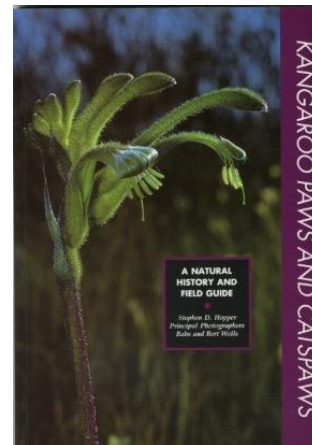
*Pentapeltis peltigera*



*Photo: Lynda Tomlinson*

This is one of my favourite Jarrah forest plants. It forms a low clump on lateritic soil, and is easily distinguished by its distinctive leaves. The flowers come out in early summer, and are small and often hidden under the leaves.

But I *really* like it because of its wonderfully euphonic name – *Pentapeltis peltigera*. Doesn't it just roll off the tongue! It means



This is what Steve Hopper's Roopaw book looks like. It may be out of print, but it is still a fascinating account. Not just ID and descriptions, but lots of other information – cultural, decorative, scientific – really interesting reading.

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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.

