

NEWSLETTER

May 2024



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
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: MAY

**Thursday 2nd May
Committee Meeting**
3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning
Wednesday 1st, 15th and 29th May
9.00am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group
Monday 20th May
12 noon Octagonal Hall
Bring lunch.

PLANT SALE
Saturday 11th May
(set-up Friday 10th May)
See further details later in this Newsletter.

Evening Meeting
Friday 24th May
Alex George
"Changes that have occurred in the
Perth Flora during the last 50 years"

A depressing thing...

Over the last year the Librarian, Mal Myers, has taken a stocktake of the library and catalogued all our books. Thanks to judicious purchases and gifts from generous members, it is a fine collection, including some which are rare.

One such book, catalogued and put on the shelves in January, is now missing. I am deeply saddened and depressed to know that someone who uses our Hall could do this. If you just forgot to sign it out, just return it. Please. Surely Wildflower Society members are all more honest than this?

Penny Hussey

Alex George has been observing and documenting plants – probably since he first started toddling around! He has put together a fascinating record of the changes he has seen, as the suburbs creep outwards, weeds gain a stranglehold and the water availability changes- to say nothing of climate change

Should we weep for what we have lost, or celebrate what we have saved?

Don't forget to contribute to the Nature Table! And wear your thinking cap for the quiz!

COMING EVENTS: June

Thursday 6th June

Committee Meeting

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning

Wednesday 12th and 26th June

9.00am Octagonal Hall

Propagation Group

Monday 17th June

12 noon Octagonal Hall

Bring lunch.

Evening Meeting

Friday 28th June

Emily Green

“Plants in indigenous art – including rock art – in the Kimberley”

7.30 pm Octagonal Hall

Emily Green is a PhD student in the Dept of Archaeology at UWA. She is studying ethnobotany. This discipline relates people and place to plant use. This is a topic that has been little studied, and promises to be absolutely fascinating. There should be some super photographs of country too. There will be more details of the content in next month's Newsletter.

Don't miss this one!

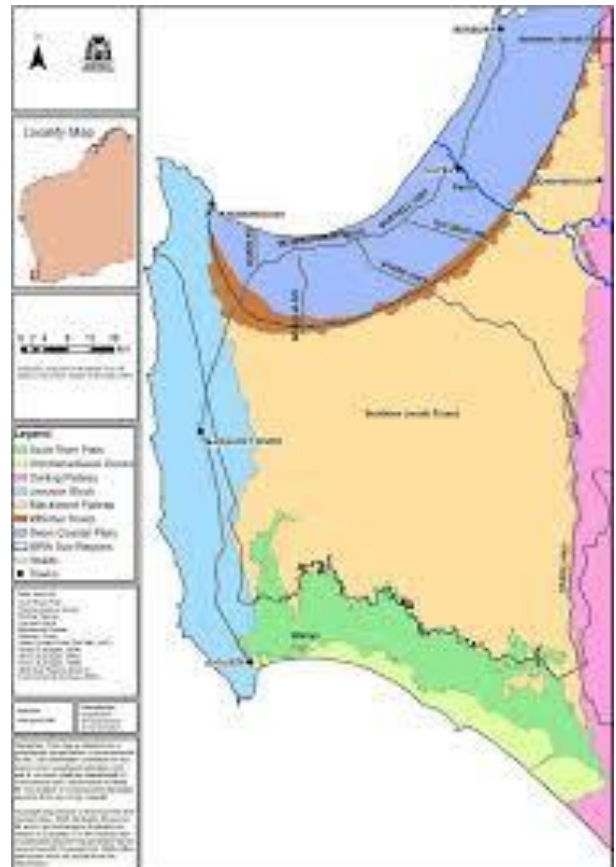
Don't forget to bring interesting flora to the nature table.

REPORTS

Evening Meeting Friday 26th April
“Bushland and bushland plants of the
Whicher Scarp”
Bronwyn Keighery

Bronwyn started by giving some historical background to plant collecting in the area and how the Wildflower Society got involved through the Plant Survey

Programme in 1988. This started as a survey of the Swan Coastal Plain which is bounded north-south by the Darling Scarp, but as it swings around westward below Bunbury, it is backed by the Whicher Range. This, as she showed us, has a distinctive floral assemblage,



Geology of the South-west – the brown part is the Whicher Range. From an EPA report.

For those not familiar with the survey method, Bronwyn explained how it sets out 10x10m quadrats, collects and presses every single species of plant found within them (5 to 105!) then analyses and compares the floral assemblage to determine 'ecological communities' that can be used by planners and managers to determine land use. Some may be rare, and can be declared under State and Commonwealth legislation to be 'Threatened Ecological Communities' and so receive protection against disturbance.

In 2004/5, the survey programme studied the Whicher Scarp in detail. 70 transects,

with their associated quadrats were studied. The EPA published the results.

Bronwyn then showed us some of the unusual flora found here. Many are species new to science, such as the Flannel Flower, *Actinotus whicherensis*, whose nearest relative within that genus is in Sydney – now how did that distribution come about! There is also the striking red *Grevillea bronwynii* – guess who it is named for! Along with many others, they show that this is a unique area, and should be conserved.

It is very useful for authorities to have this data when assessing planning proposals that incur the removal of native vegetation. Mining, for example. Being a marine scarp, the lower face of the Scarp has beach deposits, which in this region contain ilmenite, important to make titanium. Mining leases have been pegged over most of the area. Permission to go ahead and mine – or not - can be based on good scientific data.

This talk gave us an insight into a little-known area of WA, but even more importantly, it showed what 'citizen science' can achieve. Thank you Bronwyn.

The quiz provided few challenges to most contestants, with the winning group getting 17 out of 20 answers correct. Well done folks!

Penny Hussey

PLANT SALE

Turn up to help on Friday and Saturday from 8.00am

The catalogue is now available on line:

https://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ehb_2024-sale-cat.pdf

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Myriophyllum crispatum
Water milfoil



Pic from the internet

This is an aquatic plant with finely divided submerged leaves up to 4cm long. The emergent leaves are narrow and toothed. The tiny white flowers grow along the emergent stems in early summer.

It is propagated by cuttings. This is a very frog-friendly plant. It helps to oxygenate the water to prevent stagnation.

It is distributed throughout Australia. There are many different species found in WA and one bad weed, *M. aquaticum*, so make sure you are not being sold that one.

Kangaroos graze on emergent stems in extremely dry conditions, but it grows back quickly.

In the library there are several good books on creating a pond environment in the garden. Some will be on display at the next meeting.

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.