

NEWSLETTER

June 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/>

You will be pleased to know that the missing book has turned up on the shelves.

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 in relationship to Aboriginal rock art and promises to be absolutely fascinating. There should be some super photographs of country too.

Don't miss this one!

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

You might also be interested in: -

“How to attract more birds to your garden”
Friday 14th June.
11am to 12.30pm. Kalamunda Library.
Presenter Rachel Green.
Phone for more info: 9257 9975

COMING EVENTS: July

**Thursday 4th July
Committee Meeting**
3.00pm Octagonal Hall

Seed Cleaning

Wednesday 10th and 24th July

9.00am Octagonal Hall

May be cancelled. Check first.

Propagation Group

Monday 15th July

12 noon Octagonal Hall

Bring lunch.

May be cancelled. Check first.

Evening Meeting

Friday 26th July

“Fire and Biodiversity”

Pierre Horwitz

Dr Pierre Horwitz is Professor of Environmental Sciences at Edith Cowan University and is currently Co-director of that University’s Centre for People, Place and the Planet.

His area of research has always been connected with wetlands and the organisms which depend on them (he did his PhD on freshwater crayfish) but soon realised that you cannot study animals without investigating the conditions under which they live, including the management of the surrounding land. As part of this, he has become very interested in the peat swamps in the wetter South-west.

He will tell us about how these and other communities react to fires in the surrounding forests. What changes does fire make to the ecology of those swamps, and therefore to the long-term survival of their unique flora and fauna?

Octagonal Hall. It had been decided that, because of the centrally placed leach drain which didn’t allow much soil depth as it was covered in concrete slabs, this area would become a log feature. Soil improver, compost, water and hydrophobic treatment were all added to the good soil and dug in.

Then came the long wait for rain! Meanwhile plants were purchased from the Bush Regeneration Nursery and Mahogany Creek Plants (courtesy the Kalamunda Spring Garden Festival). The plants all had to be WA natives which necessitated a fair bit of research for each one!

By the 20th May, we had given up waiting for rain and planted the Mahogany Creek natives. A watering roster was finalised. On the 3rd June the Bush Regeneration plants were planted – and rain was forecast. However, they were watered twice by the team – which then led to a downpour which all the plantings seem to have survived!

As a gardener it pays to be patient and an optimist – and to do one’s research re the distribution of the species beforehand!

Sarah Dudley

Evening Meeting Friday 24th May

“Perth Bushland over 80 years”

Alex George”

Alex took us on a rambling trip down memory lane showing places that he explored as a child, then beautiful bushland, now suburbs. The tour followed the coastline, up the Swan and Canning rivers, then up Crystal Brook through the Scarp to the edge of the Hills.

He also talked about the locations where plants were collected by people such as Ludwig Preiss (1880s) and Emily Pelloe (1920s) who made detailed records of where their specimens came from. (James Drummond, the early Government

REPORTS

EHB Gardening Group

For a gardener, soil improvement is a priority, so in mid-April, despite the dry conditions, the team set about their priority task prior to planting at the back of the

Botanist, was much less careful with his records – his plants mostly just came from ‘Swan River’.)

Since those early records there have been many changes to the landscape – roads, drainage, agriculture, industry, housing, weeds – all have removed the native plant communities, and made it impossible for them to be re-established. Yet a few remnants still remain, often with ‘Friends Groups’ zealously looking after them.

The talk was wide-ranging, interesting and often amusing, and had many of us reminiscing about the changes we had seen. It generated much discussion afterwards, as did Alex’s three most recent publications, which had brought for sale.

The Quiz was won by a group that got the excellent score of 12.5 out of 15 (but they did have Alex on their team!!).

Penny Hussey



(pic from the Internet)

The flowers are usually white but may have a pinkish tinge and those in the population in Morangup Nature Reserve are wholly pink. They are conspicuous and sweetly scented.

The plants grow in white sand, loam, clay and lateritic gravel in heath and shrubland. They prefer sunny spots.

Propagation is from seed.

A good place to find this locally is in Morangup and Wongamine Nature Reserves.

Robyn Rudeforth.

PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale was very successful this year. Of some 5,000 pots offered for sale, 89% were sold. This is a very good result and demonstrates how much local species are in demand. Mind you, there was still a stampede for the Grevilleas, which disappeared in the first 10 minutes! A full report will be provided next month.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hakea gilbertii
Gilbert’s Hakea

This is a very dense shrub to 1.5m high and wide. The needle-shaped leaves have sharp points and are usually grey-blue in colour.

A quiz question: - !

Q. Where did Noah keep his bees?

A. In an archive.

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.