



# NEWSLETTER

August 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

---

## Committee 2024

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

---

## COMING EVENTS: Aug

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August – note date  
Committee Meeting**

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August  
Special Committee Meeting to  
consider Branch finances**

2.30pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed cleaning  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August**

9.00am Octagonal Hall

May be cancelled. Check first.

## Propagation Group

In recess. Restarts in September

**Evening meeting  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
Thilo Krueger**

“The *Drosera microphylla* complex”

Thilo Krueger is a German PhD student at Curtin University researching carnivorous plants. He is particularly interested in their ecology, taxonomy and conservation, primarily studying them by field research throughout WA. Currently, he is researching plant-animal interactions such as prey and pollinators, describing new species, and preparing assessments of the conservation status of potentially threatened species.

The *Drosera microphylla* complex is a group of closely related carnivorous plants from south-west WA that produce a stunning diversity of different flower colours. This presentation will provide an overview of the recent discoveries enabled by crucial contributions from citizen scientists and social media.

This taxonomic revision has established nine distinct species, three times the number previously recognised. Two of these new species were re-discovered on Facebook almost 170 years after they were collected by Western Australia's first resident botanist James Drummond.

All nine species of the complex will be introduced with numerous pictures and information about their taxonomic history,

potential threats, and how to find and identify them.

## Seed planting afternoon

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August (1-4pm)**

**Octagonal Hall**

Have you always wanted to grow your own WA plants and never quite got started? Here's your chance to get some help and inspiration from some of our seasoned Plant Sale growers.

**Bring:** (if you can) small pots, cell packs and plant trays.

**Supplied:** some seed, seed raising mix, some recycled pots and trays from our recycle bin.

**Available for purchase:** (at cost) new trays, pots etc and extra seed from our Seed Bank.

This event is at no cost to Wildflower Society members. Non-members are welcome but there will be a charge of \$10.00 each. There is a limit of 20 people and please register if you wish to attend.

---

## COMING EVENTS: Sept

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

**Committee Meeting**

3pm Octagonal Hall

**Seed Cleaning**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September**

9.00am Octagonal Hall

May be cancelled. Check first.

**Propagation Group**

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

12 noon Octagonal Hall.

Bring lunch

**Evening Meeting**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

**A speaker from the Julimar Conservation and Forestry Alliance**

Details tba.

## Wildflower Ramble

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 10.00 – 12 noon.**

**Talbot Road Reserve Swan View.**

**Leader: Leslie Brooker**

Meet: north-west corner of reserve, gravel pull-off from Stratton Boulevard.

---

**Sunday OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> 9am - 5pm**

**Excursion: if you would like a spot in a car pool let us know.**

**Exploring OLD PLAINS ROAD** (Victoria Plains and Toodyay Shires)

Details next month.

*If you are interested, please register via the EHB's email.*

---

## VALE Our dear friend Marilyn Myers



Our dear friend Marilyn Myers passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July at the age of 89. She had an aggressive form of Lymphoma. Mal was a very private and independent

person, who didn't like to bother others, so kept her health problems to herself. It has been a shock to all of us.

Mal was an active member of the Eastern Hills Branch almost since its inception in the late 1970s. She has been on the committee many times, including at the present time and was known for her careful, practical consideration of all matters put forward.

Mal was a very active member of the Seed Cleaning group and has helped with the plant sale probably since it started, both with the set-up and selling plants. Some years ago, she started and ran the Casserole Night which was very popular with many of us. In recent years, Mal was responsible for the supper table and for years welcomed members and visitors at the door. She recently took on the huge job of doing an audit of the library.

Mal was a very keen participant on our bush rambles and trips out into the countryside when possible.

Mal was very conscious of all that the Society had given her, particularly friendships and felt that she should continue helping where possible, especially when we didn't have many members available to assist on the Committee and other groups. She did it all with a cheerful attitude and good grace.

We will miss your calm good sense and positive, cheerful nature, Mal.

*June Barkman*

### **Memorial for Marilyn Myers**

A memorial to celebrate the life of long time Wildflower Society member Marilyn Myers will be held at 10.30am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September in the Octagonal Hall, 52 McGlew Rd, Glen Forrest.

After moving to Australia from England in the 1960s, Marilyn was captivated by the astonishing wildflowers and animals of her new home, becoming a keen promoter of planting local native species in gardens and creating habitat for native birds and animals. She enjoyed

studying and learning about native plants through her long association with the Wildflower Society, always keen to share her knowledge with others and to help the Society's efforts to promote the study and enjoyment of local wildflowers.

Her family felt that it was only fitting to celebrate her life in the hall where she spent so much of her time, and with the people who meant so much to her during her life. Marilyn's family would like to invite those who knew her to join them to celebrate her life and mourn her passing. The celebration will include a tribute to her life, a ceremonial planting, refreshments, and a chance to meet and share stories with others. Everyone welcome.

*Helen Myers*

## **REPORTS**

### **Evening Meeting Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June Emeritus Prof. Pierre Horwitz "Peat wetlands, diversity and planned burns"**

Pierre Horwitz spoke about the wetlands of the western and southern edges of WA. He explained how and why they are so different – a small cool and moist part of the driest half of the driest continent. The wetlands he is interested in have soils with a very high organic content (contain carbon) made by decomposing plant matter. These soils (called peat) vary in thickness, from a few centimetres to more than a metre, and support distinct ecological communities. And *because they are organic, they burn*.

He explained how these sites changed over time as climates altered and sea levels rose and fell, while a multitude of factors influenced each site, meaning that no two are exactly alike. They are an important and irreplaceable part of our biodiversity.

He described how these wetlands are deteriorating, due primarily to changes in the land use around them, including

planned fires, with horrifying photos of soil loss of up to a metre after the peat has burned. It could take hundreds of years to replace – if at all.

The audience was left deeply disturbed by this biodiversity loss – and by how little we can do to prevent it.

*Penny Hussey*

---

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Leptospermopsis (Leptospermum) roei*

Wheatbelt Teatree

This is a large shrub to 2m high and 3m wide. The spring growth is silky-hairy, giving the leaves a silvery look. The flowers are produced in spring, from August to November, and can be white or pale pink.

It is widespread throughout the Wheatbelt, growing in sand or gravel and is often seen around granite outcrops. Propagation is by seed.

*Robyn Rudeforth.*

[Has anyone got a photo of this plant ? I couldn't find one, even on the Internet.  
Editor]

---

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.

