



# NEWSLETTER

September 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  
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: 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

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September**  
**Memorial for Mal Myers**  
10.00am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**  
12 noon Octagonal Hall. Bring lunch

## Evening Meeting

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

**“Julimar Forest – a magnificent place with an uncertain future”**

**Sharon Richards**

Julimar Forest is the northern part of the vegetation community dominated by Jarrah and reserved as State Forest. Sharon Richards is a member of the Julimar Conservation and Forestry Alliance, and she will be talking to us about the importance of this area and the land use proposals (especially mining) that threaten its long-term future. And I suspect that she will be working to convince us that it should be declared a National Park!

Will you agree?

## Wildflower Ramble

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September** 10.00 – 12 noon.  
**Talbot Road Reserve Swan View.**  
**Leader: Lesley Brooker**

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

Talbot Road Reserve is 57ha, with several different vegetation communities. 346 species of native flora have been recorded, as well as 47 different birds. How many will you find?

The walk will be on level tracks, at a rambling pace, stopping to look at things. Stout footwear recommended.

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## COMING EVENTS: Oct.

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Committee Meeting**

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

**Excursion “A drive along Old Plains Road, Victoria Plains and Toodyay Shires.” 9am to 5pm**

**Vehicle convoy, start by car-pooling at Octagonal Hall.** (It is suggested that passengers might like to contribute to the fuel costs.)

This drive will be some 350 km, and we will stop where we feel there is something interesting to see. The road follows the eastern boundary of Julimar Forest, is very wide in places and abuts numerous reserves. We will drive first through Toodyay, then north-east along Old Plains Road until it meets Great Northern Highway just south of New Norcia, then back to Perth through Bindoon.

If you wish to come, you must register via the EHB’s email, before the 1<sup>st</sup> of October.

**Seed cleaning**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October**

9.00am Octagonal Hall

**Propagation Group**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

12 noon, Octagonal Hall. Bring Lunch

**Evening meeting**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

**“Dogs detecting plants”**

**Megan Barnes**

Megan is the founding director of ‘Detection for Good’. She is a research scientist, threatened species ecologist and certified professional trainer and detection dog handler, now working on projects across WA and Australia.

She will tell us how the dogs are used, both here and overseas, as they can often find hidden or damaged plants that a visual survey would miss. They are most useful for population estimates, rapid surveys and real-time identification of rare plants. They can also assist in locating invasive species and pathogens.

This promises to be a most unusual and interesting talk.

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## REPORTS

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

**Thilo Krueger**

**“The *Drosera microphylla* complex”**

Thilo started by giving a brief description of the *Drosera* genus, just in case we weren’t familiar with them. He then went on to his main study.

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. They have a single, upright stem and deeply concave petals that are shorter than the sepals.

The first one recorded was in 1834 by Karl Mueller from King George’s Sound (Albany). It had white flowers and the lower leaves had fallen off. When it was rediscovered – many years later – it was found that the fallen leaves developed a root and so a new clump was formed. Amazing! This was called *D. microphylla*, and all similar plants found later were put in that species, until 2014 when it was decided to split it into 3 species. In 2023, Thilo’s work split it into nine species!

He then took us through each species individually, with superb photographs illustrating every tiny detail. But it hadn’t been easy to locate the places where early collectors found them, as the locations given were imprecise.

The white-flowered *D. monopetala* was an example. Collected by James Drummond in 1850 during a trip to the Dongara area, a specimen was sent to Europe that even survived the bombing of the Berlin Herbarium! But not seen in the wild until .....in 2020 someone put a photo on Facebook asking for the ID!!!!

That, really, was the theme of this fascinating talk. **Citizen Science really is important!** When you visit good bushland, if you come across a plant you don't know, take a photo and put it on the Wildflower Society's Facebook page or on iNaturalist ..... you could have found something that has been lost for 170 years!

*Penny Hussey*

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## Seed planting afternoon Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Absolutely foul weather drove us all inside the Octagonal Hall for this event. It was pretty cosy with 15 participants plus 5 Branch members leading the way. Lots of seed was planted so hopefully the reward will be in all the plants that go into the ground next planting season.

The first job was pot washing and bleaching. We had to venture onto the verandah for this. Sandy Stone did a great job demonstrating the preparation of seed raising mixes with pre-prepared ingredients. We got through a few barrows full over the afternoon. June Barkman manned the Seed Bank which had extra seed for sale in addition to that provided. Others all helped with advice and pre-treatments as people were sowing their seeds. Mitzi Whelack gave a final demonstration on how to 'prick out' young seedlings and pot them up in the expectation that everyone will have lots to do in a month or two.

Interest was high and as a result we are considering running a similar afternoon for cutting propagation when the weather is warmer (somewhere around end of November – early December). Details will be in the next newsletter.

*Janet Atkins*



Photo: Sandy Stone

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

*Sowerbaea laxiflora*  
Purple Tassels



*Sowerbaea laxiflora*  
Pic from Florabase

Photos: K.C. Richardson & K.R. Thiele


This is a tufted plant to 15cm high and wide. Bright purple flowers are clustered at the end of stalks held above the leaves. They are usually seen between August and October, but it can vary according to the season.

It is common in the Perth region on sand or clay in woodlands or watercourses. It can be found from Kalbarri to Denmark. Propagation is by seed.

*Robyn Rudeforth.*

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## Events at other Branches



### Colgar Scenic Drive Tour

with the Wildflower Society's Merredin Branch

Save the Date  
Sunday 22nd September 2024


Please book!  
Steve Pickersgill 0408 413 980

Join a tagalong tour (in your own vehicle or on a bus) to see some of Merredin's wonderful wildflowers.

At 1pm meet at the Herbarium (Wildflower Society Merredin Branch) near the Merredin Library in Coronation Street, for a short talk by Acting President Roy Butler. Then the convoy will set off on this varied and interesting drive. We will travel in total about 70km in an area south of Merredin. Approximately one-third of the route will be on good gravel roads.

The pace will be slow, with perhaps six stops along the way (including one for afternoon tea). You will see wonderful diverse native plants along the route, which includes Scott Road, Merredin's only designated Flora Road. Along Scott Road member Heather Adamson identified 176 different native plant species. With the good rainfall so far this year we will be assured a magnificent display!

To book, go to Facebook, Merredin Wildflower Society, or ring Stephen Pickersgill 0408 413 980 or Roy Butler 0478 640 155. For bus bookings, contact Audiene McCrae 0428 987 433.

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA 

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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.

