



# NEWSLETTER

October 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: Oct.

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

**Committee Meeting**

3.00pm Octagonal Hall

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

**Excursion CANCELLED**

**Seed cleaning**

**In recess**

**Propagation Group**

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

12 noon, Octagonal Hall, bring lunch

### Evening meeting

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**"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.

## COMING EVENTS: Nov.

**CUTTING PROPAGATION WORKSHOP**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 1-4pm**

**Free to Wildflower Society Members**

**\$10 for Non-Members**

**Please register via Eastern Hills Branch email. Limited to 20 participants**

- **Please Bring:** A pair of sharp secateurs (or even better grape snips), any clean 120-140 ml pots and any 2L clear plastic (with

screw tops) cool drink bottles that you might have. You also might like to bring along suitable plant material – best freshly picked in the early morning and in a bucket of water.

- **We will supply** Plant Material for cuttings, cutting mix, hormone gel, some pots and trays and hopefully some plastic cooldrink bottle covers. Cleaning and sterilising can also be done on site.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Committee Meeting**  
3pm Octagonal Hall

**GUILDFORD GARDEN FESTIVAL**  
**Sat and Sun November 9/10**

Guildford is hosting an inaugural Open Gardens weekend on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The event will include open gardens in Guildford, a day of talks by a few guest speakers including Sophie Thompson from the ABC's Gardening Australia. The ABC will be broadcasting from Stirling Square from 6-10am.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be a collection of garden-related stalls and talks and Eastern Hills is having a stall to promote gardening with WA natives. We are sharing the stall with the Guildford Verge Gardeners.

If you would like to assist in manning the stall, send us an email; otherwise, why not come down to the lowlands and see what it's all about?

**Seed Cleaning**  
**In recess**

**Propagation Group**  
**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November**  
12 noon Octagonal Hall. Bring lunch

**Evening Meeting**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
**AGM**  
All Committee positions will be declared vacant.

**“Trip along the Tanami Track”**  
**Penny Hussey**

The talk will show some of the landscapes you can see on a trip from Alice Springs to Kununurra.

**WANTED!**

**2 litre clear plastic drink containers**  
**with caps.**

Can be left at the Hall or contact via email to make arrangements.

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**REPORTS**

**Evening meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> September**  
**“Julimar Forest”**

Sharon Richards of the Julimar Conservation Alliance introduced us to the Julimar State Forest, its wealth of biodiversity and the current threats posed to it by mining.

Julimar is the northernmost section of the Jarrah Forest vegetation complex, but somehow it seems to have fallen through the cracks and has not received detailed management. Many years ago, it was agreed to designate it a 'Conservation Area' but this has not been enacted.

ALCOA has mining leases for bauxite which cover most of the area, but it is a proposed new mining venture which is causing concern. Looking for minerals in ancient granites, if it goes ahead, it will start with an open pit, and then go down 600 metres to the orebody. An additional management problem is posed by unregulated 4WDers who are destroying the tracks as they 'challenge their vehicle'.

Sharon urged us to do what we could to oppose this proposal and to support the change of purpose to 'National Park'. She also offered to lead an excursion for us next year.

Earlier in the meeting, a new booklet "Prescribed Burning Fact Sheets" was tabled, with copies for members to take home. It has been produced in August by the South-West Forests Defence Foundation and is free. It is an excellent booklet, very easy to read, recommended for everyone who is concerned about the natural environment.

There was also a quiz, won by a team who got 14.5 points out of 20! Very well done, folks!



In typical country fashion we had an afternoon tea stop... and what an afternoon tea! All the home-made cakes and biscuits along with tea and coffee. You just had to compete with the flies! That stop was near Tandegin Rock, a granite outcrop which provided a field of everlastings and some vanilla orchids.

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### Visit to Merredin Branch

We were a group of 8 from Eastern Hills that headed off to Merredin on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The Merredin branch was offering a bus tour of the Collgar Scenic drive which was approximately 70km in length and included Scott Rd, a designated flora road.

We were not the only ones -the bus was full and there were 19 tagalong cars! A mix of locals, WFS members and others who had heard about it. Robin Campbell was our enthusiastic leader, and Heather Adamson who had surveyed Scott Rd in 2022, was along to help with identification. We made many stops and everyone tumbled out of the vehicles to see what they could find.

*Hakea franciseanna* Burracoppin Mallee, *Grevillea excelsior*, *Grevillea paniculata*, the fabulous red and black toothbrush grevilleas, *Dampiera*; but what impressed me most was a *Xanthorrhoea nana* - a ground hugging grass tree, but with huge with huge flowering spikes!



Robin organised dinner at the Commercial Hotel and the next morning took us on a tour of Totadgin Rock, one of the many granite outcrops in area. Of course, it is always great to see the salmon gums against the wide blue sky. And some lovely *Eucalyptus erythronema* in flower. Our car load then made our way home, with the inevitable call at the Bakers' Hill pie shop.

Pam Riordan



Part of the group at Totadgin Rock. The guide, Robin Campbell, is in the centre. There are two other locals, the rest are EHB. Can you recognise them?  
*Photo: Roger Stone*

### **Ramble in Talbot Road Reserve**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September, Lesley Brooker led a ramble through the north-west corner of Talbot Road Reserve. She provided a typed list of 37 species likely to be seen in flower, so that participants could tick them off – and make sure they had to correct spelling for labelling their photographs!

It was a nice sunny morning as the 21 participants meandered gently along a flat sandy path among scrub with scattered trees. Participants came from right across the Perth region – including the coast – and were soon marvelling at the delicate shapes and colour that were to be found, including some that were not on the list!



Of course this is a roo paw, but how about the colour? There are quite a few unusual colour variations in this reserve.

The excursion was a great success. Did we take 1.5 hours to walk 1.5km? – yes, we did! Did we see over 50 different flowers? – yes, we did! Did we make new friends? – yes, we did! Thank you, Lesley, for a superb trip!

*Penny Hussey*

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## **PLANT OF THE MONTH**

*Labichea punctata*



This is a small shrub to 1m tall and 0.5m wide. As the name suggests, the leaves and seed pods have a sharp point. It produces bright yellow flowers between August and October.

It likes lateritic soil under a tree canopy, eg Jarrah. It is found across the area from Jurien to Greenbushes. It is currently in flower in Kintore Road Reserve, Parkerville.

Propagation is by seed.

*Robyn Rudeforth.*

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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

