



Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - July 2016

Next Meeting :- July 26

7-30pm, Henderson Environmental Centre, Groat St. North Beach

Jan Pittman

“Being a Botanical Artist”

Coming Events :-

- 23 August Prof Will Stock “Banksia Woodland as Food Resource for Black Cockatoos”
- 27 September Anne Cochran “Threatened Flora Seed Centre”
- 25 October Jolande Keeble “Flora of Hi Vallee Farm”
- 22 November AGM & Brian Moyle “Flora of the Gibson Desert”

There are still a few places left for the **Propagation Workshop** on 6/7 August, so contact Christine Curry at randccurry@gmail.com if you are intending to come along. Also, if any members can spare a bit of time to help out in a general way at the workshop - setting up for meals, getting organised for the next session, etc etc, please contact Christine (ph: 0430 013 364) with the day and time you are able to come along. And finally, **Bob Dixon**, recently retired plant and propagation expert at Kings Park, will be the **Guest Speaker at 7pm on the Saturday night**. All members are invited to come along to hear Bob share his experience and stories of propagation. For those who don't know, the venue is the Landsdale Farm School and you will need to enter from the side gate in Landsdale Rd, Darch.

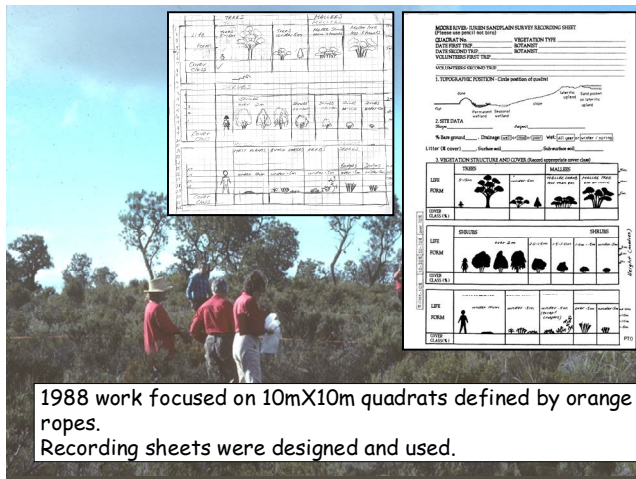
Last Meeting's Guest Speaker

Bronwen Keighery—“History of WSWA Bushland Plant Surveys”

At our June Meeting, Bronwen gave us a history of the Bushland Plant Survey Project. The first “Citizen Science” survey was carried out in Red Hill Bushland in Stratton in 1988. The site was revisited in 2008 for the 20th anniversary celebration. The survey Project allows members of the Society, local residents and land owners in the districts to get to know their local flora, as well as giving practical experience in flora surveys. Processes and recording methods set up over the first few



Red Hill bushland, the first location in 1988, and the 2008 20th Anniversary celebration.

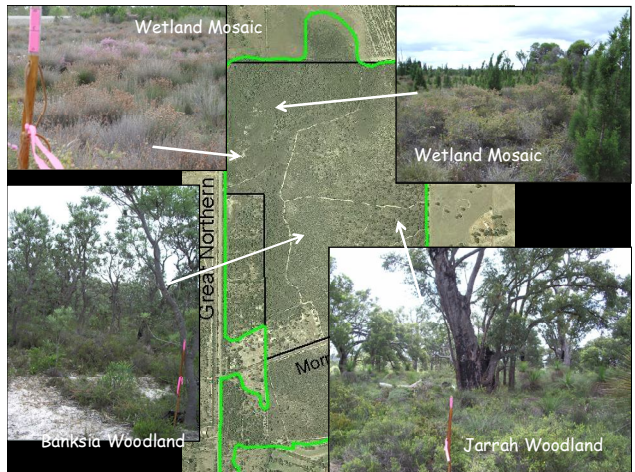


1988 work focused on 10mX10m quadrats defined by orange ropes. Recording sheets were designed and used.

surveys were refined over time, and have become the standard for flora survey work.

The original coastal plain surveys were all carried out using 10 x 10 quadrats, set up with the use of pegs and pre-tied orange rope. Quadrats were, and still are, set up in representative areas of each different plant community in the area of Bushland, ie Wetland, Banksia woodland, Jarrah Woodland etc. Three recording sheets are

used for each quadrat; a location/landform sheet, a vegetation appearance and condition sheet and a species presence sheet. Specimens of each species are collected for identification and also to produce a herbarium for the site. Volunteers spend most Wednesdays at the State Herbarium identifying specimens from the various flora surveys. Specimens are collected and recorded starting at the tree level and working down to herbs and ephemerals, with each specimen being tagged and numbered.



Swan Coastal Plain Regional Datasets

A diversity of

- Landforms - 1000's upland and wetland habitats
- Native plants - > 2000 (= or > Tasmania)
- Rare communities - > 20
- Rare plants - > 200 (> 40 DRF)

Central Dunes

Eastern Plain

Scarps

Rare plant

Coastal Dunes

A Floristic Survey of the southern Swan Coastal Plain

A regular band of Wildflower Society volunteers take part in each year's surveys, as well as volunteer coordinators and botanists who run each expedition. The botanists also write the reports and present the results of each survey.

These plant surveys have discovered new species, rare plants and communities, as well as extending the known range of existing species. Participants have, over the years greatly increased our knowledge of WA's flora, as well as enjoying the social



Survey participants.
On the way to Charles Darwin Reserve, a lunch break and dinner Charles Darwin Reserve.



Workshops on survey techniques around the southwest.

Keysbrook 1998

Bunbury 1998



Quairading

side of the project. Workshops are held every few years for members interested in volunteering for the surveys. The end result of each expedition is a report on the group's findings and a field herbarium, which for surveys on private land is handed to the owner. From the early 1990's the programme has been a CALM/DEC/DPaW Volunteer Project.



Presenting the results.
Different groups are interested in different results. Bottom right is a field herbarium.



Northern Suburbs

Free guided nature walks.

Each Month
Run approx 1 hour.
Start at 8am.

1st Saturday Landsdale Conservation Park.

Meet in Landsdale Rd approx 100 metres east of Evandale Rd, Darch.

Contact David 9448 9192

2nd Saturday Koondoola Regional Bushland.

Meet in Koondoola Ave Opposite Burbridge Ave.

Contact David 9448 9192

3rd Saturday Lake Gwelup Reserve.

Meet Scout Hall car park near tennis Courts, Huntriss Rd, Gwelup.

Contact Spider 9446 3658

4th Saturday Star Swamp Bushland

Meet at the Henderson Centre at the end of Groat St, North Beach.

Contact Christine 94472983

5th Saturday Trigg Bushland

Meet in the car park between St Mary's School and Millington Reserve (off Elliot rd) Karrinyup.

contact David 9448 9192

Evolution at the End of the World

- stories of plant resilience in the southwest Australian biodiversity hotspot

Tue, 26 Jul 2016 18:00 - Engineering Lecture Theatre 1, UWA

The **2016 George Seddon Memorial Lecture** by **Professor Kingsley Dixon**, Director, ARC Centre for Mine Restoration, Department of Environment and Agriculture, Curtin University.

Western Australia and the southwest in particular is blessed with one of the richest floras on earth - in fact we are more biodiverse than 98% of other regions of similar size. This remarkable diversity of plants has come about due to remarkable processes of age and stability unparalleled except in a few other regions on earth. This presentation will journey through what we have, how we got it and what we need to do to preserve this botanical extravagance for future generations.

Kingsley Dixon is a biologist and Professor at Curtin University and holds professorial positions at The University of Western Australia and Kings Park where he specialises in the conservation and restoration of plants and ecosystems in the southwest Australian biodiversity hotspot, coastal ecosystems and dryland regions of the world.

The annual George Seddon Lecture is sponsored by the Institute of Advanced Studies and UWA's Friends of the Grounds.

URL: <http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures/dixon>

For more information: Institute of Advanced Studies
ias@uwa.edu.au
6488 1340

This event can be viewed on the web at:

<http://events.uwa.edu.au/event/20160630T023955Z-790-25129@events.uwa.edu.au/whatson/events>

The Genus *Coopernookia* - Hazel Dempster

One of the most interesting programmes carried out at the WSWA Northern Suburbs Branch Nursery at Landsdale Farm School is the trialling of WA plant genera new to horticulture.

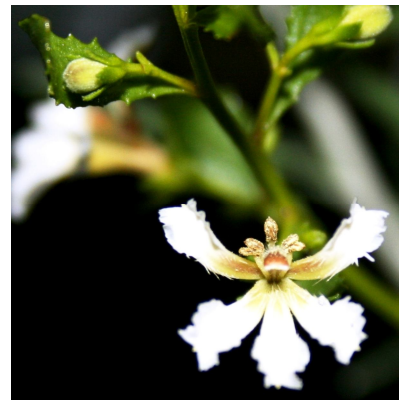
Coopernookia has always been a favourite of mine, not just because it is a member of the *Goodeniaceae* family, but because I see it has horticultural potential or is tempting to collectors to trial in their wildflower gardens.

There are three species of *Coopernookia* in WA, all found in the southern part of the state and all quite different in appearance. Further species can be found in other states.

Coopernookia polygalacea is a small rosemary like shrub to 50cm with terminal heads of mauve, or sometimes pink, fan flowers covering the stems from August to November. This shrubby herbaceous perennial has a strong central root system with suckers appearing from the subsurface roots to form new plants which form spreading colonies. These unusual plants are often seen growing along roadsides in the southern regions of WA. Usually flowers in spring and early summer. A form from around Lake Magenta is a more open taller plant than the western range and appears after fire.



Coopernookia strophiolata is a spreading shrub to 1m with dark green viscid foliage. Flowers are white fan flowers and appear over a long period during the year. Suckering comes from sub surface roots.



Coopernookia georgei is a threatened species, endemic to areas around the Fitzgerald National Park. It is a slender shrub to 1.5 m tall with larger bright green leaves and prominent mauve fan flowers through spring and summer.

Propagation

Mostly grown from cuttings of new seasonal tip growth or new shoots arising from base in autumn into winter. The suckers, which are produced from roots radiating out from central tap root, are used as cuttings. Leaf cuttings produced by pulling leaves carefully away from stem are also successful.

Cultivation

These unique species are not well known in cultivation, but worth the effort. Plants retain their shrubby appearance during the hotter months, will tolerate some shade and prefer well drained soils. Tip pruning after flowering will keep them bushy and compact. More garden trials need to be carried out to gauge their horticultural potential. All three species are available for sale at the nursery.

WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WA – NORTHERN SUBURBS BRANCH PROPAGATION WORKSHOP



SATURDAY 6 AUGUST – SUNDAY 7 AUGUST

At the **BRANCH NURSERY, LANDSDALE FARM SCHOOL**, cnr Evandale & Landsdale Rds, Darch

FRIDAY: Country and overnight visitors arrive at Farm School – dinner own arrangements

SATURDAY:

- 9.00am Welcome. Introduction – Nursery Procedures and Practices – David Pike
9.15am **“Growing from Seeds, Cuttings and Divisions”**
Three half-hour lectures
10.45am Morning tea break
11.15am Workshops : participants break into 3 groups and rotate through three half-hour hands-on workshops on seeds, cuttings and divisions.
12.45pm Lunch
1.30pm **Masterclasses on: ‘Colourful WA Herbs and Perennials’, Coppercups and Feather Flowers’, and ‘Emubush Eremophilas’**
Three 1 hour masterclasses with qualified expert horticulturalists and naturalists, including Hazel Dempster, Sally Page and David Pike.
3.00pm Afternoon tea break
3.30pm **Masterclasses continue**
5.30pm Sundowner and Barbecue dinner – followed by Guest Speaker

SUNDAY:

- 8.30am Walk in adjacent Landsdale Conservation Park focusing on cutting and seed collecting practices for propagation
10.30am Morning tea
10.45am Practical propagation sessions under tuition in Northern Suburbs branch
- 3.00pm nursery.
12.00pm Lunch
3.00pm Afternoon tea and close

COST:

WORKSHOP: \$35, includes lunches and ‘How to Propagate’ booklet.

SELF-CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE AT FARM SCHOOL:

\$30 per person per night, includes light breakfast. Bring own linen & blanket/sleeping bag and pillow

Registration and Information: Christine 0430 013 364 or Hazel 9443 3812 or email to Register to: randccurry@gmail.com

