



# ***Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Branch***

## **Newsletter - May 2017**

### **Next Meeting :- May 23**

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

Mike Lohr

“Emerging Weeds”

### **Coming Events :-**

- |         |               |   |
|---------|---------------|---|
| 27 June | Keith Oliver  | “Kangaroo Paws”                         |
| 25 July | Dr Phil Tucak | “Aust Wildlife Conservancy in WA”       |
| 22 Aug  | Digby Grown   | “Chamelaucium Breeding”                 |
| 26 Sept | Kate Brown    | “Restoring Greater Brixton St Wetlands” |

### **Last Meeting's Guest Speaker**

Members' Photo Night

“Where Have You Been?”

A small group came along to the April meeting, on Anzac Day, to share in a night of members' photos. Five members came with a contribution – around the theme of “Where Have You Been?”, leading to an interesting and varied night's entertainment.

Christine Curry showed a few photos from her trip to the Helena & Aurora Ranges, south-east of Southern Cross. This is the last intact Banded Ironstone Formation left in WA and is under threat from a mining lease. 379 flora species have been recorded in the Ranges, including 5 endemics in the area most at risk from mining. In particular, 2 Declared Rare Flora – purple-flowered *Tetratheca aphylla* subsp *aphylla* and white-flowered *Leucopogon spectabilis* – are BIF





dependent. The surrounding scenery in this remote part of WA is quite spectacular and deserves to be preserved.

Cynthia and Tony Annels showed some stunning photos from trips in the South-West around Manjimup, Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, and around Sandstone in the Mid-West. Tony's photography was

impressive, as he and Cynthia talked about their trips and showed spectacular photos of species such as Royal Hakea (*Hakea Victoria*), which they found near Albany rather than the usual Fitzgerald National Park, a dryandra (banksia) near Hopetoun with spectacular deep pink



flowers, and a very prostrate *Hakea prostrata* growing in south coast beach sand and demonstrating well how it got its name. There were also a number of banksia species, taken between Ravensthorpe



and Hopetoun, including *Banksia lemanniani* (Lemann's Banksia), with its downward-growing flowers for honey possums, *Banksia praemorsa* (Cut-leaf Banksia), and the prostrate *Banksia repens* (Creeping Banksia). Equally interesting from the Sandplains region were beautiful photos of grevilleas, conospermum and the unusual *Banksia cuneata* with its heads of pink and green 'matchstick' flowers.

ers.



David Pike took us to limestone ridge country north of Yanchep, where there are complex plant communities and wonderful views. David showed some great photos and told us about the survey work the volunteers have spent time on. In particular, a plant originally identified by Greg Keighery years ago but not seen since,

*Haloragis sp Parrot Ridge*, was found 'accidentally' by David on a survey north of the National Park. The plant is a small open herb with pink and white flowers which has now grown to a height of 30cm from a cutting in the Yanchep National Park nursery.





This plant was originally found on one limestone ridge, where it dies off over summer. Although still rare, it has now been found to grow under bank-

sia trees at the bottom of the ridge where it is somewhat cooler and allows for flowering and seed setting. Unfortunately, the *Melaleuca systena*/*Melaleuca huegelii* threatened ecological community on the ridges is under threat from limestone mining leases.



And finally, Robyn Murphy showed us around the Eagle Nest Walk in the John Forrest National Park, with an

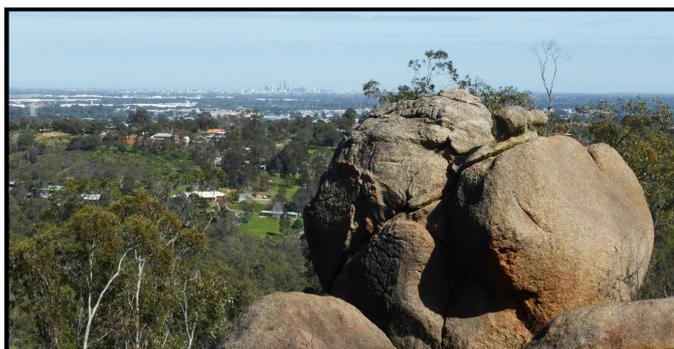
impressive number of flowering species including the pretty Dwarf Pink Fairy Orchids (*Caladenia reptans*), Coral Vine (*Kennedia coccinia*) trailing through



bushy shrubs, and always attractive hibbertia and grevillea species. Topped off by a fantastic view from the Walk Trail over Perth and the Swan Coastal

Plain.

- Christine Curry



**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 Christine 94472983

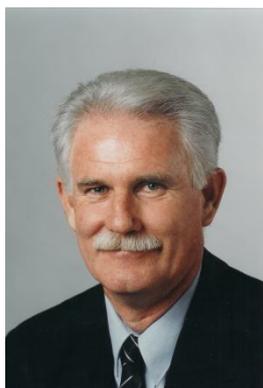
**4th Saturday Star Swamp Bushland**

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT – MAY 2017



If you did not manage to get along to the Plant Sale, you missed a great day. The Nursery volunteers did a marvellous job of ensuring we had a wide variety of premium quality stock for sale and we had one of the best sale days ever. The weather, despite the forecast, was mild and sunny with people coming from far and wide to join us on the day. Having a plant list available was a great asset to our sales and many buyers came with lists of exactly what they were looking for. The *Verticordia grandis* were a big hit and were sold out in no time.

In all, we sold plants to the value of \$5,300 which was a marvellous result with over 1300 plants finding a home in suburban gardens.

Last Saturday we joined the Eastern Hills Branch for their annual plant sale which was also a great success. Members of that branch grow their plants at home and the sale is an opportunity for them to come together and sell their plants. Our branch took along 1500 plants and brought back about 140. So another great result. We donate 30% of our takings to the Eastern Hills branch for the opportunity to participate in the sale and whilst we have yet to finalise the accounts, we could expect a return of around \$3500. Meanwhile, our weekly nursery sales have been very steady and our financial position is very sound.

All this is due to the dedicated work and expertise of our nursery volunteers who continue to be the mainstay of our branch. If you can help out and would like to get involved, you will be most welcome.

We now have a Leederville TAFE student, Nathan Pleasant, joining us at the nursery on Thursday for work experience and we have completed all the necessary documentation to get Nathan started. We are hoping to develop the work experience placement this year to attract more TAFE students next year. We are planning to speak with the Joondalup TAFE soon to see if we can get things moving for a second student from that campus this year.

Hazel has put forward the proposal to engage a botany student to work on plant taxonomy in areas where the nursery needs to have this done. Quite a few of our plants are unidentified or have been renamed, and our volunteers don't have the time to undertake this study. We are pursuing this avenue and if a suitable person can be located we will have this underway this year.

With our strong financial position we are looking for opportunities to further support our contribution to the understanding and appreciation of WA wildflowers and we are always looking for ideas from members on how this might be done. All suggestions are welcome, so let us know if there are areas where you think we could get involved.

We have brightened up the nursery with colourful banners and have promotional signage now to direct people to the nursery. Promoting the Nursery is going to be one of our tasks for the year ahead and we are proposing to place the focus on the electronic medium to get our message out. Shaun has been working on a webpage for the Nursery and when this is finished we are hopeful of raising the profile of the Society in the northern suburbs.

All our maintenance of the Nursery is now complete and the new benches will be arriving on Thursday.

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On Friday morning we had 45+ participants from the International Plant Propagators Society Conference visit the Nursery as part of the conference program and the feedback was very positive with comments on the expertise and knowledge available and the scope of our propagation activities. So come out and have a look at the work being done by the volunteers, you will be impressed.

The support of existing members is very important to the future of the Branch and I encourage you to see how you might be able to be involved. The position of president will need to be filled this year at the AGM as the position rotates every three years. This is important because it allows new leadership and ideas into the management of the Branch and Society. So please do see how you might contribute in whatever way you can.

Again a reminder that the Society AGM is coming up in June, hosted by Merredin Branch so make a note in your diary to come along.

Richard Curry  
President



It is that time of the year again! The first of the orchids are flowering in our bushlands. Bunny Orchids (*Eriochilus dilatatus*—above) and Hare Orchids are out in Landsdale Conservation Park. It is (hopefully) also time for the autumn rains to start bringing up the colourful fungi, many of which break down the accumulated leaf litter and feed it to our native plants,





**Western Australian Native Plants**  
for your gardens and planter pots  
available from the

# **Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Nursery**

at the **LANDSDALE FARM SCHOOL**



**Cnr. Evandale / Landsdale Roads,  
Darch**  
open every Saturday, 9am - 3pm  
and Thursday, 10am - 3pm

Choose from a huge range of local and other WA  
interesting colourful and unique species

Trigger plants    Calytrix    Hakea    Grevillea  
Thryptomene    Scholtzia    Thomasia  
Hypocalymma    Eremophila    Dampiera  
Hibbertia    Scaevola    Verticordia

Strappy Plants including Conostylis    Dianella  
Laxmania    Orthrosanthos and Sedges.

and many many more.

Come along for advice on how to  
set up your garden and grow  
plants for your minimal maintenance  
and froggy boggy gardens

