



# *Wildflower Society of WA*

## **Northern Suburbs Branch**

### Newsletter - March 2018

(Web Page : [ns.wsowa.org.au](http://ns.wsowa.org.au))

#### **Next Meeting :- March 27**

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

Judith Harvey

“The Priority Flora Survey”

Please note the change of advertised speaker, who is not now available. But we'll endeavour to arrange a Bush Tucker presentation for next year.

#### **Coming Events :-**

- 24 April - Kevin Coate—The Kingdom of Bhutan
- 28 April - Nursery Plant Sale—Landsdale Farm School
- 22 May - Rachel Standish—Predicting Ecological Impacts of Climate Change

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

Bob Dixon

“Self Sustaining Native Gardens”

Bob Dixon started our year in February with a very practical and inspiring talk on



self-sustaining native gardens – in particular his own garden which is a very interesting mix of flora and also very water-wise. Bob's opening tip was that native plants will only reproduce themselves when conditions are right. They need pollinators such as insects, birds, native and honey bees, and seedling recruitment depends on factors such as enough light, space and moisture to encourage germination. Although Bob does provide minimal extra water.



Given the right conditions, many seedlings may appear, but few survive, as happens in the bush, showing that when left to her own devices, nature will produce a bushland microcosm in the garden and the strongest seedlings will survive. Bob pointed out that unlike bush conditions, in the home garden mass germination allows transplanting, with red and green kangaroo paws a prime example. Seed production is often greater when the plant is young and some species, particularly

everlastings and some annuals, just re-seed year after year. Bob urged native home gardeners not to be precious about hybridisation in the garden or about self-pollination, all of which can lead to interesting results.

Native gardens need to be managed, either through regular garden management, the long-lived nature of some plants that produce few seedlings, or natural predation by insects or birds – for example, parrots predate large amounts of seed on banksia/dryandra, hakea and grevillea species. Some species have the potential to become weedy. For example, *Patersonia occidentalis* (Purple Flag) needs to be cut down in autumn to prevent it from becoming ‘ratty’ large clumps and the seedheads need to be removed unless you want it spreading throughout your garden. *Dichopogon capillipes* (Chocolate Lily) forms large colonies over time, in light shade, and can become weedy if not controlled. And Blue Grass Lily (*Agrostocrinum scabrum*) and *A. hirsutum* produce large amounts of seed which recruits each year in almost weed-like proportions, but on the positive side, is pollinated by the native Blue-banded bee. On the other hand, the fringed lilies *Thysanotus arenarius*, *T. multiflorus* and *T. patersonii* are clonal and produce



a lot of seed but do not become a problem because few seedlings emerge, just enough for Bob to keep the species going in his garden.



Bob took us on a photographic tour around his extensive garden and told us a bit about some of the many plants he grows. The Native Foxglove (*Pityrodia terminalis*) produced viable seed after only one year and he will plant it out this year to see how it goes. *Lambertia*

*orbifolia* subsp. *Scott River Plains*, with red and orange flowers, produces lots of seed and is hard to find in the bush but much easier to grow in the home garden. In fact, Bob pulls many seedlings out because there are so many! Black Kangaroo Paw (*Macropidia fuliginosa*) produce a small amount of seed which Bob collects to grow on. The Mangles Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthus manglesii*) are all natural recruits, with numbers dependent on the season and



the Purple Tassles (*Sowerbaea laxiflora*) come up every year, and can be divided when they first appear each season. There are also about nine orchid species which have naturalised themselves in the garden, coming up in different locations each year.

There was much more to see in Bob's garden and we were all awed and inspired by the variety of species he is able to grow in a home garden.  
*Christine Curry*



## **Djeran, the Natural Planting Time for Your WA Flora is Coming Up**

Many of you like to wait until the change of season to make use of the natural moisture and I am sure you are all itching to get into your native garden to replace all the gaps that nature has presented over the hot summer months, or you may be starting from scratch on a new area.

Our volunteers at the branch nursery at Landsdale Farm School have been very busy all summer getting new plants ready for you to fill your garden. The nursery is brimming over with a unique selection of healthy WA plants ready for planting.



Our species of Verticordia - Feather Flowers, Pileanthus- Coppercups, and Eremophila - Emu Bush are there in good numbers as well as many other interesting garden additions. Our Calytrix species collection has also increased in numbers and they are waiting for a home.



We have a few specialities this year for you with our Lechenaultia collection. Along with great selections of our local Leschenaultia species, a beautiful hybrid selection has joined us. Surprisingly it is a hybrid developed some 30 years ago from a red *Lechenaultia formosa* seedling and crossed with blue *L biloba* to produce a compact

## **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



hardy groundcover to 40m wide with good sized blue flowers looking like our Perth Blue Butterflies have landed on it, so we have called it *Lechenaultia* 'Blue Butterflies'.

Another colourful member of our blue collection is a *Scaevola argentea* x, a natural seedling from my garden collection. This plant has proven itself over the summer months and hasn't stopped flowering with

vibrant purple blue flowers in a mound to 30cm x 60 mm. My name for this is *Scaevola* "Wild Wonder".



The plants of intriguing Green Bird flower, *Crotalaria cunninghamii* and a small collection of other colourful northern pea flowered species are also available.

The nursery hours are 9.00 -3.00 on Thursdays and Saturdays. **Eftpos is now available for you to indulge yourself for your garden.**

Further information is on our website: [ns.wsowa.org.au](http://ns.wsowa.org.au)

*Hazel E Dempster*

### In My Garden

The Beauforta squarrosa shown below hasn't been in long, but has flowered madly for several months - *Christine Curry*

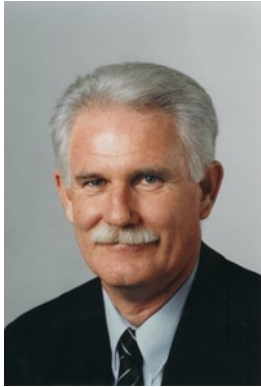
The Banksias on the right are *B. epica* above, and prostrate *B. media* below. Both have been in my garden for around 5 years, and it is the first time either of them have flowered.



The Banksia *epica* I grew from a seed from Elizabeth's plant in her front garden. It grows naturally on the limestone cliffs overlooking the ocean near Eucly, where it is a spreading shrub to 1m tall. The Banksia *media* I bought at a nursery, and unlike the previous 2 I tried, this one really is prostrate, with a couple of branches just over 1m long. The other two are nearly 2m tall!! *David Pike*



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT – MARCH 2018



Preparations are well underway for the April Plant Sale (Sat 28<sup>th</sup>) which is one of our major sale events for the year. There are plenty of plants ready to find their way into local gardens and we are hopeful of a good turnout on the day.

Our website will have a list of available plants and we will be promoting the event through media and our networks. How much coverage we get in the media can vary, so we do rely on our members helping out by passing the word around that the sale is on. Even if you can't make it yourself on the day do let others know the details.

If you can help out on the day, that will be even better. So do come along.

Our nursery volunteers have worked very hard to make sure we have a wide range of plants in the very best condition. On the day volunteers will be available to offer advice and assistance in selecting plants for the garden. EFTPOS payment will be available on the day and we are finding purchases at the Nursery are now almost totally by card with less and less cash being transacted. We are monitoring if there is any increase in sales volume because of this facility which if nothing else certainly makes the management of our banking and accounting very much easier.

To date we have had no response to our letter to the Education Department regarding the future of Landsdale Farm School but the wheels do turn very slowly. If a response is not to us within the month we will take a more direct route through the Minister's office. Our primary request is to be kept informed of what is happening and to be given adequate advanced warning if we do have to make alternative arrangements to find a new site for the Nursery.

The planning for the ANPSA 2019 Conference (29 Sept – 4 Oct) is well underway and with progress being reported in the Society Newsletter. If you feel you can help out with any aspect of the planning or running of the event then your assistance will be most welcome. The Albany Entertainment Centre is a marvellous venue and the local area is rich in attractions to explore. We are hopeful that there will be a good size representation from our branch to support a successful conference. So make a note in your calendars and if you have any enquiries or are thinking of attending let Christine know at one of our coming meetings so we can start planning for accommodation and shared transport if needed.

In all other respects the Branch is travelling very well and I remain optimistic that we will find a president to fill the role in the months ahead. There are so many members who would fit the bill to provide the leadership to take the branch in new directions and build on opportunities. Don't hold back if you have any interest.

And finally, don't forget to send David any snippets of interest from your garden that can be included in the newsletter. A quick snap on the mobile and a few words is all that is needed.

*Richard Curry*  
Vice President



*Wildflower Society of WA  
Northern Suburbs Branch*

***PLANT SALE***

*Assorted tube-stock*

***\$4-00***

***Saturday April 28th***

***9-00am to 3-00pm***

*at*

***Landsdale Farm School  
Cnr Landsdale and Evandale Rds  
Darch***

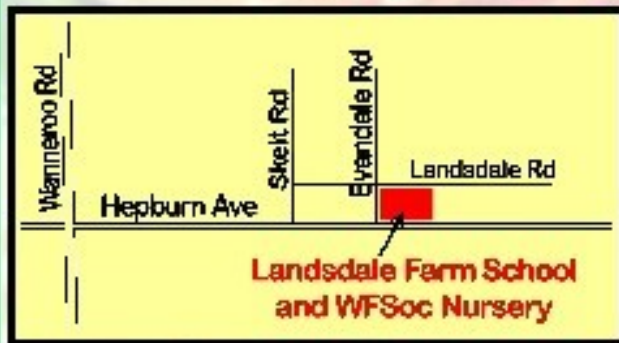
***Grow with us &  
Link with Nature***





**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: Thursday 9am - 2pm  
Saturday 9am - 2pm**

**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**  
**Laxmannia    Orthrosanthus and Sedges.**

**and many many more.**

**Come along for advice on how to grow  
plants for your minimal maintenance**

