



Wildflower Society of WA

Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - November 2022

(Web Page : ns.wsowa.org.au)

Next Meeting :- November 22nd

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

****Mask wearing not mandatory, but encouraged, for your safety****

Hans Lambers

**”Why are yarri (*Eucalyptus patens*) and karri (*E. diversicolor*) Forests
‘Cool Spots’ in our ‘Biodiversity Hotspot’?”**

Coming Events :-

Saturday December 3— Christmas Party with Perth Branch from 4.30pm
Perry House, 167 Perry Lakes Drive, Floreat

Last Month

John Reeve

“What’s in a Name”

The October meeting began with a short photo-quiz of WA flora from Northern Suburbs member, John Reeve, which highlighted WA’s variety of plant names, as he posed the question, “What’s In a Name?”. Some names, such as John’s photos of the blue-footed booby and fried-egg jellyfish, are obvious but some are more obscure. For example, the mineral Tranquillityite was collected from the moon’s Sea of Tranquillity in 1969 and thought to be unique to the moon but is now found



in the Pilbara and Saddlebackite, a white mineral from the Mt Saddleback greenstone belt near Boddington, refers to Capt Thomas Bannister’s note on the shape of the hill formation as he explored for a route between Perth and Albany in the 1800s.

There are some 1,600 genera and 12,800 taxa in Western Australia and, while many are named after

locations, others are named after early explorers and botanists and John introduced us to some of the lesser-known facts of these people's lives. Perhaps the best known to most of us is **Sir Joseph Banks** (1743-1820), botanist on Capt James Cook's 1768-1771 *HMS Endeavour* expedition. John told us that Banks was interested in botany from school age and was educated at Harrow, Eton and Oxford. He was wealthy and bought his passage on the *Endeavour*. He made an enormous and everlasting contribution to botany, including with the Royal Society and the Royal Gardens at Kew, and is best known in Australian flora by the *Banksia* genus.



Swedish naturalist, **Daniel Solander** (1733-1782), Banks' friend and companion on *HMS Endeavour*, was a pupil of Linnaeus. His work with the British

Museum included cataloguing the natural history collections under the Linnean system and Keeper of the Natural History Department. He was Banks' librarian and collaborated on the *Florilegium*, and is recognised in the species *Banksia solandri* (Stirling Range Banksia). The genus *Darwinia* is named for **Erasmus Darwin** (1731-1802), grandfather of Charles Darwin. Erasmus was a successful physician and was a prominent



'thinker' of his time, with an interest in natural history and poetry. He married twice and had 14 children. His youngest son, Robert Waring Darwin, married Josiah Wedgwood's daughter and their fifth child was Charles Darwin. **Samuel Goode-nough** (1743-1827) is honoured in the genus *Goodenia*, including *Goodenia affinis* (Silver goodenia), described by Ferdinand von Mueller. From a clerical background, he was an amateur botanist and collector and Bishop of Carlisle 1808-

1827. His botanic interests ranged from seaweeds to sedges, and he was a Vice-President of the Royal Society and active in the Society of Antiquaries.

The extensive genus *Grevillea* owes its name to **Charles Francis Greville** (1749-1809), a British antiquarian, collector and politician and close friend of Joseph Banks. He assisted Banks to establish the Royal Horticultural Society and was a Fellow of the





Royal Society and his extensive mineral collection was purchased by an Act of Parliament for the British Museum. *Dampiera* is named for **William Dampier** (1651-1715) – explorer, pirate, privateer, navigator, naturalist and author, and considered to be the

first Englishman to explore parts of Australia. His writings are credited with being the inspiration for *Gulliver's Travels* and with Humboldt using Dampier's observations on ocean currents. John's talk gave us some fascinating insights into the names behind some of WA's plants that will encourage us all to take a closer interest in plant names from now on.



Christine Curry



Northern Suburbs
Free guided nature walks.
 Each Month
 Run approx 2 hours.
 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

2022 Christmas Party and Awards Presentation

The annual Christmas Party with Perth Branch is on Saturday 3 December. The 2022 Australian Plants Awards will be presented to Judith Harvey and David Pike immediately prior to the barbecue, and Greg Keighery will also lead a walk in Bold Park. All Northern Suburbs members are warmly invited to attend what is always a very social event and, this year also an important recognition of the lifelong work of two Wildflower Society of WA members. Please bring along a barbecue or picnic dinner for yourself, plus either a salad or dessert to share. Details are:



What: Christmas Party with Perth Branch and presentation of 2022 Australian Plants Awards

When: Saturday 3 December

Where: Perry House (WSWA headquarters), 167 Perry Lakes Drive Floreat

Times:

4.30pm 2022 Australian Plants Awards presentation

5.30pm Bold Park Walk with Greg Keighery

6.30pm Barbecue/Picnic Dinner – please bring a salad or dessert



FROM THE PRESIDENT – NOVEMBER 2022



Looking back over the year we have had a busy and successful time in the lead up to the Christmas break. We are making good progress with the Nursery relocation project and are now nearing the stage where we can look toward getting the approvals necessary to advance the proposal to Lotterywest for funding. There are still a few hurdles to get over but we are getting there. Our monthly general meetings have been well attended with a range of different speaker topics to cater for diverse member interests. We have around 50 members attending at different times with an average meeting attendance of 28 and will continue the program next year given the level of interest.

Our visit to Cottonwood Reserve had over 30 people turn up and it gave us an indication that midweek walks were a popular time. We will mix up the events between mid-week and weekends in 2023, to give the opportunity for all members and friends to attend. We will also be attending the 2022 Herdsman Wildlife Show on Sunday 20 November, to sell plants and merchandise and mix with the many varied groups who attend this annual event. It's a great family day and you can find information at: <https://www.wagouldleague.com.au/events>

The Nursery has been very busy as usual and we now have new volunteers coming along and joining as members. The November plant sale last weekend was a great success with over \$4000 being taken in sales, which is a reward for all the hard work volunteers have put into preparing for the sale and helping out on the day.

All this means there are many members to thank for their support and dedicated time. I will be thanking everyone for their support as we wind up the year and I do hope to see as many as we can at the November general meeting, the Christmas party with Perth Branch and the Nursery Volunteers' lunch. It's been a great effort by all and on behalf of the management committee and the Society, thank you all.

Our November speaker is Hans Lambers who will be talking on "Why are Yarri and Karri forests 'cool spots' in our 'biodiversity hotspot'". Hans is well known to us and I hope to see you there as it will be a very interesting talk and a chance to catch up after for a cuppa and chat.

Richard Curry
President





Western Australian Native Plants
for your gardens, pots and containers
available from the

Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Nursery

at the LANDSDALE FARM



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 and Orthrosanthus
and many many more

Come along for advice on how to grow
plants for your minimal maintenance
to froggy boggy gardens

