



Wildflower Society of WA

Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - February 2022

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Wildflower Society of WA has implemented COVID-19 Restrictions for all WSWA premises and events from 31 January 2022. What this means for you:

1. Mask wearing indoors is now **mandatory** at our meeting;
2. All people who attend our meeting premises **must** show proof of double vaccination. If you bring a paper copy, we also need to see your ID;
3. Those that have an exemption from vaccination **must** show a (valid medical) certificate to that effect EVERY time they attend our premises [Medical vaccination exemption certificates can have expiry dates] AND wear a mask, whether or not mandated by Government.

We will not be recording vaccination status (only asking to sight vaccination proof or exemption status). We will still ask you to sign the attendance register.

If you do not feel well on the day, please do not attend our meeting.

Next Meeting :- February 22nd

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

Jolanda Keeble

"Flora of Tarin Rock Reserves"

Coming Events :-

March 22nd— "A Look at the Planned New Northern Suburbs Nursery" with Nursery Volunteers

Last Meeting

John Viska

“History of Australian Native Plants in Early Gardens”

To close off 2021 on a different note, John Viska from the Australian Garden History Society, took us on an interesting journey through the use and conservation of West Australian and Australian native plants in early colonial gardens in and around Perth. Before the 19th Century the view was that ‘a garden should be a collection of plants of interest’ rather than



planted by design. From the 1830s, Scottish botanist and garden designer John Claudius Loudon, introduced the idea of garden design and landscape architecture to Britain, including propagation techniques and infrastructure.

Correspondence between Britain and collectors such as Georgiana Molloy and the records of French explorers show an interest in Australian and West Australian plants. The Chelsea Physic Garden in

London, established in the 18th Century as an apothecary garden, expanded as a scientific interest and teaching garden, with the first eucalypt seeds from Joseph Banks’ ‘Australian’ collections germinated there. Kew Gardens established ‘stove houses’ in their propagation area which gave a dry heat and proved successful in growing a range of Australian species. Joseph Paxton, gardener to the Duke of Chatsworth, planted Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) in his garden designs, from specimens grown at Kew from seeds collected by Georgina Molloy at Augusta, formally described in Britain in the 1830s.



In Australia, illustrations of native plants, with hints on growing, appeared in botanical magazines from shortly



after the arrival of the First Fleet. John showed photos of some species which appeared in advertisements, including the Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidellii*), Snakebush (*Hemiandra pungens*) and Climbing Triggerplant (*Stylidium scandens*). Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), including the specimen planted in 1830 at Old Strawberry Hill Farm in Albany, was advertised and distributed from the Eastern States to all over Australia. In the 1860s, ‘Garden

Island Cyprus' (Rottnest Island Pine – *Callitris preissii*) was also advertised for sale.

In Perth, botanist James Drummond established the original Government House garden with specimen trees laid out along the lines of the Chelsea Garden 'scientific interest' idea. As we all know, and John reminded us, gardens planted exclusively with Australian native plants don't always grow according to a pre-ordained design. A feature plant may die and disrupt the overall plan or not 'behave' according to the design, so it is more likely to find Australian and West Australian plants incorporated into overall garden design in early times, rather than dominating the design. Reference notes from Bishop's House, in what is now St George's Tce, in the 1860s include notes on



planting Native Hibiscus (*Alogyne huegelii*) and mention of 'Grevilleas' and 'Pimelea', as well as 'peppermint trees' in the garden. An illustration from now demolished Alpha Cottage in St Georges Tce, shows *Nuytsia floribunda* (West Australian Christmas Tree) and other WA trees have been left growing as part of the garden. Owner Alfred Hames records in his diary in 1840 that he has bought Sticky Tailflower (*Anthocercis viscosa*) from Albany and planted it in the garden, and in 1851 that he "went to Mt Eliza and brought back wild plants", ie. has transplanted (unspecified) species. John outlined the progression of commercial and professional interest in planting West Australian native plants into the 20th Century, including nurseries such as the Wanneroo Wildflower Nursery and work of landscape architect Marion Blackwell, and showed us that West Australian native plants have played a part in our gardens since 1829.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT – FEBRUARY 2022



When I last wrote to members in November of last year, I explained that the Nursery Volunteers would be meeting and putting their ideas about the relocation of our Nursery to a site not far from the current location. Our Volunteers unanimously agreed in favour of the move and the concept planning for the new nursery. Since that time things have picked up speed and on the 15 February the City of Wanneroo Council will be considering the proposal to lease a 2000sqm site to the Society. If this is endorsed, we will enter into the negotiations on the final form of the lease and be in a position to approach Lotterywest to put forward the proposal for grant funding. There is still a lot of work to be done but we are getting there. In March we will be bringing the proposal to the general meeting for all branch members to consider and vote on putting the proposal to the Society Management Committee. It is the Society that will hold the lease and ultimately agree to enter into the agreement with the City. We will give a presentation to the meeting on the design and activities the nursery will be able to provide for members. It's an exciting time but we are still not there and the vote of members in March will be very important to moving on to the next step.

Covid in its various forms is now with us and the Society has taken the cautious approach to all of its events of requiring proof of vaccination. This will apply to our nursery, general meetings and events such as excursions. It's a simple step of checking in on the QR code (or signing in), showing your vaccination certificate, wearing a mask when indoors and using the hand sanitizer provided. Seating at our meetings will be 'socially distanced' and we will have the room ventilated and our supper will be outdoors. That will keep everyone as safe as possible and allow us to keep branch activities going. How our world has changed!

We are in the process of purchasing a scanner for the many photo transparencies that have been donated to us, many of which were taken many years ago by members who were excellent photographers and recorded plants from all over the State. We will transfer many of these into electronic format using the scanner and will show the results at general meetings from time to time. Also, we are purchasing an electronic microscope that will enable us to look at plants in detail on a monitor. This will be a great asset for our schools' program when students are learning about the structure of plants as well as growing them. We will have sessions at general meetings where we are able to look at plants brought along by members on the big screen and gain a more detailed understanding of our native flora.

This month's guest speaker at our general meeting on 22nd February is Jolanda Keeble speaking on Flora of Tarin Rock Reserves. The March meeting we have set aside to talk about the new nursery and how it is intending to support member's interests in hands-on propagation. Don't forget, we will be asking members to cast a vote on whether we should proceed to present the proposal to the Society to approve.

Richard Curry

President

BETWEEN THE LEAVES

Many of us would have driven through the Moora- Watheroo area, no doubt looking at the road side vegetation as potential sources of propagating material. For some, the rocks underfoot could attract attention because of their colouration and hardness. The whitish rock (actually, a mineral), often with grey or pinkish colouration is Chert, a form of quartz (SiO₂). The deposits in the area (designated the Coomberdale chert) are sufficiently high grade to warrant mining as a source of silica.

This rather inhospitable geological environment contains a variety of plant species worthy of attention. Many are designated as Priority Level species. Two areas of the Coomberdale Chert, namely Cairn Hill Native Reserve and the Watheroo National Park contain ecological threatened flora.

One such plant is *Regelia megacephala* (Priority 4 plant) distinguished by its dark green foliage and attractive deep red flowers. The plant seems to have an affinity for ridges where chert is exposed and the soil coverage is shallow.

R. megacephala is described as an erect straggly shrub to 2 -5 metres with small leaves arranged in alternating pairs (decussate). The flower heads have five sepals, five petals and five bundles of stamens. Flowering occurs from September – December.

The plant was formally described in 1964 by Charles Gardner. The name of the plant reflects the large flower cluster (megacephala = large-headed).

References:

Gardner, C.A. (1964): *Contributiones florae Australiae Occidentalis XIII*. Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia 47 (2): 60

Hamilton-Brown, S (Sheila) & Natural Heritage Trust (Australia) & Western Australia. Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit & Hamilton -Brown, Sheila (2000). *Heath dominated by one or more of Regelia megacephala, Kunzea praestans and Allocasuarina campestris on ridges and slopes of the chert hills of the Coomberdale floristic region: interim recovery plan, 2000- 2003*. Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit, Dept of Conservation and Land Management, Wanneroo, WA





WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

27 January 2021

Dear Branch President and Branches

At its January meeting the Management Committee addressed two important matters that I am bringing to your attention in this memo.

COVID-19 Restrictions for all WSWA premises and events

With the WA Government's public health and social measures, including proof of vaccination requirements to be further expanded state-wide on 31 January and changes to border controls on February 5th 2022, the Management Committee has given careful consideration to what measures should be implemented to protect our volunteers and members attending all Society premises (including branch venues).

In the Perth, Peel and south west regions, masks are already required at all public indoor settings and proof of vaccination is required at certain venues. The State Government has stated that further requirements will be expanded on 31 January state-wide.

In coming to our decision, we have considered that our gatherings, particularly in the Perth-Peel region, members attending WSWA functions come from a wide area. (thus increasing the chance of virus spread), and that a significant portion of our members are in the vulnerable group. With this in mind the Management Committee has resolved that in addition to any Government mandate at the time, from 31 January 2022 the following COVID measures will be put in place state-wide.

1. All people who attend a WSWA premises, being leased, rented or occupied by a branch or group, for any purpose must show proof of double vaccination;
2. Those that have an exemption from vaccination must show a (valid medical) certificate to that effect EVERY time they attend our premises [Medical vaccination exemption certificates can have expiry dates] AND wear a mask, whether or not mandated by Government.

As we will not be recording vaccination status (only asking to sight vaccination proof or exemption status), it will be necessary for attendees to bring the proof with them and sign in on a paper register or scan the QR code where there is one.

Note that currently it is a government requirement for everyone to wear a mask indoors and that it is likely that this requirement will be in place for some time to come.

Web site link <https://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/branches/#covid-policy>



Wildflower Society of WA
Northern Suburbs Branch

PLANT SALE

Assorted tube-stock

\$4-00

Saturday April 23rd

9-00am to 2-00pm

at

Landsdale Farm

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**

