



# *Wildflower Society of WA*

## Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - June 2020

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

### MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

#### Next Meeting

(Covid-19 restrictions allowing -  
More details next Newsletter)

**Tuesday August 25 - Annual General Meeting  
& Members' Photos**

*This article first appeared in Australian Plants Vol 29 No. 232 Spring 2017. Jeff Mountstephen is a long-time member of the Wildflower Society of WA and has been a volunteer at Northern Suburbs Nursery for many years. Jeff's working life began when he left school at age 15 to join the RAAF. He served 15 years at various locations from Melbourne to Darwin to Sydney to Malaya to Perth. He retired from service then got a job with a company called Selby Scientific. He served 22 years with them. In his first year he bought a block, built a house and moved in.*

#### My Journey with WA Wildflowers

My journey with WA wildflowers began shortly after moving into our new house in Glen Forrest. It is a suburb of Perth located in the hills east of Perth. I was looking through Fairall's book on West Australian Plants in Cultivation while in a break from doing a course at TAFE. In it I found on page 236 a picture of *Verticordia pritzelii* and fell in love with it. I wanted one for our new garden. I never



*Verticordia pritzelii*  
Photo : Bob Dixon  
Courtesy of FloraBase

did see one in its natural state though. I asked about it and found a lady, Jean Hooper, with a backyard garden in Gooseberry Hill, Lesmurdie, who knew a lot about *Verticordias*. Her nursery eventually became Zanthorrea Nursery at High Wickham. From her I found out about Les Norton who collected *Verticordias*. As it turns out, Elizabeth George (Berndt) was also communicating with Les Norton though we didn't meet till some years later. I eventually joined the WSWA and at a meeting met Elizabeth George when she asked for volunteers to help collect *Verticordias* for a reclassification of the genus.

Years later, I took a trip up north, staying at Kalbarri. I decided on that trip I would like to grow *Pileanthus*, so set about getting myself a hothouse. Another trip north and I collected some cutting material. These were propagated in my hothouse and surprisingly took root in just 4 weeks. *Pileanthus limacis* grows prostrate at Coral Bay where we obtained cuttings. But after two growing seasons in the Northern Suburbs nursery, it sent up vertical shoots and now grows into an upright plant. I think because its genes tell it to grow upright but being so near the coast it grows prostrate.



On a trip in 2015 we found another *Pileanthus*. We believe this to be a hybrid between *Pileanthus bellus* and *Pileanthus peduncularis*. This plant is more compact than *P. bellus*, only a metre high and wide like *P. peduncularis* but with larger leaves like *P. bellus* has. And of course, the petals being pink and orange add to that. And one last fact is that both *P. bellus* and *P. peduncularis* are fertilised by the same insect. This too has propagated well and we will soon have it in the nursery. (Ed: the nursery now has several *Pileanthus* species)



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*Pileanthus* species are easy to grow from cuttings. I take tip cuttings, one full node below where the outer surface changes from a yellowish colour to brown. These are dipped 1cm to 2cm into Clonex Purple gel from Growth Technology. The cuttings mix is 50/50 seed raising mix and medium grade perlite. We use 2 litre soft drink bottles with the bottom 1/3 cut off, as a mini hothouse, even though it is in a hothouse tunnel. It helps keep pests away as well. Pots are checked every week for root growth, from about 2 weeks.



Once roots appear, the bottle tops are removed to enable some hardening up of the root system prior to potting up into tubes. Potting mix is the same seed mix with some gravel mixed in it for better drainage and some slow release fertiliser added.



*Jeff Mountstephen*

These pics were taken in Evandale Street – not in Landsdale, but in Floreat; not far from a famous Floreat garden once owned by our Sally’s folks (Sally Page) – the Moyle family. This garden was



planted about three years ago and unlike the magnificent Verticordia garden grown by her folks, we are struggling to grow any Verts at all.



The last remaining V grandis is just hanging on. It has not deterred us from trying again, so watch this space.

The attached pics show some of the survivors, which seem very happy, soon to be enveloped by Amanda’s annual display of pink and white everlastings.

*Kevin Hall*

**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 – June 2020



It's with a great sense of relief that I can report to you that we are getting back to something approaching what everyone is calling the "new normal" whatever that means. For our branch it means the Nursery has reopened, we are planning a July 'Winter Sale' and our General Meetings are recommencing at the Henderson Centre. And, Landsdale Farm has reopened.

Our "new normal" for the above means:

**1.** The Nursery reopening is being managed under a Safety Plan which requires us to ensure all the conditions of social distancing, hygiene and customer contact tracking are in place. You won't notice any difference to going to a café where the same controls are in place. We are very conscious of keeping our members and the public safe and so far, there has been no problem at all. What has happened however is we have had bumper sales as plants are finding their way off the nursery benches and into gardens in greater numbers than expected. This is because there has been a pent-up demand for plants whilst we have been closed and winter is the perfect time to be out planting in the garden.

**2.** With all that demand and plenty of strong healthy stock ready to go, we have decided to have a Winter Sale on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**. Our nursery volunteers have done a wonderful job of keeping the nursery in tip top condition while we were closed so July is the date to come along and fill in those spaces in the garden that have been waiting for new plantings. We will give full details of the Sale on Facebook, the website, our newsletter and media outlets closer to the time.

**3.** We are very keen to restart general meetings and our guest speaker program which has been on hold during the lock-down. **Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup>** has been pencilled in as a likely start date to resume meetings under the social distancing conditions that will apply to the Henderson Centre. For this first meeting we plan to invite members to bring along photos and stories to share. The aim of the meeting is to get us going again and catch up after such a long time locked down. So, again, make a note and we will let you know as soon as we have the meeting confirmed.

I have included in this edition a copy of the President's Report for the AGM which we plan to hold at the beginning of the General Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. This will be a very brief meeting and will address the essential requirements of accepting key reports and electing office holders. If there are other business items members would like to raise, we will be calling for those items in advance of the meeting. The Secretary will issue a formal notice for the AGM as soon as we have the date and venue availability confirmed.

The Society AGM is to be held on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** and Christine and I will be attending as Branch delegates. It is expected this will be a very businesslike meeting to be held at the Bold Park Ecology Centre under the Covid 19 management restrictions that apply to that venue.

Finally, Shaun and I have met with the City of Wanneroo officials to progress the negotiations on the possible nursery relocation to the Hartman Rd site. The critical element in the planning at this time is the City's capital works budget to build the access road, around which the planned precinct will take shape. It's slow going but at the moment we remain hopeful of a positive result in the not too distant future. And, don't forget to send in photos and a few words to David for our Newsletter [davidpike3@bigpond.com](mailto:davidpike3@bigpond.com). Thanks to Geoff and Margaret for the photos of plants in their garden included in the May edition. It was good to hear all is well and their garden is blooming.

**Richard Curry**  
**President**



*Wildflower Society of WA*

*Northern Suburbs Branch*

***PLANT SALE***

*Assorted tube-stock*

*\$4-40 inc. GST*

*Saturday July 25th*

*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**