



Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - June 2014

Next Meeting :- June 22nd

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

Keith Lightbody

“Tips for Successful Wildflower Photography”

**Don't forget to bring your camera along for some practical tips
And hands on activities after the talk!**



Coming Events :-

22 July

Peter Coyle

**“The Great Western Woodlands—
A Botanical Wonderland”**

26 August

Hazel Dempster

“Plant Hunting for Horticulture”

23 September

To be Advised

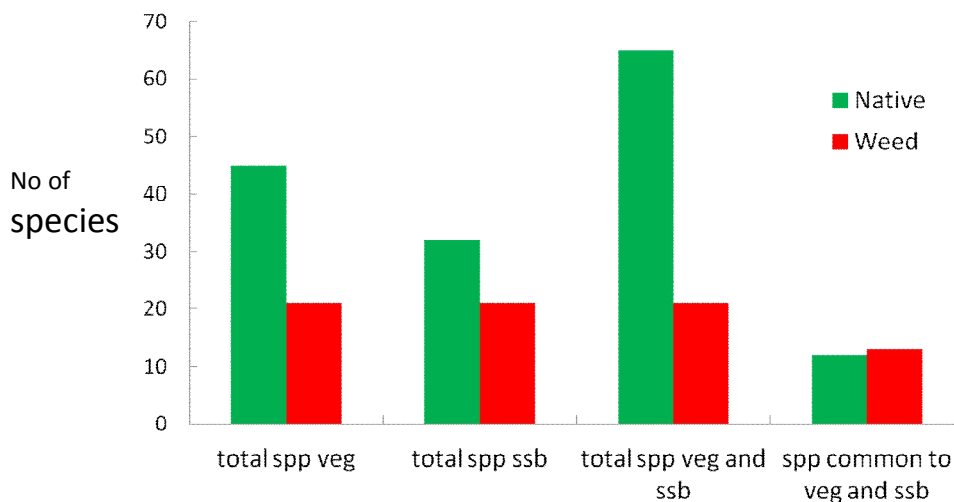
Last Months Guest Speaker

Dr Judy Fisher “Can the Soil Seedbank Tell Us What to Propagate? A Star Swamp Study”

Judy Fisher studied for a PhD in the early 2000s, with the major part of her study undertaken in Bold Park, looking at vegetation, the soil seedbank and fire nutrients, and including study areas in poor condition. Judy’s research included, as a control and contrast, sections of Star Swamp Bushland which were in generally good condition and which she focused on for this presentation.

The Bold Park study site included vegetation studies of introduced and native species and areas in both good and poor condition. The soil seedbank studies were 1 square metre sections, germinated under laboratory conditions using smoke and heat to encourage maximum germination. The sites in good and medium condition had large concentrations of introduced seed, with a lot of annual and some perennial grasses. The number of weed species was found to be fairly constant over both good and poor areas. Judy told us that what you see in the soil seedbank is the regeneration that will occur after disturbance. So, a soil seedbank with large amounts of introduced seed species will lead to structural change in the vegetation life form. Post-fire study of the soil seedbank showed that most introduced seeds sit in the leaf litter, while most native seed is under the soil. Remaining weed seed germinates quickly post-fire, with native seed taking several weeks longer. This leads to the conclusion, now becoming recognized by bushland managers, that spraying soon after a fire will destroy much of the germinating weed seed in the soil seedbank.

Weed and Native Species in the Vegetation and Soil Seed Bank



Judy's control sites for her study were at Star Swamp, Kings Park and Neerabup and she spoke about the Star Swamp findings. 1 square metre sections of banksia woodland in good condition were studied. The study found a lot of species identified in the seedbank were not identified in the surrounding vegetation. Of 12 species common to both, seeder species such as *Acacia pulchella* which produce seed readily, showed up in abundance. There were many species in the vegetation that were not found in the soil seedbank. This could indicate species that don't easily disperse their seed or regenerate by lignotuber but, either way, these species also need to be considered in revegetation projects.



Around 20 native species were found in the soil seedbank but not identified in surrounding vegetation. Some of these included *Hovea trisperma* (common hovea), *Stylidium brunonianum* (pink fountain trigger plant) and *Isolepis marginata* (coarse club rush). These could have been brought in through a variety of means but indicate that there is often more occurring in an area of bushland that is immediately apparent.

So, what can we learn from studies such as this? Judy stressed the importance of a soil seedbank study prior to removal of the topsoil for a project, with soil returned appropriately to the site and subsequent revegetation taking

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 Phylis 93499105

2nd Saturday Koondoola Regional Bushland.

Meet in Koondoola Ave
Opposite Burbridge Ave.

Contact Phylis 93499105

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 94489192

into account the range of seed found in the study, not just the range of above-ground plants in the vicinity. This process is not usually undertaken adequately, if at all, but needs to be understood and encouraged by everyone involved in projects requiring topsoil removal.

Judy also pointed out that considering what's in the soil seedbank, as well as the surrounding vegetation, can give a much fuller picture when propagating for revegetation.

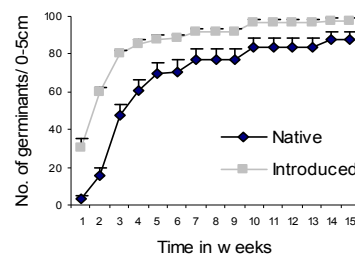
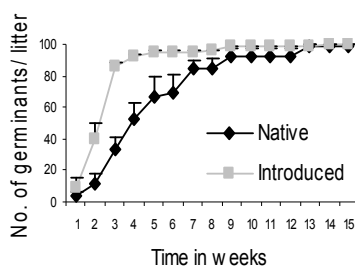
Christine Curry

Native Species found in the soil seed bank and not in the vegetation

- Anigozanthus humilis*
- Calandrinia liniflora*
- Centrolepis drummondiana*
- Crassula colorata*
- Crassula glomerata*
- Helychrisum cordatum*
- Hovea trisperma*
- Isolepis marginata*
- Isotropis cuneifolia*
- Juncus spp*
- Loxocarya fasciculata*
- Microtis unifolia*
- Podotheca chrysantha*
- Schoenus grandiflorus*
- Stipa flavescens*
- Stylidium brunonianum*
- Thysanotus sparteus*
- Tricoryne elatior*
- Triglochin sp*
- Xanthosia huegelii*



Timing of germination



Please put the 26th July in your diaries. EWAN will be holding their Mid Year General Meeting at the Kings Park Biodiversity Conservation Centre between 2:00pm and 5:00pm on the 26th July.

Speaker: Dr Judy Fisher

"Myanmar and beyond: An insight into opportunities for on ground management and restoration projects in Western Australia"

Research Associate Western Australian Museum

IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Theme Leader Ecosystems and Invasive Species

The talk will be followed by a workshop facilitated by Judy to provide attendees with the opportunity to provide suggestions and inputs on future directions to improve the delivery of on ground management and restoration projects within Western Australia utilising IUCN Guidelines as outlined in the talk.

Please pass the invitation to others in your Networks to ensure we provide the opportunity for as many people as possible to benefit from a rare and informative talk and to provide their feedback in direction setting for future activities in Western Australia.



If you haven't had a look at Kings Park for a while, now is a good time to see all the Scholtzias and Thryptomenes in full flower. They really look spectacular as a landscape feature during the "dull winter months". Hovea trisperma is out in the local bushlands at the moment too, the blue really glows, even on overcast days. There should be a shady spot in every garden for these winter flowering gems. It is also time for most of the Hakeas and Dryandras to show off their colours and provide nectar for the honeyeaters. They can be anything from groundcovers to medium sized trees, and many of them can be grown in large pots as well as well drained, sunny positions in the garden. Their seed provides food for the Carnaby's too!

ACTIVITIES AT LANDSDALE



Despite record results at our sales this year, the nursery is again nearly full. The regular band of volunteers are still busy propagating cuttings and seed, potting on struck cuttings, washing pots and planting and weeding the garden beds. Hazel has just finished filling up the Trigger-plant bench with divisions from her stock plants. They will be a mass of colour this spring, with flowers from white to pink and golden yellow.

Tony, Cynthia and Phylis have been busily potting up struck cuttings. Cynthia also hand weeded the new Brian James Eremophila garden last week, it is starting to look good now two months after being planted, with quite a few plants in full flower. Well done Cynthia, how are your knees after that?



Shaun set to work with Sally and planted up the other half of the garden with the “Elizabeth George Living Verticordia Collection” over the last two weeks, so that will have been well watered in after the last two day’s rain.

It is proposed to hold an opening ceremony for the two gardens in November with invited guests. Hopefully by then, with a bit of spring weather, everything will have put on quite a bit of growth.



Of course without Marie and Jenny washing the pots the nursery would grind to a halt too!

Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to keep the nursery going, and thanks to Jenny for the photos. Come and see what we’ve been doing!





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 - 1pm

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 grow
plants for your minimal maintenance
to froggy boggy gardens



2010 International Year of Biodiversity