



# ***Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Branch***

## **Newsletter - February 2016**

### **Next Meeting :- February 23**

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

**Bevan Buirchell**  
**“Eremophilas”**

### **Coming Events :-**

- 22 March John Bartle “Salinity Management in the Wheatbelt”
- 26 April Adam Cross “Growing Carnivorous Plants from Seed”
- 24 May Don Poynton “Flora and Fauna of Far East Russia”

**Last Meeting’s Guest Speaker**  
**Eddy Wajon**  
**“Chingarrup and Gondwanalink”**

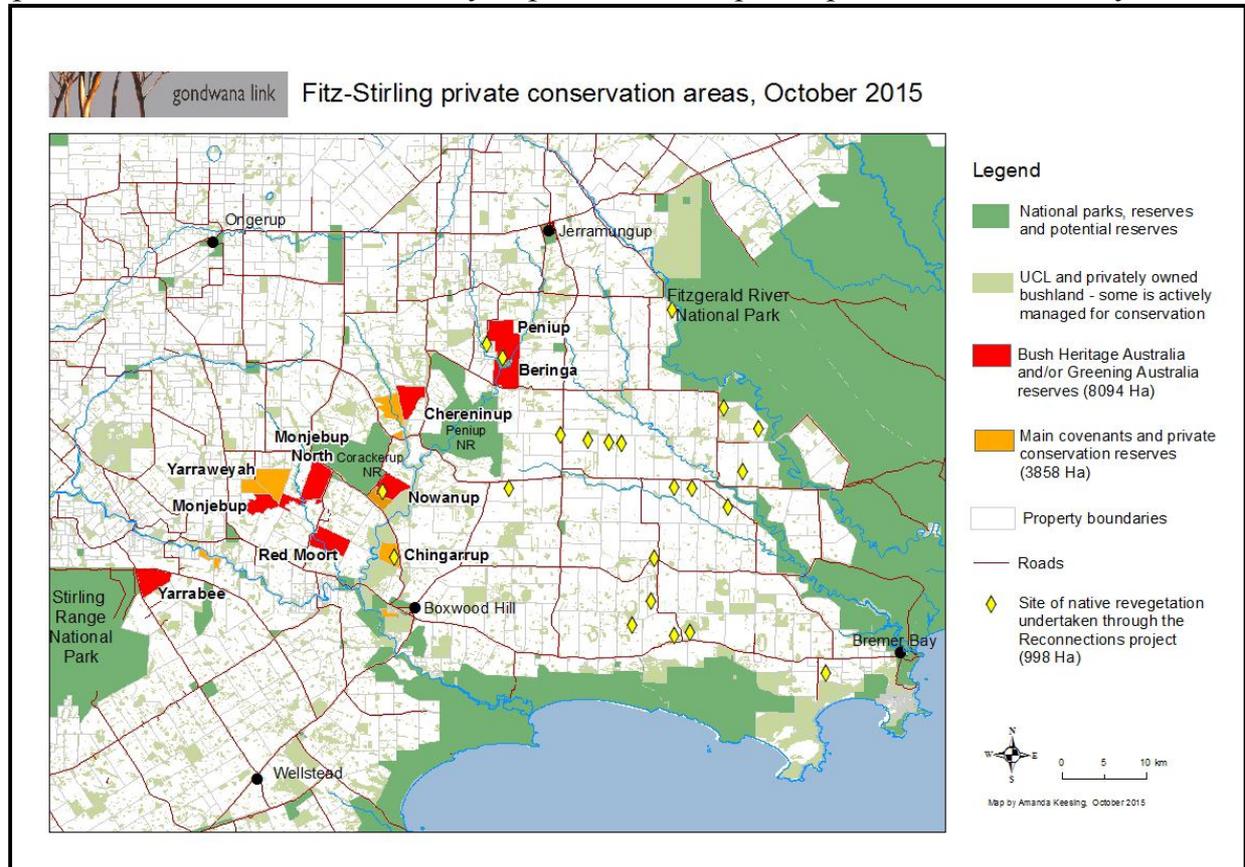
Eddy Wajon proved a popular AGM speaker in November, with many people along to hear about Eddy’s Gondwanalink project at his Chingarrup Sanctuary property on the south coast. The overall project is auspiced by Bush Heritage and aims to create a 1,000km link from Karri to Kalgoorlie. Properties along the link are acquired by both Bush Heritage and private owners

and work is undertaken to revegetate and regenerate back to natural bush. Stirling Range to Fitzgerald National Park is the first section of the Gondwanalink project and Chingarrup is a part of this.



Eddy and Donna bought the property for many reasons, among the chief being: to prevent further clearing and preserve a piece of regionally significant bushland; to own a piece of bush with high biodiversity and a significant number of orchids; to share with visitors and to photograph wildflowers; and to improve the property's ecosystem and sequester carbon. Eddy and Bush Heritage work together on larger scale reveg programs, feral animal and weed control, and flora and fauna surveys.

Eddy talked about the range of flora and fauna found on Chingarrup, which includes 527 species of fauna. Some of Eddy's photos were quite spectacular and everyone was



amazed at the success of the project so far. Chingarrup flora includes: a TEC proteacea-dominated kwongan shrubland on deep yellow to white sands, with isopogon and melaleuca species; Southern Plains Banksia (*Banksia media*), Prostrate banksia (*B. repens*), *Dryandra (Banksia) drummondii*; and Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea laurina*). There is also Lemony Snicket (*Eucalyptus phaenophylla*), *Isopogon heterophyllus* and, until recently, a group of Dwarf Spider Orchids (*Caladenia bryceana sub. Bryceana*) which is now extinct on the property after a she-oak toppled onto it. Birds recorded on the property include the owlet nightjar, mallee fowl, western whipbird, and splendid fairy wren. Mammals include the honey possum, western pygmy possum, brush-tailed wallaby and grey-bellied dunnart and there are also a number of reptile species, frogs, moths and other insects.

Eddy talked about the various activities that are underway at Chingarrup, some under the auspice of Bush Heritage, some involving research students and many being the work of Eddy and friends.



Large-scale broad-seeding revegetation has seen the return of a former farming paddock and Eddy showed photos of the success of this from 2004 to the present. Small-scale revegetation, from Northern Suburbs nursery tubestock, propagated from cuttings taken at the property, is a project in leading-edge horticulture, with Eddy's aim to show



Before (2004)



After (2015)

that the Wildflower Society can produce plants “that can't be propagated”, according to larger nurseries. Foxes and cats are currently the subject of research and control measures, and bird netting and pit trapping has seen 3,000 birds banded across 37 species. Revegetation plots are part of other, ongoing research projects.

Eddy has found that restored land attracts birds and invertebrates not previously seen there, feral animal control has seen the reappearance of species, and revegetation is restoring water balance, with vegetated land more resilient to flooding and wind erosion, but so far the broadscale reveg lacks the small shrub and herb layer. Eddy believes that private nature conservation can make a difference and citizen scientists can play a crucial role in long-term monitoring projects that government, corporations and universities can't necessarily do. Everyone agreed



that Eddy and Donna are doing a remarkable job with restoring Chingarrup Sanctuary to its natural beauty.

**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 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 9448 9192

### Notice of Expenditure

We have purchased a new projector for the Branch at a cost of \$1,980.90. The old projector finally gave up on us and needed replacement. It had a number of faults and was not worth repairing as it had been depreciated to zero book value. The new projector is high quality and will improve the quality of the images in the presentations at meetings. As the expenditure is over \$1,000 we do need to get your retrospective approval for the payment and it is recommended to members that the April meeting give its endorsement.

**Richard Curry**  
*Treasurer*



### Congratulations Christine!

Our Secretary Christine Curry was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's National Honours for services to the environment and community.

Christine has been a tireless worker for many groups and organisations for over fifty years and is very deserving of her award.

The Branch extends its sincere congratulations to Christine.

*Members of the Management Committee*

### WA Plants from our nursery for 2016

We have all been busy!

Our speciality growing programmes have produced many interesting WA plants for you.

Small growing Myrtaceae species are primarily the most colourful of our wildflowers with the bonus of being hardy shrubs which develop strong deep rooting systems which



have the ability to make use of the deeper soil moisture. This gives them the ability to be drought tolerant. Our choices for you included Thryptomene, Baeckea, Malleostemon, Hypocalymma, Cyathostemon, Melaleuca, Calothamnus, Beaufortia, Eremaea and Calytrix species. Add the wonderful Verticordia collection to the selection and wow! These displays of colour attract the many insects which in turn encourage other natural fauna.



Our Eremophila species are waiting for good homes. These drought tolerant plants add lots of bright colourful flowers. The myriad of colours in the tubular flowers attract the honey eaters and the mauve blue flatter flowers attract the insect pollinators. There are very hardy shrubs with contrasting foliage for every part of the garden from hardy verge species to those which grow well in the shade.

Colourful gems from the Goodeniaceae family provide seasonal colour



The blues of Dampiera species are breathtaking.

Stylidium collection fills quiet protected corners and therapeutic plant pots.

Hibbertia species bring the bright yellow and golds to your garden

Strappy plants including Orthrosanthus, Conostylis and WA Dianella and Lomandra species provide contrasting structure

The white foliage features of Dicrastylis and Dasymalla species with their felt like foliage give that complete contrast amongst the other kaleidoscope of greens.

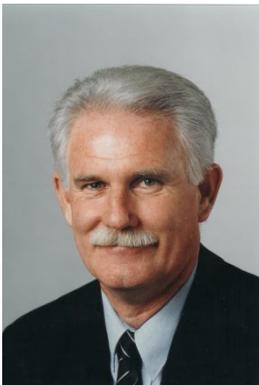
A connoisseur's search will find lots of other species to spark your interest.

Our specialist growers are at the nursery to



help you with information on the species we grow.

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT – FEBRUARY 2016



Welcome to 2016 and what will be a busy year for us.

Over the break we have been exploring the possibility of a second site for expanding our nursery as there is no room for any increase in size at Landsdale Farm School. We are also interested in a second site in the event the Government may at some time want to sell the Landsdale site for development and leave us without a nursery. We need to be looking well in advance to contingency planning to make sure we have a second option. That's not to say anything is going to happen in the near future but we have been informed that there will be review of the Farm School by the Department of Edu-

cation with a report due sometime at the end of this year.

We will be meeting with the Farm School management to make sure we are kept informed of any developments. We have been looking at the possibility of a joint site with the proposed Karrinyup Men's Shed at Lake Gwelup but have come to the conclusion that the site identified for the Men's Shed is too small and offers no security for a nursery.

Another consideration for us irrespective of where we might locate to a second site is having the capacity to find the volunteers to manage and service the nursery. As it is we manage the Landsdale nursery with a very dedicated team of volunteers but there is no capacity at this time to find the additional people resources for a second site. Nevertheless we will keep actively looking at opportunities and keep members informed of progress and ultimately, if we do come up with a proposal, present our ideas for our members consideration and approval. It is however very early days.

Our involvement with ECU on the research and student engagement was reviewed in January and there are a number of ideas and projects we have in mind:

Research: Michael Just has refined his research to those species of Ericaceae that are accessible in the metro area, namely the bushland adjacent to the Landsdale Farm School and NSB Nursery. The research is progressing satisfactorily and Michael will be invited to make a presentation to the Branch membership at a general meeting in 2016.

A second phase to the research will be considered to develop a proposal for the transition of Michael's findings to undertake experimental research at the undergraduate level to compare the germination of seed in the ECU glasshouse, under controlled conditions, and the germination of seed in the NSB nursery, under nursery conditions.

ECU Engagement in their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year: A number of possibilities exist to promote engagement with the ECU student body;

- 1.The possibility of an ECU general presentation at a general meeting to include an introduction to the university and related programs with a keynote speaker, a student presentation and a general interest topic from students.
- 2.Seminar at ECU sponsored by the NSB with speakers on a variety of topics where the benefits of a working relationship between the university and Branch nursery can be demonstrated.
- 3.NSB Schedule of events will be circulated with the invitation for students to participate in activities, particularly those undertaken at the nursery for 'hands on' experience.
- 4.ECU Earth Day is an event that the NSB could support again in 2016 and the displays and presentations at the branch stall could be enhanced through the involvement of students and equipment such as microscopes.
- 5.Distribution of Branch Newsletter with contributions from students and staff. A section could be dedicated to ECU news. Photos of ECU orchids could be a starter.
- 6.Establishing undergraduate student society involvement (currently non-existent) with NSB supporting the establishment and running of an ECU branch run along lines established to meet student needs and priorities.
- 7.Student Prize for a recognised contribution to the aims of the Society could be considered.

Schools Program: An area of immediate interest as ECU and NSB have collaborated on a previous school project and NSB is looking at further activity in this area in 2016. There are opportunities to develop this into a program of activities with local schools linking ECU and NSB activities. Partnerships with DoE, Water Corp, DPaW and local government are possibilities the NSB is keen to pursue.

We are also hoping to establish contact with the Joondalup TAFE horticulture program to develop interest , with students to participate in our nursery activities.

You will have noted the profile of Wendy Mc Kinnon in this edition and we hope to have similar articles on other members over the year to keep members informed about the interests and background of the people who make up our Branch. Wendy provided the art work for our anniversary mugs and we are very appreciative of her contribution.

We are planning an excursion possibly September/October and will give you details at the next general meeting. Any ideas for other activities please let me know.

The opportunity for setting up a web-page is something we are looking at as a means of extending our connection with a younger profile of potential people who are more likely to engage with us through social media. We hope to have something to report to members on this in the near future.

*Richard Curry*  
*President*

## Wendy McKinnon—Member's Profile



I felt honoured to be asked to design the mug to commemorate the Northern Suburbs Branch's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Before I began the preliminary drawings, I quizzed the volunteers at the Landsdale nursery as to their "druthers" when it came to which flowers they would like to see on the mug. For a short time I had been volunteering there once a week before other commitments had to take precedence.

I really enjoyed learning how to propagate from cuttings and even gained a modest increase in knowledge of various varieties. When time allows I still help out on the odd occasion. I've had a passion for wildflowers from my earliest days. Having grown up on a farm in the wheat belt, I was lucky to spend a lot of time roaming the bush as a child before we moved to Perth when I started high school. It had all been uncleared land when my parents bought the property in the late 60s, but thankfully, my dad had a great appreciation for trees and had the foresight to retain large swathes of bush for windbreaks. He also kept a lot of scrub around the house and shed so we had a wonderland of wildflowers on our doorstep every spring. The farm felt more like "the bush" from which some paddocks had been carved, rather than it being paddocks with a tree here and there. There were several beautiful granite outcrops dotted on the farm which made for perfect picnic spots. We wouldn't do it now, but in those days we would pick orchids and everlastings to display in jam jars on the kitchen windowsill. Even then, Mum would teach us to pick just one flower from each plant. With moss and fern fringed rock pools rippling with tadpoles, and orchids and everlastings dotted throughout the trees, I felt I was in my own version of fairyland. The magic has never left me and spring remains my favourite time of the year.

Wendy has an art blog which you can find at [www.wendybarrettpainting.blogspot.com](http://www.wendybarrettpainting.blogspot.com) She has also written an article about local wildflowers which featured in the West Australian last September. You can read it online at <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/29500980/wildflower-riches-close-to-home/>

## Nursery Plant Sale

Don't forget to mark April 23 down in your diary as the first of our plant sales for the new year.



The nursery is full after a productive summer. April should be an ideal time to get some new species into your garden





**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 - 3pm  
and Thursday, 10am - 3pm**

**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  
set up your garden and grow  
plants for your minimal maintenance  
and froggy boggy gardens**

