

Wildflower Society of WA Northern Suburbs Branch

Newsletter - March 2016

Next Meeting :- March 22

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

John Bartle

“Salinity Management in the Wheatbelt”

Coming Events :-

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| 26 April | Adam Cross “Growing Carnivorous Plants from Seed” |
| 24 May | Don Poynton “Flora and Fauna of Far East Russia” |
| 28 June | Bronwen Keighery “25 Years of WSWA Plant Surveys” |
| 26 July | Jan Pittman “Being a Botanical Artist” |

Last Meeting’s Guest Speaker

Bevan Buirchell

“Eremophilas”



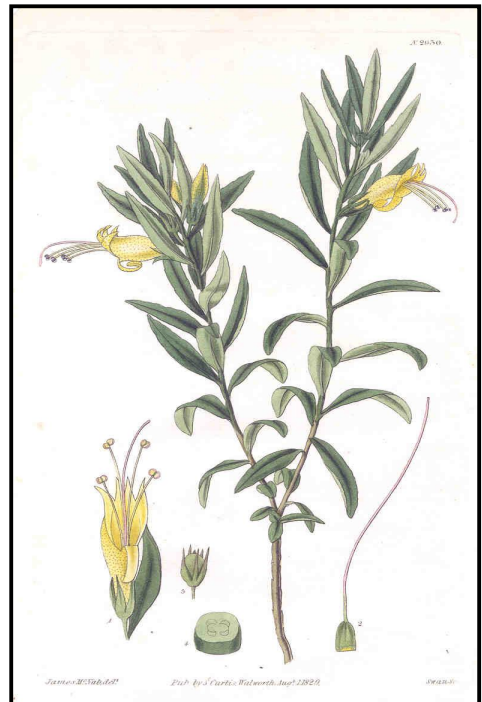
Bevan Buirchell introduced himself at the February as an eremophila – a lover of lonely places. His presentation left no doubt that very many species of eremophila are, indeed, to be found in lonely places. Bevan has many years’ experience in biological sciences research and he became interested in eremophilas while on a field trip with Andrew Brown in 1999, looking for



orchids. He was struck by the variety of species and realised that you do really need to go to lonely places to find them: Mt Augustus, Great Western Woodlands, Cape Grange, Carnarvon Ranges and east of the Canning Stock Route to name a few.

The first eremophila named, by Robert Brown in 1810, was *Eremophila oppositifolia* on the Eyre Peninsula. In 1829,

the first drawing – of a *Stenochilus viscosus* which was almost certainly an *Eremophila glabra* – was published. A proliferation of names for different eremophila species followed from then on, until in 1859 Ferdinand von Mueller gathered them all into the eremophila genus. Since the 1970s, Bob Chinnock has named an extra 140 new species, including *E. fasciata* near Meekatharra, *E. rigida* north of Meeka, and *E. caespitose* and *E. cryptothrix* in the Pilbara. Brown and Buirchell have since named a subspecies *grandiflora* in the *E. fraseri* group and Bevan told us there are about 50 new discoveries in process, with papers currently being written.



Bevan showed many photos of eremophilas, as varied as they were beautiful, and he went through various distinguishing features

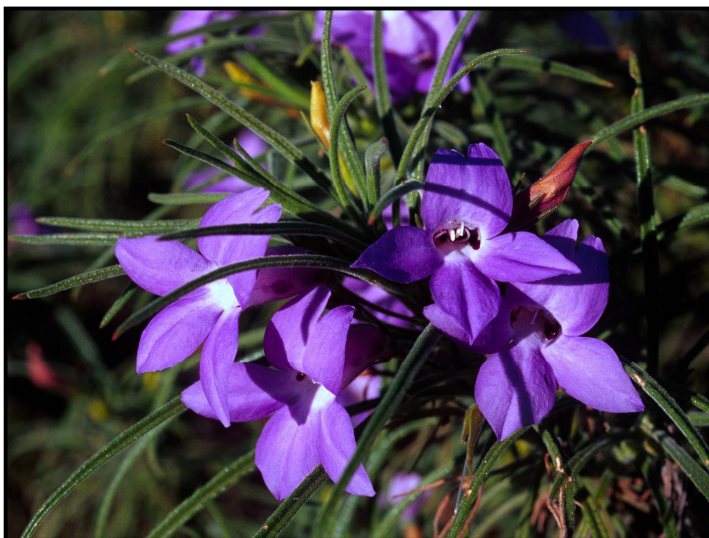


for this diverse genus. Flower colours can be purple, reds, pinks, lilac, white, mauve, green, orange, spotted or striped. There are eleven flower shapes, including bird pollinated narrow flowers with protruding stamens such as *E. glabra*, bell shaped, tubular shaped, large flowers as in the *E. Fraseri* group and very small flowers as in *E. interstans* subsp. *virgata*. Some are bird pollinated, some by insects, some are erect shrubs, some prostrate and some reach the size of small to medium trees.

Eremophilas are widespread in Western Australia, most densely from the Pilbara through to the Great Southern



with a few species in the Kimberley. But there are few species found in the south-west and Great Sandy Desert. They dominate in remote regions at certain times of the year, especially near Mt Augustus, with some species widely abundant and some found in only a couple of locations. Bevan told us that one of the best places for diversity is around Meekatharra, with *E. spectabilis* subsp *spectabilis* producing a spectacular display, *E. linearis* or Harlequin Fuschia Bush, always with a display of red flowers and *E. enata* on the Meekatharra-Wiluna Road with a display of purple and pink flowers.



Bevan now spends time as a Research Associate at the WA Herbarium, focussing on taxonomic studies of the *Eremophila* genus and he said there is still a mountain of taxonomic work to be done. He is currently working on eight species of

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.

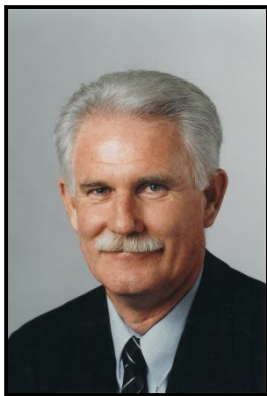
contact David 9448 9192



E. forrestii and twenty five of *E. glabra*. There are still new species being discovered, with an occasional hybrid popping up. And Bevan pointed out that there is at least one PhD study needing to be undertaken on insects living on eremophilas, a very important aspect of the ecosystem with Bevan's photos proving that a wide range of insects and spiders inhabit or use various species. In 2011, Bevan

and Andrew Brown published A Field Guide to the Eremophilas of Western Australia, thus adding the next chapter to our understanding of this beautiful and diverse genus – lovers of lonely places.

FROM THE PRESIDENT – MARCH 2016



Last month I reported on the busy year ahead and we are making progress but slowly.

This week Michael Crook and I will be meeting with Landsdale Farm School Management Committee to seek reassurance that we will be kept fully informed and involved as the Education Department review of the site is undertaken. It is very important for us not to get any unpleasant surprises if the decision is made to close the site.

Our Management Committee representatives met with Karinyup Rotary to see if the idea of establishing a second nursery with the proposed Lake Gwelup Men's Shed was viable. As it turns out the Friends of Gwelup are likely to oppose the construction of the shed and we have come to the view that there would be no security for a nursery, so we have said no to being involved.

We will continue to look for alternatives initially with local government just in case we have to move from Landsdale.

Only a short report this month as Christine and I are busy getting ready for our safari trip to Botswana. (Leaving on the 18th March). David Pike will take over as Vice President for the month and we look forward to seeing you all at the April meeting. AND don't forget the Nursery Plant Sale on 23rd April. You can help by volunteering on the day to help with the sales or just make a commitment to come along and bring friends to see what we do and enjoy the Farm School. A great place to bring children and see the animals.

Richard Curry
President



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

PLANT SALE

Assorted tube-stock

from \$4-00

Saturday April 23rd

9-00am to 3-00pm

at

Landsdale Farm School

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 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**

