

LIBRARY BOOKS – 18th June 2024

Faseny provided some information on the following books about Botanists:

- *'A Lady's Pen: The Botanical letters of Georgiana Molloy.'* by Bernice Barry
In December 1839, Georgiana Molloy received an unexpected letter from Captain James Mangles in London asking her to collect specimens of native plants in the British settlement where she lived, on Wadandi Pibelman country in Western Australia's southwest. During the last six years of her life, they exchanged letters and Molloy sent Captain Mangles three exquisite collections of seeds and dried wildflowers from Taalinup and Undalup (Augusta and Busselton). Eminent gardeners and botanists considered Molloy's specimens to be of the highest quality they had received from the 'Swan River colony' and the surviving specimens are still studied in herbariums around the world, today. In 1843, Georgiana Molloy died having received no payment or formal recognition for her scientific achievements.
- *'Mary Strong Clemens. A Botanical Pilgrimage.'* A biography by Nelda B Ikenberry
This is the story of Mary Strong Clemens and one woman's efforts to supply the "real" botanists of yesterday and today with materials for their research. The life of Mary Strong Clemens is 'history from the bottom up'. There is value in hearing stories from the voice of an ordinary person who accomplishes out-of-the ordinary things. The book begins with her humble beginning and continues for nearly nine decades of rambling around the fringes of the globe collecting and affecting those she met with her stoic faith. Mary Clemens makes us appreciate the manner in which collecting trips of 100 years ago were managed on frugal budgets.
- *'Olive Pink. A Life in Flowers.'* by Gillian Ward
Olive Pink: Artist, Activist & Gardener presents a superb selection of original paintings of the iconic flowers of the Central Australian region, alongside a fascinating biography featuring beautifully reproduced memorabilia of a colourful and unconventional historical Australian figure.
- *'The Robert Brown Handbook. A Guide to the Life and Work of Robert Brown (1773-1858), Scottish Botanist'* by David Mabberley & David Moore
In the middle of the nineteenth century, Robert Brown (1773 - 1858) was considered a scientific titan and dubbed 'Jupiter Botanicus', the greatest botanist of his time, with broad interests in plant science. Yet today, beyond Brownian Movement and the 'R.Br.' after hundreds of plant-names, he and his ground-breaking work are little appreciated, largely because, on the one hand, his pioneering discoveries have become a familiar part of mainstream biology and, on the other, his work was to be sidelined by his botanical successors bent on pure systematics and inventory as part of the British imperial endeavour
- *'A Greater Prize than Gold: Augustus Oldfield, 19th Century Botanical Collector and Ethnographer in Australia'* by M Helen Henderson & William G Henderson
Augustus Oldfield trekked throughout southern Australia from 1845 to 1862 amassing plant specimens that would be used to describe over 700 species new to science, including twenty-one that would ultimately bear his name.

Tim added another recommendation:

- *'The Language of Trees. A Rewilding of Literature and Landscape'* by Katie Holten.
Inspired by forests, trees, leaves, roots, and seeds, this book invites readers to discover an unexpected and imaginative language to better read and write the natural world around us

and reclaim our relationship with it. In this gorgeously illustrated and deeply thoughtful collection, Katie Holten gifts readers her tree alphabet and uses it to masterfully translate and illuminate beloved lost and new, original writing in praise of the natural world. Tim summarised it as – ‘art and poems and a list of old English words on trees and parts of trees. A good book to dip into.’