

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

AUGUST 2019

NOTE!!!! The August meeting is on **FRIDAY 2nd August**

when Ron Gornall will lead an interactive discussion on plants.



Everyone is welcome for what promises to be a fun and informative evening.

Please bring specimens for identification (preferably with flowers) or for promotion of their benefits/features to others.

Unidentified specimens which you may consider are possibly weeds are also welcome.

Ron has an extensive knowledge of our native plants from his vast bushwalking and gardening experiences.



Wildflower Art and Garden Festival 2019 Sunday 25th AUGUST at KWG

APS NSG needs helpers. It also needs friends and neighbours to come. Please spread the word.

Helpers are needed on Friday 23rd, Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August.

Jobs include moving the plants and setting up, making flower bunches and arrangements, selling raffle tickets, selling & packing plants at the Festival. **Wanted: small cardboard boxes, reusable bags. Please bring to meeting, drop off at KWG shadehouse on Wed afternoons or bring on 25th August**

Please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com or 9875 2262 (answering machine for messages) with your availability and how you wish to contribute.

The proceeds of the Raffle will be for The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Appeal for the scientific project **NO PLANTS NO FUTURE** which aims to digitalise the National Herbarium of NSW.

<https://www.rbgsvd.nsw.gov.au/Support/donate/shareandprotect>

What is a Herbarium and what does it do? Wondering what plant you have seen or grown? See *Native Plants* January 2019 pages 4-8 for Barry Lees' article on *The Hornsby Herbarium* <http://www.photosau.com.au/HornsbyHerbarium/scripts/home.asp>

BYO Bags or boxes for plants, flowers and other goodies.

Conservation in Ku-ring-gai Council (KC) area A talk by Jacob Sife

The July meeting was treated to a most informative and interesting talk about what is happening in the KC area in the field of conservation. Jacob main message was **COLLABORATION** between individuals, government agencies, public groups and organisations to achieve positive outcomes.

Ku-ring-gai area is still an area with a high level of biodiversity: including the Blue Gum High Forest, sightings of the Pacific Baza Hawk (*Aviceda subcristata*), Eastern Pygmy Possums (*Cercartetus nanus*), several varieties of frogs and plants, including the native orchid, *Genoplesium baueri*.

Conservation is conducted on different levels: landscape scale (State and local planning including NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Office of Environment and Heritage), Reserve scale and species &/or site scale.

The conservation work is largely funded by the 5% levy rates in KC.

http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/Current_projects_priorities/Key_priorities/Environment_sustainability/Environmental_Levy

Jacob commented that awareness, inspiration and community engagement are essential for successful conservation. This work can be resource intensive- financial, personnel, time and materials. Citizen Science and volunteer contributions are very important. The NSW Government has a saving our species program.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-program>

Jacob then briefly outlined a few projects being carried out in KC.

Microbats: these are insectivorous small bats. One of these bats, the fishing bat Large-footed Myotis (*Myotis Macropus*), flies low over water bodies to collect their food. The studies looked at activity of these small bats over various water bodies- creeks, pools retrofitted as natural ponds, normal pools, dams, sediment ponds and those on golf courses. It has been established that different micro bat and macrobats species are habitat specific. The study showed that the golf course ponds were popular.

Grey Headed Flying Fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) live in camps that are loud and smelly. They live in very mobile populations along the eastern coast. Collaboration with many groups is required- bushcare, local residents, citizen science groups collecting research data, community groups such as schools, local and state government bodies. One initiative to aid the conservation of this species has been the provision of double glazing for local residents to dampen any noise from the bats.

Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*): Citizen scientists have assisted greatly with this study with activities such as checking nest boxes. *Banksia ericifolia* is an excellent food source. (An Eastern Pygmy Possum was seen in June 2017 on one of the APS NSG W&T walks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens).

<https://www.wildthings.org.au/>

<https://www.rbgsvd.nsw.gov.au/hollows-as-homes/hollows-as-homes>

Foxes: (*Vulpes vulpes*). In collaboration with National Parks and Wildlife Service NSW baiting stations are used to try and control fox populations. Jacob commented that fire actually increases the damage that foxes and cats inflict on native wildlife as these species are comfortable in the burnt areas and the surviving native animals have less protection in the burnt bush.

If you wish to contribute to sightings of feral animals please contact <https://www.feralscan.org.au>. Note that this site is for the collection of data. It does not mean that any active action will occur as a result of the reporting, but by getting a better understanding of the problem, then effective strategies may be able to be developed.

Hibbertia spanantha (*Julian's Hibbertia*) was first discovered locally in 2007 and named in 2015. Conservation scientists are studying this plant. It has been discovered that burning seems to be an important requirement for reproduction. In collaboration with Hornsby Shire Nursery an attempt is being made to propagate from seed with the 3 seeds that are available. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haQzeEzI7ng>

Other videos of featuring these projects and Jacob can be found on Envirotube Australian Wildlife and Sustainability. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx_9j3vCEBPs12u-p5D-0wg

Genoplesium baueri: This is a threatened native orchid which is found in KWG and has been studied over many years by APS NSG member, Wendy Grimm. Save our Species funding has supported various studies of this plant.



President, Sue Bowen, thanking Jacob. Image by Jan W



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A short Q&A session was held. Jacob commented that ecological fires are usually smaller and very targeted to have a specific outcome, while hazard reduction burns are primarily for safety reasons but may also have ecological benefits.

Concluding, Jacob reinforced the concept of successful collaboration being essential for conservation work. Hopefully, increasing an appreciation of the natural environment will also be an outcome of all these various projects.

Jacob is currently the Natural Areas Program Leader, Ku-ring-gai Council.

Written by Jan Williamson

Propagation



With the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival fast approaching on Sunday 25th August, the APS NSG propagation team is preparing the plants for sale.

The team will meet **EVERY Wednesday from 1-4 pm** from 3rd July to 21st August at the shadehouse at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives. The shadehouse is beside the Visitors' Centre at KWG.

If you would like to learn more along side passionate, highly experienced people this is an ideal opportunity. Bring a snack for afternoon tea, some gardening gloves and wear closed shoes.

For more information contact either Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234 or Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

If you can't make Wednesdays then Michael and his band of keen gardeners invite you to join

The Knoll Bush-Care Group

Meets fortnightly to maintain the Knoll as a Showcase of mainly local native plants
Please join us to help us weed, plant and maintain this beautiful, special section of the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

We will be meeting on the second and fourth Friday of every month. (9th & 23rd August)
We meet at 10 to 10 am (9.50 am) near the gates that lead down to Lambert's Clearing.
If you can let us know that you are coming we can wait for you.

Phone contact for Michael is 0417 026 111



Coordinator of the 2020 Speakers programme is still open

This is a position that can be done without leaving home. Five speakers for 2020 have already been confirmed. Only 6 to go!

The committee also needs suggestions for topics and /or speakers for the programme. Word of mouth is a great way to find speakers, so the committee would like your suggestions.

It is a position that could be shared by two people. Others give suggestions of speakers or topics to the coordinator, so it is a role with potentially lots of assistance.

The role involves contacting potential speakers &/ or groups or organisations and teeing up a date that suits them and getting a related image and a topic for their talk.

If you are interested in helping the group in this way and would like any more information, please contact Rae Rosten on 9456 2111 or Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951.

Hornsby Shire Council conducts regular plant giveaways (4 native plants) to its residents at its nursery in Britannia Ave Pennant Hills. APS NSG has attended a couple of these and it is a very valuable way to promote our group and native plants. **Two people are needed for the next giveaway on Sunday 20th October.** We attend from 9.15am to 12 noon and then enjoy a sumptuous lunch with all the other volunteers. If you would like to help please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com



Group Activities

SUNDAY 4th August A working bee at the shadehouse, KWG. There will "something for everyone". Why not come and share your talents.

9 am start with 12.30 pm BBQ at nearby Dampier's Clearing.
The APS NSG shadehouse is located behind the Visitors' Centre.

PLANTS will be for sale

Contact: Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 in case of possible cancellation due to poor weather conditions.
Please bring tools (spade or shovel, rake), wear stout shoes and protective gloves and eye protection.

Bring food for BBQ. Lunch will be at 12.30 pm at Dampier's Clearing and all are welcome, even if you can't assist with the working bee.

2019 WALKS AND TALKS sessions. MONDAY Mornings at KWG 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives

Enquiries: Bob 9417 5217

Location: Caley's Pavilion

The sessions start with a talk with an identification focus at 10am for about an hour followed by a short break. The group then heads off for an easy walk of about one hour to specifically look at specimens which have just been discussed. Please wear enclosed walking shoes, bring water, hat, sunscreen and insect repellent. If you would like to stay and enjoy the company and the pleasant surrounds near Caley's Pavilion, bring a picnic lunch.

Cost: \$5 non APS NSG, \$2 APS NSG members

Monday 29th July "Monocotyledons" an introduction to plants such as Reeds, Rushes, Sedges, Grasses, Orchids.

Other groups of plants that will be covered this (school) term are Rainforest plants, Wattles, Boronias, Waxflowers, Heath Plants, Peas and Waratahs. A long walk on 12th August and a talk on fire and its impacts on the Australian sandstone flora (16th September) will also feature this term. See page 6 or website for more details.

<https://austplants.com.au/resources/Documents/North-Shore-Documents/Walks%20and%20Talks%20Program%202019.pdf>



Garden visit on Sunday 15th September 10 am to the home of Ted and Nancy Shaw at Bayview.

Full details of this visit will be published in the September *Blandfordia*.

October outing will be on **Sunday 13th October**. Bob Failes will lead an outing from Waverton Train Station to Balls Head and the "Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability".

Fifteen people visited Jan Williamson's home on 13th July. Well rugged up we explored the garden.



Jan's two favourite tools are her trolley and extension pole lopper. This is a light weight aluminium pole with a head that can cut through branches up to about 30mm diameter high up in the air. No need for a ladder and MUCH safer! The position of the head is adjustable.

The trolley takes up to 70 kg and does not need items to be lifted up and over as with a wheelbarrow. Just tilt the trolley forward to load and unload it. It is more stable than a wheelbarrow. Jan prefers solid wheels to a trolley with inflatable tyres.

Sue Bowen commented that she is now looking forward to her next birthday and Christmas as these items are on her list of desired gifts!!



Notices and Reminders

APS NSW Get Together Newcastle Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th August

A most interesting programme has been organised by the Newcastle APS Group



Registration for the weekend is \$40 and includes lunch and morning tea on both Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday morning – Hunter Region Botanic Gardens

Saturday afternoon – Walks in Port Stephens area

Saturday evening – Dinner at Mayfield

Sunday morning – Two walks: Glenrock Scout Camp and Awabakal Reserve

Sunday afternoon – Hunter Wetlands Centre

Please register and pay by 2nd August 2019

Registration form at

<https://austplants.com.au/resources/Documents/Events/Get%20together%20at%20Newcastle.pdf>

APS NSG Central Coast is organising a **trip to two gardens in the Maitland Area** on Sunday 8th September

All welcome

Tentative Itinerary (it may be s modified slightly)

8:30am Bus pick up at Kariong at Kariong Visitor Information Centre

9:00am Bus pick-up at Tuggerah Railway Station (East)

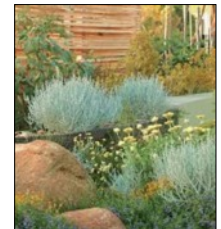
10:30am **Ashtonfield garden**

12:00pm Brandy Hill garden

2:00pm **Newcastle Australian Plants nursery on site at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, Shortland.**

~ 4:00pm Return to Tuggerah Station

~ 4:30pm Return to Kariong



Cost

APS NSW Members \$25.00 Non-members \$35.00

By cheque to Australian Plant Society Central Coast District. Please post to PO Box 1604

Gosford NSW 2250 by Friday **23rd August**.

***If you wish to attend, please email Stephanie Francis at fran115cis@optusnet.com.au or phone her on 0431 207 281.**

Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) ANPSA National Conference and Biennial General Meeting 2019

will be held in Albany WA from 29th September to 3rd October 2019.

www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au

Investigation of Tick-Borne Diseases in Australia

Northern Sydney Health District -NSW Health

There is a project that is aiming to reveal the entire assemblage of microbes in patients experiencing acute tick-borne disease and in ticks that bite humans.

It will identify any microbes present in a sample in an unbiased manner - bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites.

How can you help? **LIVE** ticks are required.



<https://australianmuseum.net.au/learn/animals/insects/australian-paralysis-tick/>

For full details please Contact Dr Katerina Mitsakos

Tick Borne Disease Research Coordinator 9926 4127

katerina.mitsakos@health.nsw.gov.au

Bushland Shire vs The Shire

Editor's note

One creature that our local plants don't have to contend with, as yet, is deer. Reading the recent edition of the newsletter of Sutherland Shire APS Group they are looking for solutions to this problem, as well as possums and wallabies.

I'm not sure if the brush turkeys have made it there yet. I think so!

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm.
Every Wednesday until the Festival.
3rd July to 21st August.

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly)
at 9 am on **6th & 20th August 2019**
Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Monday Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives AUGUST

5th Rainforest

12th **WALK ONLY** The perimeter trail to the Showground

19th Wattles (Acacias) Family Fabaceae, sub family Mimosoideae
26th Boronias, Waxflowers (Family Rutaceae)

SEPTEMBER

2nd Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)

9th The Peas (Family Fabaceae sub family Faboideae)

16th Fire and the Australian Sandstone Flora

23rd Waratahs & other members of Family Proteaceae

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

The Knoll KWG Fridays 10am to 12 noon. **9th & 23rd August**

Contact: Michael Griffith
michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

Members and friends are always

July Committee Notes

- New heating pad for propagation
- Finances
- Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival
- Christmas Party: maybe something different this year

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 2nd AUGUST 2019

(7.30 pm for 8 pm)

Beatrice Taylor Hall
Willow Park Community Centre,
Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Friday 2nd August

Ron Gornall will lead an interactive session on plant ID. Bring your plant specimens along.

<https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore-Meetings>



Next meeting **Friday 13th September** *Speaker: Susan Everingham* (one of the 2018 VW Scholarship Recipients) will speak on Changes in Sydney Flowering Times.



CHRISTMAS BELLS

Christmas bush

Christmas party



Ideas and suggestions for the APS NSG Christmas party on Friday 13th December at KWG are wanted. Any suggestions are welcome.

Please contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or email secretary@blandfordia.org.au

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Address for general correspondence:

Australian Plants Society, North Shore Group, PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE 2069

Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au

Website: <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

The preferred method for Membership Applications & Renewals is to go to the APS NSW website and follow the instructions at <https://www.austplants.com.au/about-membership>.

If joining or renewing online presents any problems assistance can be given at any general meeting. Please speak to Genevieve Meares or Helen Ray. Alternatively email your query to membership@blandfordia.org.au
For your convenience, an EFT payment option is now available.

Newsletter submissions: Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month.

For the September 2019 edition this will be 16th August Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069