

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



JULY 2019

Pollination- not just the realm of bees Wendy Grimm at meeting on Friday 14th June

Wendy gave a most informative and interesting talk which was accompanied by many of her excellent images. Once again, we are encouraged to look more closely and more leisurely at the plants and see what is going on. Wendy commented that sometimes it is only when she returns home and sees the image on the screen is she aware of the insect on the flower or plant.

The first challenge to us was to think about what motivates insects to visit plants. Some answers included gathering nectar and/ or pollen and resting at a comfortable "B&B". Plants may provide an energy source for the insect and/or their larvae. Some plants produce a pheromone which mimics the female of the insect species, thereby attracting the males and helping the plant itself reproduce. In many cases different insects may visit the same plant.

The colour of pollen varies and what we see is often different to what the insect and other species see as the visible light and UV spectrum differ. The ability to see the different spectra differs between species- insects, birds, and mammals.

Wendy's passion for orchids meant that many of the images were of members of the Wasp families that are vital in the pollination of orchids. Pollen in orchids is packaged as a pollinium. This means that the pollen is packaged as one unit which then sticks to the insect and is transferred to the next orchid.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollinium>

Some spiders are clever enough to wait for the insects and entrap when they visit the flowers.

Members of the Moth family may also be involved in the pollination of some plants, including *Boronia serrulata* and *Eriostemom australasius*.

In the Q&A session after the talk a few interesting facts came out.

Red flowers are often favoured by birds, while moths prefer white or pink flowers.

Orchids are visited often by wasps, bees and /or flies. Some attract a general insect population while others are species specific.

Most of the caterpillars that we encounter are destined to become moths, not butterflies.

As is usually the case with our talks, the complexity, interconnectedness and brilliance of nature, was highlighted.

The Book *Orchid pollinators of Victoria 2* by Rudie Kuiter was recommended by Wendy.

Thank you for a stimulating talk, Wendy.

Written by and image by Jan Williamson

*(In the APS NSG library is *Insects of South-Eastern Australia: An Ecological and Behavioural Guide* by Roger Farrow)*

Editor's note: On a similar topic, I found the following conversation a fascinating and informative session.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/programs/conversations/toby-smith/11075320> *The brutal and beautiful world of Australia's native bees* Toby Smith



Coordinator of the 2020 Speakers programme

APS NSG has prided itself on being able to provide a diverse and informative range of speakers and topics for our monthly meetings. This annual programme has been finalised usually by late January each year, so that our annual programme can be circulated at the beginning of each year. This does not happen by chance. In 2018 and 2019 Rae Rosten has fulfilled this role. Rae is not available for this position in 2020. A new coordinator is needed for the 2020 Speakers' programme. 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.

Climate change

This is a brief summary of a talk on climate change by climate scientist Professor Leslie Hughes from Macquarie University in late 2018.

Where are we and where are we going?

Climate is now changing 170 times faster than in the last 7000 years.

CO₂ concentration is now 411 ppm.

Sea level rise is 3 times the rate it was in the 1990's.

The oceans are acidifying.

Cyclone intensity around the world is increasing.

Droughts are longer and more severe.

Bushfire seasons are lengthening and becoming more severe.

Coral is bleaching worldwide.

In northern Australia, about 10,000 sq. kms of mangroves are dead.

Snow cover is declining. There is now 10% less than in 1960's.

Native animal numbers are decreasing.

The additional CO₂ in the atmosphere has resulted in about 11% increase in rate of growth of flora worldwide. By itself, this is a good thing.

What should we do about it?

Keep doing the things we are doing to preserve flora and fauna.

Identify and protect "refuges" e.g. where the Wollemi pine was found. These are relatively stable places and might hold flora and fauna that can be used for recovering lost species elsewhere.

Turn back the clock on land clearing by replanting, possibly with species chosen for its resilience.

Build new habitats like reefs and bushland.

Translocate animal species when threatened with extinction.

Some flora and fauna are advantaged under climate change. These may need controlling when they threaten to swamp local species.

Stop coal mining – leave 90% of coal and 86% of gas in the ground.

Join lobby groups, put pressure on politicians and keep doing it!

To work out what plants might survive climate change, look at the "Climate Ready Revegetation Guide" developed by CSIRO and Macquarie Uni. http://anpc.asn.au/resources/climate_ready_revegetation

Barry Lees

Propagation

“From little things big things grow” may be the title of the song co written by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody but it is equally true of plants.

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

P.S. Not every plant produced will grow quite as big as the one in the image.



Image of a Hibertia sp. by Narelle Barden

A warm WELCOME to new members Michael Mueller, Stuart Blundell and Mary Ann Irvin.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG members. We look forward to getting to know you and share with you knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.



Hardenbergia violacea and *Hymenosporum flavum* “Gold Nugget” are already in flower at Sue Bowen’s home.

Group Activities

APS NSG has managed to assist all the plants lately, by providing some much needed rain. First the working bee planned for Sunday 16th June was cancelled, then the following two Walks and Talks sessions were affected by rain. However, the bush now looks brilliantly clean and vibrant again, the water tanks are full and there is much to celebrate.

A special thanks to those who didn't get the cancellation message and attended the proposed working bee on 16th June. Your enthusiasm is greatly appreciated. The good news is that another date has been planned for the working bee at the shadehouse. It will now be held on **SUNDAY 4th August**.

SUNDAY 4th August A working bee at the shadehouse, KWG.

9am start with 12.30pm BBQ at nearby Dampier's Clearing.

PLANTS will be for sale

The APS NSG shadehouse is located behind the Visitors' Centre.

Contact: Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 in case of possible cancellation due to poor weather conditions.

Again, if you know anyone with drainage expertise Sue would appreciate a call from them. Such helpful advice would be welcomed. The materials for the project have been purchased.

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.

Spring term commences on Monday 22nd July with Grevilleas and Hakeas the topic. See page 6 for details of the July & August programme

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

Saturday 13th July Garden visit to Jan Williamson's home 31 Nicholson Ave Thornleigh.

The house is on the corner of Giblett Ave.

PARKING: there are traffic calming structures in Nicholson Ave so parking needs to be in Giblett Ave or further north along Nicholson Ave. For safety reasons, if parking in Giblett Ave, please park downstream of our driveway.

Time **10 am** and will be followed by morning tea.

The front garden was begun approximately 27 years ago, when time and opportunity permitted us to build a fence and spend time in the garden.

All will be revealed on the 13th. Other features will include comments on what has worked and what hasn't, pruning methods and their rationale, the pros and cons of different styles of compost bins and how to produce some of the world's (OK Thornleigh's) best oranges. All welcome.



Unfortunately the September garden visit advertised in the June *Blandfordia* Garden visit on **Sunday 15th September** has had to be changed. Clare has sustained an injury and is out of action for some time. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery. Instead, Ted and Nancy Shaw have kindly offered their garden at Bayview on 15th September and full details of this visit will be published in the September *Blandfordia*. It will be at 10am.

October outing will be on the weekend of **12th or 13th October**. Bob Failes will lead an outing from Waverton Train Station to Balls Head and the "Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability".

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>

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

Please set aside this date and Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th August for doing the flowers, setting up and moving the plants. Any small vases or containers for flower arrangements will be most welcome. Any ideas for new activities/ displays etc are always welcome.

A roster will be available at the July and August meetings or please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com with your availability and how you wish to contribute- walks, plant sales, raffle, flower arrangements or flower sales.



Narelle Barden recently spotted this unusual inflorescence of *Banksia ericifolia* – it had a deformity at the top so looked different to all the rest.

**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

Eucalyptus photo competition

Entries close on **Monday 22 July 2019.**

<http://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/news/eucalypt-photo-competition>

Scribbles on the Scribbly gum (probably *Eucalyptus haemastoma*) - which play host to the larvae of scribbly gum moths which leave distinctive scribbly burrowing patterns on the bark. *Image by Narelle Barden*



open for entries between June 3 and August 2

Lorraine Bower

Threatened Species Children's Art Competition

PO Box 226, Annandale NSW 2038

Phone 0414 958 714 02 806 88805

Website: <http://www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.au>

Follow the competition on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/289862308022985/>

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 **10th & 24th July 2019**
Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

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

Term 3: **JULY**

22nd Grevilleas, Hakeas (Family Proteaceae)

29th Monocotyledons

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)

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

June Committee Notes

- Revised group activities for the remainder of the year.
- New person for convening annual speakers programme
- Shadehouse - another heat pad required.

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 12th July 2019

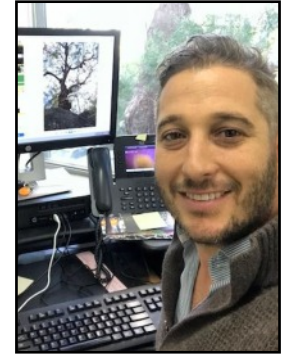
(7.30 pm for 8 pm)

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

Speaker: Next meeting **Friday 12th July**

Speaker: Jacob Sife

Topic: Collaborating for conservation in Ku-ring-gai



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

Background: Ku-ring-gai is known as a biodiversity hotspot and a refuge for many species of flora and fauna struggling to survive in the highly urbanised Sydney basin. Ku-ring-gai Council manage numerous native and threatened species, populations and ecological communities in an effort to protect, conserve and enhance our biodiversity. Critical to the success of conservation programs are the collaborations formed with community and Government bodies. In this talk, Jacob will look at the conservation programs in Ku-ring-gai, particularly those which have received funding through the State Government's Saving our Species or Ku-ring-gai Council's Environment Levy, he will share data on outcomes and the most up to date monitoring on some of our most endangered species, including the critically endangered *Hibbertia spanantha*.

Next meeting **Friday 2nd August**

***** **NOTE this is the first Friday of the month.** *****

HSC are doing maintenance work on the hall the following week.

Speaker: Ron Gornall *Topic:* Interactive Plant ID Session

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 August 2019 edition this will be 19th July Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

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