

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

May 2021

Group Walk on Saturday 10th April at between KWG and St Ives Showground.

Sue Fredrickson reported that a pleasant half day was had exploring the Wildflower Gardens to Showground Trail in St Ives for the April walk. Around 100 plant species were identified and listed for future reference.

We have certainly been able to enjoy the great outdoors in magnificent weather.



A very healthy *Angophora hispida*.

Lots of grasses and sedges



An interesting raised trail across the track revealed the creators- termites.



President's Message

I'm so pleased that our shade house was re-roofed this week. After placing additional strengthening on the walls and roof, three different thicknesses of new shade cloth were placed on the roof. This will allow us to place plants under the appropriate level of shade. As you can imagine, the old black shade cloth was filthy and full of lichen.

We're very pleased to be resuming our face to face meetings at Beatrice Taylor Hall, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby. Our next meeting will be on Friday 14th May at 8 pm, with plant sales from 7.45 pm. Due to Covid requirements, attendance is by prior booking only and a phone no. must be provided. Please book with me on suzanneebowen@gmail.com Seating will be arranged differently but we will still provide our library and supper.

Finally, our deepest sympathy goes to our Treasurer, Helen Ray, on the recent loss of her husband Abhi.

Sue Bowen



BEFORE

On 9th April 2021 there was a small ceremony at The Knoll KWG to unveil the plaque in memory of Alec Fisher.

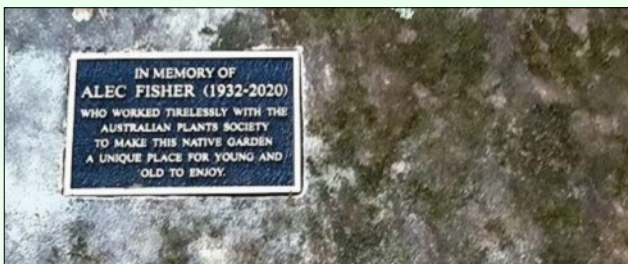


Image by Wendy Grimm

April meeting talk by **David Bambridge** **Going Native in the Urban Landscape**

David's presentation showed us many examples of large mass plantings and a few of the considerations and processes that are required for their implementation. His work deals with people, plants and buildings. Many people with differing skills confer in these projects- ecologists, arborists, hydrologists and horticulturalists. Timing the project with the supply of LARGE numbers of suitable plants is always a challenge- sourcing plants, which may be thousands of tube stock at the same time, is often a challenge and one not necessarily understood or appreciated by those concentrating on the infrastructure. Unsurprisingly, many people favour the showier plants and flowers . (Editor's comment: The belief that exotics fulfil these requirements better than native species still seems to be strong.)

Other challenges include sites where soil may have to be removed, cleaned and returned before work commences.

Roof top sites require a certain depth of soil (often a special lightweight mix) over other layers of waterproofing materials, special drainage cells and geotextiles. Roof tops may also be very windy environments. For maintenance weeds may have to be hand removed. Materials that might blow around, including some mulches and heavier mulches such as gravels are too heavy and can't be used. Soil weights are important and are often a third of the mass of ground based mixes. Maintaining soil moisture then becomes a challenge and soils may become hydrophobic. Drip irrigation is often utilised to help overcome this problem. Plants on roof gardens should not have too much root mass. Complete cover of roof top gardens is required for weed suppression and to decrease evaporation.

David also discussed street plantings. Many councils now understanding the importance of a green canopy and are instituting planting programmes of street trees. An Australian standard is being developed for tree stock for landscape use. Nurseries will use this standard and will have criteria for every stage of growth and size of tree. 10% of the roots are removed at planting creating a fibrous root system and ag lines are installed for watering. Plants generally fail if they need staking- staking is actually used to keep people at bay or out of the immediate area surrounding the plants. Consideration is made of the aspect with trees adjusted to north facing. With multiple plantings a trench is created for root growth and other services are often sharing the trench. Structural soil of 4 parts rock to 1 part sandy soil is placed in the trench. The top soil layer will be < 200-250 mm deep. If organic matter is deeper anaerobic decay may occur and this is damaging to the roots. Plants are often installed at night time. On the surface a structural cell material is often placed for pavement support and protection of the tree root zones.

For green wall gardens David often prefers the planter box systems to other systems as the latter are often very expensive to install and maintain and have high energy requirements. Weed control in wall gardens can also be an issue.

David's talk once again exemplified the complexity of anything to do with propagating, planting and maintaining green spaces. Maybe, pause for thought when you next visit any big commercial or recreational green space, and think about how and why it was created. Extra points if native species are incorporated in to the plantings :).

Written by Jan Williamson

David is the Key Principal of The Garden Makers
<http://thegardenmakers.com.au/>



Group Activity Saturday 15th May



A chance to see an area of Sydney where many of us have never ventured. Enjoy an outing with other like minded Australian plant buffs.

Come for the whole day or part of the day. **ALL WELCOME**

APS NSW AGM and Gathering

When: SATURDAY 15th May 2021

Program: 9 am - 12 noon: Banks-Solander walk, Kamay National Park
Guided walks along the Banks-Solander track. This well-maintained track begins at the Kurnell Visitor Centre and offers an easy 700m walk that features many of Australia's plants that were first collected and described in the area by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, during their eight day visit to Botany Bay in April 1770.

Walks will begin between 9 - 10 am. Meet at the Kurnell Visitor Centre, Kamay National Park Cape Solander Drive, Kurnell

12pm - 1pm Lunch Bring your own and enjoy it on the foreshore of Botany Bay (great for plane spotters). Food can be purchased at Kurnell Visitor Centre (limited), Silver Beach Cafe and Milkhouse Kurnell.

AGM and meeting in the afternoon

\$5 entry fee which covers afternoon tea and associated costs.

Meet at the Marton Community Hall, 92-94 Captain Cook Drive, Kurnell.

1 pm - 1:30 pm: APS NSW Annual General Meeting.

1.30 pm - 2.30 pm: Talk by Dan Clarke, who will talk about the plants that Banks and Solander collected and described during their visit to Botany Bay. Dan is a well-known environmentalist consultant, and APS NSW Conservation Officer. Dan is a very entertaining speaker with an extensive knowledge of the flora of the Kamay National Park and surrounds.

2.30 pm: Afternoon tea provided by the Sutherland Group of APS NSW.

<https://austplants.com.au/event-4146666>



What a great year for *Banksia spinulosa* and all their forms and every garden should have at least three as they are quite hardy. Just remember if pruning they flower on old wood.

Jeff Howes

Grevillea Golden Lyre is also putting on a spectacular display.



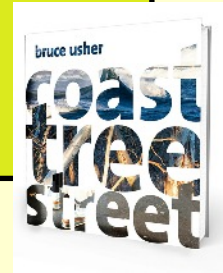
APS NSG Events in May 2021

Next meeting 14th MAY 7.30pm for 8pm
Face to face at Beatrice Taylor Hall Hornsby
25 Edgeworth David Drive Hornsby
The hall is located behind Willow Park



BOOKINGS required
Please contact Sue Bowen on
suzanneebowen@gmail.com
with name and contact number

Speaker Bruce Usher Topic coast tree street



Background:

Discuss the creation of my new photography book *coast tree street*.

It is a 192 page hardcover book with B/W and colour images, in three sections which includes personal insights and excerpts from my interviews.

At the end of the book discussion there will be a show of Snow gums photographed above Thredbo and Charlottes Pass in March 2020 and images of the Wollombi landscape in the lower Hunter valley of NSW.

Coast was photographed between Noosa Heads Qld and Rosedale Beach on the NSW south coast but predominantly Sydney's northern beaches between 1963 and 2020.

Tree was photographed between 2007 and 2020. Locations include Bangally Head North Avalon NSW, Brisbane Water National Park NSW on the Central coast NSW, Flinders Ranges SA, Goldsmith Island Qld, Kosciuszko National Park NSW, Ku-ring-gai Chase Northern Sydney NSW, McKay Reserve Palm Beach NSW, Mt Hotham Vic, Mt Wellington Tasmania, Washpool National Park NSW, Wollombi Lower Hunter Valley NSW, Wyrabalong National Park, NSW central coast.

Street was photographed between 1974 and 2020.

Newcastle, May Day Rally 1974 and Sydney CBD 1976, 1991, 1992, 2016 – 2020

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

WALK only on Monday 24th May 2021 at 10am Bookings are essential.

Please email wagrimm@tpg.com.au (preferred) or ring Wendy 0419 323 035

Please provide 1) your name 2) mobile number and 3) the number of a person who could be contacted in the case of an emergency.

Propagation at KWG Wednesday 5th & 19th May 9th & 23rd June *Contact:* Tania Lambie 0415 043 671

Bushcare at KWG 12th & 26th May 2nd, 16th & 30th June *Contact:* Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

The Knoll 14th & 28th May 11th & 25th June *Contact:* Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

11th June APS NSG Meeting Speaker Narelle Smith Topic Sir Joseph Banks life's works: A journey of Sir Joseph Banks' work including the Endeavour journal, Australian plant collections, taxonomy and recruitment that enabled the publishing of Florilegium editions.

Some spectacular fungi on different sides of this trunk at Cumberland State Forest in late March.



Another source of quality native plants.
Brian Roach Westleigh Native Plants
westleighnativeplants@gmail.com

New Member

A big welcome to new member Prue G. We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our interest in and knowledge of Australian native plants.

April Committee meeting notes (virtual zoom meeting)

The following items were discussed:

- Returning to face to face meetings on 14th May. Covid safe arrangements including bookings required.
- Speakers' Programme 2021
- Plant sale SUNDAY 29th August 2021

SILENT AUCTION



Joanne Foley has most kindly donated this beautiful table to the group as a fund raiser. It will be at the 14th May meeting. In the meantime if you would like to make an offer please contact Sue Bowen on suzanneebowen@gmail.com or 0478 957 951 .

It features an inlaid mosaic of flannel flowers in an occasional table with a wrought iron base & wrought iron legs, 60cm diam & 72cm high.



Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

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://austplants.com.au/about-membership>

If joining or renewing online presents any problems assistance can be given by emailing your query to membership@blandfordia.org.au

For your convenience, an EFT payment option is now available.

Treasurer: Helen Ray treasurer@blandfordia.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson 9875 2262 janw7531@gmail.com

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

For the June 2021 edition this will be 21st May 2021 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia *The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group*