

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



AUGUST 2022

## Sue's message

It was good to see everyone at our July meeting at Hornsby. Amber is fascinating and what was more amazing for me was finding out about our Australian amber! I had no idea that we had our own amber!!

Our next major activity will be our **plant sale on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at Caley's Pavilion**, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Although our propagation has been hampered by all the wet weather we still have a lot of plants that are just raring to get planted! We will also be selling some bargain plants and the Lawlers' beautiful cards.

Given the uncertain weather we will be at our KWG shadehouse every Wednesday afternoon (from 1-4pm) during the rest of July and August organising and packing up our plants for the sale. We welcome **your help** on these afternoons, weather permitting.

We also **need help** to take the plants down to Caley's on the afternoon of Saturday 3rd September and to arrange them on the tables. **More help** is needed to sell the plants on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> and to pack up unsold plants and take them back to our shadehouse.

Please let me know when and how you can help ([suzannebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebowen@gmail.com) or 0478 957 951).

Sue Bowen

Editor: tell you friends and neighbours about the sale

## CONGRATULATIONS



Helen Smith being presented the 2021 Noel Rosten Encouragement Award by Sue Bowen

Image by Phillip Grimm



## Meetings for the remainder of 2022

### 12<sup>th</sup> August APSNSG General Meeting

will be held on ZOOM 7.45pm for 8pm start.

*Speaker*      **Deidree Noss**

*Topic*    **Friends of the Colo - Adventure Conservation**

In 2000 a group of bushwalkers took on what seemed like an impossible weeding task - to eradicate black willows along the Colo River in the heart of the Wollemi Wilderness. The group soon became the Friends of the Colo and today still are conducting remote area bush regeneration activities in the Colo River and other catchments. Over the past 22 years Friends of the Colo has essentially eradicated black willows from the Colo river system. They are now targeting other invasive weeds in remote areas. Hear about our successes and challenges in working in the wilderness.



9<sup>th</sup> September    Meet and Greet the people and the plants at Beatrice Taylor Hall

14th October      Harriett Simpson-Southward [Val Williams Scholarship winner 2021]

11th November   Helen Smith on Huntsman Spiders

9th December    Christmas Party

### 14th JULY WALK

The intrepid members, led by Sue Fredrickson, walked around the Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF Critically Endangered Ecological Community) and Duffys Forest (Endangered Ecological Community), as well as Bloodwood Scribbly Gum Wood-land, Peppermint Angophora Forest and Scribbly Gum Open Woodland in Westleigh Park on a damp Thursday morning.

Lunch at Ruddock Park warmed us while we reminisced about trips to the Alps in summer. *Wendy Grimm*



*Persoonia laurina* Image by Wendy Grimm



Fortunately the rain stopped once we started walking. Before we started Sue filled us in on the area we were to walk through and what Hornsby Shire Council is proposing <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/works/major-projects/westleigh-park/image-gallery> This area is already being impacted by trail bikes tracks .  
*Jan Williamson*



## Tear of the Gods: the History and Science of Amber



Dan Bickel presented a most challenging and interesting talk at the July meeting. At least, it was challenging for me and a tricky one to summarise. I had never really thought about the origin of amber or what this product can potentially reveal about the past.

*Wikipedia:* **Amber** is fossilized tree resin that has been appreciated for its colour and natural beauty since Neolithic times.<sup>[1]</sup> Much valued from antiquity to the present as a gemstone, amber is made into a variety of decorative objects.<sup>[2]</sup> Amber is used in jewellery. It has also been used as a healing agent in folk medicine.

Resin can accumulate in hollows inside or outside the tree trunk, it may be from discrete drips or layered from flows. The formation affects the shape, structure and what animals or plant parts might have become trapped. Such items are termed 'inclusions'. Inclusions are most common in layered amber, where the specimen becomes stuck before being covered by another layer. As resin dries it is buried and may be transported by water for deposition along with other mineral sediments. Here the resin starts to lose its volatiles and over time is progressively transformed from resin to a harder amber.

Lots of inclusions can be included in the resin as it flows from the plant and be preserved for a long time (millions of years) within the amber. Animal inclusions include insects (predominantly arthropods- insects and spiders), plant inclusions include pollens and leaf material and other non living inclusions may be air bubbles and water droplets. (Editor's note: Similar inclusions are now being investigated in the ice cores taken in Antarctica). Looking at the sap flowing from an angophora will not be the same for me again. Certainly, a closer inspection may be warranted to check whether any obvious inclusions are present- be they insects or plant origin or inorganic materials.

Many conifers and some other trees secrete resins, which harden over time. Sub fossil resins are called copal, and are often soft and sticky. Amber is a fossil resin a million or more years old and most ambers are many millions of years old. Its properties include: specific gravity of 1.05, soft—2.0 -2.5 Moh, and coming in a variety of colours.

The specific gravity of 1.05 is very similar to sea water. This means that amber is easily transported by water. In the Baltic areas, where much of the world's amber has been found, harvesting is mined from the sea, the shoreline and some inland areas. Storms break off the amber from the seabed. Once exposed to the atmosphere oxidation starts to occur with crazing and deterioration of the amber occurring. Baltic Amber has a long history in Europe and it has been traded throughout Europe since prehistoric times.

The best known amber deposits are Tertiary—Baltic, Dominican, Bitterfeld are particularly well known. Other Tertiary deposits are from North America, India, Russia, Borneo and China. The oldest amber is Cretaceous, including deposits in North America (Alaska, Canada, New Jersey), UK, France, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Siberia, Myanmar and Japan. Quaternary copal is from East Africa, Madagascar and New Zealand. In Australia amber has been found on remote and difficult to access beaches in the Cape York area and in Tasmania (both sites Tertiary age) and in SW Victoria in the Otway area (Upper Cretaceous).

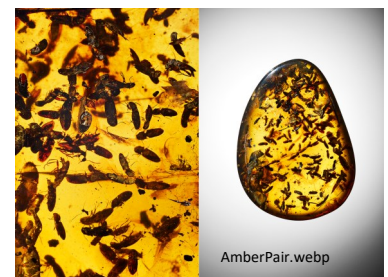
Some extra references that I found for Amber found in Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-04-03/mating-flies-found-in-40-my-old-amber-from-australia/12114292>

<https://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2006/11/29/1796778.htm>

*Why Tears of the Gods?* This title for amber derives from Greek mythology.

Phaeton was the son of Helios, who drove the sun chariot through the skies. Phaeton obtained his father's promise to drive the sun chariot for a day. Helios tried to dissuade him, but Phaeton was adamant. Phaeton could not control the horses that drew the chariot. First it veered too high and the earth grew cold. Then it dipped too close, and the vegetation burned, turning much of Africa into desert. Zeus was forced to intervene, striking the runaway chariot with lightning, and Phaeton plunged to his death. The Heliades, the daughters of Helios, grieved for four months and the gods turned them into poplar trees and their tears into amber.



Sue Bowen got into the spirit of the meeting and wore her amber ear rings. Thanks very much to Daniel for this presentation.

Written by and image by Jan Williamson



For those who went to W&T on 25th July Jan Marshall's comments will have been fulfilled.

Both red and grey spider flowers are in abundance in Sydney sandstone bushland in late winter and early spring, we may also spot pink or white spider flowers growing among rocky outcrops. These Grevilleas are easy to learn to recognise and are part of the Proteaceae family of plants.

In comparison, the Hakeas have small, light coloured flowers but bear large, woody seed capsules that persist on the shrub for many years.



Their fruit aid greatly with their identification. As we walk around the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden after the talk, we will recognise many of these plants and learn more about where they grow and their common characteristics. See page 5 for information on August W&T. Note special speakers on Monday 29th August.

### Group Walk for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August to West Head area

This will be a day of short walks one month out from the Sydney Post Kiama Conference Tour.

The North Shore Group will be hosting visiting Tour participants (potentially from interstate) for one of the five days of the Surprising Sydney Flora Tour in September 2022. You are invited to come on August 14<sup>th</sup> for a final trial of the walks we will be taking the visitors on.

This includes part of the Centre Track, West Head itself and part of the Basin Track. We have good Plant Lists for these places, so here is an opportunity for you to learn about the abundance of interesting Sandstone flora species in this area.

**When:** 10am Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August

**Where:** Start of Centre Track near the intersection of McCarrs Creek Rd and Liberator General San Martin Drive Terrey Hills (near former site of a NPWS Toll booth). There is parking on the side of the road that will hopefully not be all taken by road cyclists.

**Bring:** Lunch, snacks, water, thermos etc?, Plant ID book, Good walking shoes, weather appropriate gear eg hat and sunscreen or rain gear and umbrella.

**Contact person:** Sue Fredrickson 0401 362 921 [paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com)

Please register your intention to come by phone or email and state your name, car rego, phone number and emergency contact phone number. This way that you can be updated in case of cancellation due to bad weather.

**TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> September** Surprising Sydney Flora Tour is coming to Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden for afternoon tea. As with all good events, a tasty afternoon tea is an important part of the activity. KWG and APS NSG are providing this. Helpers are needed please. Approximately 20 people are booked on the tour.

More details will be available in the September *Blandfordia*.



## All welcome to NSG Walks & Talks activities August 2022

### AT THE KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN (KWG)

420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Meet at 9.45 am at Caley's Pavilion in KWG.

- Aug 1 Monday Acacia (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Mimosoideae)  
Aug 8 Monday Boronia and other members of Family Rutaceae  
Aug 15 Monday Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)  
Aug 22 Monday Pea shrubs and vines (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Faboideae)  
Aug 29 Monday Sedges, rushes & restiads



*Acacia myrtifolia*

#### Sedges, rushes & restiads

On: Monday 29th August 2022

Leaders: Karen L. Wilson AM and Dr Barbara G. Briggs AM

At: Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG), 420 Mona Vale Rd, St Ives

Topic: Sedges, rushes & restiads

Both Karen and Barbara are Honorary Research Associates in Systematic Botany at The Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Their research interests include the systematics, phylogeny and morphology of the plant families Cyperaceae, Juncaceae and Restionaceae, which are rush-like plants closely related to the grasses.

These herbs have a vital role in local ecological communities but are notoriously difficult for people interested in native plants to get to know. They may lack showy flowers but they exhibit forms and functions that render them intriguing to native plant lovers and bush regenerators.

Karen and Barbara will introduce these herbs in a lecture (10- 11am approx.) at Caley's Pavilion before leading a walk (approx. 11.15-12.30pm) in the surrounding Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, St Ives.

Walk grade: easy.

**Learn more about these widespread plants at KWG. Everyone is welcome, including APS members from other groups, non-APS members and bush regeneration volunteers, as we wish to share the opportunity that Karen and Barbara will provide to study these plants.**

Go to <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore-Walks-&-Talks> for details

Enquiries to the convener, Wendy Grimm [wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au) or 0419323035

No booking necessary



*Bossiaea heterophylla*



*Boronia floribunda*

## 2022 Activities

### CONTACTS

<b>Walks and Talks at KWG</b>	Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035
<b>Propagation at KWG</b>	Tania Lamble 0415 043 671
<b>Bushcare at KWG</b>	Sue Bowen 0478 957 951
<b>The Knoll</b>	Michael Griffith 0417 026 111
<b>Flower Display at KWG</b>	Jan Marshall 0403 908 042
<b>Walks &amp; Talks</b> see below	

### Propagation & plant sales 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 August

During 2022 our shadehouse at KWG will be open to members on these dates from 1-4pm for propagation, plant sales (cash only) and growing advice. Our white shadehouse is behind the Visitors' Centre and Wildflower nursery. Other enquiries: Contact **Tania Lamble** 0415 043 671 or **Sue Bowen** 0478 957 951

### Bushcare 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> August

**The Knoll** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August & 2<sup>nd</sup> September 10am to 1pm Please contact Michael Griffith [michaelgriffith1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgriffith1@gmail.com) or 0417 026 111 at least one day beforehand as Michael will then bring extra tools.

One general member "bowerbird" came forward ( thanks Marilyn) so the committee now has Blandfordia from 1996.

## Does anyone have APS NSG publications from 1980 to 1996?

If so, the committee would appreciate your help.

Please email Jan W [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) .

The material can be scanned or donated – whichever is your preference.

We would particularly like good images of Melba Dyer and Val Williams.

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**Are you in a joint membership of APS NSW?** Would you prefer to use separate email addresses and/or contact numbers? This arrangement would mean that you each receive electronic communications, e.g. *Blandfordia*. This can be arranged by contacting Merle Thompson [apsnswmembership@gmail.com](mailto:apsnswmembership@gmail.com) .

### Welcome to New Members

Welcome to Sara Mcl, Elizabeth S and Philip M. We hope that you enjoy your association with our group. We look forward to meeting you and sharing in our appreciation, knowledge and love of our wonderful native plants.

More images from the walk at Westleigh.

Wendy Grimm captured the group on the move walking past the flowering *Acacia myrtifolia*.



*Hakea sericea* Image by Jan Williamson





Keynote speakers  
September 2022



Professor David Lindenmayer



Clarence Slockee



Costa Georgiadis



Professor David Keith

## Saturday 10 September to Friday 16 September 2022 at Kiama Pavilion

Conference sessions  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Field trips  
Wednesday and Friday

**Pre- and post-conference tours NOW available to all APS members (you do not need to be attending the Conference)**

Blue Mountains, Sydney and Warrumbungles and Pilliga (post conference tour still has places)

<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

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### KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Professor David Lindenmayer**

**Clarence Slockee**

**Costa Georgiadis**

**Professor David Keith**

and others <https://www.austplants.com.au/Conference-program-and-speakers>

More information here:

**<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>**

Register for the conference

**[2022 ANPSA Conference Kiama, Kiama, 10th of September | Humanitix](https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022)**

Several excursions and pre and post tours are also available.

<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact us via email:

[conf2022@spin.net.au](mailto:conf2022@spin.net.au) or Phone: 0416 030 872

### Volunteers needed

We have some members already volunteering but we need more. Don't feel intimidated - there are lots of jobs.

Welcoming with smiles, set up/tear down chat rooms, checking

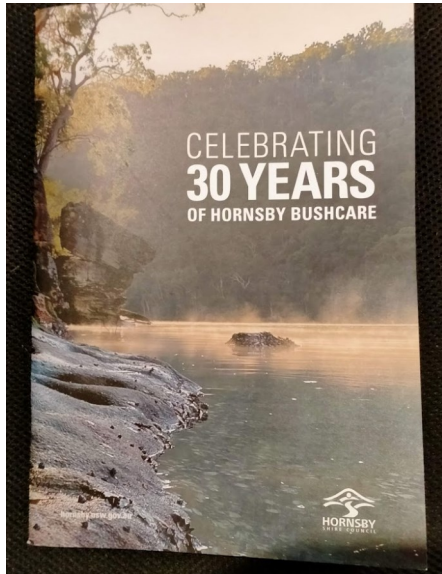
people on and off buses for excursions, giving out information, are just the tip of the iceberg. To volunteer contact Margaret Gaul at [mgaul7@gmail.com](mailto:mgaul7@gmail.com) and get yourself booked in for the introduction and training zooms. It will be fun.

APS Conference material: Have a look at more of the information videos put together by the APS NSW team. (links to youtube videos.)

<https://youtu.be/YN12XFt2yy8>

<https://youtu.be/EytodEbYm7Q>

If you would like a copy of this excellent publication please contact Jan W [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) .  
Several members of APS NSG are featured in it.



### July 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Speakers for general meetings
- Selection and storage of APSNSG documents & newsletters
- Plant Sale at KWG, 4th Sept, including P&J Lawler cards
- Biennial Conference
- Update on APS NSW matters by delegate, including conference, Director liability insurance (WH&S questionnaire to all DGs) & Bequest fund grants
- Revision of wording of VWS requirements

### More plants for sale

**Brian Roach** (APS NSG member) at Westleigh Native Plants  
Contact [westleighnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:westleighnativeplants@gmail.com)

**2022 LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW NATURAL HISTORY FIELD SYMPOSIUM**  
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE NORTHEASTERN SYDNEY BASIN  
Wednesday November 16-Thursdays November 17 (oral presentations)  
Friday November 18 (field trip)

Venue: Hornsby RSL Club (4 High Street, Hornsby),  
For full details see <http://linneansocietynsw.org.au/>



### Committee Contacts

**Vice President:** Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

[president@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:president@blandfordia.org.au)

**Secretary:** Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Email: [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:secretary@blandfordia.org.au)

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

**Treasurer:** Helen Ray [treasurer@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:treasurer@blandfordia.org.au)

**Newsletter Editor:** Jan Williamson 9875 2262

[janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) 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](mailto:membership@blandfordia.org.au)

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### Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar

15th - 16th October 2022

[14th FJC Rogers Seminar 2022, on the Plant Sub-family Faboideae | Australian Plants Society Victoria \(apsvic.org.au\)](#)



Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 Increasing biodiversity awareness through

Citizen Science <https://linktr.ee/gsbioblitz>



Save the date:

**APS NSW Get together Southern Highlands NOVEMBER**  
**Sat 11 & Sunday 12 November 2022.**

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

For the September 2022 edition this will be 19<sup>th</sup> August Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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