

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

AUGUST 2023

President's Message



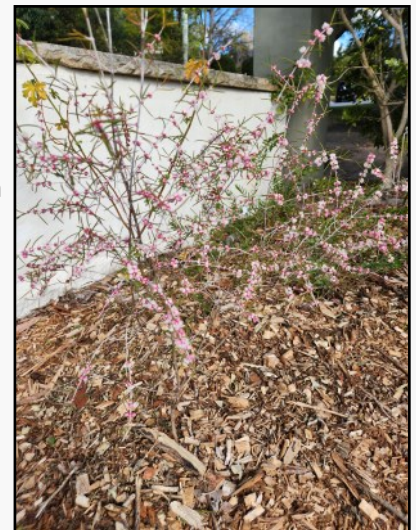
My newly planted, North Shore native garden is feeling the effects of winter but some plants have already started flowering.

The *Leionema lamprofolium* is covered in white flowers while my \$1 bargain *Hypocalymma angustifolium* is covered in pink flowers.

The *Hypocalymma* is one of the relatively few Western Australian shrubs that will grow in our humid east coast conditions in a well drained, sheltered position.

The *Leionema* occurs south of Rylstone and also likes a well drained position.

Both plants are worth trying if you want some winter flowers. The added benefit is that they provide food for the bees and other insects around in winter. I was amazed to see that several hover flies are



also enjoying the *Hypocalymma* and *Leionema*. Obviously, no-one has told them that it is winter!!!

It was great to see so many members at our last meeting. New members are invited to come to meetings to pick up their free plant tube and we often have a box of larger plants to give away to good homes. Members are also welcome to come to our Wednesday propagation afternoons to buy plants (cash only and weather permitting).

We are very privileged to have Dr. Alex Austin talk at our next meeting on Friday 4th August. Alex will cover the diversity of our solitary bee species, what we can expect to see in our local area, and show us how we can support them within the community. I am really looking forward to this talk!

Finally, please don't forget to come to the Berowra Woodchop on Sunday 27th August. You will have a wonderful day out, see some real wood-chopping and have the opportunity to buy some of our home-grown plants!

The address is Warrina Street oval, 65 Hillcrest Road, Berowra and the hours are 10 am to 4pm.

Sue Bowen

August APS NSG General meeting

Friday 4 August

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Speaker: Dr Alexander J. Austin

Topic: Australian solitary bees and how to support them

Background: Dr. Alexander Austin gained his PhD in the nutritional ecology of wild bees in 2019, and since then has been running

Ku-ring-gai's Native Stingless Bee program as well as other initiatives related to the support of Australia's native bee species.

In this talk, Dr. Austin will cover the diversity of our solitary bee species, what you can expect to see in your local area, and how to support them within the community.



Masked bee, female *Hylaeus nubilosus*

Note the date 4th August

Maintenance work on the hall is happening on our regular meeting night

LAST CLARION CALL

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

******* CHANGE OF MEETING TIME *******

For the remainder of 2023 we are trialling a slightly earlier start to our meetings. This will mean that people can enter the hall **from 7pm** to help set up, browse the plants and library and prepare for the **talk at 7.30pm**.

The meeting will follow the normal format but finish earlier. The structured part of the evening will then finish at about 9pm, allowing people plenty of time to socialise over supper, look at the plants and library or leave earlier. Our agreement with HSC means that we must vacate the hall and area by 10pm.

Future 2023 meetings

8 September

Sarah McInnes *2022 Val Williams Scholar*

13 October

Karen Wilson *Sedges and rushes*

10 November

Harry Loots *Plants Hidden in the Clouds*

8 December

Christmas Party KWG

Gardening Responsibility

Presentation by Julia Rayment

at 14 July 2023 meeting



Many thanks to Julia for a most informative and interactive presentation.

Julia's position is Project Officer (Weeds), Invasive Species Unit, Conservation Programs Branch, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Throughout Australia there is a significant problem with weeds. It is a **BIG** problem with very complex and costly consequences. Like all plants, weeds can impact on the environment, other plants, people and animals. 72% of weeds are estimated to have originated from accidental introductions of garden ornamental plants. Currently there are 20 new plant naturalisations each year.

Gardening Responsibility is a voluntary scheme that aims to use the carrot rather than the stick approach and was launched in October 2022.

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

Purpose: To influence the commercial supply and demand of ornamental plants.

Why: To predict and prevent future landscape weeds

How: Identify plants with low invasive risk and provide choice.

Weeds are invasive plants and plants in the wrong place. Native plants can be weeds, just as much as exotics. Macquarie University have developed Factors of Invasiveness: see <https://www.gardeningresponsibly.org.au/research/certify/>

Considering that there are 30,000 ornamental plants (cultivated to be sold in a nursery) there is a mammoth task to identify the risks and communicate it to the suppliers and buyers.

Non commercial sellers e.g. stalls, private sales, group propagation need to consider what they are propagating and selling.

Some of the ways we can we help:

- * Notify authorities and Gardening Responsibly if you find a "new" garden escapee.
- * Minimise spread by pruning off seeds of plants.
- * Think about our choices
- * Look for the Gardening Responsibly logo on product



Julia wrote: *We have 'resources' page which may be helpful and for those who sell plants I can recommend people use our 'become a supplier' webpage to gain access to our marketing kit*

<https://www.gardeningresponsibly.org.au/become-a-supplier/>

We also have a community campaigner kit accessible through this webpage:

<https://www.gardeningresponsibly.org.au/partner/partner-with-us/>

Other resources for information on weeds:

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/do-the-right-thing/101485034>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/weeds/weed-categories/weeds-of-national-significance>

<https://weeds.org.au/>

Local council websites

Written by and images by Jan Williamson

Monday Walks & Talks Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG), 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Be guided by members of the North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society on a walk in the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden to see and learn about our wonderful native plants as they come into flower. These sessions are free.

No prior knowledge is required. Information sheets will be provided.

Meet at **9.45 am** at Caley's Pavilion in KWG. No booking necessary.

Enquiries: Wendy: wendyagrimm@gmail.com or ring 0419 323 035

Walks are easy/medium. Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon. Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and carry water/snack.

Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

Meeting in Caley's Pavilion, for a 10am start. A power point presentation with specimens followed by a Walk in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens to explore some of the many plants and fruits that grow there.

Aug 7 Monday Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)

Aug 14 Monday Boronia and other members of Family Rutaceae

Aug 21 Monday Acacia (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Mimosoideae)

Aug 28 Monday Sedges, rushes & restiads

Sept 4 Monday Pea shrubs and vines (Family Fabaceae, Subfamily Faboideae)

Sept 11 Monday Ferns & Fernery tour

Sept 18 Monday **Walk Only:** Weeds and Bush regeneration

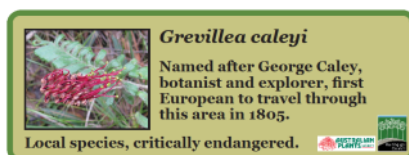


For more information and the full 2023 W&T programme see <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore-Walks-&-Talks>
At this site to see notes on each topic, click on Walks & Talks notes for each topic are [here](#).

Wild At Art – Threatened Species Art Competition for Kids

You can view the astonishing artworks of the 2022 winners at <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-winners-22>

We will be posting some of the 2023 entries daily from July 17



One of the 2022 winners by William included *Grevillea caleyi*. " I chose to draw orange bellied parrots, southern corroboree frog and Caley's grevillea, because they are critical endangered. caley's grevillea has lost 85% of its habitats because of the bush fires and city expanded.

APS NSG has a protected specimen at KWG.



WELCOME

A BIG welcome to our newest members, Elisha, Angus, Janne, Mark, Karen & Paul, Sophie and Dale. We hope that you have an informative and enjoyable relationship with our amazing flora, APSNSW and our group.

You will see from this newsletter that the organisation and group provide a large variety of ways to be involved and informed. Our members have a wealth of knowledge about the plants, the locales and micro & macro environments, photography and love to share this knowledge and experience with each other.

Group Walk for Saturday August 12th to Challenger Track, West Head area

Inspired by the good reports about the Challenger Walk from the Parramatta Hills Group and the Northern Beaches Group, who have done this walk in recent times, it's now North Shore's turn to go and see what is so good about this track!

A recce walk very recently showed that there are indeed very many colourful wildflowers to be seen on The Challenger Track. By the walk date, there will be even more as peak flowering time approaches. *Boronia serrulata*, the Native Rose, which we particularly love to see, is already starting to come into flower. Even if you attended this walk with one of the other two groups, you may like to come again this time, as a comparison of what's since started flowering.

The track is easy, almost flat, wide and short at 1.5km each way, ending with a nice view from a rocky lookout at the end that gives views up the Hawkesbury River to Brooklyn Railway bridge and across Cowan Creek and Broken Bay, including to Juno Point. There are 3-4 minor rises along the track and there is some loose rock rubble in a few places.

Afterwards, some may like to stay on for a picnic lunch at the Resolute Picnic Area, a short distance further up the road. We may even, if there is interest, do a very short, different walk from the picnic area to along the Koolewong Track which at only 800 metres long, ends at a wonderful viewing spot overlooking Broken Bay and Lion Island. It passes through a particularly big stand of lovely Wax Flowers- *Eriostemon australasius* and we will be checking the trunks of the grand Ironbark Gums to see the Ironbark orchids, which should be flowering by then.

Note that the West Head Lookout at the end of the road is inaccessible till later in the year due to improvement works. However the view from the end of the Koolewong Track is equally stunning.

When: **Saturday 12th August 10am**

Meeting Place: **At the start of the Challenger Track**, which is on the left along West Head Road and is 7.9 km from the Coal and Candle Creek Drive Junction. Park as safely as you can on the road edge where the wide road verge allows.

What to bring: Water, hat, all weather gear if needed, water, snacks and lunch if staying on. Plant ID book and walking poles optional.

Contact person: **Sue Fredrickson** Phone 0401 362 921 paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com

Please contact me to inform that you are coming and provide your name, phone number, car rego, emergency contact phone number.

Golden Ginger Slice

120g margarine (or butter)

2 tablespoon golden syrup

2 cup SR flour

4 teaspoons ground ginger

1 cup desiccated coconut

2 eggs, lightly beaten

300g chopped crystalline ginger

Melt butter and syrup in microwave. Sift flour and ground ginger, mix with sugar, coconut, egg, melted butter, syrup and chopped ginger. Press into lined lamington tin.

Bake in oven at 180° for 25 minutes.

Wendy Grimm

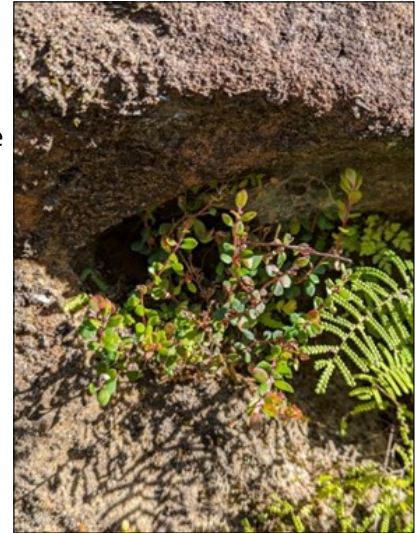
Recent NSG Monday Walks and Talks at KWG

Mon 26th June led by Eva and Phillip Crisp



Bright winter sunshine was enjoyed on the walk to the St Ives Showground along the fire trail between the KWG and Showground. Phillip and Eva provided a very detailed commentary on the species that were flowering, including *Boronia ledifolia* and other early winter plants.

As we ascended to the level of the Showground there is a long rock shelf where unusual plants such as *Epacris crassifolia* (on right) were seen.



We also saw *Cryptandra amara* (on left) in the dry upland swamp where the trail levelled out.

We were able to enjoy the updated picnic facilities at the Showground for our well-deserved lunch, before the return walk to KWG.



Mon 17th July led by Gillian Guthridge



A somewhat cooler day greeted us for the walk down the Fitzgerald and Mueller tracks as we descended to the Management Trail.



After crossing Ku-ring-gai Creek, we walked up the Phillip Rd fire trail, which was rather steep in parts, before levelling out.

Gillian examining a group of melaleuca plants.

After lunch we ascended the western side of the Mueller Track back to the Visitor Centre. A steep walk but very enjoyable with the winter sun now on our backs.

Written by, and most images, by Phillip Grimm

Wallaby ignores *Acacia* spines in Coastal Upland Swamp Endangered Ecological Community, KWG

Wendy Grimm

Pea plants are favoured by wallabies, but I didn't expect this swamp wallaby to carefully clutch the branches of *Acacia ulicifolia* to select the flowers for consumption. The shrub began with about a dozen pale yellow globular flower heads which were eaten by the wallaby within 16 seconds. No seeds will set on this wattle plant!



APS Sutherland is celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year Gardens weekend, 2–3 September 2023

Enjoy six gardens of Australian Plants Society Sutherland Group members.

Entry to each garden by gold coin donation.

Refreshments and plant sales at selected gardens.

Saturday 2 September 2023 10 am to 3 pm

Hogue garden – 75a Wattle Rd, Jannali

Mostly level with colourful shrubs and small plants in the plentiful sunshine of a northern aspect

Aitken garden – 44 Buchanan Ave, Bonnet Bay

Stair access down to steep block with shaded lush ferns and shrubs under a canopy of trees

McCull garden – 13 Shorland Ave, Jannali

Stair access up to shady and sunny plantings with sandstone and garden art

Zande garden – 8 Bates Dr, Kareela

A semi formal garden with manicured lilly pilly hedges. Six stairs at front with 2 stone steps at side to access garden by side gate, or walk up a moderate grass slope.

Plus Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Manooka Place, Kareela
Sutherland Shire Council's native plant display garden with paved paths, toilets, picnic tables and BBQs Free entry. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm.

Sunday 3 September 2023 10 am to 2 pm

Thorn garden – 18 Caldarra Ave, Engadine

Level garden in lots of sun with colourful flowering shrubs

Cartwright garden – 25a Dubarda St, Engadine

Level access to four garden 'rooms', with some mature plantings and some very new

Plus Sydney Wildflower Nursery – 9 Veno St, Heathcote

10% discount to Australian Plants Society members

Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm.

More information

<https://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>

<https://www.austplants.com.au/event-5342648>

www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland

Australian Pea Flower Study

Group is holding its inaugural Pea Forage over the weekend of 19th & 20th August on the NSW Central Coast.



Registration is open to members of the study group. Not a member? Email fabpeaemail@gmail.com to join.

Shirley McLaran Study Group Leader 0412 203 127

To register for the weekend, please email names of everyone in your party, including a contact mobile number.

Participants are required to make their own accommodation and travel arrangements.

Below is a rough itinerary of places likely to be visited, to give you a feel for the weekend and help you plan your accommodation.

The itinerary is still being finalised.

Saturday 19th August

* Brisbane Water National Park (BWNP)

* Warrah Trig to Warrah Lookout (Doyle's Track)

* Van Dahl's Fire Trail

* Girrakool Loop Track, Somersby (Park Fees Apply)

* Time permitting, Konda Rd North Fire Trail

Sunday 20th August

* Wyrabalong Coastal Walk starting from Crackneck Point Lookout

* Bouddi NP via McMasters Beach

* Kincumba Mountain Reserve

* The Wildflower Meadow, Erina Heights

Report on Bobbin Head Walk on 15 July

Written by Sue Fredrickson, images by Wendy Grimm

We were lucky to have a fine day for this walk, a track which never disappoints. There are always floral surprises here!



Grevillea speciosa plant

Three rarer plants were encountered.

Darwinia biflora's distribution generally may be limited but in this locality we were happy to see very many specimens and they were in flower!

Melaleuca deanei, which we also saw, in contrast, rarely flowers.

A bit of a side bush bash by some of the group and some good location remembering by Wendy Grimm, led them to *Haloragodendron lucasii* plants.

Everyone loves finding orchids and we encountered two epiphytes- *Cymbidium suave* on a Bloodwood Gum and *Dockrillia linguiformis* (formerly *Dendrobium linguiforme*), the thumbnail or tongue orchid was growing on a rockface.

Other highlights included seeing the tail end of flowering of the five Banksia species encountered, some very impressive, very tall *Grevillea speciosa* shrubs, *Dodonaea pinnata*, the low growing hop bush with its hairy leaves, growing in sandstone cracks on the final descent to Bobbin Head. There were a fair few other plants in flower but also the promise of that soon getting even better with lots of flower buds on *Eriostemon australasius*, (Wax flowers), Boronias and others, even a Waratah or two.



Acacia echinula



Clouds above marina, Cowan Creek at Bobbin Head

2023 Activities :

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

MONTHLY **GENERAL MEETING** with guest speaker

WALKS & TALKS 2022 is held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives
see page 4

MONTHLY **GROUP ACTIVITY** Saturday 12 August
Challenger Track West Head area *see page 5*

PROPAGATION is held at KWG on alternate
Wednesdays from 1-4pm 9 & 23 August
6 & 27 September

THE KNOLL APS NSG Native Plant Community Garden
at KWG Please contact Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

PLANT SALES and growing advice at our shadehouse
(with white roof) at KWG (behind Visitors' Centre & KWG
Nursery) on propagation afternoons every 2nd
Wednesday (weather permitting) (cash only).

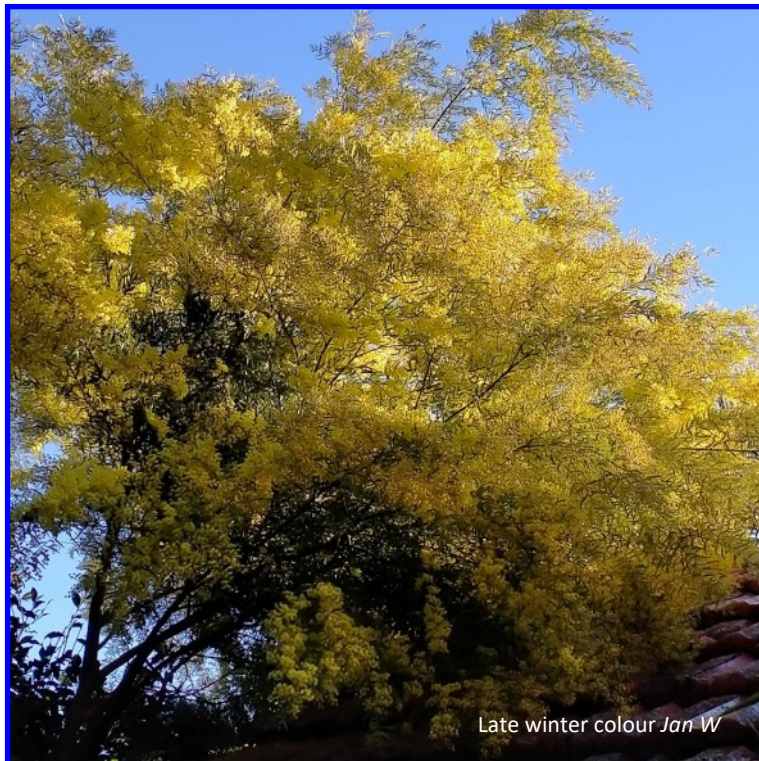
FLOWER DISPLAY at KWG Visitor Centre

BUSHCARE (KC) in KWG on alternate Wednesdays
from 9am-12pm: 2,16 & 30 August
13 & 27 September

2023 Activities

CONTACTS

Walks and Talks at KWG	Wendy Grimm	0419 323 035
Propagation at KWG	Tania Lamble	0415 043 671
Bushcare at KWG	Sue Bowen	0478 957 951
The Knoll	Wendy Grimm	0419 323 035
Flower Display at KWG	Jan Marshall	0403 908 042



Committee Contacts

northshore@austplants.com.au

President:

Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

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

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson
9875 2262 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

northshore@austplants.com.au

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

July 2023 Committee Meeting Notes

- Plant sales at Berowra Woodchop 27 August
- Financial matters , including establishment of another term deposit
- Group activities
- Convenor reports
- St Ives Showground and Precinct Lands POM

Do you want to know more about native plants?

Have you tried <https://austplants.com.au/> and within that site
<https://resources.austplants.com.au/plant-database/> ?

More plants for sale

Brian Roach (APS NSG member) at Westleigh Native Plants
Contact westleighnativeplants@gmail.com

Newsletter submissions: Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month.
For the September 2023 edition is Friday 18 August 2023 Editor:
janw7531@gmail.com

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