

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

DECEMBER 2023

On **FRIDAY 8th December** APS NSG will hold our **Christmas Party**
in Caley's Pavilion Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

6.00pm for 6.30pm

A relaxing evening full of good fellowship and excellent food.

Please let Sue Fredrickson on 0401 362 921 or

Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com know the following

- * Name/s of attendees
- * What you would like to contribute (categories: nibbles, mains or dessert)
- * Your contact phone number.

APS NSG will provide a non alcoholic punch (BYO for other drinks).

Plants and cards will be available for sale.

WELCOME

A BIG welcome to our newest member: Sylvia. We hope that you have an informative and enjoyable relationship with our amazing flora, APSNSW and our group.

We would love to share with some of our most recent members at our Christmas Party. You are most welcome.

President's message

Last month I complained about the Illawarra flame tree behind our yard only having a few flowers. I was too hasty! The tree is now in full flower, absolutely stunning to look at, although still with its leaves on.



Syzygium 'Cascade'

My garden is currently graced by the beautiful pink flowers of *Syzygium* 'Cascade', *Alyogyne hakeifolia* 'Melissa Jane' and *Swainsona galegifolia*.

I am inspired by the magnificent old bottle tree two doors away and recently bought my first bottle tree, *Brachychiton* 'Griffith pink', to plant as a feature tree in my front yard.

Please don't forget to come to our Christmas party on Friday 8th December at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. We will celebrate 2023 with a delicious buffet dinner and a thrilling plant identification quiz. Each table will be able to work together to identify the plants and I suggest that you grab a propagation team member to sit at your table to help you identify the plants. There will be plant prizes in several categories, some unexpected, as well as freebies!

Written by, and images by,
Sue Bowen



Brachychiton 'Griffith pink'



Alyogyne hakeifolia 'Melissa Jane'



Swainsona galegifolia

February 2024 APS NSG General meeting & AGM

Friday 9th February 2024

7.30 pm for 8pm

Beatrice Taylor Hall

25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby NSW 2077

Speaker: **David Roberts**

Topic: **Hazard Reductions and the effect on native plants and weeds.**

Do we need to use flame in our native Gardens?

Future 2024 meetings

Meetings will return to a 7.30pm for 8 pm start.

9 February 2024

AGM & David Roberts

Monthly general meetings occur on the second Friday of each month between February and November.

One exception is May meeting will be on Friday 3rd May as BTH is unavailable on our usual night.

Suggestions for speakers welcomed.

Please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com

Venues for plant sales

Following the success this year with plant sales at Berowra Fauna Fair and Berowra Woodchop the committee is keen to hear of other community events which may be suitable for us to contribute to with plant sales. Propagation and plant sales are very important activities for APS NSG. The money raised is vital to fund the annual Val Williams Scholarship.

If you have any suggestions please contact Sue Bowen 0478 957 951 or Tania Lamble 0415 043 671

Plants Hidden in the Clouds

Thanks to Harry Loots for taking us on a walking trip through the highlands of Tasmania at our November meeting. Harry and his partner, Lindy, have walked the Overland Track and several other Tasmanian tracks several times, the last time in 2022. Not sure how many of us are still able to tackle such adventures, so it was good to do it this way.

Harry is a true APS member and takes time to closely observe, photograph and enjoy the trip. Many other walkers are very busy trying to set “personal bests” or competitive times, especially for the Overland Track

Bookings are required for many of these tracks.

A full report and photos on his trip can be found in *Australian Plants* Autumn 2023 Vol 32 No 254 pages 18 –26.

Many thanks to Harry for his long serving and continuing involvement as a member of the APS NSW Board over many years .



Angophora costata trees have been putting on a brilliant flowering display this year. Some images of trees in Westleigh area.

Jan Williamson



Paul Fredrickson



Sue Fredrickson

Who likes filling out forms? Who likes going to doctor/hospital? Who likes being in court?

The good news is that APS NSW thinks that most people have answered “not me” to all of these questions.

To act proactively against all these possibilities APS NSW has gone to a lot of trouble to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for all members outlining **Health & Safety Issues** and how to address them. Insurance coverage is dependent on our compliance. Some forms DO need to be filled out.

How to find these guidelines: APS NSW home page <https://austplants.com.au/> and then go to ABOUT US and then go to HEALTH AND SAFETY or go directly to this page <https://www.austplants.com.au/Health-and-safety>.

It shows **policy, procedures and forms**.

This includes the forms that need to be filled out **PRIOR TO** any APS activity. It also includes forms that need to be completed should any incident occur.

PLEASE look at this site and help to keep us all out harm's way.

Snippets from Jeff Howes

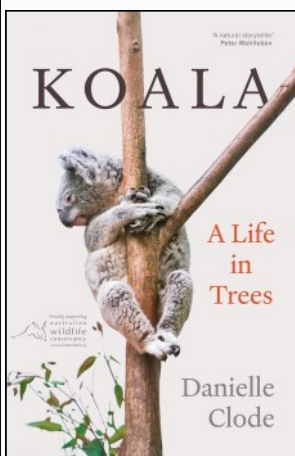
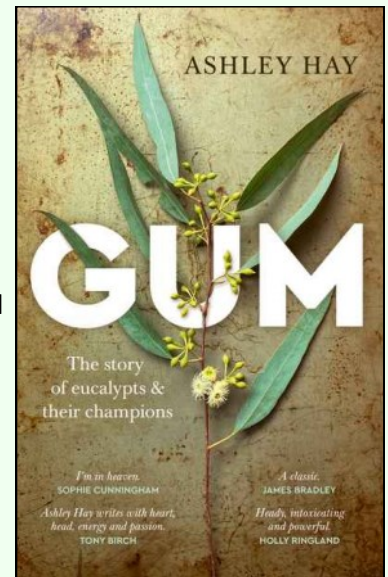
How did Eucalypts get their name?

I knew the derivation of Eucalyptus was derived from the Ancient Greek words *eu* meaning "good", "well", "true", "beautiful" or "very" and *kalyptus* meaning "cover", "conceal" or "hide" referring to the operculum or is a cap-like structure, covering the flower buds.

What I never knew, was who was responsible for the name. I conducted some research and found my answers in a very readable paperback by Ashley Hay titled "*GUM The story of eucalyptus and their champions*". It was first published in 2002 by Duffy and Snellgrove and republished by New South Publishing in 2022. Eucalyptus was not named by Joseph Banks, although he was the first to describe them in his journals as 'gum' trees.

They were named and classified by Charles Louise L'He'ritier de Brutelle, an amateur botanist interested in trees. He went to London to see Bank's unexamined collection of 30,382 plants in 3,600 different species that were stored away, in Banks' grand house in SoHo Square. L'He'ritier examined a dried sample of a tree collected on Cook's third voyage and realised it belonged to the same family as a myrtle and needed a new name. He could not think of anything Latin so turned to Greek. He called it *Eucalyptus* and the species *obliqua*.

Ashely Hay's book is a great read and highly recommended.

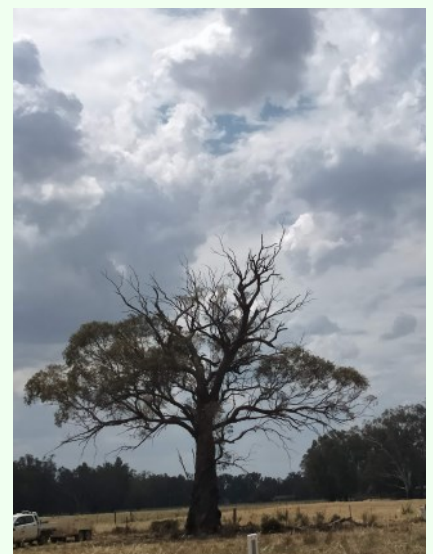


I have just finished this excellent book on Australian iconic koala and can recommend it to our members for those interested in gaining a better understanding of them and what their future holds.

It tells the story of their complex relationship with humans, their history, evolution, biology, ecology as well as myth busting facts and the latest scientific insights.

Interesting it is thought they never inhabited Tasmania or Western Australia.

Zoo keepers offer koala's *Eucalypts utilis* and *E. platypus* as a 'treat' for public appearance. Both of these are a Mallee from the SW of Western Australia.



Jan W image of a eucalypt in decline– still a wonderful shape: near Forbes NSW

Following up on a good suggestion *Written by & images by Jan Williamson*

Having read Jeff Howes' piece in October 2024 *Blandfordia* about Sculpture Down the Lachlan Steve and I decided that we would take Jeff's suggestion and drove it in early November as part of a 6 day holiday. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

We went from Parkes to Condobolin and back to Parkes in one day. In hindsight, we would recommend an extra day to explore Forbes. There are several sculptures in the town as well as other historic buildings and things of interest. The forested sections of the river flats are of particular interest. For bird lovers there are plenty of opportunities to spot birds, especially at the Gum Swamp Wildlife Refuge.



Quirky letterbox near Denman



Sign to engage people with local flora at Flirtation Hill, Mudgee



Forbes Town Hall



Varanus
(Goanna-Gugga)
Gum Swamp
Wildlife Refuge



Grevillea robusta
(Silky Oak) These trees were putting on a spectacular display throughout the area.



Wandering
Lachlan Valley Way

Parkes Memorial Hill has a Remembrance Walk. This walk has sections where the vegetation typifies the regions where Australian troops have fought. Local native plants are also planted on the hill.



2024 Activities :

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

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING with guest speaker

WALKS & TALKS 2024 is held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives
Enquiries Please contact Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

MONTHLY GROUP ACTIVITY 9 March 2024 hosting Quarterly APS NSW Gathering at KWG

PROPAGATION is held at KWG on alternate Wednesdays from 1-4pm 13th December 10th & 24th January 2024

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: 6th & 20th December 17th & 31st January 2024

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



A lovely *Patersonia sericea* in the bush in Westleigh on the Great North Walk in early October. Sue Fredrickson

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

November 2023 Committee Meeting Notes

- Christmas Party
- APS NSW Quarterly Gathering hosted by APS NSG 9 March 2024
- Speakers Programme
- 2024 Committee & roles
- Donations to Australian Flora Foundation & Berowra Apex Club
- Future of Burrendong Arboretum
- Working bee at KWG APS NSG shed in 2024

More plants for sale

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

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/> ?

Newsletter submissions:

Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month.
For the February 2024 edition is 19 January 2024
Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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