

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

FEBRUARY 2023

2022 VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2022 was a busy year despite the continuing presence of Covid.

Some of the highlights of the year for us included:

- the new wildflower display stand installed at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden by Ku-ring-gai Council for our use
- being able to participate in the APS-NSW trip to Central West NSW
- the Walks and Talks session on sedges, rushes and restiads led by Dr Barbara Briggs and Karen Wilson at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower garden. 40 people attended this session which showcased the magnificent examples of these plants around the ponds and nearby trails.
- the awarding of an APS-NSW life membership to Dr Bob Failes, a long-time active contributor to our activities
- the awarding of the APS-NSG Conservation award to Wendy Grimm for her work on a rare orchid, *Genoplesium baueri* and contribution to our group
- selling our plants at two new venues – the Friends of Berowra Valley fauna and flora fair and Turramurra Community Flea Market
- participating in the ANPSA biennial conference at Kiama in September. While some members attended the conference some of us also helped with its organisation and led the Surprising Sydney Flora tour following the conference.

My thanks to everyone who has ensured that our activities continue during this year. We always welcome new people to our committee and enjoy seeing new members at our activities.

New members: don't forget to pick up your two, free tubed plants at our meetings or propagation afternoons.

Sue Bowen

Monday Walks & Talks will recommence in March 2023 at 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 Patio (behind Caley's Pavilion) in KWG. No booking necessary.

Enquiries: Wendy: wendyagrimm@gmail.com or 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.

Date: Monday March 13th

Topic: Introduction to the Walk and Talk programme in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

Leader: Jan Marshall

A guided walk starting in Caley's Garden at 10am

In this walk, we will look at the habitats and environment in which plants and animals thrive.

All the major plant families Proteaceae, Fabaceae, Rutaceae, Ericaceae, and Myrtaceae (not shown) and many of the other families grow in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Hopefully we will find many samples to look at from Gum trees, to Grasses and Insects to Birds.

Wendy Grimm



Pultenaea ferruginea



Epacris pulchella



Banksia serrata



Crowea saligna

All images Wendy Grimm

2022 drew to a close with a most pleasant evening at the Christmas party .



Jan Williamson

Thanks to everyone for the delicious food contributions, to Helen Smith for leading the night walk to spot spiders and to Mark Schuster for providing the music.



Paul Fredrickson

Now it is time to start with 2023 programme



Next APS NSG meeting AGM and General Meeting

Friday 10th FEBRUARY 2023
7.30 pm for 8pm

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

Speaker: **Peter Ridgeway**

Topic: **Some like it rough: understanding & restoring disturbance-loving native flora.**

Background: Australia's flora are under increasing threats from human disturbance including vegetation clearing, fire, and degradation of soils. But not all native species suffer from this abuse. In fact, our Threatened species registers are filled with species which actively require disturbance. Why is this so? And, in a world of excessive disturbance, why are so many disturbance-loving species in decline? Peter Ridgeway, a restoration ecologist working in Western Sydney, will delve into the strange ecology and history of disturbance-loving flora and showcase current projects which are restoring some of these rare and wonderful species.

Image: I've attached an image of Spiked Rice-flower *Pimelea spicata*, one of the disturbance-specialist species I work with.

Peter's book on the Cumberland Plain should be available at the meeting.

A Wide & Open Land: Walking The Last Of Western Sydney's Woodlands by Peter A. Ridgeway

<https://fireandrestoration.org.au/book-review-a-wide-open-land-walking-the-last-of-western-sydneys-woodlands-by-peter-a-ridgeway/>

Price: \$50

2023 Committee

President	Sue Bowen
Vice president	not filled
Correspondence secretary	not filled
Minutes secretary	Jan Williamson
Treasurer	Helen Ray
Conservation officer	not filled
Membership officer	Narelle Barden
Assistant membership officer	Genevieve Meares
Excursions co-ordinator (i) walks	Sue Fredrickson
(ii) garden visits	not filled
Health and Safety officer	not filled
Publicity officer	not filled
Delegate to APS NSW	Sue Fredrickson
Web master	Helen Smith
Newsletter editor	Jan Williamson
General Committee members	Helen Smith, Hugh Jones, Bill Jones
Coordinator of Speakers' Programme	Jan Williamson
<u>Non committee positions</u>	
Walks and Talks coordinator	Wendy Grimm
Val Williams Scholarship Convener	Tania Lamble
Flower display stand KWG	Jan Marshall
Propagation coordinator	Tania Lamble
The Knoll coordinator	Wendy Grimm
Librarian	Lyn Kirby

Editor's note: many people have contributed to the smooth running of APS NSG, often for many years. Not all of them are familiar faces but behind the scenes they are offering invaluable support to all the members and we thank them. A few are exiting their positions, so a big **THANK YOU** for your contributions. Barry Lees wrote a short piece about one important contributor.

For many years, Max Gregory has been our Webmaster. He has recently handed over the position to Helen Smith. Other than being webmaster, Max has not been active in the Society for some time, so many members have not met him.

He joined in 2000 or 2001 and was elected President in 2005 and 2006. Being more computer literate than most, he started a website for the North Shore Group, the first Group to have one. He has been doing the job, quietly and efficiently, ever since – that's 13 years! We owe Max huge gratitude for this outstanding service.
Barry Lees

Thanks to Michael & Rose Griffith and Judy Jeffery for their contributions.

We wish them all well in the future.

2023 Activities : SEE <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

Further details can be found in monthly issue of *Blandfordia* and on the website

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING with guest speaker recommence 10th February *see page 3*

WALKS & TALKS 2022 is held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives and will commence in March *see page 2*

MONTHLY GROUP ACTIVITY Sunday 12th March 2pm Garden Visit at Mt Ku-ring-gai. Details will be in March *Blandfordia*

PROPAGATION is held at KWG on alternate Wednesdays from 1-4pm **8th & 22nd February**, 8th & 22nd March

THE KNOLL The Knoll is a display garden at KWG. Twice monthly maintenance activity

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 **1st & 15th February**, 1st, 15th & 29th March from 9am -12pm



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

Bonsai *Banksia aemula* (Wallum banksia) at National Arboreteum Canberra *Image by A. Williamson*

The Knoll at KWG

Michael Griffith has retired as coordinator of plantings and maintenance of the Knoll Garden. Wendy Grimm has stepped up and has plans along the line of a "NSG Native Plant Community Garden" and will expand on those plans at the NSG general meeting in February. Enquiries Wendy 0419 323 035

Photo: *Cymbidium suave* seedling developing in a tree trunk in the Knoll Garden as a result of manual dispersal of seed in possibly receptive locations. Orchid seed was donated by a member.



Banksia serrata
spotted while dog
walking. Jan W.



Not a spider, but spotlighted by Paul F. during Christmas Party night walk.

HELP REQUIRED

Plant sale at Ku-ring-gai Council Seniors Expo at Turramurra on **Wed 8th Feb** at Turramurra, 10am to 2pm. If you are able to help for all or part of time please contact Sue Bowen 0478 957 951 or suzanneebowen@gmail.com

This is a very relaxed event where just an ability to chat with others about native plants is required. In depth knowledge of the different plants is not essential.

An excellent lunch is provided.

Suggestions for speakers at the general meetings . If you know of anyone, or hear of anyone who you think would have a topic/ presentation suitable for our group please contact Jan Williamson on janw7531@gmail.com

January 2023 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and speakers 2023
- Meeting bookings for 2023
- 2023 committee unfilled positions
- Plant label machine
- Financial overview, including asset report & draft budget
- W&T report
- KWG received a grant for upgrade to the Ponds and Banks Track in 2023
- APSNSG website and generic contacts
- Plant sales
- The Knoll : Wendy Grimm offered to take over coordinator position as Michael Griffith is moving.

Ed. Note: Everyone I know who has been to the National Arboretum has enjoyed it. Some family members recently visited and the grandchildren and their parents were also very impressed. A visit there is on our bucket list.



Treasurer's Annual Report will be published in March 2023 *Blandfordia* .

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

Committee Contacts

Vice President:

Sue Bowen 0478 957 951
president@blandfordia.org.au

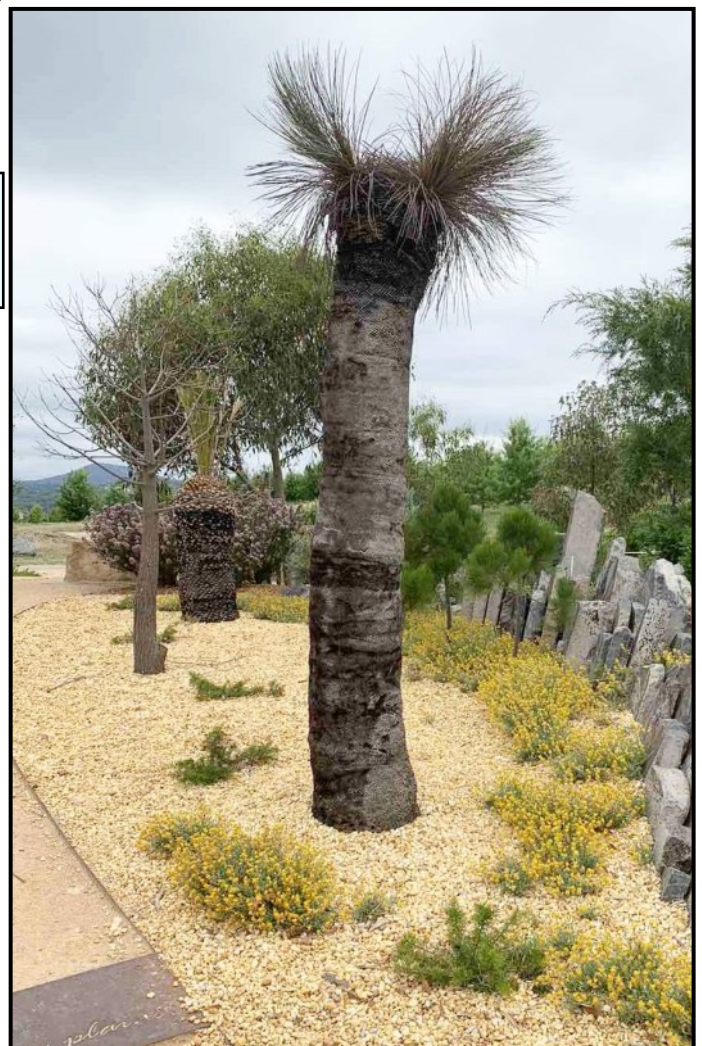
Website: <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

Treasurer: Helen Ray
treasurer@blandfordia.org.au

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 membership@blandfordia.org.au



"Quite the hairstyle": National Arboretum in January.
Image taken by A. Williamson

Newsletter submissions: Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month.
For the March 2023 edition is Friday 17th February 2023 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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