

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JULY 2022

CONGRATULATIONS

Message from Sue Bowen

We've just passed the shortest day of the year and our days will be getting longer, soon. I always feel better after the winter solstice as I know that summer is on its way, with days just right for gardening!

It is my great pleasure to announce the winners of our two member awards for 2021.

Dr Michael Griffith is our Melba Dyer Award winner for 2021, while Dr Helen Smith is our Noel Rosten Encouragement Award winner for 2021.

The Melba Dyer Award is given to the member who made the most valuable contribution to the Group during the year. Michael is the convenor of the team that plants, weeds and maintains The Knoll native garden at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. This small garden showcases native plants from the Sydney area that can be grown in gardens.

The Noel Rosten Encouragement Award is given to the new member who showed outstanding willingness to be involved in Group activities during the year. Helen was involved in our plant sales during 2021 and has recently joined the Committee and become our new webmaster.

The awards will be presented at our next face to face meeting.

I hope that you are all keeping warm this winter !

Sue Bowen

June meeting APS NSW Central West Trip 1-4 April



Sue Fredrickson, Hugh Jones, Tania Lamble, Bruce Usher and Jan Williamson did a joint presentation by zoom. We hope, that by seeing & hearing a little about our experiences with people passionate about the environment and the future,

everyone felt as uplifted as we had during the trip.

Tania recommended reading *Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture, a New Earth* by Charles Francis Massy

Myrsine howittiana (Muttonwood).

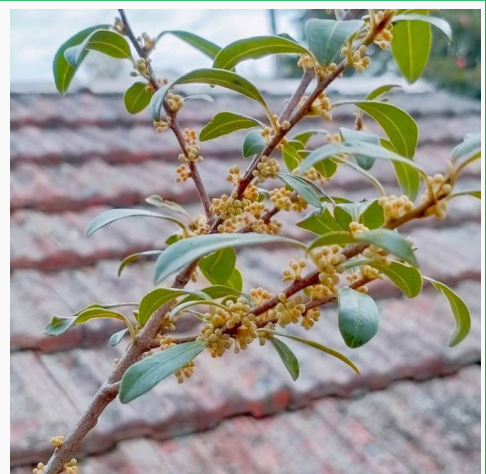
Upright to 6m, fertile, sheltered site.

Jan W planted this plant several years ago, though this is the first year that it has flowered.

Endemic to this area.

I have never noticed it in the bush—probably a reflection of my lack of observation!

Jan W



8th July APSNSG General Meeting

will be held at
BEATRICE TAYLOR HALL 7.30pm for 8pm start.

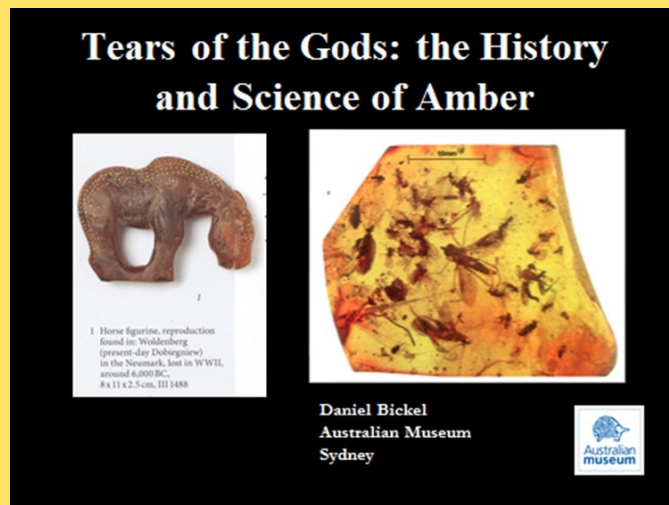
ALL welcome

There will be **plants for sale** (cash only) and the **library** available.
New members can collect their 2 free tubes.

Speaker: Daniel Bickel

Australian Museum Department of Entomology

Topic:



Abstract: Amber has fascinated people since prehistoric times and has long been traded from sources along the Baltic Sea. As well as being admired and used in jewellery, amber is of great scientific interest as it provides a clear window to past life. Being the hardened and fossilized resin of ancient trees, amber frequently contains inclusions of trapped animals and plants, where tiny insects and delicate floral structures can be seen in exquisite detail. Amber therefore is a great source of information about both the evolution and distribution of major biotic groups and past environments generally. Within the last 20 years, significant amber deposits have been discovered in Australia. These include (Miocene?) Cape York amber, washed up on remote beaches, and Paleogene deposits from Victoria and Tasmania. This talk will review the history, occurrence and study of amber.

A Q&A session after the presentation will give you an opportunity to ask all those questions you have about insects.

18th June Group Outing to Dangar Island Hawkesbury River



Nine people were all smiles as they set off to explore Dangar Island at about 1030am. They were still happy as they caught the return ferry at 2.45pm. Thanks to Sue Fredrickson for another highly enjoyable, informative (on plants and history) and relaxing outing.

It was especially exciting to have Alex with us— a keen horticultural student and landscape architect, bushwalker and general lover of nature— who wanted to learn more about native plants. With Bob, Wendy, Gillian, Sue and others to enlighten him he was very pleased to have joined us.

A highlight was seeing a Glossy Black Cockatoo feeding in a casuarina.

A variety of native and exotic plants grow on the island. Orchids were spotted, as well as the giant eucalypts.



Image by Phillip Grimm



*It wasn't only the plants that sometimes provided a challenge. After some discussion, it was agreed that this flowering plant was *Bursaria spinosa*.*



Written by and images by Jan W



Meanwhile Jeff Howes has been visiting Canberra and visited the Australian National Botanic Gardens to see the new Banksia garden. "Stunning and worth a visit, despite record rainfall since opening in 2020. A lot of the plants are grafted and they not only used raised beds but plenty of sandstone walls to reflect the heat. The most stunning plant was a deep purple knave coloured *Banksia robur*. Used to great effect."

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/visit/highlights/banksia-garden/>

Group Activity for 14th July Thursday to former Westleigh Sydney Water site.

This walk breaks with the tradition and is on a **weekday**, not a weekend.

The walk is to what is now referred to as Westleigh Park, a 36 hectare area purchased from Sydney Water by Hornsby Council and currently zoned as low density Residential or Public Recreation. About a third of it is degraded long grassed wasteland and the rest is very nice bushland. The Council's current Draft Plan Document proposes turning the grassed area into three large sports fields with associated car and bus roads access and parking and leaving the bush area as bush but with some worrying management issues.

The bush has stands of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) and Duffys Forest, both of which are Endangered Ecological Communities (the STIF critically endangered) as well as Bloodwood Scribbly Gum Woodland, Peppermint Angophora Forest and Scribbly Gum Open Woodland and at least 4 rare and endangered plants.

There are mountain bike tracks criss-crossing the bush, hence the choice of a much less busy week day when we are not likely to encounter bikes. These tracks have and continue to cause damage to the bush there. Hornsby Council's Draft Plans would see the number of bike trails reduced. See the plans at <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/council/noticeboard/works/major-projects/westleigh-park>

See also a report on the Vegetation there at:

https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/160028/Vegetation-Mapping.pdf

APS has put in a submission on preserving the bushland there.

Our Group Activity is a chance for you to be guided over the site and explore it. The walking is mostly flat and easy. Bring your lunch as there is a nice park nearby and there is a café not far away.

Where to meet: Westleigh Rural Fire Brigade, Warrigal Drive Westleigh

When to meet: 10am Thursday 14th July

What to Bring: Good walking shoes, hat, rain gear/ umbrella if necessary, water, lunch, snacks, keep cup, plant ID book.

Contact Person: Sue Fredrickson 0401 362 921. **Booking in is essential.** It can be done by phoning or emailing paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com and stating your name, car rego, phone number and emergency contact phone number.

2022 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	Michael Griffith	0417 026 111
Flower Display at KWG	Jan Marshall	0403 908 042
Walks & Talks see below		

Propagation & plant sales 13th & 27th July, 10th & 24th 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 6th & 20th July, 3rd, 17th & 31st August

The Knoll Friday 1st July & 5th August 10am to 1pm Contact Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com 0417 026 111

All welcome to NSG Walks & Talks activities for July and August 2022

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

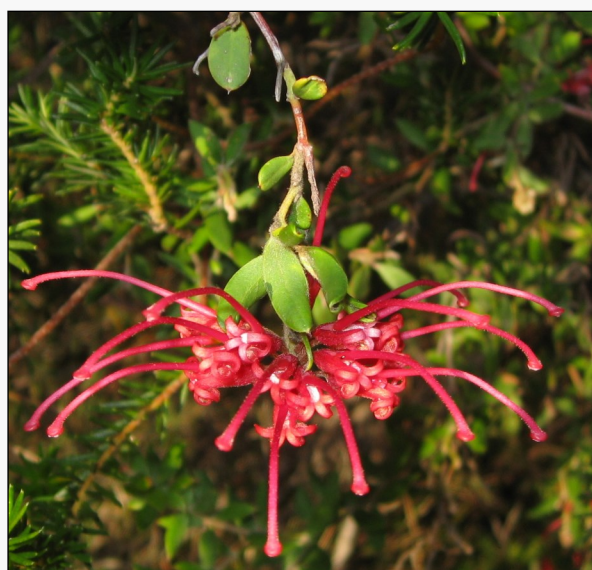
420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

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

Sessions run to about 12 noon unless a **walk only** activity.

July 18 Monday Walk Only: Perimeter Trail KWG to St Ives Showground return **3pm**

July 25 Monday Grevillea and Hakea (Family Proteaceae)



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

No booking necessary.

Enquiries: Wendy: wagrimm@tpg.com.au or 0419 323 035



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>

NOTE APS NSG will be involved in the Sydney tour on TUESDAY 20th September with walks at KWG and afternoon tea to be provided by APS NSG. Please note the date in your diary.

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](#)

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 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 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>

Are you a “bower bird”?

If so, the committee would appreciate your help.

The committee is currently grappling with archiving APS NSG records and publications. We are keen to retain the material that is of significance, while discarding unnecessary items. Numerous boxes of material inhabit committee members homes and we are trying to rationalise these, plus ensure that we have a good record of the past for the future.

If you think that you have material that may be of significance, such as photos and hard copies of *Blandfordia* prior to 2007, we would love to hear from you. Please email Jan W 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.

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.

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

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598
Email: secretary@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

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

On a recent very crisp day this stick insect had found itself a warm wall to bask upon. It was several metres from the nearest vegetation and had lost one leg. It was the greenest one that I had ever spotted.

Jan W



June 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Speakers for general meetings
- Selection and storage of APSNSG documents & newsletters
- APSNSG section of APS NSW website
- Biennial Conference
- Update on Flower Stand at KWG

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 \(apsvic.org.au\)](https://www.apsvic.org.au/14th-fjc-rogers-seminar-2022)



Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 Increasing biodiversity awareness through

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



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 August 2022 edition this will be 15th July Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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