

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JULY 2023

2022 APSNSG AWARDS



David Roberts receiving the Noel Rosten Encouragement Award and Genevieve Meares the Melba Dyer Award from President, Sue Bowen.

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.



Liparis reflexa Excitement: First flowering for Jan W's plant. It apparently has a very unpleasant smell. Fortunately I didn't notice.

Next APS NSG General Meeting

Friday 14 July 2023 7.00pm for 7.30pm

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

Topic: Gardening Responsibly

Speaker: Julia Rayment (Project Officer, weeds, National Parks and Wildlife Service)



Image above:

Gardening Responsibly launched October 2022.

From left to right: Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia host), Aimee Freimanis (Gardening Responsibly Program Manager), the Hon Shayne Mallard Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney (representing the Environment Minister) & Graham Ross (Better Homes & Garden host)



Background: When people plant a garden, they believe they are doing something good for the environment and most of the time they are. Sometimes, however, the plants they choose can become invasive weeds. Invasive weeds cause significant environmental, social and economic impacts on our Australian landscape. Gardening Responsibly is an industry led voluntary scheme that aims to promote the supply and purchase of ornamental plants with a low risk of becoming invasive in Australia. When you garden responsibly, by choosing and recommending plants with the Certified Gardening Responsibly eco-label, you can be confident you're doing your bit to secure beautiful gardens and healthy Australian landscapes.

Future meetings:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 4 August | Dr Alexander Austin <i>Australian solitary bees and how to support them</i>
<i>Note date – BTH is unavailable on the second Friday of August</i> |
| 8 September | Sarah McInnes <i>2022 Val Williams Scholar</i> |
| 13 October | Karen Wilson <i>Sedges and rushes</i> |
| 10 November | Harry Loots <i>Plants Hidden in the Clouds</i> |
| 8 December | Christmas Party |

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



Masked bee, female *Hylaeus nubilosus*

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.

Note the date 4th August

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

Jan Williamson does see some native bees in her garden, including hover bees, and would like to encourage more diversity and numbers of native bees.

Other frequent visitors to the garden include the two birds featured below. Must be doing something right. Another good reason to keep the Hills Hoist!



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 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.

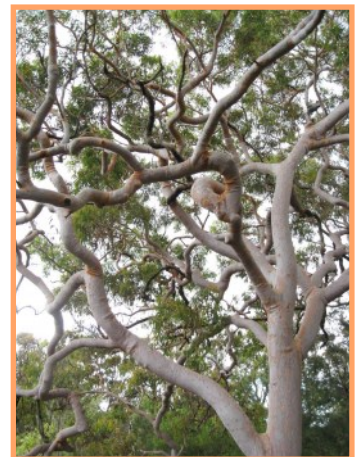
No W&T on public holidays or during school holidays

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.

July 17 Monday Walk Only: KWG to Phillip Rd St Ives return **2:30 pm**

July 24 Monday Gum Trees: Eucalyptus, Angophora, Corymbia (Family Myrtaceae)

July 31 Monday Grevillea and Hakea (Family Proteaceae) *Wendy Grimm*



Jan Marshall presenting on June 6 Image Phillip Grimm

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](#).

This link is under the heading of **Walks & Talks Resources**

Change of name: Jeff Howes who has profiled 1300 plants (Ed. comment:!!!!) for APSNSW wanted me to let you know that

Leptospermum laevigatum is now *Gaudium laevigatum*. (Common tea-tree)

For more information visit <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/tax.12892>

GROUP WALK FOR JULY

The Bobbin Head Track Saturday 15 July 10am

July's walk will be the Bobbin Head Track which starts at the North Turramurra Ku-ring-gai National Parks gate and follows an old unsealed road for 5 kilometres downhill to finish at Bobbin Head. We enjoyed this walk in July in 2020 also but then we were tip-toeing around Covid restrictions.

For the first half, the track is fairly level and passes through interesting open, low forest and includes some Aboriginal rock engravings. It then starts to descend, not too steeply, via some switchbacks and passes through taller different attractive forest. Views of the river are obtained just before the last couple of hundred metres which are a steeper rocky bush track that finishes at water level near the Empire Marina where refreshments can be purchased if desired or at the Bobbin Inn if it has re-opened by then (currently closed).

We will have left a car or two at Bobbin Head before the walk so that walkers can get a lift back up to the starting point. The time taken for the walk will be 2-3 hours, allowing time for plant ID and photography. As usual, the pace will not be fast.

By July, the *Boronia ledifolia* should be putting on a good show and we can also expect to see other species flowering at this time. We will encounter at least 2 rarer plants *Haloragodendron lucasii*, which is classed as endangered and *Darwinia biflora* which is classed as vulnerable.

Meeting place: Near the entry to Kuring-gai NP at North Turramurra. Park outside if you do not have a National Parks Pass or just inside if you do. NB we **don't** take the Sphinx Track.

Date and time: Saturday 15th July at 10am

What to bring: Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, plant ID book? Water, snacks, lunch if you prefer to BYO, money for coffee if desired, wet weather gear if needed, walking pole(s) if needed for the rubbly parts of the track.

Contact person: Sue Fredrickson phone 0401362921, email paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com

NB Please either phone or email before Saturday 15th to book in. Please provide your name, phone number, emergency contact phone number and car rego.

Also, on the day, if the weather is bad, please phone to see if the walk will go ahead.



Some very spectacular old Melaleuca trees are currently putting on a magnificent display in Lambton, Newcastle.

Supplied by J. Williamson

Australian Natives as Bonsai

At the June meeting Craig Field and Wendy Grimm gave a joint presentation, including Wendy's images from her two visits (2013 & 2023) to the National Arboretum in Canberra.

Craig commented that Bonsai originated from Penjing. Penjing is a more naturalist and free flowing form of training the plants. Bonsai involves more pruning of foliage and the roots. Both forms have critical factors affecting their survival and health. These include watering (maybe 1-2 times daily in summer), soil mix, fertilisers used, training of limbs with various methods, trimming of roots and foliage (at least annually)- which limbs/roots and how much.



Phillip Grimm

Expanded clay kitty litter is proving to have a useful role in the soil mix. Wiring for shape may be in place for about 12 months to set the shape.

Some of Craig's tips included beginners starting with ficus species, as these are hardy and very responsive to handling. If growing specimens in ground, start pruning early.



Jan W



Jan W

Some of the images showed teabags filled with blood and bone on the ground of the bonsai plants. Care needs to be taken to avoid over fertilising plants in pots. Pots have the obvious advantage of being able to be relocated and more strategically managed.

Arrangements with multiple plants are more difficult to manage and look good as all the plants need to survive, prosper and create a more natural look.

Both the June and May meetings have been most enjoyable and informative evenings with plenty of audience involvement. Thanks to all involved.

Written by Jan Williamson

President's Message Sue Bowen



We were so thrilled at propagation last Wednesday, 14th June, to see a pair of Glossy Black cockatoos feeding in a *Casuarina littoralis* at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, just next to our shadehouse. The birds were there for more than two hours, on the one tree, and took no notice of us standing below and admiring them.

A few facts (see : <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au> and <https://glossyblack.org.au> for more information)

- The Glossy Black is one of the more threatened cockatoos in Australia and is listed as vulnerable in NSW. The main reason for this is habitat loss, both of food and nesting trees (old eucalypts).
- Glossies are very fussy about what they eat - mostly *Casuarina littoralis* and *Casuarina torulosa* seeds on the east coast and ranges. They are apparently able to select mature, female trees that produce seeds with a high nutrient value and will visit these same trees every year to feed on them. This can mean that they will only feed on one in 100 female trees! Obviously, some trees at KWG meet this strict criterion.

As each non-breeding bird can process up to 580 cones per day and a pair can process 420,00 cones per year they need a huge potential food source! So, if you have some space, please think about growing some *Casuarina littoralis* or *Casuarina torulosa* trees. *C. littoralis* generally prefers sandy/low nutrient soils while *C. torulosa* generally prefers higher nutrient soils.

A working bee at the Knoll Community Native Garden was the APS NSG June weekend activity.



Dave found homes for five different species of local *Personias* that been propagated by *Personia* expert Ralph Beck. Judy grappled with the grasses while Jan gave the *Goodenia ovata* a good haircut. Sue was a weed warrior and Wendy cleared the area around the *Banksia spinulosa* trees. Phillip was on general grounds duty.

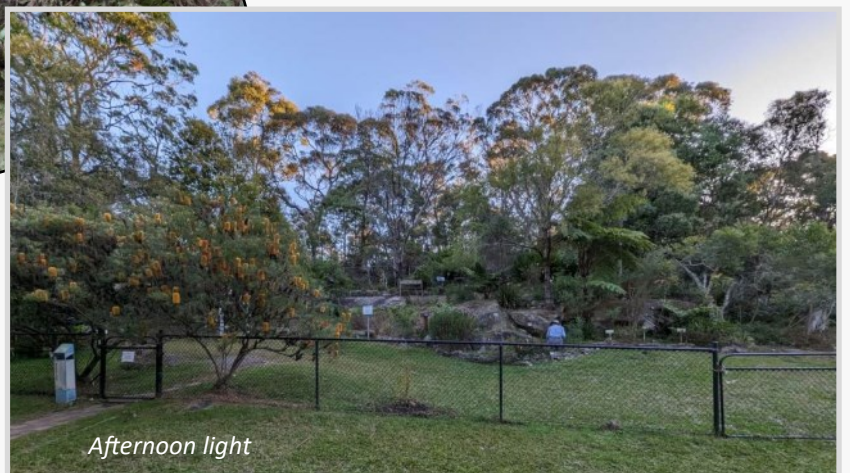
Brilliant sunshine with cool temperatures provided ideal conditions for a couple of hours work before we repaired to Lambert's clearing for a BBQ and chat.



Work underway



Work completed



Afternoon light

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 15 July Bobbin Head Turramurra *see page 5*

PROPAGATION is held at KWG on alternate Wednesdays from 1-4pm 12 & 26 July 9 & 23 August

THE KNOLL APS NSG Native Plant Community Garden at KWG

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: 5 & 19 July 2,16 & 30 August

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

Sue & Paul Fredrickson enjoyed the company of this Bush Stone Curlew while visiting Great Keppel Island recently.

Not sure whether their sleep was disturbed by the birds' eerie night calls.



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 apnswmembership@gmail.com



Tuesday 18 July, 7:30 to 9:30 pm **St Andrews Uniting Church, corner of Vernon Street and Chisholm Street, Turramurra.**

Talk on the future of bushland management (no need to book)

Dr Peter Coad will discuss bushland, bushfire and waterway management in Hornsby. He will explore novel approaches and how technology such as environmental DNA monitoring, drones and digital twins have potential to assist in managing these precious areas.

June 2023 Committee Meeting Notes (it was a quick meeting)

- Plant sales
- Square terminal acquisition for card transactions
- General matters

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 August 2023 edition is Friday 21 July 2023 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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