

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JUNE 2022

So many good news thing in this bumper edition.

Dr Robert (Bob) Failes

Life Membership of APS NSW

Wendy Grimm

Conservation Award APS NSW

John Aitken

Life membership of APS NSW

Donation by Sue Anderson of folio book (number 40 signed) Blombery & Maloney "The Proteaceae of the Sydney region".

Working bee at The Knoll resulted in some "refreshed" plants after their pruning. Who doesn't enjoy a skilful haircut?



Sue Bowen, Lyn Kirby & Wendy Grimm displaying the book.

Vice President's Message

As I write this I'm looking out the window of my new study and it is a beautiful sunny day!!! What a lovely surprise!. I'm sure that you are all enjoying the sunshine too and hoping, as I am, for your garden to dry out. Don't forget, however, that our shadehouse at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden is open every second Wednesday afternoon for members wanting to restock their gardens (weather permitting and cash only).

We have just had our first face to face meeting in a long time and hope that we can continue on in this way after our June meeting, which will be another zoom. Our pruning workshop at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower garden was followed by a weeding and pruning session at the Knoll that revealed what the wet weather has done to our plantings.

Please don't forget to register for the Kiama conference in September. It will be a wonderful week meeting fellow native plant enthusiasts and visiting nearby garden, National Park and nursery gems. In addition, the pre and post conference tours to the Blue Mountains, South Coast (NSW), Pilliga and Sydney will soon become available to members not able to attend the conference.

Sue Bowen

Congratulations to Dr Robert (Bob) Failes on being awarded APS NSW Life Membership

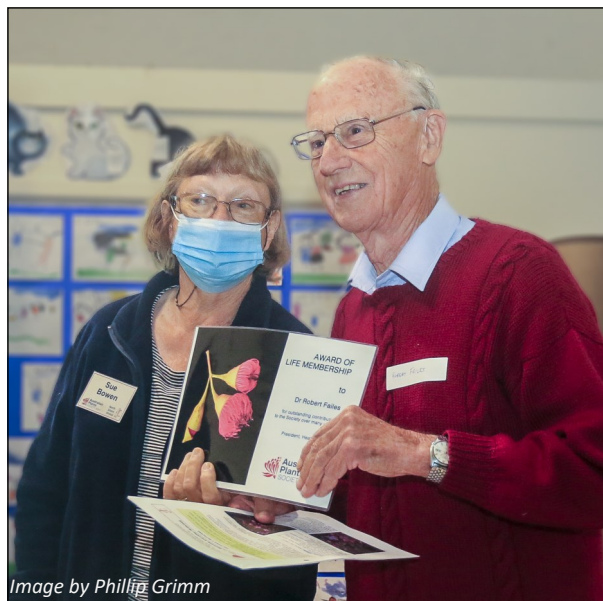


Image by Phillip Grimm

Sincere thanks, Bob, from all APS NSG members for the many ways that you have so generously contributed to the life of APS NSG. Wendy Grimm prepared the nomination for Bob. Below is a brief summary of all the roles Bob has so willingly undertaken.

Dr Robert Failes has been a stalwart of the North Shore Group and a staunch supporter of their endeavours.

Below are the volunteer positions that Robert has held during his membership of the Australian Plants Society since 2003.

- Presenter & coordinator, Walks & Talks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG)
- Author & publisher, W&T notes and Walkabout information sheets
- Member of collecting team, weekly Flower Display, KWG
- Member of team designing, installing & maintaining KWG mapping, plant database & signage
- Equipment steward & presenter, NSG monthly general meetings, Hornsby
- Assessor, the Valette Williams Scholarship in Botany (2017, 2018) awarded by the North Shore Group, Australian Plants Society, to Honours, Masters and PhD students of Botany
- Demonstrator, plant identification courses, KWG
- Participant and leader, monthly group excursions & yearly trips
- Participant and helper, APS NSW Get-togethers & Gatherings
- Threatened species monitoring
- Bush care within both Willoughby and Ku-ring-gai LGA's (including grants)

The Group's 50th celebrations and the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Festival are some of the other activities in which Robert played a vital role by leading bushwalks and preparing maps.

For the full nomination: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/dr-robert-bob-failes-awarded-life-membership-of-aps-nsw/>



Ian Cox took this image on Wendy's phone

A very supportive team of APS NSG members were at the AGM on 21st May 2022 hosted by Parramatta Hills Group at their meeting room in Cherrybrook.

APS NSG is very fortunate to have so many people who are so knowledgeable about our native plants, (and lots of other things), and who are so ready to share their talents, wisdom and passion.

Congratulations to Wendy Grimm on being awarded the APS NSW Conservation Award 2022



All people interested in conservation, and especially the preservation of threatened species, can thank Wendy for all her tireless efforts. We also thank Phillip for his many contributions to APS NSG, both as an individual and in his unwavering support of Wendy in all her plant based endeavours.

Sue Fredrickson prepared the nomination on behalf of APS NSG.

In summary, the nomination included the following points:

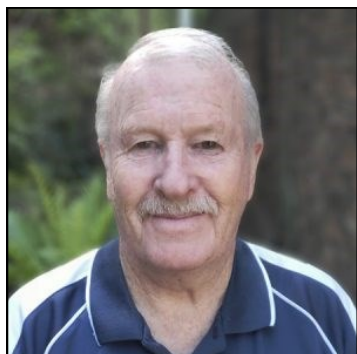
- Wendy can't walk past a plant that is new to her without needing to know what it is. She is very disciplined in looking it up either on the spot or later if necessary when she will not give up till her aim is achieved. Consequently, although a fit and good walker, walks with Wendy are anything but fast paced! She has an amazing ability to spot native orchids when the rest of us have walked on past them.
- Since rejoining in 2007, Wendy is and has been involved in many aspects of North Shore Group's activities. Many commented on the fact that Wendy is always so helpful to them and generous with her time.
- Committee member for at least 10 years, including secretary for 5 years.

- Hornsby Shire Herbarium since 2009 with research and weekly native plant surveys in the Hornsby Shire by a small group in APS.
- Plant propagation with APS NSG group and waratahs grown from seed at her home.
- Landcare, both on Hawkesbury River (Floating Landcare) and Marramarra National Park.
- Flower display at KWG. Wendy has helped with the collection and identification of specimens over many years. Wendy was instrumental in the planting of the rare local *Grevillea caylei* plant in KWG.
- The Knoll KWG. Wendy has been actively involved in the plant selection and maintenance of this display garden since 2007.
- Walks and Talks programme. Wendy works tirelessly, arranging the annual programme, organising every meeting, being a presenter and supporting new presenters. Despite the challenges of the past few years, the programme has continued in a modified format whenever health regulations permitted.
- FATS, Frog and Tadpole Society involvement since 1995 Vice President for several years and Secretary from 2003-2017. Wendy and Phillip have participated in a number of FATS activities over the years, including helping out at community day displays, frog workshops and the running of public meetings.
- Master of Philosophy at Macquarie University through the Dept of Biological Sciences was awarded to Wendy in April 2020. Thesis title was "The biology and ecology of *Genoplesium baueri* R. Br., an endangered terrestrial orchid endemic to New South Wales, Australia"
- Assisting Hugh Jones (APS NSG) with the monitoring / assessment of the endangered plant *Haloragodendron lucasii*.
- Wendy's and Phillip's home has a beautiful native garden.

In Wendy's words: 'Each person should be the champion of the more vulnerable plants in their own area'.

For full nomination: <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/conservation-award-to-wendy-grimm-north-shore-group/>

Congratulations to John Aitken on being awarded Life Membership of APS NSW.



John's contribution at both a group (Sutherland) and state level has been extensive and over many years.

- Increasing awareness and appreciation of Australian native plants through the good governance of the Australian Plants Society as president, secretary and board member to allow the society to meet its objectives
- Increasing and disseminating knowledge about Australian native plants as co-editor of the quarterly *Australian Plants* journal since 2008, and editor of *Native Plants for NSW*
- Fostering the growing of Australian plants in home gardens through making his own garden accessible.

On behalf of NSG members, thank you very much, John.

For full nomination see <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/award-of-life-membership-to-john-aitken/>



[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
South Coast, Blue Mountains, Lord Howe Island (waiting list), Warrumbungles and Pilliga and Sydney

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor David Lindenmayer

Clarence Slockee

Costa Georgiadis

Professor David Keith

and many more speakers to come!

<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](https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022)

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>

Pruning demonstration by Phil Manton at The Knoll 15th May

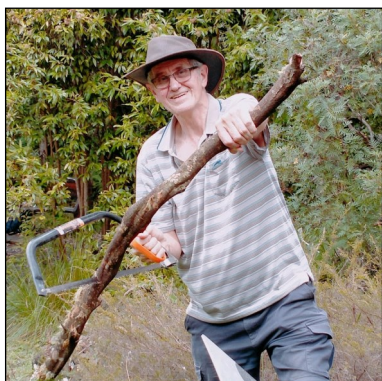


Phil in action Image by Sue Fredrickson

Phil Manton commenced by showing a group of 11 people how to prune a privet– yes, you read correctly!! It was a very old specimen contained in a large pot. Our members would have been more radical !! The principles of pruning bonsai are very similar for all species, so we had to mentally transfer the lessons to other plants and non bonsai specimens. Phil then demonstrated on some larger cuttings of native plants how to prune. Important concepts included you can't put it back on. If in doubt, proceed in smaller steps and step back and gauge what the effect is as you proceed. Other things to consider are what you are aiming to achieve by pruning, what is the location and what is the aspect with respect to sun and shade and nearby plants. Jan's "lucky seat grevillea" from the May meeting was very one sided

plant. Phil suggested planting it with the less dense side facing north to help it to thicken up on that side. Hopefully a more balanced plant will result. It is now in situ and time will tell how it fares. Removing dead wood (if in doubt, scratch down to check on the status of the cambium layer) and branches that are crossing will help ventilation and promote plant health.

Phil then showed us how to sharpen our tools and very kindly sharpened several tools for people.



Phillip G. tackles a definitely dead branch Image: Jan W

After lunch, the focus of activity moved to The Knoll, on the western edge of Lambert's Clearing. Seven members put their new-found knowledge into action: pruning unruly shrubs, trimming dead branches from acacias, baeckeas and lomantias, and reducing the rampant weeds smothering the miniature grevillea and banksia in the front bed. Phil stayed on to demonstrate pruning of the lanky *Grevillea speciosa* growing out of control next to *Banksia robur*.



Wendy and Margaret

The unseasonal conditions made working rather difficult- boggy in grassy areas and slippery on the sandstone surfaces. Fortunately, everyone took care and no-one was injured, and the slightly sore backs and leeches were regarded as worth enduring to spruce-up our demonstration garden on The Knoll. Hopefully Michael will approve of the results when he sees the changes.

Words: Jan Williamson & Wendy Grimm
Images: Phillip Grimm



Sue B & Sue F



Jan and Jenny

Benefits of Bushcare - How volunteering and connecting with nature can improve your health and wellbeing



It was good to be able to have a face to face meeting on 13th May where we were able to again check out the library and plants for sale. Leanne Johnston gave a very comprehensive talk on bushcare in Hornsby Shire. Leanne is the Environmental Scientist - bushcare and has worked at Hornsby Shire Council (HSC) for 14 years. The talk was very well received and stimulated many questions and much discussion.

The Hornsby Bushcare Program officially began in 1989 with 6 groups and remains one of the most successful programs in the Sydney basin. HSC now has 65 active groups where each group is supported by Council with a qualified and experienced Bushcare supervisor to lead and inspire the volunteers. There are currently about 350 volunteers who work once a month for 3 hours. Volunteers tend to prefer to work at the one site. Pre 2020 these volunteers clocked up about 17,000 hours per year.

What are some of the benefits to the community and the volunteers?

- Improvement of the local environment- both its amenity and biodiversity
- Feeling as though you are making a difference & contributing to the community and local bushland and helping to negate man induced climate change
- Forming new acquaintances and friendships
- Being outside and enjoying nature, flora and fauna, and the fresh air.

HSC bushcare volunteers do not have to live in the area. Our waterways from creeks to the ocean also benefit from improved land management.

Social events, such as guided bushwalks, plant ID workshops, photo competition and exhibition, and training opportunities are part of the programme. What is required of the volunteers? Curiosity and interest, good mobility and suitable physical fitness.

Several APS NSG have volunteered with bushcare and landcare and contributed MANY hours. Barry Lees commented that over the years the public's mindset seems to have changed with people being more appreciative of the natural environment and less likely to be dumping rubbish in bushland. (Ed.: *That is such good news.*)

If you would like more information Leanne would love to hear from you.

Email: ljohnston@hornsby.nsw.gov.au

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/flora-and-fauna/bushland-management/bushcare/join-bushcare>

Written by and images by Jan W. PS our new digital projector is now in operation. Many thanks to Phillip Grimm for all his work in researching and purchasing our new equipment. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

New member

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Kristine M. We look forward to meeting you and sharing our passion for native plants.

** For privacy reasons full name has not been published.*

Next meeting Friday 10th June ZOOM meeting 7.45pm for 8pm.

Sue Fredrickson, Hugh Jones, Jan Williamson, Tania Lamble & Bruce Usher will share images and insights gleaned from the trip. Early April to Orange, Dubbo, Narromine & Toongi.

The foci of the trip was conservation and innovative ways of enhancing biodiversity. Seven sites were visited in the 4 days- mixed farming properties, arboretum, designated conservation area and a future mining site.

CENTRAL WEST NSW APS TRIP



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 1st, 15th & 29th June 13th & 27th July

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 8th & 22nd June, 6th & 20th July

The Knoll Friday 3rd June 10am to 1pm Contact Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com 0417 026 111

Walks & Talks at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

The next three sessions are:

June 6 Monday Flowers to fruit



Meeting in Dampier's Clearing with a short talk and specimens, followed by a Walk in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens to explore some of the many plants and fruits that grow there. This Talk and Walk will explore the structure and diversity of flowers, the way these turn into a variety of fruits and seeds ready for a new generation of plants. These features are a useful aid to the identification different species.

June 20 Monday Gum Trees: Eucalyptus, Angophora, Corymbia (Family Myrtaceae)

June 27 Monday Long Walk: East Mueller Track (medium difficulty)

About the Walks & Talks

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. No prior knowledge is required and information sheets will be provided.

Booking your spot

Please book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk and the starting location and session format will be confirmed.

Please email Wendy (wagrimm@tpg.com.au) with your name, mobile number and emergency contact number.

Meet at 9.45 am at Dampier's Clearing which is a shelter shed near the Visitor Centre.

For enquiries about the program: 0419 323 035

Resources

Walks & Talks notes for each topic are [here](#).



GROUP WALK on Saturday 18th June to DANGAR ISLAND, Hawkesbury River.

Wet weather cancelled this outing in April so we are going to try again.

We last went to Dangar Island as a group about 11 years ago. There is much of interest there for a group such as ours. It is a relaxed day to a beautiful place with a short ferry trip from Brooklyn. There are remnants of bush, nice river views and some magnificent tall Blackbutts, even in the developed parts. There is a lot of interesting history relating to the island including Aboriginal, World War 2 and development along the Hawkesbury River, such as the construction of the bridges crossing the river. Local residents have worked hard to protect and regenerate bush areas.

There is a good café on the island beside the ferry wharf and Brooklyn has a good selection of eateries and hotel, if you wanted to make a longer day of it after returning to the mainland from the island. We will bring our own picnic lunches however, as this will give us flexibility to decide on a nice place and good time to have lunch.

The island is not big, so distances covered walking are not too arduous and we'll be walking at a leisurely pace.

Travel to Brooklyn can be by car or train (Hawkesbury River Station).

Date: Saturday 18th June

Time: Meet at the Dangar Island Ferry wharf for the **10 am Ferry**. Ferry departure time is 10.00am

The wharf is right next to the railway track near the north east end of the platform. If coming by train, the 9.26am from Hornsby will get you to Hawkesbury River station at 9.49am, giving you 11 minutes to get to the nearby Dangar Island ferry wharf. Catch the earlier train (an hour earlier) if you don't feel confident to find and make the 10am ferry (or drive).

At the end of the day we'll most likely leave the island by ferry at 2.45pm the next one being an hour later.

Be aware that there is a 45 minute wait for a southbound train as the ferries don't co-ordinate with the trains (stroll at Brooklyn or coffee opportunity?)

What to bring

Hat, sunscreen, walking shoes, lunch, coffee keep-cup, snacks and drinks and hand sanitizer.

Ferry fare is \$9.30 each way, \$4.70 for pensioners and kids. Most likely payment will be by card but have some cash just in case. Masks are compulsory on public transport and the ferry.

Enquiries & RSVP Sue Fredrickson mobile 0401 362 921
paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com

Please advise of your intention to attend by Thursday 16th June

That way if there are rail or ferry service disruptions at the last minute or bad weather making it necessary to cancel, you can be advised accordingly.

Sue F



Australia has a wealth of unique plant species, with many plants found nowhere else in the world. To protect these plants we need to know what is happening on the ground, and how plants across Australia are faring against threats such as habitat loss, disease, fires and floods. Citizen scientists, bushwalkers and botany groups have on-ground knowledge of what's happening to plants in their area. A new citizen science project, Flora Connections wants to connect this community plant knowledge to conservation



decision making. Flora Connections provides guides and a data sheet to collect information on plant species- where the plant is growing, how many plants there are and what the threats to the plant might be. Data can then be uploaded via the website to the Atlas of Living Australia, where it will be used by the scientific committees and land managers trying to protect plants across Australia.

Visit floraconnections.com to learn more, and print out a data sheet and get involved!

Callistemon citrinus (Crimson bottlebrush)
& *Melaleuca thymifolia* (Thyme Honey-myrtle) flowering in a swamp post fire, Blue Mountains.

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)



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.

May 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and activities in 2022, including speakers
- APS NSW Biennial Conference progress
- Plant sales & propagation matters
- Storage room at Beatrice Taylor Hall– maintenance issues
- NSG webpage
- Delegate's report on APS NSW matters

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

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