

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JUNE 2023

2023 Val Williams Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Sashini Perera



This year, the Val Williams Scholarship has been awarded to a PhD student from Macquarie University, Sashini Perera.

We are very grateful to the Selection Committee for analysing the application and particularly to Wendy Grimm for preparing a report.

Sashini's proposed research builds on an existing field experiment at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan wherein 10 species were chosen that have widespread native distributions across the New South Wales region. For each species, two very different provenances were selected. The contrasting climates are local Western Sydney climate and a hotter, drier climate.

The research proposes to investigate the influence of climate provenance on survival and plant performance with a view to predicting the success of species if Western Sydney becomes hotter and drier.

The second aspect of the project investigates the effect of addition of bio-char (charcoal) to the soil with and without microbial inoculation, under drought conditions.

The funds from the scholarship will enable the addition of a complementary glasshouse experiment, enable foliar nutrient analyses for both the field and glasshouse experiments and soil nutrient analysis of the field experiment. These will enable better assessment of the efficacy of the soil amendments for plant performance.

Written by Tania Lamble VWS convenor

As part of the scholarship, the winner is given a one year membership of APS NSG. We are very pleased to welcome our newest member, Sashini. We look forward to meeting you, hearing your presentation in 2024 and sharing in our knowledge and enjoyment of our native plants.

Next APS NSG General Meeting

Friday 9 June 2023 **7.30 pm for 8pm**

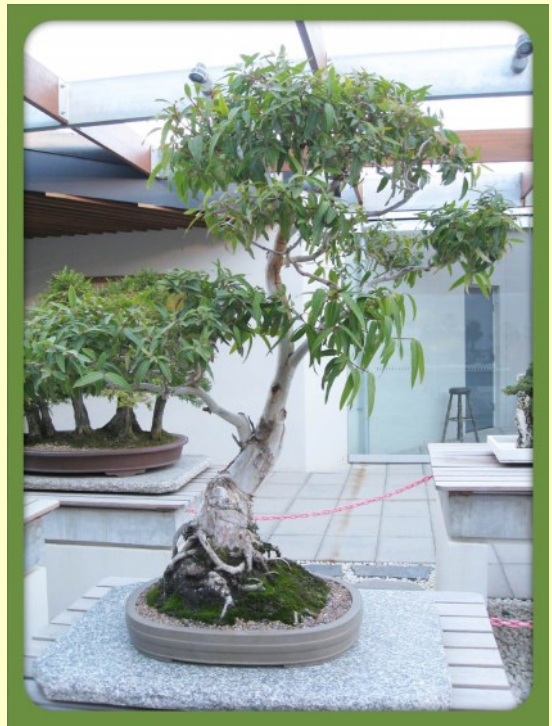
at Beatrice Taylor Hall, Willow Park Community Centre
25 Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Topic: Australian natives as Bonsai

Presenters: Wendy Grimm & Craig Field

Photos will include Wendy's photos from visits to The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection National Arboretum, Canberra in 2013 & 2023 and Craig will present his experiences with using Australian native plants as Bonsai and Penjing.

Bonsai displays typically focus on a tree or trees, Penjing displays can include elements other than trees, including rocks, water, or figurines.



Future meetings:

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

HEAR YE, HEAR YE

******* CHANGE OF MEETING TIME *******

At the May APSNSG committee meeting it was agreed that **from the APS NSG 14 July meeting** the meeting time for our monthly meetings will shift forward by 30 minutes.

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.

Lots of things are happening at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

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

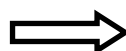
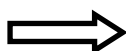
Walks are easy/medium. Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon.

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

June 5 Flowers, fruits & seeds



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. 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 of different species.

June 19 Monday Lilies, Orchids etc.

June 26 Monday Walk Only: Perimeter Trail to Showground return 2:30pm.

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

Wendy 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**



May 22 W&T topic was Banksias.
The session was led by Norah Palmer
Image by Phillip Grimm



Update on Flower Display Stand by Jan Marshall



Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden is becoming colourful again after the dull summer period, this is reflected in what we are able to put on the flower display each week. On April 26th Norah Palmer and I found 6 species of banksia, *Banksia robur* was looking particularly spectacular. We also found a few sprigs of *Acacia suaveolens* with the promise of more acacias to come as *Acacia longifolia* and *Acacia ulicifolia* were in bud.

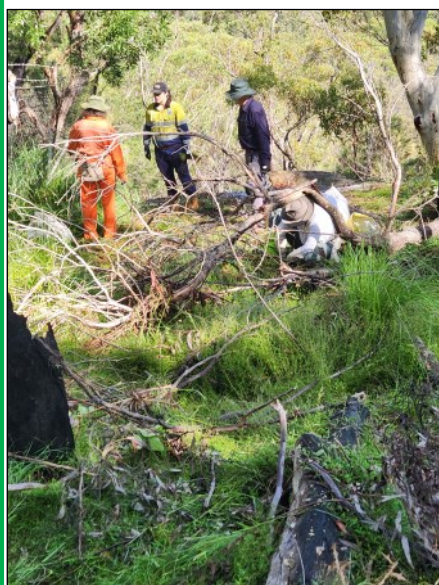
Over the last few weeks *Leptospermum squarrosimum* and *Crowea saligna* have provided a splash of colour but soon the Boronia and Eriostemon will be in bloom in all their glory.

We need some more volunteers to help with the display which takes about 3 hours to refresh each week, this includes tidying the stand, collecting fresh samples then identifying and labelling the flowers. It's a great way to learn how to identify species. As we work on a roster the commitment is about once a month.

If you would like to know more please phone me on 0403 908 042 or email me at janfig2m@gmail.com

Jan Marshall Flower Display Coordinator.

Bushcare at KWG Sue Bowen



Our group has participated in Ku-ring-gai Council's bushcare group at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden for many, many years. We never run out of weeds to remove. For instance, we have just spent Wednesday 24th May removing plants, flower stalks and bulbils of *Furcraea foetida* (sometimes called Mauritian hemp) from the perimeter of one of the ponds near Caley's Pavilion.

Thank you Wendy for pointing these particular plants out to us and for providing the photo of a flowering plant at the pond. Young clumps of this weed resemble a *Doryanthes excelsa* (Gynea lily) or *Crinum pedunculatum* (Swamp lily), but they have fleshy leaves and spines on the end of their leaves. We have

previously found this weed in Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden but it can also be found at other sites around Sydney Harbour. Keep an eye out for it in bushland when you are weeding or bushwalking.



JUNE APS NSG GROUP ACTIVITY



10th June: Activity: Working bee at The Knoll Community Garden at Lamberts Clearing, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives. The activity will start at 10:30 am and break for lunch (BBQ or picnic) around 12:30 pm.

Please bring your own protective clothes, closed shoes and hat and gloves. Tools, insect repellent and weed bags will be available. Leaches and ticks are often encountered. Organisers Wendy & Phillip. Information Wendy 0419 323 035

PLANT LABEL Machine



The propagation group are thrilled that the new machine is now operational. This will save an enormous amount of time, effort and frustration as plants can now be identified with these professionally produced labels.

A big thanks to all involved in getting this project from a wish list to a reality. Hugh Jones, Judy Jeffery and Tania Lamble are the chief instigators and deserve the biggest round of thanks. Judy has also made some storage boxes for the labels.

Now all that is needed is plenty of propagated plants and people willing to assist at all stages– collecting cuttings and seeds, propagating and selling the results. Our next significant sale is at the Berowra Woodchop on Sunday 27th August , but remember that plants can be purchased on propagation afternoons (see page 7). Jan W

MAY APS NSG MEETING

One of the reasons why we join APS is our love for growing native plants. I was very pleased, and amazed, therefore, that we were able to spend a full hour and a half at our May meeting sharing our successes and failures in growing native plants. Nine members shared their growing experiences while another member explained to us how a genuine cabbage tree hat is made. It was a most entertaining evening!!! *Sue Bowen*



Left: Bob Failes' Blandfordia which is over 30 years old and continues to bloom

Right: Wendy Grimm's bon-saied Fig which is over 40 years old

Above: Rosslyn Young's very special cabbage leaf hat. Not very old but very special as a friend wove it with much love, skill and time from Ros' own plants. What the photo doesn't show is its feel– it was SO soft and light.

Images Jan Williamson



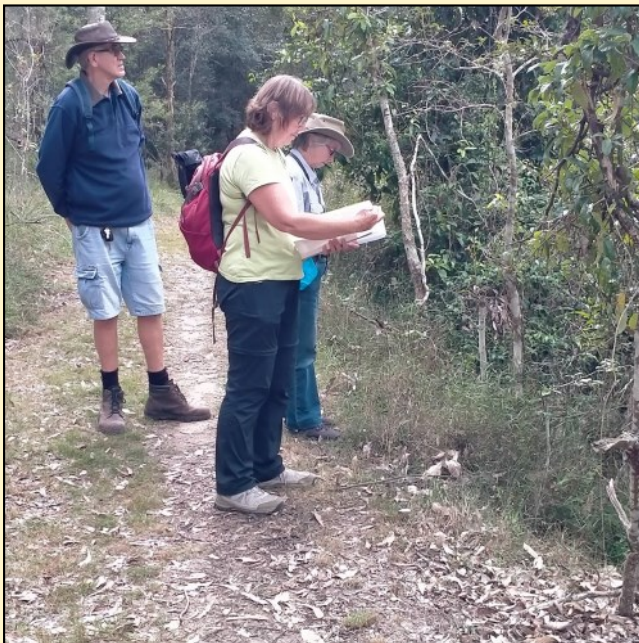
Group Walk to Cattai National Park- Saturday 13th May



Cattai National Park is located at the junction of the Hawkesbury River and Cattai Creek to the north of Windsor.

Inspired by Peter Ridgeway's talk to our group in February this year, Sue Fredrickson prepared an excellent excursion of this area. Sue was familiar with some locations as the Mitchell Park section of Cattai National Park was the site of some of Sue's studies many moons ago. Sue, however, as thorough as ever, had her records from those days with her plant lists and descriptions of the different vegetation areas. "Good work" and similar comments dotted the pages !

Thomas Arndell's homestead *Caddie*, built in 1821. He was the First Fleet surgeon.



Soon after taking this image this cloud decided to drop its load on the area, so we scurried back to the cars— wet, but happy to have enjoyed another excellent outing. Thanks, Sue.

Report by Jan Williamson



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 10 June Working bee at The Knoll *see page 4*

PROPAGATION is held at KWG on alternate Wednesdays from 1-4pm 14 & 28 June , 12 & 26 July

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: 7 & 21 June, 5 & 19 July

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

Suggestions for speakers at the general meetings

Even though 2023 calendar is now almost filled it is time to think about 2024.

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

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

May 2023 Committee Meeting Notes

- Speakers at meetings
- Plant sales: attend Berowra Wood Chop on Sunday 27th August, 2023.
- Square terminal acquisition for card transactions
- Change of times for starting general meetings

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 July 2023 edition is Friday 16 June 2023 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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