

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



MAY 2022

2022 Val Williams Scholarship winner.

Congratulations to SARAH McINNIS (PhD candidate UNSW)

Her research topic: *How is dormancy controlled in seeds of heat-responsive Australian fire-prone species?*



Sarah wrote a short background piece for us: Growing up only a couple of minutes from both Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal National Park, my love for plants was fostered at a very early age. While I may have started my science journey in chemistry, witnessing the 2019-2020 bushfires was a pivotal moment for me. It was the final push that led me into an Ecology Honours, and now a PhD in Ecology at the University of New South Wales, where the persistence of plants, and how we can conserve them, became my focus.

It's well known that plants germinate in response to fire, as different fire cues break dormancy. For physically dormant seeds – that is, seeds with a water impermeable seed coat – heat from fire is often the cue that breaks dormancy.

Seeds can have their dormancy broken at temperatures ranging from 40 °C to 120 °C. These variations in temperatures are important, as they determine what seeds will germinate in response to different fires. However, *why* these dormancy breaking temperatures vary is unknown and, with the support of the Val Williams Scholarship, this is something I aim to address.

It's been hypothesised that the oils (specifically, fatty acids) in the seed coat could be controlling these dormancy breaking temperatures. To test this, I will extract the fatty acids from 21 plants native to Sydney and wider NSW. I will then compare these fatty acid profiles with the temperature at which each species breaks dormancy. By understanding why the temperature required to break dormancy varies, we can better understand how plant communities will respond to different fires. Given fire regimes are altering under climate change, this is particularly important.

I'm thrilled to be supported by the Val Williams Scholarship in Botany for 2022 and look forward to sharing my findings with you next year !"



[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, Warrumbungles and Pilliga and Sydney

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor David Lindenmayer is a world-leading expert in forest ecology, conservation science, and biodiversity conservation. He will share his research into fire, forests, plantations and biodiversity, a critical challenge for all Australians who care about the country on which we live.

Clarence Slockee, a Cudgenburra/Bundjalung Aboriginal man from the lush Tweed Valley and also a long time Gardening Australia presenter, will bring to life the world of the First Nations people, how they lived and nurtured the land for thousands of years.

Costa Georgiadis, lover of nature, landscape architect, permaculturist teacher, and the well known host of Gardening Australia, will share his insights into the future of Australian native plants. Costa has a gift for engaging people of all ages to connect with nature.

Professor David Keith, a leading botanist and ecologist working in the areas of vegetation dynamics, population and ecosystem modelling and fire ecology, will open the conference and provide an overview of the past present and future of Australian native plants.

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

**13th MAY APSNSG General Meeting will be held at
BEATRICE TAYLOR HALL 7.30pm for 8pm start.**



*** There will be **plants for sale** (cash only) & 2 free tubes for new members and the **library** available. ****

Speaker: Leanne Johnston

Hornsby Shire Council's Environmental Scientist – Bushcare

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

Leanne has been with Hornsby Shire Council's Bushcare program since 2008.

The Hornsby Bushcare Program officially began in 1989 and remains one of the most successful programs in the Sydney basin. We have 65 active groups where each group is supported by Council with have a qualified and experienced Bushcare supervisor to lead and inspire our volunteers.

10th June meeting: ZOOM meeting.

Central West APS NSW trip– presenters: Sue Fredrickson, Jan Williamson, Hugh Jones & Tania Lamble.

APS NSW Gathering, AGM & talk Saturday 21 May - Grevilleas for small gardens

Morning, from 10 am - visit Boongala Native Gardens and Rainforest, 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst \$3 entry

Afternoon, 1-4 pm - Gumnut Community Centre, Cherrybrook

APS NSW Annual General meeting and Peter Olde, OAM

Grevilleas for small gardens

Peter is a world authority on grevilleas, a Life Member of APS NSW and co-author of a number of books on grevilleas.



The AGM is a short meeting. Presentation of Life Membership and Conservation awards will be made.

Spoiler alert: Come and support two NSG members who are nominated for these awards.

Talk: \$5 for members, \$10 for guests

Don't forget to vote in the Federal Election:

this can be done prior to 21st May by postal vote or early voting. See AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) for details

<https://www.aec.gov.au/>

New member

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Susie S.*

To all members, we would love to see you at our virtual meetings and at any other opportunities/activities.

All suggestions for the group are welcome– please contact

Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or president@blandfordia.org.au or *Blandfordia* editor, Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com .

* For privacy reasons full names have not been published.

GROUP ACTIVITY SUNDAY 15th MAY

Does “to prune or not to prune” keep you awake at night?

Having decided to prune, do you then know where to prune and how much of the plant to remove?

There will be a **Pruning demonstration and workshop at The Knoll**, KWG 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives.

Phil Manton will talk about and demonstrate **pruning** (though not by the technique in the image!).

Phil has vast experience of gardening, pruning and is a bonsai enthusiast.

Phil has been a Easy Care Gardening volunteer for many years.

Phil will also advise on tool sharpening.

A PA system will be used to facilitate hearing the presentation.

Bookings required. Number limited to **25**

Contact Jan W janw7531@gmail.com.au or leave message on 9875 2262 by Wednesday 11th May with your name, contact phone number and the number of people attending.

Time **11.30am at The Knoll**. Parking in the Car park below Caley’s Pavilion and walk down the sealed road to The Knoll. The Knoll is located beside Lambert’s Clearing and the fern house .<https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Things-to-do/Ku-ring-gai-Wildflower-Garden/Wildflower-Garden-bush-trails>

What to bring: Your lunch, a couple of your favourite pruning tools, gardening gloves, safety glasses, covered shoes suitable for gardening, water, hat , sunscreen and insect repellent. Optional: a fold up chair.

We will have a lunch break and then people will have an opportunity to implement Phil’s suggestions on some of The Knoll plants. Also, there will be an opportunity to buy plants from the propagation area.

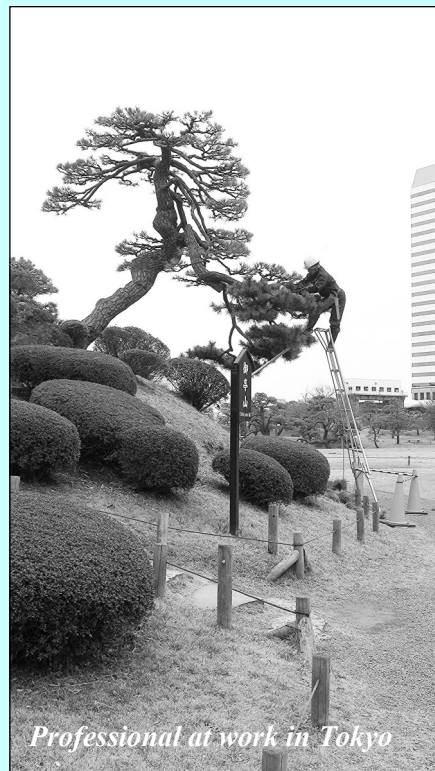
At about 2pm we will switch into general working bee mode and led by Michael Griffith and Wendy Grimm some overdue activities will be done. With all the rain keeping on top of the garden has been more challenging than in normal weather and we are using this occasion to help catch up with some maintenance of the garden. The Knoll is an example to the public of a native garden. One of its major purposes is to encourage people to try a similar approach to gardening at their homes.

Covid precautions will be followed according to the current government advice.

Don’t attend if unwell.

Saturday 18th JUNE Rescheduling of outing to Dangar Island. For full details see *June Blandfordia*

Note that the outing a weekend later than usual to avoid the June long weekend.



North Head Sanctuary: Towards two years after the fire by Dr Judy & Dr Geoff Lambert

What an interesting and informative presentation we were privileged to be given on 8th April.

North Head Sanctuary is covered by about 250 ha of coastal heathland, consisting primarily of senescent scrub and banksia open heath. There is a rich and diverse flora and fauna with many genera and species present.

On 17th October 2020 a hazard reduction burn planned for North head Sanctuary escaped causing much more damage than anticipated. The aim was to conduct a 8.7ha hazard reduction burn, but the result was a 67ha hot fire. Judy explained that there is a 10 year plan for cooler mosaic burns of the area to protect the heritage and biodiversity of the area. Preparation and extensive planning had been done prior to this burn with about 100 people on duty, 40 fire trucks and 2 helicopters.

What then went wrong?

One factor was that extra walkers were present in the area, contrary to signage and information. As these people had to leave, they delayed the start of the burn. Localised wind eddies occurred due to the terrain and the dried out coastal heath. There was an inadequate water supply on the headland once the fire changed and the time between burns had been longer than optimal.

No injuries to people were sustained and no heritage structures were lost in the fire.

The Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) <https://www.australianwildlife.org/where-we-work/north-head/> has monitored and researched in the area for a long time. Within the immediate 2 weeks after the fire AWC aided in the rescuing of injured animals, installed refuge tunnels, food and water stations and monitoring cameras for predators and helped in several fire recovery research projects. AWC works in conjunction with National Parks and Wildlife Service and Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Other structures include fencing and safety features such as elevated paths and steps.

Overall, recovery is happening and will take 1- 3 years post fire. Judy and Geoff commented that the area that was designated for the control burn has thrived. For successful recovery certain factors are required. These factors include:

- Rabbits MUST be kept out of regenerating areas
- Rainfall in the early months after fire is important.
- People's movements must be controlled so that trampling of emerging plants doesn't happen, the creation of unplanned tracks doesn't occur and wildlife aren't unnecessarily disturbed. Unplanned tracks can lead to habitat fragmentation and/or erosion. Raising people's awareness of the potential for introduced weeds on shoes and clothes is an ongoing issue in many areas.

AWC report that bush rats and long nosed bandicoots are using the tunnels provided and their numbers have returned to pre fire levels, brown antechinus are back in their "preferred habitats", echidnas are active and manage in fires by finding shelters. Exotic predators such as dogs, cats, foxes all need to be controlled.

A general discussion about the role of fires and the types of burns then occurred. Climate change and fire management continue to be challenges for the future.

Thanks to Judy and Geoff for the talk and to them and the many other people who volunteer to protect this special area.

A couple of links that Geoff mentioned:

<https://northheadsanctuaryfoundation.org.au/>

<https://www.firesticks.org.au/>

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

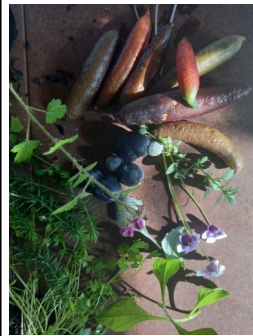
Propagation & plant sales 4th & 18th May, 1st, 15th & 29th June
During 2022 our shadehouse at KWG will be open to members on these dates from 1-4pm for propagation, plant sales (cash only) and growing advice. Our white shadehouse is behind the Visitors' Centre and Wildflower nursery. Other enquiries:
Contact **Tania Lamble** 0415 043 671 or **Sue Bowen** 0478 957 951

Bushcare 11th & 25th May, 8th & 22nd June

Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar
15th - 16th October 2022

[14th FJC Rogers Seminar 2022, on the Plant](#)
[Sub-family Faboideae | Australian Plants](#)



WORKSHOP

Native food plants that can be grown at home in pots or in your garden to use in cooking, snacking or just for fun.
Workshop Sat 7th May
9am to 1030am Limit of 12
To book: Email
cicadaglennursery@outlook.com
Cicada Glen Nursery
1 Chiltern Rd, Ingleside
0412478825

WALKS & TALKS : The next four 'Walk Only' sessions are:



May 16 Monday Wildlife of KWG
May 23 Monday Ferns and fernery tour
May 30 Monday Banksia (Family Proteaceae)
June 6 Monday Flowers to fruit

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.

These walk only sessions are free.

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

Please bring your own name tag.

Meet at **9.45 am at Dampier's Clearing** which is a shelter shed near the Visitor Centre, in the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

Walks are easy/medium grade.

Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon.

Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water/snack.

Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

Activity modified due to Covid-19

Each walking group will contain no more than 25 people.

Each walker must have their vaccinations up-to-date.

Social distancing will be maintained as per NSW Government advice.

Booking your spot

It is **essential to book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk.**

Please email Wendy (wagrimm@tpg.com.au) with your name, mobile number and emergency contact number. For enquiries about the program: 0419 323 035

Resources

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

Vale Margaret Collins

APS NSG members extend our condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Collins.

Bill Jones wrote the following and supplied the image.
"Margaret Collins, a member of our group who was deeply involved in our Walks and Talks program for many years has died. I happen to have a photo taken of some of the group after a presentation. The date is uncertain but could well be in the early 2000s. Our Walks and Talks started around 1990 and has continued in various forms up until the present time.

Margaret is seated on the right with other members including a past member Viv Colman standing behind her. At the back is Bob Failes who has been to a very large extent a leader of the program for many years."



More nature pictures from my garden!

I heard all the white cockatoos and magpies making a fuss and then saw a large echidna waddling down my drive. Regards, Rae.



Editor's note: My small dog has also learnt to listen to, & to take heed of, the alarm calls of the birds. We then take note of her!!

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

president@blandfordia.org.au

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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.

March 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and activities in 2022, including speakers
- APS NSW Biennial Conference progress
- Plant sales & patent and IP implications
- W&T Programme
- Purchase of new AV equipment for face to face meetings at Beatrice Taylor Hall
- VWS 2022 winner

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 June 2022 edition this will be 20th May 2022 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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