

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

OCTOBER 2022

Vice President's message from Sue Bowen



September has been a very busy month for some of our members. Firstly there was our plant sale on Sunday 4th at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. My thanks to everyone who helped make this such a successful day despite the weather not being the best! It was very pleasing to see our regular customers turn-up yet again to buy plants for their garden and Jim and Pam Lawler's beautiful cards. Approximately \$2000 was raised—a good proportion of the funds needed for the annual Val Williams Scholarship.

Those of us who attended the ANSPA Conference at Kiama during the week of 11th-16th September had a wonderful time learning new things about growing and conserving native plants and meeting native plant enthusiasts from around Australia. I particularly enjoyed visiting a gem of a small Botanic Garden at Shoalhaven Heads that is maintained by volunteers.

On Tuesday 20th we hosted an afternoon tea at Caley's Pavilion for the Conference delegates participating in the Sydney tour. Sue Fredrickson and Wendy Grimm, who were leading the tour, led the delegates on a walk at KWG. The interstate visitors were amazed by the industriousness of the male bush turkey at Caley's Pavilion.



Jan W



Sue B



Jan W

If you are looking for somewhere different to visit I recommend Harold Reid Reserve and foreshore walk at Castle Cove. This 40ha bushland reserve has a plethora of wildflowers and spectacular views of Middle Harbour. This pea plant was in full bloom.

If you missed out plants can be purchased on propagation afternoons (see page 7), at monthly meetings and the Christmas party on 9th December. The party will be held in Caley's Pavilion in the evening (more details in November *Blandfordia*).



Jan W

Our first visitor during set up on Saturday afternoon: A Grey Butcher bird

2022 ANPSA Conference KIAMA Some links to reports and activities <https://austplants.com.au/>
<https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/report-on-pilliga-and-warrumbungles-pre-tour/>
<https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/anpsa-plant-awards-2022/>
<https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/anpsa-australian-flora-conference-resources/>

Keep an eye on your APS NSWenews for more information and access to major talks at the conference

Next ANPSA Conference 30th September to 4th October 2024 in MELBOURNE with the theme "Gardens for Life".

Meetings for the remainder of 2022

14th October Harriett Simpson-Southward [Val Williams Scholarship winner 2021]

11th November Helen Smith on Huntsman Spiders & Election of 2023 APS NSG Committee

9th December Christmas Party

APS NSG OCTOBER Meeting 14th October 7.30 pm for 8pm

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

Library available and plants for sale.

Speaker: Harriet Simpson-Southward - 2021 Valette Williams Scholarship winner

Topic: Effects of topography on resilience of fire prone eucalypt communities to climate change.



I first became interested in conservation at a young age, however my passion for fire ecology only began when I spent a year on exchange in Australia at the University of Wollongong during my undergraduate degree. At this time, I ended up finding out about the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires (CERMB) here. I approached Ross Bradstock, former Director of the CERMB, to discuss potential research topics, soon going on to complete an Honours project with him. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to return to Australia to undertake further research in this field by doing a PhD here as well. Witnessing the devastation caused by the 2019-20 bushfire season only emphasised the importance of such research to me. My principal supervisor is now Owen Price, current Director of the CERMB (University of Wollongong). I am also co-supervised by Ross Bradstock (NSW Department of Planning and Environment), Hamish Clarke (University of Melbourne), Rachael Nolan (Western Sydney University) and Meaghan Jenkins (NSW Rural Fire Service).

Whilst the effects of climate on eucalypt distributions in south-eastern Australia and fire on eucalypt mortality are well-known, topographic differences may exacerbate their effects too. The evolution of eucalypt protective bark traits in response to climate and fire, modified by topography, is understudied. I investigated if this may alter the likelihood of mortality occurring in some eucalypt species and hence make them more vulnerable to range shifts under climate change.

Range shifts may mean that some species are no longer adapted well enough to survive where they once did due to changes in temperature, precipitation or fire regime. I examined if differences in bark thickness relative to stem diameter, bark density and proportion of fire scars related to whether eucalypt species were positioned on ridges or in gullies in Blue Mountains National Park, New South Wales. I chose to focus specifically on differences between these two topographic positions, to try to identify the largest contrasts. My talk will outline the background of this work in greater detail and the results that I found. Improving our knowledge of the spatial distribution of eucalypt bark traits at different topographic positions will enable better prediction of eucalypt responses to climate-driven increases in fire severity.

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to Kate P and Robert P. We hope that you enjoy your association with our group. We look forward to meeting you and sharing in our appreciation, knowledge and love of our wonderful native plants.

Biennial ANPSA Conference at Kiama 2022



My (Sue Fredrickson) impressions of the Conference, in just a few words:

- It was excellent- the speakers were expert in their fields and very thought provoking.
- The feedback from the conference attendees was very positive.
- The highlight was the forum with the young students who spoke of their concerns and views on native plants, climate and the environment in a very mature and courageous manner.
- The equal highlight was to hear Costa Georgiadis speak. He is so positive and interacted with the students in such an encouraging and heart-warming manner.
- It was a whole lot of work for the organisers but they did such a good job.



Image of Merle Thompson by Lynne Henderson.

Sue Fredrickson's comment:

Merle did all the planning work for the Blue Mtns and Sydney Tours. She liaised with the bus company, hotels, handled dietary requirements, answered tour participants enquiries, organised guides at Sydney Botanic Gardens and APS guides on those tours i.e. Wendy and me on Sydney one, others for Blue Mtns tour etc, etc.

All that while juggling the membership job on her laptop at night, even while we were away.

Merle is one of the many people who gave an extraordinary number of hours in the preparation and execution of the conference.

A BIG vote of thanks to all these people.

Boronia thujona at the Barren Grounds near Kiama



A visit behind the scenes at Royal Botanic Gardens with RBG guide, Paul Nicholson. This visit was included in the Surprising Sydney Floral Tour. Sue Fredrickson and Wendy Grimm led this 5 day post conference tour.



More images from post conference Sydney tour.
Group at Dobroyd Head, Balgowlah Heights



Walk led by Jennifer Farrer in Windsor Downs Nature Reserve



Boongala Gardens Kenthurst



Afternoon visit to KWG. As was in keeping with the catering for the entire conference, an excellent afternoon tea was provided by KWG staff and APS NSG.



Dendrobium gracilicaule at KWG Sue Bowen

SueBowen captured the brush turkey being super industrious maintaining his mound immediately adjacent to Caley's Pavilion.

Ed Note: While most of us don't want a brush turkey in our gardens one has to admire their determination and ability to keep the mound in good order to attract the females and at the optimal temperature for the eggs and incubation.

**All welcome to NSG Walks & Talks activities October & November 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

Go to <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore-Walks-&-Talks> for details

Enquiries to the convener, Wendy Grimm wagrimm@tpg.com.au or 0419 323 035

No booking necessary and no charge

October 10 Monday Walk Only: West Mueller Track return 1pm
October 17 Monday Waratahs and other members of Family Proteaceae
October 24 Monday *Callistemon*, *Kunzea* and *Melaleuca* (Family Myrtaceae)
October 31 Monday *Leptospermum* and *Baeckea* (Family Myrtaceae)

November 7 Monday Grasses (Family Poaceae)
November 14 Monday Orchids & planning W&T 2023 & BBQ lunch



Austromyrtus tenuifolia



Callistemon Little John



Darwinia fascicularis



Harmogia densifolia



Callistemon salignus



Kunzea ambigua

Images by Wendy Grimm

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/> ? To date 832 plants have been profiled on this site. Currently (spring has sprung!) , the plant database gets about 150-200 hits a day on average! Jeff Howes is one of the primary contributors to this site. Dan Clarke edits all submissions. Dan Clarke is editor of Native Plant Database and APS NSW Conservation Officer.

Jeff's comments on his own garden:

Gees the orchids are having a great season. This is *Dendrobium delicatum* spp growing in an old earthenware storm water pipe sitting on the garden bed. Has very little care or watering and is sited in a bright dappled light spot.



Dendrobium speciosum



Dendrobium tenuissimum which is now known as *Dendrobium mortii* apparently. I have had this orchid for 30 plus years and flowers every year.

Book recommendation from Jeff. I am currently reading a great book titled *Soil The incredible story of what keeps the earth and us healthy* written by Matthew Evans and published by Murdock Books in 2021. One of many great quotes from this book is 'Worms are the ultimate visible soil builders, capable of dissolving rock, feeding plants, digesting dead matter and aerating soil'.

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 page 4

Propagation & plant sales 5th & 19th October 2nd, 16th & 30th November

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 12th & 26th October

The Knoll Friday 7th October & 4th November 10am to 1pm Please contact Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com or 0417 026 111 at least one day beforehand as Michael will then bring extra tools.

APS NSG Monthly Activities for October and November

On **SUNDAY 16th October** there will be a **PICNIC FOR NATURE** in support of a Nature Conservation Council initiative to have a day where everyone comes out in support of nature - encompassing climate, water, trees, animals, and more. The aim is to be a huge concurrent get-together of environmentally-minded people and local communities who simply like being outdoors.

The **picnic will be held at Lambert's Clearing at 12 noon**. Please bring your own food, drink and a chair.

The picnic will be followed by a **working bee at The Knoll at about 1pm**. Please wear suitable clothing, shoes, hat, gardening gloves and bring tools, sunscreen and insect repellent and any food and drinks required.

In case of wet weather please contact Sue Fredrickson on 0401 362 921 or paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com

November event

Individuals are to organise their own registration, transport and accommodation.

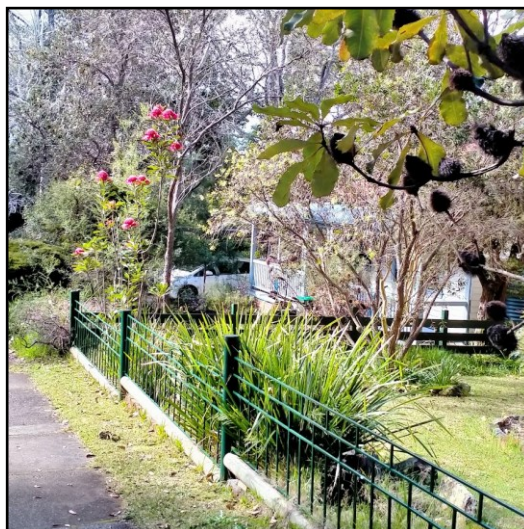
APS NSW Get together Southern Highlands

NOVEMBER Sat 11 & Sunday 12 November 2022

Registrations required [Australian Plants Society NSW - APS NSW Get together in the Southern Highlands \(austplants.com.au\)](http://austplants.com.au)



Happy waratah plant in a garden in Thornleigh. Jan W lives nearby, and despite a few attempts, has never had success.



September 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and speakers
- Plant sale
- Biennial Conference and post conference tours
- Plant label machine

More plants for sale

Brian Roach (APS NSG member) at Westleigh Native Plants
Contact westleighnativeplants@gmail.com

Boongala Gardens Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday
10am to 4pm From Friday 2nd September to
Monday 10th October, 2022 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst
Full details: <https://www.boongalagardens.com/>



Philotheca myoporoides Jan Williamson

2022 LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NSW NATURAL HISTORY FIELD SYMPOSIUM
NATURAL HISTORY OF THE NORTHEASTERN SYDNEY BASIN
Wednesday November 16-Thursdays November 17 (oral presentations)
Friday November 18 (field trip)

Venue: Hornsby RSL Club (4 High Street, Hornsby),
For full details see <http://linneansocietynsw.org.au/>



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

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

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 \(apsvic.org.au\)](#)



Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 Increasing biodiversity awareness through

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



Jan W

Newsletter submissions: Deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month.

For the November 2022 edition this is 21st October Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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