

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

September 2021



13th August



22nd August



27th August

On my morning walk with my faithful dog I have been tracking the progress of this Waratah, *Telopea speciosissima*, as it comes into full bloom. Over the two weeks the blooms have gone from a pasty pink to a rich red. This plant is about 50 years old, gets no TLC and produces consistently every year. Talking with the next door neighbour she has never successfully managed to get a waratah to survive, let alone flower. Her garden is full of native plants which are thriving.

Written by and images by Jan Williamson

Neutrog agreement with APS NSW (With current restrictions the delivery arrangements may be affected.)

APS NSW and Neutrog, producers of Bush Tucker, have entered into an agreement whereby Neutrog provides substantial discounts on all Neutrog products to members in exchange for APS NSW promoting Bush Tucker.



For full details go to <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/member-benefit-discounted-neutrog-products-bush-tucker/>.

Individual members order, and pay for orders, directly with Neutrog. Four times a year all orders for a District Group, in our case APS North Shore Group, are collated and a single delivery of all the orders is made to **one specified location**. Orders are then collected by members from this location. **For APS NSG to be involved one member needs to be the delivery coordinator (liaising with Neutrog) and one member needs to offer a location for the delivery of the Neutrog products. The same person can do both tasks or two people can do the 2 different tasks. Members should contact our president Sue Bowen, suzanneebowen@gmail.com if interested in doing both, or either of these tasks.** Once these roles are organised, APS NSG members will be given the option to either opt in or out of the arrangement with Neutrog. Those members who opt in will have their email contact details sent to Neutrog.

For more information <https://neutrog.com.au/>
<https://neutrog.com.au/2019/08/19/bush-tucker/>

It pays to keep on the lookout.

Fungi fossicker discovers 'highly significant' orchid species in Gold Coast hinterland - ABC News

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-28/new-orchid-species-discovered-in-gold-coast-hinterland/100322870>



August Meeting and helpful hints on ways to cope with lock downs

The August Meeting on Zoom was attended by about 35 people with lots of interaction. Certainly not the same as in person, but we can still meet and chat.

Thanks to those who contributed images- Pam & Jim Lawler, Viv & Neil Peters, Tania Lamble & Bruce Usher, Sue Bowen, Brian Roach, Bob Failes, Jan Williamson and Sue Fredrickson. Big or small gardens/ spaces can accommodate our magnificent native plants.



Tania & Bruce

There was a comment that birds such as the native noisy miner birds, *Manorina melanocephala*, have now forced out many of the smaller species. Too true, but largely due to all the other intervening gardens which do NOT feature a variety of native plants- big, small, dense or loose foliage, prickly, smooth..... our members ARE doing our bit. From my observations, and in defence of the native miners, they seem to be very effective in keeping insects in check.

There will be some more contributions at the 10th September meeting after the talk from our 2020 Val Williams scholarship recipient, Shubham Chhajer.



Pam & Jim



Viv & Neil

Small plant selection in established gardens - tips by Jeff Howes

Suburban gardens, become over time, more and more shady as they and your neighbours' gardens mature and plants grow.

If you like plenty of flowers, especially Grevillea's then plant choice needs to be done carefully, especially when selecting from the many, one metre high plants available from nurseries. If you are fortunate to have full sun positions then plant choices are easier.

1. To select Grevillea's that will grow in dappled light with only some afternoon or morning sun I have one proven tip:

Select plants with the largest, shiny, green leaves -- they will do well, even in heavier soils with some moisture. One Grevillea that I have found that will grow and flower in this situation is Grevillea Red Clusters .

2. To select Grevillea's that will grow in a hot, dry, full sun position I have another proven tip:



Grevillea speciosa & Noisy Miner
Pam Lawler

Select plants with thin, greyish leaves as these perform best. One Grevillea that performs well in this situation is Grevillea Black Range.



Part of Jeff's garden with a Grevillea in foreground-
Jan W

Of course there are many, many other Grevillea's to select from, just remember my tips and you will have success.

President's Message

It was good to see so many members tune into our Zoom meeting on 13th August. It was interesting to see the different ways in which our love of native plants has helped us through the pandemic experience. Please keep up the good work!

Unfortunately, lock down has now been extended until the end of September at least and all of our activities, except our September meeting, have been cancelled or postponed. Our September meeting, on Friday the 10th, will be via Zoom.

Our proposed Spring plant sale has been postponed, yet again. Our new date is now Sunday 31st October, at Caley's Pavilion, with set up on Saturday 30th Oct. There will be more details in our October *Blandfordia*.

The KWG Bushcare group (led by, and with members from our group) recently was successful in gaining a \$5000 grant from Ku-ring-gai Council. The grant is for the control of *Pandorea jasminoides* near Caley's Pavilion to stop it spreading to an endangered coastal upland swamp nearby. Photo shows the Pandorea on a dead tree.



I have attached an interesting paper given at the recent National Landcare Conference 2021 <https://nationallandcareconference.org.au/> about mangrove propagation in the Hornsby Council area. Two of the authors are Ross Rapmund and a member of NSG, Kylie Hanks, who is a HC bushcare volunteer and member of our propagation team at KWG.

Sue Bowen

Two excellent short videos as part of the paper.

MANGROVES - our smelly friends <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Rv4BSOEqA>

A Helping Hand for MANGROVES <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tuwd65jata0>

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

Summary of the paper. (If you would like the full paper please contact janw7531@gmail.com)

Increasing the Salty Feet Canopy in the Lower Hawkesbury

Ana Rubio and Simon Dunne, Hornsby Shire Council

Mangroves are a critical part of the coastal ecosystem in the Lower Hawkesbury, improving water quality by filtering pollutants, stabilising and improving soil, protecting shorelines from erosion and contributing to global blue carbon storage.

In a bid to protect these threatened ecological communities, Hornsby Shire Council and local Bushcare groups are working together to propagate and plant native Grey and River Mangrove species in the Lower Hawkesbury.

The team has been guided by the pioneers of mangrove restoration, the Shoalhaven Riverwatch group which produced a guide to sowing, potting, growing and planting Grey Mangroves. Less information was available on River Mangroves which seem to be more fiddley to handle and grow. As a result, the team at Hornsby Shire Council took on the challenge of trying to grow these important species.

The team, comprising environmental scientists, tree nursery experts, highly skilled Bushcare volunteers and extremely motivated community groups, rose to the challenge, trialling different sowing media and nursery techniques, the careful planting of propagules and the ongoing monitoring of seedlings to see what method is most effective for River Mangroves.

Once the mangrove seedlings are over six months old, they will be planted by various community groups including the local schools, community members living in river settlements and Bushcare/Floating Landcare volunteers. Local schools and volunteers will also assist with long term monitoring of select populations.

As well as on ground restoration, the partnership will produce a How to Grow River Mangroves manual and a chart illustrating when both species of mangrove flower, seed and germinate, and the best times to sow seeds and plant them out.

This session will outline lessons learned, next steps, long-term plans and useful insights which may come in handy during your next restoration project.

Next Meeting on 10th SEPTEMBER 2021

7.45pm for 8pm by ZOOM

Speaker: Shubham Chhajer 2020 Val Williams Scholarship Recipient

Topic: Hydraulic drivers of photosynthetic variation in co-occurring plant species in Sydney region: a least-cost theory approach

Background: Plants need to photosynthesise efficiently to grow and be healthy and to do this they require access to carbon dioxide and water. During periods of water stress there are trade-offs in obtaining CO₂ for photosynthesis and preventing excessive water loss. Shubham is investigating the photosynthetic variation among co-occurring species in relation to their hydraulic strategies on a range of native plants from the Sydney region by applying a new theoretical model to the problem.

The money awarded to this student will pay for stable isotope analyses of foliar carbon which is needed to obtain reliable estimates of leaf gas exchange rates that is central to this study.

Shubham's talk will be followed by a short plant identification presentation.

Next meeting: **8th October 2021** Main topic: TBA see October *Blandfordia* Short presentation: Virtual trip to Capertee area.

New members over the past few years



If you have joined APS NSG recently we would love to hear from you. We understand that the pandemic has impacted on opportunities for everyone to meet in person and participate in the various activities of APS NSG.

However, your expectations and whether we, and the state body APS NSW, are meeting those expectations are important to us. The expertise and interests of our members are highly varied and often of a very high calibre. All are ready to share.

If you have any suggestions/ contributions for *Blandfordia* please contact editor, Jan Williamson at janw7531@gmail.com See pages 5 & 6 have details of the contact

people for different activities.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our interest in and knowledge of Australian native plants.

Group activities



Hopefully, the **plant sale will be able to be held on Sunday 31st October with set up on Saturday 30th October.**

Please check for update of details in October *Blandfordia*.

Postponement of visit to Capertee area in October.

Unfortunately the trip to Hugh Jones' property and the neighbouring areas has had to be postponed. Hopefully it will be rescheduled in 2022.

Please join us for a virtual trip there at 8th October meeting.

Critically endangered *Phebalium bifidum* which was in full bloom in August
Image by Hugh Jones



Observations while exercising during lock down.



Please don't ever plant a Norfolk Island pine under powerlines. Sue Bowen



Suggestion for dressing up a street sign. An excellent climbing frame for white flowered form of *Hardenbergia violacea*

Sue Bowen



Alternatively just along the fence Jan W



Some flapping sounds alerted me to a kookaburra arriving at this nest site in Westleigh Jan W

The **Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference** and AGM for 2021 will take place on Saturday the 6th November. As its such an uncertain time, we cannot say for sure whether it will be online or in person. At this stage we imagine a hybrid event in a venue in Sydney and online. **For more details contact Jacqui Mumford jmumford@nature.org.au**



Australian flora - Past present future
ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



Save the date: Kiama Pavilion, Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September 2022
For full details: <https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>



F. J. C. Rogers Seminar 15th & 16th October 2022

Topics include: *Identification *Propagation *Horticulture *Research
Hosted by Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Contact: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com
apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022



APS NSG activities

Subject to Covid restrictions

Please contact the coordinators prior to any attendance and check NSW Government restrictions as well at this website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney>

Propagation at KWG Wednesday *Contact:*Tania Lamble 0415 043 671

Bushcare at KWG 21st *Contact:* Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

The Knoll *Contact:* Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

The Flower Display at KWG *Contact:* Jan Marshall 0403 908 042

Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives *Contact:* Wendy Grimm wagrimm@tpg.com.au
0419 323 035



Brian Roach shared images from his garden at the August Zoom meeting and presented a challenge and made a practical suggestion.

1. *Challenge:* Do we want plants that flower all year, or for prolonged periods, in preference for those with limited flowering seasons? The latter provide expectation, satisfaction and then acceptance for the remainder of the year. An example is *Chorizema* spp.

2. *Suggestion:* To effectively water &/or fertilise pot plants place water and fertiliser in a bucket. Fully submerge the pot into the bucket and wait until bubbles stop surfacing. If the dissolved fertiliser is just poured into the pot it tends to track through the potting mix and not actually water the plant.



To contact Brian for plant sales westleighnativeplants@gmail.com

Jeff Howes: *Are you sick of getting smelly liquid fertilizers and conditioners over your hands when measuring out the correct volume before adding it to your watering can?* I was, and I am getting messier as I get older.

Problem solved after I came across this suggestion on the ABC's *Garden Australia* web page, to use those nifty screw cap nozzles that are on sauce bottle etc as they are the same size and thread. **Excellent.**



August Committee meeting notes (virtual zoom meeting)

The following items were discussed:

- Impact of resurgence of Covid pandemic and increased restrictions on all activities- all activities are currently suspended
- Speaker for October meeting
- Report on APS NSW Strategy Workshop
- Plant sale - 30th(set up) & 31st October
- APS NSW Delegate report: Booking for Kiama Pavilion September 2022 has been confirmed and non refundable, but transferrable, payments will be made.
- Cancellation of October group outing
- Flower Stand at KWG



Magnolia

Not native, but particularly showy and beautiful this year.

Possums often enjoy eating the buds and blossoms.

Jan W

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au

Website: <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

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.

Treasurer: Helen Ray treasurer@blandfordia.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson 9875 2262 janw7531@gmail.com

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

For the October 2021 edition this will be 17th September 2021 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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