

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

SEPTEMBER 2022

## Sue's message

Spring is coming and it's time to enjoy the flowers in the bush and our native gardens. Moreover, it's time to replace any dead plants with new plants.



**Our plant sale on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September** at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives, will allow you to obtain those new plants.

We have a wide range of tubes and advanced plants for sale as well as bargain plants. We will also be selling the Lawlers' beautiful, hand-made cards.

As Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> is also Father's Day we suggest that you combine a picnic with your visit to our sale.

We will be open between **9am and 4pm** and ask you to bring your credit card (preferably), own packing boxes and used pots and tubes (for our future use).

Don't forget to let me know when and how you can help with the sale ([suzannebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebowen@gmail.com) or 0478 957 951).

Set up is on Saturday 3rd in the afternoon if you can help then.

Sue Bowen

### **Flowers wanted**

If you can bring a bunch of flowers that would be greatly appreciated. The flowers will add colour and show prospective buyers what they can expect when their plants mature.



## Meetings for the remainder of 2022

- 9<sup>th</sup> September Meet and Greet the people and the plants at Beatrice Taylor Hall
- 14<sup>th</sup> October Harriett Simpson-Southward [Val Williams Scholarship winner 2021]
- 11<sup>th</sup> November Helen Smith on Huntsman Spiders
- 9<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Party

APS NSG SEPTEMBER Meeting  
9<sup>th</sup> September 7.45pm for 8pm

### MEET & GREET the people and the plants

ALL Welcome

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

#### Spring should have sprung so please **bring specimens of flowers.**

It will be an informal night to catch up and share your ideas on native plants, your gardens and anything else that you'd like to chat about.

There will be plenty of time to explore the contents of the library.

There will not be plants for sale at this meeting.

No speaker was invited to this meeting due to its timing, being the day before the start of the Biennial Conference. Several of our members will be preparing to attend the conference and are unable to attend the meeting. Rather than cancel the meeting, it was thought that after the past couple of years it would be a good opportunity for a relaxed evening to chat over a tasty supper.

Jan Williamson [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) will be coordinating the evening.



#### Welcome to New Member

Welcome to John R. 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.



Some inquisitive locals Jan Williamson



## TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> September

*Surprising Sydney Flora Tour* is coming to Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden for afternoon tea. As with all good events, a tasty afternoon tea is an important part of the activity. KWG and APS NSG are providing the afternoon tea from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Helpers are needed please. Approximately 20 people are booked on the tour. Jan Williamson is coordinating the afternoon tea. If you would like to help please contact Jan on [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) or 9875 2262 (answering machine for messages).



Sue Fredrickson and Wendy Grimm are the leaders of the *Surprising Sydney Flora Tour* and have devoted many hours in preparation, including conducting reconnaissance visits to sites, attending a first aid course and reading up on the history of the locations being visited. As part of the preparation, on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August, APS NSG had a visit to the West Head areas to be visited. We were rewarded with beautiful weather and many plants already in flower.





## All welcome to NSG Walks & Talks activities September & October 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](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au) or 0419323035

#### No booking necessary

September 5 Monday Fire and vegetation at KWG after 2021 burn

September 12 Monday Weeds and Bush regeneration

September 19 Monday Walk Only: Early Birds & Insect

#### School holidays

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)



#### GOOD NEWS

### The Flower Display is back

*Jan Marshall*



After much consultation and various iterations, there is a new Flower Display stand outside the Visitors Centre at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

On Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup>, Wendy Grimm and Jan Marshall were able to collect and display flowers from the garden, the first time since Dec 2021.

The timing could not be better as the early spring flowers in the garden are in full bloom.

The rangers and visitors to the garden all appreciate the display, which identifies the plants and gives them ideas for what they can plant in their own gardens.

Volunteers of the Walk and Talk program of Australian Plant Society, North Shore Group maintain the display. Once a week volunteers collect, identify and record samples of the plants that are flowering in the garden.

*If you are interested in joining the group who maintain the display contact Jan Marshall on 0403 908 042.*

## Bushcare for the not faint hearted

Friends of the Colo by Deidree Noss



Deidree Noss gave a most informative and interesting talk on the group, Friends of the Colo (FOC) at the August meeting. The Colo River begins at the confluence of the Wolgan River and the Capertee Rivers, north of Lithgow. The river flows eastwards and then south through a deep gorge in the northern Blue Mountains and ultimately ends at the point at which it flows into the Hawkesbury River at Lower Portland.

<https://coloriver.com.au/map/>. The river flows through parts of the Blue Mountains National Park which is a designated World Heritage Area.

The group began in 2000 when the primary aim was to eradicate the Black Willows *Salix nigra* from the Colo River. The group is an “adventure conservation” group going into remote areas. These areas can often only be accessed by foot (often involving steep descents to the rivers), helicopter or water. Roads in don’t exist! The duration of the field trips varies dependent on many factors but can be up to 7 days. Weather is factored into all the decisions concerning the trips. FOC achieved a 98% kill rate of Black Willows after about 5 years of work along 80km length of river. Unfortunately, Black Willows are still present on private properties further downstream, so vigilance against resurgence of the problem is required.

FOC have continued their work along the riparian zone (20 metres beside the rivers) targeting other species of weed, such as Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*), Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*), Lantana, Gleditsia spp, Moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), Tobacco bush (*Solanum mauritianum*), Figs and Privet spp. Many of these weeds are garden or property escapees that have been carried downstream.

All volunteers complete comprehensive training in all aspects of safety: crossing rivers, throwing ropes, using the chemicals, rescuing others and water skills. The water skills are honed at the Penrith white water facility. Safety equipment (PPE) is always used.

FOC works collaboratively with NPWS, local land services and councils and complies with all the various requirements. Pesticide awareness and chemical certificates are essential as often the weed control entails their usage. People usually work in pairs to facilitate the effectiveness and speed of poison application and personal safety. The usual method is for the creation of chiselled lesions on the trunks of the target plant and the poison applied immediately.

One of the images shown included a large area smothered by Cape Ivy. When such affected areas are found, the siting is reported to NPWS. Contractors are then engaged to deal with these large and difficult areas and the area is monitored for a number of years. GPS location mapping is used.

12-20 trips are made each year, varying in length from 1- 7 days. For every trip there is a plan, job safety assessment and a comprehensive report issued. The report is shared with NPWS, local land services and other organisations connected with FOC.

Since the inception of FOC other groups doing similar adventure conservation work have started, including Wildcare Sprats in Tasmania (2007) where sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) and marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) are the main species targeted. <https://wildcaretas.org.au/branches/wildcare-sprats/>

Deidree is currently the president of the group and would welcome any expressions of interest from people [friendsofthecolo@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthecolo@gmail.com).

Thanks for a fascinating talk. More importantly thank you to all the volunteers who undertake this rather challenging form of conservation. The camaraderie and enjoyment of members was obvious, as well as their commitment and dedication to the environment.

<https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/friends-of-the-colo/>  
<https://landcare.nsw.gov.au/groups/00190000010K1mLAAS/>

Written by Jan Williamson

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> September, 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October

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 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September and 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> October

**The Knoll** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September & 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 1pm Please contact Michael Griffith

[michaelgriffith1@icloud.com](mailto:michaelgriffith1@icloud.com) or 0417 026 111 at least one day beforehand as Michael will then bring extra tools.

## Saturday 10 September to Friday 16 September 2022 at Kiama Pavilion

Conference sessions

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Field trips

Wednesday and Friday



<https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>

From Jeff Howes: I am reading a great book by Don Watson titled *The Bush* and came across these so true words about why we need trees.

**'Our debt to trees is absolute. We need them to bind and enrich the soil, to trap carbon, regulate the climate, lower the water table, sustain biodiversity and for the photosynthesis on which our survival depends'.**



As part of the recent Science Week did you vote for your favourite native tree?

If not, it is too late, but if you want to see the results click on this link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-07-29/vote-for-your-favourite-australian-native-tree/101210764>

River red gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Image taken on Darling River by Jan W



### August 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Speakers for general meetings
- Plant Sale at KWG, 4th Sept, including P&J Lawler cards
- Biennial Conference including Post Conference Sydney Tour
- Update on APS NSW matters by delegate, including conference, donation to Australian Flora Foundation, WHS requirements
- Revision of wording of VWS requirements

### APS NSG Monthly Activity

There is no specific September APSNSG activity as members will be extremely busy with the plant sale and the Biennial Conference.

**ON SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a **PICNIC FOR NATURE** at The Knoll KWG. Full details in October *Blandfordia*.

### More plants for sale

**Brian Roach** (APS NSG member) at Westleigh Native Plants Contact [westleighnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:westleighnativeplants@gmail.com)

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

**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](mailto:president@blandfordia.org.au)

**Secretary:** Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Email: [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:secretary@blandfordia.org.au)

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

**Treasurer:** Helen Ray [treasurer@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:treasurer@blandfordia.org.au)

**Newsletter Editor:** Jan Williamson 9875 2262  
[janw7531@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(apsvic.org.au\)](https://www.apsvic.org.au/14th-fjc-rogers-seminar-2022)



Great Southern Bioblitz 2022 Increasing biodiversity awareness through

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



Save the date:

**APS NSW Get together Southern Highlands**  
**NOVEMBER Sat 11 & Sunday 12 November 2022.**

Registrations required [Australian Plants Society NSW - Home \(austplants.com.au\)](https://www.austplants.com.au)

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

For the October 2022 edition this is 21<sup>st</sup> September Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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