

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



APRIL 2022

## Vice President's Message



I have recently noticed, with great pleasure, that my under-shelter, large pot of Dianella Silver Streak is the overnight (and wet weather) roost of some blue banded bees. Every night there are between six and ten males roosting on the one Dianella flower spike via their mandibles, not legs. Obviously, they don't like getting their tails wet in this dreadful weather!!!. Wonder what the poor females are doing in this rain?" The bees have been spotted since February. I am happy to report that I still have bees roosting there at night and on wet days. In fact, I considered this roost so important that I changed my mind about moving the pot during our open houses! (yes we are selling our home) Dark blurr in top middle of photo shows 2 males roosting during a wet day.

Just a reminder to new members to come and get your free tubes at our shadehouse which is behind the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Visitor Centre and Wildflower Nursery. We are there every second Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, propagating, selling plants and providing growing advice. All welcome to purchase plants on propagation afternoons. Our April dates are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm. Phone me, Sue, on 0478 957 951 if you need directions.

Sue Bowen

## New members

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Andrew S, Judy F, Anna F, Brodie M and Janet A. \*

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](mailto:president@blandfordia.org.au) or Blandfordia editor, Jan Williamson [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) .

\* For privacy reasons full names have not been published.



## More local fauna

No identification of this caterpillar by me. It has very attractive markings and was found on a railing of a walking bridge over a creek at Westleigh Sat 26th March. It was about 20mm long, and yes, a wet caterpillar. We were fortunate to get our walk in between showers. The creek was rushing along, which was good for "pooh sticks"-as in Winnie the Pooh :)

Jan W

## March meeting

Thank you to Helen Level of Neutrog for providing an excellent presentation on Neutrog and its wide range of biological fertilizers.

Neutrog was established in 1988, and is based in Kanmantoo, South Australia with another operation in South Africa. The family owned business started out producing chicken manure fertilizers for the horticulture and viticulture industries. When there were issues with even spreading and burning they decided to compost the manure. The results were better than expected, being easier to spread, and far fewer weeds and diseases. In addition the composting makes the nutrients more available to plants, resulting in improved uptake by plants. Many of their products are low in phosphorus and therefore suitable for native plants.

The main production facility at Kanmantoo is on a site of 20 ha with 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> under cover. Raw materials used include chicken manure, straw, seaweed and other organic materials. Composting is carried out in large piles up to 9 m tall which are turned regularly for around three months. The compost is then steamed, screened and pelletised.

Neutrog has a strong culture of research and development, working with horticulturists, garden and plant societies, including APS, and commercial crop growers. Dr Uwe Stroher, a microbiologist, coordinates research into the composting process and development of new products. Angus Stewart and Simon Leake, an environmental and soil scientist, have been involved in product development and promotion.

Some of their products that may be of interest to APS members include:

Bush Tucker – native plant fertilizer

Whoflungdung – their first product, a mulch

Seamungus – a soil and plant conditioner manufactured by brewing seaweed, fish, humic acid and manure

Gogo Juice – a liquid “Pro Biotic” for plants

Strike Back – pelletised orchid fertilizer

More products are in development, including:

Fatal attraction snail bait

Depth charger for lawn and stubble management

Catcandoo kitty litter

Dead horse tomato fertilizer

Ban Bang hedge fertilizer

Human Beans, made from recycled coffee grounds

Whilst many of their products are available in garden centres and hardware chains, Neutrog is offering significantly discounted prices to members of APS groups. APS will get some royalties on the sales. If the offer is taken up each purchaser will order individually and given a link. Then the products are delivered to the collection point by a small truck for pickup.

Helen Ray

Link to the talk : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-1wLVYitRo>

Note: If you feel like you would like to purchase some of the Neutrog products, please contact Sue Fredrickson [paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com)



## After hearing the talk you might like to consider being the person/s coordinating the orders on behalf of APS NSG.

How the arrangement works

- 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](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com) if you are 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/>

## 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** 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> May  
During 2022 our shadehouse at KWG will be open to members every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday afternoon (weather permitting), 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** 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April and 11th & 25th May

### 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL APSNSG General Meeting

will be held by **Zoom**. 7.45pm for 8pm start.

**Speakers: Dr Geoff & Dr Judy Lambert**

**Topic:** The effects of, and recovery from, recent bushfires at North Head.



This will be followed by a short presentation by **Wendy Grimm**

on **Herbs at Smiths Lake Nature Reserve.**

### Walk, 10am Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April



at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives

**Topic: Bush foods, fibres & fungi**

[Bush foods and fibres notes](#)

[Fungi notes](#)

Please book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk.  
Email: [wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au) supplying your name, mobile number and emergency contact number.



Walks are easy/medium. Sessions start 10am on Caley's Patio and run to about 12 noon.

This activity has been modified due to Covid-19 so that group size will be limited.

Each walker must be up to date with their Covid **vaccination**.

For enquiries about the program ring Wendy: 0419 323 035

At the previous walk on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, Jan M. introduced walkers to the history and tracks of KWG. *Images by Wendy Grimm*

**For more information on FUNGI** you may be interested in the following links that were sent to the group by **DR TRACEY STEINRUCKEN** President - Australasian Mycological Society (AMS)

Specimen Collecting for and on Behalf of Herbaria - Fungi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtGSRjr3F7Y>

Please note that this does not include the Q&A Discussion.

For fungi resources and books, one option is to visit the Queensland Mycology Society website:

<https://qldfungi.org.au/resources-2> or the AMS website, which has resources for education, ID of fungi, and other useful links: <https://www.australasianmycologicalsociety.com/publications-and-resources>

The Great Aussie FungiQuest

Visit <https://fungimap.org.au/the-great-aussie-fungiquest/> for more information!

Editor's note: ABC Gardening Australia 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 episode featured a very keen mycologist. My Garden Path - Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/my-garden-path---dr-sapphire-mcmullan-fisher/13813230>



Jan W

## North Shore Group plant sale at inaugural Berowra Fauna Fair



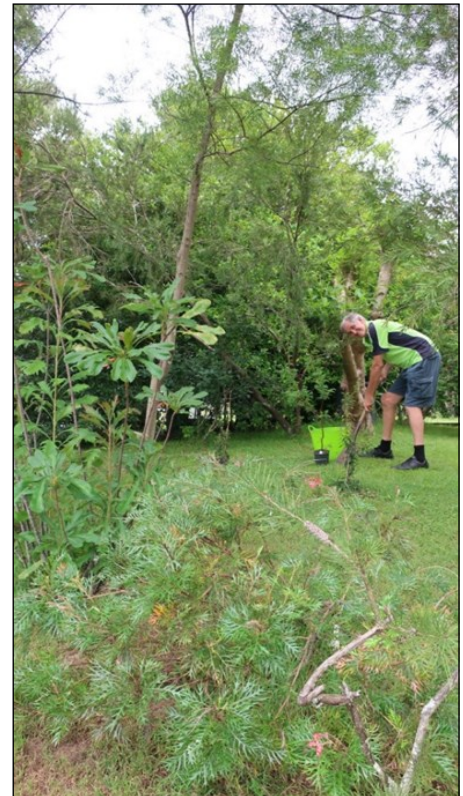
The NSG took advantage of the Friends of Berowra Valley fauna and flora fair on Sunday afternoon 19.3.22 to take trays of lush native plants, propagated by our shade house group, for sale to the environmentally-focused Fair exhibitors and customers. We sold 68 tubes and 33 larger pots, taking over \$690 in cash or by card.

Other Groups represented included the Country Women's Association, the Frog and Tadpole Study Group, BirdLife Southern NSW, Riversleigh Society, Bushcare, Sydney Wildlife, Sydney-Hills Catchment, Landcare and insect groups.

Phillip was quick to plant his purchase of *Grevillea rivularis*, the Carrington Falls Grevillea, while the autumn soil was still wet and warm, to give his new plant a good start on gently sloping ground amongst other grevilleas, waratahs and wattles.

Thanks to Judy and Phillip for helping and to Rae Rosten of NSG & FBV, for the invitation to attend.

Wendy Grimm (Photos Phillip & Wendy)



On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March another opportunity to promote native plants and sell our propagated plants was available at the Ku-ring-gai Council's Seniors' Day at Turramurra. Thanks to Sue B, Judy J and Jan W for helping. Another \$186 was raised. We were stationed near the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and Easy Care Gardening stalls, so were in good company. Thanks to the council for refreshments.

Fortunately, at both these events, the rain held off at the critical times.

## GROUP WALK FOR 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL to DANGAR ISLAND

We last went to Dangar Island as a group about 11 years ago. There is much of interest there for a group such as ours. It is a relaxed day to a beautiful place with a short ferry trip from Brooklyn. There are remnants of bush, nice river views and some magnificent tall Blackbutts, even in the developed parts. There is a lot of interesting history relating to the island including Aboriginal, World War 2 and development along the Hawkesbury River, such as the construction of the bridges crossing the river. Local residents have worked hard to protect and regenerate bush areas.

There is a good café on the island beside the ferry wharf and Brooklyn has a good selection of eateries and hotel, if you wanted to make a longer day of it after returning to the mainland from the island. We will bring our own picnic lunches however, as this will give us flexibility to decide on a nice place and good time to have lunch. The island is not big, so distances covered walking are not too arduous and we'll be walking at a leisurely pace. Travel to Brooklyn can be by car or train (Hawkesbury River Station).

**Date:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

**Time:** Meet at the Dangar Island Ferry wharf for the **10 am Ferry**. Ferry departure time is 10.00am. The wharf is right next to the railway track near the north east end of the platform. If coming by train, the 9.26am from Hornsby will get you to Hawkesbury River station at 9.49am, giving you 11 minutes to get to the nearby Dangar Island ferry wharf.

Catch the earlier train (an hour earlier) if you don't feel confident to find and make the 10am ferry (or drive). At the end of the day we'll most likely leave the island by ferry at 2.45pm the next one being an hour later. Be aware that there is a 45 minute wait for a southbound train as the ferries don't co-ordinate with the trains (stroll at Brooklyn or coffee opportunity?)

**What to bring:** Hat, sunscreen, walking shoes, lunch, coffee keep-cup, snacks and drinks. Ferry fare is \$9.30 each way, \$4.70 for pensioners and kids. Most likely payment will be by card but have some cash just in case.

**Enquiries & RSVP** [Sue Fredrickson](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com) mobile **0401 362 921** [paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com)  
**Please advise of your intention to attend.** That way if there are rail or ferry service disruptions at the last minute or bad weather making it necessary to cancel, you can be advised accordingly.

Covid precautions will be followed according to the current government advice. Don't attend if unwell. Masks are compulsory on public transport, including the ferry. Bring hand sanitizer and common sense.

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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 11.30 am Pruning workshop at The Knoll Ku-ring-gai Garden St Ives**

For full details see May *Blandfordia*

## 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.

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





## Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



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

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

**Registrations open on 28<sup>th</sup> March—early bird discounts apply**

For queries about the conference and tours:

Heather Miles, [Secretary@austplants.com.au](mailto:Secretary@austplants.com.au), 0408 696 356

Ralph Cartwright, [Conf2022@spin.net.au](mailto:Conf2022@spin.net.au), 0416 030 872

**Volunteers to assist in some roles will be needed:** please contact Heather or Ralph if you are willing to help and they will direct you to the person who is coordinating volunteers.

### Offer of free cabbage tree palms

#### *Livistona australis* from Ros Young

Just putting it out there that we have lots of cabbage tree palms coming up almost like weeds so if anyone wants some they can get in touch with us (email [rosyoung@tpg.com.au](mailto:rosyoung@tpg.com.au) or [mike55young@tpg.com.au](mailto:mike55young@tpg.com.au)) to arrange a time to come dig some up.

#### More plants for sale

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

#### Committee Contacts

**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)

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, including at public events
- Flower display at KWG
- Update from APS NSW Board meeting, including submissions for annual awards
- Group activities
- W&T Programme



#### Boongala Native Gardens and Native Forest Autumn Open Days

<https://www.boongalagardens.com/>

Due to the wet weather & the soggy ground, the dates have been changed to **Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm from the 25<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst

We look forward to seeing you, Mal & Jenny Johnston

**PS Members who attend the APS NSG Quarterly Meeting (hosted by Parramatta Group) on 21<sup>st</sup> May will also have an opportunity to visit that morning.**

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

For the May 2022 edition this will be 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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