

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

APRIL 2020

POSTPONEMENT of ALL APS NSG activities

We are disappointed to announce that due to the situation with the Covid 19 pandemic

ALL APS NSG activities are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

The cancellations include the April 3rd Meeting, Working bee on 4th April and Walks on 6th April and 4th May. It is expected that the talks at meetings that were organised for this year will be able to be rescheduled in the future. Unfortunately, no one knows when this situation will reverse. You will be given regular updates via *Blandfordia*, Facebook and email.

Sue Bowen (President) and all the committee members endorse the message which was received on 18th March from John Aitken and Heather Miles.

We hope we can all stay safe and healthy and support each other through these challenging times.

Kind regards,
John Aitken, President and Heather Miles, Secretary, on behalf of the board of APS NSW

APS NSG is celebrating its **60th Anniversary** this year.

We still hope to have a function this year, but if that is not possible, we'll hold a celebration for the 61st or 62nd anniversary - whenever it is, some time in the future and we'll definitely have cause to celebrate then.

I am enjoying reading this Summer 2019/20 edition of *Australian Plants* which is marking the 60th anniversary of this publication.

Would you like to write a piece for *Blandfordia* about your experience with the group: some funny or happy memories, and/or what being a member means to you?

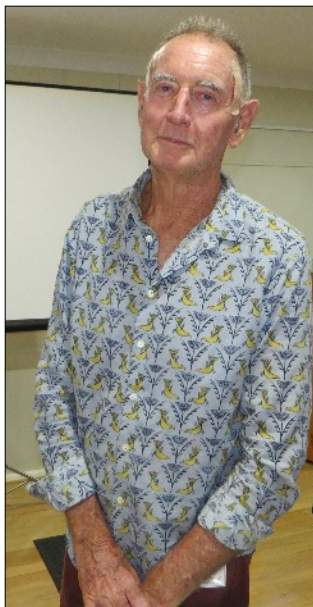
Please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com with your contributions.



Angophora costata and friends- a Visual Journey

There was a good attendance at Bruce Usher's presentation on 13th March.

Maybe that is partly to do with our members' great affection for this local species with its never ending contorted forms and wonderful trunk colours. Bruce, with his observant and creative eye, treated us to a captivating array of beautifully photographed images that showed the *Angophora costatas* at their best. Around Greater Northern Sydney, including Box Head and Wyrribalong National Park on the Central Coast, the Northern Sydney beaches and Lambert Peninsula West Head area, Bruce had photos of the trees under many different light conditions that reflected trunk colour variability.



After rain, differing visual effects can also be observed and depending on wind exposure, the trees show different growing forms, sometimes growing at steep angles. Bruce is also captivated by the rock, tree interaction and the resulting contortions of the tree as it grows around and over the beautiful sandstone blocks, sometimes using them for the support that is not afforded by the thin sandstone soils.

Then we were shown images of fire affected bush with Angophoras often retaining their bark colour even after fire. That was in contrast to the images of totally black landscape in parts of the Blue Mountains around Bell and Mt Banks. There were photos, taken three weeks after the fire, of the always hope-inspiring fast, green epicormic re-growth, notably on a Scribbly Gum that was about to lose its burnt, tessellated bark. Luckily at Wollombi, the location of Tania and Bruce's property, the fire was less intense and the cabin spared.

The talk was not solely about Angophoras. We were treated to some of Bruce's wonderful photos of big Grass trees at Coolah Tops, Rainforest lianas at Washpool, River Red Gums in the Flinders ranges and a Snowgum on Mt Wellington in Tasmania. Bruce and Tania's participation in the 2016 "Wild Mob" island care off Mackay in Queensland was also an opportunity for some wonderful photos. A hill climb on Goldsmith Island afforded great views of the Hoop pines and also unforgettable was a slope covered with a huge number of Xanthorrhoeas which closer up were seen to be covered with swarms of blue butterflies.

Although the original planned book that prompted the Angophora photos will not happen, there are plans afoot for a different book. We wish Bruce luck with that because his images are wonderful and should be "out there" for all to see.

Written by and image by Sue Fredrickson

Editor's note: To see some of Bruce's images go to <http://bruceusher.com.au/index.php?page=trees>

What a gem. This plant, *Xanthostemon chrysanthus*, commonly named Golden penda, is a species of tree in of the family Myrtaceae. This tree was in a full sun position in a back yard of a home in Beecroft. What a sight it would have been a week later. The insects and birds are very appreciative of this food source.



Images by Jan W



Adiantum, (genus) the maidenhair fern, is a winner outside or inside.

Image by Sue Bowen

Thanks

On behalf of all APS NSG members, a **special thanks to Roger Starling** for his contribution to the group by being our APS NSW delegate for many years. As well as representing the group, Roger was very much a hands on member of the APS NSW Board and beavered away in the office on many occasions. Like so many situations, most of us are unaware of all the dedicated people working behind the scenes to make groups and organisations run. APS NSW is run by volunteers, many of whom have given years of dedicated service and to all of them we say another big **THANK YOU**.

Sue Fredrickson is our new APS NSW representative.

Sue Bowen President

APS NSG Activities

Note that the **proposed April meeting on Friday 3rd April has been CANCELLED**.



Judy Harrington was going to speak on the Glossy Black Cockatoo. It is hoped that this talk will be able to be held at a later date. In the meantime have a look at <http://www.birdlife.org.au/bird-profile/glossy-black-cockatoo>
Calyptorhynchus lathami

Group Trip away in 12th to 15th October 2020 to Blackheath NSW

Hopefully this trip will still be possible.

This trip is being organised by Sue Fredrickson.

Please contact Sue F paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com or phone 0401 362 921 if you are interested in coming. Blackheath Glen Tourist Park will be our base.

WALKS & TALKS Programme

This very popular and informative programme has been running for many years. While the 2020 W&T sessions are currently cancelled the notes that accompany the talks can be found on the website.

Why not use some of your social distancing time to up grade your knowledge on some of our wonderful Australian plants.

Then, arm yourself with a magnifying glass and go out into the garden or bush and have a really close look at the plants. Just click on this link, <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore-Walks-&-Talks>

P.S. The editor might even take up her own suggestion!

Notices and Reminders



Westleigh Native Plants **BRIAN ROACH** Note that there is now a change in the arrangements.

Plant pick up ONLY after prior ordering. Brian will send an email with a list of the plants which are available. There will be **NO Open Garden**

Please contact Brian by email for full details: bcroach@optusnet.com.au or ring 0418 115 630
SATURDAY 28th March /SUNDAY 29th March 47 Eucalyptus Dr., Westleigh

13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 on Mint Bushes & Allied Genera Registrations are now on hold.

Please check this website for updates: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/>

Nature Conservation Council 12th Biennial Bushfire Conference, *Cool, Warm, Hot: the burning questions*

has been postponed until May 2021 <https://www.nature.org.au/healthy-ecosystems/bushfire-program/bushfire-conference-2020/>

2021 Sunday 12th September to Thursday 17th September 2021



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2021 Biennial Conference - Kiama



APS NSG RESPONSE to the BUSH FIRES

The APS NSG committee has agreed that the group’s response to the bushfires is to support the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens (ERBG) at Batemans Bay. <https://www.erbgo.org.au/>

The President of the Friends of ERBG, Heather Haughton, included in her recent report: *While we knew that the two new buildings, the redeveloped Visitor Centre and the new Herbarium had escaped the fire unscathed, we were so very pleased to see that the greater proportion of the nursery work areas (propagation and potting areas, seed bank and manager’s office, lunchroom and deck) were all still intact. Just as pleasing was the realisation that many seedlings were either saved or salvageable, a result that the ‘Foster a Box’ scheme will help even more. Fortunately the new visitor facilities and the herbarium were saved, but most of the established plants were burnt.*

In 2014 APS NSG group visited the gardens and had a wonderful tour and a refreshing meal. The staff and wonderfully supportive volunteers were hoping to reopen some of the facilities again soon and start having some funds come in. Unfortunately, the gardens are still closed and are now being further impacted by the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic .

The APS NSG committee hasn’t yet decided on the amount of the donation. We were planning to raise extra funds with raffles and other options over the year, but we are now restricted in our abilities to do this. If you would like to donate either via APS NSG please send your contribution to

Australian Plants Society North Shore Group
Payment Bendigo Bank: BSB number 633-000
Account number 166865303

Please write "ERBG" and your surname in the info line, and send a brief email message to treasurer@blandfordia.com.au If you wish to send a cheque (made out to Australian Plants Society North Shore Group) please email the treasurer for postal address details.

OR If you would like to donate directly to ERBG your donation should be sent to BSB: **641 800**, Account No: **200175567**. Use **Bushfire donation** as the identifying element (maybe “Bushfire donation APS NSG member” as the identifying element to make it clear that it is part of the total from APS NSG).

If you would prefer to send a cheque: Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay 2536
Donations to our Public Fund to support the Garden will be gratefully accepted, as always. Heather Haughton

If you would like the special bushfire newsletter from the Friends of ERBG forwarded to you please email Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com and request this.



Images from APS NSG visit in 2014



While Sydney has lifted its water restrictions to level 1 spare a thought for many regions in NSW and across the country where significant rain hasn’t fallen. Armidale and Orange are two such areas.

<https://www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/environment/water-usage-and-supply/water-restrictions/level-5-water-restrictions>
These restrictions include NO garden sprinklers or fixed hoses, hand held hoses, drip irrigation, bucketed water (unless recycled).
http://www.orange.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/OCC_Level4_WaterRestrictions.pdf

Report on the Barangaroo Walk on 15th March

As is sometimes the case, it was a matter of “quality, not quantity” with attendee numbers! All five of us, however, had a very enjoyable day. Mostly we had fine weather but we dodged the worst of the rain shower by eating lunch under cover at the enormous quarried out activity space.

With our Barangaroo Native Plant List obtained from the internet, we managed to find most, if not all of the 84 species, most of them in surprisingly good shape considering the summer they have been through. That is, no doubt, largely due to all the specialist care they were given at the set-up of this magnificent project, including Simon Leake’s perfect soil mix as described to us at our February meeting.

The other real pleasure of walking over the Reserve is the lovely harbour views and watching the ferry and boat activity. It is a real highlight in our beautiful city!

Written by Sue Fredrickson

Images by Wendy Grimm



Sue couldn't help herself- weeds beware!

The **new APS NSG shirts** (100% cotton) There are 6 sizes available. The cost is **\$25.50**.

Unfortunately, our new APSNSG shirts will **not** be available to try on until our activities resume. Please email Sue Bowen suzanneebowen@gmail.com with your order by **30th April**.

Shirts must be paid before before your order will be accepted.

Please pay by a direct deposit: Australian Plants Society North Shore Group

Payment Bendigo Bank: BSB number 633-000

Account number 166865303

Please write "Shirt" and your surname in the info line, and send a brief email message to treasurer@blandfordia.com.au

If you wish to send a cheque (Australian Plants Society North Shore Group) please email the treasurer for postal address details.

To understand what a halfchest measurement means please have a look at this website: <https://www.blankclothing.com.au/chest-measurement-sizes-guide/>

XS: halfchest - 50cm	body length - 68cm
S: halfchest - 53.5cm	body length - 70cm
M: halfchest - 56cm	body length - 72cm
L: halfchest - 58.5cm	body length - 74cm
XL: halfchest - 61cm	body length - 76cm
2XL: halfchest 63.5cm	body length - 78cm



The Uniform Guys

New Members

A big welcome to new members Erryn Blacklock, Marita Macrae and David Roberts.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG and its members. We look forward to getting to know you and share with you knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays 2019

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Monday [Walks and Talks](#) at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives
Monday Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

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

Members and friends are always welcome at these activities.

March 2020 Committee Notes

- Meeting was a virtual meeting using email
- Donation to Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens
- VW Scholarship 2020: 8 applications
- Safety at meetings- BT Hall
- APS NSW reports from APS NSG rep
- 60th Anniversary



Rhododendron lochiaie flowers in Sue Bowen's garden

Next Meeting of North Shore Group TBA

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

The group aims to provide a diverse range of topics and speakers so that the varied interests of people attending are catered for. For new members or people who may be interested in joining APS NSG please have a look at the APS NSG link above to see what we covered in 2019.

The programme for 2020 was to be

February Simon Leake *The soils & vegetation of Barangaroo*

March Bruce Usher *Angophora costata and friends- A Visual Journey*

April Judy Harrington *Glossy Black-cockatoo*

May Daniel Clarke *Conservation in APS NSW* (this is the NSW state body)

June Michael Batley *Looking for bees*

July Sue Bowen *An interactive plant ID session*

August Narelle Smith *Sir Joseph Banks life's works and the 250th Anniversary of the 1770 HMS Endeavour Voyage*

September Farhad Masoomi-Aladizgeh *Australian ecotypes of Themeda triandra (kangaroo grass)*

October *An interactive session. How have your plants fared in the past 12 months*

November Jackie Wilson *Why some of our iconic plants and animals of the Snowy Mountains are under threat*

December *Christmas party and 60th Anniversary celebration*

It is expected that the talks at meetings that were organised for this year will be able to be rescheduled in the future. Many thanks to Wendy Grimm who is coordinating the speakers programme.

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Address for general correspondence:

Australian Plants Society, North Shore Group, PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE 2069

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/Join-APS/>

If joining or renewing online presents any problems assistance can be given at any general meeting. Please speak to Genevieve Meares or Helen Ray. Alternatively email your query to membership@blandfordia.org.au

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

For the May 2020 edition this will be 17th April Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group