

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

August 2021

President's Message

Unfortunately, Covid restrictions meant that almost all of our North Shore Group July activities were cancelled. Instead, we had lots of opportunities for gardening and walking the dog!.

Thank you everyone who attended our July meeting by Zoom. Our speaker, Donna Fitton, told us about the hard work being done in Hornsby Shire to green the area via tree planting. She also offered to organise a tree planting exercise for our members to participate in (when Covid restrictions are lifted).

We have just heard that the current stay at home orders will stay in place until Friday 28th August. This means that we have also cancelled all of our proposed August activities with the exception of our August General Meeting on Friday 13th August. This meeting will be held via Zoom. (Hopefully, the W&T activity will be able to occur on Monday 30th August.)

In anticipation of the stay at home order being lifted on 28th August, we have organised the following group activities for early September:

Monday 30 th August am September	Walks and Talks at KWG (Heath plants)
Wednesday 1 st September am	Bushcare at KWG
Wednesday 1 st pm	Propagation at KWG
Monday 6 th am	Walks and Talks at KWG (Pea shrubs and vines)
Wednesday 8 th pm	Propagation at KWG

The regular weekly refreshing of the Wildflower display at the Visitor Centre at KWG will also occur.

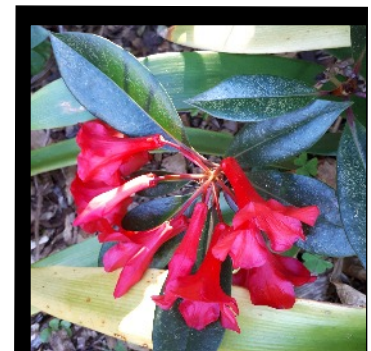
Details of the people to contact about participating in these activities occur elsewhere in Blandfordia. (See page 5) We would love to see more members and visitors attend our activities.

Our Spring plant sale will be postponed to late September (hopefully Sunday 26th September) to give us time to organise it. More details of the sale will be included in our September *Blandfordia*.

I look forward to seeing you 'on the screen' at our General meeting on 13th August and listening to you talk about what you have done, and are currently doing, in your garden or elsewhere during lockdown!!!!

Sue Bowen

Couple of bright spots in my garden today *Rhododendron lochiaie* and *Zieria smithii*



Rhododendron lochiaie



Zieria smithii



Greening Our Shire Speaker: Donna Fitton

July Zoom meeting

Hornsby Shire Council [URL: http://trees.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/](http://trees.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/)

Many thanks to Donna for stepping up to the zoom platform and providing us with a highly informative talk on the projects undertaken by HSC to green the shire. The initial project aimed to plant 25,000 trees by 2020. This initial project was to replace losses from storm damage, aging of trees, 10/50 rule (that was instituted by NSW state government) and housing developments. This goal was achieved and the project is now Greening Our Shire.

From a 2017 study it was estimated that there was a decrease of 12,000 to 15,000 per year- an astonishing number, at least to me.

Where do the plants come from? Hornsby Shire Nursery is the primary source of plants. Not all plantings are native and of the natives, not necessarily endemic, trees. The focus is on public street, park and community areas. For example, a total of 17,600 trees has been planted in schools, Muogamurra and Crosslands Nature Reserves.

For residents of HSC there is a supply of free trees for plantings on private property. *Plants on the run* (like a “pop up”) is being used on a monthly basis to make it easy for supplier and residents to meet and collect the plants. To date, 7,800 trees have been given out. In question time Donna was asked what is the most popular tree? “. Unsurprisingly, small to medium trees were favoured with NSW Christmas Bush, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, the overall winner. (*Editor’s note: having 8 at my home I concur with the choice. Four of my eight are dwarf variety.*)

Planting events are held with community groups, contractors (tend to do more difficult sites and the work when Covid active in community) and bush care groups. HSC has been doing promotional work, using media coverage and increasingly educational work to highlight the value of trees and plants. Residents are consulted prior to plantings.

Community plantings require planning: selection of the best site, the best choice of plants, a suitable time for that group. For optimal effectiveness of the plantings targeted groups (e.g. Scouts, teenagers, church groups) are used rather than just inviting the general community. The variables within the groups include number of people and capacities of participants. What makes the events such a success is that the group has a common goal and enjoys seeing a result. (*Donna is keen to offer APS NSG an opportunity to be involved in the future- the holes are pre dug for the volunteers . It sounds like a fun and worthwhile event for us- sometime in the future !!!!!.*) There have been 57 planting days across HSC with 5,800 trees planted and two new bushcare groups formed from people’s involvement in the plantings.

Sites are prepared beforehand, often with large volumes of crushed sandstone being placed in situ- the plants often like it- the planters perhaps not so much. Volunteers are crucial with 4935 the number to date: nursery 2569, bushcare 668 and community at events 1698.

Street Tree Programme: Letters are sent to residents. Choice of species includes a consideration of street services and sight lines. There is a rejection rate by residents of about 40%. Unsurprisingly, any recent storms lead to an increase in the rejection rate. Interestingly one area with a lack of tree canopy, also has a higher than average rejection rate. Some people don’t like leaves!! Council tends to do the plantings in these areas on communal council land and parks rather than street verges.

HSC is monitoring the plantings – suburb, tree data and tree inventory. <http://trees.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/track-our-progress/>

Donna concluded with the challenges and successes of the programmes. Some of these are

- Be flexible and adapt: storms, drought, bushfires, covid, floods. Advice on plant choice is available for homes in high bush fire risk areas.
- Tree loss- adverse weather, unintentional damage from mowers and whipper snippers (education required), vandalism, removal, animals- wallabies and rabbits
- New generation of trees require ongoing maintenance- HSC staff and community
- Community engagement and support- HSC advice on species choice is available
- Maintain the momentum with increased community knowledge and stewarding
- Providing more shade in areas of need (deciduous trees have a role)
- Manage risk of trees – best practice of asset management
- Reverse the loss of canopy in private spaces
- HSC staff are aware that they don’t live where you live and try to respect the residents’ experience



A recent planting in Westleigh

As a resident of HSC I am very pleased that such a programme is being undertaken and managed by such dedicated, knowledgeable and keen staff as Donna and Ross Rapmund (HSC Nursery manager). Thank you .

Written by and image by Jan Williamson

If you missed the meeting and would like to hear Donna’s talk please go to the following link.

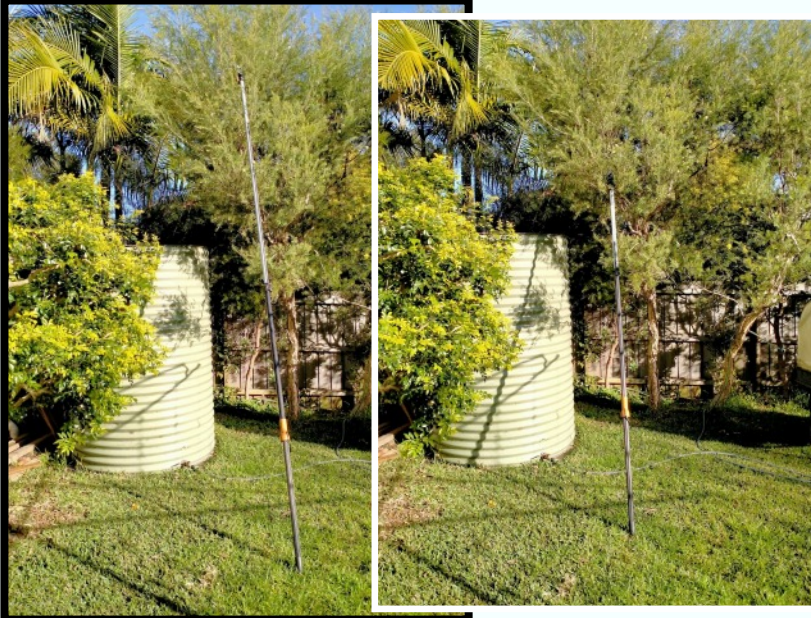
North Shore: Growing/Greening our Bushland Shire <https://youtu.be/xqJkN67VOso>

Wonders of nature spotted while on morning walks



Jan W

One of Jan W's favourite pastimes is pruning. This extendable, light weight pruning pole with an adjustable head is often involved.



Hardenbergia violacea 'Bushy Pink'

New Members

A big welcome to new members Phillip & Eva C, Su-Ming & Lily W and Rory L.

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

Next Meeting on 13th AUGUST 2021

7.45 pm for 8pm by ZOOM

Speaker: OUR MEMBERS

Topic: How our wonderful plants help us to cope with lockdown

13th August meeting will be an open discussion with all members welcome to contribute.

People are invited to share how they used their gardens, bush walks, plants and plant based activities, photographing plants, sorting articles about plants..... Any way that their love of native plants has helped them through the experience of lock downs and restrictions due to the pandemic.

Please send a **maximum of 5 images** to Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com by **8pm MONDAY 9th August.**

Jan will prepare a powerpoint presentation for the meeting. Members will be able to talk to their images on the night. As the garden visit planned for July had to be cancelled we will also go on a short virtual visit of Pam and Jim Lawler's beautiful garden.

10th September Shubham Chhajed 2020 Val Williams Scholarship Recipient

RECYCLING in Hornsby Shire Council and Ku-ring-gai Council

This wonderful facility provides a seamless drop off location for waste and material which can be recycled provided by HSC for its residents. Located at 29 Sefton Road Thornleigh.



<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/property/waste/recycling/community-recycling-centre>

For information of services provided by Ku-ring-gai Council see

<https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Community/Waste-and-recycling/Recycling>

Lush new growth on Jan's dwarf variety of Lilly Pilly, *Syzygium smithii*



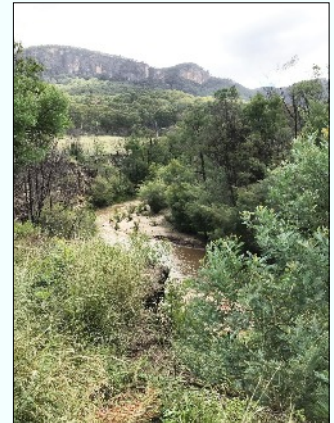
Group activities

Hopefully, the **plant sale will be able to be held on Sunday 26th September.**
Please check for update of details in September *Blandfordia*.

Advance notice of visit to Capertee area in October.



Our member Hugh Jones, who has a property in the Upper Nile Valley about 2 ½ hours drive west of Sydney, has invited interested people to come and visit the area and be shown around by him as he points out the floral and natural attributes of the area.



The visit requires people to organise their own transport, accommodation, a list of suggested places can be provided and self-catering. The dates are Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th October.

Please contact Sue if interested paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com

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



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 **Bookings are essential.**

Contact: Please email wagrimm@tpg.com.au (preferred) or ring **Wendy 0419 323 035**

Please provide 1) your name 2) mobile number and 3) the number of a person who could be contacted in the case of an emergency.

July 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
- Remaining speakers for monthly meetings: a speaker for October still required
- Report on APS NSW Strategy Workshop
- Plant sale
- APS NSG response to Draft St Ives Showground and Precinct Lands Plan of Management : President is responding after collating input from other committee members and interested members.

Helen Smith wrote:

I just thought you might like to see this - taken on 6th July. The Blandfordia I sent you a photo of in late May is still going. No more flower buds though, so this is it.



Editor's note: One little plant- so much cheer :)

President's update from APS NSW Strategy Workshop on 19th & 20th June. SB reported that the workshop developed a 5 year plan.

The major ideas discussed were

- (i) APS NSW to organise and hold a major annual plant sale
- (ii) Grants to district groups be given to fund propagation of hard to find native plants.
(HJ suggested that grafted and unusual plants may also be given some consideration as well.)
- (iii) Implement an Open Garden Scheme involving members' gardens
- (iv) Establish an interest group for small area gardens
- (v) Assist in the attaining of the required licences for collection of seeds and plant material from wild sources.
- (vi) Build partnership with other conservation groups
- (vii) Establish group(s) interested in regeneration
- (viii) Biennial Conference in Kiama September 2022. This event is being planned with Covid safety / concerns factored into the decisions. One problem that has now arisen is that costs of accommodation in Kiama have now increased significantly due to many people opting for more local "getaways".
- (ix) On line and face to face workshops- increase their frequency and availability
- (x) Constitution needs to be updated
- (xi) Improve member care, especially new members
- (xii) Modernise *Australian Plants* publication and have it available electronically
- (xiii) Encourage groups to distribute their newsletters electronically
- (xiv) Share resources between groups more efficiently and effectively
- (xv) Improve marketing and promotion of APSNSW

2021 Linnean Society of NSW Natural History Field Symposium

Natural History of the Northeastern Sydney Basin

Wednesday 27th October 27–Thursday 28th October (oral presentations)

Friday 29th October (field trip)

The symposium is being held at Hornsby RSL Club. Please visit the [Linnean Society NSW](https://www.linnean.org.au/) website for further information, including costs and registration, and download the First Circular . All Welcome!

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 September 2021 edition this will be 20th August 2021 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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