

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

December 2021
January 2022

Our last gathering for 2021 will be our Christmas picnic lunch on **Friday 10th December.**

You are invited to gather at **Dampier's Clearing,**
Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

420 Mona Vale Road St Ives at **12 pm** for a relaxed picnic lunch and prizes for the best native flower apparel.



Please bring your picnic lunch or food to barbeque and any goodies to share around.

Please book with Sue Bowen on suzannebowen@gmail.com and indicate whether you need a lift either to KWG or from the lower car parks near Caley's Pavilion to Dampier's Clearing. (Dampier's Clearing is near the Visitors' Centre and parking can be limited.)

Plants available: Our shadehouse will be open from 11.30am for purchases of plants as Christmas gifts.

SEASON'S GREETINGS to all

*We wish you a relaxing and
refreshing break.*

From your President

With the easing of Covid restrictions we were finally able to hold our Spring plant sale for double vaccinated people. A big thank you to everyone who helped organise the sale, worked at the sale, donated and bought plants and cards, and then cleaned-up after the sale.

We had a lot of stock, sold much of it, but still have a number of good buys left for those who would like to buy some advanced plants as Christmas gifts. *see below*

We have held our election for Committee members and filled most of the positions for 2022. My thanks to everyone who has served during this difficult year and to those who will be taking up positions or continuing during next year.

Please don't forget our Christmas lunch at KWG on Friday 10th December from 12pm. Our shadehouse will be open at 11.30 am for those interested in purchasing Christmas gifts.

Finally, we expect to be able to have face to face meetings again next year where you will be able to chat with other members, listen to a talk, buy plants and borrow library books. Activities such as propagation, bushcare, the wildflower display and maintenance of the Knoll garden will continue over summer while meetings, Walks and Talks, monthly walks and garden visits will start-up as from February/March 2022.

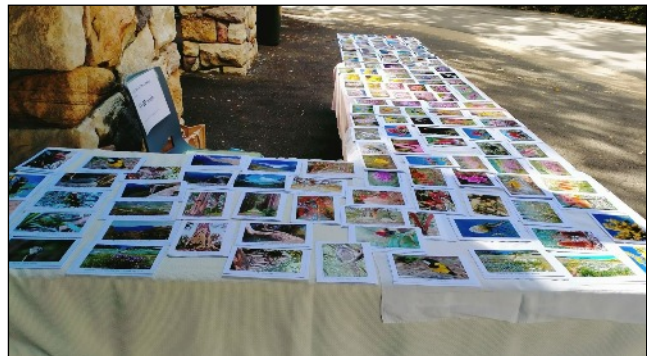
Sue Bowen



Setting up on Saturday *Jan W*



Ready to go on Sunday *Sue B*



Spoilt for choice.
Fortunately there was no wind, only the sun to contend with. *Jan W*

The perfect Christmas gift: Plants !!

We have a wide range of advanced plants such as Acacias, Grevilleas, Banksias, Prostantheras, *Micromyrtus ciliata*, *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, *Hibbertia vestita*, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, *Leionema lampriophyllum*, *Actinotus helianthi*, *Austromyrtus dulcis*, *Eucalyptus leuhmanii*, *Angophora hispida*, *Indigofera australis*, *Goodenia ovata* and *Melaleuca thymifolia* in 150mm pots available.

Please come to our propagation afternoons at our KWG shadehouse on **Wednesday 1st and 15th December (1 pm -4 pm)** or to our shadehouse at **11.30am on 10th December** prior to our Christmas picnic lunch.

CASH ONLY



Jan W

What are your top 3 favourite fauna/flora?

Sue Bowen's choices are

1. *Xanthstemon chrysanthos* (Golden Penda) planted by me on our nature strip
2. *Buckinghamia celsissima* (Ivory curl tree) planted along Roseville Chase streets
3. King parrots, *Alisterus scapularis*, who drop in for some seed.



Please send your contributions with a short explanation for your choice to janw7531@gmail.com



Some of the occasional visitors to Rae Rosten's home.

Jan W recently had an echidna across the road from her place (the second sighting in 36 years). Pam and Jim Lawler also had an echidna visitation recently. We are so fortunate that we can see all these native animals in our local environment. Long may it be the case. JW



Jonathan Lidbetter's talk
Growing Natives Commercially at East Coast Wildflowers

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

Craig Scott, owner of East Coast Wildflowers, has been growing natives commercially for 35 years and he and his team are passionate about their enterprise. Jonathan is one of the farm managers there with from many years of varied experience in horticulture.

Plants from 23 families, 75 genera and 120 species are grown with 75% of wholesale production being Australian natives. Some South African protea are also grown. Sometimes flowers and/ or foliage are sourced from other suppliers when conditions at Mangrove Mountain NSW aren't suitable for growing them.

Jonathan commented that in many ways the growing is the easier part, while harvesting and selling are the more complex and challenging aspects of the business. Certainly being able to work in the wee small hours is an essential component of the business. APS NSG has bought flowers from them for the 2018/2019 Festival and Sue F. and I have enjoyed the buzz and activities at the Homebush markets at the relatively late time of 6am.

The foci of the business are flowers, foliage, fruit and nuts. Natives can be harvested for 33-52 weeks of the year, dependent on the plant. They often have a more limited time window compared with many exotic plants.

Challenges to growing include weather, fire and smoke damage, pests (caterpillars, mites, rats chewing irrigation pipes, deer), diseases such as Myrtle rust, moulds and viruses. The logistics of the business involve transporting people, machinery and vegetative material around, meaning that protocols have to be well designed and followed.

The source of the plants grown varies from own propagation to supplied by other commercial growers. Propagation methods include trials of seeds, cuttings, grafting and tissue culture.

There is a highly regulated and enforced system for obtaining and using a licence to pick native flowers in the wild.


Popular crops include 30 varieties of Kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos*) which vary in colour and height. These are picked all year round, while many of the native daisy species have a short harvesting period. To extend their sales availability they are air dried up side down. Flannel flowers are grown in pots under cover to maximise their quality and more readily control the environment. A range of *Ptilotus* are grown.

Plants used as sources of foliage include banksia, wattle and gums. Some of the spectacular WA gums are sourced from growers in western NSW, where the drier climes suit the plants.

Challenges include growing species that are in demand e.g. *blanfordia* (Christmas bells) and Sturt Desert Pea, but difficult to grow.

Jonathan showed us some images of big events which have been supplied with large numbers of floral arrangements- fashion shows and corporate events (including virtual ones nowadays). The business conducts farm tours, floristry workshops and supports Ovarian Cancer research .

A lively Q&A session followed this informative and most interesting presentation. Thanks Jonathan & East Coast Wildflowers for sharing your time, knowledge and experience with us.

To see the presentation and the excellent images see : APS NSW website youtube link  at bottom of home page:

Growing Natives Commercially: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-UJjgiU34&t=59s>

Written by Jan Williamson

November Committee meeting notes (virtual zoom meeting)

The following items were discussed:

- Beatrice Taylor Hall at Hornsby has been booked for 2022 general meeting dates . Options for more digital recordings of talks are being investigated.
- Activities for 2022, including W&T and Speakers' Programme
- UTS/APS NSW project: Final presentation was made on 30th October
- APS NSW initiatives including improving membership experience and APS NSW social media options.
- Val Williams Scholarship 2022
- Donation to NCC in memory of Pat Pike.

New members

Welcome to Chris B, Sue B, Michelle D, Lisa P & Carmen B. We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our interest in, and knowledge of, Australian native plants.

Please see page 6 for the contact details of people coordinating various activities of the group.

*Note: for privacy reasons full names are not being used

Message sent from proud dad, Mark Henley, APS Newcastle. Last Wednesday night, our eldest son Ben gave a talk on climate-change, to the Australian Plant Society Newcastle Group.

Climate Emergency 2021: a talk by Climate-Scientist Dr Ben Henley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNIXhG2-NN8>

Thank you for joining us for the Australian Plants Society NSW introductory social media seminar this week.

For those who were unable to attend, you can now view a recording of the session here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsa-H1xfFfM>

Links to APS NSW and other resources:

<https://resources.austplants.com.au/australian-native-plants-on-social-media/>

CSIRO REPORT : For a consolidated look at the state of Australia's invasive species problem and a path towards a pest and weed-free future.

<https://invasives.com.au/>

<https://www.csiro.au/plaguesandpredators>



Tripladenia cunninghamii, the uncommon darker form *Jan W*

Pat Pike's son, John, sent the following link to the tributes made to Pat at the scattering of her ashes on Saturday 30th October <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7U1qY2yTfY>



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



Save the date: Kiama Pavilion, Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September 2022

It is recommended that accommodation be booked ASAP .

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

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact organising group at conf2022@spin.net.au.

Next Meeting is the AGM on
FRIDAY 11th February 2022
Full details in February *Blandfordia*

APS NSG activities Subject to Covid restrictions

Propagation at KWG Wednesday Tania Lamble 0415 043 671
Bushcare at KWG Sue Bowen 0478 957 951
The Knoll Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com
The Flower Display at KWG Jan Marshall 0403 908 042
Walks and Talks at KWG Wendy Grimm wagrimm@tpg.com.au

To check NSW Government health restrictions <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney>

Propagation & Bushcare dates

Please contact coordinator to check before attending.

Propagation will be held on Wednesdays 1st, 15th & 29th December 2021 & 12th January 2022 at KWG, 1 pm -4 pm.

Bushcare will be held on Wednesdays 8th & 22nd December 2021 and 5th & 19th January at KWG, 9 am-12 pm.

The Knoll Fridays 14th & 28th January 2022 at 10 am to



Plenty of pink colour in Jan's garden at present with two native hibiscus species in full bloom.



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 February 2022 edition is Friday 21st January 2022 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group