

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

FEBRUARY 2021

## 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Sue Bowen*

2020 was my second year as your President and what a challenging year it was! Although all of our activities were adversely affected by Covid-19 to some extent, we nonetheless still managed to carry out our full range of activities and, hopefully, still enjoyed ourselves!

Our monthly meetings continued throughout the year as we learnt to attend Zoom meetings. Some distant members enjoyed being able to attend for the first time while others found it hard to handle the 'new technology'. We all, however, missed the social aspects of our monthly meetings at Beatrice Taylor Hall, i.e. the plant sales, supper, access to our library and our face-to-face chats with fellow native plant enthusiasts.

Our Walks and Talks Programme was modified into a 'walks' programme, by booking only. Seventeen walks were held with walkers placed in groups to ensure appropriate distancing. The programme continued to introduce people to native plants and APS.

A major highlight of the year was our trip to Blackheath in October. We managed to get away for four days and saw the devastating effects of the 2019-20 bushfires on native vegetation. We also noted how that vegetation is regenerating and enjoyed the abundance of flowering ground orchids. We visited some new places for me: Dobbs Lookout with its fascinating pagoda rock formations and Hassan's Walls with its wonderful orchids.

Our group also made a donation to the Eurobodalla Botanic Garden, to assist with its post-fire restoration.

We had a very busy year propagating plants. Although the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower and Garden Festival was cancelled due to Covid 19 pandemic we were still able to hold a Covid 19 safe plant sale over a weekend at the end of August. We were able to sell nearly all our plants due to some very effective advertising.

We have continued weeding and maintaining The Knoll garden and maintaining the wildflower display at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG). Weeds don't stop growing and wildflowers don't stop flowering just because Covid 19 is around!

We mourned the passing of two esteemed members in 2020: our former Treasurer Alec Fisher and Ron Watts. Our group has contributed towards a memorial plaque to Alec that will be erected on The Knoll.

We awarded our Val Williams Scholarship in March as usual. Our 2019 scholarship winner, Farhad, gave us a fascinating talk on the results of his research on *Themeda triandra* in September.

Our Christmas party was unique! Everyone had to bring their own food and treats were individually wrapped! We had a lovely lunch on Caley's patio at the KWG.

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make all our activities so successful in such a challenging year! I really hope that 2021 will be better!

*Sue Bowen*

## APSNSG Treasurer's Report for 2020

In 2020, the North Shore Group had income of \$8802 and expenditure of \$7930.05 resulting in a net gain of \$872, significantly lower than the \$5018 gain in 2019. The total value of our bank and investment accounts at the end of 2020 was \$90,966, an increase of 1% on 2019.

Due to COVID 19, both income and expenses were impacted. Our major plant and flower sale at the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival, usually held at the end of August, was replaced by a limited attendance plant sale held in Caley's Pavilion. We had a remarkably good \$4297 in takings and expenses of only \$44 (excluding routine propagation expenses), resulting in a net profit of \$4253.

Only two face-to-face monthly meetings were held in 2020, so sales of plants directly from the propagation area were increased to reduce the shortfall.

Walks and Talks were reduced to walks only for which no fees were charged.

Significant income included:

August plant sale .....	\$4297
Propagation – plant sales .....	\$1231
Membership (net) .....	\$1500
Interest from bank accounts and term deposits .....	\$1118
Meetings – plant sales .....	\$242
Donations.....	\$100

This year a \$3000 Val Williams Scholarship was awarded for research into Australian native plants.

Other major expenses included propagation materials, maintenance of the shadehouse, and donations.

Significant expenditure, excluding the Festival, included:

VW Scholarship .	\$3000
Donations to other organisations (including \$2000 for bushfire relief at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens) ....	\$2440
Propagation materials.....	\$1135
Shadehouse maintenance .....	\$293

*Helen Ray Treasurer APS NSG*



Remnant Blue Gum forest at Westleigh

*Steve Williamson*

## 2021 APS NSG Committee

President	Sue Bowen
Vice president	<i>not filled</i> *
Correspondence secretary	Judy Jeffery
Minutes secretary	Jan Williamson
Treasurer	Helen Ray
Conservation officer	<i>not filled</i>
Membership officer	Narelle Barden
Assistant membership officer	Genevieve Meares
Excursions co-ordinator (i) walks	Sue Fredrickson (with support when absent)
(ii) garden visits	<i>not filled</i>
Health and Safety officer	<i>not filled</i>
Publicity officer	<i>not filled</i>
Delegate to APS NSW	Sue Fredrickson
Web master	Max Gregory
Newsletter editor	Jan Williamson
General Committee member	Hugh Jones, Bill Jones
Festival coordinator	Jan Williamson
Walks and Talks coordinator	Wendy Grimm

\* **Note:**

Vice president position includes the role of Coordinator of Speakers Programme

*Non committee positions:*

Val Williams Scholarship Convener	Tania Lamble
Flower display stand KWG	Jan Marshall
Propagation coordinator	Tania Lamble
The Knoll coordinator	Michael Griffith
Library	Lyn Kirby

If you are interested in any of the unfilled positions please contact Sue Bowen 0478 957 951 or [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com)

Position descriptions are available, plus current and past committee members will offer plenty of support.

APS NSG members might like to read this article.

It describes some of the work of Professor Atwell, Dr Ullah Najeeb & Farhad Masoomi-Aladizgeh.

Farhad was APS NSG 2019 Val Williams Scholarship recipient.

<https://lighthouse.mq.edu.au/article/november-2020/How-cotton-discovery-could-save-the-shirts-on-our-backs>

## APS NSG activities in December 2020



A group of 28 people joined to celebrate with a very relaxed lunch on 11<sup>th</sup> December. This photo captured most of them. The people at the fourth table arrived shortly afterwards.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December several people assisted in the working bee at the shadehouse. Sue Bowen reported that “We removed, and disposed of the pallets to Kimbriki, cleaned the shadecloth roof (as much as possible), refastened shadecloth to the walls, cleaned out the cupboard in our store room, fixed the watering system in our propagation area, weeded inside and outside the shade house, sent lots of black plastic to new homes, disposed of 3 baby rats and their nest, took fiberglass shelves and folding display boards home for recycling and dug out and removed more than 10 *Cyathea cooperis*.”



## 2021 Activities

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

These occur on the second Friday of each month from February to November.

Currently, due to restrictions on gatherings with the Covid 19 Pandemic, these meetings will be held on the Zoom platform until further notice, opening at 7.30pm for a 8pm start.

Meetings usually last until about 9.20pm.

The committee is still finalising the 2021 speaker programme. Each meeting usually has a primary speaker, a plant ID session and sometimes a second speaker who gives a short presentation

### WALKS & TALKS 2021

This activity is held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives

The initial activities will be a WALK only on one Monday of the months of March, April & May.

15<sup>th</sup> March (see page 6), 19<sup>th</sup> April & 24<sup>th</sup> May

The weekly programme will commence in June.

**MONTHLY GROUP ACTIVITY** These will resume in March with the plant sale.

**PROPAGATION** This is held at KWG on alternate Wednesdays from 1-4pm

**BUSHCARE** at KWG on alternate Wednesdays in morning from 9am to 12pm.

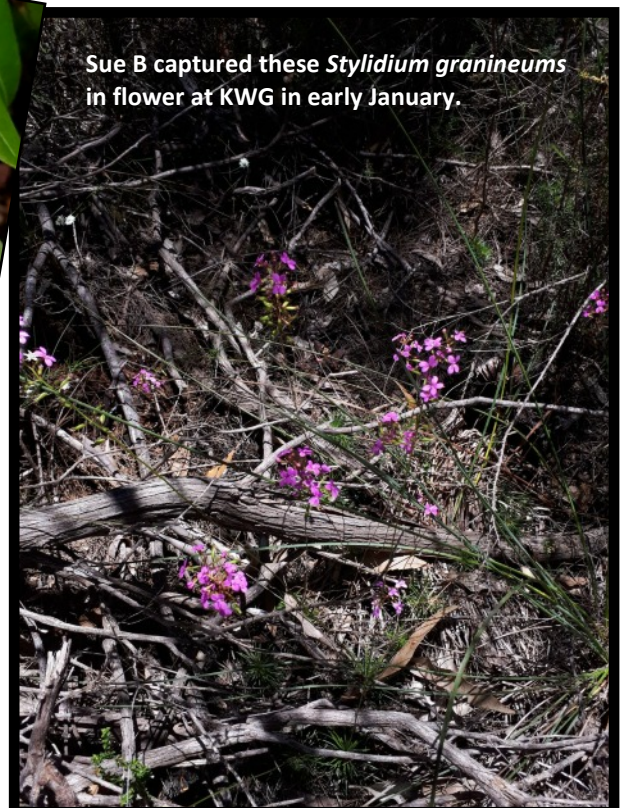
**THE KNOLL** Second and Fourth Friday of every month. The Knoll is a display garden at KWG.

**PLANT SALES** 13<sup>th</sup> March (see page 7) and TBA probably in late August

**FLOWER DISPLAY** at KWG Visitor Centre



*Backhousia citriodora* in December at Jan W's house. The citrus smell was amazing.



Sue B captured these *Stylidium granineums* in flower at KWG in early January.

# Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives

Modified outdoor activity held within restrictions imposed due to Covid-19

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Introduction to Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, a guided walk

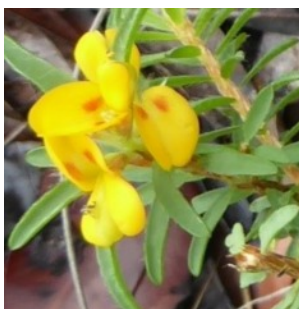


From Caley's Garden,

up to the ridge top,

then down to the Knoll.

A number of the walking tracks will be used to explore the history, the involvement of the Australian Plant Society, North Shore Group and the various habitats. A wide variety of shrubs and trees grow in the garden, all the major plant families are represented; Proteaceae, Fabaceae, Rutaceae, Ericaceae, and Myrtaceae not shown.



*Banksia serrata*

*Pultenaea ferruginea*

*Crowea saligna*

*Epacris pulchella*

Possoms, swamp wallabies, goannas, brush turkeys, eastern whipbirds and in the pond area, water dragons, long-necked turtles and frogs are just a sample of the fauna you may encounter.

Walk Only: Focused on historic aspects of Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. Leader: Jan Marshall

- Walk is easy-medium. Session will run 10am to about 12 noon.
- Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea

## Bookings are essential.

For enquiries or to book please ring Wendy 0419 323 035 or email [wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au)

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.

We will continue to enjoy our wonderful native plants as they come into flower across the year.

Future walks are planned for 19<sup>th</sup> April & 24<sup>th</sup> May. The full programme of walks and/ or talks for the year 2021 has been planned, but activities will only be advertised on a monthly basis to avoid confusion on permitted activities and restrictions on the number of people who may attend.

Walks & Talks Convener Wendy Grimm

Sue Fredrickson was out and about in early January and captured some images of plants in flower.

*Crowea saligna*, *Cryptostylis erecta* (bonnet orchid), *Epacris longiflora* and *Actinotus helianthi* in the Castlecrag Middle Harbour area



Pink form of flannel flower, *Actinotus forsythia*, at Kanangra Walls



# New members & request to our newer members

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Cynthia Banham, Patricia Holloway, Bronwyn and Ian Dunn and Trent Liang to the group. Although some of you live out of the immediate area, we would love to see you at our virtual meetings and at any other opportunities that arise.

A request to all members from the committee, but especially to people who have joined since July 2019.

## What do you want to do, read about and hear about?

Suggestions for **specific topics** that you would like covered would be most helpful.

Would you be interested in a Q&A section in *Blandfordia* or book, blog, interview etc reviews?

Our group, and APS NSW, are keen to address your interests and make your membership as worthwhile as possible.

Our North Shore group offers monthly talks and walks/activities, a brilliant library (when we are back at our meeting hall), native plants to buy and opportunities to learn how to propagate them, Walks and Talks programme and tips on how to photograph those very small flowers/ plants. Most importantly, we offer access to people who are more than willing to share with you their wealth of knowledge and experience of identifying and growing Australian native plants.

Our members can also share their Australian travel experiences and suggest trips of great floral and biodiversity interest.

All suggestions are welcome— please contact President Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com) or *Blandfordia* editor, Jan Williamson [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com).

**ALL members.** A hint in case you haven't discovered this feature on your computer.

When you read your *Blandfordia* for greater clarity, you might like to enlarge some sections of it, especially some of the images of the plants. To do this, just go to the tool bar at the top of your screen and press either the minus (-) or plus (+) icon. You can read it at whatever setting most suits you. By the way, as editor, I always work on it at 150% or 200%.

## PLANTS for sale

We have lots of new plants in our shadehouse at KWG 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives (both bought-in locals and home-grown).

North Shore Members are invited to come to our propagation afternoons in February **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February.** Please contact Sue Bowen 0478 957 951 or [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com) by phone or email to organise a time. **CASH ONLY**

### Advance notice

Due to the pandemic, APS NSG cannot hold the planned APS NSW Quarterly gathering in March. In lieu, on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH** at our KWG shadehouse (9am- 4.30pm) we will have a **plant sale**. This sale will be open to all APS NSW members. **Attendance will be by pre-booking only.**

People will need to book in with Sue, and bring their own boxes, etc. A plant list will be prepared for this sale. (for more details see March *Blandfordia*).

Please book your time with Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com)

In January this very beautiful and large moth spent a day inside our home. The wingspan was approximately 60mm. An interesting thing happened when flash was used in the second image. The colours changed. Does the purple tinge reflect what other creatures perceive see rather than how the human eye sees the colours and patterns? Think bees and budgerigars.

Fortunately we were able to finally catch and release it unharmed the following day.

*Jan Williamson*





**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/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

**Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays**

10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February

10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March

Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

**Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG**

3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February

3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March

Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

**Modified Walks Programme**

15<sup>th</sup> March (see page 6), 19<sup>th</sup> April & 24<sup>th</sup> May

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives

Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

**The Knoll KWG** Contact: Michael Griffith

[michaelgriffith1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgriffith1@gmail.com)

**Next meeting of APS North Shore Group**

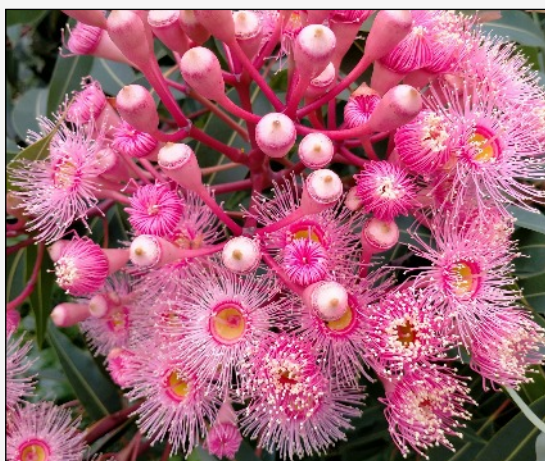
February meeting AGM & February General meeting will be held on  
**12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
via Zoom (see link details in the accompanying email)

*Speaker:* **Mark Schuster**

*Topic:* **Living on the Razor's Edge': a personal perspective on trying to balance fire management for both asset protection & biodiversity**

*Background:* Mark has recently joined the staff at Ku-ring-gai Council. Mark is a respected and innovative Environmental Planner and Ecological Scientist with a wealth of experience, working in federal, state, local government and consultancy positions, in both administrative and scientific capacities. Mark has more than 10 years experience being involved in the challenging field of bushfire planning - particularly relating to risk assessment legislative processes and the area of biodiversity and bushfire impacts.

There will be a short plant ID session. Please send images to [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February.



Jan's dwarf WA flowering gum is performing well again this year. It is getting a lot of positive attention from people walking past.

Bees, insects and rainbow lorikeets are finding it a very welcoming local "café".

**Committee Contacts**

**President:** Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

**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.

**January 2021 Committee Meeting Notes**

- Unfilled committee positions
- 2021 Speakers Programme
- 2021 Val Williams Scholarship selection committee
- Shadehouse update
- KWG matters
- Financial matters including annual summaries and asset status
- KWG will no longer be holding an annual Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival. Different events will be held over a period of a few weeks.
- APS NSW meeting report
- Possible Quarterly APS NSW to be hosted by APS NSG on 13<sup>th</sup> March

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

For the March 2021 edition this will be 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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