

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome  
to  
2022



## 2021 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2021 was a difficult year for everyone. We held as many activities as possible under Covid restrictions. Monthly meetings continued, either as face to face meetings or as zoom meetings. Our fewer Walks and Talks were walks only, the wildflower display was updated at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden when possible and plant propagation, maintenance of The Knoll garden and bushcare also continued, when possible. We also awarded our annual Val Williams Scholarship for research into the ecology, conservation or propagation of native plants in the Sydney and surrounding regions.

Despite the restrictions we carried out some much-needed improvements to our shadehouse: the entry path was gravelled and the shadecloth roof and walls were replaced.

We also held two very successful plant sales, with attendance by invitation only, in accordance with our Covid safe plans. Our usual late August plant sale was delayed until the end of October and Covid uncertainty meant that our advertising was very restricted. We were very pleased, however, that both Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Councils advertised our sale to their bushcare volunteers. The time delay also meant that some of our plants had to be potted-on and this created some unexpected work for us.

I hope that we can fully resume our usual activities in 2022 and invite all our members, and especially our new members, to become involved in our many activities. We love meeting new members who share our love of aussie plants!

*Sue Bowen*

Two cultivars of WA Flowering gums, *Eucalyptus ficifolia*.

The weight of the flowers, especially when there is rain and wind, is proving a slight challenge on the pink flowering tree and staking of the plant is required.

There are plenty of birds and insects visiting for a feed. *Jan W*

## APSNSG Treasurer's Report for 2021

In 2021, the North Shore Group had income of \$12,534 and expenditure of \$14,335 resulting in a net loss of \$1,801, the first loss in at least eight years. The total value of our bank and investment accounts at the end of 2021 was \$89,164, a decrease of 1% on 2020.

For a second year our activities and income were impacted by the COVID pandemic. Our major plant and flower sale at the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival, usually held at the end of August, was replaced by autumn and spring sales. We had a remarkably good \$7,988 in takings from the sales and \$709 takings from other plant sales by the propagation group.

Very few face-to-face monthly meetings were held in 2021, 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:

Spring plant sale .....	\$5118
Autumn plant sale .....	\$2869
Membership (net) .....	\$1320
Interest from bank accounts and term deposits .....	\$894
Propagation – plant sales from shadehouse.....	\$529
Meetings – plant sales .....	\$327
Donations .....	\$281

This year we carried out considerable work around the shadehouse, including regrading and surfacing of the access path, new shadecloth and structural repairs. A \$2250 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 included:

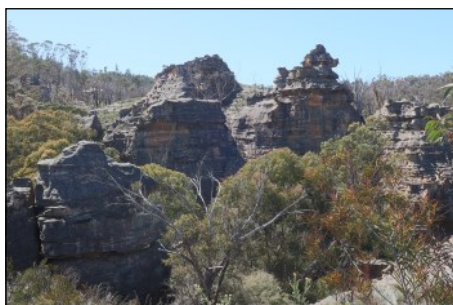
Shadehouse repairs.....	\$7505
Propagation plants .....	\$2398
Val Williams Scholarship * .....	\$2250
Propagation materials.....	\$387
Knoll materials & plants.....	\$659

*Helen Ray Treasurer APS NSG*

*\* The recipient of this year's scholarship did not claim the full \$3,000 offered.*

### It took time, but now time to celebrate

Eighty-nine years after Myles Dunphy – Founder of the Colong Foundation for Wilderness – began advocating for the protection of the Gardens of Stone, Australia's longest-running conservation campaign is over. We won.



APS NSG visited the area in October 2020  
Steve Williamson

At a time when mining seriously threatened beautiful canyons, endangered swamps and globally significant rock pagodas, supporters like you allowed us to stand up for the protection of this spectacular landscape.

For thirty years, Foundation Director, Keith Muir, worked relentlessly – hand-in-hand with the Gardens of Stone Alliance – to keep this important campaign alive.

Last month, the NSW Government finally announced the 28,000 hectare Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area on the western edge of the Blue Mountains, ensuring the safety of at least 84 threatened plant and animal species, including the rare Giant Dragonfly. <https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/>

## 2022 APS NSG Committee

President	<i>not filled</i> *
Vice president	Sue Bowen
Correspondence secretary	Judy Jeffery
Minutes secretary	Jan Williamson
Treasurer	Helen Ray
Conservation officer	<i>not filled</i>
Membership officer	Narelle Barden
Assistant membership officers	Genevieve Meares, Sue Fredrickson
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 members	Hugh Jones, Bill Jones, Helen Smith
Speakers' Programme coordinator	Narelle Smith
<i>Non committee positions:</i>	
Walks and Talks coordinator	Wendy Grimm
Val Williams Scholarship Convener	Tania Lamble
Flower display stand KWG	Jan Marshall
Propagation coordinator	Tania Lamble
The Knoll coordinator	Michael Griffith
Library	Lyn Kirby
Bushcare	Sue Bowen

If you are interested in any of the unfilled positions please contact Sue Bowen 0478 957 951 or [president@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:president@blandfordia.org.au).

### Exciting happenings in 2022

**First speaker 2022:** Our 11<sup>th</sup> February speaker will be **Penny Hemsworth**, from Ku-ring-gai Council, who will talk about the **Nurture Our Urban Forest program**. Council has adopted an Urban Forest Policy and is now developing an Urban Forest Strategy which will define how Council manages and improves our urban forest for current and future generations.

#### Free plants for new members

New members are due to receive 2 free tubes. Normally, you could select these plants at our monthly meetings at Hornsby. With Covid, however, many recent meetings have become Zoom meetings and you haven't been able to select your plants. New members are welcome to come to our shadehouse behind the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Visitor Centre and Wildflower Nursery on any second Wednesday afternoon, weather permitting, to select your free plants, see our extensive range of native plants for sale (cash only) and see how we propagate these plants. Our February dates are 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 1-4pm. Phone me on 0478 957 051 if you need directions.

**Verge gardens.** Ku-ring-gai Council has recently developed a webpage with information on how to develop a verge garden in Ku-ring-gai. We have offered to recommend some native plants for growing in such a situation. If you already have a verge garden and can recommend natives to grow that don't exceed 1.5m in height when fully grown, please contact me, Sue Bowen, on [president@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:president@blandfordia.org.au). Pictures of your garden would also be great!!!

## 2022 Activities

### See monthly editions of *Blandfordia* for full details

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

The meetings will be either face to face or by Zoom platform, dependent on the health requirements. Both formats start at 8pm with a premeeting time of 15 minutes (Zoom) and 30 minutes (face to face). Meetings usually last until about 9.30 pm.

Each meeting usually has a primary speaker, a plant ID session and sometimes a second speaker who gives a short presentation. Suggestions for speakers are welcome.

**WALKS & TALKS 2022** is held at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Rd, St. Ives

**MONTHLY GROUP ACTIVITY** will resume in March.

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

**THE KNOLL** The Knoll is a display garden at KWG. Twice monthly working bees are held.

**PLANT SALES TBA** Contact convenor (see below, if you wish to buy some on propagation afternoons).

**FLOWER DISPLAY** at KWG Visitor Centre

**BUSHCARE (KC)** in KWG on alternate Wednesdays in morning. 9am

#### CONTACTS

<b>Walks and Talks at KWG</b>	Wendy Grimm	0419 323 035
<b>Propagation at KWG</b>	Tania Lamble	0415 043 671
<b>Bushcare at KWG</b>	Sue Bowen	0478 957 951
<b>The Knoll</b>	Michael Griffith	0417 026 111
<b>Flower Display at KWG</b>	Jan Marshall	0403 908 042

#### Some dates are currently available

##### Propagation: New initiative

During 2022 our shadehouse at KWG will be open to members every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday afternoon (weather permitting), for propagation, plant sales (cash only) and growing advice.

February's dates are 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4pm. Our white shadehouse is behind the Visitors' Centre and Wildflower nursery.

**Bushcare** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> February

**February Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> February** speaker will be **Penny Hemsworth**, from Ku-ring-gai Council, who will talk about the **Nurture Our Urban Forest program**.

See March *Blandfordia* for details on other activities.

Group activity: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> **MARCH** 1pm Quarterly APS NSW Gathering hosted by Menai APS Group at 999N Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong NSW 2234 <https://austplants.com.au/event-4549815>



### Brian Roach's three favourite plants

The Davidson Plum is outstanding as a pot plant with glorious new growth. Took the photo of our Johanna's Christmas today. The Bauera is a hybrid of our local rubioides and one from The Grampians.



*Bauera rubioides* x *sessiliflora* 'Rose Carpet'



*Ceratopetalum* Johanna's Christmas bush 1<sup>st</sup> December




*Davidsonia johnsonii* 'Davidsons Plum'


Your contributions to my top 3 favourite flora/fauna are most welcome: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

**Bushwalk fundraisers** in local area. Several walks are being held this year. Bookings are required. <https://gardenlife.com.au/bushwalk/>

Sue B recommends this article in the Neutrog magazine. It is an article on a Sydney native cottage garden and goes to a site 'The Botanical planet' that has some wonderful photos & information on the native plants grown in this cottage garden. <https://thebotanicalplanet.com.au/garden/>



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

 **Australian Plants SOCIETY NSW**

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

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



**Update from one of the Val Williams Scholarship recipients: Berin Mackenzie VWS 2012 recipient**

I was awarded the 2012 Val Williams Scholarship in botany to support my PhD research on the germination and seed ecology of *Boronia* in the Sydney region. I'm happy to announce that the second paper supported by that scholarship has just been published: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2021.795711/full>

The scholarship and the enthusiastic support I received from your members in response to an early presentation I gave to the group had a profoundly positive and lasting effect on me. I took a couple years off from the PhD to work on a dream threatened species project in Wollemi NP but I'm hoping to submit my thesis early next year.

Thank you once again and please keep up the wonderful work.

Warm regards,  
Berin

Two other papers with Berin's work:

1. [The intergenerational effort to secure a future for the iconic Wollemi Pine – National Parks Association of NSW \(npansw.org.au\)](https://www.npansw.org.au)
2. [How to save the Wollemi National Park pine \(smh.com.au\)](https://www.smh.com.au)



In late December, Sue Bowen spotted this impressive display of Kangaroo Paws (Genus *Anigozanthos*) at Belrose shopping centre.

Jenny Talbot found this *Schizaea bifida*, the forked comb fern in late December in Ku-ring-gai NP.





Narelle Barden shared this helpful hint:  
Identification for Dipodium [https://www.facebook.com/groups/332752936930981/permalink/1966583363547922/?sfnsn=mo&ref=Lobelia dentata=share](https://www.facebook.com/groups/332752936930981/permalink/1966583363547922/?sfnsn=mo&ref=Lobelia%20dentata=share)

Narelle walked the Senses Track at KWG on 9<sup>th</sup> January and spotted these plants. It was bursting with orchids in flower at that time.



## New members & all members

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Joshua L, Tracey P, Sue L-M, Natalie A, Laurie L-S, David T, Gillian S, Bridget GF and Madeleine P \* 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.

The APS NSG group offers monthly talks and walks/activities, a brilliant library (when we are back at our meeting hall), plants to buy and opportunities to learn how to propagate native plants, Walks and Talks programme, share tips on how to photograph those very small flowers/ plants and access to people with a wealth of knowledge and experience of Australian native plants which they are more than willing to share.

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

All suggestions are welcome— please contact Vice President 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) .

**Make it easier to read *Blandfordia*:** A hint in case you haven't discovered this feature.

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%.

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

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### APS NSW Strategy [Link to Project that APS NSW undertook with UTS students in late 2021.](#)

To get a feel for how the APS NSW Board is progressing its strategy for the future of the organisation members are encouraged to look at the following presentations. The compressed version is a summary of the final report. The students recommendations are included.

The two documents can be found in the Members Only section, called Resources for members: **You have to be logged in to open this page.**

- Steps to follow:
1. Click on this link <https://www.austplants.com.au/Resources-for-members/>
  2. then enter your email and password
  3. scroll down to heading APS NSW Strategy
  4. **UTS Student findings and recommendations:**  
UTS Team Final Presentation APS NSW Oct'21 compressed.pdf (summary)  
UTS Team Final Report APS NSW - Team Assurgent.pdf

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**Finding Members only material on the website:** On the home page for APS NSW <https://austplants.com.au/> scroll down until you reach the section headed [How to log in to the APS NSW website, as a member](#) and then follow the instructions.

## Examples of how healthy environments benefits all biodiversity



Rae Rosten and her neighbour, Ben Townsend (a professional photographer), had some excitement recently.

Rae wrote:

“When my neighbour Ben came to collect deliveries that had come to me while he was away, we heard a thump as something hit the metal fence in my front garden. We looked around to see that a python had attacked a ring tail possum that had its nest in a tall Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and the possum had hit the fence as it fell. The python slithered down the tree and, after nipping the possum on the tail, proceeded to crush the animal then slowly make a meal of it by dislocating its jaw and starting at the head, slowly swallowed the whole possum. I expected the python to be lethargic after the effort of devouring the large meal but it slithered away into the bushes. This is the third time I have had the pleasure of seeing this python in my garden.

My neighbour Ben Townsend is a professional photographer and has given permission to share the pictures he took in our newsletter.”

Ben’s reply to Jan W’s letter of thanks for the images: “ I agree completely. When we heard the noise and saw what had happened, I knew the snake was going to come out of the tree for its dinner. I asked Rae if I could come back and keep photographing it. Normally the sort of thing we only get to



see in a nature documentary. Also, nature at work; sad for the possum but hooray for the snake! Both my wife and I have been lucky growing up (in some ways). I grew up in Cromer opposite bush-land like we have in Ku-ring-gai and have chosen to live mostly in bush suburbs since. My wife grew up a (very) small outback Arizona ex-mining town seeing coyotes, mountain lions, rattlesnakes, and road-runners. Hopefully our boys come to appreciate these things as well.”

Ed Note: I think I would prefer a python to a rattle snake or mountain lion!



A few weeks ago Sue Bowen had a visit from a green tree snake at her home in Roseville.

### 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.

The platypus and the rakali/water rat are two of Australia's most unique animals. Platypus or rakali that die, or are found deceased, present a valuable opportunity for us to learn more about these remarkable species and enable their conservation.

**IF YOU FIND A DEAD PLATYPUS or RAKALI IN NSW:**

1. Contact Dr Jess Whinfield on 0448 373 527 or [jwhinfield@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jwhinfield@zoo.nsw.gov.au)
2. Place the body in two plastic bags and store in the fridge while Taronga Zoo organises transport

A full necropsy will be performed by wildlife veterinarians, and samples collected for infectious disease and toxicant testing. With your assistance, we can better understand and protect platypuses and rakali.

### January 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and activities in 2022, including speakers
- Unfilled committee positions
- Financial matters, including annual reports & draft budget
- APS NSW Biennial Conference progress
- Flower Display at KWG
- The Knoll
- Plant sales
- APSNSG involvement with KC Seniors Event 23rd March

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

For the March 2022 edition this will be 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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