

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

July 2021

From our President:

It is so enjoyable when one of our busy members takes the time to talk to us at our meeting on such a fascinating topic as Sir Joseph Banks! What an influential man he was! How lucky he was to be so wealthy that he didn't have to work and could just go on plant collecting expeditions whenever he liked!!!

I appreciate everyone booking in for meetings and am pleased that our lucky door prize of a banksia plant went to a good home.

Our major fund-raiser for the year will be our Spring plant sale and this will be held on Sunday 5th September (Fathers Day) at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG). Our propagation team would really appreciate your help to grow and organise our plants for the sale and we will meet weekly for this purpose (Covid permitting) during the next couple of months. Please let Tania Lamble or myself know if you can help. Members are always welcome to come to our propagation afternoons to buy plants (cash only) and/or drop off plastic pots. Please contact me so that I know when you're coming and have some change ready.

suzannebowen@gmail.com

For members and new members especially, I remind you of our wide range of activities. We would love to see you at any of these. Our July activities are as follows:

Friday 9 th	July General meeting by zoom (talk on Greening Hornsby Shire)
Monday 12 th	Walk at KWG (Gum trees)(see page 4)
Wednesday 14 th pm	Propagation at our shadehouse at KWG
Monday 19 th	Walk and talk at KWG (weeds and bush regeneration)
Wednesday 21 st am	Bushcare at KWG
Wednesday 21 st pm	Propagation at our shadehouse at KWG
Friday 23 rd	Weeding and maintenance of The Knoll garden at KWG
Monday 26 th	Walk and talk at KWG (Grevilleas and Hakeas)
Wednesday 28 th	Propagation at our shadehouse at KWG.

We also refresh the Wildflower display at the Visitor Centre at KWG every week.

Full details of the times of these activities and the people to contact about participating in them occur elsewhere in *Blandfordia*. (See page 6)



Image by Bruce Usher



Boronia ledifolia Recently in flower at KWG
Image by Sue Bowen

Sue Bowen

Barry Lees has recently had some unusual visitors.

First one: I was working on the computer when I heard someone scratching on the door. Perhaps he wanted to come in for a cuppa.

Second ones: Some weeks ago we had visitors – three of them. They came without warning and settled in, ate for three weeks until there was nothing left, then left without a word of thanks.

Strangely, we were delighted! We enjoyed their company and felt privileged that they had chosen us. The visitors were Glossy Black Cockatoos, rare and beautiful birds. They are big, black (but not glossy), with rich red under their tail feathers. Females also have some yellow on their neck. They mate for life and usually feed in threes – mum, dad and the kid. They came early each morning, and left about 5 pm, spending the whole day quietly eating seeds from a tree near our kitchen window. We had seen them occasionally before, but they had only ever stayed a couple of days. This time they stayed for 3 weeks until the tree was almost bare.



They feed on seeds of sheoak trees, also known as casuarinas. The seed pod is about 1 cm round and 2 cm long, with 50 or so seeds held in small pockets on the surface of the pod. They bite the pod off the tree branch, hold it in their left hand and somehow remove the tiny seeds with their big beak and tongue. It's like separating pepper and salt with boxing gloves on.

Despite their size, they are peaceful birds. You can walk around underneath them, do some gardening and talk to them. They just crunch away and make occasional contented squeaks to each other – totally opposite to their raucous white cockatoo cousins.

Now they have gone I feel a bit sad. I hope they come back sometime after the tree has produced more seeds. There are so few of these birds left, they are classified as "vulnerable".

I urge residents to help by planting more casuarinas. Don't be like a man I spoke to recently who said "Oh them Casuarinas, they're just bloody weeds. I cut 'em all out." There are 5 casuarina species in this area. You should plant *Allocasuarina littoralis*, sometimes called black casuarina or black sheoak. Hornsby, Hills or Hawkesbury Council nurseries should have them.

Glossy Blacks breed in large tree hollows which are also getting hard to find. If you can avoid it, please don't cut down live or dead trees that have tree hollows. They are so valuable to all our wildlife.

Barry Lees



Before & after photos at Crosslands Reserve, Hornsby Heights Community planting in May 2019 and 20 months later in 2020 – we have a small forest !!

Donna Fitton (see page 3 for July meeting)

Editor's note: I think that the glossy Blacks will approve of the choice of species that were planted.



I was delighted to see that the single local *Blandfordia nobilis* I see most years on my local fire trail (Mt Colah) has decided to go for 'Christmas in July' - well not quite, but late May is closer than to 'real' Christmas! The area had a cool burn last September and I wondered what would happen to the plant. It was a 'no-show' at Christmas, but now it is spectacular with huge trumpets. My photo (taken 24/5) really doesn't do it justice.
Helen Smith

A local street in Hornsby Council area with successful verge tree plantings.



Next Meeting on 9th JULY 2021 7.45 pm for 8pm by ZOOM

Speaker: Donna Fitton, Tree Care Officer, Hornsby Shire Council (HSC)

Topic: Greening Our Shire - HSC's Planting Projects

In August 2018, Council launched an ambitious program to plant 25,000 trees by 2020.

The aim was to increase canopy across the Shire in streets, parks, reserves, Schools, Community centres and private property.

The challenge was to engage the community to support and assist the project through storms, drought and COVID.

Canopy replenishment on this scale and timeframe is rare. We won't see the canopy or feel the environmental and social benefits for many years but the future looks a bit more shady for Hornsby Shire as our climate changes.

In July 2020 we hit the target and planting momentum continues in 2021 with our 'Greening Our Shire' project.

This project will address revegetation, planting and biodiversity actions linked to Council's Urban Forest Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.

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. Unfortunately the situation will be fresh in our memories again.

Walks & Talks Term 3 at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives (KWG)

The format of Walks & Talks and number of participants may vary to suit prevailing Covid-19 regulations.

Please **ensure you book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk by emailing** your 1) name, 2) mobile number and 3) emergency contact to Wendy, who will respond with a description of the format: Walk & Talk **or** Walk only.

Email: wagrimm@tpg.com.au (preferred) Phone: 0419 323 035

Meet at 9.45 am behind Caley's Pavilion in KWG. Sessions run from 10am to about 12 noon.

12th July Leader: John Williams
Gum Trees: Eucalyptus, Angophora, Corymbia (Family Myrtaceae)

19th July Leader: Glenda Clarke
Weeds & Bush regeneration

26th July Leader: Wendy Grimm
Grevillea & Hakea (Family Proteaceae)

12th August **Walk** of medium difficulty along **East Mueller Track**, KWG.
Bring water and a snack.



Berin Mackenzie, our 2012 Val Williams Scholarship recipient, featured in the article, 'Protecting the Prehistoric', about saving the Wollemi Pine during the fires, in a video on the ABC.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/protecting-the-prehistoric/13419730>

Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820)

Narelle Smith gave a most interesting presentation on Sir Joseph Banks at the June meeting. Narelle's knowledge and passion for the topic shone through.

Some of the point of interest were

*Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander were good friends. Solander was one of the naturalists on the voyage. They enjoyed their botanising greatly.

(Narelle really likes the word "botanising".)

*Banks had a party of 8 on the Endeavour voyage- naturalists, landscape & botanical artists, personal assistant, draughtsman and field assistants.

*The aims of the trip were to

1. To observe the Transit of Venus
2. Collect specimens
3. Investigate the whereabouts, and extent of, Terra Australis Incognita



Kamay Botany Bay National Park

*The Endeavour first sighted the east coast of Australia on 19th April 1770 (Point Hicks, Victoria). There was one landing at Botany Bay in NSW and thirteen landings were in Queensland (several were on islands). The largest collection of specimens was made near Cooktown where the Endeavour was put ashore for repairs.

*Approximately 1400 "new" species of plants and over 1000 "new" species of animals were within the extensive collection that was taken back to England for studying. Sydney Parkinson was the botanical artist whose work was instrumental in documenting the plants and vistas seen on the voyage. Parkinson died on the return voyage. His use of a colour guide with numbers enabled others to subsequently detail his drawings.

Back to Joseph Banks- he was a naturalist of fame and fortune, advisor to King George III, recommended settlement at Botany Bay, placed science before politics, encouraged many other scientists, was supported by and supported his sister and was the President of the Royal Society for 40 years.

Over years, and with the assistance of many others, he completed the comprehensive work, *Banks' Florilegium*. Banks died before it was completed. He bequeathed the plates to the British Museum.

Sir Joseph Banks was a most illustrious individual about whom we probably should know more and be more appreciative of his contributions. Thanks to Narelle for whetting our appetites.

Written by, and images by, Jan Williamson

Some resources recommended by Narelle

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- *Banks* by Grantlee Kieza (2020)
- Captain Cook Society <https://www.captaincooksociety.com/>
- Banks Journal (in full) Sydney University <https://adc.library.usyd.edu.au/view?docId=ozlit/xml-main-texts/p00021.xml;chunk.id=d1207e10874;toc.depth=1;toc.id=d1207e10644;database=;collection=;brand=default>



Maybe this fungi was spotted and /or collected by Banks while botanising. This image was taken at Kurnell on 15th May.

Editor's notes:

1. Several people have concurred that the following series which was recently on ABC TV is recommended viewing.

The Pacific: In the Wake of Captain Cook with Sam Neill <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8966970/>

2. I was recently made aware of another brilliant, and generous, scientist Alexander von Humboldt. He was a German polymath, geographer, naturalist, explorer, and proponent of Romantic philosophy and science. One of the first scientists to identify human contributions to climate change. I then read a fascinating biography *The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt* by Andrea Wulf.

It seems as though the late 18th to mid 19th centuries were great times to be scientists and engineers.

Group activities

Unfortunately, due to the situation with Covid pandemic in Sydney, the garden visit which was planned for July cannot go ahead.

Hopefully, the **plant sale scheduled for 5th September** will still be able to be held. Please check for update of details in August *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

New Member

A big welcome to new member Anette B.

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

SUBJECT to any 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 14th, 21st & 28th July, 11th & 25th August
Contact: Tania Lamble 0415 043 671

Bushcare at KWG 21st July, 4th & 18th August Contact: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

The Knoll 23rd July, 13th & 27th August Contact: Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

The Flower Stand at KWG Contact: Jan Marshall 0403 908 042

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

see page 4 for full details. **Bookings are essential.**

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.

June Committee meeting notes (virtual zoom meeting)

The following items were discussed:

- Remaining monthly general meetings to be at BTH Hornsby with Covid safe arrangements, including bookings (*by late June the situation has changed: July meeting will be by zoom*)
- Speakers' Programme 2021
- APS NSW Delegate report
- Plant sale SUNDAY 5th September 2021
- Quorum at committee meetings, and alternative ways, of passing decisions.
- Val Williams Scholarship 2021- full amount was not requested by the recipient.
- APSNSW Delegate report. (i) Sue B and another APS NSG member were planning to attend the Presidents' Workshop on Strategy Planning. (ii) Kiama Conference 10th to 16th September 2022.

An event, which may be of interest to our members, is happening in our area.

2021 Linnean Society of NSW Natural History Field Symposium

Natural History of the Northeastern Sydney Basin

Wednesday October 27–Thursday October 28 (oral presentations)

Friday October 29 (field trip)

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

Recommendation from Brian Roach

I recently came across a new, unique type of pot for growing plants. The great benefits are that the unit is completely sealed with no leaking out at the bottom and it only needs to be watered every 2 to 4 weeks, depending on the weather.

I've been trialling one for some months now (an image of Johanna's Christmas Bush in the pot is below) and it has lived up to all my expectations. It is particularly suited to verandahs or balconies as well as courtyards and patios.

For more details and purchase details please contact Brian on westleighnativeplants@gmail.com



<https://www.waterups.com.au/>

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 August 2021 edition this will be 16th July 2021 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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