

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JUNE 2020

## Message from our President, Sue Bowen

As I write this I am very pleased that our restrictions are gradually easing, especially as from 1<sup>st</sup> June. We still need to keep our 1.5m distance from others, however, as we don't want to undermine our good work in reducing the spread of Covid 19.

We had our second Committee meeting via Zoom in May and made the big decision to hold our June and July general meetings via Zoom, too. I encourage you all to come to the meetings! (See details in the accompanying email).

We are very gradually re-starting our other APS North Shore activities. Small groups of members have re-commenced propagating at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and our wildflower display at KWG will re-commence as from the week of 7<sup>th</sup> June.

We will re-start our very popular Walks and Talks programme as walks midway through June. Our other activities will re-commence as soon as possible. (See page 2)

Our lack of plant sales over the past few months has meant, however, that our shade house has become over-stocked with some plants. The good news for you is that we are having a sale and will welcome you to the shade house on our propagating afternoons in mid June and early July (see below).

Please keep up your learning and growing of native plants!

## Plant sale

We are over-stocked with Grevilleas, *Goodenia ovata*, pink and purple flowered *Hardenbergia violacea*, Hibiscus, *Libertia paniculata*, ferns, peas and many others.

Please come and buy some plants and free up space in our shade house at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower garden for more plants!

We will be open on Wednesdays **17<sup>th</sup> June** and **1<sup>st</sup> July**, from 1-4pm. Please book in with Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or at [suzannebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebowen@gmail.com) to get a time slot that distances you from other people and bring your own bags/boxes.

**Cash only!!**



*Grevillea* "winter delight"



*Grevillea baueri*



*Goodenia ovata*



*Libertia paniculata*



*Hardenbergia violacea*



Ferns



Hibiscus

## Monday APS NSG Walks programme KWG – June 2020

at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Modified outdoor activity due to Covid-19. These three walks are only for APS NSG members.

In Term 2 there will be three 'Walk Only' sessions.

It is essential to book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk.

Please ring Wendy on 0419 323 035 or 9144 5600

- Each walking group will contain no more than 10 people.
- Social distancing will be maintained as per NSW advice.
- All walks are easy. All sessions will run 10 am to 11.30 am.
- Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water.
- Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

Date	Walk focus
June 15 Monday	<b>Leaves &amp; Latin</b> - an introduction to Australian native plants
June 22 Monday	<b>Banksia</b> (Family Proteaceae)
June 29 Monday	<b>Flowers to fruit &amp; seeds</b>



*Banksia integrifolia*



*Styphelia tubiflora* x

Wendy Grimm W&T

All images by Wendy Grimm



*Leucopogon amplexicaulis*



*Banksia oblongifolia*



Four sulphur crested cockatoos at Jan W's place displaying a good understanding of social distancing. One bird is being particularly careful.

Sue B also had a "fun" bird moment recently. When going to do some bushcare at a local spot she could hear several different types of local birds having a singalong. "Unusual" she thought. Then the penny dropped - one lyrebird practising its repertoire of calls. Sue enjoyed the gardening even more.

## Next Meeting of North Shore Group 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

On 12<sup>th</sup> June **Daniel Clarke** will speak on [Conservation in APS NSW](#) via a Zoom meeting. Join the meeting with a cuppa in the warm of your own home dressed as comfortably as you like.

As is normal for the meetings the session will start at 7.30 pm with the meeting and speaker at 8 pm. It is recommended that people join well before 8 pm so that any technical concerns can be addressed. Please follow the instructions for the meeting in the email that came with your June *Blandfordia*. Sue Fredrickson will be co ordinating the meeting. If you have any queries about how to use Zoom please contact Sue on [paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com).



**Background:** Dan will talk about 4 years of population assessment and monitoring of the threatened flora species *Prostanthera densa* (Villous Mint Bush). Assessment and monitoring has taken place at its five known sites on the NSW Coast, as part of the NSW Saving our Species program. This work has involved crucial help and support from APS Sutherland members. Dan will canvass the SOS Program, and will outline recent changes to NSW Biodiversity legislation. Dan will also briefly cover other species and ecological communities that he has worked on for the Saving our Species Program and showcase other projects that other APS groups are involved in. Dan's image is of APS Sutherland Member John Arney, measuring and tagging a plant of *Prostanthera densa* (Marley, Royal NP, 2016).

Dan is currently a botanical consultant undertaking vegetation surveys, threatened plant assessments and botanical advice in many parts of NSW. Dan also works weekly for TAFE NSW as a Conservation and Land Management teacher, teaching plant identification and bushland regeneration.

**PLANT ID:** We would like to include some images of native plants for a virtual plant ID session. If you have a contribution please send them in the original file size to [janw@7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw@7531@gmail.com) by **MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> June**. Please include a brief note about the image/s- e.g. plant ID (if known), location, soil type, age of plant etc...

JULY meeting also via Zoom on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**. Speaker: TBA see July *Blandfordia*

### New Members

A big welcome to new members Megan Bowen and Samantha Newton.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG and its members. We look forward to getting to know you and share with you knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.



*Viola banksii*, Native violet  
Image by Jan Williamson

### Notices and Reminders

**NOTE:** No decision has yet been made by Ku-ring-gai Council concerning the 2020 Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival which was scheduled for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**13<sup>th</sup> FJC Rogers Seminar 2020** on Mint Bushes & Allied Genera Registrations are now on hold. Please check this website for updates: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/>

**2021 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021**



**Australian flora - Past present future**  
ANPSA 2021 Biennial Conference - Kiama



**Dr Brett Summerell** Director of Research and Chief Botanist at Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

A summary by Jan Williamson on the Talk which was given Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at AGM APS NSW meeting

<https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/Science/Our-science-staff/Dr-Brett-Summerell-1>



## BANKS and SOLANDER COLLECTION

Dr Brett Summerell gave a most interesting presentation on the Australian collection made by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on the voyage of the Endeavour from 1768 until 1771 under Lieutenant James Cook. Collections of material of scientific interest were made throughout the voyage. Overall 30,000 specimens were collected with 1400 new plant species identified. About 350 were from NZ and about 500 from Australia (Botany Bay and 3 Queensland sites).

When they arrived at Botany Bay NSW on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1770 Banks was 27 and Solander 37. Botany Bay lies 16km south of Port Jackson. It was an area with diverse flora and topography with several diverse biosystems- forest, woodland, swamp, sandstone and beach where they spent 8 days and collected 132 different species of flora. Dr Summerell noted that April/May is not a time when many plants are flowering. Challenges to storing the collection included mould, and damage from insects and rodents. When the *Endeavour* ran aground in Queensland on 10<sup>th</sup> June, water damage was an additional challenge.

Species collected at Botany Bay included *Banksia serrata*, *Banksia ericifolia*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Viola banksii* (Native violet), *Corymbia gummifera* and *Bidens pilosa* (Farmer's friend). The source of *Bidens pilosa* is unknown, possibly originally from South America.

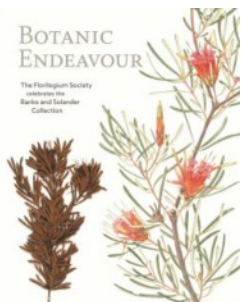
During the 7 weeks while the *Endeavour* was being repaired extensive collections of material were made.

After their return to England in July 1771 the specimens were extensively studied by Banks, Solander, Linnaeus the Younger and Joseph Gaertner. Most of the specimens were sent to the British National History Museum. Currently 883 specimens are at the National Herbarium of NSW at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. There is to be an exhibition at some stage in the future. It was planned in 2020 as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Captain Cook's Voyage in HMS Endeavour. Banks sent out and encouraged other botanists to come to Australia. These botanists included Robert Brown, Allan Cunningham and George Caley.

A beautiful limited edition publication has been released. For full details see

<https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/science/botanical-illustration/the-florilegium>

Kamay- Botany Bay National Park. <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/kamay-botany-bay-national-park>



## RECENT BUSHFIRE EXPERIENCE

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/fire/park-recovery-and-rehabilitation/recovering-from-2019-20-fires/understanding-the-impact-of-the-2019-20-fires>

Dr Summerell then gave a brief overview of the situation post 2019/2020 bushfires. Massive areas of NSW were burnt and 4% of the land involved was free hold land. 367 threatened plant species were impacted. 163 of these had >20% of their habitat burnt and 46 had >90% of their habitat burnt. Different species have been impacted and species respond to fire in different ways. Eucalypts respond with epicormic growth as well as seed dispersal and activation, while some other species require effective germination of seeds. For effective recovery the latter do not want more fires until after the regenerating plants have developed adequately to produce further seed.

In the areas in and near Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens there were significant fires, often with a mosaic distribution in effect. One hundred hectares of bushland there are being closely monitored. The eucalypts, banksias (lignotubers and epicormic growth) and ferns are responding well. Good rainfalls have enabled this to happen. The effect on the burnt trees varies from those showing no epicormic growth, to some that are showing epicormic growth but are too damaged and will still die, and those trees with epicormic growth that will recover. The Wollemi Pines were affected but preventive watering of the areas helped and most trees were saved. At Mt Tomah some of the translocated Wollemi pines have new shoots and growth.

Teams are assessing the ecosystem in various ways, including the monitoring of individual species, (especially threatened species and those with restricted locations), targeted storage of germplasm and the impact of climate change.

Dr Summerell suggested that people might be interested in citizen science and recommended iNaturalist to assist in the documentation of the Environment Recovery Project. <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/>.

He also stressed that people must "go in clean"- don't introduce weeds or diseases. Wash boots before entering areas to help prevent organisms such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and Myrtle Rust. Myrtle Rust is a problem, especially in northern NSW.

**Note:** a link to the full talk will be made available to APS NSW members via a future e-newsletter.

Following right along from Dr Summerell's comments about introducing weeds, Rae has written a piece about weeds impacting on her local area. Interestingly, this was one of the species collected in 1770.

## Weeds impacting on Berowra Valley National Park

Written by, & images by, Rae Rosten



Because Berowra Valley National Park is largely surrounded by housing and other disturbed areas, the intrusion into the park of weeds is a major problem. Weeds are spread mainly through storm water run off, wind and the movement of people, animals and birds.

One of the most prominent herbaceous weeds is *Bidens pilosa*, commonly known locally as Farmers Friends or Cobbler's Pegs, due to the pronged seeds which stick to clothing and animal fur. *Bidens pilosa* is an annual species of herbaceous flowering plant in the daisy family. It is native to the Americas but is common worldwide especially in Eurasia, Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands and Australia, particularly the eastern coast. In agriculture it is a crop pest. Unfortunately it is favoured by bees for nectar.

Interestingly, while researching this weed, I discovered that it is the most widely eaten cooked green vegetable in Africa. Extracts are said to have antioxidant and liver protecting properties and are used medicinally for the treatment of blood pressure, digestive disorders, and allergies.

On the northern edge of BVNP, I am trying vainly to prevent a plume of *Bidens pilosa* from spreading into the national park. About eight years ago, this weed was introduced to a formerly almost pristine area on the wheels of heavy machinery used to clear an Asset Protection Zone, and has been exacerbated by introduced nutrients from adjoining properties.

I have accepted leadership of the **Australian Pea Flower Study Group**. The reactivation of a group to study plants with pea flowers has been approved by the ANPSA.

"A study group has been reactivated to study plants with pea flowers and has been renamed Australian Pea Flower Study Group. In the past, a study group for this purpose has operated under the name Fabaceae Study Group, as pea flowers were previously recognised as a separate family. If you are interested in the identification, classification, cultivation, propagation or conservation of Australia's pea flowers, consider joining the Australian Pea Flower Study Group. The study group webpage can be found here: <http://anpsa.org.au/pea-flowerSG/index.html>. If you would like to join the group, there is a section on the webpage that can be completed and submitted on-line. Membership for emailed newsletters is free." Thanks very much Shirley McLaran

Editor's note: When I was a 7 year old I had a teacher who introduced her students to some Australian plants. One of these plants was Sturt's Desert Pea, *Swainsona formosa*. You can imagine my delight when, many years later, I first saw one of these plants in flower in a garden in Tibooburra in about 2004. I have since seen them growing prolifically in the wild in various desert environments and smile every time.



Please contact the coordinators prior to any attendance. Check NSW Government restrictions as well

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays 2019

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234 & Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Modified Walks Programme: see page 2

Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives

Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

W&T Notes are still on website:

[Walks and Talks](#)

The Knoll KWG Contact: Michael Griffith [michaelgriffith1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgriffith1@gmail.com)

Members and friends will be most welcome at these activities when the situation improves.

#### May 2020 Committee Notes

Meeting was a virtual meeting using Zoom technology

- 2021 Biennial Conference (APS NSW has since informed members that a decision will be made by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020)
- Situation regarding Covid 19 restrictions on activities.



Beautiful new growth on *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* 'Johanna's Christmas' Image by Jan W



Images by Sue Fredrickson in Berowra Valley National Park in April. *Crowea saligna* In flower.



#### 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>

The preferred method for Membership Applications & Renewals is to go to the APS NSW website and follow the instructions at <https://austplants.com.au/Join-APS/>

If joining or renewing online presents any problems assistance can be given at any general meeting. Please speak to Genevieve Meares or Helen Ray. Alternatively email your query to [membership@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:membership@blandfordia.org.au)

For your convenience, an EFT payment option is now available.

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)

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

For the July 2020 edition this will be 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

## Blandfordia

The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group