

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

MARCH 2022

NUTURE OUR URBAN FOREST Ku-ring-gai Council

As Covid infections continues to impact our lives and how we do things, our February meeting gave us the opportunity to try another format. APS NSG has managed to provide monthly meetings throughout the pandemic- a challenge indeed, yet one that we are pleased to have met. Hopefully more face to face opportunities will be possible in 2022, who knows?



Thanks to Fleur Rees, Senior Landscape Architect at Ku-ring-gai Council (KC), for providing the presentation even though she was unable to attend online.

The following is the link to the information on the KC website regarding their Urban Forest Strategy <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Trees/Nuture-our-Urban-Forest#:~:text=Ku%2Dring%2Dgai's%20Urban%20Forest,Managed%20Land%20and%20private%20property>. This site includes the 1.17 minute Youtube video *The Liveable Street* which was included in the presentation.

Urban Forest involves trees, vegetation and plants, soil and water. Once again, a complex interaction of biodiversity and urbanisation and people. Not an easy interplay to manage!

KC has used contractors to assist in their work, including Arbor Carbon <https://arborcarbon.com.au/> who did aerial data capture in 2020 for KC. This technique enables comprehensive capture of overall canopy and individual trees on public and private holdings. In KC, the canopy coverage is currently about 34.5% with 95% of the canopy on private land.

Trees, as we know, have many benefits and some downsides. Some of the benefits include decreasing urban heat & energy consumption, improving air quality, increasing land and property values, decreasing stormwater flows and nutrient loads and providing habitat for fauna- big and small. Some downsides include damage from falling limbs or trees, shading of areas and ground debris potentially creating trip hazards. Choosing an appropriate tree for a site is essential. Historical original growth or planted trees are often now too large for current housing/ urban conditions and management of these issues is being pursued. In KC many of the trees are large-e.g. jacaranda, liquid amber, *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue gum), *Eucalyptus microcorys* (tallowwood), *Lophostemon confertus* (brush box).

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From 2020 there have been various initiatives carried out by KC and these were explained as 4 stages.

Stage 1 Background reporting- included community engagement *

Stage 2 Mapping and Analysis

Stage 3 Principles and Actions Report

Stage 4 Draft Strategy- this will include phase 2 of community engagement (expect public input to be requested in mid 2022). <https://krg.engagementhub.com.au/krgurbanforest>.

A finalised report and adopted strategy will then be ready for implementation.

The overall take away messages were that people wanted more native trees, better management of the trees and more coordination with utility companies on pruning frequency and style.

Fleur recommended the Institute of Consulting Arboriculturists for advice on urban street trees

<https://www.iaca.org.au/>

For help to manage your trees the Tree Contractors Association of Australia is a good starting point.

<https://www.tcaa.com.au/> for qualified and insured tree contractors.

Fleur Rees can be contacted at frees@kmc.nsw.gov.au

* The initial survey of residents drew about 140 responses. (*Editor's note: maybe we should all be more active in our communities and respond to requests for input*). Eleven questions were asked and these questions included positive and negative aspects of trees. One interesting strong response was that people resented the way that the utility companies often managed trees.

Sue Bowen mentioned that KC now has a verge planting policy.

See <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Sustainable-living/Verge-gardens> before embarking on a verge garden. As usual, many factors need to be considered including what is underground, motorist and pedestrian sight lines, overhead powerlines and suitable plants for these sites.



It is strongly advisable to check your local council's regulations before contracting work on trees or before embarking on new ventures, especially if they impact neighbours or public spaces.



Third Australian Native Bee Conference, Sat 11th to Sun 12th June 2022, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, Sydney.

For more details go to: <https://www.anba.org.au/anba-conference/>.

NEXT MEETING 11th MARCH 2022 on Zoom 7.45pm

The committee is continually monitoring the situation re meetings being face to face or on Zoom. Please keep a close watch for meeting details in *Blandfordia*. One of the advantages of virtual meetings is that we can speakers from all over the country. The March meeting will be a case in point, as Helen Lovel is located in Victoria.

Speaker for meeting 11th March: **Helen Lovel from Neutrog**



Our speaker, horticulturalist and farmer, Helen Lovel sells biological fertiliser by day and writes stories by night (when she's not helping a cow calve, because that always happens in the middle of the night, doesn't it?) .

Helen is passionate about her large country garden and can never get enough of looking around gardens – always looking forward to the spring and autumn open gardens – particularly in Central Victoria where she lives. She and her husband Rick run Black Angus cattle on their farm which is situated on the Loddon River in Eddington.

Helen started working in horticulture in 1985. After 20 years working in the horticulture retail industry and meanwhile completing studies in Landscape and Garden Design, it was in 2005 that Helen joined Neutrog as their first sales rep. Moving through various roles with Neutrog, Helen is currently Neutrog's Brand Ambassador, working Australia-wide.

Helen's talk will cover

- Neutrog background – A 2 minute video showing our site/composting/etc
- Discuss composting & biological benefits from our composting/pelleting process
- Story behind our method of developing new products with key groups – such as APS
- Development of Bush Tucker w/Angus Stewart & Simon Leake
- Products – especially Bush Tucker, Seamungus and Gogo Juice
- On Line Ordering

APS NSW has recently set up a mutually beneficial contract with Neutrog whereby very good rates for the purchase of their products exist and our Society retains a portion of the money made from sales to APS members. It will be interesting to hear the background to the development of their products that can make the plants in your garden very happy!



The joys of walking the dog include seeing & appreciating plants. *Jan W*



2022 Activities

See monthly editions of *Blandfordia* for full details

CONTACTS

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

Walks & Talks see below

Propagation & plant sales

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

9th & 23rd March from 1-4pm. Our white shadehouse is behind the Visitors' Centre and Wildflower nursery.

Bushcare 2nd, 16th & 30th March

APS NSG will have no group outing due to a clash with the APS NSW Quarterly Gathering hosted by APS Menai Group. You are encouraged to attend the Menai Gathering as it looks like a very interesting day.

Two exciting speakers and a chance to meet with members of other groups on

Saturday 12th MARCH 1.15pm to 4pm Quarterly APS NSW Gathering hosted by Menai APS Group

Guest speakers: **Chris Gambian**, CEO Nature Conservation Council

How APS NSW with its district groups and members can most effectively contribute to conservation of native species and their habitats.

Lloyd Hedges will talk about *Menai's involvement in the Black Cockatoo and Five Island projects.*

Where: **Illawong Community Centre**, 273 Fowler Rd, Illawong, in the Illawong Village shopping centre

Morning activities – plant sales and walks 8.30am – 1200pm Illawong Rural Fire Station, 687 Old Illawarra Rd.,

Illawong

\$5 entry for members, \$10 non-members For full details: <https://austplants.com.au/event-4549815>

Walks & Talks

Activity modified due to Covid-19

- Each walking group will contain no more than 25 people.
- Each walker must be "up to date" **vaccinated**.
- Social distancing will be maintained as per NSW advice.

It is essential to book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk. Please email Wendy Grimm and supply your name, mobile number and emergency contact number. Email: wagrimm@tpg.com.au

Walks are easy/medium. Sessions run 10am to about 12 noon.

Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and carry water/snack.

Sunscreen and insect repellent would also be a good idea.

The program opens with three 'Walk Only' sessions

March 14 Monday Introduction to KWG

April 4 Monday Bush foods, fibres & fungi

May 16 Monday Wildlife of KWG

For enquiries about the program: Wendy 0419 323 035



The Friends of Berowra Valley, a community group committed to conservation and advocacy for our local environment, will be launching the inaugural Berowra Fauna Fair celebrating all the marvellous creatures with whom we share our bushland home. On **Saturday 19th March from 1 -5 pm**, the Berowra District Hall will be a hub of fauna based activity, including guided walks, a display of live frogs, native plants for sale, children's craft and games, with afternoon tea provided by the CWA. Throughout the event there will be continuous 10-minute talks by experts on bats, birds, frogs, turtles, koalas and more, so there will be plenty of opportunity to share experiences and ask questions, or just to sit back and learn something new.

Berowra is home to some of Australia's most iconic animals such as the echidna, and threatened species such as the red crowned toadlet. Learning about these animals is a great step towards making sure they are still here for future generations to enjoy. Other familiar friends, including bandicoots, sugar gliders and glossy black cockatoos, will also be featured in talks at the event.

The Berowra Fauna Fair will be a celebration, but importantly will also provide opportunities for new partnerships and networks to form between people who care for our native plants and animals, and the ecosystems that support them. With participation by the Frog and Tadpole Study Group of NSW, the Australian Plants Society, and the Country Women's Association, the Friends of Berowra Valley are hoping that this opportunity to bring together community groups will become an annual event.

Entry to the event is free, with bookings required. **Please book tickets through TryBooking.**

<https://www.trybooking.com/book/search?keyword=berowra%20fauna%20fair&location=BEROWRA,%202081,%20NSW&date=19%2F03%2F2022>



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



Saturday 10 September to Friday 16 September 2022 at Kiama Pavilion

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

New member

APS NSG is very pleased to welcome Ralph S.*

To all members, we would love to see you at our virtual meetings and at any other opportunities that arise.

All suggestions for the group are welcome– please contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or president@blandfordia.org.au or *Blandfordia* editor, Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com .

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

If you have never been to these gardens you have missed out on an a MOST enjoyable experience. Suitable for all ages. Take a picnic and enjoy a leisurely stroll around the gardens.

Boongala Native Gardens and Native Forest Autumn Open Days

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



You are invited to our Autumn open garden and plant sales!

Enjoy a walk around 'Boongala Native Gardens' which displays a diverse collection of native flora from around Australia. We will have a large range of native plants in gro-tubes & larger sizes available for sale.

A guided rainforest tour is available at 11am and 1.30pm daily.

Entry to gardens - Adults \$3.00, Children Free

Rainforest and Bush Tucker Tour - Adults \$5.00, Children Free

We will be open:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm from 4th to 27th March

Our address is 76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst

We look forward to seeing you, Mal & Jenny Johnston (Formerly Annangrove Grevilleas)

PS Members who attend the APS NSG Quarterly Meeting (hosted by Parramatta Group) on 21st May will also have an opportunity to visit that morning.

PLANTS FOR SALE

If you are looking for plants for autumn plantings remember that **APS NSG propagation** team is keen to see you at KWG, just behind the Visitors' Centre, on **Wednesdays 9th & 23rd March from 1-4pm.**

Other enquiries: Contact **Tania Lamble** 0415 043 671 or **Sue Bowen** 0478 957 951

Brian Roach (APS NSG member) at Westleigh Native Plants Contact westleighnativeplants@gmail.com

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

president@blandfordia.org.au

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Email: secretary@blandfordia.org.au

Website: <https://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

Treasurer: Helen Ray treasurer@blandfordia.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson 9875 2262

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

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

February 2022 Committee Meeting Notes

- Meetings and activities in 2022, including speakers
- Unfilled committee positions
- APS NSW Biennial Conference progress
- Update from APS NSW Board meeting
- Plant sales
- Flower display at KWG
- APS NSG involvement with KC Seniors Event 23rd March
- APS NSW Bequest Fund Grants
- Contact details for APS NSG events on APS NSW website

Hi all,

This sounds like some of us: "Time is their secret weapon": the hidden grey army quietly advancing species discovery in Australia" — <https://theconversation.com/time-is-their-secret-weapon-the-hidden-grey-army-quietly-advancing-species-discovery-in-australia-175189> ,Cheers Helen Ray

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

For the April 2022 edition this will be 18th March 2022 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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