

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

NOVEMBER 2020

## Next Meeting of North Shore Group 2020

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November: 7.30pm for 8pm start.**

**Speaker: Jackie Wilson**

**Topic : Why some of our iconic plants and animals of the Snowy Mountains are under threat.**

**Background:** The delicate ecosystem of the Snowy Mountains and some of the iconic plants and animals of the Snowys are now under threat - essentially from human influences e.g. overgrazing, introduced species/pests, climate change, tourism etc. Jackie will approach this problem from the perspective of a geographer with an interest in ecology.



Members are encouraged to attend this meeting as it will include the **ELECTION of 2021 APS NSG Committee.**

Please note that the position of publicity officer will be vacant. Grateful thanks to Rae Rosten who has so diligently carried out this role for the past 15 years.

As in many groups, several people have held their positions for some time. For the future of the group it would be beneficial if others would offer to take on roles or be willing to offer assistance. For example, many years ago the secretary role was split into secretary and minutes secretary.

*Many hands make light work.*

Nominations (including self nominations) for positions can be sent to [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:secretary@blandfordia.org.au) or nominated at the meeting. If you would like to find out more about how you could participate please contact 2020 President, Sue Bowen or 2020 Secretary, Judy Jeffery [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:secretary@blandfordia.org.au) .

Position descriptions are available and any one taking up a position would be given help by the outgoing person. The AGM is the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 meeting.

Join the meeting with a cuppa in the comfort of your own home.

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 November *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) .

Any feedback/ comments about the zoom meetings please contact Sue Bowen [suzanneebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzanneebowen@gmail.com) or Sue Fredrickson [paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com](mailto:paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com)

Please see APS NSW newsletters and website <https://austplants.com.au/> for information about other sites and activities that are available to members.

## Monday APS NSG Walks programme KWG for the remainder of 2020

THE KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

### Modified outdoor activity due to Covid-19

These walk sessions are free and start behind Caley's Pavilion.

In November we will continue to hold Walks at KWG unless major changes are made to the rules.

**It is essential to book your place by the Saturday prior to the walk and to cancel if you can't make it as numbers are limited.**

Please ring Wendy **0419 323 035** or email: [wagrimm@tpg.com.au](mailto:wagrimm@tpg.com.au)

#### MONDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> Nov Grasses (Family Poaceae)

9<sup>th</sup> Nov Leptospermum & Callistemon (Family Myrtaceae)

Please note: We are accepting non-members on the walks but pre-registration is **essential**.

- Group numbers & social distancing will be maintained as per NSW advice.
- Walks are easy to medium.
- Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water.

### Do you still need plants?

Sue Bowen reports that there are still some plants in shadehouse needing good homes.

Interested people need to let Sue know on 0478 957 951 or [suzannebowen@gmail.com](mailto:suzannebowen@gmail.com) that they'd like to come to a propagation afternoon and buy plants. (For dates see page 6). **Cash only**.

Like these plants in Jan's garden, all the plants will greatly appreciate the recent rain and grow well.



## APS NSG Annual Trip based at Blackheath 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October

A huge thank you to Sue Fredrickson for the most successful trip which 11 people enjoyed recently. Sue's meticulous preparations mean that everything goes smoothly and we get to visit places with lots of native plants of interest. Thanks to Paul too, for the quiet assistance which you offer on all these planning trips.

The weather obliged and apart from a brief shower which filled the valleys with a Blue Mountains "mist" briefly we enjoyed perfect weather- sunny yet not hot. We were enjoying a coffee at Scenic World after walking around the Katoomba Falls and a section of the Prince Henry Walk when the shower arrived. Perfect timing! The lack of overseas tourists made for a very relaxed time at all the sites ("sorry", to the businesses so adversely affected by the pandemic).



Tuesday saw us all head off to the Lithgow area. We stopped to observe and explore the devastation of the past summer's fires from a pull off area along the Darling Causeway which is the road between Mt Victoria and Bell. That was about a 45 minute explore as we marvelled at how so many ground covering and low plants were regenerating and the epicormic growth on many of the trees. There were even sundew plants in the wetter areas on the rocks. Telegraph posts, truck tyres... EVERYTHING had burnt. However, remarkably the local cicadas had survived and were out in abundance- quiet deafening at times and definitely performing above the recommended noise levels! From there we headed past Lithgow to the Pagoda Rock formations at Dobbs



Lookout. Again, a leisurely inspection of the area meant that we could all enjoy the time, the plants and views. For lunch, some of us headed into Lithgow and looked around Blast Furnace Park. The blast furnace is of local and state historical interest.



Then a trip to Hassans Walls and surrounds. Here Steve and I were enlightened to find out that Sir Joseph Cook was PM of Australia from 24<sup>th</sup> June 1913 to 17<sup>th</sup> September 1914. (6<sup>th</sup> PM- have a look at the turn over of PMs from 1901 to 1913! Alfred Deakin had been PM 3 times and Andrew Fisher twice within that period, so Cook was actually the 9<sup>th</sup> time a PM had been appointed). Helen Drewe and Ken Durie (co authors of *Native Plants: Hassans Walls Reserve Lithgow* Suzanne Lollback, Helen Drewe, Robert Coveny, Ken Durie) met the group and showed us some of these plants, including bright yellow donkey orchids, *Diuris spp.*

A pre dinner visit to Wind Eroded Cave and Anvil Rock topped off the day.

On Wednesday we returned to Katoomba and did the walk to Mini Haha Falls. This area was not affected by fires last summer. Lots of plants in flower. Back to Blackheath and a quick visit to the Rhododendron Garden, where rhododendrons, azaleas and waratahs were putting on spectacular displays and then back to accommodation for lunch. In the afternoon we did two walks- Braeside Walk which was recently reopened after the fires to the lookout of the Grose Valley and then the Fairfax Track walk in the late evening.



Everywhere many plants are showing signs of regeneration as all these areas were burnt in the fires. While the ground is almost fully covered and displaying a general greenness, the loss of trees and /or their foliage showed the land contours more distinctly than at other times.

On Thursday the group dispersed in three directions- west to Wellington, Mt. Wilson and to Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens. We can recommend the Windyrange garden at Mt Wilson- a very beautiful non native garden. It was interesting to hear that it has withstood 5 major fires by being on the sheltered side of the ridge and having good fire prevention methods at the ready.



Mt Tomah was also in full bloom and much enjoyed.

A full three days, but ones filled with much of interest and good company. It was SO exciting that we actually got to go, having booked in February. Thanks again, Sue.

### Group activities

Please note that due to the pandemic it is difficult to arrange garden visits at present. The committee understands that these are very popular and of interest to many members, especially new members.

**November:** members are invited to attend this meeting in lieu of an APS NSG local gathering.

### Saturday 14 November, 3 pm start – Quarterly gathering: Regenerating in western NSW by Andrew Knop

We have cancelled the in-person November weekend get-together due to COVID-19 restrictions, but there is still a talk by Zoom ([link in the November APS NSW newsletter](#)).

Andrew Knop will share his and his wife Jennifer's experiences on regenerating their two properties at Dubbo and Narromine. When Andrew and Jennifer purchased their properties, they were degraded due to livestock grazing and feral animals. After two decades of very fulfilling work they have transformed both properties, with original woodland plants regenerating and wildlife returning. To recreate the original vegetation that existed before farming they relied on the records of the early explorers on the types of vegetation they saw in their travels in the area. Their vision is to leave a positive ecological and carbon footprint legacy. They have learned a great deal over the years and want to share the experiences with other APS NSW members at the gathering.

**Summer months.** No group activities usually happen over the hotter summer months. Group Activity resumes in March.

### New Members

A big welcome to new members Simone Meredith-Jones, Christine Silk (who is rejoining- welcome back) and Peter Simpson.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG and its members. We look forward to the return to more opportunities to meet you in person. In the meantime we hope that we can all share knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.

One spot to find interesting and informative articles is the APS NSW website which covers all the affiliated groups in the state. <https://austplants.com.au/>



*Kunzea ambigua* Jan W



*Xanthorrhoea* Jan W



**Cards for sale.** Covid 19 has impacted our usual activities and there has not been an opportunity for members to buy some of Pam and Jim Lawler's beautiful cards. A percentage of sales goes to the group. They have kindly offered to sell their cards to members.

Please ring Pam on 9498 6093 for details. There is an answering machine. Please leave your contact number if the phone isn't answered and they will return your call.

As information for new members, there is a large selection of images to choose from and all are of the highest quality. They are ideal for messages or as gifts for others to use & very reasonably priced.

## Committee notes for October Committee meeting and Extraordinary Committee meeting

### Regular October committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

- Current and future arrangements due to Covid 19
- Memorial for Alec Fisher at The Knoll
- Potential Christmas function Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December (see December *Blandfordia*)
- APS NSW delegate reported on several matters, including (i) work on a strategy for the future (ii) opening an account to facilitate the provision of electronic payments to APS NSW groups (iii) membership renewals.
- Val Williams Scholarship for 2021 will be \$3000.

### Extraordinary Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Bob Failes (W&T), Jan Marshall (flower display), Michael Griffith (The Knoll) were included in the discussions.

This meeting dealt with all APS NSG matters pertaining to KWG and the Review of the St Ives Showground and Precinct Lands Plan of Management. A stakeholder workshop will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

A representative from APS NSG has been invited to this workshop.

(i) APS NSG to request that two APS NSG members can attend. The long association of APS NSG with KWG means that the group has an extensive knowledge of and records of developments at KWG since its foundation in 1968.

(ii) KMC aims to have the draft review available for public exhibition in early 2021.

(iii) Formal licencing agreements , both temporary and permanent, are envisaged between APS NSG/APS NSW and KMC.

(iv) Discussion about current and possible future storage arrangements for APS NSG materials at KWG

(v) *Action:* current KMC staff to be reminded of the various contributions that APS NSG has made to KWG, both in the past and currently.

(vi) General discussion included plant propagation and sales and exit surveys of visitors to KWG and whether they exist and, if so, what do they show?

## Notices and Reminders

**Not only does the APS NSG committee work hard for its members, the APS NSW Board and committee put in an enormous effort on behalf of all groups and their members.**

The ANPSA Conference *Australian flora - past, present, future* in Kiama has been postponed from 2021 to **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

Members will receive an individual email soon notifying them of the decision. In the meantime Heather Miles has sent the following information.

Dear District Group committees,

The organising committee of the ANPSA Biennial Conference has made the difficult decision to postpone the September 2021 Biennial Conference to September 2022.

While heartened by the reductions in transmission of Covid-19 around Australia, planning for the conference has continued to be difficult due to:

- Our members tending to be from the 'higher risk' category and uncertainties about a vaccine
- Challenges with travel given changing restrictions, particularly other states and internationally
- The changing social distancing requirements at the conference and on buses, with flow-on impacts to tours, excursions and of course costs
- Our view that a digital conference is not a good alternative given how important social interaction and exploring the region's flora are at these conferences.

Our October meeting took us to Southern WA, West Pymble and Ku-ring-gai National Park. Sue Fredrickson and Wendy Grimm showed us some of the highlights of their trips to Albany WA in September 2019 where they attended the ANPSA Biennial Conference.

Sue Fredrickson's presentation was of the most impressive Ravensthorpe Wildflower Show. This is a 12 day show with a substantial proportion of the area's population being involved- displays of plants, flower arrangements, herbarium specimens, photographs and art works, local tours, food and entertainment. Certainly it is an annual event to factor into future travel plans. There is a wide diversity of native plants in the region. In the local area farm gate art and silo art also features and make for interesting sight seeing and community involvement.

Wendy's presentation was of native plants Walpole to Albany and focused on Orchids and Pitcher plants. Wendy's excellent images showed off several species in splendid detail. Considering how small many of these plants are, getting really good images is a definite challenge.

Wendy recommended the following article "New insights into the growth cycle of *Cephalotus follicularis*" Richard Nunn [https://cpn.carnivorousplants.org/articles/CPNv43n3p93\\_96.pdf](https://cpn.carnivorousplants.org/articles/CPNv43n3p93_96.pdf)



Thanks to Pam and Jim Lawler for the stroll through their beautiful garden. One image is shown here.

Scotch whistles (sic) at old community nursery St Ives

Sue Bowen sent this message



"Thank goodness our KWG bushcare team doesn't have to tackle weeds like this every day!!! These thistles were nearly 2m tall!!!"

*Ed Note:* the whistles are when the thorns get you :)

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 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

**Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November**

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.

Information on page 2 is current.

[Walks and Talks](#)

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

#### **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/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.

**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 December 2020 edition this will be 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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