

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



October 2021

President's Message

Dear members,

I hope you are all keeping well and have had your two vaccinations. By now, your gardens must all be absolutely magnificent with all the attention that Covid has allowed you to lavish on them!!!!



KWG early September
Eriostemon australasius

Covid is still affecting our activities and we have decided to hold zoom meetings in October and November. We have two exciting speakers lined up and I would love to see you all at these meetings (see p.5).

We are still planning to proceed with our Spring Plant sale on 31st October at Caley's Pavilion, KWG if possible. We will notify you, by email, if the sale is on, as soon as possible (see below).

We have booked Caley's Patio at KWG for our Xmas lunch on Friday 10th December. Further details will be provided in our November and December *Blandfordias* on how we will celebrate this challenging year!

Sue Bowen

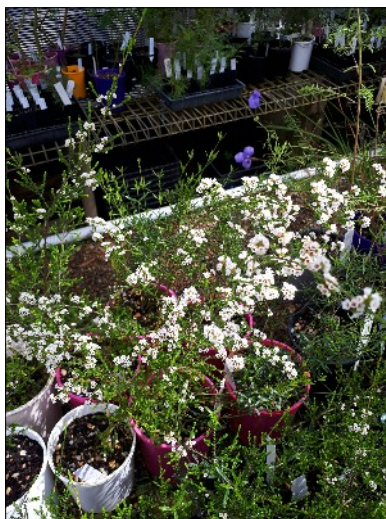


KWG early September
Leucopogon setiger

PLANT SALE

We still hope to have our delayed Spring plant sale on 31st October at Caley's Pavilion. Our shadehouse is brimming with plants wanting to go home to your garden and provide you with joy!

Given that this October edition of *Blandfordia* has come out before we know whether we can hold the sale, **we will notify you, by email, that the sale is on, as soon as possible.** This notification will also provide information on how we will run the sale in a Covid-safe way and request members' assistance.



Micromyrtus ciliatus

Please contact Sue Bowen at suzanneebowen@gmail.com to indicate your early interest in coming to the sale and/or helping out with the sale.



Indigofera australis



Tetratheca thymifolia
(white form)



Aotus ericoides

Delta crossword *Blandfordia* September 2021

Many thanks to Wendy Grimm for providing this entertainment for us.
Clues are on page 3 and solution will be included in November *Blandfordia*.

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Clues:

Across

- 1 North Shore Group emblem (11)
- 6 Eucalypts (4)
- 8, 9 *Pultanea* common name (4, 3)
- 11 Rise (2)
- 12 Broad prefix (4)
- 14 *Acmena* (5,5)
- 15 Nana (4)
- 16 Ladies tresses fall in (7)
- 17 Environmental buzz-word (3)
- 20 Of habitat with well-balanced moisture supply (5)
- 22, 7 Red spider flower (9, 8)
- 24 Basal leaves of ground orchids (7)
- 26 Mimosa (6)
- 29 Small form (4)
- 31 Location of flower bud (4)
- 33 Cordate (5)
- 34 Trace element that helps fix nitrogen from the air (2)
- 35 One shape of an acacia inflorescence (3)
- 36, 46 Pink or white, sweet flowers with 4 petals (7, 7)
- 38 Calling card (4)
- 42 Tree in 1974 film with Omar Sharif & Julie Andrews (8)
- 45 NSW emblem (7)
- 46 See 36



Down

- 2 Species name of very rare local shrub known affectionately as "Hal" (7)
- 3 Species name of critically endangered Wollemi Pine (7)
- 4 Fate of non-performing plant (3)
- 5 Bird ?-bush (3)
- 6 What *Grevillea oldei* has but gardeners lack in pm (2)
- 7 See 22 across (8)
- 9 Genus of "Hal" (15)
- 10 Coloured appendages of acacia seeds (5)
- 13 Branched inflorescence (4)
- 18 The same as or equal (3)
- 19 Primary colour uncommon in flowers (4)
- 20 Clear as (3)
- 21 Sydney Red Gum (7)
- 23 Shy ground cover (5)
- 25 General term for a category of plants (5)
- 27 Mimosa (6)
- 28 Exfoliates (5)
- 30 Species of Prickly-leaved Paperbark (6)
- 31 Best time to water (2)
- 32 Strappy-leaved refuge for frogs (8)
- 37 One of the four "elements" of nature (3)
- 39 Collateral damage from gardening (4)
- 40 *Doryanthes* flower stem is (4)
- 41 Plural abbreviation of "species" (3)
- 42 Thanks (2)
- 43 Appendage (3)
- 44 Species name ending of Soft Tree-fern (3)



Talk by Shubham Chhajed 2020 Val Williams Scholarship
10th September

Hydraulic drivers of photosynthetic variation in co-occurring plant species in Sydney region: a least-cost theory approach

These are general notes that I made during the talk by Jan Williamson

Shubham gave an overview of his research work and thanked APS NSG for the support from the scholarship.

Due to the pandemic and restrictions to movement his studies were limited to local Sydney species, rather than a more diverse sampling in different locations. The study site was the Castlereagh Nature Reserve. This site has Cumberland Plains vegetation which includes a diverse range of native species. It gets a moderate rainfall of 800 mm annually, has moderate soil phosphorus levels (200ppm) and is 30-40 m above sea level. On site and laboratory measurements were taken.

All plants require water and vary in how they use their water budget. Shubham introduced me to the existence of air embolism in plants and the impacts that this can have on the hydraulic pathway from the ground to the leaves. Perhaps naively, I only knew about embolism in animals. Plants lose water to the air through stomata which can adjust their degree of opening according to environmental conditions. Once the flow rate is reduced, photosynthesis is hampered. Plants have strategies to prevent embolism and store water.

Stored water reserves have benefits such as delaying the effects of intense dry conditions, decreasing the risk of embolism and increasing (long term) photosynthetic gains. The cost of storing water include the plant needs to make storage tissues (parenchyma and connective fibres) capable of storing water and increased cost of water use in the short term. Water storage is most useful when water availability fluctuates a lot.

As is common to many processes, photosynthesis is a complex, multifactorial process. Factors such as amount of stem, leaf area, root structure and depth, nutrients, water and light are involved.

From these studies the different species had very different water storage reserves. Shubham hopes to be able to continue this work comparing flora in different locations.

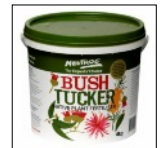
Once again, the enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment of our scholarship winners shone through.



Neutrog agreement with APS NSW (With current restrictions the delivery arrangements may be affected.)

PLEASE consider this- we still need APS NSG volunteer(s)

APS NSW and Neutrog, producers of Bush Tucker, have entered into an agreement whereby Neutrog provides substantial discounts on all Neutrog products to members in exchange for APS NSW promoting Bush Tucker.



For full details go to <https://resources.austplants.com.au/stories/member-benefit-discounted-neutrog-products-bush-tucker/>.

Individual members order, and pay for orders, directly with Neutrog. Four times a year all orders for a District Group, in our case APS North Shore Group, are collated and a single delivery of all the orders is made to **one specified location**. Orders are then collected by members from this location. **For APS NSG to be involved one member needs to be the delivery coordinator (liaising with Neutrog) and one member needs to offer a location for the delivery of the Neutrog products. The same person can do both tasks or two people can do the 2 different tasks. Members should contact our president Sue Bowen, suzanneebowen@gmail.com if interested in doing both, or either of these tasks.** Once these roles are organised, APS NSG members will be given the option to either opt in or out of the arrangement with Neutrog. Those members who opt in will have their email contact details sent to Neutrog.

For more information <https://neutrog.com.au/>
<https://neutrog.com.au/2019/08/19/bush-tucker/>

Next Meeting on FRIDAY 8th OCTOBER 2021

7.45pm for 8pm by ZOOM



Speaker: Robert King

Topic: Mangroves - flowering plants at the land sea interface

Background:

Robert King spent much of his academic life as Professor of Botany at the University of NSW. His general research interests centred on the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of macroalgae (seaweeds) and seagrasses in south eastern Australia. He had a particular research interest in the algae associated with mangroves worldwide, with specific attention to salt tolerance in an environment with rapid changes in salinity.

The term mangrove refers to both an unusual group of essentially tropical plants and the communities. We only have two mangrove species in the Sydney region, but in northern Australia there is a rich and varied collection of species all coping with an environment that appears inimical to flowering plants. Mangroves exhibit a range of adaptations enabling them to cope in an environment with regular inundation, variable salinity, unstable sediments and wave action. The term has no taxonomic significance but is an ecological category of plants defined by this challenging environment. Mangroves occur in a surprising range of familiar plant families, and are related to many genera which are well known as garden plants.

This talk will be followed by a short presentation: **Virtual trip to Capertee area by Hugh Jones**

November meeting: 12th November 2021 Speaker Jonathan Lidbetter Topic: A surprise. Jonathan's comments

"My main passion is propagation and development of native plants for commercial cultivation and my experience covers the full range from seeds, cuttings, budding and grafting to tissue culture." should ensure a most engaging talk.

Note: November meeting will also include the election of the 2022 APS NSG Committee. Please give some thought on how you can contribute.

New members

Welcome to Mark B. and Alice M.* We look forward to meeting you and sharing with you our interest in, and knowledge of, Australian native plants.

If you have joined APS NSG recently we would love to hear from you. We understand that the pandemic has impacted on opportunities for everyone to meet in person and participate in the various activities of APS NSG.

However, your expectations and whether we, and the state body APS NSW, are meeting those expectations are important to us. The expertise and interests of our members are highly varied and often of a very high calibre. All are ready to share.

If you have any suggestions and /or contributions for *Blandfordia* please contact editor, Jan Williamson at janw7531@gmail.com Pages 7 & 8 have details of the contact people for different activities.

*Note: full names are not being used for privacy reasons.



Hakea sp. in flower Jan W

More tips by Jeff Howes

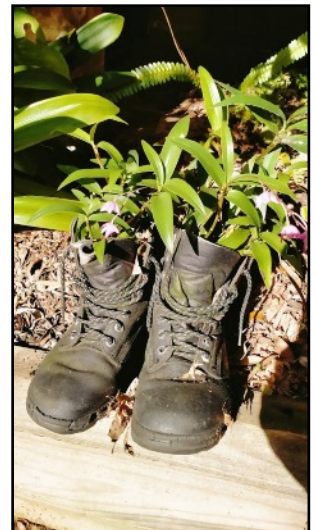
Who said *Dendrobium* orchids were hard to grow? The ones in the picture receive the hot afternoon sun and flower well, although they do best with morning sun and no afternoon sun. This is only the second year they have been placed on the rock and over time they will cover the whole rock.



To establish it is as easy as 1, 2, 3 and 4.

1. Select a rock to establish them on and cover with some fine leaf litter.
2. Select a small clump of orchids with a rhizome containing 2 or 3 pseudo bulbs with roots that have green tips (active growth) on them.
3. Place this orchid on the rock and cover the roots with some more fine leaf litter. Hold the orchid firm with a few rocks that are heavy enough to stop movement (important). Rocks can be removed after roots have attached themselves to the base rock or left in place.
4. Water well and keep moist but not wet for a few weeks and you will have success.





Orchids growing in ground ?- no just appears so.

To grow orchids apparently in the ground, which they do not, just cheat a little and place it on a large flat rock or some paving stones above soil level and pack around it with plenty of leaf litter and in a few years time it will flower prolifically.

The photo is of a *Dendrobium delectatum* (lovely perfume)

I am growing, as above. Rocks placed either side add to the illusion. Easy.

Another option- just some orchid mix and well worn boots. Jan W.



Dodonaea viscosa in Jan W's garden

Following the discussion on successfully watering and fertilising potted plants in September *Blandfordia* one of our members, Alan Wilson responded by offering his recent experience with another product. "It's a somewhat fibrous material that looks a bit like potting mix, but isn't. You put a small quantity in the pot or garden bed; It is OK on top of the soil or you can mix it into the soil (perhaps better). The information says it increases water penetration, reduces run-off and (therefore) improves water retention. Essentially it is a form of wetting agent. Those with knowledge of 'Physical Chemistry' (a challenging university subject as I recall) will understand that this is a matter of 'Surface Tension' – basically, it's all about electrons. Well – I paid \$25 for a nice little tub, of 2.5 litres of it. You don't have to keep adding more and more to the same location, so I think this tub will last us quite a long time. I've not attempted any scientific assessment of how well it works. The product is called 'Saturaid' and it is produced and sold by a local company called Debco. <https://www.lovethegarden.com/au-en/debco>."

If there is opportunity at the end of the next couple of meetings maybe we can share our watering practices and experiences with various agents. This will fit in with Shubham's talk and the coming of the hotter months.

Interesting article on mistletoe recommended by Sue Bowen.

For more information about Mistletoe from the Hunter Region Landcare Network: <https://hunterlandcare.org.au/woodland-birds-school-program-feature-mistletoe-marvellous-yet-often-misunderstood/>

Living in this area of Sydney is a real privilege, especially in these times of lock downs.

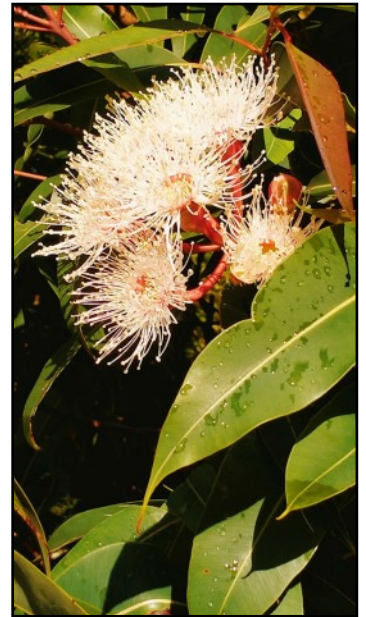
Both our local councils, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby, have lots of information and suggestions on their websites.

Ku-ring-gai <https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Home>

Hornsby <https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/>

- Sydney Wildlife Rare and Threatened Species - Jayden Walsh- webinar
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE_hJLSyIqs
- Fire management – Mark Schuster, Jenny Scott and James Chan-webinar
<https://climatewisecommunities.com.au/videos-and-other-information>

Also walking tracks in Ku-ring-gai :<https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Things-to->



The first flowers of the season on my WA dwarf flowering gum. Jan W

The **Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference** and AGM for 2021 will take place on Saturday the 6th November. As its such an uncertain time, we cannot say for sure whether it will be online or in person. At this stage we imagine a hybrid event in a venue in Sydney and online. **For more details contact Jacqui Mumford** jmumford@nature.org.au



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



Save the date: Kiama Pavilion, Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September 2022
For full details: <https://austplants.com.au/ANPSA-Biennial-Conference-2022>



F. J. C. Rogers Seminar 15th & 16th October 2022

Topics include: *Identification *Propagation *Horticulture *Research
Hosted by Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Contact: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com
apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022



APS NSG activities

Subject to 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 Contact:Tania Lamble 0415 043 671

Bushcare at KWG 21st Contact: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

The Knoll Contact: Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

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

Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives Contact: Wendy Grimm wagrimm@tpg.com.au
0419 323 035

Narelle received this email of concern:

As you might be aware, we are currently in the **throes of a frog death event**. An unprecedented number of frogs are succumbing to the chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*), particularly along the east coast. The Australian Museum is working closely with various agencies to understand the causes of this and develop mitigation and conservation strategies to save our frogs- especially those that are already threatened!

What can we do to help?

● **Use the Frog ID app**

In order to gather as much data as possible, the Australian Museum is requesting that we all download and use the FrogID app (Google play for Android or The App store for Apple) to identify and record any frogs we might hear around our homes or nearby bushland.

● **Take note of any sick or dead frogs**

Please be on the look out for any sick or dead frogs. Sick frogs can be identified by their behaviour (active during daylight hours, found in the sun etc.) or physical appearance (discoloured skin, underweight etc.)

● **Report**

Any records of sick or dead frogs (including photos, date and location) can be sent by email to calls@frogid.net.au

● **Collect Samples**

The head scientist of FrogID, Dr Jodi Rowley, is requesting that people safely collect any dead frogs where possible as they are essential for important study into this event. Using disposable gloves (or a plastic bag), dead frogs can be placed in a ziplock bag or other suitable container and stored in the freezer. Once the sample is in the freezer, please contact Dr Rowley on 0417 489 962 to arrange for the sample to be transported to the research facility.

Further information

Australian Museum website:

<https://australian.museum/get-involved/citizen-science/frogid/appeal-save-australias-frogs/>

Chytrid Fungus Disease:

https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/279bf387-09e0-433f-8973-3e18158febb6/files/c-disease_1.pdf

Fingers crossed our combined efforts will help find some answers and save our amazing frogs!



September Committee meeting notes (virtual zoom meeting)

The following items were discussed:

- Impact of resurgence of Covid pandemic and increased restrictions on all activities- all activities are currently suspended
- Speakers for 2022 -potential sources
- Plant sale - 31st October (subject to adherence with Covid 19 NSW Govt restrictions at that time)
- Neutrog agreement: APS NSG volunteer/s still required.
- APS NSW & UTS project

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 November 2021 edition this will be 15th October 2021 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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