

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

MARCH 2019

Getting involved with Frogs

ENTHUSIASM must be Kathy Potter's second name. Her love of frogs was obvious as was her knowledge of frogs and their needs and wants. Kathy is currently the publicity officer of the Frog and Tadpole Study Group. FATS is concerned with conservation, education and welfare of frogs.

Kathy commented that if you find a "stowaway" frog in green groceries etc it cannot be released into the new local habitat.

Frogs are indicators of a healthy environment. Once frogs are successfully attracted the local biodiversity will also increase – e.g. birds that eat frogs.

Frogs are nocturnal.

What can we do to encourage frogs to our environments?



Given this little fellow's size, he is probably about 20 years old.

GARDENS

Water source- ponds, pools, pots and pipes.

Pipes (e.g. PVC pipes of any diameter) can be vertical habitats- they need to be about 60-100 cm tall with a few holes drilled about 15 cm from the top so that any excess water will escape and the frogs will not drown. If using pipes locate them in a position so that other species cannot accidentally fall in and drown, e.g. lizards. The frogs cling to the internal surface of the head space of the pipe.

The water sources can be on hard surfaces e.g. sandstone or concrete drives. Different heights of water attract different frogs. Moisture is essential for frogs to survive but they do not live in water.

NATIVE fish in the water source will help keep mosquitoes in check.

Plastic buckets with logs and sticks protruding can also provide a successful habitat.

Kathy encouraged everyone to experiment with materials and microclimates.

Shelter- plants and shelter items- leaf litter, logs, rocks, pipes etc. The site needs to be dark, damp and safe.

Safety- protection from other animals both native and non native (keep pets in at night).

Protect from chemicals (soaps, detergents). Frogs breathe through their skin so lots of things can be detrimental to their well being.

Before adding water to a frog environment stand the tap water in a bucket or container for a few days to let the chlorine dissipate.

Other hints for successfully encouraging frogs to your garden include

Know: *what species live in your area- ground frogs or tree frogs*
what do they look like (note many frogs can change colour)
what sounds do they make (only the males call)
where do they like to live
where do they breed

Some of the species that occur in the Sydney area include The Striped Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes peronii*), Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*), Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog (*Litoria fallax*) and Common Eastern Froglet (*Crinia signifera*). The Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*) used to be found in the Sydney area but this is no longer the case.

Australia has no native toads, however some ground frogs look like toads. The Cane Toad (*Bufo marinus*) is an introduced species that is toxic at all phases of its life cycle.

For information about frogs there are several resources

FATS <https://www.fats.org.au/>

The Frog and Tadpole Study Group of New South Wales (FATS) conducts various community and conservation activities to assist frogs. These include holding information stalls at community environment fairs, presenting workshops on how to make your backyard frog friendly, building frog ponds and school presentations about frogs. FATS also runs a Frog rescue program for stow-away frogs that are accidentally transported into the cities, as well as cane toad removal and awareness programs. FATS also has advisors on governmental panels and conducts frogging field trips to various parts of the state.

Amphibian Research Centre <https://frogs.org.au/arc/>

Australian Museum now has a Frog ID app. <https://www.frogid.net.au/> which is encouraging citizen science.

If you wish to support this initiative to help expand the knowledge bank about frogs there are a few hints.

- (1) Have the phone pointed away from your body as the microphone is on the base.
- (2) Do not move around while recording as the microphone picks up **all** sounds.
- (3) Wait for the frog to "get going" with its calling.

Office of the Environment and Heritage

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/frogs>

Written by and image by Jan Williamson

APS NSG spreads the word: love native plants....

Helen, Rae, Gene and Judy (not in photo) had fun promoting APS NSG at Hornsby Seniors' Week Expo on Friday.

Sue, Margaret, Mike and Jeannie participated at the Ku-ring-gai Seniors' Week at St Ives on Tuesday.

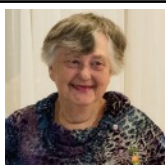
People showed much interest in the group and 51 plants found a new home.

Thanks to all who participated.



A warm WELCOME to new members John Graham, Maryanne Sansom and Amanda Snelling.

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



Congratulations from APS NSG to Merle Thompson who was awarded an OAM in the 2019 Australia Day Honours List.

Members will appreciate the pivotal role Merle has filled in Australian Plants Society NSW (APS NSW) as an organisation and as a font of knowledge where native plants are concerned. Other organisations have benefited from her dedication including the Australian Federation of Graduate Women and Polio NSW.

The Knoll at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

Michael Griffith (The Knoll Care Team Member)

First set up in the 1970s *The Knoll* at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, was reinvented in 2007 by a band of volunteers, spearheaded by Alec Fisher and Wendy Grimm. They rescued the area from an invasion of bracken-fern that took over around 2000. Prior to that the area had been a site for growing Western Australian species. This was under the enthusiastic care of Ross Doig and Max Hewett, both of whom many of you will remember. Alec Fisher tells me there is one remnant of this Western Australian planting which is just to the right of the top of the stairs that rise in the middle of the Knoll. Alec and Wendy, with help, began clearing and planting the site but found soon that the local wallabies took great delight in nipping the tasty leaves of the new young natives. So the team applied for help and persuaded Ku-ring-gai council to put in a fence around the whole Knoll area to the tune of \$10,000. This amount was funded partly by council and partly by the North Shore Group. Little did the team know that an invasion of rabbits was also in the offing and soon these critters had burrowed deep under the new fence and continued the devastation. Alec and Wendy then spent many days on their knees creating a rabbit-proof lower fence.

From that time on the native plants have been flourishing. Indeed, the garden is currently burgeoning, and as I write it has wonderful displays of pink *Croweas*, red and white clumps of *Epacris*, new heads of *Callistemon citrinus*, buds of *Melaleuca thymifolia* and a range of *Grevillea* flowers... the list goes on. And this is largely due to Alec Fisher's sustained program of planting which he has been doing with a small continuing team of helpers. They have also been reconstructing the walls of the beds, relocating and repairing the watering system and generally keeping the site weed free and the paths clear. This is for the range of visitors from Sydney and overseas who come to see our local flowering plants in a concentrated and accessible area. For his work Alec Fisher has received a medal for his Services to the Environment.

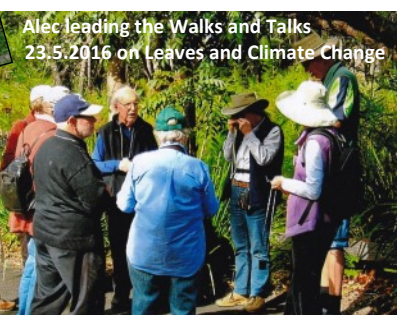
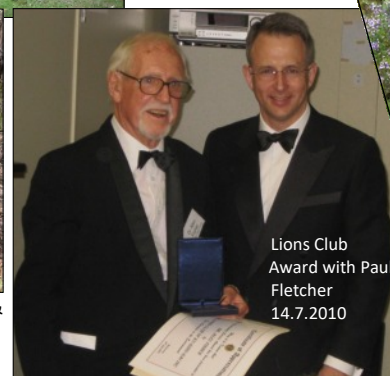
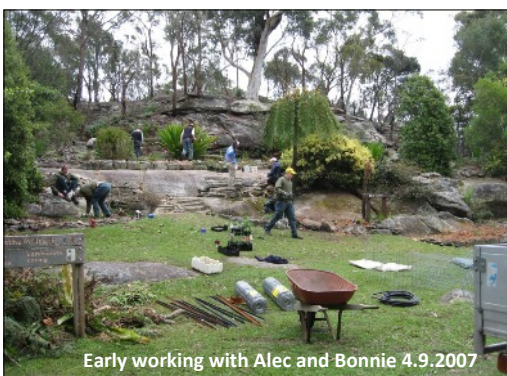
It is with some sadness that we have to report that Alec has had to step down as the chief organizer of our regular Knoll maintenance team, so this is an opportunity to thank him heartily for having been so passionate and consistent in his work for The Knoll. He has left a legacy of care and we hope to continue his work.

Stephen Brown and Rose and Michael Griffith. (The Knoll care team members)

For anyone interested in working on the Knoll, the current plan is to work on every second and fourth Friday of the month from 10am to 12 pm. We would welcome any assistance from others who are able to join us. We will meet at around 9.50 am in the carpark next to the locked gate that leads down to Lambert's clearing.

The dates for the next few months of 2019 are- 8th & 22nd March 8, 12th & 26th April, 10th & 24th May

Please email michaelgriffith1@gmail.com if you wish to join us on any of the nominated days and we will look out for you.



Notices and Reminders

APS NSG WALKS and TALKS programme In term 1 there will be 3 Walks only:

- Monday 4th March (focused on the history of KWG),
- Monday 8th April (focused on edible plants) &
- Monday 6th May (focused on wildlife).

These walks are classified as easy and they are free. Contact person for these walks is Helen 9489 1735.

Participants should bring hat, good walking shoes, a snack, sunscreen and insect repellent and water.

After each session, if you wish to have a chat with some participants and enjoy a light lunch please bring your own food and drink. Meet at **Caley's Pavilion at 9.45 am** for a 10.00 am start. Finishing time is usually about 12.30 pm.

Caley's Pavilion- turn right at first T intersection within KWG and follow the road.

GROUP ACTIVITY on SUNDAY 10th March TO Munmorah State Conservation Area

(change from previously advertised in February *Blandfordia*)

For the first walk for the year, we are joining up with a small number of members of the Newcastle APS Group. Their walk leader will be Mark Abell. The walk destination has brilliant coastal scenery and very interesting plants.

In Marks words.... "At Snapper Point we will- see the Blowhole & the prostrate *Casuarina glauca* ("Cousin It") plants . Then it is on to the cool rainforest of "The Palms Picnic Area" to walk the circuit track and have lunch (there are toilet facilities at the nearby Frazer Park). After lunch we will head out to Wybung Head stopping along the way to look at the compact forms of *Banksia spinulosa* var. *collina* and *Hakea bakeriana*.

Note: if you do not have a National Parks Pass there is an entry fee of \$8 per vehicle."

Meeting place: Carpark at the end of the road Snapper Point, Munmorah State Conservation Area (SCA). (see below for directions)

Meeting time: 10am Sunday on 10th March

Bring: Morning tea, lunch, plenty of water, good walking shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, hat, Plant ID book and swimming gear if you like. **Contact person:** Sue Fredrickson 0401 362 921 Please let me know if you plan to attend.

Directions: Driving time from the start of the M1 motorway at Wahroonga is just over an hour (allow an extra 20 minutes though in case of delays or wrong turns etc). Stay on the M1 for 75.7 km (approximately 48 minutes) where you will take the exit for the A43 road (the Doyalson Link Road). Continue into Doyalson. When you see the Doyalson Wyee RSL club on the right, it is 6 km to Elizabeth Bay Drive. Turn right onto it and after 2-3 minutes, take the left turn into the Munmorah SCA. Continue via Campbell Drive. Follow signs to Snapper Point, staying on Campbell Drive. (Don't take turnoff to Freeman's campground).

APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING is being hosted by APS NSG on SATURDAY 23rd MARCH at KWG

Program: 10.30 am Walks and talks. A choice of two guided walks around the gardens:

- Walk 1 will visit the rare plants in the garden and the propagation area
- Walk 2 will look at the rainforest plants in the gardens.

12 - 1 pm Lunch. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be available. **Plants** will be on sale during lunch time.

1-3 pm: Mark Paul's presentation on **Greenwalls**, followed by afternoon tea.

Our guest speaker is Mark Paul, Horticulturist and Founder of The Greenwall Company. Mark will share his expertise with us on the design, construction and choice of plants suitable for greenwalls. His company is involved in greenwall design and construction, in a wide range of residential, commercial and public works.

In a recent media release, Mark stated "We have been working tirelessly on creating new forms of eco-friendly greenwalls for all types of spaces, including new designs for high-rise buildings. Not only do greenwalls look fantastic on the exteriors of the buildings, but they truly transform the aesthetics and atmosphere of the street, and surrounding areas, not to mention the health benefits.

For further information about projects Mark's company has created, visit his company's website at <https://greenwall.com.au>



HELPERS are needed. Our group runs the morning activity and provides tea and coffee and afternoon tea. Please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com or 9875 2262 if you are able to assist in any way: walks, plant sales and moving them to and from Caley's Pavilion, serving and providing afternoon tea ...

It is the day of the NSW State Elections - please remember to vote. Voting times are from **8 am to 6 pm**

Tuesday 5th March — Talk on Powerful Owls

Have you heard an owl hooting in the night near your place? Chances are there may be one not too far from you ... and not just any owl, but our largest and one of our most magnificent owls, the Powerful Owl. Although a threatened species, Powerful Owls are making themselves known in Sydney, and keeping them in urban spaces is a crucial part of maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Dr Beth Mott will talk about the role of these top predators in urban ecosystems, why the Sydney Basin owl population is so important, and what we can do to help protect and increase the number of owls in our urban areas.

There's so much we can do at small and large scales to help owls stay with us, so come along and have a hoot!

Hosted by STEP, Friends of Berowra Valley and the Powerful Owl Coalition

Date: Tuesday 5 March

Time: 7:15 pm

Place: Hornsby Central Library, 24—44 George Street, Hornsby, NSW 2077



Boongala Native Gardens & Rainforest: Plant sales, open gardens and rainforest walks Friday, Saturday and Sunday
76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst 10am to 4pm from 1st to the 31st of March, 2019
For full details www.boongalagardens.com

APS NSW Annual General Meeting and second 2019 Quarterly Gathering – Saturday, 18 May 2019

Hosted by the Blue Mountains Group at Blaxland Community Hall, 33 Hope St, Blaxland

<https://austplants.com.au/Latest-news/7156997>

APS NSW Get Together Newcastle 17th & 18th August

Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) ANPSA National Conference and Biennial General Meeting 2019 will be held in Albany WA from 29th September to 3rd October 2019.
Registration for the conference is now open and the tours are proving popular so you might want to let your members know that they should get in early. It all happens from here: www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au



At a recent Presidents' Workshop, the Board outlined the challenges it was experiencing in undertaking all the tasks required to keep the Society operating, let alone progressing the strategy.

While financial management has successfully been outsourced to Accounting for Good, there are many jobs still to be done, whether as a Board member or in a non-Board capacity. These include:

- Assisting with managing the website and developing content including fact sheets and plant profiles
- Developing communications to members as well as online content/journal for members e.g. online journal
- Overseeing organisation of Gatherings and Get togethers (i.e. Program Officer)
- Editing the *Australian Plants* journal
- Developing promotional and marketing communications and materials for non-members
- Assisting with the Biennial Conference in 2021 including design and organisation of the event, as well as pre- and post-conference tours
- Engaging other stakeholders with similar aims and ambitions to APS NSW
- Being part of the Board of APS NSW. Our board are both board members (governance) as well as do operations of the organisation. Roles include event coordination, risk management, secretarial responsibilities

If you are interested in assisting with any of these jobs or part of these jobs, please contact John Aitken (johnstaceaitken@gmail.com) or Heather Miles (heather@heathermiles.com.au) to discuss ideas and what might make sense. Together, we can hopefully keep the Society successfully operating for the next 60 years.'

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm on **13th & 27th March 2019**

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at 9 am on **6th & 20th March 2019**

Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Monday [Walks and Talks](#) at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives.

These will resume in 2019 with **Walks only** on 4th March, 8th April and 6th May

Contact for walks Helen 9489 1735
Walks and Talks resuming on Monday 17th June.

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

The Knoll KWG Fridays 10am to 12 noon. **8th & 22nd March 2019**

Contact: Michael Griffith

michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

Members and friends are always welcome at these activities.

February Committee Notes

- APS NSW Quarterly Gathering
- Future meeting venue (after 2019)
- Seniors' Week activities with KC & HSC
- Val Williams Scholarship selection committee change
- Financial matters & potential change of financial institution for investments.
- March group activity change
- Change of printer for APS NSW publications
- Second hand book sales & donations
- The Knoll
- Risk Assessment upgrade
- Hornsby Herbarium

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 8th March 2019 (7.30 pm for 8 pm)

Beatrice Taylor Hall
Willow Park Community Centre,
Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Speaker: Jayden Walsh
Topic: Flora and fauna of
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park



Background:

Jayden Walsh will give an insightful presentation on the Fauna and its connections to the Flora of Ku-ring-gai Chase NP. Come along to learn about rare and infrequently sighted wildlife that calls our backyard home and how it utilises the unique flora of Sandstone escarpments. Jayden has been studying the wildlife in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park since he was a high school student and has done several presentations for "Wild things".

Next meeting **Friday 12th April**

Speaker: Linda Groom

Topic Save Kosci Walk

For the full year's programme go to:

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

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

Address for general correspondence:

Australian Plants Society, North Shore Group, PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE 2069

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://www.austplants.com.au/about-membership>.

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.

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

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson

9875 2262 janw7531@gmail.com

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

For the April 2019 edition this will be 15th March 2019 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069