

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

MAY 2019



At the April general meeting Sue Bowen had the pleasure of presenting the 2018 APS NSG Awards, which are selected by the president. Unfortunately, Barry Lees (2018 President) was not well enough to attend the meeting.

Judy Jeffery received the Mel Dyer Award which is awarded to the member making the most valuable contribution to the Group during the year. (Image on left).

Kylie Hanks received the Noel Rosten Encouragement Award.

Congratulations to both Judy and Kylie and thank you for the important contributions that you have made to the group.

Images by Jan Williamson

A warm WELCOME to new members David Morgan, Daniel Richards and Satoshi Komoriya (an overseas member in Japan).

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.



Pam and Jim Lawler will have their beautiful cards for sale at the 10th May meeting.



Sparkle in the garden after some rain today



Saving Kosci Walk

Linda Groom

It's a park, not a paddock

Linda gave a most informative talk about the walk which was undertaken from 3rd November 2018 to 9th December 2018. She explained why it was held, how it was organised and what happened along the walk. The walk went from The Domain in Sydney to Mt Kosciuszko and covered 560km over 36 days. While many people joined for various sections, five people were “full distance walkers”, who walked the whole route.



Why the walk: To raise public attention to the impact that wild horses are having on the ecology of the Snowy Mountains and how the legislation impacts on the management of this area, especially the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Bill 2018 <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/bills/Pages/bill-details.aspx?pk=3518>. This legislation overrides **ALL** other plans for the area and means that what benefits the horses may take precedence.

How was the walk organised?: By using resources such as Google Streetview, maps to find the best lower traffic routes, facilities along the proposed routes, locations for suitable accommodation (campsites, local pubs etc), gaining the appropriate permissions from the police and local authorities, including management groups of decommissioned railways.

What happened along the walk: Walkers talked to locals, media & politicians, letterbox drops en route, offered petitions for people to sign.

What has happened after the walk: Continued promotion of the issues, petitions to try and repeal the “Brumbies Bill” and letter writing sessions. Different strategies and discussion points are required to communicate with different interest groups.

What is happening in the Kosciuszko National Park:

The area is full of a very diverse and specific array of flora and fauna which exist in an environment with very different climatic conditions, when compared with the rest of Australia. It is an extremely complex ecosystem. It is an alpine environment with regular snow falls. Many species are listed as threatened or endangered. Many species of daisies thrive in the area. Some fencing off and captive breeding programmes are being implemented to try and save various populations of plants and animals.

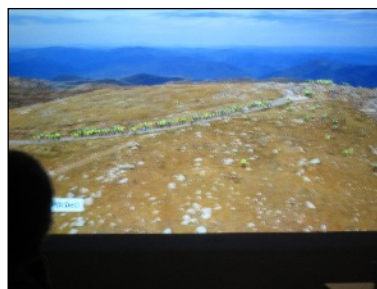
The impact of horses on the environment includes the erosion and trampling of vegetation around the edges and stream bank collapse, which turns thriving waterways into sterile creeks. Water levels have dropped where these impacts are severe with the consequence that the native vegetation can no longer survive. Passive trapping and rehoming of the horses has been about 200 per year recently, while > 600 horses are being added each year. Land based and aerial shooting are the most humane ways of controlling these horse populations. NSW is the only state that does not allow shooting of wild horses as a control measure. Pigs and deer can be shot. Darting mares and fertility control measures are not viable or effective in this environment.

What do the endemic plants do for the environment?

- Support other organisms such as insects and fauna by providing food and shelter.
- Plants act as engineers by acting as
 - (i) natural baffles to slow the flow of water- this reduces downstream flooding and protects stream banks.
 - (ii) store water and create carbon sinks. *Sphagnum cristatum* can store 20% of its own weight. It requires at least 30% shade and can grow on slopes thereby stabilising the water course banks. This vegetation provides the nesting sites for the corroboree frog, *Pseudophryne corroboree*.
 - (iii) creating a subnivean space. This is in fact holding up the snow and acting like a blanket or a “roof” and creating a space for animals such as Broad toothed rat, *Mastacomys fuscus*.

For more information: <https://reclaimkosci.org.au/#>

Written by and images by Jan Williamson

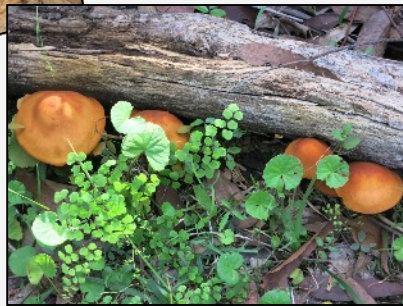


The participants reach the final destination of the walk, as seen from a helicopter.



A small group of members had a wonderful afternoon in the local Westleigh/ Normanhurst Blue Gum High forest.

David Morgan's images captured the mood and beauty of the area.



The Group Outing on Saturday 11th May will offer a different degree of difficulty. It will still be inspirational and demonstrate the variety and beauty of our native flora.

Helen and Ed Peel have generously invited us to visit their beautiful Native Garden that they have created in West Pymble. Morning tea will be served on the terrace overlooking the garden on what promises to be a very pleasant morning.

Details are as follows:

Time: **10 am Saturday 11th May**

Place: The address is **50 Yanko Rd. West Pymble**, between Congham Rd and Gillian Parade.

This is across the road from Bicentennial Park on fairly busy Yanko Road. There is a long driveway with very limited parking up the driveway near the house for people with mobility issues. Otherwise, please park in Congham Rd or Gillian Parade.

What to bring: Sensible shoes for getting around the garden safely, hat or umbrella- depending on the prevailing weather! Morning tea will be provided.

Contact Person: **Sue Fredrickson** mobile **0401 362 921**. For catering purposes, please RSVP by sms or a call if you plan to come. Please ring to check the visit will go ahead if the weather looks poor.

Large Forest Owls Project

The Nature Conservation Council has launched a new program. Through this project we are working with landholders to protect and enhance key nesting habitat and food resources for Vulnerable large forest owls across the Richmond Clarence-Lowlands. The project is working to ensure the survival of three Vulnerable species: the Barking Owl (*Ninox connivens*), Masked Owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae*) and the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*).

While most of APS NSG members don't live anywhere near the area being studied, members may be interested as powerful owls are definitely seen and heard locally.

For more information or to be involved in the project:

<https://www.nature.org.au/healthy-ecosystems/large-forest-owls-project/>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/large-forest-owls-expression-of-interest-registration-58225320501>



Lyn Kirby whet our appetite for **Carnivorous Plants** at the April meeting by giving a short talk on the **Plants with Bite Exhibition** which is currently on at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. Located at the building called The Calyx, the closest entry is Morshead Fountain Gate, Shakespeare Place corner Macquarie Street.

It is a free exhibition, 7 days a week from 10 am to 4 pm. <https://www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/whatson/plants-with-bite>

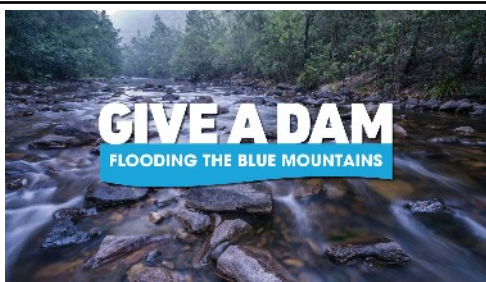
Lyn gave us a brief overview of these plants that need to

- attract or lure insects by a combination of smell, perfume and/or colourful cues
- then capture the insects
- then digest the insects with enzymes.

The plants include sundews, butterworts and fly traps . The most common morphological form is fly paper traps along the edge of leaves with sticky surfaces and digestive juices. Also common are pitfall traps have waxy slippery surfaces internally with a well of water at the bottom. The movements of an insect struggling induce the release of enzymes. Sometimes hairs will help to direct the prey. Other plants have snap traps or bladder traps on both terrestrial and aquatic plants. Digestion can take 5-14 days and trap features and leaves can only operate a finite number of times, before new leaves grow.

Carnivorous plants generally live in poor soil or nitrogen deficient conditions. Threats to their survival include habitat loss and pollution, poaching and weed invasion. The water table conditions are critical to their existence. They can be cultivated provided the correct conditions are met. These conditions include rainwater or filtered water, appropriate light and an environment with high humidity.

Greg Bourke will be presenting Plants with a Bite from 1-3 pm on Saturday 18th May at the APS NSW Gathering at Blaxland. See page 5 for more details.

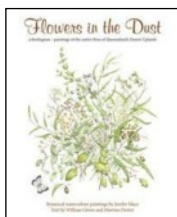


The NSW Government wants to raise the Warragamba Dam wall so it can over-develop western Sydney floodplains, and destroy 65 kilometres of NSW wilderness rivers. When the community gets active, change is made. This documentary showcases the spectacular landscapes under threat and the people who are trying to save it.

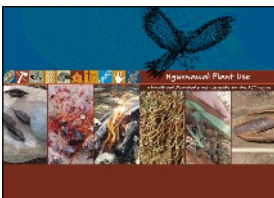
Come watch the film and chat to key members of the campaign at Hornsby Library at 2 pm on Sunday the 5th May.

This event is being jointly sponsored by Give a Dam, Friends of Berowra Valley, STEP and the Powerful Owl Alliance.

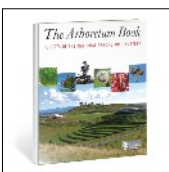
Some of the new books in the library



MACE, Jenny *Flowers in the Dust*. A florilegium - paintings of the native flora of Queensland's Desert Uplands. The Desert Uplands region is between the Brigalow belt to the east and the Mitchell grass downs to the west. Astride the Great Dividing Range and comprising 4 percent of Queensland's land surface, it is a region of eroded sandstone plateaus and extensive sand plains. This book honours the region's botanical heritage through the exquisite watercolour paintings of Barcaldine artist Jenny Mace which shows the beauty and significance of the flowers that grow in this region.



NGUNNAWAL *Ngunnawal Plant Use* A traditional Aboriginal plant use guide for the ACT region. This book was produced by the ACT Government in partnership with local Ngunnawal Elders and their families to capture and record traditional plant knowledge in a contemporary context, to preserve it for future generations, and promote greater appreciation of the cultural heritage values of native vegetation in the region to the broader community.



MELODEON, Mel *The Arboretum Book. Forests of the National Arboretum Canberra*
The National Australian Arboretum is home to 50,000 trees, many of them endangered, threatened or even extinct in the wild. The book tells many stories of these trees, their histories, their characteristics and their botanic value. The book covers some of the background to the setting up of the Arboretum, the planting of the 104 separate forests, development of the site, community involvement and the evolutionary landscape and future projects. As a point of interest our North Shore group contributed financial support towards the new special "Terra Australis": garden which was opened and dedicated in November 2018 as part of the Arboretum's ongoing development.

Notices and Reminders

APS NSG WALKS and TALKS programme

In term 1 the next walk will be on Monday 6th May. The walk commences at 10am but it is advisable to be there at 9.45 am. Besides the impressive native plants a variety of native wildlife will be highlighted on the upcoming walk. Enjoy the walk with talented leaders at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. This walk is classified as easy and is free. Contact person for this walks is Helen 9489 1735.

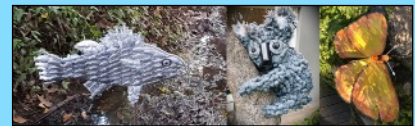
Participants should bring hat, good walking shoes, a snack, sunscreen and insect repellent and water. After each session, if you wish to have a chat with some participants and enjoy a light lunch please bring your own food and drink. Meet at **Caley's Pavilion at 9.45 am** for a 10.00 am start. Finishing time is usually about 12.30 pm. Caley's Pavilion- turn right at first T intersection within KWG and follow the road.

WALKS & TALKS resume on Monday 17th June *An introduction to Australian Native Plants*
24th June *Banksias (Family Proteaceae)*

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

MAY GROUP OUTING will be a visit to a beautiful native garden at West Pymble on **SATURDAY 11th May** starting at **10 am. 50 Yanko Rd. West Pymble**, between Congham Rd and Gillian Parade. Full details see page 3.

JUNE GROUP OUTING : Working bee at 9am at the shadehouse at KWG followed by a BBQ.



Wildflower Art and Garden Festival 2019 Sunday 25th AUGUST at KWG

Please set aside this date. and Friday 23rd & Saturday 24th August for doing the flowers, setting up and moving the plants. Any small vases or containers for flower arrangements will be most welcome. Any ideas for new activities/ displays etc are always welcome. Please contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com

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

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

AGM at 12.30 pm when BARRY LEES will be endorsed as a Life Member.

Guest speaker PLANTS WITH A BITE with GREG BOURKE, 1 PM TO 3 PM

For full details of the day's programme <https://austplants.com.au/event-3352791?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5%2F18%2F2019>

The Illawarra Grevillea Park Autumn Open Days Weekends of 4th & 5th and 11th & 12th May. 10 am to 4 pm. Adults \$5, children free. New release of Grevillea "Little Princess" which has been developed from *Grevillea humilis*
www.grevilleapark.org johnelton@grevilleapark.org 0424 830 925

APS NSW Get Together Newcastle 17th & 18th August . The tentative programme is various walks on the Saturday to local areas of interest, dinner on Saturday night and garden visits on Sunday morning.

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

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm on **8th & 22nd May**

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at 9 am on **1st, 15th & 29th May 2019**

Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

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

Walks only on 6th May

Contact for walks Helen 9489 1735
Walks and Talks resuming on Monday 17th June. An introduction to Australian Native Plants 24th June Banksias (Family Proteaceae)
Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

The Knoll KWG Fridays 10am to 12 noon. 10th & 24th May 2019

Contact: Michael Griffith

michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

Members and friends are always

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 10th May 2019 (7.30 pm for 8 pm)

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

Speaker: John Whale
(2018 Val Williams Scholarship)

Topic: Genetic Variation in Red Gum Species



Comment:

John is one of the two people who shared the 2018 Val Williams Scholarship. In previous years the talks by the scholarship recipients have been most informative and encouraging, as we learn about the research that is being done by our young scientists in the field of botany.

For the full year's programme go to:

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

Next meeting **Friday 14th June**

Speaker: Wendy Grimm Topic: Native Pollinators

April Committee Notes

- Val Williams Scholarship 2019 and review of guidelines.
- APS NSW Life Membership
- APS NSG Library
- Financial matters
- Meeting of some members with new KC Manager, Visitor Experience and Events (KWG)
- APS NSG Post Office Box
- HSC hall hiring requirements and future arrangements.

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 June 2019 edition this will be 17th May Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

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