

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

SEPTEMBER 2019

## The 2019 Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival was held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August

What a beautiful, warm day for the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower and Art Festival! People came in their thousands and there were queues on Mona Vale Road waiting to turn into the gardens! The festival was just so well advertised!

Helen and I at the plant sales desk were our busiest ever and our packers, Bruce and Judy, were just as busy packing and storing plants. While we had queues of customers waiting for service in the morning, people were very good natured about waiting for a few minutes. Our packers used so many boxes and bags that we nearly ran out of them! Our credit machine went into overdrive!

We brought in a large variety of flowering plants in pots and these went first, with many people looking for more plants in flower. We could have sold many more Anigozanthos, Eriostemons and Philothecas, etc.

The flowers were simply wonderful and just so spectacular! Thanks to Robert Wood for the donation of the six vases. They were greatly admired and five were sold.

My sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our plant, flower, craft, raffle and card sales and to our walk leaders. Without your hard work, we would not have been so successful!

Please make sure that you all have a good rest! The next festival is still a year away and we don't need to start planning for it just yet!



Floral arrangement team. A special thanks to friends, Alison & Sarah, who contributed so much to the arrangements.

Image by Jan W



The propagation team who work ALL year to ensure that there is a generous supply of healthy plants for sale.

Image by Margo



Orchids courtesy of Rae Rosten and the propagation team. If you would like to be the person who supplies the orchids in 2020 please contact Rae or Sue Bowen.

A plant and fertilizer were left behind at the plant storage area. Owner should contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951.

### Vale Carol Nolder



APS NSG members offer their condolences to the family and friends of Carol, who passed away in July, aged 88.

A highlight of Carol's year was the Festival, when she was responsible for the flowers and floral displays.

Carol was a life member of APS NSW and her contributions to the group and to Australian flora were extensive. Her warmth and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated by many.

A more detailed article on Carol's contributions will appear in the October *Blandfordia*.



Image by Narelle Barden

Walks and Talks are held on Monday mornings at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower gardens at 10 am. Waratahs & other members of the Proteaceae family will be covered on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

See page 6 for full W&T programme details.

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### WORKING BEE AT APS NSG SHADE HOUSE at KWG

My sincere thanks to everyone who came to our most successful working bee on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> August. We had a lovely fine day, not too hot and not too cold, and achieved every one of the 11 tasks on my list, except tidying the shed, which we couldn't have done anyway, due to the trenching going on in front of the shed door.

We now have a safe walkway along the length of the shade house, have improved drainage along the length of the shade house and in front of the shed and have 12 new elkhorns.

We even carried out an extra task, laying agg pipe along the length of the shade house, under the new sink drain pipe!.

My special thanks to Paul and Bruce, who did the drainage work, with help from Gillian and Judy. I really appreciated Paul's quick solution to the discovery of holes in the bottom of the existing sink drain pipe! Cut the section out, and glue it back with the holes facing up!! Sue Bowen



Paul digging.



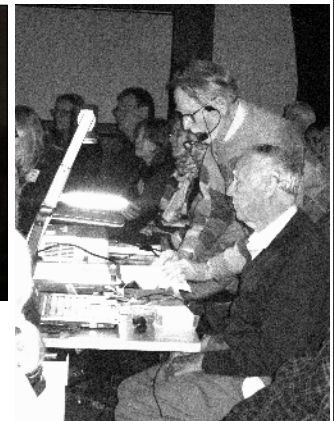
Sue & Margaret hard at work dividing the elkhorns.

At the August general meeting Ron Gornall led a most interesting interactive session on plant identification discussion. Bob Failes provided the technical support. The gadget (*Editor's technical term*) that made images of the plants show up on the screen meant that everyone could see what was being discussed. Most plants were successfully identified. One fern that defied identification on the night was later identified by Sue Bowen as *Blechnum cartilagineum*, soft water fern.

<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Blechnum~cartilagineum>

Written by and images by Jan W

Please note that you are most welcome to bring any plant to a general meeting for identification or comment.



### August meeting Short presentation

After the ID plant session Bill Jones gave a short talk on Native Bees. The Jones' garden is visited by several types of native bees, including Native Resin bees, Blue Banded bees and Leafcutter bees. Resin bees enter holes and small crevices and seal the holes with a mixture of resin and chewed leaves once the eggs are laid. A mixture of pollen and nectar surrounds the eggs. It is thought that the resin may contain several protectant products against other insects such as beetles and ants. Several local trees such as Angophoras and Turpentines may be the source of the resin while plants such as Davidson's Plum, Bolwarra, Lemon Myrtle and Lilly Pillies are food sources for many of these insects.



[https://www.aussiebee.com.au/resin\\_bee.html](https://www.aussiebee.com.au/resin_bee.html)

Our president, Sue Bowen, is keen to hear from any one who would like to give a 10 minute short presentation.

### Coordinator of the 2020 Speakers programme is still open

This is a position that can be done without leaving home. Five speakers for 2020 have already been confirmed.

Only 6 to go!

**The committee also needs suggestions for topics and /or speakers for the programme.** Word of mouth is a great way to find speakers, so the committee would like your suggestions.

The role involves contacting potential speakers &/ or groups or organisations and teeing up a date that suits them and getting a related image and a topic for their talk.

If you are interested in helping the group in this way and would like any more information, please contact Rae Rosten on 9456 2111 or Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951.

## Group Activities

**Garden visit on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 10 am** to the home of Ted and Nancy Shaw at 2 Narla Road Bayview. This garden, which features both native and exotic plants, is a real delight and should look magnificent after this week's most welcome rain. Ted and Nancy will provide tea and coffee but please bring your lunch, hat and wear suitable shoes. Contact: Jan Williamson [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) or 9875 2262 if weather in doubt.

### 2019 WALKS AND TALKS sessions. MONDAY Mornings at KWG 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives

Enquiries: Bob 9417 5217

Location: Caley's Pavilion

**October outing** will be on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**. Bob Failes will lead an outing from Waverton Train Station to Balls Head and the "Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability". Meet at Waverton Railway Station at 11 am. An easy walk, 2-3 hours. Bring lunch and wear hat and suitable walking shoes.

**November Activity:** Quarterly APS NSW meeting will be hosted by APS Northern Beaches Group and held at Warriwood on SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> November. More details in subsequent newsletters or see <https://austplants.com.au/>



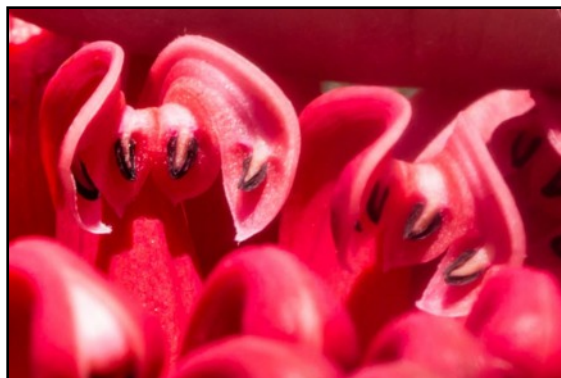
**December:** APS NSG Christmas Party on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**.

Ideas and suggestions are wanted. Any suggestions are welcome.

Please contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or email [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto:secretary@blandfordia.org.au)

Narelle Barden captured these images of a waratah, *Telopea speciosissima*.

This family will be covered at the 23<sup>rd</sup> September W&T session.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF 'THE KNOLL' AT THE KURING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN and APS NORTH SHORE INVOLVEMENT Written by Jeff Howes August 2019



North Shore Group commenced around 1957 and was active in growing and propagating Australian native plants and bringing them into cultivation. Part of the APS charter was to promote native plants' suitability as garden plants, so in 1961 North Shore Group committee sent a Notice of Motion to Ku-Ring-gai Council requesting them to establish a suitable garden. The broad aims of this public garden were for the promotion of the study and the preservation of native flora and fauna and the planting of appropriate areas of flora from other parts of the Commonwealth. After lengthy discussions and site selection the 123 hectare

Ku-ring-Gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) was officially opened on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1968.

Within this newly established garden there was a piece of rising rocky ground and this was chosen as a suitable place to grow a wide range of our native plants that are suitable for growing by the public. This area was named *The Knoll*. Before any plantings could be started at *The Knoll*, it had to be cleared of a wilderness of Crofton Weed and the Ku-ring-gai Council had this cleared. In front of *The Knoll* was another weed infested open space, the ruins of a failed market garden. This was also cleared giving a spacious setting to the garden being created on *The Knoll*. This open space is now known as *Lambert's Clearing*.



Over the years the plantings have changed to more closely reflect the changing role of the KWG to a more educational one and the promotion of local native plants highlighting their uses and diversity and suitability for growing in home gardens.

At present under the leadership of Michael and Rose Griffith, two of our Group members, a small team of workers is meeting at 9.50 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month to have a fresh look at the current plantings, remove unsuitable and old plants, prune existing plants, remove weeds, plant new plants and obtain new plant labels. Before commencement of this work Michael and Rose talked to Council and other stake holders to ensure that the work undertaken is in accordance with the current uses of KWG.

Planting themes are:

1. Plants ideally local to the Hawkesbury sandstone area.
2. The smaller garden at the base of The Knoll immediately in front of you as you walk in is to have a selection of 'showy' plants to entice visitors to try them in their own garden. These will be selected from a wider geographic area but will be as local as possible.
3. As for the rest of the garden, plantings need to be aromatic and have a wide variety of leaf shapes and sizes as many school groups use *The Knoll* as an education site relating to environmental issues.

The most recent plantings were made in early August 2019 so come down and give your feedback.

**New members to our small working group are always welcome. If interested please ring or message Michael on 0417 026 111.**

*Jeff Howes*  
(a member who joined in 1977)



## Notices and Reminders

**Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) ANPSA National Conference and Biennial General Meeting 2019** will be held in Albany WA from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.  
[www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au](http://www.bloomingbiodiversity.com.au)

**Stony Range Botanic Garden Spring Festival** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 9am to 3pm : 810 Pittwater Road Dee Why.  
in association with APS Northern Beaches Group

**The Art and Science of the Plant** until Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at the Art Space on The Concourse 409 Victoria Ave Chatswood. 11am to 6 pm Free. [www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com](http://www.botanicalartsocietyaustralia.com)

**APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November** :Keep the date free.  
**APS Northern Beaches Group** will be hosting the final APS NSW gathering of 2019 at Warriewood.  
The venue is the **Angophora Room** at the **Nelson Heather Centre**, 5 Jacksons Road Warriewood  
<https://austplants.com.au/>

### NEW MEMBERS

**A warm WELCOME** to new members Sandy Campbell-Smith, John Sands, Kristine Anderson (also a Northern Beaches member) Farhad Masoomi-Aladizgeh (2019 Val Williams Scholarship recipient), Jannatul Meghla, Jennifer Fisher, Edwin Carr, Kelly Andersen, Zorica Rapaich and Elyse Hazelton.

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.

One of the benefits of membership is access to the comprehensive APS NSG library. Books can be borrowed at all general meetings.



**Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays** from 1pm to 4pm.  
**11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

**Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly)**  
at 9 am on **4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

**Monday Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives**

#### SEPTEMBER

**2<sup>nd</sup>** Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)

**9<sup>th</sup>** The Peas (Family Fabaceae sub family Faboideae)

**16<sup>th</sup>** Fire and the Australian Sandstone Flora

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Waratahs & other members of Family Proteaceae

#### OCTOBER

**15<sup>th</sup>** Other families

**22<sup>nd</sup>** Callistemons, Melaleucas, Kunzeas (Myrtaceae Family)

**29<sup>th</sup>** Leptospermum & Baeckeas

#### NOVEMBER

**5<sup>th</sup>** Grasses (Poaceae Family)

**12<sup>th</sup>** Wind up day: Orchid search and barbecue.

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

**The Knoll KWG Fridays 10am to 12 noon. 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September**

Contact: Michael Griffith  
[michaelgriffith1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelgriffith1@gmail.com)

#### August Committee Notes

- Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival
- Christmas Party: maybe something different this year
- W & T presenters in 2020

## Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**(7.30 pm for 8 pm)**

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

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Speaker: Susan Everingham** (one of the 2018 VW Scholarship Recipients)

**Topic: Changes in Sydney Flowering Times**



*Background:* Flowering phenology (time of flowering events) relies heavily on cues from environmental conditions, particularly temperature. Studies have shown that for many plants species, flowering dates are occurring earlier in the season due to increases in atmospheric temperature because of anthropogenic climate change. My study aims to investigate existing flowering time changes across the Sydney region. I have used an old data set of flowering time collected by Price in 1963, combined with a resampling of a subset of plant species flowering time during 2018-2019 to determine if Sydney flora is flowering earlier in the season as time progresses.



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

**Next meeting Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October Speakers: Margaret Hamilton and Sue Bowen Topic: Propagation Demonstration**

#### 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](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://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](mailto:membership@blandfordia.org.au)  
For your convenience, an EFT payment option is now available.

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

For the October 2019 edition this will be 20<sup>th</sup> September Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

# Blandfordia

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