

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ACN 002 680 408)

February 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017

2017 was a year of change at State level. A Strategic Plan was completed in 2016, aimed at increasing membership, improving the financial position and making administration easier. During 2017, a new membership system and website were introduced. Each District Group was given a section of the website for their use. Monitoring finances was outsourced. Bedding in of these new systems will continue into 2018.

The North Shore Group (NSG) had an active year, maintaining membership and improving finances. Many of our activities were influenced by the results of a member survey in 2016. Our Friday night monthly meetings included 2 audience participation sessions. The weekend Group Activities included bushwalks, garden visits, workshops and working bees.

In September we went to Nelson Bay for 4 days of beautiful bushwalks and garden visits, organised in great detail by Sue Fredrickson.

Margaret Hamilton managed the Propagation Group and Marilyn Mason managed Council's Bushcare group, until this was taken over by Sue Bowen. Jan Marshall organised the wildflower display at KWG Visitor's Centre and Alec Fisher maintained the Knoll garden at KWG. Ku-ring-gai Council's Wildflower Festival was run in August and, as usual, APS played a major role, co-ordinated by Jan Williamson. We sold native plants and cut-flower arrangements, raising funds for use in other activities.

The Walks and Talks programme was organised by Bob Failes and Bill Jones, following Wendy Grimm's exit to pursue University studies. Visitor numbers decreased during the year and a reduced programme was proposed for 2018.

We awarded a \$2500 tertiary-level research scholarship, candidate selection organised by Wendy Grimm with assistance from Marilyn Mason, Bob Failes and Hugh Jones.

The Hornsby Herbarium was managed by Barry Lees, with Friday surveys done by Barry, Noel Rosten and Helen Ray.

Jan Williamson continued to set a high standard in our monthly newsletter "Blandfordia". Narelle Barden put our activities on Facebook and Rae Rosten did publicity in local newspapers.

Other vital tasks were done by Sue Bowen as Correspondence Secretary, Jan Williamson as Minutes Secretary, Helen Ray as Treasurer, Narelle Barden as Membership Officer, Lyn Kirby as Librarian, Max Gregory as Webmaster, Wendy Grimm as Conservation Officer, Roger Starling as delegate to APSNSW Council, Rae Rosten as Supper Co-ordinator and Hugh Jones and Noel Rosten as general Committee members.

We have 2 perpetual awards for outstanding service to the Group. Sue Bowen won the Mel Dyer Award and Stephen Brown won the New Member Encouragement Award.

I wish to thank all these people, and everyone else who helped make this an enjoyable year.

Barry Lees (President)

APS NSG Treasurer's Report for 2017

In 2017, the North Shore group had income of \$27,657 and expenditure of \$22,790 resulting in a net profit of \$4867, lower than the \$5600 profit in 2016. The total value of bank and investment accounts at the end of 2017 was \$82,176, an increase of 6% on 2016.

Again we had excellent weather for the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival at the end of August. We had \$5421 in takings and \$2124 expenses (excluding routine propagation expenses), resulting in a net profit of \$3297.

Net cash, cheque and EFT membership takings at the festival were \$1124, slightly higher than last year. The takings have been affected by a rise in membership fees, the introduction of multiple year memberships and the introduction of a new statewide online membership system.

Walks and Talks entry grossed \$983, lower than last year due to lower attendance rates.

Plant sales at monthly meetings yielded \$1086.90, less than the 2016 takings of \$1473.

Other significant income included:

- Plant sales at Walks & Talks \$165
- APSNSW get-together plant sales \$271
- Festival raffle \$342
- Other plant sales \$70

Significant expenditure included:

- Scholarship \$2500
- Propagation \$648

We agreed to host a Rainforest Plant Identification Course to be presented by Van Klaphake. Unfortunately it was cancelled and the funds were refunded (with the exception of one unrepresented cheque).

We moved a \$10,000 term deposit from the Commonwealth Bank to the ME Bank which has a better sustainability profile and gives better interest rates.

Helen Ray (Treasurer)

Barry, Noel and Pat enjoy the Hornsby Bushcare gathering in December.



Pat Pike was mentioned several times as being the original trainer for many of the Hornsby Bushcare groups who received awards. Pat was recently interviewed by Neil Chippendale of Hornsby Library and Jean-Philippe Kecman of Hornsby Bushcare who are

putting together an oral history of Hornsby Bushcare, and next year will be interviewed together with Jenny Lewis about the beginnings of the Hornsby Herbarium.

Written by and image by Rae Rosten



APSNSG members relaxed and enjoyed the Christmas party. Many thanks to everyone who attended and brought the delicious selection of food.



Following the APS NSG working bee, Aaron Willmore and other KC staff set to and erected these boundary markers to more clearly delineate the paths and protect the plants. It looks great. Thanks to everyone involved.

In memory of Fred Langshaw



Fred, long-time member and stalwart of the APS North Shore Group, died on the 27th November 2017 after a protracted, debilitating illness. He was 81 years old.

After his professional life in engineering, management and teaching Fred devoted his time to environmental matters. He was active in bush regeneration in Ku-ring-gai Chase NP, with the scientific branch of the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group.

Fred was a member of the Group for some 40 years and served as Group Secretary for 6 years until 2008. It was during this time that he and myself, as Treasurer, put forward spending some of the considerable assets of the Group

in modernising and forwarding the aims of the APS. I got the easy task, as it turned out, of investigating and purchasing up-to-date presentation equipment – laptop computers and projectors. Fred took on the development of a Scholarship to be awarded annually by the Group. He spent nearly a year exploring options and format, including association with existing scholarships. In the end he recommended an independent scholarship funded and run by the Group.

The Scholarship commenced in 2007 and has since been awarded annually to PhD, Masters or Honours university students in Botany for a project *'to contribute to the knowledge of the ecology, conservation or propagation of native plants in the Sydney region'*. The Scholarship is worth up to \$3000.

Fred was an active participant in the Walks and Talks program both as a presenter and as an organiser. Walking round the Wildflower Garden one sees many plants with professional name and description signage – Fred was part of a group that initiated this aid. Fred pinpointed the locations of specific plants, helped in the preparation of signage text and then took on putting and maintaining the plant signs in place. He also prepared informative labelling for Festival plant sales.

Fred and I teamed up to revive and modernise an intensive plant ID course which was given by the late Dr Joan Webb, with us two largely providing the logistics. The course was conducted over four Saturday mornings on plant taxonomy and identification of common plant families, down to microscope level. Each of the four years it ran it was fully subscribed by both professional and lay persons.

Fred received the Melba Dyer Award in 2005, the Group's annual award to *'the member making the most valuable contribution to the Group during in the year'*. In 2009 he received the Ku-ring-gai Lions Club medal for *'service to the environment'*.

Fred was farewelled at a memorial service at his local church and full of family, friends and colleagues, including a good number from APS North Shore.

So in memory of man who gave service to the environment and to our Group, in particular in a quiet and unassuming manner but always conscientiously and methodical and there.

Alec Fisher Dec 2017



Brachyscome in flower
and *Isotoma axillaris*
Images by Sue Bowen



WALKS & TALKS Programme for 2018

The programme will commence with **monthly walks** led by Helen Thiele and Jill Dalton on Mondays **5th March, 9th April & 7th May 2018**. Full details in March *Blandfordia*.

WINTER TERM. The **talks** component will start on **Saturday 16th June OR Monday 18th June** (to be decided in consultation with Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare) with the topic ***An Introduction to Australian Native Plants*** by Bill Jones and Bob Failes.

Please remember that there are other jobs that need to be done to successfully run this programme.

Welcome Table	Projection of Presentations	Microphones	Setting up tables etc
Printing of Notes	Plant Stand	Care of Plant Signs	

If you can assist with any of these for any period of time, please contact Bob Failes, Bill Jones, Wendy or Phillip Grimm.

Membership of, and involvement in, APS NSG can foster long and much treasured friendships, as evidenced here. *Left to right* Alec Fisher, Fred Langshaw, Bob Failes and Bill Jones.



*****GROUP ACTIVITIES*****

The Group Activity is held on the weekend immediately after the general meeting. It may be either Saturday or Sunday.

The first activity for 2018 will be held on **Saturday 10th March** and be in the local Mt Ku-ring-gai National Park.

Full details in March *Blandfordia*.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our newest members Candice Delaney, Leon Eade, Gordon Wilson and John Bennett.

We hope that you will enjoy your association with APS NSG.

Committee Notes January 2018

The committee discussed the following

- Speaker Programme 2018
- Changes to composition of the committee.

Under the rules of APS NSG the committee can coopt extra members as required after the election meeting (this meeting was held in Nov. 2017). This situation arose and the 2018 committee now is

President	Barry Lees
Vice president	Sue Bowen
Correspondence secretary	Judy Jeffery
Minutes secretary	Jan Williamson
Treasurer	Helen Ray
Conservation officer	Anne Matheson
Membership officer	Narelle Barden
Assistant membership officer	Genevieve Meares
Excursions co-ordinator (i) walks	Sue Fredrickson
(ii) garden visits	<i>not filled</i>
Health and Safety officer	Helen Ray
Publicity officer	Rae Rosten
Delegate to APS NSW	Roger Starling
Web master	Max Gregory
Newsletter editor	Jan Williamson
General Committee member	Wendy Grimm, Hugh Jones, Noel Rosten, Bill Jones
Festival Coordinator	Jan Williamson

- New portable PA system
- Annual Treasurer's Report and draft budget
- Privacy issues of members. Generic contact details will be given wherever possible.

Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) Conference Hobart

Sue Fredrickson

From January 15th-19th 2018 the Biennial ANPSA conference was held in Hobart at Wrest Point.

The attendees, numbering about 180 came from all over Australia, 26 of them from NSW and a small number even from as far afield as the UK and NZ. I was the only attendee from the North Shore Group. I have to say, I enjoyed it immensely. The Tasmanian APS Group did a wonderful job organising five half days of interesting and high standard talks, the other half days being dedicated to excursions in the Hobart area. There was even a visit to Government House one evening when the very gracious Governor, the Honourable Kate Warner and her husband made the delegates very welcome and treated us to a viewing of the stately building and mingled with us (they told us they enjoy bush walking!) as we were treated to drinks and canapes!



NSW attendees

The lectures at the conference which was entitled *Grass Roots to Mountain Tops* covered such topics as the history of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the Subantarctic Flora and Vegetation of Macquarie island, Alpine Vegetation of Tasmania, Lowland Native Grasses, Saltmarsh Vegetation, the huge Midlands Vegetation Restoration being carried out by Greening Australia, Tasmanian Ferns, Tasmanian rainforests, Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts, Flora of Mt Wellington, the Tasmanian Seedbank Story and much more. The riveting AJ Swaby lecture, held on an evening, was given by James Wood, the manager of the Tasmanian Seed Conservation Centre at the Botanical Gardens.

Daily excursions were to members' gardens; Mt Wellington; the Tasmanian Bushland Gardens at Buckland, built with dedication by APS members and others; Saltmarsh visit; picturesque, waterside Inverawe Gardens and the Royal Botanical gardens including behind the scenes. We were allowed viewings of the Seedbank workrooms, a flowering *Corybus* orchid from Macquarie Island and of plants of the endangered *Lomatia tasmanica*. Did you know that at 43,000 years old, it is probably the oldest living plant in the world, the stands found in its natural habitat at Port Davey all being identical clones? We learned so much at these destinations from native plant experts but also on the buses and in the gardens where very knowledgeable APS members answered all our questions with ease.

Though there were week-long pre and post conference trips on offer, I attended a preconference day trip to Bruny Island only. Again, it was scenic and plant rich. APS members and islanders David and Jenny Boyer guided us, taught us a lot about the early botanical expeditions, especially the French botanists and about the island's diverse flora, including the Tasmanian Christmas bell, *Blandfordia punicea* and they knew just where to find it flowering for us. A visit to biologist and conservationist Tonia Cochran's Jurassic Gondwana education garden "Inala", made us realise that Tasmania's native plants have many beautiful overseas close relatives.

Gondwana history and links, consideration of imminent global warming and habitat conservation are all themes that recurred time after time in the conference lectures and trips. With such wonderful flora and vegetation in Tasmania, the locals who we heard from at the conference, are all too keen to preserve it.

I definitely recommend that more NSG members consider attending the future ANPSA biennial conferences. Such commitment and dedication by the organisers ensures that you will have a wonderful time. The next one will be in Albany WA **29th Sept to 4th October 2019**. In 2021 it will be held in the Greater Sydney region.



Bonsai of Huon Pine *Lagerstrobus franklinii*



Leatherwood *Eucryphia* sp



Tasmanian Christmas Bell *Blandfordia punicea*

Notices and Reminders

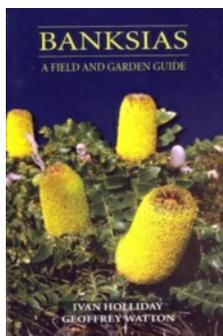
APS NSW Special Meeting and Quarterly Gathering SATURDAY 3rd March 2018

This event is being hosted by the Sutherland Group of APSNSW at **Loftus Community Centre Hall 119-129 Loftus Ave, Loftus NSW 2232** The hall is opposite Loftus Railway Station, next to the fire Station. Members \$5 Non members \$7

The day's program

- **10.00 - 11.30am Guided tours around the beautiful Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve**
Manooka Place, via Alpita Street, KAREELA NSW 2232
- **11.30am – 12.45pm Lunch.** There are plenty of places to buy lunch and enjoy a coffee at nearby Sutherland, or bring a picnic lunch to eat at either Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve or the Loftus Community Hall grounds.
- **12.45 – 3.30pm Gathering, Loftus Community Hall**
- **12.45 – 1.30pm Special General Meeting,** to consider proposed changes to the Articles of Association. Members should have received notification about this meeting and information relating to the proposed changes.
- **1.30 – 3.30pm Workshop - How to Create a wildlife Habitat at Home** presented by Geoff Doret, Greenweb Officer at Sutherland Shire Council. There will be a short break in the workshop for afternoon tea.

For full information: <http://austplants.com.au/event-2737140>



Banksias A Field and Garden Guide I.Holliday & G. Watton

This comprises 93 species, subspecies and varieties, 11 Registered cultivars and 4 other named cultivars, for a total of 108.

This revision was financed with the assistance of the Native Plant Society, S A Region Inc. and

I am the distributor of these books on behalf of the Society.

The price to members of the various Native Plant Societies is \$24.95 plus postage.

To order, please email me at wattongd@yahoo.com.au or phone - 08 83385767.

Geoff Watton

Collectors' Plant Fair 2018 7th and 8th April 2018 Hawkesbury Race Club, Clarendon

www.collectorsplantfair.com.au

12th FJC Rogers Seminar 20th-21st October 2018 to be held in Horsham Victoria. For full details

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar/>

Registrations open: 1st April 2018 Early Bird Discount: 1st April to 30th July 2018 Registrations close: 1st October 2018

REMINDER for the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival 26th August 2018

Containers suitable for displays are required- baskets, waterproof pots, vases or sculptured works, items that can add interest to displays e.g. marble, small rock collections etc. Anything that will add interest and impact to the display.

A variety of sizes of articles is good as this enables a variety of arrangements. Different sized arrangements help us to offer beautiful arrangements at different prices.

Contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm on 14th & 28th February 2018

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234.

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at

8.50 am 7th and 21st February 2018

Contact: Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Members and friends are always welcome at these activities.

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

Walks 5th March, 9th April & 7th

May

Talks will recommence in June

Committee Contacts

President: Barry Lees 9653 3691

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:

<http://austplants.com.au/North-Shore>

Membership Applications and Renewals with payments (including a cheque, if applicable) should be mailed direct to

PO Box 141 ROSEVILLE NSW 2069

Membership Applications & Renewals can also be completed by downloading the form from our website & recording your details online & emailing to

membership@blandfordia.org.au or by post to PO Box 141, ROSEVILLE 2069.

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

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 9th February (7.30 pm for 8 pm)

Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Includes Annual General Meeting (it only takes a few minutes)



Topic: Why would a Ranger care about the plants?

Presenter: Tegan Burton

Background: The role of a NSW NPWS Ranger covers a broad spectrum of conservation land

management and other off-park related issues.

Tegan will provide an overview of this diverse role as it plays out in the Sydney metropolitan area, and discuss some of the many projects she's been involved in where our native plants have played a significant part.

9th March: Presenter: Vic Cherikoff

How to identify and cook with wild foods of the Sydney region and also why we should be eating them for our health.

Do you have a plant that you can't identify or a plant that you want others to know about?

Either way, please bring a specimen along to any meeting.

Someone is sure to be able assist you or will be keen to hear about your experience in growing your plant. Our members have a wealth of knowledge and experience which they are more than happy to share.



Narelle Barden captured this stunning sunset off Lion Island in early December while she was assisting with the annual fairy penguin count on the island.

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

For the March 2018 edition this will be 16th February 2018

Blandfordia

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