

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)



March 2018

Vale Noel Rosten

Noel Rosten was tragically killed on 26th February when a car left the road and ran across the nature strip outside his house. He was an exceptional person and an active member of many environmental organisations including APS NSG. Many members are in deep mourning, struggling to come to grips with this awful news. We will say more about Noel in the next *Blandfordia*.

Our deepest condolences and heartfelt wishes to his wife, Rae and their family.

Noel gave the short presentation at our February meeting.

Below is Sue Fredrickson's report of his talk.

Noel showed photos of flowers of his *Cryptostylis erecta* (Bonnet orchid) plant which was being visited by wasps. Like other Australian members of its genus, the flower exudes a pheromone that copies a female wasp. The male orchid dupe wasp (*Lissopimpla excelsa*) copulates with the flower and in doing so, aids propagation by pollinating it. Beautiful clear photos- Thank you Noel!



The last picture shows the pollinia (pollen sacs) that the wasp has collected while copulating, and will then transfer to the next flower he visits.
Noel Rosten.

Noel often sent me images of plants, birds, insects and landscapes. They were always beautifully executed and of the highest quality. Noel's power of observation was exceptional, as was his knowledge. Such contributions will be greatly missed.

Jan Williamson, editor.

Tegan Burton February 2018

Why would a Ranger care about the plants?

Tegan has worked for National Parks & Wildlife Service, North West Sydney Region, since 1997 and has been a Ranger since 2001. There are eleven National Parks in this Region.

Tegan is involved with four of them: Wisemans Ferry Historic Site, Maroota Historic Site, Muogamarra Nature Reserve and Marramarra National Park.

As Tegan described her duties as a Conservation Land Manager, it became clear just how varied and far reaching her job is. Issues to be managed include not just the Plants issues, which she had come specifically to talk about, but also buildings, management trails and tracks, some of them of historic significance, law enforcement and vertebrate pest management. Then there are the Projects to be initiated, funding found and writing up of their outcomes, liaising with other departments such as utilities, including water, gas and electricity, Local Land Services (LLS: the old Catchment Management Authority), Rural Fire Services and not to forget – the Volunteers of whom she spoke very highly and who she appreciates massively. In other words, Tegan's job keeps her very busy!



Her special interest is the protection of Heritage Plants that can still be found in pockets. Tegan has done her Masters post-graduate studies in this field. She gave the example of the Osage Orange hedge in Peat's Crater at Muogamarra, once used in cattle farming there, and which is being preserved and managed even though it is not native. Its weed potential has been established to be low and its historic significance is such that the decision was made to let it stay.

Mostly though, Tegan is concerned with removal of non-native and weedy species from the bush. She organises the Remote Bushcare Program, getting staff and volunteers into less accessible areas by such means as Floating Landcare where boats are used for access. She gave some examples. Peats Bight is a long term success story. Now that it is under control weed-wise, adjacent Peats Crater will receive more attention. At Milsons Passage, where funding has been organised for an old residence that is a weedy eyesore, volunteers are working in collaboration with local residents to remove weeds. While the weeding and native plantings are being done, a valuable nearby Saltmarsh is also being cared for. Work on another site along Singleton Road that was a "wall of Lantana" has begun. As it is a regionally significant Swamp Oak and Saltmarsh area, funding was able to be obtained from LLS and Tegan is optimistic of a good outcome at this site too.

Tegan also spoke about the impact on plants of a big bushfire in 2002 that burnt a lot of Muogamarra and Marramarra National Parks. It happened not long after a big plant survey so that it was possible to do follow-up before and after re-growth studies. Amazing changes in seedling regrowth were found during the annual monitoring carried out from 2002 till 2014. Once again, many volunteer hours contributed to this finding.

Tegan and her colleagues and volunteers have also been involved in Threatened plant species monitoring. *Grevillea parviflora* ssp. *supplicans* was found on Smugglers Ridge. It is found in only a small number of places in North West Sydney on shallow sandstone soils. Although killed by fire, it has good regrowth from seeds after fire. This vulnerable plant was protected from threats such as 4WD vehicles and possible damage caused by utilities. *Zieria involuocrata*, another plant listed as endangered and which occurs patchily to the north and west of Sydney, was found in the Laughtondale Gully Rd area and also in the Canoelands area while searching for Aboriginal sites. In 2017 funding was obtained under *Saving our Species* in order to continue the survey work for this species.

Thank you to Tegan for a very interesting talk outlining her work at NPWS. One gets the feeling that with her efforts the beautiful plants in the National Parks on our doorstep are in safe hands.

Written by Sue Fredrickson Image by Phillip Grimm

2017 Awards



Helen Ray was awarded the 2017 Melba Dyer Award for the person who made the most valuable contribution to APS NSG.

Our President, Barry Lees, is shown here making the award.

As well as being the treasurer of the group Helen is active with the propagation and Herbarium teams, plus a keen participant in many other endeavours.

Thank you, Helen, for all your contributions over many years.



Barry then presented Genevieve Meares with the New Member Encouragement Award for 2017. Well done, Genevieve.

Images by Phillip Grimm

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

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

GROUP WALK FOR MARCH

SATURDAY 10th March IN KU-RING-GAI NATIONAL PARK- BOBBIN HEAD VICINITY

We are lucky enough to have this bush and native plant lovers' hotspot right on our doorstep. Even right near the National Park entrance, there are rare and vulnerable plant species to be found. This afternoon walk can better be thought of as a series of easy mini-walks. They are mostly on firetrails and flat for the most part. Only the Powerline track has a couple of minor inclines and the walk down the bottom at Bobbin Head that starts at the suspension bridge has a short climb up a rock staircase, if we don't run out of time before actually doing the suspension bridge walk. We will also be keeping our eye on the time, hopefully making it to the Bobbin Inn café before the closing time at 4pm.

Where: Meet just outside the Mt Colah entrance to the National Park where parking is available at a wide section of road.

When: 1 pm **Saturday 10th March** (after lunch)

What to bring: Good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, plenty of water, snacks, Plant ID book.

Maybe a thermos and tea and coffee making things in case the café is already shut when we get down to Bobbin Head.

Contact person: Sue Fredrickson 0401 362 921

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.

5th March Meet at Caley's Pavilion in the Kuring-gai Wildflower Garden at St Ives at **9.45am** for a 10am start. It is an easy walk about 3 -4 km and will take about 2 hours. We shall look at what is flowering and fruiting and learn some of the history of the garden.

Bring water, a snack, good walking shoes.
Enquiries Helen 9489 1735.

WINTER TERM.

The **talks** component will start on **Monday 18th June** with **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, 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.

This image was spotted recently with the caption "When a nurse takes up gardening".

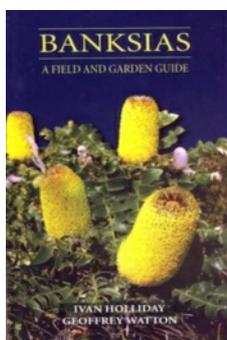


Notices and Reminders

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

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

BOONGALA NATIVE GARDENS & RAINFOREST OPEN DAYS, including Plant sales.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm from the **2nd to the 25th of March, 2018**

76 Pitt Town Rd, Kenthurst Mal & Jenny Johnston Full details www.boongalagardens.com

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 March 2018

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234.

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

at 9 am on 7th & 21st March

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 March (7.30 pm for 8 pm)



Willow Park Community Centre,
Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Presenter: Vic Cherikoff

Topic: Selecting and preparing local wild foods.

Background: Vic will explain how to identify and cook with wild foods of the Sydney region and also why we should be eating them for our health.

He will have copies of his recent book, "*Wild Foods*" available for sale on the night. Cost approx \$25.

April 13th *Speaker:* Aaron Phillips (2017 Val Williams Scholar)

Topic: Exploring Aussie genes to improve productivity in food and fibre crops suffering from heat stress.

February Committee Notes

- APS NSG banner
- 2018 Programme
- Venue for general meetings 2019
- Position descriptions
- Extraordinary meeting APS NSW 3rd March
- Quarterly Meeting APS NSW 4th March
- HSC Seniors' Week activity
- Notify local facilities and community centres of APS NSG events & activities

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

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

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