

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

FEBRUARY 2020

We finished the year when great company, good food, some new plants, the excitement of the raffle and thoughtful gifts made the Christmas party a particularly enjoyable evening. The weather was also kind to us.



With the continuing drought and the recent devastating weather conditions and the fires, 2020 has begun in a manner that challenges us all and our precious plants and wildlife.

APS NSG extends its sympathy to members directly impacted by the fires. Please let us know if there is any way we can assist.

At the meeting on **9th October** there will be An interactive session on the topic ***How are your plants 12 months on?***

This session will ask the audience to review how their garden is faring after drought, fires and smoke have challenged even native plants to survive. Members are encouraged to take note **NOW** of how their plants are and monitor them over the coming months. We will be interested to hear what plants fared better or worse than others in your garden and why you think that this is the case. What strategies did you employ to help the plants and did they work? It may be helpful to take some images now and again in late September 2020 to assist with your observations. *Jan W*

APS NSG President's report for 2019

2019 was my first year as your President and I was pleased to meet so many members at our activities. I am continually amazed at the number and diversity of activities that our group offers and even more amazed at the hard work and dedication shown by those members who organise and lead these activities.

Our monthly meetings were well attended with the interactive plant identification and propagation workshops of particular interest to members. As always, we were pleased to see visitors at our meetings, a sure sign of our successful publicity.

Our Walks and Talks Programme, in its shorter form, offered five walks and 16 walks and talks to members and visitors. The edible native food walk and Eucalypts walk and talk were very popular, with more than 40 people attending.

During 2019 we visited gardens in West Pymble, Westleigh and Bayview. All were truly inspiring and reflected their owners' ways of growing native plants and their native plant successes.

We had a very busy year propagating and buying plants for sale at our meetings, two APS NSW gatherings (one hosted by us at KWG), Seniors week stalls at St Ives and Hornsby, and our major fundraiser of the year, the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Art and Garden Festival. With a sunny sky and widespread advertising by Ku-ring-gai Council, thousands of people came out for the festival and our plant and flower salespeople were extremely busy! Our working bee at our KWG shade house was also very successful with lots of drainage pipe laid.

We celebrated the endorsement of our Immediate Past President Barry Lees as a life member of APS NSW in May and mourned the passing of our former President and Festival and Christmas party coordinator, Carol Nolder, in July.

We awarded our Val Williams scholarship in March and then reviewed the candidate selection process to ensure its continuing appropriateness.

A small group of members attended the ANPS (Australia) National Conference in Albany, Western Australia in late September and our group was asked to assist with the planning and running of pre and post conference tours for the 2021 Conference in Kiama.

For our Christmas party, everyone had to bring a plant-themed, \$10 gift for someone else, for Santa to distribute. What amazing imaginations people showed! I was so impressed!!

Finally, my sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make all our activities so successful. I also thank everyone who contributed to our raffles, the proceeds of which went to the Royal Botanic Gardens No Plants No Future project.

Sue Bowen APS NSG President

APSNSG Treasurer's Report for 2019

In 2019, the North Shore Group had income of \$17,966 and expenditure of \$12,947 resulting in a net profit of \$5018, higher than the \$2878 profit in 2018. The total value of our bank and investment accounts at the end of 2019 was \$90,094, an increase of 5% on 2018.

Our major fundraising event, at the Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival at the end of August was very successful. We had \$8637 in takings, plus \$265 raffle takings and a \$310 in resulting from the sale of greeting cards. Festival expenses were \$4013 (excluding routine propagation expenses), resulting in a net profit of \$4624 on plant and flower sales.

Net membership revenues were \$1160, slightly higher than last year. Most memberships are now paid through the APS NSW website and the North Shore Group receives \$10 per membership.

We held plant stalls at two APS NSW regional get-togethers that yielded \$1298.

Walks and Talks entry grossed \$1068, significantly higher than last year. There were no plant sales at Walks and Talks.

Plant sales at monthly meetings yielded \$1732, slightly more than the 2018 takings of \$1682.

Other significant income included:

• Interest from bank accounts and term deposits	\$1482
• Festival raffle (donated to RBG Herbarium digitisation)	\$312
• Donations	\$485
• Seniors Day	\$215

This year a \$3000 scholarship was awarded for research into Australian native plants. The other major expenses included plants and propagation materials, maintenance of the shadehouse, library books, meeting supplies and donations.

Significant expenditure, excluding the Festival, included:

• Scholarship	\$3000
• Propagation materials, including additional plant labels	\$2023
• Propagation - plants	\$939
• Heating mat and shadehouse maintenance	\$740
• Library books	\$531
• Supplies for meetings and Christmas party	\$530
• Donations to other organisations (excluding festival raffle proceeds)	\$215

We have changed banks, closing all Commonwealth and Macquarie Bank accounts and transferring the balances to the Bendigo Bank. One of our two term deposits at the ME Bank was increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000, and a \$16,000 term deposit was established with the Bendigo Bank. \$26,539 was transferred from our working account to term deposits.

Helen Ray, APS NSG treasurer

In spite of the hot & smokey days the propagation team has recommenced for 2020. Sue Bowen was there- just behind the camera. See image to right.

Michael and Rose and others, including Wendy, Phillip and Jeff, have been working diligently at The Knoll at KWG during January.



Everyone is welcome to these activities & to all APS NSG activities. See page 6 for future dates for Propagation and The Knoll.

The monthly Group Activity, is held on either the Saturday or Sunday following the general meeting, will recommence in March. See March *Blandfordia* for details or contact Sue Fredrickson.

Sue Bowen captured this image of *Lomatia silaifolia* in flower at KWG prior to the recent rain.

Lomatia silaifolia, commonly known as crinkle bush or parsley fern, is a plant of the family, Proteaceae native to eastern Australia. Naturally found in open forest, it grows as a small shrub 1–2 m high with highly pinnate leaves reminiscent of parsley. The white inflorescences appear in summer. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lomatia_silaifolia

2020 APS NSG Committee

President	Sue Bowen
Vice president	Wendy Grimm *
Correspondence secretary	Judy Jeffery
Minutes secretary	Jan Williamson
Treasurer	Helen Ray
Membership officer	Narelle Barden
Assistant membership officer	Genevieve Meares
Excursions co-ordinator (i) walks	Sue Fredrickson (with support when absent)
(ii) garden visits	<i>not filled</i>
Health and Safety officer	<i>not filled</i>
Publicity officer	Rae Rosten
Delegate to APS NSW	Sue Fredrickson
Web master	Max Gregory
Newsletter editor	Jan Williamson
General Committee member	Hugh Jones, Bill Jones
Festival coordinator	Jan Williamson
Walks and Talks coordinator	Wendy Grimm
Propagation coordinator	Margaret Hamilton
Flower display stand KWG	Jan Marshall
Conservation officer	<i>not filled</i>

*Vice president position includes the role of Coordinator of Speakers Programme

Non committee position:

Val Williams Scholarship Convener	Tania Lamble
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Ways every member can help

1. Helpers are needed for the APS NSG stall at either Turramurra Seniors Centre or Uniting Church Hall, Turramurra on **Monday 17th February from 10am to 2pm**. At this "**Everything for Seniors Day**" we will provide information on our W&T and other activities and sell tubes. Contact: Sue Bowen suzanneebowen@gmail.com OR mobile 0478 957 951
People can also try things such as indoor bowls, dancing, singing and "fall proof" exercises, as well as be fed on this day. There is a 44 page booklet on KC's website with all of the KC Seniors activities during February and March.
http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/Things_to_do/Learn/Seniors_events
2. People prepared to give **10 minute talks** at the general meetings. Members who would like to contribute should contact Sue Bowen suzanneebowen@gmail.com OR mobile 0478 957 951
3. **Pots** (not blue) and **tubes** for the propagation team. Please bring to meetings or propagation.
4. Wildflower Art and Garden Festival. 2020 Sunday 23rd August : **Vases or water proof pottery items** which are suitable for flower arrangements. Bring to meetings or contact Jan Williamson janw7531@gmail.com
5. Someone to take on the **unfilled committee roles** especially garden visit coordinator and Health & Safety Officer.
6. **Suggestions for Group Activities** - suitable walks, gardens, events etc. Contact: Sue Fredrickson paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com
or phone 0401 362 921

APS NSG Walks and Talks 2020 Programme.

This programme begins on 2nd March with the first of the autumn term walks only and then W&T from 15th June. These sessions are held on Monday mornings during school terms. Arrive at Caley's Pavilion at KWG at 9.45am. *See page 6*
You should have received the full W&T programme and your 2020 APS NSG Programme electronically with your February *Blandfordia*.
Please keep them handy and share with friends or acquaintances.

W&T Autumn Term

It is suggested you bring a drink & snack. For enquiries ring Helen on 9489 1735

2nd March Monday Walk Only: Focused on historic aspects of Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

6th April Monday Walk Only: Focused on edible plants – plants used by early settlers and plants that the indigenous

Note: General meetings are held on the second Friday of each month. Plants which have been propagated by the group are always for sale. The April 2020 meeting has been rescheduled to Friday 3rd April as the following Friday is Good Friday.

New Members & “newish”members

A big welcome to new members Dorothy Jackson & Beverley Gwatkin. We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG and its members. We look forward to getting to know you and share with you knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.

In order to help the group improve the membership experience it would be appreciated if you could let us know how you found out about APS NSG and what encouraged you to investigate further. If you decided not to continue your membership it would also be useful if you could let us know why. Please contact our membership officer Narelle Barden membership@blandfordia.org.au or president Sue Bowen suzanneebowen@gmail.com.

Notices and Reminders

First **APSNSW Quarterly Gathering** will be held on **SATURDAY 21st March** and hosted by the Parramatta and Hills Group . The venue is Gumnut Hall, Gumnut Place Cherrybrook.

More details in March *Blandfordia* or <https://austplants.com.au/event-3712419>

BUSHFIRES

Sources of reliable information : **NSW Rural Fires Service**

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

This app can be put on your phone, tablet and other devices. It gives information about the location and severity of fires. One advantage is that you can set a distance for alerts and notifications of fire activity of concern to you or friends and family.

ABC LOCAL Radio stations. AM 702 SYDNEY

In case of power failure having access to a battery operated radio is recommended.

If you are travelling away from Sydney tune into the **local ABC radio station** for information.



A recommendation on how the birds can be helped from BirdLife Southern NSW
[After the Fire: What Happens Next?](#)

Fresh water and fresh food are good :)

The rainbow lorikeets are enjoying the nectar from the flowering gum.



2021 Sunday 12th September to Thursday 17th September 2021



Australian flora - Past present future
ANPSA 2021 Biennial Conference - Kiama



Impact of the recent fires on some areas of NSW National Parks

Below is some Information from National Parks Association about the impact of the fires on plant communities and threatened plant and animal species. Note that it was prepared before the information/data about the recent south coast and central coast areas was available. This is an information package from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment summarising the impact of fire on parks and threatened species. It includes a map showing the locations of the fires and provides an indication of the intensity of damage to vegetation.

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/fire/park-recovery-and-rehabilitation/recovering-from-2019-20-fires/understanding-the-impact-of-the-2019-20-fires>

Included in this information is the fact that 55 reserves have been more than 99% burnt.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SOME OF THE PEOPLE AND AREAS AFFECTED BY THE FIRES?

Join the Group Trip away in October 2020 to Blackheath

A trip of 2-3 days away is in the preliminary stages of planning. Our times away together are always enjoyable botanically and socially too as we explore the native plant “hotspots” of the region where we stay. It was suggested that this year, we visit the Blue Mountains area which by October should be well on the way to bouncing back from the ravages of the recent fires that we have heard so much about. Parts of the mountains were subjected to such hot fires that nothing green remained and they now resemble a bare moonscape with just black tree trunks or shrub stalks remaining. Even recently, however, just three weeks after the fires, I saw the first couple of centimetres of glossy leaves of epicormic growths coming from Eucalypt trunks, a couple of centimetres also of green at the base of the black Xanthorrhoea spikes and a few stalks of green grasses emerging from the black soil. The rain that has followed will speed the regenerating process up no doubt. Yet, there are many questions that will only be answered with time. For example, how will the hanging swamps, the cliff faces, the Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens burnt sections recover? Many of these areas are currently still closed to the visiting public as inspections for dangerous trees etc are being carried out and acted on.

This trip is being organised by Sue Fredrickson who often visits the Blue Mountains, Blackheath in particular, for family reasons. She will monitor the fire recovery over the months between now and October and decide the most interesting parts for our group to visit. It is still to be decided whether the trip days will be over a weekend or during the week. Accommodation will be easier and there will be less visitors during the week and in that case the most suitable dates probably start from the 12th October hence avoiding the school holidays too.

It is most likely that we will make the Blackheath Glen Tourist Park our base. It has nicely located cabins and a covered communal bbq area. Believe it or not, the cabins are already being booked by others for October and we should really get onto the bookings.

If you are interested in joining the group, you are very welcome and please notify Sue asap by email paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com or phone 0401 362 921

CONGRATULATIONS to Johanna Wong on the publication of her research

Hi all,

I am writing to spread the good news about my research. The support of Valette William scholarship in 2016 has enabled my research on the metabolite biomarkers for *Armillaria luteobubalina*—a deadly pathogen of eucalypt trees. My research outcome has recently been published on *Plant, Cell & Environment*, an international scientific journal with focus on plant biology and environmental biology. The article can be accessed through <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/pce.13672>.

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity and support. I have enjoyed the meetings I have been to, and really appreciated your love and support towards research of local flora.

Best Regards,

Johanna Wong PhD candidate **Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment** Western Sydney University

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays 2019 from 1pm to 4pm. **12th & 26th February 2020**
Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at 9 am on **5th & 19th February 2020**
Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Monday Walks and Talks at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives Monday 2nd March 2020

Walk Only: Focused on historic aspects of Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden For enquiries ring Helen on 94891735
Autumn term has only a monthly walk. The other walks will be on 6th April & 4th May

The Knoll KWG 14th & 28th February
Fridays 10 am to 12 noon.
Contact: Michael Griffith
michaelgriffith1@gmail.com
Members and friends are always welcome at these activities.

January 2020 Committee Notes

- 2020 Programme
- 2021 Biennial Conference Kiama NSW
- Finances
- Membership
- Annual reports for APS NSW
- Val Williams Scholarship

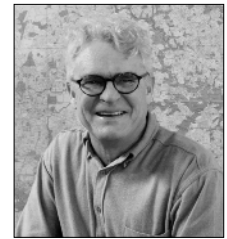


Next Meeting & AGM of our North Shore Group

Friday 14th February 2020

(7.30 pm for 8 pm)

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



Speaker: **Simon Leake**

Topic: **The soils and vegetation of Barangaroo Headland Park**

Background: Simon will describe how the soil and vegetation associations were developed matching soil type and landscape position to vegetation type resulting in the highly successful naturalistic landscape you now see at Barangaroo. For this project, commonly available recycled inorganic resources (crushed sandstone and recycled sand from building excavation) were combined with composted wood mulch screened from green garden waste collections and used to create a three-tiered replacement soil landscape for Barangaroo. The mulch layer or "O" (for organic) horizon would be analogous to the forest litter layer; the topsoil or A horizon, a well-drained sandy soil containing nutrients, organic matter and biological life and the Subsoil or B horizon, a well-drained water holding layer for root anchorage and moisture reserve.

<https://sesl.com.au/projects/barangaroo-headland-park/>

Soil fertility levels were established using the "ash bed" principle where the initial soil fertility was established based on what the soil nutrient levels would be after a fire occurs to result in a soil fertility level that allows the vegetation to develop properly.

Simon is a soil scientist extraordinaire who leads a team with extensive achievements in rehabilitation, reconstruction and renewal of diverse urban projects and mine sites.

March Meeting: **13th March 2020** *Speaker:* Bruce Usher, APS member
Topic: *Angophora costata* and friends - A Visual Journey

NOTE: April Meeting is on Friday **3rd April**

2020 Programme: <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://austplants.com.au/Join-APS/>

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 March 2020 edition this will be 21st February Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group