

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

OCTOBER 2019

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

On Sunday 15th September thirteen people enjoyed a most inspiring visit to Ted and Nancy Shaw's home at Bayview. What a view towards Pittwater! Everything was perfect and a most interesting and informative group activity was held: a rich variety of native and exotic plants, what to grow, what works and what doesn't, water storage and watering requirements, wildlife visitors... Ted and Nancy's passion and dedication and hard work shone through.

Many thanks to Nancy and Ted for their most generous hospitality.



Not only was this shadehouse green-Margaret and Sue turned a similar colour, with envy. The domed roof stops debris accumulating and lichen growing and allows the sun to pass through more strongly.



This stunning plant was the first that Ted wanted confirmation of its identity (the tag was missing). *Calytrix tetragona* was the answer. A variety of insects agreed that it was an impressive plant and a wonderful food source. If you go to View and enlarge it to 200% to 400% you will readily spot some of these insects.

Jan Williamson



One of the *Dendrobium* orchids. Ted commented that the number of spikes this year has been significantly less than on the the same plants last year.



Are Sydney's plants flowering earlier in the year than they did in the past? Are plants responding to anthropogenic climate change?

By Susan Everingham

(one of the Val Williams 2018 Scholarship recipients)

Once again, our speaker at the September meeting presented her material in a highly proficient manner and gave all the attendees confidence that much scientific research is in the hands of the very capable and dedicated.

Susan's research, while studying for her PhD, has been done with colleagues at UNSW and Mt Annan Botanic Gardens. With the global increase in CO₂ levels and the marked increase in temperatures many people worldwide are researching the effects on, and potential responses by, plants. In her research Susan was able to make comparisons between old seeds versus modern seeds and different geographical areas ranging between NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. Her hypothesis was *The areas with greatest climatic changes should see the greatest change in the plants.*

An amazing 2500 plants were propagated for the experiments and grown on for 6 months. Fifteen different traits were measured on these plants including germination rates, some chemical components and leaf sizes. While overseas studies in UK, USA and Canada and other countries have provided information about changes to reproductive timing, including flowering times, very little of this work has been done in Australia.

Susan has used data from 4 herbaria to obtain information on phenological characteristics such as timing of buds, flowers, leaves and fruits. The herbaria specimens also provide DNA and genetic data. Historic flowering time data has also been useful. Interestingly, this data was often collected for medical reasons to provide information about potential allergens. In 1963 there were 265 species (native & exotic plants) studied. With the support of the Val Williams Scholarship Susan was able to study 40 of the same species studied in 1963 in 3 local areas: Ku-ring-gai Chase NP, Lane Cove NP and Wallamutta Nature Reserve, Ryde. A diverse species sample was studied with a wide range of flowering habits. When sampled five states of development were noted: vegetative, budding, sporadic flowering (<25%), full flowering and fruiting.

After examining the field data and the herbaria material there were no statistically significant changes in flowering times between 1963 and 2018: some species were flowering earlier, some showed no change and some flowered later. Despite the confirmation that spring is occurring earlier (when measured by temperature and other changes) there is, at present, a lack of evidence of an advance in flowering time. Why? Possibly day length is more significant than temperature and other aspects (e.g. rainfall patterns- times and amount- may also impact the outcomes).

As with so many things, there are many more questions to be asked and answered.

Some of these questions include

- Are pollinators responding more immediately to temperature changes? (one attendee commented that there is great variation between different species of bees to changes in temperature)
- What are the mechanisms for flowering time changes?
- Are responses due to evolutionary changes likely to take longer?

Susan is keen to continue researching and trying to help answer some of these very significant questions. APS NSG wishes her every success in the future.



Written by and image by Jan Williamson

Editor's notes from September meeting:

○ APS NSG can be proud of its contribution to Hornsby Herbarium
<http://www.photosau.com/hornsbyherbarium/scripts/home.asp>

○ Another member commented that at KWG the Flower display is another highly valuable resource. There are records of the date when flowers were collected and displayed going back many years.

○ Another member commented that a walking group goes to the same location in northern Sydney each year around the same date and that they have noted flowering times.

All this information!!- just need to get it together

Jeff Howes came across this information recently.



Edward James Smith, an English nurseryman who cultivated non-native English plants, stated in his 'Exotic Botany' that there were living Blandfordia plants in cultivation in England in 1804.

Considering how little time that is from settlement in Sydney I find this extraordinary, given how hard they are to grow - or they are for me. Reference: *The Flower Chain* author Jill, Duchess of Hamilton and Julia Bruce, 1998.

Jeff Howes



Group Activities

2019 WALKS AND TALKS sessions.

MONDAY Mornings at KWG 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives (Caley's Pavilion) see page 6 Enquiries: Bob 9417 5217

OCTOBER OUTING will be on **Sunday 13th 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.

If any concern re weather please contact Bob on 9417 5217

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

December: APS NSG Christmas Party on **Friday 13th December.** **EVERYONE** is asked to bring a wrapped gift with a **maximum value of \$10.**



Cards will be available at the 8th November meeting

Late July: *Pterostylis curta* in flower
Sue Bowen



Would you like to clone your favourite plants and create your own supply of plants???

Come on 11th October to our interactive propagation meeting.

Margaret Hamilton and Sue Bowen will share their knowledge and lead an interactive demonstration on how to propagate- both vegetative and seed methods.

"Goldilocks" samples are required- Please bring cuttings that are not too young and not too old, not too floppy and not too stiff. What is required is **firm new growth** in damp plastic bags, with preferably plant identified. Take a photo of plant if you can't ID it.



Do not bring flowering tips. Take a photo of the flower now if you require an identification.

Seeds and seedpods are suitable. If bringing Acacia or other Fabaceae seed pour near boiling water over them and leave for a few hours or overnight to cool, then drain and bag. If seeds from other genera - just bring as they are.

Please bring sharp secateurs.

Sue and Margaret will bring propagation mix, pots and punnets, Clonex rooting hormone gel, labels and pens.

For those people who are happy for others to do the propagating, **APS NSG propagated plants are available at all general meetings.** Please bring a bag or container to take them home in.

Carol Nolder 1931-2019

Carol was born in Harrow, Middlesex on the outskirts of London. When the WWII bombing raids began she and her younger siblings were sent to country Dorset. The war years shaped Carol's values – a lifetime of being thrifty, making do and helping others. A Queen's Guide and a member of Young Farmers, Carol grew up with a love the countryside and a strong interest in horticulture.

Carol worked as a research chemist at Kodak laboratories and after marrying she settled in Chalfont St Giles in Buckinghamshire. She had two children and became a key figure in community groups. Skilled in craft and needlework, Carol was an apiarist, cultivated an extensive garden of vegetables and flowers and ran a small catering business. In the mid 1970s she joined the Scientific Manufacturers Association organising large exhibitions 'behind the iron curtain' in Russia and East Germany, where she ran the catering team providing meals to delegates (no fast food outlets in those days!).

In 1995 Carol moved to Australia to be nearer to her daughter. She settled in Berowra and fell in love with the flora and fauna of the Australian bush. Looking for ways to become involved in her new community, she joined the APS and quickly became President. Carol loved organising meetings, speakers and events such as the display stand at Rosehill garden show. At APS Carol made many treasured friendships. Passionate about her battles with Hornsby Council as a member of the Hornsby Conservation Society, Carol also joined the Save Berowra action group (for which she went on her first and only protest march!). She contributed to efforts to save local bush areas from development and in 2002 saw first-hand the risk of bush fire that came within metres of her home.

The Wildflower Festival was one of Carol's favourite annual commitments. She would spend months sourcing pots, baskets and other items to stage the annual display. She organised several successful Australian plant identification courses and for many years was active in bushcare. She was also a volunteer for a number of years at Australian Walkabout Wildlife Sanctuary at Peats Ridge.

Carol was a person of few words, much preferring to be working behind the scenes. At APS Christmas parties she was most likely to be found in the kitchen organising the food, serving teas and coffees and doing the clearing up.

Carol was recognised on two occasions for her services to education and the community by Ku-ring-gai Council and also by Berowra Rotary.

Carol is survived by her son (in England), her daughter and two beloved grandchildren.

"Mum always gave more than she took. She was selfless and driven to do the right thing holding firm to a strong value set. She left a much smaller environmental footprint on this earth than many, but she helped and supported countless people along her journey and never asked anything for herself. She was a good person and is greatly missed by her family."

Written by & images by Diane Nolder



Carol receiving her Rotary award.



Diane with Carol



Carol at the 2010 Wildflower Festival with her grandchildren

Notices and Reminders



Brian Roach Plant Sale & Open Garden on Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th October 2019 from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. 47 Eucalyptus Drive, Westleigh Free entry
Homoranthus prolixus (Golditops) seen here will be available.

APS NSW QUARTERLY GATHERING Saturday 16th November

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/>

Floating Landcare - Scotland Island 9th & 10th November 2019

Floating Landcare was awarded the Greater Sydney Regional Landcare Award in the Government partnerships with Landcare category, at the Regional Landcare Forum, on the 2nd August.

Well done Floating Landcare volunteers and partner staff for always working so well together to tackle the weedy hotspots on the waterways of the Hawkesbury estuary, the Pittwater and Waterways of the central coast.

This year Floating Landcare has been invited to Scotland Island for the option of a 1 or 2 day single day visit or an overnight stay to help with bush regen and experience Island life.

For more information

<https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/flora-and-fauna/bushland-management/floating-landcare>

Our Correspondence Secretary, Judy Jeffery, is a keen participant in Floating Landcare and would be happy to tell you more about volunteering with the group.



APS NSG needs YOUR help

20th October: Hornsby Shire Council plant giveaway is a chance to promote native plants & APS NSG. Be at Hornsby Council's Community Nursery at 28-30 Britannia St. Pennant Hills from 9.30 am to 1200 pm and then join in a sumptuous lunch. Two people are needed to chat to residents. It is a very pleasant event with people happy & keen after collecting their four free plants.

Walks & Talks coordinator and presenters in 2020

Speaker programme coordinator(s) in 2020

Plant & Flower images collection co-ordinator for use for publicity/ newsletter etc.(images taken by APS NSG members).

Christmas Party on 13th December at KWG.

For a bit of fun and a difference this year **everyone** is asked to bring a wrapped gift to a maximum value of \$10. Preferably the gift will have a botanical theme–

“bonus” if connected to native plants. If the gift is more suitable for a particular gender please indicate accordingly, e.g. scented personal products.

Please contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 if you can help.



Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm.
9th & 23rd October 2019

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at 9 am on **2nd, 16th & 23rd October 2019**

Contact Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

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

OCTOBER

14th Other families

21st Walk Only around the Mueller Track

28th Leptospermum & Baeckea (Family Myrtaceae)

NOVEMBER

4th Grasses (Poaceae Family)

11th Wind up day: Orchid search and barbecue.

Contact: Bob Failes 9417 5217

The Knoll KWG Fridays 10 am to 12 noon. **11th & 25th October**

Contact: Michael Griffith
michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

Members and friends are always welcome at these activities.

September Committee Notes

- 2019 Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival recap
- Christmas Party 13th December
- W & T coordinator & presenters in 2020

Next Meeting of our North Shore Group

Friday 11th October 2019

(7.30 pm for 8 pm)

Beatrice Taylor Hall
Willow Park Community Centre,
Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby
Friday 11th October



Speaker: Margaret Hamilton & Sue Bowen

Topic: Propagation Demonstration

Background: Dr Sue Bowen (President) and Margaret Hamilton (Propagation team leader) will lead a practical workshop on propagating native plants from cuttings and seeds. Attendees are asked to bring their own, labelled plant material and seeds to the workshop. The plant material is to be non-flowering, firm, new-growth and is to be placed in damp, plastic bags. Participants will learn how to prepare and pot-up cuttings and seeds to take home to grow and/or donate to the propagation team.

Next meeting Friday 8th November

Speaker: Robin Buchanan will speak about Restoring Natural Areas

November meeting includes the election of the 2020 Committee

Pam and Jim Lawler will have cards for sale at November meeting.

December: *Christmas Party on Friday 13th December at KWG*

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 November 2019 edition this will be 18th October Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

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