

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

AUGUST 2020

Message from our President, Sue Bowen

Annual PLANT SALE by APS North Shore Group

Please come to our plant sale on
Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd August.

We have lots of plants that need new homes.
Usually these are snapped up at the annual Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival. Unfortunately, this year's event is not happening due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The plant sale will be for all APS members and friends at Caley's Pavilion, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives.

A great opportunity to buy quality native plants to enrich your & your friends' gardens in springand at a good price! ...and support APS NSG.
Most are tube stock that fare better in the long term, but we also have a number of more advanced plants.

Attendance will be by pre-booking only, with one booking for each 15 minutes between 10 am and 3.30 pm on either day.

Please book your time with Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951 or suzanneebowen@gmail.com.

Book early to increase your chance of getting the time that suits you best.

This arrangement will ensure safe spacing (according to our Covid-safe plan) and individualised advice on plants.

We especially encourage new members to come and avail themselves of our individualised advice on plants.

We prefer to take credit card payments but can take cash.
Please bring your own boxes and bags.

August is an excellent time for flowering and a good time for planting out new plants in your garden.

We'd really appreciate your help to destock our shadehouse and make some room for our new plants.

The sale will be postponed/cancelled if it is raining.

Sue Bowen

WANTED: If in the KWG area, could members please return their **coloured** (not blue) **and black pots and square tubes** to the KWG shadehouse. They can be dropped off from 1-4 pm on Wednesdays during August or just be left at the shadehouse door at other times.

The shadehouse is located behind the Visitors' Centre at KWG.

Monday APS NSG Walks programme KWG – August 2020

at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden (KWG) 420 Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Modified outdoor activity due to Covid-19

Hi All,

In August we will continue to hold Walks at KWG unless major changes are made to the rules.

We are accepting non-members on the walks but pre-registration is essential, please.

In August there will be five 'Walk Only' sessions (no lecture)

It is essential to book your place by the Saturday prior to the Monday walk.

Please ring Wendy on 0419 323 035 or email wagrimm@tpg.com.au

- Group numbers & social distancing will be maintained as per NSW advice.
- Walks are easy to medium. Sessions will run 10am to about 12 noon.
- Please wear a hat, have suitable footwear and bring water.

Date	Mondays	Walk focus
3 rd	August	Grevillea & Hakea Walk
10 th	August	Wattles (Acacia, Family Fabaceae)
17 th	August	Boronia & Waxflowers (Family Rutaceae)
24 th	August	Long walk: KWG to St Ives Showground return (10am -2pm)
31 st	August	Heath plants (Family Ericaceae)

Wendy Grimm

Jeff Howes thought that people might be interested in the following link about the response of wattles to fire.

https://www.australianbotanicgarden.com.au/Stories/2020/Wattles-arising-from-the-ashes-of-a-Black-Summer!?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=post%20wattles%20blog&utm_campaign=blogs

Image: Wattle bursting forth in Jan W's garden .



More plant sales: Please book with Sue Bowen (0478 957 951) or suzanneebowen@gmail.com for a time slot between **1 pm and 4 pm** on **Wednesdays** 29th July, 5th, 12th & 19th August.

Please bring your own boxes/bags and cash only.

Help wanted:

1. To prepare for the annual plant sale the propagation team will be meeting on these four Wednesday afternoons at the shadehouse to box and label our plants.

2. We would appreciate help on the sale weekend (22nd & 23rd August) to transport plants between our shadehouse and Caley's Pavilion, help to set up and pack away the plants and help to clean Caley's Pavilion after the sale.

Helpers to contact Sue Bowen (0478 957 951) or suzanneebowen@gmail.com

Next Meeting of North Shore Group 14th August 2020

On via a Zoom meeting on **Friday 14th August**

Speaker: **Michael Batley** Topic: **Looking for Bees**

Background: While looking for native bees over the last twenty years, Michael has seen many lovely species in lots of interesting places. Although bees are formally identified using shape and colour, often with the aid of a microscope, he has come to realise that, in the field, behaviour frequently provides useful additional clues.



There have been 250 species collected from within 40 km of Hornsby and it is estimated that there may be 50 additional species in the area, so there is a lot to look out for on a walk through local bushland.

The talk will include suggestions about **where to look** for bees, **when to look** and **what to look for**.

Photo: A tree stump containing nests of *Lasioglossum peraustrale* in a small park in North Ryde

PLANT ID: Images from the Bobbin Head walk will feature.

Join the meeting with a cuppa in the warmth of your own home dressed as comfortably as you like.

As is normal for the meetings the session will start at 7.30 pm with the meeting and speaker at 8 pm. It is recommended that people join well before 8 pm so that any technical concerns can be addressed. Please follow the instructions for the meeting in the email that came with your August *Blandfordia*. Sue Fredrickson will be co ordinating the meeting. If you have any queries about how to use Zoom please contact Sue on paulandsuefreddo@bigpond.com .

SEPTEMBER meeting also via Zoom *Speaker:* Farhad Masoomi-Aladizgeh

Topic: Australian ecotypes of *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo grass)

New Members

A big welcome to new members Donna Hinton, Margaret Stow, Peter Lockhart, Ivy Yang and Steve Lock, Anna McElligott, Sandra Shergill, Uma Doric, Walter Stanish and Yuanjiao Ma.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG and its members. We look forward to the return to more opportunities to meet you in person. In the meantime we hope that we can all share knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.

One spot to find interesting and informative articles is the APS NSW site which covers all the affiliated groups in the state. <https://austplants.com.au/>

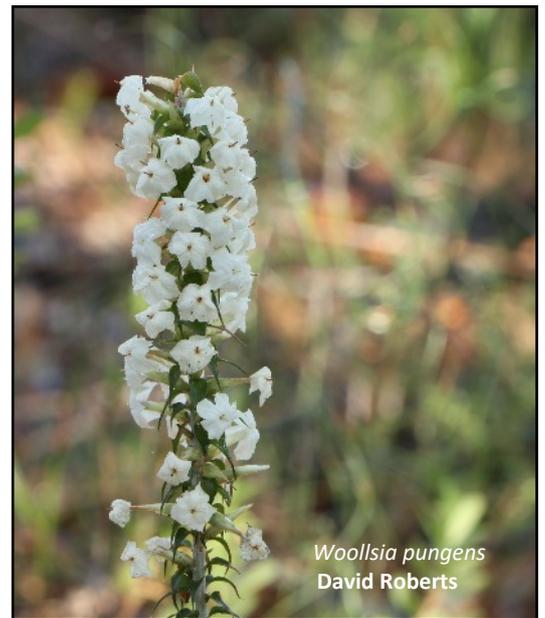
August Group Activity.

There will be no walk. Instead there is the plant sale on 22nd and 23rd August - see pages 1 & 2 for more details.

July Group Activity **WALK TO BOBBIN HEAD**

The Bobbin Head Track from North Turrumurra provides an opportunity to view at close hand the conservation work being carried out by National Parks to protect a vulnerable local species of *Darwinia*.

Sue, Phillip, David, Helen, Sue and Jan examined Aboriginal engravings which feature male and female human forms, a variety of animal forms, several footprints and a basket. Red triangle slugs (*Triboniophorus graeffei*) were eating lichen growing on the open flat rock surface of the engraving site and other exposed sandstone.



The distinctive leaves of Waratah (*Telopea speciosissima*) and woody pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*) plants were scattered among grevilleas (*G. speciosa* and *G. sericea*) and hakeas (*H. gibbosa*, *H. laevipes*, *H. sericea*, *H. teretifolia*) but the pink of *Boronia ledifolia* and yellow of *Acacia echinula* and several hibbertias stood out from the bright green of the dripping-wet foliage. Very few fruit were found on the *Dodonaea pinnata* plants growing from the cliff-face. *Lomandra confertifolia* subsp. *rubiginosa* bounded the descent to Bobbin Head and a warm drink and lunch.

Thank-you to Sue F. for enticing us on an easy stroll along a broad tract providing social distancing but pleasant distraction from threats of lock-down.

Written by Wendy Grimm

Items of interest from Jeff Howes

Item 1

Pruning of a far too large *Grevillea* Peaches and Cream.

If you have that plant or Grevilleas that have a Queensland parent, fear not to prune into old wood or even to near ground level. For best results, make sure soil is moist and prune during flowering time i.e. winter to spring, as I did. This photo was taken 6 weeks after pruning and shows so much new growth.

Item 2

For those that 'attended' the Sutherland Group meeting on Wed 22 July this is some further information on the picture of the beetle that robs Sundews of their 'prey'. The beetle is a *Setocoris* sps and has a symbiotic relationship with our Sundews, as they can freely walk over the sticky leaves and not get stuck. They are found on *Drosea binata* and a occasionally on other species. So keep an eye out for them.



Glossy Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus lathami*) talk by Judy Harrington July general meeting

While focusing on the Glossy Black Cockatoo, Judy gave a most interesting and comprehensive talk on several types of cockatoos. Fourteen of the world's 21 species of cockatoos are in Australia. There are 5 species of black cockatoos.

Glossy Black Cockatoos are classified as Vulnerable in NSW and Endangered nationally. Loss of habitat and food source, loss of nesting sites and fires are all factors contributing to the decrease in their numbers.

A description and details can be found on the Birdlife Australia site.

<https://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Calyptorhynchus-lathami>

Allocasuarinas are their only source of food. The birds make a distinctive crunching sound when feeding.

Unfortunately for them, people often do not value this species of plant and as well as mature trees, regrowth is often cleared. The trees need several years of growth before they produce cones.

Loss of tree hollows (in either dead or living trees) in other plant species, which function as breeding sites, is also a contributing factor to their demise and that of several other species of birds and animals. All cockatoos require hollows for nesting sites. Competition for suitable hollows is increasing with some species dominating, to the detriment of less assertive species. Rainbow lorikeets can often oust other species of cockatoos. As Judy commented, people still warm to rainbow lorikeets because of their colourful plumage. They are effectively "local gangs".

Many species of cockatoos display handedness when eating and Glossy Blacks are left handed, as are Sulphur Crested Cockatoos. King Parrots are right handed. Some cockatoo species are ambidextrous.

Natural predators include raptors, possums and goannas.

The white cockatoos tend to congregate in larger flocks, be noisier and are very adept at chewing (not just natural vegetation). Black cockatoos tend to be less obvious, have a more specialised diet, congregate in smaller flocks and need large hollows.

In the Sydney area the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo is the more common species of black cockatoo sighted. These birds feed on banksia species.

If they survive to maturity most cockatoos are long lived and form long term pairings.

Glossy Black Cockatoos- some specific characteristics:

- smallest of the black cockatoos
- male head is not as glossy as other some other species when plumage is described as glossy
- female has yellow patches on head and neck- these are distinctive to each individual
- females are called "flossies" by bird fraternity
- ALWAYS feeds on allocasuarinas with a preference for previous year's cones (more nutritious)
- large robust bill with a strong muscular tongue. The bill shape is specifically designed to eat the allocasuarina cones.
- small crest
- softer calls
- groups of 3-6
- juvenile plumage differs from adults
- only come to the ground to drink
- cool off by holding one wing out and by panting
- daily routine: Immediately after sunrise they are active- disperse to feed- rest - feed/drink/ return to roost. Feeding may occupy most of the day.
- if leaves are wet they will foliage bathe
- sleeping- on both legs with their head over the left wing and eyes closed
- Breeding: tree hollow of live or dead tree, March to August, male feeds female who then feeds to young. 1 egg (dull white). Only female incubates (for 30 days) and feeds the young. Female gradually withdraws from the nest. Young fledge at about 3 months of age and then are fed by both parents for another 3-4 months.

If you would like more information and how you can contribute as citizen scientist please have a look at these sites. <https://glossyblack.org.au/>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Animals-and-plants/Threatened-species/glossies-in-the-mist-flyer-180299.pdf>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Animals-and-plants/Threatened-species/saving-our-species-glossy-black-cockatoo-fact-sheet-180426.pdf>

Please contact the coordinators prior to any attendance and check NSW Government restrictions as well at this website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules>

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays 29th July, 5th, 12th & 19th August 2020

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234 & Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951

Modified Walks Programme: see page 2 Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden St Ives

Wendy Grimm 0419 323 035

W&T Notes are still on website: Please note the information on the walks is as on page 2. [Walks and Talks](#)

The Knoll KWG Contact: Michael Griffith michaelgriffith1@gmail.com

Notices and Reminders

Brian Roach did a PowerPoint presentation on Zoom with the Menai APS Group a couple of weeks ago and it's on You Tube now, titled *Native Plants; the Pick of the Crop for Sydney Gardens*.

It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAPnzk8Lhs>

Brian Roach at Westleigh Native Plants has plants for sale.

If you are interested please contact Brian on westleighnativeplants@gmail.com.

One plant available is Grevillea "Butterfly Beauty", a new hybrid of 2 species from WA, *Grevillea fililoba* & *Grevillea hirtella*.

It grows to no more than 1m high and around 1.5m wide with arching, soft foliage.



13th FJC Rogers Seminar 2020 on Mint Bushes & Allied Genera. 24th & 25th October 2020.

There is now a new format and registration form. The lectures from 5 speakers will be available on line on week before the event.

Please contact jcrogers@apsvic.org.au if you would like a registration form. Note: the Registration form says \$25 per person. This is NOT per person per day. It is a bonus if you are coming for 2 days. It is the same cost as coming for 1 day. If you are registering 4 people you need to fill in at least 2 forms, or one for each person at a different address.

Please check these websites for updates <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/>

This is particularly pertinent given the current situation with Covid- 19 in Victoria.

2021 Sunday 12th September to Thursday 17th September 2021



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2021 Biennial Conference - Kiama

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July 2020 Committee Notes

Meeting was a virtual meeting using Zoom technology

- Future general and committee meetings by virtual technology
- Propagation and plant sales
- APS NSG activities: impact of pandemic
- Location of Flower Display at KWG
- Nomination by APS NSG of Wendy and Phillip Grimm for the APS NSW Conservation Award 2021.

Committee Contacts

President: Sue Bowen 0478 957 951

Secretary: Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

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.

Treasurer: Helen Ray treasurer@blandfordia.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Jan Williamson 9875 2262 janw7531@gmail.com

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

For the September 2020 edition this will be 21st August 2020 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia *The Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society North Shore Group*