



North
Shore
Group



16th Annual Val Williams Scholarship in Botany

Applications for the Val Williams Scholarship, an award funded by the North Shore Group of the Australian Plants Society (APS), are welcomed from **Honours, Masters or PhD students from the institutes specified below***.

The project must contribute to the knowledge of the ecology, conservation, or propagation of native plants in the Sydney and surrounding region; must be carried out within this region; and the applicant must be attached to an Australian research institute.**

This scholarship honours the memory of Val Williams (1937-2004) and her contribution to the study of botany in this region. Val served on the North Shore Group of Australian Plants Society Committee as President in 1993 and 1994, in addition to several other positions. She was Secretary of the Australian Flora Foundation 1990-2004, and President, Australian Plants Society NSW 1998-2000.

The maximum grant awarded will be \$3,500. This will be paid to the student's supervising institution. Large capital items will not be considered. No part of this scholarship can be used to cover administration costs of the academic institution.

A complimentary one-year membership sponsored by Australian Plants Society North Shore Group will be offered to the student.

Applications will be assessed on the quality of the applicant and the proposed project. The project should be clearly defined in scope and preferably result in a publication.

Timeline for Year 2024

Round Sixteen:

- 8 March 2024 – Applications close
- 31 March 2024 – Assessment of applications completed
- 4 April 2024 – Successful applicant is notified
- 17 April 2024 – Remaining applicants notified

General Notes

1. The VW Selection Committee is responsible for selecting the recipient. The Scholarship Convener, Australian Plants Society North Shore Group, can be contacted for clarification of the award. Phone 0415043671 or send an email to vws.scholarship@gmail.com
2. The maximum award will not exceed \$3,500. No GST is payable as Australian Plant Society North Shore Group gains no material benefit from the granting of the scholarship.

3. No large capital items (e.g., computer components) will be funded.
4. Scientific Research is defined as any activity in the fields of natural or applied science for the extension of knowledge. This means an addition to total knowledge and not the informing of people about existing knowledge. The publication of journals and books, and attendance at conferences will not be funded.
5. For those applicants applying for funding for work which is part of a larger project, such as a Ph.D., *preference* may be given to those applications who specify a well-described part of the project which could be wholly funded by this scholarship.
6. Unsuccessful submissions may be resubmitted in subsequent years. Applications are sought in January to February each year.

Essential Criteria

1. The project contributes to the knowledge of the ecology, conservation, or propagation of native vascular plants in the Sydney and surrounding region.
2. The project is carried out within a specified institute*. The applicant would be attached to one of these institutes and the institution must support their application.
3. The project is approved by a supervisor from a specified institute*.

Guidelines for completing your application

The Val Williams Scholarship in Botany is competitive. Proposals are viewed against other proposals submitted for the current round of funding. The Scholarship will normally be awarded to one recipient in its entirety unless there are exceptional circumstances where the Scholarship may be split between two recipients. If no proposal is of a suitably high standard, no grant will be made in that round. Applicants should prepare their proposals carefully and completely, giving brief personal details, academic records (undergraduate and postgraduate, and level of Honours awarded), and the institution where the project will be carried out.

Apart from the academic standing of the applicant, the following will be considered when assessing proposals:

1. Evidence of applicant's ability to carry out the project, such as experience with the techniques, previous experience in carrying out research and any publications.
2. The scientific and/or theoretical merit of the proposal and the likelihood that it will make a worthwhile contribution to the area of research being supported.
3. The scientific rigour of the proposed methodology and design in order to achieve the outcomes of the project.
4. Identification and proper budgeting of the section of the project that funding will make possible, rather than a request for partial support of a large project. Applicants may request funding that enables the extension of a project into some new and worthwhile area.

5. The feasibility of the project being carried out within the proposed timetable and with the available resources.
6. The application form must be completed in sufficient detail to provide a 'stand-alone' proposal.
7. References and a publication list may be attached to provide additional information.
8. A copy of an undergraduate record is required from those applicants who are recent graduates or who have no publication list.

Submitting your application

Application forms can be downloaded from our website:
<http://www.austplants.com.au/Scholarship>

Completed applications should be sent by Email to the Scholarship Convener, Australian Plants Society North Shore Group: vws.scholarship@gmail.com

Your application will be acknowledged by return email.

Requirements of Successful Applicant

Within 6 weeks of the grant being issued:

- The supervising institute will bank the scholarship money on the student's behalf and acknowledge receipt of it.
- The student will be invited to provide a short profile of their interests and an accompanying photograph for our newsletter *Blandfordia* and the website.

Within 15 months of the grant being issued:

- The student will be invited to talk to our group at a Friday night meeting about the research project and the results. The general public may attend this meeting at no charge.
- A summary of the student's talk will be included in *Blandfordia* in order to reach those members who were unable to attend the Friday night meeting.
- The student is encouraged to submit a research paper or note to a peer reviewed publication eg *Cunninghamia*.
- The Australian Plant Society North Shore Group, like any other funding body, should be acknowledged in any publication arising from the funded research.

Notes

* **Specified Scientific Institutes.** All Universities and appropriate research institutes (including the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain Trust) in the Sydney Region, Newcastle to Wollongong. Other Universities in NSW are acceptable where the work occurs and is supervised by someone in the Sydney and surrounding region.

** **Sydney and surrounding region.** The area defined by the publication, Pellow B J *et al* (2009). *Flora of the Sydney Region*. Sydney University Press.