

Blandfordia



North Shore Group
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

JUNE 2018

SHOWY MONOCOTS Ross Rapmund

Despite the arrival of winter on 11th May, Ross' presentation attracted a good number of people to the May meeting. Ross proceeded to describe many monocots which occur locally or within the greater Sydney region. He concentrated on the Petaloid Monocots because of their distinguishing flowers. (*See page 2)

One characteristic that helps identify this group is the fact that the flowers have their parts in groupings of three. However, the 3 sepals may be the same colour as the petals giving the impression that the flower has 6 petals.

Ross commented that while some species are very difficult to propagate and grow, others are easy. Seed availability is the biggest limiting factor for most species. Ross brought plants of the species he talked about, which were sourced from either the Hornsby Shire Community Nursery or Bunya Native Nursery. (See page 2)

Some plants propagate best from seed, while others have tubers and/or thickened rhizomes. As with many groups of plants optimal conditions for growth and flowering are variable and different factors are required for germination e.g. some require periods of cold, others sun, while others are only fertilised by buzz-pollinating insects (e.g. *Dianella caerulea*).

Plants presented were

***Arthropodium milleflorum* Vanilla Lily: very common & best grown in multiples

Blandfordia spp Christmas Bells

Burchardia umbellata Milkmaids

***Dianella caerulea* Blue Flax Lily (yellow anthers) Requires buzz pollinators which include some native bees.

***Dianella revoluta* Silver Flax Lily (black anthers)

Doryanthes excelsa Gynea Lily

Eustrephus latifolius Wombat Berry

Geitonoplesium cymosum Scrambling Lily

Haemodorum corymbosum Bloodroot (closely related to WA Kangaroo Paw)

Laxmannia gracilis Slender Wire Lily

Patersonia sericea Native Iris/Silky Purple Flag

Thysanotus tuberosus Common Fringe Lily (requires sun)

Tricoryne simplex Yellow Rush Lily

Styandra glauca Nodding Blue Lily (flower looks very similar to Dianella but foliage is different. Not cultivated)

Xyris juncea Dwarf Yellow Eye

Commelina cyanea Scurvy Weed

Aneilema biflorum

Arthropodium fimbriatum Chocolate Lily

** Indicates most suitable plants for garden cultivation.



Continued page 2

Ross concluded with a Q&A session and noted that most of the plants that HSC grows are used for restoration projects and as give aways for Hornsby Shire Council residents. The community nursery still attracts a large group of volunteers and a volunteer waiting list is still maintained.

Thank you once again, Ross, for sharing your knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm for native plants with us.

Written by and image by

Jan Williamson

* Source https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lilioid_monocots

Lilioid monocots (lilioids, liliid monocots, petaloid monocots, petaloid lilioid monocots) is an informal name used for a grade (grouping of taxa with common characteristics) of five monocot orders (Petrosaviales, Dioscoreales, Pandanales, Liliales and Asparagales) in which the majority of species have flowers with relatively large, coloured tepals. This characteristic is similar to that found in lilies ("lily-like"). Petaloid monocots refers to the flowers having tepals which all resemble petals (petaloid). The taxonomic terms Lilianae or Liliiflorae have also been applied to this assemblage at various times. From the early nineteenth century many of the species in this group of plants were put into a very broadly defined family, Liliaceae sensu lato or *s.l.* (lily family). These classification systems are still found in many books and other sources.

(Changes into the 5 monocot orders have been made since the 1990s)

Ross recommended a walk along Laughtondale Gully near Wisemans Ferry to look at a diverse range of flora including some endangered or rare species. (Ed note: Check whether Laughtondale Gully Road is open, as remedial work was required and the road was reopened in Nov 2017.)

Ross mentioned **Bunya Native Nursery** at 658 Old Northern Road Dural <http://bunyanativenursery.com.au/>
I contacted the nursery for more information and below is the reply.

Hi Jan,

Thanks for thinking of us. Yes we definitely are able to provide plants to private residents and are happy to do so.

We are not set up for normal retail hours so mornings till around 1pm is preferable but please ask that they call or email us before hand in case we are out in the field when they come.

They can also be added to our email list for plant availability updates. The Bunya nursery email address is admin@bunyanativenursery.com.au

Thanks again

Frank

Frank Gasparre (Director) Bushland Management Solutions Pty Ltd and Bunya Native Nursery **0423 058 797**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Do you enjoy hearing the guest speakers that attend our meetings? If so, other groups are keen to have guest speakers at their meetings. The secretary often receives requests for speakers on Australian Native Plants. If you are prepared to be such a speaker please let our secretary, Judy Jeffery on 0429 438 598 or president, Barry Lees on 9653 3691 know. APS NSG has resources available for you to use- no need to reinvent the wheel or be an expert on the subject. Most of our members know A LOT more than the general public. You will usually be rewarded with a very nice morning or afternoon tea and the satisfaction of spreading the good news about the diversity, beauty and importance of our native plants.

Also at **APS NSG general meetings**: if you would like to give a 10 minute talk Barry Lees would love to hear from you.

Possible topics: your travels and plants of interest, anything related to plants, tips for your garden.....

barrylees99@bigpond.com or 9653 3691.

Hear Ye , Hear Ye WALKS and TALKS Programme for 2018 is set to commence.

(A one hour talk followed by a one hour walk)
Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, 420 Mona Vale Rd. St. Ives
10 am to 12 noon, Mondays

A Walks & Talks programme sponsored by North Shore Group of Australian Plants Society
Bookings not necessary. \$5 per session: APS NSG members \$2 per session Enquiries - 9417 5217



**Identifying Our Native Plants -
An Introduction 18th June**



**Identifying Our Native Plants
- Ferns 25th June**



**Identifying Our Native Plants –
Gum Trees.
2nd July**

Happenings at Ku-ring -Gai Wildflower Garden

Sunday 26th AUGUST: Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival 2018

Please put this date in your calendar now. Help is also needed to set up on Friday 24th August & Saturday 25th August. Please contact Jan Williamson (APS NSG Festival co ordinator) janw7531@gmail.com to let me know of your availability. People are needed to move plants, make floral arrangements and bunches of flowers, sell plants and flowers, run the raffle..... A job will be there for you.

50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Ku-ring-gai Garden on 6th & 7th October. Planning by the KWG staff for this event is underway and more information will be available soon.



Images of Flannel Flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*) and two types of fungi taken by Sue Bowen at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

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

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

GROUP WALK on SATURDAY 9TH JUNE TO BARANGAROO RESERVE, BARANGAROO

You have no doubt heard of Barangaroo, the huge development of the former disused container terminal at east Darling Harbour. Over \$6 billion in total eventually to be spent on the 22 hectare site.

The southern end has become what is called a “foodies paradise” with more than 30 restaurants. The centre part will include commercial offices, residential and retail buildings and the train station which has a planned 2024 completion date.

The northern part, which it is intended that we visit on this excursion is 6 hectares of re-created Sydney Harbour headland bushland called Barangaroo Reserve. The former wharf area has had more than 10,000 big sandstone blocks that were excavated on site, arranged carefully at the water’s edge in a tessellated pattern. Huge amounts of crushed sandstone soil was created and spread to form the plant beds on the slopes. 75,000 native trees and shrubs of 84 different species that approximate the species growing here at the time of European settlement, were planted and tracks constructed to enable the visitors to walk through the re-created “bush”. There was a 99% success rate in the growth of the plantings which were done in 2014 and 2015.

Come along and see the amazing results for yourselves, 3-4 years down the track. We’ll go by train to Circular Quay, get on a ferry to South Barangaroo and walk the kilometre to get to the Reserve at North Barangaroo. Between exploring the plantings along the tracks of the Reserve, we’ll stop in scenic spots to admire the harbour views. There is a choice at the end of the day to either head home or perhaps you want to stay on for the Vivid Festival, most of which starts at 6pm and can be viewed from a number of places including Barangaroo and Circular Quay.

Date, time and place:

Saturday 9th June. Meet at **11:45am Hornsby Station** just outside the barriers where you scan your Opal card.

Trip details: Together catch the 11:57 am train (Platform 1) to Wynyard via the North Shore (2nd carriage) People living along the Pennant Hills line could join the same train at Chatswood, where it arrives at 12:21pm (still 2nd carriage of course). Change at Wynyard for the 12:43pm train to Circular Quay, arriving at 12:46pm. Catch the 13:02 F4 ferry to Barangaroo wharf. At the end of the day, walk back to Wynyard or Circular Quay station.

What to bring: Lunch, snacks and drink, money for possible café stop, good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen.

Contact person: Sue Fredrickson. Either let me know of your intention to come at the meeting the night before or give me a ring 0401 362 921. Check that the walk will go ahead if it is very rainy.

Group Trip to Wollongong in September

Planning for this trip has been proceeding so that it’s now possible to inform you of some of the details.

The dates will be **Monday September 17th till Thursday 20th**, so three nights away in total.

In the Wollongong area there is plenty to see. A good Botanic Garden, beautiful rainforest at Minnamurra National Park, Macquarie Pass NP, Buderoo NP and its waterfalls, Barren Grounds Nature Reserve, perhaps the Grevillea Park in Bulli and other places of interest to people such as ourselves.

Weighing up factors such as convenient location, accommodation suited to various budget choices and going on what has been popular on our trips in previous years, it has been decided to make our base the Wollongong Surf Leisure Resort in Fairy Meadow.

You are very welcome to attend, whether you are a regular attendee of our trips away or if you would be a first time attendee.

We always have a great time, doing what we love best together!

It’s a good idea to secure your accommodation of choice at your earliest convenience. There is talk of a sports event in Wollongong in the second half of that week and as well sometimes places put their rates up at the beginning of the new financial year. They have a very good website to help you to choose accommodation type. There are more than likely a few “solo” attendees on this trip. You can either collaborate amongst yourselves or alternatively, notify Sue of your wish to share accommodation with someone and perhaps I can co-ordinate.

Please register your interest in attending asap by contacting Sue Fredrickson on 0401 362 921 mobile number.



Sue, Barry, Jan and Genevieve were on hand at the Seniors Week Event run by Hornsby Shire Council and held at Hornsby RSL in mid April.

A lot of people were interested and it was a good opportunity to promote Australian Native Plants.

Are you looking for a specific plant for your garden or trying unsuccessfully to propagate a plant?

The propagation team are happy to try and fulfil your wish. Please let Margaret Hamilton know on 9488 5234 and the team will swing into action. The team enjoy a challenge.

Help please!!!

The propagation team has run out of **white** and **yellow** 6 " (or 15cm) diameter pots!!! Please bring any empty ones that you have to meetings or leave outside shadehouse in KWG.

Notices and Reminders



This year marks 25 years since the **Illawarra Grevillea Park** was established by Ray Brown and the Grevillea Study Group.
 Winter Open Days Sat/Sunday July 7th & 8th Sat/Sunday July 14th & 15th
 Spring Open Days Sat/Sunday Sept 1st & 2nd Sat/Sunday Sept 8th & 9th
<http://www.grevilleapark.org/> John Elton johnelton@grevilleapark.org Ph 0424 830 925

Threatened Species Children's Art Competition 2018

The 2018 Threatened Species Children's Art competition will be open for entries between **June 4 and August 3 2018**. **Children from 5-12 years old in NSW** are invited to unleash their creativity while learning about our threatened species.
 Full details: www.threatenedspeciesartcomp.net.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

Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm on 6th & 20th June 2018

Contact:

Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234.

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

at 9 am on 13th & 27th June

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.

Walk & Talk will recommence on **18th June An Introduction to Native Plants**

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 8th June (7.30 pm for 8 pm)

Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

Presenter: Dr Graeme Wells

Topic: Climate change and how it affects the distribution of Australian flora.

Background: Graeme asks "In times of unpredictable climatic disruptions can Australian native flora really cope?" In considering this challenging question, he will refer to the ancient topography and soils of Australia and probable changes to bird and insect distributions. These may affect the distribution of native flora.

Graeme has worked for the CSIRO Division of Fisheries & Oceanography, then for the Department of Environmental Physics at Sydney University. He was awarded a PhD from the School of Biological Sciences, Sydney University. He is a specialist on mangrove vegetation across northern Australia and has done extensive field surveys from the Kimberleys to the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Like many plants this year, Sue Bowen's *Hoya australis* is struggling to make sense of the weather. Sue's comment is "After a major flowering it is again flowering!! All that hot April and May weather I guess!"

July 13th Meeting. Speaker: Vic Cherikoff

Topic: Selecting and preparing local wild foods.

May Committee Notes

- Venue for general meetings 2019
- Location and content of APS NSG archives
- Position descriptions
- Monthly group activities
- 2018 Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival

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

For the July 2018 edition this will be 15th June 2018 Editor: janw7531@gmail.com

Blandfordia

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