

# Blandfordia



North Shore Group  
(ABN 87 002 680 408)

DECEMBER 2018

**IMPORTANT NOTE: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of KWG : PLEASE see page 3.** The celebration is still happening. If you have already paid for tickets your credit card should be refunded by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> November. If you have not received your refund by then, please contact Jan Williamson on [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

## AUS-ZEN Gardens by Olga Blacha



Olga was brimming with enthusiasm for this style of garden. With the increasing reality of smaller spaces for green space, smaller gardens this style may become increasingly popular and applicable.

Olga uses native plants and objects for all her designs. One example was the fence made from cuttings of Gynea lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) stalks, rather than of bamboo.

As is often the case, we are often unaware of the subtleties that influence our perceptions, moods and enjoyment of a situation (e.g. supermarket format is not a random arrangement!). Olga spoke at length about the different features that are incorporated into traditional Japanese designed gardens. The principles are the important thing, not the “Japaneseness”.

Some of the principles are

- Have something big and powerful to draw you into the garden.
- Divide the garden up to create more interest (e.g. a fence will give the illusion of a larger garden space: it doesn't have to be tall).
- Ground features-e.g. pavers- these encourage eye movements up and down with an increased awareness of where you are in the setting and an increased appreciation of all the natural features.
- Natural looking rocks and stones have a calming influence.
- Conceal and reveal is a key principle. Garden rooms and items only being revealed from different aspects/directions would be examples of this principle. It adds interest and encourages exploration.
- Water features are important and calming e.g. water harps, ponds, waterfalls.
- Pruning. Trees and shrubs require pruning and shaping. Japanese style pruning is often designed to protect the plant in winter, so maybe not so applicable here. Pruning is required- just not necessarily a Japanese approach.
- Bridges are an important feature as they often represent a crossing or a path to an afterlife and often create a reflective mood and a slowing down.
- Pavilions or tea house
- Dry stone or sand gardens may represent a water course or beach. Creating these, and maintaining these, makes this an art form.
- Two halves of a design not being regular or mirror images
- Deceits: items such as bird statues

Continued page 2

Other principles touched upon included time, weather and climate, spacing either between objects or between periods of time, spontaneity, illusions, colour balance, inside/outside space and air quality.

Biophilia, a term used to describe the natural relationship between people and nature, is important. In a garden setting this nature must have an inherent beauty.

A rather sobering reflection shared by Olga was that many people are now existing without touching the ground or plants in their everyday lives and increasingly people are being alienated from the natural world. Olga commented that studies have shown that formal gardens are the least liked in a residential facility setting.

Examples of native plants which can be alternatives to commonly used exotic species are

*Callerya megasperma* - native wisteria

*Lagerstroemia archeriana*- native crepe myrtle

*Thelionema grande*- Tufted granite lily

Hakea "Stockdale Sensation" (instead of Acer species)

Hakeas- all will thrive in Sydney

Acacia "Limelight"

*Homoranthus prolixus* (instead of Juniper)

*Artemisia* spp for moist areas.

Olga works in communal spaces, public domain, commercial and residential spaces. Congratulations on her recent display at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. A lot of time, planning, hard work and enthusiasm is required and she is keen to display again. Olga would like to make it to the Chelsea Flower Show one day. Such a display is helping to raise the profile of our magnificent native flora. Thank you, Olga.

The message on Olga's Tshirt was *Plant trees*

*Plant lots of trees.*

<https://www.harvesttrailsandmarkets.com.au/member.asp?id=1511>

<http://auszen.com.au/About-us.php>

Recommended reading: *Green Sense: The Aesthetics of Plants, Place and Language* by John Charles Ryan

Written by and image by Jan Williamson

**A warm WELCOME** to new members

David Brown, Simone Disney, Janine Ricketts, Tania Lamble & Bruce Usher, Sue & Ian Twaddle, Jonathan Woodbridge, Pat & Peter Young.

We hope that you enjoy your association with APS NSG members. We look forward to getting to know you and share with you knowledge and enjoyment of our wonderful native plants.



Rae Rosten is very proud of these beautiful flannel flowers, *Actinotus helianthi*. The seed was sourced from Maria Hitchcock.

## Notices and Reminders



The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of the  
Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden will be celebrated on

**FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**ALL WELCOME NOW FREE**

Venue: Caley's Pavilion at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden 420 Mona Vale Road St Ives

Time: **6.30 pm**

Ku-ring-gai Council and KWG are appreciative of all the support APS NSG members have given over the past 50 years and have decided to waive the fee for the meal, as has been previously advertised. Food will be provided in a more informal manner than previously planned.

**\*\*\*\*\* For catering purposes, if you are attending we still do need to know. \*\*\*\*\***

Please notify Jan Williamson before Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December by email

[janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com) (*preferred method*) or phone **9875 2262** (there is an answering machine: please leave your name and the number of people attending).

Some short speeches including from Bob Failes (APS NSG), Dennis Collins (KWG ranger) and Les Currie (Acting Coordinator St.Ives Precinct Ku-ring-gai Council).

**APS NSG will have some plants for sale.**

*Live music by The Aston Martinis.*

The anniversary event is being held in conjunction with our annual end of year celebration.

This evening is always a relaxing and enjoyable occasion, sharing the festive spirit. We look forward to seeing you there.

### GROUP ACTIVITIES

There will be no APS NSG group walk or garden visit until March 2019, see February *Blandfordia*.

Australian Native Plant Society (Australia) ANPSA National Conference and Biennial General Meeting 2019 will be held in Albany WA from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019.

<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/event/anpsa-2019-albany/>

### 2019 Programme and Meeting Venue

Preparations for 2019 are already underway with Barry and Rae working hard on our behalf.

Please contact Rae Rosten on 9456 2111 or [rostens2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rostens2@optusnet.com.au) with the details of any good native plant related speakers they have heard recently. Other information which may be useful is if you hear about, or read about, any topic that you think may be of particular interest to our members.

The good news is that the meetings will still be able to be held in the **Beatrice Taylor Hall, Willow Park Community Centre Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby on the second Friday of each month: February to November.**

The election of the **2019 Committee** occurred at the November meeting. Thank you to everyone who offered to help. A full list of the 2019 committee will appear in the February 2019 *Blandfordia*.

A special mention to Tania Lamble for offering to become the Val Williams Scholarship in Botany Convener in 2019. We hope that you find this an interesting and rewarding position. Thanks too to Alan Wilson (general committee member), Gae Watson (Safety Officer) and Clare Bell (Garden visits coordinator) for being willing to take on these various roles. Your assistance is most welcome.

Thanks to everyone who offered to continue on the committee and to Sue Bowen for offering to become President in 2019.

**November Get together** at Loftus hosted by Sutherland Group on 10-11<sup>th</sup> November 2018

The various activities on offer were attended by Barry Lees, Roger Starling, Brian Roach, Sue and Paul Fredrickson representing the North Shore Group. It was a well-planned and enjoyable weekend.



Kamay-Botany Bay National Park



*Oxylobium cordifolium*



*Erythrorchis cassythoides*: the remaining flower



Joan Zande's garden



First activity on offer on Saturday morning was Joan Zande's open garden at Kareela. Her property is situated in sandstone territory with a steep cliffed area in her backyard, something that a few of us in the Hornsby Shire in particular, also have to work with. With clever designing, using low stone walls and Lilli Pilli hedges, a user friendly garden with lovely "garden rooms" has been created for entertaining and relaxing. Joan's hospitality, with a wonderful morning tea as well, was much appreciated.

In the afternoon, the speaker who had come down from Brisbane, APS member and garden designer Lawrie Smith, was excellent. Lawrie doesn't do anything by half measures. He told about his involvement in design with native plants of quite a few Queensland Botanic Gardens and overseas garden design Expo set ups with enthusiastic explanations and wonderful photos. The logistics of organising the botanical beautification of the Expo 2000 site in Brisbane left us amazed! Such a huge job and such beautiful results! Lawrie also gave a talk about the principles of home garden design that was very practical and informative.

The Trivia quiz, organised by Karlo Taliano from the East Hills Group was a lot of fun as the three teams fought it out! Each team had very decently high scores which made us feel very clever.

On the Sunday morning, John Arney led a walk in Kamay-Botany Bay National Park. We were given the plant list that included species collected originally by botanists Banks and Solander in 1770 on the voyage of the Endeavour up the East Coast of Australia. In the year 2020, the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at Botany Bay. The aim of today's walk was to check how closely the Banks-Solander list of plants matched with what our group found. As could be expected, there were some discrepancies, mainly omissions from the older but fairly comprehensive list. We were impressed with the variety of species and as often happens, this particular walk will forever be associated in my mind with seeing a Bootlace or Climbing orchid *Erythrorchis cassythoides* climbing up an *Angophora costata*. Other orchids seen were the Bonnet orchid *Cryptostylis erecta*, Hyacinth orchid *Dipodium punctatum* and a *Cymbidium suave* epiphytic orchid. Part of the walk on the seaside heath, had been recently burnt. The fertile ash bed resulted in a wonderful display of healthy low plants with brightly coloured flowers including orange *Oxylobium cordifolium*, purple *Dampiera* and good displays of Flannel Flowers. Thank you to the Sutherland Group for your organisation and hospitality.

Written by and images by Sue Fredrickson



*Goodenia ovata*



*Scaevola*

**CHRISTMAS is coming**

**What wonderful presents**

### ***NATIVE PLANTS***

Members can **order them from Sue Bowen on 0478 957 951.**

We can deliver them to the December dinner along with our usual plants for sale or they can be collected from the APS NSG Shadehouse at KWG (adjacent to the Visitors' Centre) on Wednesday afternoons of 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December between 1pm & 4pm.

If you don't have a specific order and would just like to come and browse and make your selection please come and have a look on 5<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> December between 1pm and 4pm.

## SEASONS GREETINGS



**Best wishes for the festive season and for 2019.**

A cultivar of *Waterhousea floribunda* (Weeping Lilly Pilly) holds pride of place in an Epping garden. Jan W.

**Plant Propagation at KWG on Wednesdays** from 1pm to 4pm on **5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018** and **2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> January 2019**  
Contact:  
Margaret Hamilton on 9488 5234

**Ku-ring-gai Council Bushcare at KWG on Wednesdays (fortnightly) at 9 am on 12<sup>th</sup> December** and **9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January**  
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.** These will resume in 2019 with Walks only on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> May and Walks and Talks resuming on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **November Committee Notes**

- Venue for general meetings in 2019
- 50<sup>th</sup> KWG Anniversary event on 14<sup>th</sup> December
- 2019 Committee
- 2019 Speaker Programme
- 2019 W&T programme
- Hosting Quarterly APS NSW meeting in March 2019 (16<sup>th</sup> March to be checked)
- HSC Seniors' Event 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2019

### **Next Meeting of our North Shore Group**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 (7.30 pm for 8 pm)**

Willow Park Community Centre,  
Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby

*Speaker and Topic:* to be advised.

The committee aims to have the full 2019 Programme ready for the February meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The AGM is also held in February. The AGM is a brief meeting which usually takes about 10 minutes.

What can you and I do to help minimise human induced climate change?

For some suggestions try: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/>

#### **Committee Contacts**

**President:** Barry Lees 9653 3691

**Secretary:** Judy Jeffery 0429 438 598

**Address for general correspondence:**

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Email: [secretary@blandfordia.org.au](mailto: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://www.austplants.com.au/about-membership>.**

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](mailto:membership@blandfordia.org.au).

For your convenience, an EFT payment option is now available.

**Newsletter Editor:** Jan Williamson

9875 2262 [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)



#### **WANTED : put your sleuthing hat on**

A reminder that waterproof containers for floral arrangements are needed for 2019 Wildflower, Art and Garden Festival in August.

Where to look- your home, op shops, garage sales, council cleanups....

Like Goldilocks, not too big and not too small. Vases, pots, ornaments, baskets etc- the container is sold with the arrangement. Novel is good. Reasonably plain is also good. The flowers are the highlight, not the container. Please bring your finds to a meeting or contact Jan on [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

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

For the February 2019 edition this will be 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Editor: [janw7531@gmail.com](mailto:janw7531@gmail.com)

## **Blandfordia**

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