

## Mission

- Expand the knowledge of Australian floral diversity, particularly in the Central and South Coast regions of NSW
- Provide a regional collection of botanical information
- Facilitate scientific research and teaching in botany
- Provide expertise in plant identification and the management of native vegetation
- Provide an historic record of the botanical achievements of Janet Cosh

## Towards Achieving the Mission

- Management of the flora collection
- Management and preservation of the historical and auxiliary collections
- Management of high quality digital records of the collections
- Expansion of the specimen collection
- Provision of resources and qualified staff to support researchers and students
- Provision of training in identification skills
- Provision of services for organisations and consultants who require plant identification, botanical surveys and analysis
- Promotion of the Janet Cosh Herbarium
- Collaboration with interested parties to develop strategic partnerships

## Contact Details

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<http://smah.uow.edu.au/biol/collections/index.html>

## Staff

### Director

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### Herbarium Officer

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### UOW Fellow

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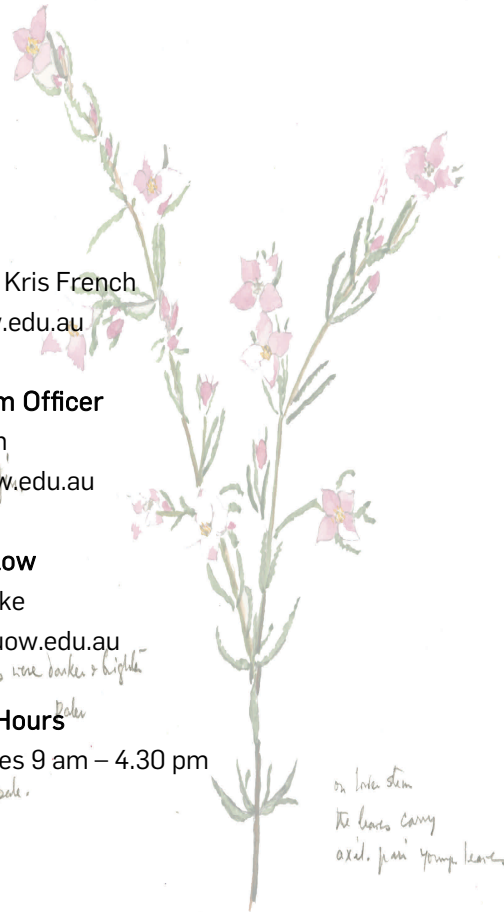
### Opening Hours

Mon & Tues 9 am – 4.30 pm

*This is natural pale.*

*or late stem*

*The leaves carry axils from young leaves*



# Janet Cosh Herbarium

Towards understanding and caring  
for our unique native flora



*In the field of botany, the records Miss Janet Cosh left will enable students to know exactly where and when to find plant species and the University of Wollongong's appreciation of her purpose would give Janet great pleasure.*

## Janet Cosh 1901— 1989

Janet Cosh was born in Sydney in 1901 and moved to the Southern Highlands, NSW in 1934. Janet's interest in botany and natural history was inspired by her parents and grandparents. Her maternal grandmother, Louisa Atkinson, was a botanist, natural historian and writer and her work is held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney and the National Library, Canberra.

Janet was passionate about the native flora of the Southern Highlands and, in her late 60s, concentrated on a systematic study of botany. She travelled around the area with her friend Rachel Roxburgh collecting, illustrating and taking notes about the plants and their surrounding environment. Janet continued her botanical pursuits until her death in 1989.

Janet was highly respected for her botanical knowledge and was an inspiration to all who knew her. She made many significant contributions to plant ecology in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands:

- collected over 1600 plant specimens and prepared over 1500 annotated illustrations which formed the foundation of the Janet Cosh Herbarium
- recorded meticulous field notes
- discovered range extension of several plant species and discovered new locations of rare plants
- corresponded with professional botanists
- contributed to the establishment of several nature reserves
- prepared vegetation maps of Morton National Park
- contributed to the knowledge of the National Herbarium of NSW

## What is a Herbarium?

An herbarium is a collection of dried and preserved plant specimens for identification and reference purposes. Each specimen is named and stored with information about the collector, location and the date collected which verifies the existence of an individual plant at a particular place and time.

## Janet Cosh Herbarium

Janet Cosh made a bequest to the University of Wollongong in 1989 to establish an herbarium. The operation of the Janet Cosh Herbarium relies solely on this bequest. Sponsorships and bequests are always welcome and the Director is available to discuss options.

Over the years, the collection has continued to grow with contributions from local botanists, researchers, students and the community. In 2015, there were over 11,000 plant specimens in the collection.

The specimen and botanical illustration collections are stored in a temperature controlled vault. There are corresponding digital records.

There is an extensive reference library including many of Janet Cosh's books, field notes and maps. Other botanical resources are also stored in the Herbarium. Rare books which belonged to Janet Cosh are stored in the archives of the University Library.

The Herbarium is available to students, researchers, individuals and interested groups in the community. Staff provide expert advice on plant identification, floral surveys and land management.

## Janet Cosh Herbarium Campus Tree Walk

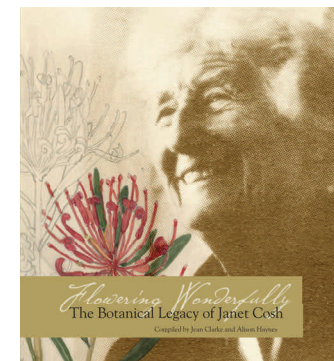
Since the 1970s, UOW campus has continued to be landscaped with indigenous trees and shrubs thanks to the vision of the Landscape Supervisor Leon Fuller and the staff he worked with. Together with on-site remnant vegetation, it forms part of the Keira Green Corridor, linking the vegetation of the escarpment to that of the coastal region.

The original campus tree walk was established in 1995. It is self-guided and has been developed to highlight the unique species and communities present in the Wollongong, Illawarra and South Coast regions, and provide information on their botanical, historical and cultural significance. Maps and information about the walk are available from the Herbarium and on the website. Tours are conducted upon request.

## Exhibitions

Janet Cosh's botanical illustrations and resources have been displayed at UOW and community events.

*Flowering Wonderfully*  
The Botanical Legacy of Janet Cosh



Book for sale at the Janet Cosh Herbarium \$29.95