

April 2016

Sutherland Group Newsletter

About Sutherland Group

We meet at 8 pm every third Wednesday from February to November at Gynea Community Centre, 39 Gynea Bay Rd, Gynea.
Visitors welcome.

We support awareness and conservation of Australian native plants.

See our website & Facebook
<http://sutherland.austplants.com.au>



www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland

President

Vacant

Secretary

Leonie Hogue
75A Wattle St
Jannali 2226
leoniehogue@gmail.com
Ph 9528 6083

Treasurer

Anne Webb
9 Connells Rd
Cronulla 2230
Ph 9523 6067

Publicity Officer & Speaker Convenor

Ralph Cartwright
ralphc@spin.net.au
02 9548 1074
0416 030 872

Newsletter Editor

Peter Shelton
pshelton.2232@gmail.com
Ph 9525 9950

Next Deadline:

Wednesday 4 May 2016

Coming up..

- Wed, 16 Apr** Sutherland Group meeting: Flying Foxes and the essential role they play in the environment with Sandra Guy
- Sun, 1 May** Working bee: [JB Reserve](#), Kareela
- Thurs, 5 May** Weekday working bee: [JB Reserve](#), Kareela
- Wed, 18 May** Sutherland Group meeting: General Pruning Techniques with Robert Atwood
- Sat, 21 May** APS NSW Quarterly get together and AGM

LOOK out for .. [Alocasia brisbanensis – Cunjevoi Lily](#)



[A. brisbanensis](#) - Cunjevoi. (Ph: Marie O'Connor)

The photo shows some of the benched flowers at the Sydney Royal Easter Show with a prize winning Cunjevoi bloom in the centre. The large bloom is followed by large red berries. Ask Marie for growing tips.

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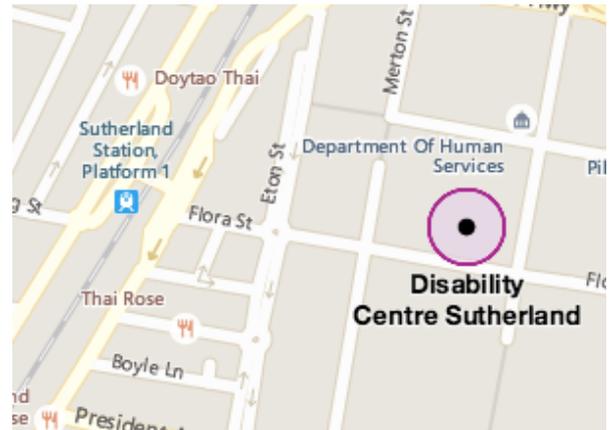
APS-NSW Annual General Meeting and May Quarterly Gathering Saturday, 21 May, 2016 at 1pm

Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre 123 Flora Street Sutherland, NSW.

The next APS NSW quarterly gathering will be held at the Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre. 123 Flora St., Sutherland as shown on the map on Saturday, 21 May. The Sutherland Group will be our host for the day.

The Quarterly Gathering will follow the **APS NSW Annual General Meeting**, which commences at 1pm. The Agenda for the AGM, proxy form and nomination of officers form were published in the January 2016 issue of *Native Plants for NSW*, which is available for members on the APS NSW website.

The Multi Purpose Centre is an easy 5 minute walk from Sutherland Station. There are plenty of coffee shops and food outlets in Sutherland if you wish to buy lunch. The Peace Park and Chuo City Garden in Eton St, next to the Entertainment Centre, is pleasant place to have lunch.



Program:

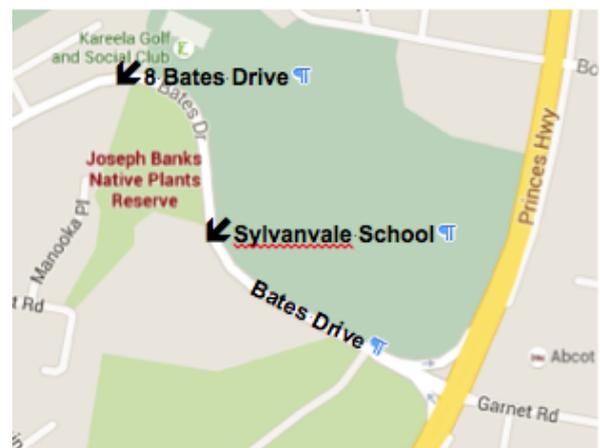
Morning activities:

- 10am – 12 noon.

Two activities have been organised, both within easy walking distance from each other.

Guided tours of Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Manooka Place, Kareela. Unfortunately parking is very restricted in Manooka Place and the Reserve's car park, which should only be used for those with limited mobility. It is better to park in Bates Drive in front of Sylvanvale School and access the Reserve from the Bates Drive entrance. See map.

Garden visit, Joan Zande, 8 Bates Drive, Kareela. This is a beautiful formal style garden using Australian native plants. It utilises clipped lilly pillies hedges with great effect rather than the exotic buxus.



AGM and Quarterly gathering

- 12 noon Lunch – bring your own. Tea and coffee will be provided at the Centre.
- 12 noon Registration and plant sales. Entry is \$5 for the gathering, not the AGM.
- 1 pm APS NSW AGM
- 1.30pm Guest speaker, Anthony O'Halloran will talk about threats to the Pillaga Forest, Coonabarabran. Anthony and his wife, Annabel, run an Australian native plant nursery and cut-flower farm, Bilby Blooms, outside Binnaway on the Central West slopes. He has a keen interest in plants of the inland and goes on regular field trips to remote parts of the State collecting plants and seeds to grow in their nursery. Anthony is an expert on the flora of the Warrumbungles and Pillaga Forest. He is also an active conservationist who is involved in protecting the Pillaga Forest from the effects of coal seam gas mining and logging in the area

Please note that members will NOT receive a copy of the Annual Report, unless they have specifically requested the Office to send one by either email or post. A copy of the annual report will be available for members to view on the APS NSW website at www.austplants.com.au in mid April.

Any questions of a financial nature arising from the Annual Report are to be forwarded to the Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd. office by either email or post by midday Wednesday, 11 May 2016. All questions will be referred to the Company's accountants for proper responses, which will be given to members at the AGM.

From the Committee

This year Sutherland Group is hosting the May Quarterly Get together which will include the AGM for APS NSW on 21 May.

In the morning from 10am members and visitors can tour Joseph Banks Native Plant Reserve and also visit Joan Zande's lovely garden which is only a short walk away on Bates Drive.

From 12 noon the Multi purpose Centre at Sutherland will be open and Sutherland members will serve tea and coffee and help with registration and selling of raffle tickets. After a guest speaker, Sutherland Group members will provide an afternoon tea.

Volunteers are needed

There are a number of ways you can help:

- occupy the stand at JBNPR and point visitors in the right direction - towards guided walks or to Joan's garden
- help serve tea and coffee at the meeting
- help with registration (i.e., collect \$5)
- sell raffle tickets
- bring a plate for afternoon tea - please contact Leonie if you can bring a savoury or a sweet. We will be catering for about 60 people

If you can help in any way please contact Leonie Hogue – leoniehogue@gmail.com 95286083 / 0416286083 or at the meeting.

For your diary

Contact John Arney ph 9525 0449, johnarney@ozemail.com.au

- 9 Apr – 1 May** **Botanica at Farm Cove** : Australia's leading annual botanical art exhibition Botanica at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney. Free entry, with all artworks for sale At Lion Gate Lodge, Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, from 10 am – 4 pm. <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/What-s-On>
- Wed, 20 Apr** **Sutherland Group meeting** Flying Foxes and the essential role they play in the environment with Sandra Guy. And see a live flying fox up close. We have plants for sale, books to borrow, plant identification, plant raffle, Coastal Plants of the RNP CDs for sale, a free supper – and friendly people to chat with. Visitors welcome, so invite a friend along. Please bring some specimens for the plant table and label specimens with their name if you can to help our plant stewards. Try to bring in some Boronias and Correas to match with our current program From 7.45 pm for 8 pm start, Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd Gymea
- Wed, 27 Apr** **National Parks Association.** The Australian PlantBank – Seeding our Future Guest speakers Denise Ora and John Siemon will highlight the importance of seed research and seed preservation and discuss the Saving our Species Walk to raise awareness and funds for 11 endangered plant species from New South Wales 8 pm, Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St). Contact Peter Vaughan ph 9299 0000
- Sat, 30 Apr, 10 am** **Walk and talk on banksias** Join Rhonda Daniels for a walk and talk on banksias and Sir Joseph Banks at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Manooka Place, Kareela. We'll focus on the local banksias which are easily seen at the reserve and some of the WA ones which grow on the east coast. Find out how botanist Sir Joseph Banks gave his name to the Banksia genus and the reserve. The walk is approx. 1 hour. Stay for refreshments and plant sales. Time: 9.45 am for 10 am start. This activity will also be publicised in Sutherland Council's Bushcare Bulletin and a RSVP to bushcare@ssc.nsw.gov.au or 9524 5672 will help with numbers.
- Sun, 1 May** **Working bee: [Joseph Banks Reserve](#)**, Manooka Place, Kareela, 9.30 am There is always plenty to do in the Sutherland Group garden whether you like pruning, weeding and/or planting. Weeding, pruning and general maintenance always needs to be done. Helpers come and go so we need others to take their place and enjoy being at the Reserve. Please see if you can come once a month to help, it would be greatly appreciated. It is first Sunday of the month (9.30 am start) and first Thursday of the month (9 am start). It's only a couple of hours each time and not difficult. Contact Leonie Hogue 9528 6083 for details.

- Thu, 5 May** **Weekday Working bee:** [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Manooka Place, Kareela
Join Bushcare Officer Jason Salmon at Joseph Banks Reserve on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am for some weeding and pruning. Everyone welcome.
Contact Leonie Hogue on ph 9528 6083.
- Wed, 18 May** **Sutherland Group meeting** General Pruning techniques with Robert Atwood.
We have plants for sale, books to borrow, plant identification, plant raffle, Coastal Plants of the RNP CDs for sale, a free supper – and friendly people to chat with. Visitors welcome, so invite a friend along. Please bring some specimens for the plant table and label specimens with their name if you can to help our plant stewards.
From 7.45 pm for 8 pm start, Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd Gymea
- Sat, 21 May** **APS NSW May Gathering and AGM.** This meeting is being hosted by Sutherland Group so mark the date in your calendar and see if you can volunteer to help on the day. Anthony O'Halloran of Bilby Blooms will talk on "Conservation Issues in the Pilliga Forest". The venue will be [Sutherland Multi-Purpose Centre](#).
- 2017** **Charlotte Pass.** Early planning at this stage, We would like to hear about preferences for dates. If you haven't been before, read the chapter *The Australian Alps* in Angus Stewart's latest book, *The Australian Native Garden*, for inspiration.
Contact *John Arney* H. 9525 0449, M. 0418 607 685

APS groups nearby

Have you considered visiting another local APS group?
Each group welcomes APS members and visitors, so check your diary.

East Hills Group

Wednesday 4 May at 7.30 pm
(1st Wednesday of every month except January)
Lugarno-Peakhurst Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno
<http://easthills.austplants.com.au/>

Menai Wildflower Group

Wednesday 11 May at 7.30 pm
Illawong Rural Fire Brigade
Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong
<http://menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/>

Illawarra Group see their [facebook](#) for updates:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/APS-Illawarra-District-Group/613171378737686>

At the March meeting

Growing Boronias with Doug Coates

At the March meeting, we were privileged to be taught the tips and tricks of successfully growing Boronias by Doug Coates, leader of the Boronia Study group.

Doug allayed our fears by stating that you can successfully grow Boronias provided you get the simple things right! [For starters](#), Doug outlined that the best boronias to grow were the local Sydney ones, and that we should avoid the species from Western Australia. Doug listed the species in order of easiest to grow which ran [B. fraseri](#), [B. pinnata](#), [B. mollis](#), [B. muelleri](#), [B. thujona](#), [B. floribunda](#), [B. serrulata](#) and [B. crenulata](#).

Boronia serrulata and *B. floribunda* have the largest flowers whereas *B. fraseri* will produce smaller flowers but in good number. *B. fraseri* can last for up to 25 years. *B. crenulata* is from WA but its suckering habit makes it easier to grow. *B. floribunda*, *B. mollis* and *B. serrulata* have a pleasant flowering perfume.

Doug provided the following important criteria to ensure successful growing – give plants a cool root run, therefore mulch with a gravel or woodchip; maintain consistent moisture; provide some dappled shade and ensure soil is sandy with good drainage. Boronias also seem to do better on an easterly or southerly aspect. Planting plants on a slope or rockery may help. Plants can be fertilised with blood and bone or a suitable native fertiliser through the year. Boronias are best planted in Autumn rather than Spring as they will be better established by Summer.

It is best to propagate Boronias from cuttings as germinating the seed is very difficult. Use firm but flexible new growth. February is the best time. Use a 3:1 mix of coarse river sand to peat moss and apply rooting hormone for better results. Maintain humidity with a plastic drink bottle and allow about 6 to 8 weeks.



B. thujona



B. serrulata (ph: Coastal Plants of the Royal CD)

One of the main impediments to growing boronias is that most nurseries will not sell the above species but will most likely sell [B. megastigma](#) 'Heaven Scent', a western Australian species which, more often than not, will not thrive in the Sydney environment. Doug mentioned that Kurunga Native Nursery in Victoria has had a good track record of growing and selling the better-suited boronias mentioned above. Doug encouraged us to give Boronias a go, so long as we can get the conditions right in our gardens. They are the closest thing Australia has to roses! I am now keen to try!

Dan Clarke

The Future of APS NSW

President John Aitken gave us a short presentation on the Review Strategy for the future of APS NSW. APS needs to change its current operations if it is to remain a viable organisation in the coming years.

John outlined that declining memberships over the long term and rising costs are the biggest challenges facing our organisation. Some interesting statistics (across all 20 groups in APS NSW) were that 41% of members do not renew after one year and that only 24% of the 795 people who joined between 2006-2011 are still members. Many members also delay their payment which further strains our resources, and profits have been steadily decreasing.

It has been identified that the APS Constitution needs a revamp and duplication of administration and financial roles needs to be rectified. We also need to strengthen the volunteer base and not continuously rely on the same volunteers to run our annual activities. We need to devise ways of attracting new members and then keeping them for the long term.

To address our current challenges, the Board is planning a workshop to be held over May 28 and 29 and is asking for two delegates from each district group to attend. The workshop is aimed at devising a strategic plan for the future and presents an opportunity for all members to have their say.

In addition, John has asked that members complete a survey regarding the activities that APS undertakes, both at the district and state level. This will help us plan for the future. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. All responses are confidential. Please complete the survey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LBD8NDL> . Your time is greatly appreciated but be sure to complete it by 22 April.

Dan Clarke

On the plant table

The plant table is a great way to see what grows well in Sutherland Shire and what flowers when. And you can try your chances at propagation by taking home some cutting material.

Plant Steward Phil Keane's nursery, Ausplants, can be found at 51 Bunarba Rd, Gymea Bay. Open Wednesday 9 – 12, or by appointment.
Tel: 9524 5532
email: ausplantsnursery@gmail.com

All these plants grow in at least one garden in Sutherland Shire.

Araceae

- [Alocasia brisbanensis](#) – Spoon Lily. A large lily-type plant to 2 m tall with an herbaceous stem up to 10 cm diameter. Large [hastate](#) leaves to 70 cm long and 60 cm wide on very long petioles. It naturally grows on rainforest margins.

Plant in a roomy spot with plenty of shade and moisture. Interesting flowers followed by bright red fruits. (See page 1)

Fabaceae subfam. Mimosoideae

- [Acacia baileyana 'Prostrate'](#) – a small weeping or prostrate groundcover form of the common Cootamundra Wattle. Masses of bright yellow flowers with feathery glaucous foliage. Would be excellent for weeping over a wall or in a large rockery or slope. Drought tolerant once established.

Rutaceae

- [Correa reflexa](#) (Common Correa) – local native Correa with showy red or green (or a mixture) tubular flowers and ovate leaves. Grows on sandstone, as well as clay soils in Sydney.
- [Correa alba](#) (White Correa) – found very close to the coast in NSW. White, non-tubular flowers contrasting dramatically with oval, dark green leaves. It likely only grows well on sandy soils.
- [Correa decumbens](#) (Spreading Correa) – native to South Australia with the familiar Correa flowers – but facing face upwards. Can grow to 30 cm tall and have a 3 m spread. Grows well in cold areas. Main flowering time is Winter.
- [Crowea exalata](#) – native to NSW and Victoria, this is a local species but a bit uncommon. It grows to about 1 m tall with narrow leaves. Bright pink to mauve flowers. Plant in a cool and moist place rather than a hot sunny position.
- [Phebalium nottii](#) (Pink-flowering Phebalium) – native to the northern and central regions of NSW, and QLD, it is a shrub to 3 m high. Flowers are pink rather than the usual yellow typically found in this genus. May be tricky to grow – choose a well-drained spot on sandy soil.

Bignoniaceae

- [Pandorea jasminoides](#) (Wonga Wonga Vine) – native to NSW, it grows mainly in rainforest environs. Vigorous woody climber with compound-pinnate leaves and large showy funnel-shaped flowers which can be white or pink with a darker throat. Grow along a fence line or strong support.

Proteaceae

- [Grevillea 'Majestic'](#) – shrub to 4m with deeply dissected green foliage. Very attractive inflorescences with flowers having red tepals and cream styles. Grow in full sun with good drainage.
- G. 'Blood Orange' – hardy shrub to 4 m tall and 2 m wide with deeply divided dark green foliage. Likes a sunny spot in well-drained soil. Prune to keep bushy and encourage flowering.

- G. 'Scarlet King' – attractive shrub with profuse scarlet "tooth-brush" inflorescences. Can tolerate wet and dry soils. Good for bird attracting. Put in a sunny position with well-drained soil. Prune lightly after flowering to maintain shape.

- G. 'Bush Lemons' – this one has "toilet-brush" inflorescences, golden orange in colour with strongly divided leaves, growing to about 3 x 3 m. Give a full-sun position with a well-drained soil. Prune as for above.

- G. 'Lollypops' – profuse raspberry-pink "toilet-brush" inflorescences, it grows to about 1.5 m x 1.5 m. Prune hard at least once a year. Very attractive. Requires good drainage.

Myrtaceae

- [Eucalyptus sideroxylon](#) (Mugga Ironbark) – one of the "ironbark" eucalypts, native to NSW, has been commonly planted outside its natural range. Thickly black fibrous bark and long and narrow green to grey leaves. The inflorescences can be white or pink which makes them very attractive. Tends to prefer a heavier soil. Allow space for planting, will get to 20 m in cultivation.

Amaranthaceae

- [Deeringia amaranthoides](#) – (Scrambling Red Berry) a NSW native rainforest climbing plant or sometimes a small shrub to 6 m tall. Often flowers when it is very small. Leaves to 25 cm long and 6 cm wide. Flowers produced on spikes to 25 cm long in upper axils or produced as terminal panicles. Showy pink to red fruits. Requires a well-drained soil and can tolerate heavy pruning. Can fruit and flower all year round.



D. amaranthoides fruit (ph: Wikimwdia commons)

Fabaceae subfam Faboideae

- [Swainsona galegifolia](#) (Darling Pea) – native to inland NSW and Queensland, it is well-worth having due to its reliable growth and long-flowering season. Branches grow annually from the crown and reach about 1 m every year. Inflorescences are up to 15 cm long with individual flowers about 2.5 cm wide. Colours can be white,

pink, mauves and crimson. Not overly fussy – but will do best in a sunny, well-drained position. Cut back spent flowering stems every year.

Asteraceae

- [*Brachyscome multifida*](#) (Cut-leaved Daisy) – an attractive groundcover daisy with dissected foliage, and profuse purple and yellow heads. It makes a great border and rockery plant. Prune lightly to remove spent flower heads. Plant in a well-drained sunny position. Native to NSW.
- [*B. microcarpa*](#) (Forest Daisy) – similar plant to that above and native to mainly northern NSW. Has more intact foliage with white to blu-ish foliage. Plant in a well-drained site with some sun.
- [*B. basaltica*](#) (Swamp Daisy) – Fast growing herb, similar to those above, tolerates clay and poorly-drained soils. Profuse white flower heads produced to 2 cm across.
- [*Leiocarpa panaetioides*](#) – erect perennial woody herb to 60 cm high, silvery grey foliage covered in tangled hairs. Bright yellow inflorescences in spring and summer. Naturally found on heavy soils on floodplains. Try planting in a moist position.

Acanthaceae

- [*Graptophyllum ilicifolium*](#) (Holly-leaved Fuchsia) – rainforest understorey shrub found in the Mackay area on granite soils in Queensland. Shiny green holly-like leaves. Clusters of deep pink, tubular flowers produced in the leaf axils between mid-winter and early spring. Plant in a semi-shaded and well-drained position. Will take full sun if the water is kept up to it.

Goodeniaceae

- [*Scaevola aemula*](#) (Fairy fan-flower). Native to much of the east coast of Australia, this plant is an herbaceous groundcover that can reach 60 cm tall. Interesting dark-green foliage which is lobed and fan-shaped purple or blue flowers with a white or yellow centre. Very versatile, it can be grown en masse in a garden bed or in pots. Strikes easily from cuttings.
- [*S. humilis*](#) – native to central and western NSW, this is a decumbent to perennial herb to 50 cm high. Leaves are elliptic to obovate to 5 cm long and 2 cm wide. Margins are coarsely toothed. Flowers produced in spikes to 15 cm long – blue or white in colour. Plant in a warm and well-drained area.

Chenopodiaceae

- [*Einadia nutans subsp. linifolia*](#) (Climbing Saltbush) – perennial herb with prostrate or twining herbaceous or woody stems. Leaves linear to about 2 cm long. Attractive fruits with an inflated succulent appearance – usually red or yellow; however the specimen on display at our meeting had bright pink fruits! Grows naturally all over NSW, though not usually found on sandy soils. Try planting in heavier soils.

Haloragaceae

- [*Haloragis heterophylla*](#) (Rough Raspwort) – Perennial herb to 50 cm high with dissected foliage. Usually found in moist areas of NSW around creeks and drainage lines. Small flowers with red petals. Likely not commonly cultivated but would likely grow successfully.

Dan Clarke

Report: Looking for Correas

On Saturday 19 March 2016, five Sutherland Group members explored the Jibbon Beach track in Royal National Park on the lookout for *Correa reflexa* with former Correa Study Group Leader Maria Hitchcock. We did spot *Correa reflexa* growing as a small shrub to about 1 m under the shade of canopy in several places, but no flowers. We didn't see any *Correa alba*, but saw lots of *Westringia fruticosa* along the coast, another tough hardy grey leaved plant with pale flowers.

We walked the wide sandy track out to the coast. The trail of destruction from the recent Kurnell hurricane was visible with many taller plants knocked over. After some beach boulder hopping, we had lunch on the windswept point then onto the Jibbon Aboriginal rock engravings. The newly constructed viewing platform provides an excellent elevated view of the engravings of several different animals.

Banksia serrata was common along the track in flower with its grey flower spikes. We also saw *Banksia marginata*, *B. ericifolia* and *B. integrifolia* (very stunted along the coast). *Petrophile sessilis* was common in flower, with its egg-shaped cone fruit distinguishing it from the two local isopogons, and also *Leptospermum laevigatum*. There was a very compact flannel flower growing along the edge of the sandy track. With our eyes open, we saw one *Pterostylis elata* in flower, and one *Thysanotus* (fringe lily).

Our *Coastal Plants of Royal National Park* CD-Rom is great for identifying plants in this area – particularly the banksias as it includes 7 banksia species. At the start of the walk at Bundeena, we saw many people heading into the national park, and had plenty of discussion amongst ourselves about toilets and visitor facilities.



T. tuberosa (Fringe Lily) (ph: R. Cartwright)



Correa alba (ph: Coastal Plants CD)

Rhonda Daniels

News and More

The Sydney Royal Easter Show, 2016

This year Sutherland Group again set up, helped to man and took down the successful APS stand at the RAS. SSC nursery supplied the excellent plants for sale and this helped to pay for the costs of the stand for APS NSW. Thank you to Liz and John Aitken, Marie O'Connor, Leonie Hogue and Graeme Ingall for all their efforts as this is the only 'exhibition' at the moment for APSNSW. Volunteers came from as far as the Hunter Valley, Kiama and Southern Highlands. Sutherland members, of course, were always available when needed.



Some of the benched flowers (Photos: D. O'Connor)

Sutherland Group did very well in the 'benching' and won many prizes this year. Our main rivals - Menai and East Hills Groups were unable to enter but their members were generous in giving us flowers and helping to make the Australian Plants display spectacular. Sutherland won 13 first places, many minor places and 2 Champions.

Sutherland Group thanks Karlo Taliana from East Hills group and Lloyd Hedges from Menai Group for supplying plants and flowers for the displays. This was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to Sutherland members who dropped off the flowers that were all used in the arrangements and displays. Some photos are shown here.

Leonie Hogue

Joseph Banks Reserve

Our first Thursday working bee in April was a hive of even more activity than usual. Sutherland Council Bushcare hosted a Seniors Week Walk for approx. 30 people. John Arney, Leonie Hogue and I led three groups under overcast skies, with Jason Salmon and Mike Perabo supporting. Visitors appreciated discovering our hidden treasure and will help spread the word to family and friends. Meanwhile, our usual volunteers found plenty of weeding and clearing to do, helped by students and staff from Minerva Street School. We all had morning tea together, a good chat and everyone went home with a tubestock plant and a stack of brochures on the reserve, Bushcare, the Council nursery and Sutherland Group.

We planted a grafted *Grevillea petrophiloides* in the Sunny garden and are looking to buy more plants at the Plant Collectors Fair. The grafted *Corymbia* 'Summer Red' that Aileen Phipps won at the recent APS NSW quarterly gathering and donated to the reserve has been planted near the picnic table at the entrance and even has a few red flowers on it. The *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* are already germinating in patches throughout the reserve and should make a great display in spring.

Unfortunately, we haven't planted out the Bates Drive pedestrian entrance yet. The works have not been completed due to a restructure in Council's Civil Works section. But we are keen to have this area finished by the time Sutherland Group hosts the next APS NSW quarterly gathering on Saturday 21 May which includes a morning visit to the reserve.

Look out for our banksia walk on Saturday 30 April at the reserve – now's the time to be admiring our local banksias and the reserve is an easy way to see them.

Rhonda Daniels

Sutherland Committee Meeting, Wed 6 April

The committee meeting had a bumper turnout and we were hunting for enough chairs for everyone. This is great to see.

The main points discussed were

- the organisation and promotion of the Banksia Walk at JBNPR on Sat 30 April
- the organisation of the AGM for APSNSW which Sutherland Group is hosting on Sat 21 May
- progress of works at JBNPR
- the organisation of a memorial fund in the memory of Connie McPherson from money donated by her family
- donation of \$500 (including membership renewal) to the Flora Foundation

Protecting our Natural Heritage

The Friends "Protecting our Natural Heritage" seminar was held at Sutherland in March and proved scintillating and brilliantly informative – a crowd of 80 heard 6 high-quality guest speakers set-out imaginative and practical approaches to managing our natural heritage. The following are some of the highlights.

Australian Wildlife Foundation – CEO Atticus Fleming set out the role that wildfires and feral animals (particularly cats) had in small marsupial extinctions and population reductions and pointed to impressive results from fencing chosen reserves. He saw that accountability for conservation outcomes was the most significant problem of existing public management regimes. For more details see

<http://www.australianwildlife.org/about/about.aspx>

Bush Heritage Australia – Dr Jody Gunn explained the role of Bush Heritage Australia (founded by Dr Bob Brown) in acquiring selected properties that are significant for the protection of threatened species and managing these to achieve key conservation targets. For more details see

<http://www.bushheritage.org.au/about/our-challenge>

Murray Darling Wetlands Working Group – Dr Deborah Nias gave a very interesting talk on what sounded like a 'dry' subject: She outlined how an innovative funding approach was targeting conservation and restoration of vital wetlands while also providing returns to investors. For more details see

<https://environmentalwatertrust.org.au/>

Wildlife Land Trust (WLT) – Evan Quartermain covered the role of the WLT in protecting habitats across an Australian network of privately-owned sanctuaries. Member properties range from the very large to small and currently account for some 43,000 acres. For more details see

<http://www.wildlifelandtrust.org.au/index.php/about>

Birdlife Australia – Dr Holly Parsons described the achievements of Birdlife Australia in protecting endangered species, protecting and restoring habitats and monitoring bird populations down to a backyard level. For more details see <http://birdlife.org.au/who-we-are/our-organisation>

Save Our Flora – Maria Hitchcock (APS Study Group leader) outlined how growing endangered native flora species in residential gardens provided insurance against further degradation of native flora stock levels. For more information see <http://www.coolnatives.com.au/SaveOurFlora.html>

A survey of attendees elicited a 50% response and they were overwhelmingly very pleased with the event.

Ralph Cartwright

Greater Sydney Landcare Seminar

A relatively new umbrella organisation for the Sydney region held a half-day seminar at the Seed Bank at Mt Annan on 8th April.

I attended because the program looked interesting and I had nothing else planned, plus I'd never visited the Seed Bank before.

We heard two excellent presentations and then had a tour of the Seed bank.

The initial talk was by Professor Lesley Hughes from Macquarie University who showed ample evidence that global warming is real, is coming sooner rather than later and is in fact here now and is very likely to get much worse.

From the point of view of our members interested in plants, bush care and regeneration, we are likely to see many more species go extinct as the climate changes and the plants are unable to adapt fast enough.

My take-aways from her talk was that we should be factoring-in changes in both rainfall and temperatures when deciding what plants we should attempt to preserve and indeed plant when doing re-gen work.

We may also need to re-assess our views about what constitutes a weed. It may be that native plants that take over niches are simply adapting faster than what used to be in that location, as the climate changes.

We then heard from Dr Maurizio Rosetta (Principal Research Scientist with the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust) introduced us to a the Restore and Renew NSW program.

Visit <https://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/projects/RestoreNSW.html> to learn more and download the full list of chosen plants.

The idea is that around 200 plant species which are considered useful in restoration projects across NSW will be collected and analysed.

Dr Rosetta indicated that The Restore and Renew NSW project is taking the innovative and exciting approach of using citizen scientists to collect plant material from a large number of sites spanning the entire state of NSW. APS members would be welcomed in this process and John Aitken, who was also present, will liaise with Maurizio to see what we can do.

Ralph Cartwright