

May 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

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Next Deadline:

Wednesday 1 June 2016

Coming up..

Wed, 18 May

Sutherland Group meeting: General Pruning Techniques with Robert Atwood

Sat, 21 May

APS NSW Quarterly get together and AGM Hosted by Sutherland Group
Can you volunteer to help? See diary.

Thurs, 2 Jun

Weekday working bee: [JB Reserve](#), Kareela

Sun, 5 Jun

Working bee: [JB Reserve](#), Kareela

Wed, 15 Jun

Sutherland Group meeting: Growing a bush-tucker garden

Look out for .. [Acacia linifolia](#)



[A. linifolia](#) – Flax Leaved Wattle. (Ph: P. Shelton)

This wattle will grow up to 2 m tall, and is moderately bushy. Indigenous to the Botany Bay area, it is very hardy and flowers at a different time to most wattles, with some spot flowering as throughout the year. The flowers are cream to white. Like most Wattles it is easy to propagate from scarified seed and germination is quite quick.

Inside this issue

Full Program for NSW APS Quarterly Meeting.....	2
For your diary	3
At the April Meeting	4
News and More.....	6

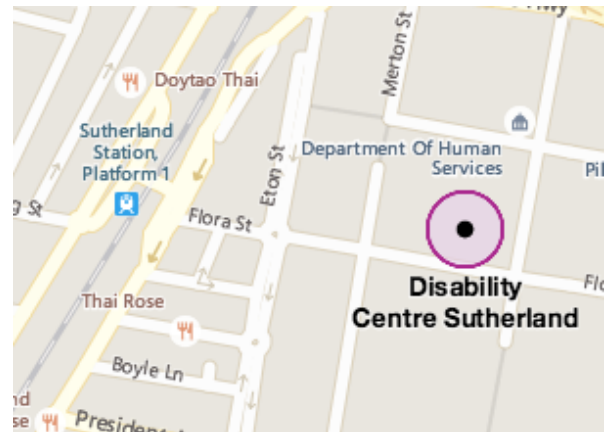
APS-NSW Annual General Meeting and May Quarterly Gathering Saturday, 21 May, 2016 at 1pm

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:

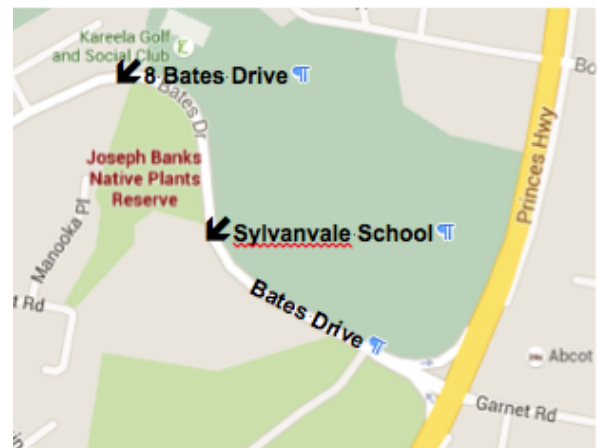
Morning activities:

- 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](http://austplants.com.au/kunena/23-aps-district-group-business-and-newsletters/482-annual-report-2013.html), unless they have specifically requested the Office to send one by either email or post. A copy of the annual report is available for members to view on the APS NSW website at <http://austplants.com.au/kunena/23-aps-district-group-business-and-newsletters/482-annual-report-2013.html>. (You will need to logon to the web site.)

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.

For your diary

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

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.
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

Sat, 21 May **APS NSW May Gathering and AGM.** This meeting is being hosted by Sutherland Group and will feature talk by Anthony O'Halloran of Bilby Blooms on "Conservation Issues in the Pilliga Forest". The venue will be [Sutherland Multi-Purpose Centre](#). Volunteer help will be very much appreciated so if you are able to help out but haven't talked to Leonie there is still time!
Contact: Leonie Hogue at leoniehogue@gmail.com 95286083 / 0416286083 or at the meeting.

Thu, 2 Jun **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.

Sun, 5 Jun **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.

Wed, 15 Jun **Sutherland Group meeting** Growing a bush-tucker garden with Narelle Happ (Sydney Wildflower Nursery, Heathcote)
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

Wed, 22 Jun **National Parks Association.**
8 pm, Sutherland Multi Purpose Centre, 123 Flora St Sutherland (near Belmont St).
Contact Peter Vaughan ph 9299 0000

2017 **Charlotte Pass.** Early planning at this stage: we would like to hear about preferences for dates.
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 1 June 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

Saturday 11 June at 1.00 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 April meeting

Flying Foxes with Sandra Guy

At the April meeting, we received a very informative talk from Sandra Guy of the Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service on Flying Foxes and Microbats.

Sandra focused her talk mainly on flying foxes for the benefit of members, due to their crucial role in pollination of Australian flora. Today's populations are at about 5% of what they were 100 years ago and numbers are actually going down rather than up. There is a perception that flying foxes are disease-spreading vermin and are extremely dangerous to humans. Sandra explained well that flying foxes may carry two viruses; the Hendra and Bat-Lyssa virus. Less than 1% of flying fox individuals are infected and a human has to be scratched or bitten to acquire infection by Bat-Lyssa virus. Hendra virus is passed from bat to humans through horses. There are no known cases of transmission from flying-foxes straight to humans. A vaccine is now available for all horse handlers in Australia. Research continues into the nature and spread of these viruses. Sandra pointed out that cattle and horses kill more people in Australia than any other animal, and that perspectives need to be balanced.

There are perceptions that flying foxes are plentiful as evidenced by their colony numbers but we need to consider how many are needed to carry out ecosystem function. They are the keystone pollinator for eucalypt pollination, especially given that a single flying fox can cover 200 km in a night! Nectar is their main food source and they also inject protein-rich pollen. It is thought that most eucalypt blossoms have evolved to be white in order to attract flying foxes. Many flying foxes die through the year from heat, cold and food shortages. However, they can potentially live to 25 years!



Grey headed flying fox in flight (Photo: Ofer Levy, www.telegraph.co.uk)

Flying foxes, unlike microbats, have excellent vision and very good hearing and do not use echo-location. They are thought to share a common evolutionary ancestor with lemurs and have a hand structure very much like a primate. Female foxes have one pup a year and lactate for six months. Incredibly, some mothers go foraging at night with the pup clinging onto the mother's chest. Sometimes they can fall off. Some colonies of flying foxes are babysitting colonies where pups get left behind by parents at night to be looked after by others. Sandra said that if you find an electrocuted flying fox, you should ring the wildlife rescue services and then check for a pup nearby, as these often survive the event.

When they are rescued and become part of a human household, they fit in with the household routine and, in a similar fashion to a dog, they become excitable when people come home and when it is time for meals and other activities. Rescued flying fox pups will be fed stewed apple, and eventually fed raw apple in an attempt to get them to recognise their natural foods. The rescue and rehabilitation process can be complicated with flying foxes sometimes returning to rescue locations after release, whereas others can never be released.

Flying foxes have an amazing vocalisation pattern and are known to have 60 different calls. Bats are studied along with humans, dolphins, seals and whales in vocal sophistication research. Their societies are complex and rescued foxes need to be trained with specific techniques in order to familiarise them to “bat society”.

Sandra commented briefly on human efforts to relocate foxes from where they are not wanted and stated that sometimes it makes things worse by pushing and fragmenting foxes into adjoining backyards and usually they will always try to return, even up to years down the track. Sandra emphasised the crucial point that we will always have to put up with some sort of inconvenience in the natural world, and that we need to rethink removing species from our suburbs, based on the view that they are a nuisance. This becomes especially important when the species carries out essential ecosystem services that are vital to sustain our way of life. A lot of food for thought in what was a fact-filled talk!

Dan Clarke

Sandra Guy has put up some Youtube videos including these:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWCRcfZlhX8> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzDOMTKqJ6I>

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.

Ericaceae subfam. Styphelioideae:

- [*Leucopogon juniperinus*](#) (Prickly Beard-Heath) – a local native shrub found in a wide range of habitats including dry western Sydney woodland, as well as rainforest margins. Prickly leaves and dainty tubular flowers. Is now being propagated in some local council nurseries but likely difficult to grow. Give it a try in well-drained soil. It will grow to about 1.5 m tall.

Myrtaceae:

- [*Thryptomene saxicola*](#) (Rock Thryptomene) – a small shrub native to Western Australia with very small leaves bearing masses of small bright pink flowers. It responds well to pruning and can be used as a mass planting on slopes or hedged. Likes sandy soil.

Proteaceae:

- [*Grevillea 'Sylvia'*](#) – one of the ‘toilet-brush’ Grevilleas with stunning rosy-pink inflorescences and divided greyish foliage. Prefers well-drained soils in full sun to thrive. Bird attracting.

- [*Grevillea 'Orange Marmalade'*](#) – a cross between [*G. venusta*](#) and [*G. glossadenia*](#), it has lush lanceolate foliage and stunning inflorescences of orange, yellow and pink. Grows to about 3 m tall and 2.5 m wide.



G. 'Orange Marmalade' (Ph: P. Shelton)

- [*Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon'*](#)? (or similar) – shrub to about 1.5 m tall with deeply dissected foliage and red inflorescences. Very hardy shrub. A word of warning – it can cause skin irritations. Grow in full sun with good drainage.
- [*Grevillea 'Blood Orange'*](#) – a fast growing shrub with deeply divided dark green foliage. The colour of the flowers is stunning! Grow in a spot with good drainage and prune well to provide a dense habit.
- [*Banksia integrifolia*](#) (Coast Banksia) – a tree to potentially 20 m tall – has bright yellow to dark cream inflorescences and green/grey foliage. Likes a sandy soil and plenty of sun to thrive. Pruning will provide a denser habit.

One of the easier banksias to grow in Sydney.

- [*Banksia integrifolia* 'Roller Coaster'](#) – a prostrate or low-growing form of *Banksia integrifolia* – it provides a great ground cover plant for a hillslope or bare area. Prefers a sandy soil with good drainage. Pruning periodically to encourage flowers.
- [*Hakea laurina*](#) (Pin Cushion Hakea) – a native of Western Australia but grows very well over here. Beautiful globe-shaped inflorescences of red and cream. Can reach 5 m in height. Give some water but also provide good drainage and plenty of sun.

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* 'Pink Blush'](#)? – a very pretty shrub with pink 4-petaled flowers and rounded foliage. Makes a good rockery or border plant. Can grow in full sun or part shade and will also tolerate heavier soils. Flowers from Autumn to Winter.
- [*Correa baeuerlenii*](#) (Chef's Hat Correa) – found on the south coast of NSW, it has taken well to cultivation. Greenish-yellow tubular flowers with the calyx resembling a chef's hat. Attractive glossy green foliage. Easy to grow.
- [*Crowea exalata*](#) (Small Crowea) – another shrub, found in the Sydney area, that flowers in Autumn to Winter – it had very narrow leaves and puts on good displays of bright pink 5-petaled flowers. It will tolerate shade and prefers a cooler, moist area. Grows to about 1 m tall.

Bignoniaceae:

- [*Pandorea jasminoides* 'Lady Di'](#) (Bower Vine) – robust woody climber native to NSW rainforest but thrives in most gardens. Inflorescences of large pink flowers. Grow on a trellis, fence line or balcony. Prune moderately after flowering. Long-lived.

Fabaceae subfam. Mimosoideae

- [*Acacia terminalis*](#) – (Sunshine Wattle) – local Sydney shrub that can reach about 5 m, usually found on sandy soils. Bright and attractive golden or yellow globe-shaped inflorescences and bipinnate foliage with leaflets much wider than many other wattles. Easy to grow and needs very little care. Plant in a sandy location with some sun.

- [*Acacia baileyana* 'Prostrate'](#) (Cootamundra Wattle) – weeping form of *Acacia baileyana*, it is a hardy plant which may or may not flower well. Plant in a sunny position with room for sideways spread. Will tolerate dry periods and frost.
- [*Acacia howittii* 'Green Wave'](#) – a dwarf form of *Acacia howittii* (native to Victoria), it has a striking pendulous habit and pale yellow flowers. Needs very little maintenance and little to no pruning. Good for soil retention on slopes. Prefers heavier soils.

Violaceae

- [*Viola banksii*](#) (Wild Violet) – native to NSW, it is an attractive and dainty groundcover with showy white and violet flowers. Grows naturally in coastal areas on sandy soils with some moisture. Grow in a damp spot with some shelter. Would go well in a native cottage garden!

Amaranthaceae

- [*Ptilotus exaltatus* 'Joey'](#) (Mulla Mulla) – a short lived but very attractive herbaceous plant with dark green leaves and eye-catching feathery inflorescences. Native to the drier parts of NSW, it will grow on a variety of soils. Grow with good drainage in a rockery or sunny garden. Will be a talking point in the garden!



[*P. exaltatus* 'Joey'](#)

(ph: <http://www.gardeningwithangus.com.au/>)

Moraceae

- [*Ficus coronata*](#) (Sandpaper Fig) – native to NSW mainly in rainforest areas. It is potentially a small tree but usually a shrub. Rough (scabrous) upper leaf surfaces and hairy undersurfaces, with hairy figs. Grow in a good fertile soil with adequate drainage. May be useful in attracting birds.

Psilotaceae

- [*Psilotum nudum*](#) (Skeleton Fork-Fern) – weeping ground or epiphytic fern usually found on rock crevices in NSW. It can be seen growing on the vertical walls near the

Sydney Opera House! Possibly difficult to grow but may occur naturally in sandstone rock crevices in your area.

Dan Clarke

News and More

[Joseph Banks Reserve](#)

Our inaugural [Banksia](#) walk and talk on Saturday 30 April was attended by 8 enthusiastic community members and 8 APS members. We found most of our local banksias in the reserve and explained how many of the Banksia species names relate to the leaf. [Banksia robur](#), with its velvety red new leaf growth and young green flower spikes, captured interest. After the walk, everyone stayed and enjoyed morning tea (thanks Leonie) and a long chat, and even took home a free local banksia thanks to [Sutherland Council nursery](#).



New [B. robur](#) flower spike forming (Ph: P. Shelton)

In the last month we have planted over 100 plants bought at the Collectors Plant Fair in April and over 30 plants, mostly forms of hardy locals, from Bundara Native Nursery. Over 50 new plant labels have also been installed. We have also taken cuttings from groundcovers and small shrubs for propagation at the Council nursery to really boost our numbers and help fill spaces. [Angus Stewart](#) has kindly donated [16 kangaroo paws](#) in a variety of colours from his new range which we will use at the new Bates Drive pedestrian entry.

At our May working bee, we worked in the shady garden near the Bates Drive entry which we will be using on Saturday 21 May for people visiting before the APS NSW AGM. We welcomed Linda who volunteered after enjoying our Banksia walk.

One of our new plants is [Boea hygroskopica](#), bought from Darvill Nursery at the Collectors Fair. It is known as the “native African violet” and is a very low groundcover with fleshy leaves and a purple flower. Apparently it can survive long periods of dryness – we will be putting it to the test. We have planted it near some plectranthus. When looking it up, remember it is not a boa, but a boea – I found lots of information on snakes at first!



[B. hygroskopica](#) (ph: <https://www.anbg.gov.au>)

Another new plant is *Acacia* ‘Twilight Glow’, a seedling which is a cross between [Acacia howittii](#) x *leprosa*. It is described as having mustard pink flowers, so not quite as red as [Acacia leprosa](#) ‘Scarlet Blaze’, but hopefully hardier. It’s near our Acacia sign. We also planted some finger limes in our Rainforest area – the mature one in our bush food garden has lots of fruit at this time of year.

We look forward to welcoming our fellow APS members to Joseph Banks Reserve and showing off the new look. We last hosted a gathering in 2010 before the Council works redesigned the entry area and created accessible paths in 2014.

Rhonda Daniels

Calyx opening details announced

Planned to coincide with the 200th Birthday of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, the opening will feature an exhibition call *Sweet Addiction – The Botanic Story of Chocolate*.

Tickets are now on sale from the web site: <https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/Visit/Sweet-Addiction>

The web site also has informative stories about putting the exhibition together including the propagation of plants grown for the display.

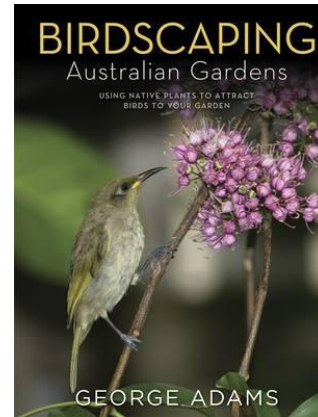
News update from the library

Heather now has to do her work night shift on Wednesday, so she is no longer able to come to our meetings. Lorena Ethell has kindly agreed to take over the library on meeting nights. Luckily Heather still wants to be a part of the group and we have been working together on the library, organising the books into subject order. This should make it easier to find the books you are interested in. We have grouped the books into the boxes according to their subject and have identified those subjects with spots. Some of our categories may seem arbitrary but working within the constraint of our library I hope it will be an improvement.

New book: *Birdscaping Australian Gardens: using native plants to attract birds to your garden* by George Adams.

This is a beautiful book giving lots of practical advice on how to attract birds and other wildlife

into your garden. The first section has general landscaping advice, there is a chapter on plant selection, and a section on bird species with a distribution map so you can see what birds are in your area. There are lovely colour photos and illustrations throughout. I can highly recommend this informative book.



Clare McColl

Harvesting of exotic Tasmanian mountain pepper underway

If the headline has you wondering, then it is covered early in the article at www.abc.net.au:

"This is a really, really rare spice. It's not exotic to Tasmania, but it is exotic to everywhere else in the world," he said.

Follow [this link](#) to listen to the ABC Radio broadcast. It covers the efforts of grower, Andrew Rath, to develop a crop of *Tasmannia lanceolata* for commercial production. I wish him luck. I managed to sample some [here](#)!



Ph: The berries of the female [native mountain pepper tree](#) (Hilary Burden, www.abc.net.au)