

# June 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](http://www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland)

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### Next Deadline:

Wednesday 29 June 2016

### Coming up..

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>Wed, 15 Jun</b>  | Sutherland Group meeting: Growing a bush tucker garden with Narelle Happ |
| <b>Sat, 25 Jun</b>  | Walk to Figure Eight Pools   |
| <b>Sun, 3 Jul</b>   | Working bee: <a href="#">JB Reserve</a> , Kareela                        |
| <b>Wed, 6 Jul</b>   | Committee Meeting, 7:30 at Leonie Hogues'                                |
| <b>Thurs, 7 Jul</b> | Weekday working bee: <a href="#">JB Reserve</a> , Kareela                |
| <b>Wed, 20 Jul</b>  | Sutherland Group meeting: Frogs and Reptiles of the local area.          |

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



[A. amblygona](#) – Common name Fan Wattle  
(Ph: B. Walters anpsa.org.au)

This small wattle is flowering now at [Joseph Banks Reserve](#) where it is newly planted. You won't see it around much in Sydney in the wild, but it is reasonably hardy in cultivation. There is also a prostrate form available. Propagation is easy from treated seed, but must be from cuttings if it is a prostrate form.

Seeing it growing well at [Joseph Banks Reserve](#) could make you consider trying it out at home.

### Inside this issue

For your diary .....	2
At the May Meeting .....	3
News and More .....	5

# For your diary

Contact John Arney ph 9525 0449, [johnarney@ozemail.com.au](mailto:johnarney@ozemail.com.au)

- Wed, 15 Jun** **Sutherland Group meeting** Growing a bush-tucker garden. Learn how to grow bush tucker in your garden with Narelle Happ, horticulturist and garden designer from A Garden for Life. Narelle will highlight edible groundcovers, shrubs and trees – and explain how to use the fruits, foliage and more.  
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, 25 Jun** **A Walk in the Royal National Park.** To [Figure Eight Pools](#).  
We will ask at the June meeting for people who are interested in doing a walk in the Park. We had in mind the track to [Figure Eight Pools](#) from Garawarra Farm, starting from the Farm at 9.30 am. The route to the Pools crosses several soil types and vegetation zones and we will discuss the types of plants that we encounter on the route.  
Bring your swimmers for a photo in the pool, it shouldn't be crowded this time of year.  
Contact John Arney ph 9525 0449 / 0418 607 685 or [johnarney@ozemail.com.au](mailto:johnarney@ozemail.com.au)
- 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
- Sun, 3 Jul** **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, 6 Jul** **Committee Meeting**  
7.30 pm at Leonie Hogue's place, 75A Wattle Road, Jannali  
Contact Leonie Hogue on ph 9528 6083.
- Thu, 7 Jul** **Weekday Working bee: [Joseph Banks Reserve](#)**, Manooka Place, Kareela  
Join Bushcare Officer Chris Banks 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, 20 Jul** **Sutherland Group meeting** Frogs & Reptiles of the local area with Ken Griffiths  
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, 30 Jul** **Walk from Bundeena to Marley Beach.** This walk will observe some of the recent improvements to the Coast Track as well as taking in some of the early spring flowering.  
Contact John Arney ph 9525 0449 / 0418 607 685 / [johnarney@ozemail.com.au](mailto:johnarney@ozemail.com.au)
- 19 - 21 Aug** **APS NSW 2016 Annual Get-together**  
Tamworth Group are hosting the 2016 NSW Get-Together with a Seminar, dinner and a range of local activities to take part in. Details and registration available here:  
<http://austplants.com.au/9-news/latest-news/374-2016-aps-nsw-get-together.html>

- 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
- 2018** **12 - 20 January in Hobart – The ANPSA Biennial Conference.** “The Conference Theme is: Grass Roots to Mountain Tops, depicted in our logo with Themeda, the grass roots, and the recognisable mountain tops shaping the map of Tasmania.”  
See: <http://www.apstas.org.au/conference.html>

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

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**East Hills Group**

Wednesday 6 July at 7.30 pm  
(1st Wednesday of every month except January)  
Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church  
909 Forest Road, Lugarno (opposite the Lugarno shops)  
<http://easthills.austplants.com.au/>

**Menai Wildflower Group**

Wednesday 13 July at 7.00 pm  
Illawong Rural Fire Brigade  
Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong  
<http://menaiwildflower.austplants.com.au/>

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**Illawarra Group** see their [facebook](https://www.facebook.com) for updates:

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

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## At the May meeting

### Rob Attwood on Pruning with an emphasis on Native Plants

At the May meeting, Rob Attwood from the Horticulture department at NSW TAFE, introduced us to his rough guide on pruning for native plants.

Rob outlined his talk by stating that there are a plethora of books available on pruning. But there are a few simple tips and tricks to follow in order to prune your plants correctly, including native plants. It was emphasised that native plants generally always benefit from pruning, and that this does in fact mimic nature, in that plants in the wild are pruned by weather, bushfires and herbivores.

Reasons for pruning include developing the desired shape of a plant; restricting size; promoting flowering and/or dense foliage; removing wayward, damaged or dead growth and for specialising a particular habit. We may wish to hedge, espalier or topiary plants and there are certainly natives such as *Syzygium*, *Philotheca* and *Westringia* that are great candidates for this.

Rob suggested that early tip pruning works well for many native plants that we wish to shape and mould for flowering and density. This can be done using fingernails in some cases, but usually a pair of clean secateurs works best. Removing up to three nodes of growth is usually all that is required.

Rob highlighted some good and bad pruning observations by way of photographs and impressed on us that the best pruning is often subtle and goes unnoticed but results in spectacular flowering episodes, such as in *Grevillea* cultivars.

Pruning can produce different habits in the same plants, such as *Acacia fimbriata* for example, where you can prune lightly for a nice vase shape, or prune regularly and systematically to create a dense plant. Other native plants that respond very well to pruning and can even play a dominant role in formal gardens include most of the Lilli Pilly cultivars (*Syzygium* and *Acmena*), *Tristaniopsis laurina*, *Baeckea virgata* varieties, *Philotheca*, *Westringia*, *Correa* and *Lomandra*.

One of the most important aspects of pruning is to know our plants, with heavy emphasis placed on flowering times and syndromes. For example, some plants will flower on the growth of previous growing seasons. To clarify this for members, that is, some plants flowering in Sydney in September 2016 will be producing flowers on growth produced from September 2014 to April 2015 (eg: many *Hakea*, *Acacia* and *Banksia* species). Contrastingly, other plants flowering at the same time will be producing flowers on growth produced from September 2015 to April 2016 (eg: *Philotheca*, *Grevillea* and *Prostanthera*). So for these latter plants, if we were to prune around March to April 2016, we may remove much of the material that would have produced flowering buds. A good “rule of thumb” is to prune these plants after flowering in late spring or summer (dependant on flowering times).

Groundcovers such as *Brachyscome* and *Chrysocephalum* can be pruned anytime and should be pruned regularly to encourage growth and stop spread into unwanted areas. A very light application using a whipper-snipper can work well for this.

Rob provided diagrams demonstrating correct pruning techniques, such as pruning to outward facing buds and angling stem cuts away from but close to the last remaining growing bud. For large branches, the step-cut method should be used to prevent ripping of the bark as the stem falls. You should always use clean and sharp pruning tools and secateurs should only be used for stems about as thick as your finger. Members also chipped in, advising that secateurs should only be used with the blade on top of the stem rather than below.

Monocotyledonous plants such as Native Ginger, *Lomandra*, native grasses and rushes should also be pruned in order to promote new growth and rejuvenate tired-looking plants. The trick for many of these is to remove all growth to the base. So grasses and lomandras should be slashed with a whipper snipper or shears down to ground level to achieve a tidy result and promote attractive flushes of new growth.

In most cases, the gardener will have to learn by experimentation how different plants respond to their chosen pruning method. The main message is do not be afraid to have a go. Your native garden will definitely be the better for it.

Dan Clarke

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## 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](mailto:ausplantsnursery@gmail.com)

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

### 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 'Robyn Gordon'\*](#) – 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.
- [\*Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'\*](#) – a plant that had a very interesting discovery back in the 1980s, it is thought to be a natural hybrid between [\*H. myrtoides\*](#) and [\*H. petiolaris\*](#). It is a medium-sized shrub growing to about 1.5 m high by 2.3 m wide. The leaves are stiff and about 40 mm in length. The attraction is the pink clusters of flowers in the leaf axils. Plant in a sunny position in well-drained soil.

### Rutaceae:

- [\*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.

### Thymelaeaceae

- [\*Pimelea linifolia\*](#) (Slender Rice Flower) – a dainty shrub growing naturally in Sydney sandstone bushland, it has narrow elliptic leaves and heads of white 4-petaled flowers. Likely needs good drainage to thrive and a light sandy soil.



[\*Pimelea linifolia\*](#) (ph: J. Dark anpsa.org.au)

### Haemodoraceae

- [\*Anigozanthos\* cv](#) (Kangaroo Paws) – a popular grass-like perennial with long stalks supporting the inflorescences; they make a good border plant and rockery filler. Plant in open sunny areas with good drainage. Prune spent flower stalks. Plant in large numbers for a showy display.

### Sapindaceae

- [\*Alectryon subcinereus\*](#) (Native Quince) – A small tree usually found in warmer rainforest,

it is locally native and common in rainforest gardens. Has good sized toothed leaves and delicate panicles of yellow flowers. As the common name suggests, it produces a red fruit about 1 to 2 cm wide. Plant in a spot with some space, give some water to establish and soil improvement.

### **Meliaceae**

- [Synoum glandulosum](#) (Scentless Rosewood, Bastard Rosewood) – A small tree to about 7 m tall, it occurs widely in rainforests and moist forests of NSW. Grows well in gardens with some moisture. Attractive compound leaves with very small white flowers. The fruits are much more conspicuous; reddish brown and about 2 cm diameter, splitting open to reveal a vivid red fleshy interior.



*S. glandulosum* (ph: [Wikipedia commons](#))

Dan Clarke

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## News and More

### **Joseph Banks Reserve**

#### **Successful signage grant**

I am pleased to advise that we have been successful in our grant application under the federal government's Stronger Communities Program for interpretive signage at Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve. The grant of \$5,000, to be matched with \$5,000 from Sutherland Group, will fund approximately 25 permanent interpretive signs of A3 size at the reserve, replacing the current temporary signs. We have also been liaising with Council over entry signage for the Bates Drive entry to match the Manooka Place entry, to be funded in the 2016-17 financial year.

#### **Bates Drive entry**

There's nothing like a deadline. The Bates Drive pedestrian entry was finished, mulched and planted just a few days before we welcomed fellow APS members on 21 May, together with new plantings in the Shady garden including croweas and baueras. Many visitors used the more familiar top entrance, but a few used the new Bates Drive entry. All appreciated the improvements to the reserve. One half of the double gate should now be open from 9 am, 7 days a week. If it is not open, please email Council.

#### **Brochures**

If you would like copies of the Council brochure for Joseph Banks Reserve to distribute to your local library, community centre or community group, please let me know ([rhDaniels@bigpond.com](mailto:rhDaniels@bigpond.com)) or pick up some at our next meeting. With the reserve looking so good, we want everyone to know and visit.

#### **New plants**

One of the plants we bought from [Brian Roach](#) at the quarterly gathering in May included the unusually named [Grevillea bedgoodiana](#) (yes, with 2 gs). The name commemorates Miss Stella Bedgood (1916-1978) who was involved in the conservation of this rare grevillea which is a prostrate or spreading shrub with holly-like leaves. Endemic to a small area [west of Melbourne](#), it is listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.



[G. bedgoodiana](#) (Ph: [Wikipedia commons](#))

Other new plants include the deliciously named *Grevillea* 'Strawberry Sundae' in the Sunny garden, the Western Australian [Banksia baueri](#) and [Banksia petiolaris](#) in the Sutherland Group

garden, and the prickly groundcover [Acacia amblygona](#) in flower now near the Acacia garden sign.

### Bush Care

Join us for a morning working bee on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am or the first Sunday of the month from 9.30 am. In our June session we removed dead trees from the natural area south of the Sunny garden, with much sawing, pushing and dragging creating a huge pile of brown “green” waste and showing off the understorey of acacias in flower.

*Rhonda Daniels*

### Strategic Planning Workshop

In the last weekend in May I attended an APS Strategic Planning Workshop representing Sutherland Group. About 30 people were there from all over the state as well as representatives from Victoria and ACT. We discussed the running and practices of APS and how they need to change to bring the Society into the 21st century. The group left the board with a more streamlined, efficient and focussed Society. Although there will be a few changes at the Group level, I think we will remain mostly the same as we are now. If you can think of any way Sutherland can become more efficient, please tell us.

*Leonie Hogue*

### A Successful APS AGM

I wish to thank everyone who volunteered and helped to make the APSAGM hosted by Sutherland Group in May run so smoothly and successfully. Joseph Banks Reserve and Joan Zande’s garden looked beautiful and well-tended in the lovely weather despite being early in the season and few flowers being out. I hope people can come back in winter/spring when so much is blooming.



Anthony O’Halloran presenting on the Pilliga Forest (ph: from [our facebook](#))

There were over 60 at the AGM and it ran smoothly with all the help. We managed to find room for the mountain of food we supplied for afternoon tea in the awkward spaces at the Centre and there was plenty of tea and coffee always on supply.

Many thanks again to those who supplied food, tea and coffee, sold tickets, greeted, set up the room, cleaned up afterwards and generally made everyone welcome. I was a great day.

*Leonie Hogue*

### Pre-AGM at JB REServe

One of the pre-AGM activities was a visit to Joseph Banks Reserve and some visitors were very comfortably placed at a picnic table near the top entrance before and Sutherland Group members had even arrived.

While walking in the reserve Dick Turner (Blue Mountains Group) was very interested in some of the rainforest plants. In particular, the Chain Fruit plant was displaying its tiny white flowers.



[Alyxia ruscifolia](#) (Chain Fruit) (Ph: P. Shelton)

Soon there should be orange fruit, sometimes formed in chains which, of course, gives it its common name.



Chain Fruit (Ph: [R. Whyte](#)  
<http://www.saveourwaterwaysnow.com.au>)

Although this plant is adjacent to the bush tucker area there is some doubt about the edibility of this fruit.

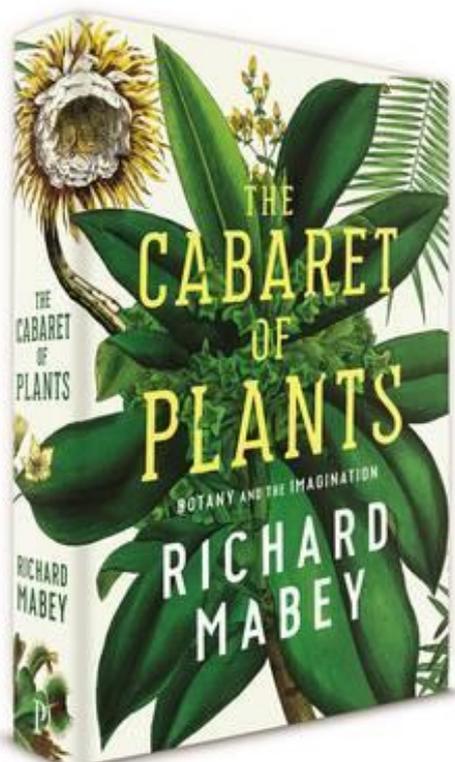


[C. anacardioides \(Tuckeroo\)](#) (Ph: P.Shelton)

Other plants noted included the [Atractocarpus fitzalanii](#) (formerly *Randia*, common name Native Gardenia or Yellow Mangosteen) which had some very overripe fruit on the ground and [Cupaniopsis anacardioides](#) (Tuckeroo).

Peter Shelton

## Book Review – *The Cabaret of Plants*



[Richard Mabey](#) is considered by many to be Britain's foremost nature writer, so I was interested to read his newly released book when I heard it highly recommended on [Talking Plants](#). It is not a book about Australian plants; it takes on a much

wider scope than that. However, Australian plants do get a mention, at least in the form of [Lomatia tasmanica \(King's Holly\)](#), possibly the world's oldest plant at 43,000 years.

Another chapter I particularly like was a biographical item about a botanical artist, Margaret Mee, who spent years trying to get a viewing of a Moon Flower in the wild. She was not so interested in capturing images of cultivated plants.

The range covered is enormous and you will no doubt recognise certain botanical events over the years that are described. And if you haven't read this author before, there is quite a back catalogue to search out.

This and other books by Richard Mabey can be found at [Sutherland Council Library](#) and other well-resourced libraries.

Peter Shelton

## Rarely Seen

Margaret Bradhurst and I found this rare and seldom seen [Epacris calvertiana var. versicolor](#) growing beside a track near Carrington Falls. It differs from the other species of [E. calvertiana](#) in that it has pink to red tubular flowers with white or cream lobes and the margins of its young leaves are fringed with minute hairs.



*E. calvertiana var. versicolor* (Ph: Doug Rickard)

It has only ever been found near the Carrington and Belmore Falls in the Budderoo N.P. and in a few isolated locations near Robertson and Mittagong. So if you are down that way in the late spring or summer keep an eye open for this slightly different looking [Epacris](#).

Doug Rickard



*Bossiaea heterophylla* (ph: P. Shelton) is also looking good in the Royal National Park at the moment. These photos are taken near the Bungoona trail. I was very happy to pick up a couple of the (very similar) *B. stephensonii* at the Council Nursery with my GreenWeb voucher. They make an excellent understory plant.

### [Citizen scientist discovers rare mangrove species in far north Queensland](#)

“A citizen scientist has discovered one of the world's rarest species of mangroves growing on the outskirts of the Cairns CBD.”

Even more surprisingly, there are about 25 of them in this group and some may be as old as 200 years. Previously it has only been seen in south east Asia.

Cairns resident Hidetoshi Kudo identified the haines orange mangrove while searching for another species of mangrove that had eluded him for three years.



*Bruguiera hainesii* (Haines Orange Mangrove)  
(Photo and full story: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au) )

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169 Peninsular Road  
Grays Point NSW 2232

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