



Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve has a wealth of Australian natives on show for those attending the Australian Plants Society Sutherland Group's spring walk day.

Keep eye on natives

THE Australian Plants Society Sutherland Group is helping to welcome spring back to Sydney on Sunday, August 23.

The group will be hosting a free spring walk day at Joseph Banks Reserve highlighting local native plants and landscaping ideas for the garden.

There will be native plants for sale and advice on growing Australian native plants from local experts.

Joseph Banks Reserve is a garden which brings fresh ideas, demonstrating how an older garden can be brought back to life or how to start afresh to create a new garden. It is one of only a few specialised gardens in Sydney devoted entirely to Australian native plants providing a wide range of such plants that grow well.

The reserve was established in 1970 as a bicentennial project to celebrate the 200th anniversary of James Cook and Joseph Banks' visit to Botany Bay in 1770.

It covers just over two hectares of planted gardens of various themes including edible foods, an Acacia garden, scented garden, silver foliage garden, rainforest, cycads, ferns, mixed shade and mixed proteaceae beds.

In addition, an area of the reserve has been left unplanted to show the natural flora of Hawkesbury sandstone.

The Australian Plants Society display garden shows landscaping ideas such as mounded beds for drainage, curved paths for interest, and mulch to retain moisture.

Many of the plants are clearly labelled with their botanical name, which is an added benefit for gardeners looking for ideas. Other features of the reserve for visitors include bitumen paths, toilets including disabled facilities, picnic tables, barbecues, undercover information stand and a car park. A paved terrace overlooking a pond is also used for weddings and other functions.

Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve can be found on Manooka Place at Kareela, via Alpita Street, Sutherland Shire.

The spring walks will be run on Sunday, August 23, from 10 am to 4 pm. The reserve is open Monday to Friday 7 am to 3.15 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10 am to 5 pm.

Details: Sutherland Group of Australian Plants Society; <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~ssgap/>