

Celebrating 60 Years of Sutherland Group 1963 – 2023

About Sutherland Group

We meet at 7:00 pm every third Wednesday from February to November at Gymea Community Centre, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea. Visitors welcome.

We support awareness and conservation of Australian native plants.

Visit our [website](http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland) & Facebook

<http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>



www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland

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Newsletter Deadline:

Second Wednesday of the month

Coming up..

Wed, 19 July
from **7:00 pm**

Sutherland Group Meeting An old burrawang in a new garden with Ralph Cartwright At Gymea Community Hall, see diary.

Thu, 3 Aug
Sun, 6 Aug

JB Reserve working bees
more information [here](#)

Wed, 16 Aug

Sutherland Group Meeting

Look out for..

Callicarpa pedunculata (Velvet leaf)



C. pedunculata (beautyberry, velvet leaf)
at Mrs York's Garden, Port Macquarie (Ph: P. Shelton)

The genus is also referred to as Beautyberries due to the spectacular fruit they all bear. *C. pedunculata* is noted, in an Australian context, as a Lantana replacement, and works as a habitat plant attracting insects, and bees in particular. It has some bush tucker garden potential but it is really edible rather than delicious. Read [here](#) if you want to look at [medicinal properties](#).

This tall open shrub will grow up to 4 m, and is found in or near subtropical rainforest north from Port Macquarie. However it is worth a try in Sydney. If you visit Port Macquarie, a walk in [Mrs York's garden](#) is recommended.

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For your diary

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

we follow [APS NSW Health and Safety guidelines](#)

Wed, 19 July

Sutherland group meeting. An old burrawang in a new garden. Enjoy an illustrated talk by Sutherland Group member Ralph Cartwright about the history and ecology of a dinosaur plant, the burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*). Ralph also shares his thoughts on re-constructing a garden after the builders have left, based on his recent experience at Engadine. He will finish with a story about another ancient plant, the Wollemi pine.

After the talk, we'll have our plant table segment which showcases native plants in Shire gardens at this time of year. Bring along a specimen of your own and have it identified. For this month let's try to emphasise Bush food plants you have growing in the Sutherland area. Feel free to accompany specimens by submitting photos for the newsletter.

Please note the new earlier start to our meetings for 2023. The hall will be open at **7 pm**. Our President Leonie Hogue will formally start the meeting at around **7.30 pm**, followed by our speaker. Come from 7 pm for a cup of tea, chat, plants and books, and enjoy the earlier finish.

All visitors welcome **from 7.00 pm** for 7:30 start at Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd.

**Sat, 22 July
from 9 am**

A Walk in the Park - [Robertson's Roundabout](#), Audley, Royal National Park
Drive to Audley and into the main visitor area at the Café. Continue on and drive across the wooden bridge (Varney's Bridge) that is about 100m past the café. Once on the western side turn to your right and park in the carpark there. We will be walking up and along a trail that will take us from sea-level to around 140m elevation. The walk is rated Moderate difficulty with a couple of short Hard sections. The Hard areas consist of well laid sandstone steps, however, some have been impacted by erosion. The Plus is that we will be walking through a very diverse plant community with lots of great plants to see at their "showy best" and there will be many "what's that?" questions to challenge the experts. There are also some rare plants close to the track. We will be armed with plant lists.

Bring along water, morning tea, lunch, your pen. You will have the choice of diving into the plant lists or just come along for this leisurely and very scenic walk.

Contact John Arney 0418 607 685

Sat 22 July

Native Bush Food Garden workshop with Narelle Happ
at Sydney Wildflower Nursery Heathcote. 10 am to 12 noon.
Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=932027&>

**Thu, 3 Aug
Sun, 6 Aug**

[Joseph Banks Reserve](#) working bees at Manooka Place, Kareela, from 9 am.
We have two working sessions a month a Joseph Banks Reserve – the first Thursday with Bushcare Officer Grace Lonergan and the first Sunday of the month. However, those times do not suit everyone. New staff member at the reserve Polly Simmonds welcomes volunteer support, so if you'd like to help, please drop in and introduce yourself. The BushWhackers session at JB on Thursday 29 June was well-attended with a huge amount of work done by volunteers and Council staff in the warm rainforest area and truckloads of debris removed, followed by a sausage sizzle lunch.

Wed, 16 Aug

Sutherland Group Meeting. Wallaby foraging behaviour – can we nudge it with smell? Clare McArthur, Professor of Behavioural Ecology at the University of Sydney, will present a talk about a new way to protect plants using odour information.

Sat, 19 Aug

Walk – [Wises Track, RNP](#) more details next month, so save the date
Due to limited parking at the start of the track we will offer a car-pool from parking area adjacent to the Leisure Centre at Sutherland and we will meet there at 8.50am for 9.00 departure-- 9.20 at the Wises Track.

Parking at the Wises Track entry is on both sides of Bertram Stevens Drive. Please park close to other vehicles to maximise the limited spaces available. The walk will be dry underfoot and around 2km, (4km return). The terrain is mostly flat with just one short steep (80m) section of the roadway.

Our goal for the day will be to identify many of the 100+ plants along the way. Copies of a plant list for the walk will be handed out on the day. We will aim to complete the walk by around 2.00 p.m. Bring a big morning tea (early lunch), drinking water, camera, pen

Contact John Arney on 0418 607 685.

Sun 20 Aug

Blue Mountains Group visit to Joseph Banks Reserve

APS Blue Mountains Group will be visiting Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Manooka Place, Kareela in the morning for a guided walk with Rhonda Daniels.

Sutherland members are welcome to join in for a chat and walk. Time to be confirmed in the next newsletter.

Sat-Sun, 2–3 Sept

Open Gardens weekend To celebrate APS Sutherland Group's 60 years in 2023, we are having an open gardens weekend on 2–3 September.

Members have kindly agreed to open their gardens to the public to show the beauty and diversity of Australian natives on their diverse sites. Gardens range from level access to steeper sites, from sun to shade, and from well-established to more recent. Each garden has something different to show about gardening with natives.

On Saturday, the four open gardens are centred around Jannali, and on Sunday the two open gardens are in Engadine.

Visitors from further afield can make a day out in Sutherland Shire and also visit Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve at Manooka Place, Kareela and Sydney Wildflower Nursery at Heathcote. Both are open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm.



Event page QR

Entry to each garden is by gold coin donation. Refreshments and plant sales at selected gardens.

See the attached page for the garden descriptions and addresses. More information: <https://www.austplants.com.au/event-5342648> or use the QR code (left)

We'll need volunteers at each garden to support the hosts. If you can help for approx. 2 hours at the entry table, please let Rhonda know at the July or August meetings or at rhodaniels@bigpond.com so we can develop a roster and help support every garden. Gardens with stair access have a flat area at the entry.

Contact: *Rhonda Daniels* - rhodaniels@bigpond.com


Other APS groups nearby

Have you considered visiting another local APS group? Each group welcomes APS members and visitors, so check your diary. Please try to confirm meetings at the group sites provided.

Harbour Georges River
(formerly East Hills)

Sunday 13 August, PUB (Patches of Urban Bushland) crawl with Bankstown Bushland Society
Check their activities page [here](#)
<https://austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River/>

Menai Wildflower Group

Usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month
(Check links below, closer to the date)
Illawong Rural Fire Brigade
Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong
 <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068944233153>
<https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Wildflower>

Illawarra Group - check for activities at their [web site](#)

At the June meeting

Summer in the Snowies

Liz Aitken presented a video highlighting Sutherland Group's week-long trip to Charlotte Pass in the Snowy Mountains every two years for at least 20 years. Our most recent trip was in February 2023 (see our March newsletter for a report). Liz interviewed several people in February, including our esteemed leader John Arney, as well as regular visitors Allan and Marilyn House, and some newer visitors.



Group photo inside Pygmy Possum lodge



Aileen Phipps



John Arney



Walk to Guthega



Lake Albina



Yellow daisies



Caterpillar at work

She also included landscape, plant and animal photos from the week of walks, particularly the Main Range walk to Mt Kosciuszko. It was a lovely memory for those who have been to Charlotte Pass, and a great introduction for anyone considering joining our next trip. Liz is planning to visit our original leader, Aileen Phipps, to share the video with her in late July.

Watch it on YouTube here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=PxKnaMSh8sc&feature=share8>

Rhonda Daniels

(photos as used in the video, including L. Aitken, B. Simpson, R. Daniels)

On the plant table

The plant table is a great way to see what grows well in Sutherland Shire and what flowers when. Please free to email some photos in addition to showing the plant specimens at the meeting. These may be included in the newsletter. You can email by reply to the newsletter or to Dan Clarke at: dmclarkebotanical@icloud.com

Plant steward Phil Keane's nursery, [Ausplants R Us](http://AusplantsRUs.com), is in Sutherland. Visits by appointment or check out sale days (often Saturday 12 – 4:30) on <https://www.facebook.com/ausplants/>
Ph: 0435 410 857 or ausplantsrus@gmail.com
...and some will also be on the [APS online plant profile database](#)

It was possibly too cold for people to go out and collect specimens, so our plant table in June was sparse. Let's do better in July.

Boronia crenulata was from Leonie who grows it in a pot. It flowers in winter with little pink flowers. It is a shrub from south-west WA, to about 1 m by 1 m. It is in the aromatic Rutaceae family, with a common name of aniseed boronia (not smelt on the night).

Gastrobium celsianum (renamed from *Brachysema* in 2002) was from Ralph. It has grey-green leaves and dark red pea flowers about 2–3 cm long, and is in the Fabaceae family. It can vary in size, often low and scrambling near other plants but can also be a shrub up to 2 m high. The common name of Swan River pea reflects it is from south-west WA, but it seems to cope in humid Sydney.

Kangaroo paws (**Anigozanthos flavidus** cultivars), from WA, come in both tall and dwarf forms, with the taller forms generally much tougher and longer-living than the dwarf forms. Ralph brought in a very tall dark red flower stalk (2 m), which is a reminder they can flower all year round. There are many different cultivars and colours available. Phil Keane warned us that the furry flowers have little hairs on them which can irritate the skin for some people. Angus Stewart's Gardening with Angus website says: "Another oddity is the way the colour varies according to temperature, with cooler days producing more intense shades. The amount of light intensity can also affect the flowers... plants grown with some shading can have different colour intensity to ones grown in full sunshine. Thus the same species in

bloom can look completely different in different environments."

There are various species of *Syzygium/Acmena* (lilli pillis) that have edible fruit, and are prunable for a compact shape or hedge. This one had purple fruit.



Acmena smithii, Swallow Rock Reserve
(Ph: P. Shelton)

Grevillea 'Sylvia' is a tried and true classic, a large shrub with large pink flowers. This is a good cut flower, lasting up to 14 days, as it has what is considered a fully round flower spike. Not all grevillea flowers are long-lasting in the vase.

Grevillea 'Scarlet Moon' is from WA, and grafted to survive in Sydney conditions. It has grey-green leaves, and orange-red toothbrush flowers. It grows to about 1 x 1 m.

Grevillea 'Bush Lemon' grows up to 2.5 m, but keep it pruned to 2 m. This is a more compact choice than the vigorous *Grevillea* 'Sandra Gordon' which also has yellow flowers.

If you have excess stock of something in your garden that others may like, feel free to bring in some to our meetings – whether seeds, cutting material, seedlings or material to divide. And even ready potted up excess from your propagating.

Rhonda Daniels

More information can be found at these websites:
www.anspa.org.au www.anbg.gov.au
plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au www.wikipedia.org
resources.austplants.com.au/plant-database/

Plus: Dan Clarke has all the monthly plant table information compiled in his [Plant Table Master List](#) document available from [our web site](#).

APS Sutherland Group – Celebrating 60 years

Open Gardens weekend, 2–3 September 2023

Enjoy six gardens of Australian Plants Society Sutherland Group members.
Entry to each garden by gold coin donation.
Refreshments and plant sales at selected gardens.

Saturday 2 September 2023, 10 am to 3 pm

Hogue garden – 75a Wattle Rd, Jannali

Mostly level with colourful shrubs and small plants in the plentiful sunshine of a northern aspect

Aitken garden – 44 Buchanan Ave, Bonnet Bay

Stair access down to steep block with shaded lush ferns and shrubs under a canopy of trees

McCull garden – 13 Shorland Ave, Jannali

Stair access up to shady and sunny plantings with sandstone and garden art

Zande garden – 8 Bates Dr, Kareela

A semi formal garden with manicured lilly pilly hedges. Six stairs at front with 2 stone steps at side to access garden by side gate, or walk up a moderate grass slope.

Plus Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve, Manooka Place, Kareela

Sutherland Shire Council's native plant display garden with paved paths, toilets, picnic tables and BBQs

Free entry. Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm.

Sunday 3 September 2023, 10 am to 2 pm

Thorn garden – 18 Caldarra Ave, Engadine

Level garden in lots of sun with colourful flowering shrubs

Cartwright garden – 25a Dubarda St, Engadine

Level access to four garden 'rooms', with some mature plantings and some very new

Plus Sydney Wildflower Nursery – 9 Veno St, Heathcote

10% discount to Australian Plants Society members

Open 7 days, 9 am to 5 pm.

More information

sutherland@ausplants.com.au

www.ausplants.com.au/event-5342648

www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland



Event page QR

News and More

Membership

If you are not receiving the monthly APS NSW e-newsletter, please email newsletter@ausplants.com.au so we can sort out whether we have your correct email address in our records. Each monthly issue is emailed at the end of the previous month.

Members receive an email from APS NSW when their membership is due through the year and can renew online on the APS website. Check your membership status with our treasurer Anne Webb at the next meeting or by phone.

Update your first aid for free

In 2020, we received a federal government volunteer grant for first aid training. We still have some left. Members can complete the one day first aid course at the St George and Sutherland Community College at Jannali. It is held regularly through the year on Saturdays, approx. 9 am to 3 pm.

If you would like to attend, check the dates here www.sgsc.edu.au/courses/WorkSkills/first-aid-courses and contact and pay the college directly or phone 8543 7412. Let me know at rhDaniels@bigpond.com so we can keep track and reimburse you \$120 on course completion. We all benefit from up-to-date first aid knowledge.

Rhonda Daniels

In flower at Joseph Banks Reserve

The Acacia garden at Joseph Banks Reserve is showing the effects of age and many interesting acacias we planted after the garden re-design in 2014 are sadly no longer with us. One species which is doing very well is *Acacia macradenia*, from Queensland. Near the Acacia garden sign, look towards your right on top of the rocks. There are several specimens flowering brightly and with large leaves. The common name, zig-zag wattle, refers to the unusual twisting of the stems. Near the path, the three *Acacia* 'Honey Bun' have a lovely mounded shape to about 1 m with compact foliage, but no flowers. Further down the path, some *Acacia* groundcovers are also thriving. Local and other acacias are being replanted. There are different acacias flowering throughout the reserve, so look out for the lemon, yellow and gold.

Rhonda Daniels

Committee update

At our Sutherland Group committee meeting on Wednesday 5 July, we discussed:

- Open Gardens weekend: We discussed arrangements and publicity for our open gardens weekend on 2–3 September.
- Laptop: We need to upgrade our existing laptop. We only use it to run Powerpoint presentations at our monthly meetings. If you happen to have a spare PC laptop, 2–3 years old, you would be happy to donate to us, please contact me (rhDaniels@bigpond.com).
- Recipe collection: As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations, we'd like to compile recipes from members for morning, afternoon or supper bites to eat and share (sweet or savoury). If it has a native plant ingredient, even better. The exact final format – pdf only or printed – is still to be decided. If you regularly make something and would like to share your tried and tested recipe, please email it to Rhonda. Please be aware of copyright (and let us know where the recipe originally came from).
- 60th anniversary: Rhonda wrote an article on our 60th anniversary for Sutherland Council's *Bushcare Bulletin*, July issue: https://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/39784/July-2023-Bulletin-web.pdf
- Recent expenses: We bought 2 new APS Sutherland pull-up banners (\$190), new plastic display stands (\$90), 2023 program leaflets (\$90) corflute boards for Heritage Festival photos (reusable) (\$44), donation to WIRES for March speaker (\$100), plants for Joseph Banks Reserve (\$205) and a book on the Illawarra Grevillea Park (\$30).
- WHS: Ralph Cartwright, Paul Sheaffe and Heather Miles recently filmed at the Council nursery and Joseph Banks Reserve for an APS video on WHS. It will be available soon and covers bushwalks, nursery work and meetings.
- Next committee meeting: Wed 4 October, venue to be confirmed.

Rhonda Daniels

Wild At Art – Threatened Species Art Competition for Kids

You can view the astonishing artworks of the 2022 winners at <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-winners-22>

We will be posting some of the 2023 entries daily from July 17 on the competition's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/289862308022985> You can join to view these inspiring artworks and read the entrants' heartfelt comments.

Through the competition, many children feel empowered knowing that by raising awareness, they can make a difference. Spread the word so even more children can participate!

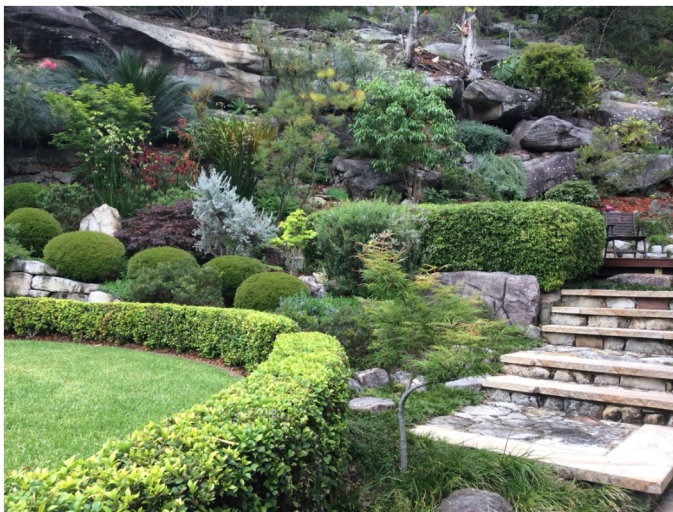
Of course, being the Australian **Plants** Society we'd like to see plenty of plants in running alongside the cute, furry animals. For example, this terrific work here, which won William first place in the 8 – 10 age group. It shows birds, reptiles AND plants (Caley's Grevillea, *G. caleyi*).

From <https://www.acf.org.au/wild-at-art-winners-22>



Help us! We are Endangered!, by William

Two of the members' open gardens for Saturday, 2 September



Zande garden



McColl garden

Neutrog update

FREE COFFEE fertiliser

Neutrog is pleased to offer a complimentary bag of Human Beans for every Member who places an order for the spring collection.

All you need to do is place an order through the online store, to be collected in the August/September deliveries, and there will be a bonus bag of Human Beans waiting for you at your collection point.

From [the latest Neutrog online membership email](#). The online shop is always open for the next delivery.