

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

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### Newsletter Deadline:

Second Wednesday of the month

## Coming up..

**Wed, 12 Feb, 2024 Sutherland Group Meeting** The yam daisy  
At Gymea Community Hall, see diary.

**Sun, 3 Mar JB Reserve working bees**  
**Thu, 7 Mar** more information [here](#)

**Wed, 20 Mar, 2024 Sutherland Group Meeting**

Look out for.. [\*G. heterophylla\* \(Variable leaf goodenia\)](#)



*Goodenia heterophylla* (Ph: P. Shelton)

This is a ground cover plant with a trailing to erect habit, up to about 0.4 m high. The yellow flowers are seen over a wide period, from August to May.

It is endemic to eastern Australia and found in forest and woodland. There are several subspecies.

Like most of the goodenias, it should be readily propagated from cuttings. Currently this plant is not widely cultivated in gardens.

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# For your diary

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

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

Wed, 21 Feb

## Sutherland group meeting. The yam daisy with Ralph Cartwright

The yam daisy, or Murnong, is one of three species of *Microseris* in the daisy family. The flower resembles a dandelion, but of course, being a native, is MUCH more interesting! It was a well known staple foodstuff for Aboriginal people across wide areas of south-east Australia as noted by the early explorers and artists of the time. Enjoy Ralph's photos with the new, brighter data projector we have just bought. We'll also have a viewing of the APS NSW health and safety video.

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, 24 Feb

9:30 am – 1 pm

## Walk in the RNP, Bungoona Path, Florence Parade

We will start our walk from the meet at the NPWS regional office carpark, on the left, 200m past the pay-station on Farnell Avenue at 9.30am.

The theme of this walk will be simply plant ID, --- and, in this season of cricket, we will be aiming for our own "century" – 100 plants to tick off the list provided on the day

This walk is rated easy with a flat concrete path and seats along the way.

Bring water, your morning tea and lunch, wear a hat. Contact John Arney 0418 607 685

Sat, 2 March

10 am – 1 pm

## [Menai WFG Open Day](#) More details are available at the [Menai group FB](#)

Plant sales, talks on bush food plants and flannel flower propagation.

Illawong Rural Fire Station, Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong

Sun, 3 March

Thu, 7 March

## [Joseph Banks Reserve](#) working bees at Manooka Place, Kareela, from 9 am.

We have two working sessions a month at Joseph Banks Reserve – the first Thursday with Bushcare Officer Grace Lonergan and the first Sunday of the month. Council has advised that Sunday volunteers should be Bushcare volunteers, and sign a risk assessment each session.

Sat, 9 March

## APS NSW Quarterly Gathering, Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden

North Shore Group is hosting the first quarterly gathering of the year at Kur-ring-gai Wildflower Garden at St Ives, with guest speaker Heather Miles, our former President.

**11-12 noon** - meet at Cayley's Pavilion and choose between two walks

**12-1 pm** Lunch - Bring your own lunch and enjoy it with your friends and fellow native plant enthusiasts at Caley's Pavilion, where tea and coffee will be available.

**1-2 pm** Presentation/ Workshop with Heather Miles

Native garden design workshop - design or trial and error?

For full details, follow this [link](#) or the QR code here:



Sat, 16 March

**Sutherland Council Community Nursery Open day** If you can't make it to Sutherland Council Community Nursery during the usual Monday to Friday hours of 7 am to 3 pm, the Saturday open day is great news! Visit the nursery for local plants, including ferns, in tubestock at 345 The Boulevard, Gymea (just near Gymea Public School).

Wed, 20 March

## Sutherland Group meeting

Look out for our newsletter a few days before the meeting.

Wed, 10 April

## Sutherland Group Committee Meeting

Sat, 20 April

Sutherland Heritage Festival. APS Sutherland stall at Woronora Cemetery.

From 30 Sep, 2024 ANPSA Biennial Conference, Melbourne – Gardens for Life

It's less than 12 months to the next ANPSA conference in Melbourne, hosted by APS Victoria. Register your interest and read the newsletters with details of the pre and post-conference tours on the conference website [here](#). Regular attendees know that the tours can book out quickly.

What is ANPSA? [The Australian Native Plants Society \(Australia\)](#), our national body.

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### 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.

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### Harbour Georges River (formerly East Hills)

Check their activities page [here](#)  
<https://austplants.com.au/Harbour-Georges-River/>

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### 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>

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

Illawarra group are planning to do walks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month throughout 2024.

Be sure to Illawarra Group as one of your secondary groups if you wish to receive their newsletter. Or contact [illawarra@austplants.com.au](mailto:illawarra@austplants.com.au)

Check at the web site via the link above for updates to walk details.

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# At the November meeting

## *East Arnhem Land with Tony Porritt*

Arnhem Land in northern Australia has three sections. Most people can go to Kakadu, and can go anywhere without permission from the traditional land owners. To visit the middle area, people need to get permission from indigenous land owners. The third area, the eastern area, is the homeland for traditional life. Tony and Kate Porritt gained access through the friend of a friend. They visited in July (dry season) and access is by crossing the Roper River. On the trip, Kate drove through rivers while Tony got out to get photos. Back home, Tony identified plants by using books, and asking other people like Lloyd Hedges. We had lots of questions about crocodiles!



Tony showed the different types of environments in East Arnhem land. First was typical rainforest with melaleucas, pandanus and drosera. Then there was a transition to more open land, where melaleucas are more stunted. There were four Hibbertias – *H. dealbata*, *H. longifolia*, *H. angustifolia* and *H. complanata*, although one didn't look like a typical yellow buttercup hibbertia at all.



The Eucalyptus forest is tall and straight and *Eucalyptus miniata* flowers all year. *E. tintinnans*, known as Hills salmon gum, has interesting smooth and colourful bark. *Grevillea pungens* spends time with roots in water, while *Grevillea heliosperma* has large round woody fruit more like a hakea [we had one at Joseph Banks Reserve, but it fell over). Other highlights were the northern kookaburra which is bigger than the southern one, *Cycas arnhemica*, and termite mounds.

A third area was open grass, where water buffalo are seen. Plants included pea flowers including those in *Lotus* genus, *Vigna lanceolata* (yam) which is restricted to the north, *Jacksonia* which are mostly in WA but some are in the north, and *Tephrosia*.



*Hibbertia complanata*



*Gomphrena flaccida*

Closer to the coast there are sandy soils with Eucalyptus and melaleucas, plus acacias such as *Acacia stellaticeps* and *Acacia oncinocarpa*. At the coast, it is very scrubby with salt pans and the pandanus take over. There is *Brachychiton paradox* to "10 feet".

The Strychnine tree (*Strychnos nux-vomica*) with poisonous berries (macadamia nut size) is very similar to the Quinine tree with very similar berries (apricot size).

There were other areas of shrubby eucalypts plus grasslands including *Calytrix exstipulata*, known as Kimberley Heather, and *Clerodendrum* (lolly bush) in the same family as ochna with its red and black flowers.

Tony and Kate witnessed aspects of indigenous life including spearing fish and turtles. To take the heat and sting out of the sandfly bites, an indigenous friend cooked up leaves from three different plants and applied a cold compress to Kate's leg.

An interesting geological feature was a crater connected to the ocean 1 km away, which raised a little with the tides but filled up in wet season right to the top.

Thanks to Tony and Kate for sharing highlights from their trip to East Arnhem Land, a place many of us are unlikely to visit ourselves.

Rhonda Daniels

(Photos: Tony Porritt)

## 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](mailto:dmclarkebotanical@icloud.com) If you can, please label any plant specimens you bring in for our plant table, especially cultivars. This helps our plant stewards (Phil Keane, Dan Clarke and Rhonda).

Pink flowers: *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* 'Prima Donna' (Blueberry ash) has pale pink flowers, but there are also forms with white or dark pink

flowers. It is a small tree, not particularly fast growing. *Tecomanthe hillii*, Fraser Island Climber, has very large deep pink trumpet-like flowers. It grows at Joseph Banks Reserve near the toilets. Another climber, a *Pandorea* cultivar, had a pale pink flower with a deep pink centre.

Red flowers: *Melaleuca hypericifolia*, prostrate form, has an orange-red flower. This is usually a vigorous shrub, but able to be cut back. There is a very old one right near the path at Joseph Banks Reserve near the APS Sutherland garden. *Epacris longiflora* is very happy in the shade and moisture at Clare McColl's south-facing garden.

Yellow flowers: Of the several different forms of

the ever-popular yellow buttons groundcover *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, this one had bigger greyish, furry leaves. *Eremophila* 'Kalbarri Carpet' is a flat groundcover with yellow-gold flowers and grey foliage. Also with greyish foliage in a horizontal style is the shrub *Homoranthus flavescens*, where the species name refers to the yellow flowers. *Persoonia levis* has single yellow flowers amongst its large bright green leaves.

White flowers: There were several different pieces of *Austromyrtus tenuifolia* from several members, showing the delicate small white flower on the popular bush tucker plant to about 1 m. The local *Kunzea ambigua* also has a small white flower but is a much larger shrub (2 m) with tiny leaves. *Baeckea micrantha* (?) has tiny flowers and tiny leaves. *Trachymene incisa*, the native parsnip with an edible tap root, has a delicate white flower head on a tall stem, best appreciated when planted 'en masse'.



J Dark

*A. tenuifolia* (Ph: J. Dark, <https://anpsa.org.au/>)

*Ozothamnus* has white flower heads. *Angophora hispida* has large cream flowers displayed in large

clusters – truly spectacular at the end of the year, attracting large metallic-coloured beetles. You do need some space to show off this spreading shrub with large leaves.

Grevilleas: We had a great collection of grevilleas, with *Grevillea* 'Blood Orange', G. 'Majestic' (pink), G. 'Sylvia' (pink), and G. 'Orange Marmalade' (from Joan Zande). *G. leptobotrys*, grafted from south-west WA, has a delicate mauve flower and intricate foliage. There is a lovely rounded shrub at the Illawarra Grevillea Park near the old chapel. *G. oleoides* has a red spider flower with pointed twisty leaves.



*G. leptobotrys* (Ph: T. Porrit)

Leonie Hogue had some *Patersonia* seed to share.

*Rhonda Daniels*

More information can be found at these websites:

[www.anpsa.org.au](http://www.anpsa.org.au) [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)  
[plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au](http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au) [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)  
[resources.austplants.com.au/plant-database/](http://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](#).

## News and More

### Welcome back to Sutherland APS for 2024

I'd like to welcome back all our members to a new year of the Australian Plants Society. I look forward to seeing you at meetings and other events during the year. Your committee has already been working hard trying to prepare a program. At the moment we still don't have a program officer after many, many years of the wonderful efforts of Ralph Cartwright. The committee would greatly appreciate some help with this. If you have a computer and some time handy, please contact a member of the committee.

Leonie Hogue

### Membership

If you are not receiving the monthly APS NSW e-newsletter, please email [newsletter@austplants.com.au](mailto:newsletter@austplants.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.



## In flower at Joseph Banks Reserve (at Christmas)

At our Christmas gathering in December at Joseph Banks Reserve, near the terrace we noticed a tree in flower with long cream flower spikes. It looked quite like a Macadamia flower or *Buckinghamia celsissima* (ivory curl flower) in the Proteaceae family, but not exactly. Deep in the vegetation at the trunk, we found a handy name label – it is *Grevillea baileyana*. It grows naturally on the east coast of Cape York in Queensland, and common names include brown silky oak.

The ANPSA website has this to say about it:

*Grevillea baileyana* is a medium to large tree, usually to about 10 metres but occasionally to 30 metres high. Bark is grey, hard and sometimes scaly. Leaves are rich green with the underside of the new growth having a rusty or bronze sheen. This is a particularly useful diagnostic point in the growing period. Juvenile leaves have 5-9 broad lobes but adult leaves are simple, glabrous above and finely silky beneath.



*Grevillea baileyana* flowers (Photo: B. Simpson)

Flowers are borne in tight, clustered racemes and have a strong nectar perfume which attracts myriad insects to the flower heads. The flowering period is from late spring through summer.

Although it is naturally found in rainforest, *G. baileyana* is very hardy when established and has been successfully grown in a wide range of soils and climates.

More info: [https://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/grevillea-baileyana/](https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/grevillea-baileyana/)

If you have an unusual plant or seedling that needs a good home, please bring it to a working bee or drop in and see Polly Simmonds at the reserve.



Group Photo time seeing out 2023 at JB Reserve (Photo: P. Sheaffe)

*Rhonda Daniels*



## ***Thank you to long time volunteers for the Easter show***

I wish to thank and offer my appreciation to Marie O'Connor and Jill McLelland who have spent many years collecting and arranging floral displays and taking them into the Showground early in the morning each year. Their efforts have been greatly appreciated by the show going public and the arrangements have won many prizes.

This year, prize winner Joan Zande will continue with the help of member Mary Campbell. I wish them all the best with this year's entries. I hope members will support them by giving flowers and fruit. These will now go to Joan's house at Kareela. Look out for the dates at the end of March.



Retiring volunteers Jill McLelland, Marie O'Connor and Leonie Hogue at RAS, 2023

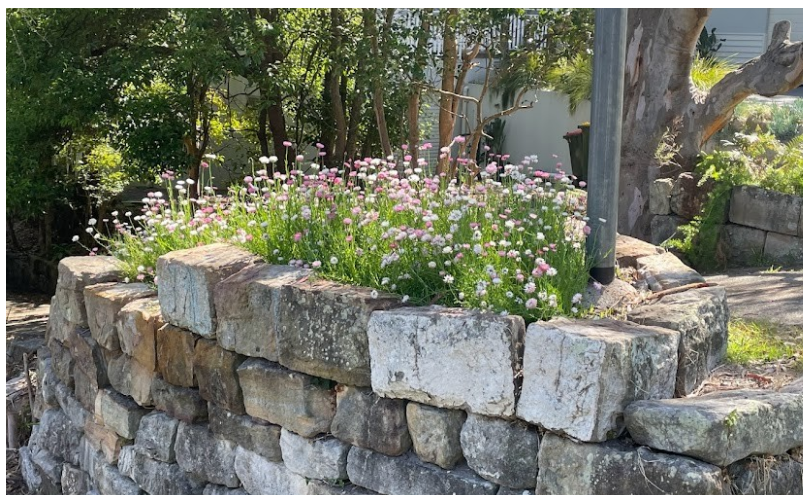


Joan's arrangement of native fruit won the Champion Ribbon in 2023 (Photos supplied: L. Hogue)

## ***Paper daisy seed for sale***

Paper daisy seed (*Rhodanthe*) will be on sale at the meetings for \$5 a packet. These easy to grow annuals make a great mass display in Spring. Now until Autumn is the time to sow them in the garden or in a container.

[\*Rhodanthe chloracephala\*](#) daisies in a Grays Point garden, late Spring 2023 (Ph: P. Shelton)



## **Committee report**

At the Committee meeting on 24 January 2024, we discussed the following items:

- Meetings: We discussed organising our monthly meetings including speakers, supper and plants, and keeping track without a speaker convenor.
- Purchase of new equipment: We have bought a new data projector and cable (\$734) and new MacBook Air laptop and adaptor (\$1,448). We agreed that although the MacBook was more expensive than a PC, it would be better in the long term to avoid the annual Windows subscription fee.
- Frequency of attendance at meetings in 2023: Rhonda analysed our attendance records for 2023. Over our 9 meetings, 69 different people came (including visitors) and there were 250 total meeting visits with average of 27.8 people per meeting (range: 22 in June to 36 for bush tucker with one-off visitors).
- Easter Show flowers: With the retirement of some long-standing participants, we need new volunteers to assist Joan Zande on Good Friday (29 March) so we can keep participating in the Easter Show display of natives.

- Activities: We will be participating in the Sutherland Shire Heritage Festival with a table at Woronora Cemetery on Saturday 20 April to promote our natural heritage.
  - Joseph Banks Reserve: We have bought some paper daisy seeds from WA and planted a seasonal display near the entrance. We will have \$5 packets to buy at our February meeting.
  - Donation: The Australian Flora Foundation thanked us for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary donation.
- Our next Committee meeting is Wednesday 10 April.

*Rhonda Daniels* (not the official secretary)

## AGM and Office-bearers for 2024

At our November 2023 meeting, we had our AGM. We thanked our office-bearers for 2023 and elected the following positions for 2024. With the retirement of our very efficient and long-standing speaker convenor Ralph Cartwright, we still need a speaker coordinator, and an official secretary. Please email [sutherland@austplants.com.au](mailto:sutherland@austplants.com.au)

### Office-bearers for 2024

<b>President</b>	Leonie Hogue	0416 286 083	<a href="mailto:leoniehogue@gmail.com">leoniehogue@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	-		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anne Webb	9523 6067	
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Peter Shelton	0411 286 969	<a href="mailto:pshelton.2232@gmail.com">pshelton.2232@gmail.com</a>
<b>Website Editor</b>	-		
<b>Speakers/Publicity</b>	-		
<b>Conservation Officer</b>	Dan Clarke	0435 087 252	<a href="mailto:daniel@lykos.com.au">daniel@lykos.com.au</a>
<b>Librarian</b>	Clare McColl	0409 813 569	<a href="mailto:clare.mccoll@bigpond.com">clare.mccoll@bigpond.com</a>
<b>Plant Steward</b>	Dan Clarke	0435 087 252	<a href="mailto:daniel@lykos.com.au">daniel@lykos.com.au</a>
<b>Supper</b>	Joan Collins		<a href="mailto:joancollinsau@gmail.com">joancollinsau@gmail.com</a>
<b>Activities</b>	John Arney	0418 607 685	<a href="mailto:johnarney@ozemail.com.au">johnarney@ozemail.com.au</a>
<b>APS NSW Vice President</b>	John Aitken	0458 366 022	<a href="mailto:johnstaceaitken@gmail.com">johnstaceaitken@gmail.com</a>

Committee members: Rhonda Daniels (0491 629 760), Lucinda Islip

New member support: Heather Clark

*Rhonda Daniels*

## *Are there Christmas beetles in your garden? Can you count them?*

Would you like to contribute to this citizen science project?



Become a citizen scientist and help Invertebrates Australia and entomologist, Associate Professor Tanya Latty find out why Christmas beetles seem to be on the decline, by using iNaturalist to track these beetles around Australia.

Read the full story at the link below

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2022/11/22/-where-have-all-the-christmas-beetles-gone.html>

It includes a call to participate in the [Christmas Beetle Count](#) project

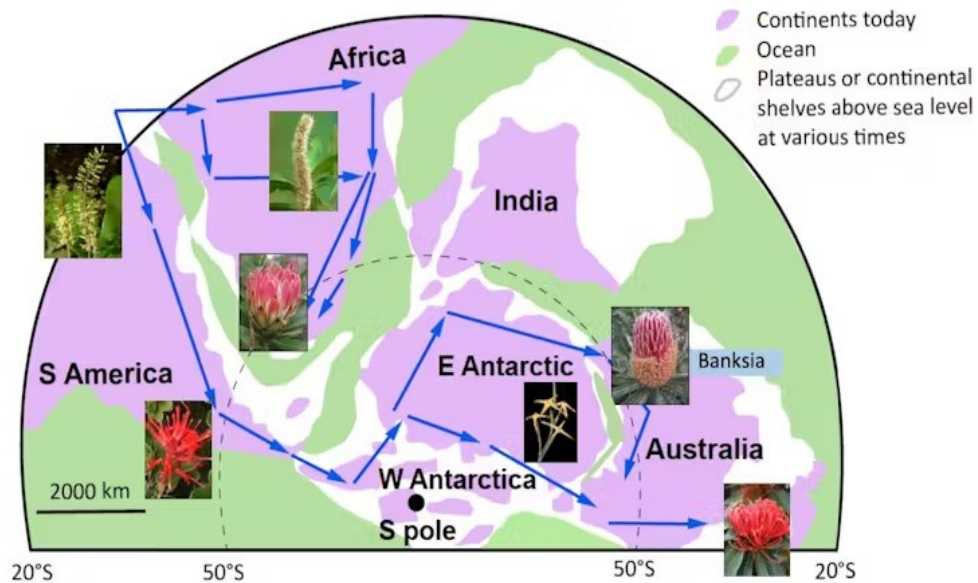
You could also look at this recent Birds Meet youtube presentation which includes the some of same topic and authors - <https://youtu.be/ydvudy7cKKU?si=gV7IGjo1mmDT65eT>



## A *Banksia* evolution story in *The Conversation*

This article explores the evolutionary path of the *Banksia* species as illustrated here. See link below.

<https://theconversation.com/banksias-are-iconic-australian-plants-but-their-ancestors-actually-came-from-north-africa-221589>



*Migratory pathway taken by the ancestors of banksias beginning 132 million years ago in north Africa. Note how the ancestors split into two groups on entering Antarctica from South America, banksia itself entering via southwest Australia and the rainforest species via Tasmania. Modified from Lamont et al. (2024) Perspectives in Plant Ecology Evolution and Systematics*

*Lolly bush (a local *Clerodendrum*) from flower to fruit.*



In November's newsletter I shared a photo of a local garden's *Clerodendrum tomentosum* (AKA Hairy Clairry, Hairy Clerodendrum). I took further photos as it matured and here is the result. It is quite an interesting plant. It could make a nice Easter Show entry if it can persist! Does anyone have a specimen in their garden?





## Sutherland Group Annual report 2023

*The following report will appear on the APS NSW website.*

The year 2023 was very special for Sutherland Group as we celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1963–2023. Yes, we have been going for 60 years! We held a Sutherland Heritage Festival event at Joseph Banks Reserve in April with a photo display of the reserve's 50 years, and our Open Gardens weekend in September, with almost 500 visits to our 6 open gardens. Thank you to our generous garden hosts for sharing their diverse native gardens with the public and the volunteers who assisted. We made a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary donation to the Australian Flora Foundation of \$600 as well as our usual annual donation of \$500. We have several other anniversary projects which are underway.

We continued our regular activities to share our enthusiasm and knowledge of native plants. We enjoyed 9 monthly meetings with an average of 28 people a meeting and updated our laptop and data projector to improve quality. Speaker topics organised by Ralph Cartwright included WA travels, flying foxes, local grevilleas, a bush tucker garden, our Charlotte Pass video, burrawangs, spring flowers, Sutherland Council's invasive weeds program and East Arnhem land. We welcomed 8 new members, but were saddened by the loss of Margaret Olde, a long-time member, just a month after visiting us for Peter Olde's talk.

Activities included our very popular week-long trip to Charlotte Pass in February and walks in the Royal National Park, organised by John Arney. We supported Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve with working bees twice a month and other regular work, and Council's Bushcare and nursery activities. We created a showcase of native flowers and won prizes with our Australian plant entries at the Royal Easter Show.

We supported APS NSW by hosting a quarterly gathering at Bundeena in March, and with members John Aitken as Vice-President, Lisa Godden as monthly newsletter editor, and Dan Clarke as Conservation Officer, and supported our national body ANPSA with John Aitken as President and Rhonda Daniels as Secretary.

It was also a significant year for local partners: Sutherland Council's Bushcare program celebrated 30 years and Sutherland Council nursery celebrated 50 years in 2023. Many of our members support Bushcare and nursery activities to promote native plants.

We look forward to the next 60 years.