

### 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, 20 Mar, 2024 Sutherland Group Meeting** Saving our street trees At Gymea Community Hall, see diary.

**Thu, 4 Apr JB Reserve working bees**  
**Sun, 7 Apr** more information [here](#)

**Wed, 17 Apr, 2024 Sutherland Group Meeting**

Look out for.. [\*Grevillea 'Golden Lyre'\*](#)



*Grevillea 'Golden Lyre'* purchased from Phil at one of our monthly meetings (Ph: Joan Collins)

This grevillea is a natural hybrid between *G. formosa* (widespread in the Kakadu area of the Northern Territory) and *G. 'Honey Gem'* (a Queensland hybrid, common in cultivation).

It grows to 2 m high x 3 m wide with cascading/weeping branches, with finely dissected foliage with narrow segments with long yellow-green inflorescences which makes it very attractive. Prune to shape and to promote flowering. Give it a well-drained soil in a sunny position. It can be fast growing.

It is a regular on our plant table.

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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, 20 Mar

## **Sutherland group meeting. Saving our street trees with Rhonda Daniels**

Street trees – what's going on and what can we do. Rhonda Daniels will remind us why our street trees are so important, explain the various threats to them from the private and public sectors, review state and local government policy, and explore the future of street trees. She'll finish on a positive note by suggesting a range of actions that we can take to protect our valuable street trees.

GyMEA hall is open from 7 pm, and our President Leonie Hogue formally starts the meeting at **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. Bring a friend – Visitors welcome.

GyMEA Community Hall, 39 GyMEA Bay Rd

Fri, 31 March

## **Easter Show – flowers needed.....**

Flowers are needed for arrangements going in the Easter Show. Fruit, gum nuts, seed pods are also greatly appreciated. Not greenery. This year take them early on Thursday 28 March or very early (around 8 am) Friday 29 March to Joan Zande's house - **8 Bates Drive, Kareela**.

Any contribution will be welcome.

Contact Joan Zande. 0407 915 575

Thu, 4 April

Sun, 7 April

**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.

Wed, 10 April

## **Sutherland Group Committee Meeting**

7.30 pm at Rhonda Daniels' place, Sutherland

Sat 13, Sun 14 Apr

## **Collectors' Plant Fair, Clarendon**

There are lots of different plant sellers, plus food stalls and more. Check the website closer to the event to see who the native plant sellers are. Book tickets online to save time queuing at the gate.

Details at: <https://www.collectorsplantfair.com.au/>

Wed, 17 April

## **Sutherland Group meeting - Propagation workshop**

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

In April the meeting will be about propagation. Not only discussions about methods but lots of hands on practice for all. To make the most of this please bring the following:

- A container to put all your goodies in
- Some small pots suitable for cuttings and seeds
- Clean secateurs or sharp scissors
- A pencil to write on your labels for your collection

The committee will supply potting mix, etc - everything else you will need.

I hope to see lots of people there - all are welcome.

*Leonie Hogue*

Sat, 20 April

## **Sutherland Heritage Festival. APS Sutherland stall at Woronora Cemetery.**

Sutherland Shire Citizens Heritage Festival has its opening day on Saturday 20 April. This year, Sutherland Group will have a stall with information and resources about our natural heritage at Woronora Memorial Park (the cemetery at Sutherland) together with a few other groups, 10 am to 3 pm. The cemetery will have guided tours of the facilities, stalls and a BBQ and is on the route for the free vintage bus from Loftus Tramway Museum. At 3 pm, Rhonda will lead a guided walk around the cemetery looking at native plants.

Visit the website for all the details: [www.sutherlandheritagefestival.org](http://www.sutherlandheritagefestival.org)

Download our newsletters in full colour here:

<https://austplants.com.au/Sutherland-Newsletters> or use this QR code



## 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.




### 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)

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](#)

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.

## At the November meeting

### *Murnong with Ralph Cartwright*

Ralph gave us an interesting talk on the plant known as Native Yam or Murnong ([Microseris lanceolata](#)).

This is one native species that has increased in popularity, especially in recent years, as it is thought that it may have been farmed (albeit on a very minor scale) by First Nations Australians prior to colonisation. This is evidenced through the work of Bruce Pascoe in *Dark Emu* and it also covered in the historical fiction work of Kate Grenville in *The Secret River*.

*Microseris* spp. are members of the Asteraceae (daisy) family and the genus holds about 15 species, occurring in North and South America, as well as Australia. There is only one species reported in NSW (*M. lanceolata*) – which can be found commonly west of the Great Divide, as far west as around Hay and generally between the two state-borders. It was thought this species occurred throughout most of Victoria and the southern parts of South Australia as well. However, recent botanical research now recognises 3 species over this range; *M. walteri* occurs over the central and western parts of Victoria and into South Australia whereas *M. scapigera* is critically endangered - found on the basalt plains of Western Victoria only. The 3 species differ in the length of the fruit (cypsela) – basically a seed with a very thin coat and a parachute (pappus) of hairs; as well as the shape of the roots. It is likely that all 3 species can be easily confused.

Generally, plants resemble a dandelion in appearance and habit with a yellow daisy-head (capitulum) above a rosette of leaves.

First Nations Peoples farmed these plants for their fleshy roots. It is likely that the roots of *M. walteri* were mainly harvested and eaten and Ralph thinks he has this species too. They were likely cooked on top of reeds or rushes on top of hot coals, providing a source of starch and fibre. The plant was likely much more



numerous in the country-side but high-intensity agriculture has drastically decreased its numbers. Cattle and sheep will eat it very readily.



Murnong seed heads  
(Ph: R. Cartwright)



Harvested tubers  
(source: [Landcare Victoria](https://www.landcare.vic.gov.au/))



*Microseris walteri*  
(Ph: Lucid Apps)

Ralph acquired his plant from an APS gathering in the Southern Highlands in November 2022. Ralph had to protect his plant in the garden, from possums, with a cage, and then it flowered in February 2023. Plants usually die back in early summer to allow tuber-survival underground. However, good rain and/or supplementary watering may allow them to grow through the summer.

Ralph has tried eating the leaves – which were not too bad. If propagation is to be done, seed is best collected in late spring to early summer, which should be stored in the fridge and sown in March-April. Allow any plants to complete flowering so new roots can be produced. He has not tried the roots yet. Some botanists and historians report that they do not actually taste that good. Maybe its all in the cooking! In any event, this is an interesting species which has an important historical use in Australia.

Dan Clarke

Further reading:

[Gardening Australia story from 2020](https://www.gardeningaustralia.com.au/story/2020/03/10/murnong-yam-daisy/)  
<https://aussiegreenthumb.com/murnong-yam-daisy/> grow and care guide  
Dark Emu at a bookshop or library (including EAudio and EBook) near you.

## 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 (Dan Clarke and Rhonda Daniels).

### Proteacea

Grevilleas are one of the foremost flowering natives at this time of the year. We saw some popular, reliable favourites G. 'Golden Lyre', G. 'Sylvia', G. 'Peaches and Cream', G. 'Molly', G. 'Orange Marmalade', G. 'Lady O'.

A few to highlight this month:

**G. 'Sunrise'** A compact shrub to 0.5 m high x and 1 metre wide, with grey-green lobed leaves. It has large apricot-coloured inflorescences.

Very hardy shrub that can be kept small and dense. This one was acquired from Bilby Blooms Nursery.

**G. 'Orange Wow'** A relatively new cultivar, growing to about 1 metre tall by several metres across. Reported to be grafted.

It has deep orange inflorescences with tones of red-orange. Lloyd Hedges is growing it. It has short dissected leaves ('Robyn Gordon'-type) which are grey-green in colour.

Very hardy and produces flowers in large numbers.

**G. 'Lady-O'** Shrub growing to 1.5 x 2.5 metres, it is hardy and needs little care. Red flowers produced in spider clusters at the terminals. It has an arching habit. Flowers most of the year. Keep pruned to create a showy dense habit. Will take a variety of soils with good moisture. Don't over-water.

### G. sericea (Pink Spider-flower)

A locally common shrub, mainly on sandstone country with pungent leaves and spider-like inflorescences ranging from light to dark pink. Bee-attracting. Easy to grow. There are some profusely flowering forms available.

### ***Stenocarpus sinuatus* (QLD Firewheel Tree)**

A tree that can reach 35 m tall in its natural rainforest environs in northern NSW and Qld, but usually much smaller in cultivation with a narrow spread. Has interesting and large foliage which is invariably lobed. Wheel-shaped inflorescences (umbels) with 10-20 red flowers are produced at the terminals or on previous season's branches.

Can be a very attractive tree and will tolerate a range of climate with adequate moisture. Grow in sun or part-shade. Can be propagated from cuttings or seed. Just note that trees can take 7 years to flower but well worth the wait!



Firewheel flowers at Menai (Ph: [Menai WfG FB](#))

### ***Lambertia formosa* (Mountain Devil)**

Common in the Sydney basin on sandy soils. Bright red 7-flowered inflorescences with sweet nectar. Pungent linear leaves. Bird attracting. Grows to about 4 m tall. Needs good drainage to do well.

### **Myrtaceae**

***Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon Myrtle)** A very popular native myrtle which strongly aromatic lemon leaves, popular for tea-making and other culinary uses. Endemic to QLD in subtropical rainforests between Mackay and Brisbane. It can grow to 20 metres tall but will take a while to get there. It has conspicuous white-cream flowers at the terminals and broad leathery leaves. Plant in an enriched soil with good drainage. Prune to a desirable shape. Very hardy. Propagate from cuttings.

It can grow quickly in most cases.

***Syzygium 'Cascade'* (*S. luehmannii* x *wilsonii*)** – a Lilly Pilly with bright pink-white inflorescences growing to about 4 m tall. Full-sun and good watering recommended. It makes a nice and dense weeping shrub with bright pink-copper new growth.



Three *S. 'Cascade'* planted 20 years ago forming a hedge – purchased from Phil (Ph: Joan Collins)

***Austromyrtus dulcis* (Midgenberry)** A native of NSW restricted to the north-coast region of NSW, it is popular in cultivation. Growing to only 0.5 m tall, it can be used as a hedge and dense groundcover. Popular for its sweet-tasting berries, it has a myrtle-like appearance with lanceolate green leaves. Give a sunny to sheltered position with good drainage and some soil enrichment. Very attractive shrub. Needs to be pruned to remove dead and damaged foliage.

At the meeting – it may have been a hybrid-cultivar between this species and *A. tenuifolia* – a local species that can be found on sandstone creeklines.

### ***Darwinia citriodora* (Lemon-scented Darwinia)**

A Western Australian species, very common and easy to grow in cultivation. Desired for its architectural foliage (decussate leaf arrangement) – blue-green leaves, and pleasantly scented red-yellow flowers produced at the branch terminals.

Grows to about 1.5 x 1.5, give a well-drained soil and in full sun to part shade.

### **Asteraceae**

#### ***Ozothamnus diosmifolius* (White Dogwood)**

A shrub potentially reaching about 4 m tall. White compound inflorescences (conflorescences) produced in corymbs at the ends of the branches, reminiscent of little cauliflowers. Grows on a variety of soils. It is a common plant in the greater Sydney area and further afield – on a range of soils – from sandy to clay.

### **Lamiaceae**

***Mentha saturoides* (Native Mint)** A perennial herb forming dense mats in places – typically found along creeklines and valley flats in grassy woodlands. Likely hard to find in Sutherland Shire but is found in western Sydney in Cumberland Plain Woodland. Grows nicely in a semi-shaded area in an enriched soil. Makes a very nice groundcover. Short green leaves and white flowers produced in leaf axils. Crushed leaves have a minty-hit. Can also be grown in a pot.





*Mentha saturoides* (Ph: P. Shelton)

## Goodeniaceae

### *Goodenia ovata* (Hop goodenia)

Shrub to 1 m tall, easy to grow but possibly short-lived. Give a bit of room as it can spread to 1 m wide. Also in prostrate form. Plenty of small yellow flowers. Found naturally close to local rivers and creeklines.



*G. ovata*, prostrate form (Ph: P. Shelton)

## Scrophulariaceae

***Eremophila fraseri x cuneifolia*** Lloyd Hedges brought this one in. It is a shrub, growing to 2 m x 2 m with really spectacular and enlarged flowers which are purple but also subtended by these enlarged fleshy pink sepals. It is grown at locations such as Mt Anna Botanic Gardens.

Very attractive. Lloyd may be able to provide us with some cuttings!

## Rutaceae

***Citrus australasica* (Finger Lime)** Native to northern NSW and south-east Queensland, it is a large shrub growing to 6 m. Beware the prickly spines growing to 25 mm, so perhaps plant in a place where it can be admired and harvested but not in people's way. Flowers are white and leaves are aromatic. It does not do exceptionally well in southern Sydney but there is a large one going

well at JB Native Plants Reserve. Popular in bush tucker – the fruit is highly desired. Give an enriched soil with good drainage and plenty of moisture.

***Citrus glauca*** may have made an appearance as well. It has round fruit to 20 mm and is found in central and western NSW. Dan Clarke has recently seen this plant sold in Flower Power - so best to grab them now before they become popular!

## Acanthaceae

### *Pseuderanthemum variable* (Pastel Flower)

Dainty local groundcover with diamond-shape dark green leaves and bright pink flowers which protrude above the foliage. It takes well to cultivation but may not be easily sourced. Makes a good groundcover in shady situations. There is a nursery weed variety or race which strangely affects orchid growers but it is not sold commercially.



Pastel flowers (*P. variable*) can self seed into a pot until it is nicely crowded - whether you want that or not! (Ph: P. Shelton)

## Geraniaceae

***Pelargonium 'Applause'* (Native Geranium)** A native herbaceous perennial with hairy leaves and bright pink flowers produced in umbels above the foliage. It grows to 60 cm high and wide.

It is reportedly a cross between *P. australe* and *P. rodneyanum*

Ideal for rockeries and cottage gardens. Best planted in large groups for better effect.

Dan Clarke

More information can be found at these websites:  
[www.anspa.org.au](http://www.anspa.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

## 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)

This is the time of year we usually focus on fruits and berries in the garden rather than flowers. At Joseph Banks Reserve, the banksias are flowering and there are a few red berries on the cordylines. While our local plants are doing well, we also try to grow plants from further afield. Our *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* paper daisy seeds from Western Australia, planted in early February, are already germinating for a seasonal display.

However not everything from WA copes in Sydney. Few of the western banksias and eucalypts like our moist and humid summers. One that seems to cope is the small *Eucalyptus erythrocorys*, now in yellow flower, growing just behind the bed of kangaroo paws at the entry. The yellow flowers are preceded by large rectangular scarlet buds and are followed by large helmet-shaped fruits. The species name ***erythrocorys*** is from the Greek, *erythro* for red and *korys* for helmet, referring to the bright red operculum or cap over the bud.



*E. erythrocorys*, Illyarrie  
(Ph: J. Barrow, ANPSA)

Read more here: [https://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/eucalyptus-erythrocorys/](https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/eucalyptus-erythrocorys/)

Rhonda Daniels

## Orchids gone to a good home

Last year we received an email from Lora: "I've come across your details online while looking for some ideas for what to do with some native orchids and would appreciate any advice you have. My parents have lived in Yarrawarrah for 44 years but dad recently passed away. He was an avid grower of native plants, in particular native orchids, and we are looking for a suitable place to pass on dad's beautiful potted plants so they can be cared for and bring joy to other growers. Can you recommend anything or anyone who may be interested in taking a look at and possibly taking these plants?"

We passed the email to our member Rhonda Jackson from the Orchid Society. She has reported on the distribution of the orchids. "I took the smaller ones for the Orchid Society and the bigger ones were taken by Jason Salmon and Bill Howse for the Sutherland Council nursery. Deanna was very happy for the orchids to go to people who will look after them."

If you have something "planty" that needs a good home, bring it to a meeting, put a note in the newsletter or consider the Sutherland Council nursery or Joseph Banks Native Plants Reserve.

Rhonda Daniels

## 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.



Wildflower meadow with *Rhodanthe* daisies, The Australian Garden, Mt Annan (Ph: Angus Stewart, [Garden Drum](#))



## *Notes from the [NSW Native Plant Id Facebook](#)*

Chris Ross, a contributor to the page, posted a number of fantastic photos of native bees on the Angophoras on his property, along with a few words about them:

We have 4 largish *Angophora costata* on our block and all seem to be exuding Kino at the moment, some in quite copious quantities from various splits and other points on the trunk. I know the function of the Kino to keep out disease agents basically, but what would be causing the trunk splits - possibly the rain we've been having?

I noticed native stingless bees probably *Tetragonula carbonaria* were coming in to harvest the kino, gathering it up as they do with pollen which they use to build their nest and brood cells. Got a bunch of photos - the kino is hard to touch but they seem to be able to liquefy it to harvest.

The bees are 3-4mm long a challenge to frame and shoot.



Ph: Chris Ross  
[NSW Native Plant Id FB](#)

## *Myrtle rust has not gone away – citizen science campaign for March*

We still need more data. There has been a recent call out for citizen science to help, with a focus on the month of March. And this was also highlighted in the NSW Plant Id facebook group.

The following is from [Combating myrtle rust with citizen science – Atlas of Living Australia \(ala.org.au\)](#)

By collecting myrtle rust data, you're helping to paint a more detailed picture of Australia's invasive species.

1. Install a citizen science app such as [iNaturalist](#) or [NatureMapr](#).
  2. Use the [ALA Myrtle Rust Reporting Guide](#) to help you identify and capture the critical information to report possible myrtle rust sightings.
  3. **Don't touch!** Follow [best practices](#) to avoid accidentally spreading pathogens like myrtle rust!
  4. Check out citizen science projects like the [iNaturalist project Gum Tree Guardians](#) to connect with experts and learn more about myrtle rust in Australia.
- For more information, visit the [ALA Biosecurity Hub](#) or contact us [here](#).

Here are some other resources:

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/.../citizens-arrest-helps.../>

Replay this [panel discussion conducted by Costa Georgiadis](#)