

### 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)  
<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, 17 Apr, 2024** **Sutherland Group Meeting** Propagation workshop  
At Gymea Community Hall, see diary for details

**Thu, 2 May** **JB Reserve working bees**  
**Sun, 5 May** more information [here](#)

**Wed, 15 May, 2024** **Sutherland Group Meeting**

Look out for.. *Tripladenia cunninghamii*



[\*T. cunninghamii\*](#), [Bush lily](#) at JB Reserve (Ph: P. Shelton)

This groundcover plant is a very useful understory plant. It flowers consistently in its preferred shady environment. Its natural range is northern NSW through to southern Queensland but it can be growing well at least as far south as Melbourne. And maybe it will look to move south if climate change keeps warming the planet.

It is in the family Colchicaceae, a monotypic species, alone in its genus. Propagation from seed is fairly easy. It can be seen thriving at Joseph Banks Reserve.

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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, 17 Apr

## Sutherland group meeting. Propagation workshop

This months meeting is all about propagation and a practical workshop in the hall.

We will have some videos, some discussion and then it is all hands on.

You will be able to practice cuttings, sewing seeds and Dan will demonstrate division.

The course of the meeting will change from the usual as we will have all the talk about upcoming activities and the plant table first and then the chairs will be pushed back.

The committee is organising potting mix, some pots, cutting material and different seeds. We already have flannel flower, snow gum, cordyline, melicope and crinum seeds to name a few.

If you have some interesting plant cuttings, please bring them along.

You will need to bring

- A container to take home all your **free plants**
- Sharp secateurs or scissors
- Labels
- A pencil
- Lots of clean, small pots
- Masks and light gloves are optional.

It should be a fun night. Bring along any friends and family members interested in growing their own plants. See you there.

Leonie 0416286083

Gymea hall is open from 7 pm, and our President Leonie Hogue formally starts the meeting at **7.30 pm**. 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

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)

Thu, 2 May

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

Sun, 5 May

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.

Sun, 5 May

## Last day of *Florilegium*

<https://www.botanicgardens.org.au/whats-on/florilegium-rainforest-species-risk>

Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, 10am – 4pm, free entry

Sat, 11 May

## APS NSW Quarterly Gathering at Cherrybrook, hosted by Parra Hills Group

Dan Clarke is speaking on the Cumberland Plain vegetation. See flyer on the last page.

Wed, 15 May

## Sutherland Group meeting

Look out for our newsletter a few days before the meeting

Wed, 10 July

## Committee Meeting

Sutherland Group Committee Meeting

7.30 pm at Rhonda Daniels' place, Sutherland.



See page 12!

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

Registrations are now open for the next ANPSA conference in Melbourne, hosted by APS Victoria. Over the 5 days, there are 3 days of great speakers and 2 days of local garden visits. Register 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. Early bird registrations close 30 June. If you want to know more about the conference and what it is all about, please ask Rhonda at our next monthly meeting. 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 March meeting

### Saving our street trees: what's going on and what can we do with Rhonda Daniels

Street trees growing on public land are important for our health in its widest sense. They contribute to our physical health by providing shade, reducing air and surface temperature and encouraging walking. They contribute to our mental health by improving amenity and aesthetics, by contributing to local character, and by providing privacy and screening of buildings, roads and rail lines. They contribute to environmental health by providing habitat for a range of fauna, cleaning the air, storing carbon and reducing water runoff.

Street trees are increasingly important due to the loss of trees on private land due to development, the higher density of urban development with more hard surfaces and less green space, and also climate change with higher temperatures.

#### *Challenges and threats*

Despite their many benefits, street trees face many threats and challenges, with the number 1 threat being us (people). Existing trees are being removed by the private sector for development (mostly duplexes), for parking and driveways, for views and for aesthetics ("messy" branches, leaves and fruit). Street trees are also removed by the public sector for transport such as footpaths (Sutherland–Cronulla Active Transport Link), road widening (River Road, Sutherland) and parking (Sutherland Leisure Centre), by utilities under power lines (The Boulevard, Kirrawee), and due to risk and safety audits. Other challenges and threats include the natural ageing of trees, and climate change with a hotter and drier climate, and slow death from soil

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compaction and changed water flows.

In April 2021, a Port Jackson fig tree fell down in Sutherland shopping centre. Sutherland Council then conducted a Shire-wide safety audit of trees and many mature street trees were removed and not replaced. For instance, in July 2021, Council removed 2 Hills figs at Sutherland Station but they were only replanted with lilly pillies in 2023. Google Maps Street View provides great evidence of the presence and disappearance of street trees over time.



Street tree “protection”; it is worse up close! (Ph: P. Shelton)



Street trees near duplex development



Cul-de-sac planting, The Boulevard

### Government policy

The NSW government announced its 5 Million Trees initiative in 2018, to boost Sydney’s tree canopy from 16% to 40% by 2030. Unfortunately, there is more talk than action and the government itself removes many trees for infrastructure projects. There is a “regulatory spaghetti” of laws and they are rarely enforced with few penalties. There is poor monitoring of approval conditions, we are not planting enough trees, and planting itself is not enough if the new trees do not survive. We need KPIs for the survival of plantings.

Sutherland Council does have an Urban Tree and Bushland Policy November 2021 which aims for “no net loss in canopy cover”. However, a study for the state government estimated tree canopy in Sutherland Shire (trees over 3 m, excluding the national park) has decreased from 37.4% in 2019 to 28.6% in 2022, a 25% decrease in just 3 years. The best news about the policy is that it is due for revision in June 2024, which is an opportunity to strengthen it.



*Lophostemon confertus* (Brush box) at Jannali



Threats from parking

### What we can do

This may seem depressing but there are similar threats in many Council areas and many people do care about our street trees. We can take actions at a range of scales and levels, and through the lifecycle of street trees. Consider what you can do:

- Protect the trees we have: ensure they have stakes, weed around them and water them.
- Report damage or threats to street trees to Council by email or the Snap, Send, Solve app.
- Ensure trees that die or are removed are promptly replaced, by contacting Council.
- Write to your local Councillors about improving the tree policy: see addresses on the Council website.



- Improve Council's tree policy with KPIs for survival, planting in groups not single trees, and more natural plantings with shrubs and grasses around trees.
- Publicise that people can request a street tree from Council, and consider an "Adopt a tree" program for care and maintenance.
- Go public: write letters or use social media to publicise poor practice. Photos are great for social media.
- Comment on local DAs: sign up for Planning Alerts at [www.planningalerts.org.au](http://www.planningalerts.org.au)

In summary, it's up to us to take action. We need to be alert to threats, and take the actions individually or as a group that suit you ("the pen and/or the spade"). We need to strengthen and enforce laws protecting street trees, protect and monitor what we have, and replace lost trees promptly, with KPIs for survival not just planting.

In the discussion, Diane Townley mentioned the new TreeKeeper initiative at Bundeena and Jason Salmon reminded us we can request a street tree from Sutherland Council.

Rhonda Daniels (Photos R. Daniels except where noted)

Tree benefits: [www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/living-here/trees#prune](http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/living-here/trees#prune)

Vandalism: [www.smh.com.au/national/doom-with-a-view-the-chainsaw-vandals-killing-trees-for-a-better-outlook-20231102](http://www.smh.com.au/national/doom-with-a-view-the-chainsaw-vandals-killing-trees-for-a-better-outlook-20231102)

Vandalism: [www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-19/trees-vandalised-on-monterey-balmoral-waterfronts/103605682](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-19/trees-vandalised-on-monterey-balmoral-waterfronts/103605682)

Sutherland figs: <https://www.theleader.com.au/story/7352186/station-fig-trees-cut-down>

Loss of canopy cover: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/sydney-s-leafy-suburbs-are-no-longer-where-you-think-20231226-p5etow.html>

Council's tree policy: [www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/4411/Urban-Tree-and-Bushland-Policy-and-Schedules-Adopted-November-2021.pdf](http://www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/4411/Urban-Tree-and-Bushland-Policy-and-Schedules-Adopted-November-2021.pdf)

## 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).

### Rutaceae

**Correa 'Dusky Bells'** Thought to be a hybrid between *C. reflexa* and *C. pulchella*, it has been in cultivation for decades. It will grow to 1 m high by 4 m wide. The entire plant is covered with star-shaped (stellate) hairs. Has elliptic, glandular leaves and pendulous pinky-red flowers. It prefers shady situations but is drought tolerant. Reputed to be bird attracting. Plant on a moist enriched soil. Responds well to regular pruning. Very attractive.

**Crowea 'Festival'** (Family: Rutaceae) A cross between two species which are found locally – *C. saligna* and *C. exalata*, it grows to 1.5 x 1.5 metres. Has lovely 5-petaled pink flowers about 5 cm across, and good-sized lanceolate leaves. Needs good drainage to do well. Poor drainage will kill them off. Give it some shade in the afternoon and prune regularly. Good for rockeries and containers as well. Said to make a great cut-flower.



C. 'Dusky Bells' (Ph: [Gardening with Angus](#))

**Crowea saligna (Small Crowea)** Like *C. exalata*, it is a shrub found in the Sydney area, flowering in Autumn to Winter. It has broader lush leaves and puts on eye-catching displays of open bright pink to mauve 5-petaled flowers. It will tolerate shade and prefers a cooler, moist area. Can be a bit difficult to establish and heavy rain can wipe them out. (See page 13)

### Proteacea

**Grevillea 'Pink Midget'** A dwarf-shrub to 0.5 by 0.5 metres tall and wide, it is a hybrid between *G. leiophylla* (a Queensland/ northern NSW species) and *G. humilis* (a NSW species).

It has leaves to about 3 cm long by 0.7 cm wide

with a pungent point, with pink spider-inflorescences which can be produced profusely at the terminals. Very useful for small gardens, containers and rockeries. It is becoming popular! Provide full to part sun and adequate drainage.

### Myrtaceae

**Callistemon 'Little John'** Bottlebrush shrub up to 1 m high with attractive dark red inflorescences. Responds well to pruning.

**Callistemon 'Pink Alma'** Peter brought this one in – a hardy cultivar to about 2.5 m tall and wide, with attractive deep pink inflorescences. It is reportedly a form of *Callistemon viminalis*. It forms a nice dense rounded shrub with pruning. Bird attracting and tolerant of most soils.



C. 'Pink Alma' (Ph: P. Shelton)

### Asparagaceae

**Eustrephus latifolius (Wombat Berry)** A common local native scrambling vine with green

elliptic leaves with an artificial-like texture on wiry stems. It produces interesting flowers with 6 white to mauve tepals; 3 of which are hairy and 3 hairless. Yellow capsule-fruits are then produced which are very conspicuous.

It tends to come up of its own accord in sandstone gardens in the shire from remnant bushland propagules, but can also be planted. It is very hardy and needs little care. Prune to make a denser plant or to control.

### Dilleniaceae

**Hibbertia scandens (Large Guinea Flower)** A common Sydney species growing on sand dunes and moist coastal areas, it has good-sized leaves to about 6 cm long and 2 cm wide with a glossy appearance. The individual flowers are very attractive with 5 yellow petals and a central cluster of stamens, which can be up to 8 cm across.

Often used in landscapes, it is reliably hardy. Keep the water up to it in dry times. Prune to shape and give it some room as it can smother other species.

### Fabaceae subfam. Faboideae

#### **Kennedia rubicunda (Dusky Coral Pea)**

Scrambling climber that is quite a grower once established. Can act as a good groundcover too. Large-ish and typically solitary red pea-flowers that have a soft-flaccid appearance.

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 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.

### Kerryn Salmon

It is with sad heart that we learned of the death of Kerryn Salmon OAM. Kerryn and her husband John were stalwart members of Sutherland Group in the past with deep interests in the local bush and Bushcare, and passed this love to their son Jason Salmon. They continued this interest when they moved to the Central Coast. Kerryn moved back to the Shire for health reasons. It was always a delight to see Kerryn when she was able, health permitting, to visit Joseph Banks Reserve when we had a working bee. Our heartfelt sympathy to Jason and John and the family.

*Leonie Hogue*



## In fruit at Joseph Banks Reserve

This is the time of year to focus more on fruits and their seeds, rather than flowers which is one reason for our propagation workshop in April. On the western edge of the Sutherland Group garden near the stone drain are two trees labelled *Melicope rubra*, formerly known as *Evodiella muelleri* (little Evodia). These are rainforest trees from far northern Queensland in the Rutaceae family, growing to about 6 m with glossy green leaves.

Apparently they have crimson red flowers along the branches in summer, but I didn't notice those earlier. They currently have green fruits that look like a very small apple growing close to the stems. These then dry to a yellowish-brown colour and split open to reveal black seeds inside. The trees at JB display fruits at various stages of the lifecycle. Fresh seed is best for propagation and we'll have some seeds at our propagation workshop.



Seed pod collection



*M. rubra* tree at JB Reserve  
(Photos: R. Daniels)



*M. rubra* flowers in spring  
(Ph: from [anpsa.org](https://anpsa.org))

More information: [https://anpsa.org.au/plant\\_profiles/melicope-rubra/](https://anpsa.org.au/plant_profiles/melicope-rubra/)

Rhonda Daniels

## An Update from Friends of the Royal (FOR)

### Platypus Project

Recently, scientists from UNSW Platypus project held a 3 night trapping exercise on the Hacking River in Royal, in an attempt to re-capture some of the 10 platypus which were released almost a year ago.

Representatives from NSW Government, plus WWF, Taronga Zoo, NPWS and FoR were on hand.



Nets were placed out in 3 locations where Platypus have been observed over the course of the last several months and 2 animals were captured. 1 was a female from the original release and the other was a puggle, a

juvenile bred in the wild, which made everyone involved very happy. 8 of the 10 are still being tracked regularly and appear to be in good health. The captured animals had a full health check before being re-released.

Two animals have migrated past the range of the 40 acoustic monitors deployed into the Hacking river system and efforts are underway to expand these and track them down.

### Eco-Health Project

Another on-going project is called the eco-health project and involves several NPWS staff, under original guidance from Richard Kingsford at the UNSW putting out cameras at around 30 locations around the park to record what species lives there. This has since been augmented by cameras placed high in trees to capture arboreal animals like gliders, as well as acoustic monitors to capture ground and bat species.

At each site 4 cameras are setup and left out for several weeks. Some of the cameras have several hundred images to look through, whilst others might have several thousand. Sometimes a swamp wallaby will wander into the frame and then sit there munching on grass and grooming itself for 200-300 consecutive images. A table of commonly seen species attached.

The cameras were placed out a second time after the aerial fox baiting with the hope that foxes would be seen less frequently proving that the baiting had been a success. Deer sightings have also been less common after the aerial shooting program began and Minister Penny Sharp is backing NPWS in this and as you may have heard, has started a similar program in the Snowy Mountains targeting feral horses which do so much damage. Other parks in the state are also watching with great interest and want to start their own programs.

Dan Clarke has been involved in doing some plant survey work at various locations, which is also part of this project.

### Snake warning (From John Arney)

Just recently (8 March) a lady was taking a late warm-afternoon walk along Lady Carrington Drive when she came across a reptile that at first she thought that it was a large Blue Tongue Lizard and she took the attached photo---but something wasn't quite right! It turned out to be a Death Adder, (*Acanthophis antarcticus*.)

According to the book by our local expert, Ken Griffiths, this snake, although common in the area, is rarely seen.

Usually nocturnal by habit, this snake is an expert in camouflage, burying itself in leaf litter, it attracts its prey by wriggling its short tail.

When a curious animal approaches the Death Adder strikes. (Frogs and Reptiles of the Sydney Region by Ken Griffiths)

This snake is rated venomous and dangerous, (several deaths have been attributed to it) and although not by nature aggressive, it will defend itself if disturbed or threatened.

The speed of its strike is reputed to be one of the fastest of all snakes worldwide.

Statistics tell us that an average of 2 persons die each year from snake bites in Australia.

Persons who walk in the bush should have a basic understanding of what to do in the case of a snakebite, and perhaps carry a snakebite compression bandage (10cm X 10m for around \$12 from chemists) as part of their basic first aid kit.

If venturing to areas where medical treatment could be delayed we recommend that a Premium Snake and Spider Bite Kit be purchased for around \$50 to \$80.

Talking of unusual sightings, I also came across a couple of early/late Waratahs in bloom last week, pic attached. No idea why there are flowering at this time, way out of season.

Ralph Cartwright  
President

[President@friendsofroyal.org.au](mailto:President@friendsofroyal.org.au)  
0416 030 872

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Royal-National-Park-254507621029/>  
WebSite: <http://www.friendsofroyal.org.au/>

	Mammals	Birds
Commonly	Fox	New-holland Honeyeater
	Swamp Wallaby (often with joey)	White-browed Scrubwren
	Eastern Pygmy Possum	Australian Owllet-nightjar
	Brushtailed Possum	Eastern Whipbird
	Ringtailed Possum	Brown Quail
	Echidna	Superb Lyrebird
	Bush Rat	Superb Fairywren
	Swamp Rat	Variiegated Fairywren
	Brown Antechinus	Green Catbird
	Dusky Antechinus	Bassian Thrush
	Long-nosed Bandicoot	Grey Shrikethrush
		Lewins Honeyeater
Less Commonly Photographed	Feral Cat	Painted Buttonquail
	Rusa Deer	Brown Gerygone
	Wombat	Pilotbird
	Mountain Brushtail	Chestnut-rumped
	Sugar Glider	Australian Logrunner
		Yellow-throated
		Lewins Rail



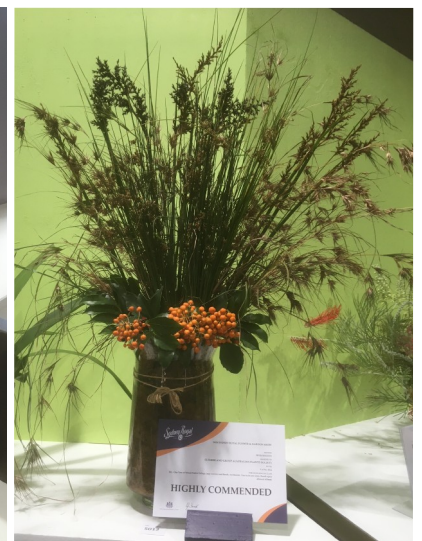
## Royal Easter Show



For the Easter Show this year, Joan Zande and her able assistants Mary Campbell and Diane Culkan put up more than 20 entries for the Australian Plants section on Good Saturday and Sunday. They came back with some rewarding results. It was a lot of hectic preparation on the days before but being able to display Australian Plants to the public at the Show makes all the effort worth it. Many thanks to those who delivered flowers and especially to Joan, Mary and Diane.

Here were some of the achievements at the display benches and a few samples:

- 2 Firsts
- 2 Seconds
- 3 Thirds
- 5 Highly Commended



All photos supplied - Joan Zande

Leonie Hogue, Joan Zande

## Good reads

Almost a third of Australia's plant species may have to migrate south if we hit 3 degrees of warming-- from The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/almost-a-third-of-australias-plant-species-may-have-to-migrate-south-if-we-hit-3-degrees-of-warming-226009>

There is a Similar story referencing the tropics:

[As seas get warmer, tropical species are moving further from the equator \(theconversation.com\)](https://theconversation.com/as-seas-get-warmer-tropical-species-are-moving-further-from-the-equator)





In Bundeena we have formed a group called Tree Keepers to do something practical to protect our street trees. As with so many parts of Sutherland Shire, we have seen the loss and degradation of many of our street trees due to climate change, removal for building development and community neglect. Bundeena soils are poor and sandy and many of our trees are struggling, especially the newer plantings. They need our help.

We haven't been running for very long but have already created community interest. There is no obligation for volunteers to come regularly, just to help when they can. When we are out working residents often drop by to ask about what we are doing and this is a great opportunity to educate the public about the many values our street trees provide.

Just spending a few hours a week can make a huge difference and it is very satisfying to see a tree that has been strangled by grass and constricted in a wire cage after it has been weeded, mulched and watered.

We are also trying to liaise with council to coordinate requests for street trees from residents so that this can be done efficiently on a street by street basis.

*Diane Townley*



## A Street Tree in Kirrawee

After Rhonda's talk in March I was inspired (or triggered?) to look at some things more closely. I was not the only person in the audience provoked by the subject matter.

I found a streetscape update I had missed and did google look ups to find a timeline...but not really any answers. These images are all on North West Arm Road, Kirrawee.

The first is from August, 2015. I'm interested in the tallest tree in the frame.



August, 2015, a tall Eucalypt street tree



November, 2016, after careful pruning



In November, 2016, the central tree is shown heavily pruned. I have had my eye on this tree as an example of controlling tree pruning so that old hollows could be preserved for habitat. Maybe this one was kept a little too tall? It may have failed the safety audit.

The latest view in google maps, shown on the right, is dated October, 2021.

But now, this tree has been completely removed. Was it during “the great Sutherland tree purge of the 2020’s”?

I needed to get my own photo for today’s version (on 6 April, 2024). This is shown below.

So, it was just another “win” for duplex developers.



Peter Shelton

(Images from Google Maps apart from the last one from my iPhone)

## Committee update

At the Committee meeting on 10 April, we discussed:

- Meetings: We discussed how to farewell Phil Keane. We discussed arrangements for our April propagation meeting. If you have a contact for a speaker, please let the committee know.
- Joseph Banks Reserve: Gardening Australia has expressed interest in filming, but spring is more suitable. We agreed plants could be bought at the Collectors Plant Fair.
- APS NSW: John Aitken provided an update on quarterly gatherings and the weekend get together in Armidale on 1–3 November and will email details to members.
- Easter Show flowers: Joan Zande coordinated our entries, battling bureaucracy and IT.
- Publicity: We have received requests to speak to other groups and for garden visits. Rhonda spoke to Revesby Garden Club in April.
- Our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Various projects are still underway including the conversion of our Coastal Plants CD to an app.
- *Next Committee meeting: Wed 10 July.*

## Farewell to Phil Keane, off to Noosa



Phil Keane has been a huge part of our monthly meetings for over 30 years and we can't quite believe he has sold up and moved north to Noosa. He has sold plants from his business Ausplants R Us, been our plant steward and provided plants for our monthly raffle. Phil has also provided plants for us to sell at other events, contributing to our fundraising. He specialises in grafted plants particularly grevilleas and small eucalypts.

The plant table at our monthly meetings has been a great way for members to learn about what grows in Sutherland Shire gardens, what flowers when, and how to look after it. As our plant steward, Phil always had something interesting to tell us, and made it entertaining, even when faced with the same plants year after year. We all have a favourite saying from Phil. And it was not just the words, but also the movements – “this plant grows this high (to the roof), “prune it like this” (down to knee height) and the tossing aside of less desirable plants (or where the ID might be

trickier). Phil was not always a fan of ferns. John Aitken says “I will always remember the way he tossed the plant material he didn't like onto the floor”.



Our librarian Clare McColl says “Phil is always a showman and makes the plant identification fun for the audience. He did however take his role of plant steward seriously. He would check what people had brought along at the start of the evening and very occasionally check in our library's books to see what a particular plant was”.

Dan Clarke remembers “You can find Cootamundra Wattle easily out there, unless you go to Cootamundra looking for it”.



Rhonda remembers Phil counting and calculating the individual flowers in a banksia flower spike. There are hundreds, even thousands in just one *B. ericifolia* 'Giant Candles' spike.

Over the years Peter Shelton always found Phil's plant sales the go to for acquiring interesting and unusual plants hard to find elsewhere. He recalls one particular purchase for someone's 40th birthday, which is still a talking point. It was a prostrate sheoak, but not one of those little 'Cousin it' ones, this one is quite a monster by comparison with much thicker needles and quite large. Peter says Phil often liked to observe that kangaroo paws' performance was directly proportional to their height and this was an opportunity to athletically demonstrate those height differences.



Phil was quite pleased to nominate cultivar name suggestions for specimens brought to the plant table such as *Grevillea* 'Haenke Panky' (in that case after a previous newsletter editor the late Maurice Haenke). Leonie Hogue remembers “Here is a great plant. It was named after me – *Grevillea* 'Superb' ”.

Dan Clarke and Rhonda, our new plant stewards, have learned so much from Phil over the years, and you may well continue to hear some of your favourite sayings and bits of information. Thanks very much Phil Keane.

*Rhonda Daniels*

(All photos from 2023 Spring Flower Spectacular, Paul Sheaffe)



# Activity report – Walking the Bungoona Trail

The weather had threatened overnight, however, the day turned out to be fine and it was a small, (but knowledgeable), group who enjoyed an interesting day of botanising.



Persoonia seedlings  
[\*Persoonia pinifolia\*](#)



Hooded orchid  
[\*Cryptostylus erecta\*](#)



Sandalwood  
[\*Santalum obtusifolium\*](#)

Starting at the Management Office carpark we began with a list of 137 plant species that had been compiled from past visits to the area. We were soon able to tick-off a number of these, including *Santalum obtusifolium*, (several plants), with some still carrying fruit, the climber *Parsonsia straminea*, plus several species of trees and shrubs.



Sweet-scented Doubah  
[\*Marsdenia suaveolens\*](#)



Willow-leaved Hakea  
[\*Hakea salicifolia\*](#)



Sweet morinda  
[\*Gynochthodes jasminoides\*](#)

By the time that we had reached the bubbler, --located about 30m from the start of the path, we were well into the swing of identifying the local flora.

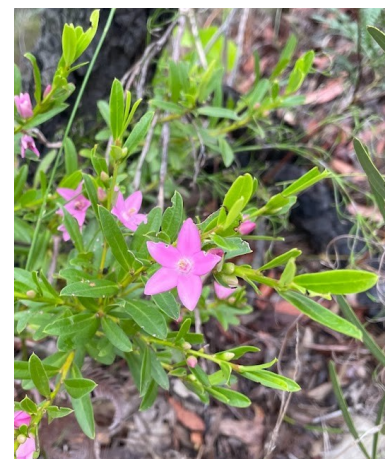
It was perhaps interesting to note that our earlier perception of February being a challenging time to ID plants was not borne out, and that the lack of flowers on many species was not a significant hinderance to us. Having stated this, we did note around 20 species in flower during the day. Persoonia's were putting on a show as was *Crowea saligna*, with its deep pink flowers perhaps the standout.

Our target of 100 plants for the day was exceeded, and we ticked 119 off our list and also added another 8, giving us a grand total of 127 plants. A good day was had by all.

Please refer to the list of plants that is attached to this newsletter. It should also be available at <https://austplants.com.au/Sutherland-Resources> soon.

John Arney

(Photos P. Shelton)



[\*Crowea saligna\*](#)



# APS NSW - Quarterly Gathering and AGM, 11 May 2024

## Hosted by the Parramatta-Hills District Group

### Program:

**10 am to 12 noon:** [Community Environment Centre, Currie Avenue, Annangrove 2156 – A Must Visit!](#)



A wonderful opportunity for those who saw or missed the segment by Costa on the Community Environment Centre on Gardening Australia in November 2023 to visit the Centre and have a guided tour around it.

The Community Environment Centre is an educational resource, community hub and environmental demonstration site for residents, visitors, and volunteers on various topics such as gardening, planting natives and sustainability in the home and backyard.

Explore the demonstration gardens that promote nature, sustainability, biodiversity, easy care and wildlife habitats.

These gardens, operated by The Hills Shire Council, were established and are maintained by passionate volunteers, including APS members.

Volunteers will show you around our native plant garden, thriving vegetable garden, bush tucker garden and food for wildlife garden.



Tea and coffee will be available.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/532672163534997/>

### 12 noon - 4pm

**Location:** [Gumnut Community Centre, APS NSW quarterly meeting 7](#), Gumnut Place, Cherrybrook 2126

**12 noon – 1 pm**

Bring your own lunch to the Gumnut Community Centre  
Tea and coffee will be provided.

**1-1:30 pm**

APS NSW Annual General Meeting

**1:30 – 2:30pm**

Presentation by Dan Clarke

*[Threatened flora of the Cumberland Plain.](#)*

Dan is a botanical consultant working in the NSW Ecological Industry – and runs his own company, Arcane Botanica. Dan is also the APS NSW Conservation Officer and editor of the Society's excellent plant data base.

His talk will cover the Cumberland Plain and its threatened vegetation, as well as several listed threatened flora species that Dan has monitored over the years for the NSW Saving our Species Program.

Some of the important Cumberland Plain reserves will also be showcased, as well as profiling some threatened species of the Parramatta-Hills District.

