

About Sutherland Group

We meet at 8 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.

See our [website](http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland) & [Facebook](#)
<http://austplants.com.au/Sutherland>



www.facebook.com/APS.Sutherland

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Next Deadline:

Wednesday 6 February, 2019

Coming up..

- Wed, 21 Nov** Sutherland Group meeting: Interesting Plants from the Top End with Tony Porritt
- Sun, 2 Dec,
Thu, 6 Dec** Working bees: [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Kareela
- Sun, 9 Dec, 3 pm** Afternoon tea at [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Kareela
- Sun, 6 Jan,
Sun, 3 Feb, Thu, 7 Feb
Thu, 10 Jan** More working bees: [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Kareela
Extra (optional) working bee in the morning; BBQ from 12:00 (also optional)
- Wed, 30 Jan** Committee meeting at Leonie's
- Wed, 20 Feb, 2019** Sutherland Group meeting: 2019's first meeting with meliponist [Sarah Hamilton](#) talking about bees. Can you send in any bee stories for the newsletter?

Look out for.. [Monotoca elliptica](#)



[M. elliptica](#) (Tree Broom-heath) in the Kamay Botany Bay National Park in November showing ripening fruit (Ph: P. Shelton)

This is generally a medium shrub 1 – 4 m, although [Victorian references](#) indicate up to 8 m. The scattering of red fruit among the green foliage was quite eye-catching on the Banks-Solander track, with most plants around 2 m. The fruit is edible, but not very large. Flowering was from around September with a profusion of small-greenish-white flowers.

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APS groups nearby

Have you considered visiting another local APS group?
Each group welcomes APS members and visitors, so check your diary.

East Hills Group

Wednesday 5 December from 7 pm for 7.30 pm start
(1st Wednesday of every month except January)
Lugarno-Peakhurst Uniting Church
909 Forest Road, Lugarno (opposite the Lugarno shops)
<https://austplants.com.au/East-Hills>

Menai Wildflower Group

Wednesday 12 December, 7 pm
Illawong Rural Fire Brigade
Old Illawarra Rd, Illawong
<https://austplants.com.au/Menai-Wildflower>

For your diary

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

- Wed, 21 Nov** **Sutherland Group meeting:** Interesting Plants from the Top End with Tony Porritt
We have plants for sale, books to borrow, plant identification, plant raffle, *Coastal Plants of the RNP* identification CDs for sale, a free supper – and friendly people to chat with. Visitors welcome, so invite a friend along. Please bring some specimens for the plant table and label them with their name if you can to help our plant stewards.
From 7.45 pm for 8 pm start, Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea.
- Wed, 28 Nov** **National Parks Association Southern Sydney meeting - The Georges Riverkeeper.**
Guest speaker Tony Wales will talk about the program's history plans for the future.
From 8 pm, Multi-Purpose Centre [123 Flora St, Sutherland](#) (near Belmont St).
Contact: ssydney@npansw.org.au
- Thu, 1 Dec** **Bushcare working bee:** [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Manooka Place, Kareela, 9 am
Join the Bushcare group on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am for some weeding and pruning. Everyone welcome. Morning tea and tools provided.
Contact Leonie Hogue ph 9528 6083.
- Sun, 4 Dec** **Sunday working bee:** [Joseph Banks Reserve](#), Manooka Place, Kareela
There will be plenty of weeds to share amongst our group members, come along and see what's new. Bring your gloves, trowel and secateurs! New volunteers welcome. First Sunday of the month (9.30 am start) and first Thursday of the month (9 am start).
Contact Leonie Hogue ph 9528 6083.
- Sun 9 Dec, 3 pm** **Sutherland Group afternoon tea for Christmas.** Our end of year afternoon tea in the Joseph Banks Reserve; bring a plate and relax under the Bunya Pine.
- Sun 6 Jan,
Sun 3 Feb,
Thu 7 Feb** **Working bees at Joseph Banks Native Reserve**
There are plenty of working bee opportunities at JB Reserve before our next meeting in February, 2019.
See the calendar entries above for more details.
- Thu, 10 Jan** It's Aileen's 90 birthday. Come along and make use of the new BBQ equipment to celebrate this and any other milestones for the new year.
- Wed, 30 Jan** **Committee meeting** at Leonie's, 75a Wattle Road, Jannali from 7:30 pm
- 3–10 Feb 2019** **The week at Charlotte Pass is now set for Sun 3 – 10 February.**
Contact John Arney: 0418 607 685.
- Wed, 20 Feb** **Sutherland Group meeting** Our first guest speaker for 2019 is Sarah Hamilton talking about Bees. Do you have any bee stories to tell? How do you attract them to your garden? Have you noticed any changes over the years?
Please submit any bee stories for the newsletter.
We have plants for sale, books to borrow, plant identification, plant raffle, *Coastal Plants of the RNP* identification CDs for sale, a free supper – and friendly people to chat with. Visitors welcome, so invite a friend along.
From 7.45 pm for 8 pm start, Gymea Community Hall, 39 Gymea Bay Rd, Gymea.
- 30 Sep 2019
(NSW school
holidays)** **2019 ANPSA National Biennial Conference**, 'Blooming Biodiversity' at Albany WA
Hosted by the Wildflower Society of Western Australia from 30 September to 4 October.
Register at the website now so that you can be kept up-to-date on developments:
<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/anpsa/> **Contact** John Arney: 0418 607 685.
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At the October Meeting

Following a suggestion by member Jenny Whiting and APS NSW practice at quarterly gatherings which was discussed at our October Committee meeting, meeting chair Rhonda Daniels gave the following acknowledgement of country:

This meeting acknowledges the Dharawal speaking people, traditional custodians of this land, and pays respect to elders past, present and future.

Update on olive tree removal work at [The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan](#)

Jordan Scott introduced himself to us as the Supervisor, Natural Areas and Open Spaces. The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan is located on 416 hectares. The garden was established in 1988 so it is now celebrating 30 years. Since free entry was [introduced in 2011](#), visitor numbers have increased from around 90,000 per year to around 440,000 per year and that number still seems to be rising.

Jordan estimated that the African olive infestation part of that 416 hectare total has been reduced from about 100 down to 27 hectares.

When applying for funding, they chose to call it the Rainforest Rescue Project as they wished to reconnect two remnant communities by bridging the gap with replanting at the same time as reducing African olive trees infestation. These are [Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale](#) which is a Critically Endangered Ecological Community. A total of 300 hectares remains, including part of it within Mount Annan.

In order to re-focus on why the rescue is worth the effort, Jordan expanded the ubiquitous acronyms he works with in order to understand their meaning more fully. From the environment.gov.au web site, it defines a critically endangered ecological environment (CEEC) as “an ecological community is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future (indicative timeframe being the next 10 years)”. For Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) the timeframe is 20 years. For Vulnerable (VEC) the time frame is 50 years.



The Blue Tree often gets a mention!



Mount Annan Garden
(Photos from Australian Botanic Garden [anbg web site](#))

African Olive had become a serious threat. It reduces biodiversity by changing the habitat.

Some of the contributing factors in the olive tree removal program:

- One olive tree can produce 25,000 seeds in a year.
- It can cost as much as \$30,000 to mulch up 1 hectare of olive trees in complex terrain
- Follow up monitoring / weeding is always required
- Propagating from species collected on site proved more difficult than expected
- It was decided to conserve a community of species rather than concentrate on any single species.

The project continues, working toward the objective of consolidating a four hectare patch of Western Sydney Dry Rainforest (in the Sydney Basin Bioregion) by bridging between two existing smaller fragments.

Meanwhile, it's also about the many individual plants for us. Jason talked about some of his favourites from the 4 communities identified within Mount Annan, listing one from each community. Any of these could be grown at home if the right space is available.

[*Breynia oblongifolia*](#) (Coffee Bush)

[*Clerodendrum tomentosum*](#) (Hairy Clerodendrum)

[*Ajuga australis*](#) (Australian Bugle)

[*Pittosporum revolutum*](#) (Rough fruited Pittosporum)

We wish Jordan and the project continuing success. And we should all try to get out for another look at our largest and totally native focused botanic garden.

Peter Shelton



B. oblongifolia (Ph: ppnn.org.au)

On the plant table

The plant table is a great way to see what grows well in Sutherland Shire and what flowers when. Try your chances at propagation by taking home some cutting material. Plant steward Phil Keane's nursery, Ausplants, is in Sutherland – visits by appointment.

Ph: 9521 1960 or ausplantsnursery@gmail.com

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

There was a great diversity of flowers to keep plant steward Phil Keane busy, so not all are covered in the usual detail this month.

Myrtaceae family

Tony Porritt presented an unusual *Verticordia etheliana*, from south-west WA with small red flowers and tiny round leaves. Anne Webb has been bringing seedlings of *Leptospermum rotundifolium* to meetings to give away and this month we saw the big pale lavender flower amongst the small leaves. Prune hard. Our many bottlebrushes included *Callistemon rigidus*, *C. pinifolius*, *C.* 'Taree Pink' (cut back, add potash for flowering), *C.* 'Little John', *C. viminalis* 'Captain Cook' which has softer leaves, and *C.* 'Purple Splendour' or *violaceus*, with purple flowers. *Melaleuca hypericifolia* is a hardy favourite to about 2 m with orange-red brush flowers. *Homoranthus flavescens*, from northern NSW, has an unusual horizontal layer growth habit, grows in a pot, and can take shade. *Syncarpia glomulifera* (turpentine) is a large tree in the Myrtaceae family.

Proteaceae family

Karen Thorn's Isopogon with thin long leaves and yellow flowers was quite unlike our two common east coast species. Marilyn House's *Grevillea triloba*, with a small white flower, is 6 m tall and getting a prune soon. It's good for birds, and copes with shade. A *G. juniperina* hybrid 'New Blood' is a low shrub, also good for birds with small prickly leaves, and a red flower. *G. flexuosa* is usually grafted for Sydney conditions.

Low and lovely

Looking for something low and colourful? With sun, plenty to choose from including *Scaevola aemula* and *S.* 'White Fairy', which can produce bigger leaves in shade, and the clumping, tufted plants *Conostylis* (grow by division like kangaroo paw), *Pycnosoros globosus* (previously *Craspedia*, but better known as billy buttons), *Xerochrysum* (paper daisy), and *Anigozanthos flavidus* (the tall kangaroo paws are hardier). For a burst of yellow, *Hibbertia aspera* can spread to 7-8 m wide, while *Hibbertia diffusa* is more compact with bright yellow flowers and ideal for a pot. The local *Actinotus helianthi* (flannel flower) has many various forms, and can be up to 1.5 m tall.



A. helianthi in an area at Kamay Botany Bay National Park recovering from fire (Ph: P. Shelton)

Shade

Low plants with blue flowers suitable for a touch of shade include *Plectranthus parviflorus*, *Viola banksii* (look for the blue flower form, may be sold as 'Monga Magic') and *Dianella*, with its lovely blue flower spike and glossy purple-blue berries. *Pelargonium rodneyanum* has felty leaves like a

geranium and magenta flowers and copes with sun or shade – add potash. Shrubs for shade include *Zieria smithii*, with scented leaves, a yellow flower form of *Chorizema cordatum* (like the one at Sylvan Grove at Picnic Point) which is a 1 m shrub or climber, the fast growing *Prostanthera incisa*, and [Rhododendron lochiaie](#). There's also *Aphanopetalum resinosum* (gum vine) and the sprawling *Epacris longiflora*.

A recent issue of the environment focused newsletter, [Beating Around the Bush](#), features this popular native plant. Part of [The Conversation](#).

Also

- Jason Salmon brought in the local *Clerodendrum tomentosum*. In the Lamiaceae family, it is a shrub or small tree to 4m in rainforest margins, but prune to 1-2m. See it growing at the Sutherland Council nursery and look out for the shiny black fruit on a fleshy red calyx.

- Three pimeleas (rice flowers) were *P. ligustrina* which is hardy and likes wet areas, and from WA *P. ferruginea* which has a pink flower and *P. rosea*, with a deeper pink-purple tight flower head.
- *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* (Christmas bush) is covered in its true small white flowers now, which attract the bees, with the sepals to soon swell and turn pinky-red.
- Other treasures were *Dendrobium striolatum* (from Joan Collins) and *Dendrobium kingianum*, with a small pink flower. Climbers included *Pandorea pandorana*, and *P. floribunda* (Gwen Harden) and *Kennedia coccinea*.

Rhonda Daniels

[Plant Table Masterlist](#)

More information can be found at these websites:

- www.anspa.org.au
- www.anbg.gov.au
- plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au
- www.wikipedia.org
- www.austplants.com.au/plant-database

The Continuing Search for Villous Mint bush (*Prostanthera densa*)

The ongoing pursuit of this threatened species continues with Dan Clarke leading a band of APS members to meet with OEH staff searching near Helensburgh during October. The dossier grows and can be monitored at our web site. And you can also see some cultivation tips in the [Master Plant List](#) mentioned above, if you'd like to keep one at home.

Rain, hail or shine, the botanising goes on. This collecting was done during a welcome, extended period of wet weather.



Small plant emerging between rocks



P. densa flowers



(Photos: J. Arney)



Dan Clarke taking notes



Some colour variation



(Photos: R. Cartwright)

News and More

Joseph Banks Reserve, Kareela

What's in flower?

After our rain October it seems even more is in flower than last month at Joseph Banks Reserve. The newly planted kangaroo paws at the entrance are reaching skywards. Look up for our trees, with some best appreciated from a distance. Near the new BBQ area *Alloxylon flammeum* (tree waratah) has large orange-red flowers. Over in the sunny garden, *Hymenoporum flavum* (native frangipani) has fragrant yellow flowers and glossy dark leaves – very pittosporum-like foliage as it is closely related. It's also closer to ground level as a shrub along the path in the fern area. The majestic *Grevillea robusta* tree is still flowering too.

Enjoying the sun near the pond in the sunny garden are scaevolae, chrysocephalum and prostrate leptospermums, which were all planted a year ago in July 2017. There's also Geraldton wax, several hibiscus and *Alyogyne huegelii*, *Grevillea insignis* with its prickly foliage and large pink spider flower, and flannel flowers in flower. As noted previously about banksias in dry conditions, our *Banksia robur* and *B. integrifolia* prostrate, both long-established plants, are sadly struggling.

After the flowers, come the seeds. The cockatoos have been enjoying the seedpods on many plants, particularly of *Acacia binervia*, with lots of debris on paths. There's also plenty of interest in the less sunny areas. Look out for the mauve flower spikes of cordylines throughout the reserve, and new plantings by gardener Mike Perabo along Bates Drive and in the shade garden.

At our Sunday working bee we enjoyed seeing several visitor groups with children, including one child diligently writing down plant names in a notebook. Don't forget the reserve is open to 7 pm

every day during daylight saving. If you haven't been for a while, come for a look at our end of year Christmas afternoon tea on **Sunday 9 December, 3 – 5 pm.**

Working bees

Join us for a working bee on the first Thursday of the month from 9 am or the first Sunday of the month from 9.30 am. There's always something to do whether planting, pruning, weeding or debris management.

Rhonda Daniels

The speedy AGM

We will hold our super-speedy AGM at our November meeting. All positions are declared vacant. The current committee will renominate for their current positions, with Leonie Hogue as President and Rhonda Daniels as Secretary. While the smooth running of Sutherland Group will continue, we are always keen to hear from helpers to share and learn tasks. It can be as simple as offering to help with our library, write up one of our monthly talks or organise a walk or activity.

Rhonda Daniels

Regional Advisory Committee

Dan Clarke has put his hand up and been accepted on the RAC for the Sydney region. The group's full title: [Greater Sydney Regional Advisory Committee](#) for National Parks Estate. Congratulations Dan and good luck.

Cook community classic raffle tickets

You should already have returned your tickets to Ralph. A big thank you to all those that bought tickets and an even bigger thank you to all those that SOLD tickets. We raised \$880 this year. Good luck!