



Bonus Plant of the Week

Gynea Lily
Doryanthes excelsa

Gynea Lilies must be one of the most extraordinary plants of Sydney sandstone bushland. They have broad, strap-like leaves, not unlike those of New Zealand Flax but it is the flowers that are most striking. They are produced in a huge globular arrangement at the top of a massive stalk, sometimes 3 – 4 metres high.

Fortunately we have many planted on campus. Those on the northern side of Buildings E8A and E8B were rescued by staff of Biological Sciences from the highway construction linking Sutherland and Wollongong. This foray was led by our intrepid laboratory manager at that time, Sam McKay. We rapidly learnt that Gynea Lilies are like icebergs, far more concealed underground than ever exposed above!! Fortunately the university has planted many more in recent years, as have landscapers responsible for the median strip between the Macquarie Shopping Centre and the university.

Look for **Gynea Lilies** on sandstones on both sides of the Hawkesbury to our north, and in Heathcote and Royal National Park to the south.

On campus we are also fortunate to have plants of the rare Palmer Lily, *Doryanthes palmeri*, from the north-eastern corner of New South Wales. These have similar leaves but the flowers are arranged in long arched spikes.

Image: australianethnobotany.com

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