Program Overview
During a nature walk through one of Sydney’s most diverse plants communities at either Muogamarra Nature Reserve (Terms 2 or 3) or Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park, students will view, learn about and photograph Australia’s unique plants. Learning will focus on pollination, plant structure, life cycles of flowering plants and Aboriginal uses of plants. In small groups, students will then create a digital book to document their learning.

Key Inquiry Questions
1. What makes Australian plants unique?
2. What are the key features of Australian plants?

Learning Experiences

Introduction to Basic Plant Photography
Prior to commencing the nature walk, students will learn the basics of plant photography. Concepts such as the rule of thirds, close-ups, camera angles, framing a shot and light will be discussed.

Multi-Sensory Walk
Students will explore and learn about the myriad of plants species and their interactions to environmental factors such as drought and fire. Using an app called Book Creator, students will work in small teams to learn about and capture the diversity of plants.

Aboriginal Perspective of Native Plants
Aboriginal Peoples have an intimate knowledge of native plants for food, medicine, shelter etc. Muogamarra Nature Reserve and Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park have an amazing array of unique plants that have many uses. Students will identify, photograph and describe some of these plants in their natural setting.

Creating a Digital Book
With all their newly acquired knowledge, the students will be guided on the production of a digital plant book. The digital book covers topics discussed during the day. These will then be sent to the school as pdf documents so the students can share their books and knowledge with family and friends.

Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content
Note: This excursion is aligned with the Primary Connections Stage 2 unit Plants in Action.

Science K-6
ST2-10LW - Explicitly teaches:
Living things have lifecycles. (ACSSU072)
Students:
• identify ways that the environment can affect the life cycle of plants and animals.

Living things, including plants and animals, depend on each other and the environment to survive. (ACSSU073)

Students:
• identify some factors in the local environment that are needed by plants and animals for survival.
• outline the relationship between plants and animals, including that plants are able to use light to make food, while animals must eat plants or other animals to obtain food.
• predict the effect of natural changes in the environment on some relationships between plants and animals, e.g. drought and fire.