



EUCALYPT

AAFBG NEWSLETTER

NO 49 NOVEMBER 2017

Come to Benalla on 20-22 April 2018 for the AAFBG biennial conference and to visit the Benalla Gardens and Riverine Parkland



Some of the many roses in Benalla Gardens

History of the Benalla Gardens

Benalla sits on the Broken River, so named because in drought it becomes a series of water holes. To the local Aboriginal people, it was the 'Marangan' – or big water hole. It provided food and shelter for thousands of years. In 1838 Benalla was described as The Crossing Place on the Broken River. In 1972 the river was dammed to form the Benalla Lake. The Crossing Place now encompasses the Botanical Gardens, Art Gallery, Lake Benalla and surrounding riverine landscape. It remains the heart of the town.

As early as 1859 land was set aside for public recreation where the Gardens now stand. The Gardens were commissioned by the then Shire Council during the 1880s. The noted Melbourne landscape designer, Mr Alfred Sangwell, completed this task in 1887. Besides the unusual combination of a large oval and ornamental garden, Sangwell installed gracefully curved walking paths to sweep through plantings of trees and shrubs in keeping with the typical 19th century 'Gardenesque' trend for public gardens.

Historically botanical gardens were the place where plants were grown for scientific study and public display. Traditionally plants of the same family were grouped together for these displays and this is no more obvious than the rose collections within the Benalla Gardens. There are also still remnants of this historical era to be found in the Benalla Gardens: an Asteraceae bed is located opposite the Art Gallery, and nearby this is a Theaceae bed featuring beautiful Camellias.

Gardens of Change

Over the past 120 years the Gardens have changed dramatically, particularly during the completion of the Crossing Place Project. The Crossing Place concept was developed in 2001 by a dedicated group of community members, the Crossing Place Committee. This group saw the potential of linking council plans, a Riverine Trail and Waterway Management Plan and the Benalla Botanical Gardens Conservation Plan with

Continued page 3

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Incorporation: AOO26805Z

Patron: Dr Philip Moors

Office bearers

President: Dennis Ayliffe, Friends ANBG

Vice President: vacant

Sec/Public Officer: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Friends Ballarat BG

Treasurer: Kathy Wright, Melbourne Friends RBGV

General Committee

John Bentley, Friends Melton BG

Bodo Jensen, Friends Adelaide BG

Murray Fletcher, Friends Orange BG

Robyn Saunders, Friends Benalla BG

Max Bourke AM, Friends National Arboretum

Annette Irish, Friends Brisbane BG

Admin Officer

Lisa Tuck, PO Box 33253, Melbourne, 3004

Membership

Annual Membership fees for 2017 will be invoiced in early February 2017 and will be:

\$50 for up to 250 members

\$150 for 250-500 members

\$250 for 500-1000 members

\$400 for 1000+ members

Address

AAFBG, PO Box 33253, Melbourne, 3004

Email: info@friendsbotanicgardens.org

Telephone: (03) 5222 8787

Website

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Web Managers: Wordsworth Communicating

Email: info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com

Eucalypt is published twice a year in May and November.

Editor Anne Rawson

email: eucalyptar@gmail.com

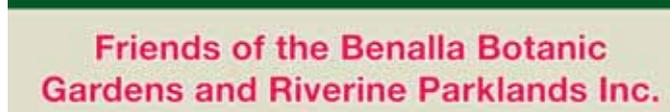
We welcome your articles for inclusion and photographs and important calendar events.

Closing dates are 30 March and 30 September approximately six weeks prior to publication.

ISSN 1320-8578



AAFBG Member's
Biennial Conference
April 20 - 22, 2018



Friends of the Benalla Botanic
Gardens and Riverine Parklands Inc.



Cultivating Friends

The Friends of Benalla Botanic Gardens and Riverine Parkland invite you to attend the 2018 AAFBG Members' Biennial Conference and look forward to welcoming you to their Botanic Gardens and the City of Benalla.

The Conference program includes:

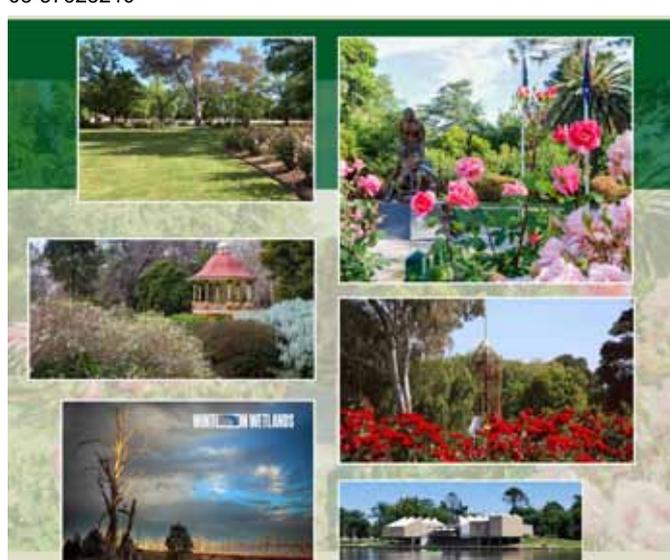
- Welcome drinks at the Benalla Art Gallery by the Broken River on Friday evening hosted by the Mayor
- Speaker presentations on Saturday/Sunday at the Benalla Performing Arts & Convention Centre with Dr Lucy Sutherland, Director of Adelaide BG, Chris Russell, Director Cranbourne RBGV, Andrew Laidlaw on the new Children's Adventure Playground and others.
- 'Gardens as Glue' AAFBG members' presentations
- Conference dinner on Saturday night
- Tour of Benalla BG, a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden with afternoon tea provided by students of Benalla College

Optional tour Sunday morning and/or afternoon

- Breakfast with the birds at Winton Wetlands
- Visit the Wetlands followed by garden visit to Belvedere with afternoon tea

Optional coach - Melbourne Southern Cross/Tullamarine Airport Friday return Sunday. See program.

Book at <http://www.trybooking.com/SDUP>
Phone bookings: Lisa Tuck 0418 590891
Further enquiries: friendsofbenallagardens@gmail.com
Robyn Saunders, President: 0419 137 067; Betty Lindsay, Secretary: 03-57623210



A collage of six photographs showing various botanical gardens and landscapes. The top left shows a wide view of a garden with many trees. The top right shows a person sitting on a bench surrounded by large pink flowers. The middle left shows a small wooden structure in a garden. The middle right shows a garden with many red flowers. The bottom left shows a sunset over a body of water with the text 'WINTON WETLANDS'. The bottom right shows a building near a body of water.



Australian Association of
Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc
www.friendsbotanicgardens.org
Email: info@friendsbotanicgardens.org

Visit Benalla Gardens (cont.)



Gardens of Change (cont.)

the addition of a Heritage Walk, to create one comprehensive plan for the whole area. The Crossing Place Project aimed to develop and conserve Benalla's remarkable heritage and environment, create economic growth and promote community development.

The Tomorrow:Today Foundation worked with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and the Crossing Place Committee to provide a way for community donations to the project to be tax deductible. Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was patron and a strong supporter of the fundraising for the Benalla Rose Garden component of the Crossing Place Project. Just over \$1m was spent over nearly three years to see the Project completed in early 2005. Work carried out as part of the Crossing Place Project included:

- reinstatement of the 1886 Botanic Gardens path design
- improvements to the Gardens frontage and entrances
- construction of the Rotary picnic shelter
- design & construction of innovative new Rose Garden
- Gardens and foreshore lighting
- completion of the walking track around Lake Benalla
- a new boardwalk near the ceramic mural
- an Elm Walk in front of the showgrounds.

continued next page

The Rotundab built in 1911 and still used today for musical events and weddings.



Features of the Benalla Botanical Gardens



Benalla Art Gallery

The Art Gallery was constructed in 1975 following the donation by a local benefactor, Mr Laurie Ledger. In return for the generous donation of 25 per cent of construction costs and his collection of fine Australian art, Mr Ledger was allowed by council to choose the gallery site and architect.

Weary Dunlop Statue

Colonel Sir Ernest Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, AC, CMG, OBE (1907–1993) was a local surgeon, renowned for his leadership while being held prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. The 1996 bronze sculpture was created by Mr Louis Laumen and represents POW surgeon Dunlop tending a sick POW in Changi.

The New Rose Garden

The central bed is shaped like an island, sited in a 'billabong' of lawn which together represent the original floodplain on which Benalla was built. The roses have been grouped into plantings of individual species of David Austin, Australian, Modern Bush & Shrubs, Tea and Hybrid Musk Roses, plus the dedicated 'City of Benalla' rose. Coloured roses from the same 'modern' era (1920s onwards) are planted in species-groups, flanking the central red collection.

Heritage Rose Garden

This bed was designed by local landscape designer Robyn Saunders, and planted in 2009 to celebrate 50 years since the first plantings of roses in the Gardens in 1959. The roses originate from 1830 to 1920, a period which hitherto was missing from the Gardens rose collection. The roses are of various colours from a number of countries and have been selected for their significant scent.

Dr Nicholson's Walk

This path is named after a local medico who used to walk around the river to his horse paddock. Dr Nicholson became famous during the Ned Kelly siege when he was sent by special train to Glenrowan to tend the bushranger's wounds. Dr Nicholson successfully saved Ned in order for him to later meet his fate at the gallows. The walk forms part of a four kilometre trail which winds its way around the lake. Besides the Gardens, the trail passes through stands of remnant River Red Gum and the Benalla Indigenous Community Garden.

Continued next page



Statue of Weary Dunlop tending POWs, overlooking the rose garden

The Cricket Oval

Before the Botanical Gardens were laid out during the 1880s, the area was thickly wooded. A cricket ground was established in the 1860s and several years later it played host to a match between Australia and England. Unfortunately the magnificent, original grandstand was demolished during the 1970s. The oval is fringed by a wonderful ring of Elm Trees.

Rotunda

The Rotunda was built in 1911 in time to celebrate the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. During this era, the Botanical Gardens were a focal point for social gatherings in Benalla. Private gardens were often dusty and lawn-less, so the communal gardens provided a green oasis for people to socialise or take a stroll. Today the rotunda is regularly used for musical performances and even weddings!

Mediterranean Border

Running adjacent to the Bowls Club boundary of the Gardens is a mass border of species from mostly Mediterranean and similar dry-climate areas. A significant number of plants for this border were sourced as cuttings from gardens owned by Friends' members.

Perennial Border

Further around the oval, hugging the carriageway, is a feature perennial bed funded and planted by the Friends in collaboration with the Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Within this bed is a unique combination of exotic and native plants which flourish in Benalla's harsh climate which sees summer temperatures over 40 degrees and down to -5 degrees in winter.

The New Zealand Bed

This bed was planted in 2002 and was designed to complement the modernist architecture of the gallery. The bed features plants endemic to New Zealand.

Significant Trees

The Gardens were listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1995. Amongst the extensive mature tree collection are three specimens of *Ulmus x viminalis* which are the only specimens of this particular elm cultivar in Australia and are listed on the National Trust's significant tree register.

From the President

Dennis Ayliffe



Dear AAFBG Members

As reported in the last *Eucalypt*, our Annual General Meeting was held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra on 20 May 2017. At that meeting the composition of your Committee for 2017/18 was determined as being:

President: Dennis Ayliffe (Friends ANBG Canberra)
Vice President: vacant
Secretary: Elizabeth Gilfillan (Friends Ballarat BG, Ballarat Vic.)
Treasurer: Kathy Wright (Melbourne Friends RBGV, Melbourne Vic.)

Ordinary Committee Members

John Bentley (Friends Melton BG, Melton Vic.)
Max Bourke AM (Friends National Arboretum, Canberra)
Murray Fletcher (Friends Orange BG, Orange NSW)
Bodo Jensen (Friends Adelaide BG, Adelaide SA)
Annette Irish (Friends Brisbane BG and Sherwood Arboretum)
Robyn Saunders (Friends Benalla BG and Riverine Parklands, Benalla Vic.)

The Committee has begun preparing for the Association's next Biennial Conference which is to be held from 20 to 22 April 2018 in Benalla, hosted by the Friends of the Benalla Botanic Gardens and Riverine Parklands.

Thanks to good work by Robyn Saunders, the Benalla representative on our Committee, assisted by Elizabeth Gilfillan, our Secretary, and Lisa Tuck, our administrative officer, a draft program of presentations and visits has been put together that makes the Conference look both interesting and informative.

Of course more work on fine tuning details will need to be done over the coming months and to this end your Committee met in Melbourne on 3 November to consider the program and budget. We are aiming to put on an interesting but modestly-priced Conference with plenty of opportunities for delegates to get together and swap experiences. In this regard we intend to devote more time at this conference to having Friends groups deliver presentations about the activities and challenges their group faces. Feedback from the last Conference in Geelong showed that this was a popular session and needed expansion.

Finally, we have had some recent success with providing letters of support to some Friends' groups regarding shortfalls in funding or on planning issues. We see it as an important role as a peak body to assist our members, some of whom are quite small in numbers of members, in achieving their aims and objectives. If you feel your group would benefit from support from us, please get in contact to discuss your situation and we will determine an appropriate strategy to assist.

In the meanwhile, monitor our website (friendsbotanicgardens.org.au) for updates and registration details for the Conference. As always my thanks go to the Executive and members and administrative officer for their support and contributions. My thanks also go to Anne Rawson, editor of *Eucalypt*, for her fine work.

With best wishes, Dennis Ayliffe

Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Gilfillan



Dear Members,

It was lovely to meet up with a good representation of members at the AAFBG Annual General Meeting, hosted by ANBG Canberra. Our sincere thanks to our President, Dennis Ayliffe, for arranging a stimulating event with ANBG Friends' President, Lesley Jackman, and committee of ANBG, followed by a wonderful morning at the National Arboretum. Sincere thanks also to Arboretum Friends' Chair, Trish Kellar OAM, and committee for their warm welcome.

AAFBG commitments have kept the committee happily busy since the AGM. There have been several requests made to various high profile, Australian companies for sponsorship of various aspects of AAFBG activities, without success thus far.

Your Association heartily congratulates its Members' achievements and there have been some important milestones celebrated. The committee is keen to hear of any milestone events due, so please let us know if there is something happening in your Garden.

A big part of this half year for me was spent travelling to Gardens further afield which enabled me to attend the 6th Global Botanic Congress in Geneva.

One Botanic Garden of great significance that we visited was Padua in northern Italy, the oldest remaining university botanical garden in the world, established in 1545. What are now some of the best-known plants in the Western world were first identified in Padua. Today the Botanical Garden of Padua is an emblem of artistic heritage, an international site of history and science, a model of research and innovation, declared a 'cradle of science' by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 1997. The new Garden of Biodiversity is a wonderful development emphasising the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, understanding co-evolution of plants and animals through natural selection — in some respects plants have domesticated us!



Padua Garden of Biodiversity, and a palm tree that was planted in 1585.

6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Geneva, 26-30 June 2017

What an inspiration and privilege it was, as representative of AAFBG, to be among such a passionate, committed and diverse group of professionals, who encourage and support the growth of associations advocating for conservation, development, public appreciation and wellbeing of botanic gardens. And to be part of the celebration of 200 years of the Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Geneve!



Elizabeth on the right with Hostess Agnes at Padua Botanical Garden.



Conservatory Jardin Botanique de la Ville Geneve 200 years!

It was quite a discovery to learn that Australia has the only group of associated Friends! There are various support and volunteer groups worldwide but the outstanding message was the contribution and value of a Friends' association. Our group is held in high regard and it highlights the requirement for Friends groups where they do not exist. It was wonderful to hear that new groups will be formed and will become affiliated with AAFBG, one being Edinburgh which is looking to the AAFBG model to form a new organisation for Scotland.

There were 480 delegates from 70 countries at the Congress. Botanic Gardens are booming, with around 1500 new gardens established in the last 50 years. Botanical research and studies are not carried out in a vacuum they are rooted in a particular territory and their outcomes are beneficial to society as a whole. Issues related to water, energy, climate and food security, and the scientific knowledge behind them, is being shared with the whole of society.

My involvement with the Congress was twofold, to take the Australian model to the world, but more importantly to meet new friends and learn of the outstanding achievements and developments worldwide. Quote: 'Knowledge travels like pollen...'

Some thoughts on the stories and discussion that arose in relation to The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and Sustainable Development Goals. 2020

We all share this one planet – the web of life. Botanic Gardens are windows into nature and they are never more relevant, projecting information to the people: education and outreach; converting the unconverted; engaging teenagers in a changing world. All this is demonstrated in Gardens by the Bay at Singapore, an amazing living destination where visitors find a reason for being. (See page 17.)

A story from Beijing. Wang Zimin was a police officer who is now working as an environmental educator. He was excited by nature and wanted to share that excitement: 'I want others to enjoy'. China's urbanisation removes people from nature but with training for the educators, teaching them to THINK, he launched a series of conservation based lectures, Inquiry based learning, Citizen science, Collaboration, Education through action.

Science for society. Communicating via landscaping, how future planning of gardens and intelligent architecture can unlock the secret world of scientific study and formation of aesthetic taste and harmonious relationships. How do people hear Botanists? Creation of atmosphere influences intellect, feelings and emotions.

Gardens for the soul, Tver State University Botanical Garden, Russia, where the cultural code is the feeling. To grow is to 'bring up'; not only do people grow plants but plants grow people. The message from Tver, 'We are all unlike, and all our gardens are different. But that is wonderful. We have chosen a difficult, but amazingly beautiful and noble profession, a profession that probably is a lifeway. Our way of life is to love, study and protect the plants of our planet. We preserve the plants for life in a sustainable world!'

Thought provoking messages in a wonderful atmosphere. Ms Marie Haga – Global Crop Diversity Trust said 'you need three things in a job, a good cause, good people and to have fun'. We did!

Warm wishes, Elizabeth Gilfillan

Visit Winton Wetlands

On a Sunday tour from the Benalla Conference



Administration Officer's Report

Lisa Tuck



Dear Members,

Another busy year is flying past!

This year we welcome Annette Irish from Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum and Max Bourke AM from the National Arboretum in Canberra to the committee. Annette is involved in planning for the 2020 AAFBG Member's Conference and Max comes to the Association with a wealth of knowledge.

Since our last *Eucalypt*, we have started sharing Friends' newsletters through fortnightly editions of Mailchimp *E-ucalypt News*. This has been very well received and has reduced the number of emails sent to you from the Association.

Please keep sending in your newsletters. If you have a significant celebration coming up in your garden, we would love to hear about it!

The AAFBG Member's Biennial Conference 20-22 April 2018, hosted by the Friends of Benalla Botanic Gardens and Riverine Parkland, is coming up and we have an exciting program in place. You may like to plan a driving holiday to the region and see the beautiful autumn foliage around Beechworth or do some serious bird watching at the Winton Wetlands following the conference.

There will be a bus from Southern Cross Station via Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne to Benalla on Friday 21, returning on Sunday 22 April for those who are interested.

The 2018 AAFBG subscription notices have been sent with the November *Eucalypt*. This will give Friends groups more time for payment before the due date of 31 March 2018.

I look forward to hearing the news from your garden,

Lisa Tuck, Administration Officer

Thank you AAFBG *from Anne Rawson, editor of Eucalypt*



On Friday 3 November my husband, Howard, and I visited the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and popped into the AAFBG Committee meeting in the Education Building for lunch. To my surprise and delight Lisa presented me with a beautiful bunch of Australian flowers, and Dennis made a speech thanking me, on behalf of all AAFBG members, for my work on *Eucalypt*. I enjoy doing the 'work' and I thank you all very much for this lovely thank you present. Pictured is Dennis, Howard, me and Lisa, taken by Murray Fletcher from Orange.

A Paperbark Treehouse

*Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
Canberra, ACT*

There is a part of the ANBG that is a grove of *Melaleuca* sp. growing in a spot where a transient stream keeps the ground moist, where birds come to drink and bathe, and where there used to be a path with signs for children about who was living under the litter. Now it is the site for a wooden two-tiered structure with an eerie among the tree tops.

This has been a major project for the Friends and the Friends' Public Fund. There has been a lengthy tender process with a number of applications for strange structures among the trees. The winning design was submitted by a Sydney-based arts collective, Cave Urban, who have nearly finished building the Paperbark Treehouse.

The Treehouse is a ramp-accessible platform, floating out among the papery trunks, bringing unique intimacy to the experience of this wild area on three levels: the understorey below-decks; a two and a half metre-high platform; and a ladder-connected crow's nest in the forest canopy. The surrounding *Melaleucas'* myriad filo-pastry-thin layers of bark not only protect the living trunk against the ravages of fire, they harbour epicormic buds that sprout only after the trunks have received a decent torching. This life-giving baptism of fire sparked the idea of giving the treehouse timbers the same treatment by applying the ancient Japanese technique of Shou-Sugi-Ban, literally translated as 'burnt cedar board'.

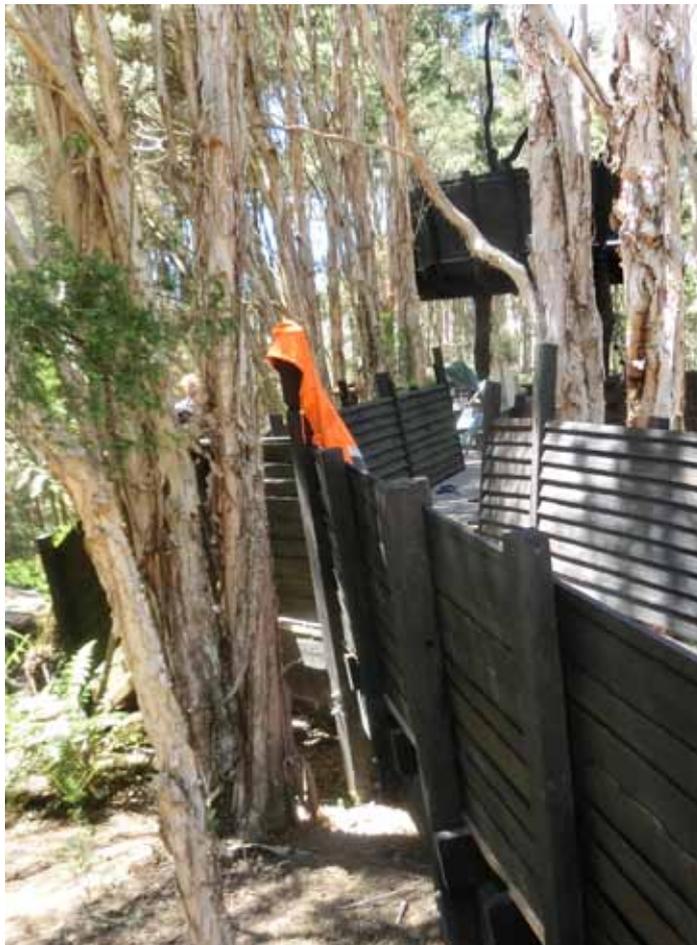
The majority of building materials came from recycled sources. The soaring dead and charred tree trunks are from the Gardens. The turpentine piers, joists and decking came from demolitions of old wharves. The rosewood handrail and ladder rungs are 100-year old central Queensland fence posts from the film set of Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*. All the timber was charred as a symbol of bushfire and regeneration; it also preserves

the timber and provides a textural finish that reduces the fire risk.

The Friends were invited to take part in this charring process. The work involved the use of rather large blowtorches, whose size may have deterred some but Jim Gould of the Friends Photographic Group led the Friends' effort, enthusiastically charring the trunk of a red box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) that has now been hoisted up and concreted into place. We also enjoyed some delicious charred meat and vegetables very generously provided by Cave Urban.

The Paperbark Treehouse is nearly finished and is due to be officially opened at the end of November.

*Anne Rawson, with thanks to
Lesley Jackman, President of Friends,
and Lachy Brown for Cave Urban.*



Anne Rawson

Warm trees on a Japanese theme

*Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra
Canberra, ACT*

This event brings wonderful colour to the Arboretum during July, which is Canberra's bleakest month. From small beginnings five years ago, Warm Trees has grown remarkably, attracting voluntary contributions of amazing knitting and crochet from around our region, around Australia and overseas, involving many people who would not otherwise be connected to the Arboretum. Our hundreds of yarn crafters range in age from seven to 104 and they make scarves and other creations required to present a different Warm Trees theme each year.



The 2017 event focused on the Yoshino cherries (*Prunus x yedoensis*) in Forest 17. Huge knitted flowers, representing cherry blossoms, covered part of the forest floor together with origami-style flowers. Crocheted cherry blossoms bedecked the gabion walls near the entry to the Village Centre and hundreds of scarves decorated tree trunks in groves throughout the Arboretum.

Our diplomatic partner was the Embassy of Japan and their wonderful staff assisted us in bringing elements of Japanese culture to the display and the launch. Minister Mr Tadayuki Miyashita opened the display of Japanese cherry blossom posters and primary school artworks before a beautiful rendition of the composition *Sakura* began. This music, which usually celebrates the cherry blossom season in Japan, was performed as a duet by Dr Doi on an ancient Japanese flute and Bevan Smith of the Wiradjuri Echoes on didgeridoo.



Thousands of visitors attended the Arboretum during this event, organised by the Friends in collaboration with Arboretum staff, and hundreds of children (and their parents) learned a little about how to knit through the school holiday program. We taught French knitting for beginners, as well as more advanced knitting and crochet. There were also very popular origami classes. We estimated that around 3000 volunteer hours went into presenting and disassembling this event. Each year, some material is saved for the next event and other scarves are retired, made into blankets and donated to charities.

The Friends thank their sponsors for making it possible to put this event on for the enjoyment of all visitors to the Arboretum.

If you come to Canberra in July 2018 you will be able to see the next great Warm Trees installation. Why not become a yarn crafting participant by contacting jocelyn@arboretumcanberra.org.au? Work has already begun for next year's event. It seems that nothing stops a knitter!



Photos by Linda Muldoon

Remembering Mick Harvey OAM

Friends of Orange Botanic Gardens Orange, New South Wales

The recent loss of local botanical icon Mick Harvey OAM was heartfelt amongst the Friends. Mick was one of the movers and shakers who got the Gardens established in the early 1980s and was a long-time member of the Friends. Mick was a former TAFE lecturer and loved native plants. Many Friends had undertaken cultivation and propagation courses run by Mick well after he had retired and his dedication and commitment to growing and caring for our local species was infectious. The Friends are planning to install a garden seat in the *Acacia* collection as a token of gratitude for the contributions Mick made to the Gardens over almost its entire history.



Mick Harvey leads a Wattle Walk in Orange Botanic Gardens, September 2007. Photo: Murray Fletcher



Sensory garden screen. Photo: Murray Fletcher

The Friends have recently had a large metal screen installed behind our Sensory Garden (see photo). The screen was designed and created by Cook and Roe, Structural Engineers, and separates the Sensory Garden from the function areas of the gardens. Much discussion had been enjoyed between the Friends committee, Orange City Council and the engineers about the design, materials to be used and practical issues such as footings and companion plantings. The Sensory Garden is now more secluded with its impressive backdrop.

Over the late Winter months, the Friends have joined with the Central West Heritage Rose Group to undertake the massive effort of pruning the heritage rose collection. This should lead to one of the best flowering displays for many years. Our busy November started with a walk and talk around the rose garden, led by Kathie Mills. Then followed the monthly bird walk and the Friends Plant Sale, one of the highlights of the gardening year in Orange. On the following weekend, local entomologists Murray Fletcher and Holger Löcker, guided a bug walk around the Gardens. The bug walks are popular with our younger visitors. A really healthy garden should be full of bugs, pollinating, recycling and keeping pests under control and we hope to find lots of each type to talk about.

Between 1901 and 1927, high quality marble in several colours was quarried from near Borenore, to the west of Orange, for use in public buildings in Sydney, such as Central Railway Station, the GPO and Victorian retail buildings eg Farmers and Anthony Horderns. There were also marble fireplace surrounds created for houses around the world, including one for Buckingham Palace. One of the last blocks excavated from the quarry has been donated to the Gardens by John and Lorraine Milla, members of the Friends committee. The block has had a corner cut and one side polished to expose the superb red colour of the stone. This work was undertaken by McMurtrie & Co, Monumental Masons, and was paid for by the Friends. The logistics of moving and installing a block of marble weighing around 1.4 tonnes has been complex, but the block is now installed near the Canobolas Garden with its views over Mt Canobolas, the volcanic source of the heat and pressure needed to convert a piece of local limestone into such a beautiful piece of marble. An interpretative sign is being prepared to explain the significance of the block as well as the process of formation of marble.

Murray Fletcher, Hon. Secretary

What's in a name?

Cranbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Cranbourne, Victoria

Some time ago the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria undertook to standardise the names of all of the divisions.

Following those changes what was formerly Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Inc. has been changed to Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc.

That will frequently be shortened to Cranbourne Friends or CF-RBGV.

As a part of these changes logos have been updated. The RBGV logo now incorporates people, plants (both exotic and Australian), birds and animals. Cranbourne Friends have adopted that concept with a logo incorporating people, Australian plants and fauna.



It is business as usual and Cranbourne Friends understand that a Eucalypt now called a Corymbia is still a gum tree!

Alex Smart

More dollars than usual

*Melbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Melbourne, Victoria*



MELBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

The Friends have a new logo. It is a delicate image depicting leaves of oak and Moreton Bay figs, and is derived from a larger more detailed design for the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. See Cranbourne report on page ?? for more illustrations.

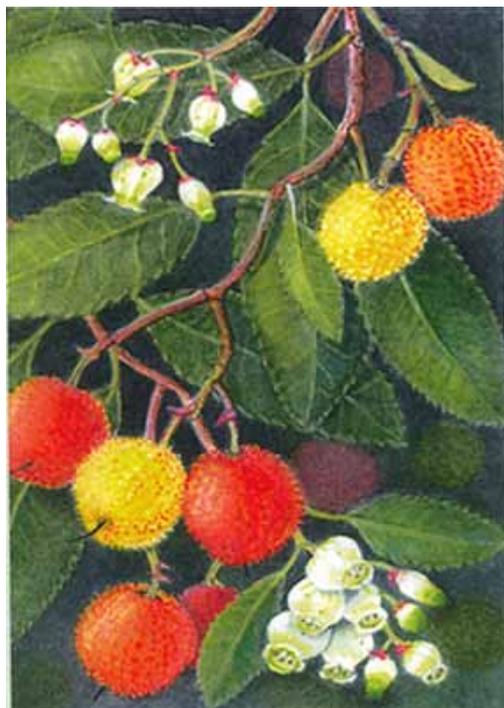
This report from the Melbourne Friends seems to include more than the usual mention of dollars as a reward for our efforts! We have contributed \$70,000 towards refurbishment of the Visitor Centre at Observatory Gate. This work will be recognised with a Grand Opening in November. The Growing Friends autumn sale raised a record \$33,000, while their spring offering was included in the Gardens' new Botanic and Rare Plant Fair. Our first-ever book sale, with the catchy title *Grow Your Library*, raised \$2,000 from pre-loved books, magazines and catalogues on plants, gardening and related subjects. Prices ranged from 50 cents up to \$20 for illustrated and reference books. There were also some 'out of print' treasures to be had.

Offerings of walks and talks sometimes surprise us. For instance, we learned about the history of the spice trade, and that cardamom, pepper, cinnamon and chocolate may be sourced from plants in the Gardens. Illustrated talks on a travel theme provided welcome cheer as winter set in. This year we journeyed through southern Spain to marvel at Moorish gardens and architecture. In contrast, the Singapore Gardens Festival whet our appetites for exotic orchids and tropical scents.

Dr Anne Vale's illustrated talk discussed how Australia's 'Mind Shapers and Garden Creators' are influencing garden-making in the 21st century. They offer a wealth of ideas and individual approaches.

The rich contribution of women to botanical science was highlighted on a visit to the State Botanical Collection in the National Herbarium of Victoria. Collectors, researchers, authors and botanical artists are represented there. Stories and specimens increased our appreciation of this marvellous institution.

Our Botanical Illustrators branched out with a wide-ranging natural history exhibition, 'reFraming Nature'.



The Friends Christmas Card. *Arbutus unedo*, watercolour by Botanical Illustrator Karen White

This was a non-selective opportunity for encouraging artists who had not previously exhibited. Suggested topics ranged from birds to bees, herbs to hairy beetles and fungi to ferns.

A Strategy Session held by the Friends Council stressed the importance of good communication between all the component groups and with the Council. This was a very useful discussion.

For the first time in 25 years, the entire tree collection at the Melbourne Gardens is being surveyed. So far more than 6,000 trees have been measured, identified and recorded on the Living Collections Database. A Landscape Succession Strategy is now in place. Subtitled 'Adapting a world-renowned botanical landscape to climate change', this pioneering approach has generated much interest elsewhere in Australia and overseas.

Not your usual gardening tool an amphibious harvester has been purchased for the Melbourne Gardens to manage the aquatic plants in the lake system and keep the *Azolla* fern under control.

Heather Ironmonger

Mystery and magic of our Gardens

Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides Conference ANBG, Canberra, ACT

This report was published in Fronds 87 December 2016, the magazine of the Friends of ANBG, Canberra.

Guides from interstate and overseas came to the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra for the Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides Conference from Sunday 15 to Thursday 19 October. As well as the capital city Botanic Gardens there were guides from smaller regional Gardens, New Zealand and Scotland. The Conference's theme: 'Informed Guiding – discovering the mystery and magic of our gardens'.

The mystery and magic began with a night walk in the ANBG. Even the 'rain' in the Rainforest caused by the sprinklers, contributed to a magical experience, exploring the plants, wildlife and vistas all lit by the lights in the Rainforest and the Red Centre. Many guides were keen to see if night walks would be possible in their own gardens.

Monday morning there were key note addresses by ANBG Executive Director Judy West and Dr Helen Cleugh of the CSIRO which set the scene for a lively panel session on 'Climate change in the context of botanic gardens guiding.'

On both Monday afternoon and Thursday morning Canberra guides offered a wide range of newly created themed tours in the ANBG which showed off our Gardens. Managing up to 15 groups around the Gardens at the same time and avoiding traffic jams was a challenge but everything went very smoothly.

A focus on guiding techniques in some of the national institutions, as well as the use of digital media and science communication on Tuesday morning, was followed by visits to national institutions where we saw the different approaches and challenges.

On Wednesday the Conference broke into groups to visit a wide range of gardens in Canberra and the surrounding area, including the Arboretum, Government House, Lanyon, the Walcott Garden and old and new Parliament Houses. There was even an early morning bird walk at the ANBG where the Tawny Frogmouth and Scarlet Honeyeaters were highlights.

The plenary session on Thursday comprised presentations on guiding in 'our Gardens' from guides at the Arboretum, Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens and the ANBG.

Continued next page



Guided walk in the ANBG on an art theme. Photo by C&S Rogers.

Guides conference in Canberra (cont.)

A full day post Conference tour visited the Monaro high plains, and three Nimmitabel gardens lovingly crafted as lush oases in an otherwise dry, drought and frost-prone land.

Throughout the Conference we had glorious spring weather and comments received from participants from other Gardens during and after the Conference were overwhelmingly positive. Guides were enthusiastic about taking home the information, ideas and experiences from the Conference and using them to enhance guiding in their own Gardens.

Thank you so much for the wonderful time we had here at Canberra, the beautiful welcoming and the fascinating program.

Best conference . . . challenging, entertaining, and such a great group of people!

Those of us staying at University House had some great conversations each evening about guiding and what we had seen and learned.

You have certainly set the bar high and put us on our mettle for next time. (Guide from Kings Park, Perth where the next Conference will be held.)

Our huge thanks to Conference Convenor, Glenys Bishop, and the hard working and talented team involved in the planning, organisation and management of the Conference. Thanks also to our Conference sponsors, Capital Wines, Botanica World Discoveries and the Botanical Bookshop for their generosity and support.

Christianna Cobbold

A tall green wall in Singapore

In the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore there are two enormous glasshouses. When I visited in October there was an autumn display in one, with hundreds of very orange pumpkins displayed among the flowers, trees and sculpted creatures in the smaller one. Do pumpkins grow in Singapore? In the mountain one there was a very high green wall, which reminded me that Sydney has a green wall that is the biggest in the southern hemisphere. It is just as well it is not competing with the one in Singapore!

Anne Rawson



Anne Rawson

Green wall with small people at the bottom



Anne Rawson

Pumpkins in Singapore

Members of Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

Some of these Gardens do not have their own web page, so they are only listed
on the AAFBG web page: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Australian Capital Territory

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc. www.friendsanbg.org.au

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra www.arboretumcanberra.org.au

New South Wales

Friends of Burrendong Botanic Gardens and Arboretum www.burrendongarboretum.org

Friends of Dubbo Regional Botanic Garden Inc. www.DRBG.com.au

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Inc. www.friendserbg.org.au

Friends Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens Inc. www.friendslrbg.com.au

Friends of North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens www.coffsbotanicgarden.com.au

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens Inc. www.orange.nsw.gov.au

Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens Ltd. Sydney www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/foundationandfriends

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Southern Highland Botanic Gardens www.shbg.com.au/friends/

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of Wollongong Botanic Garden www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au/botanicgardens

Northern Territory

Friends of the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Inc. www.nt.gov.au/leisure/parks-reserves/george-brown-darwin-botanic-gardens/friends-of-the-darwin-botanic-gardens

Queensland

Brisbane Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides www.brisbane.qld.gov.au

Friends of Brisbane Botanical Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum www.fbbgsa.org.au

Friends of the Botanic Gardens Cairns Inc. www.botanicfriendscairns.com.au

Friends of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Inc. www.friendsgcrbg.org.au

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Gardens Inc www.friendsofmaroochybotanicgardens.org.au

Friends of Noosa Botanic Gardens Inc. www.noosabotanicgardens.friends.org.au

Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park www.friendsofpeacehaven.blogspot.com.au

Friends of Redcliffe Botanic Gardens Inc. <https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/general.aspx?id=120909>

South Australia

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc. www.friendsbgadelaide.com

Friends of Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens Pt Augusta www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org

Friends of the Waite Arboretum Inc. www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/waite-historic/arboretum

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc. www.tasmaniansrboretum.org.au

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Inc. www.gardens.rtbg.gov.au

Victoria

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden (Mildura) www.aibgmw.org.au

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. www.fbbg.org.au

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland Inc. www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc. www.bendigobotanicgardens.com.au/Get_Involved/Join_the_Friends

Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens Inc www.buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc. www.fobg.org.au

Friends of Camperdown Botanic and Arboretum Trust Inc. www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens www.colacbotanicgdnfriends.org.au then click on further links.

Friends of George Pentland Botanic Gardens http://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Things_To_Do/Parks_and_Reserves/Frankston/George_Pentland_Botanic_Gardens

Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of George Tindale Memorial Garden www.friendsoftgmtg.com

Grampians Flora Botanic Garden Group www.friendsofgrampiansgariwerd.org.au

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc. www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc. www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Friends of Kyneton Botanic Gardens www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of Malmsbury Gardens & Environs Inc home.vicnet.net.au/~malmsbot/index.htm

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc. www.fmbg.org.au

Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens www.casey.vic.gov.au

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria www.rbg.vic.gov.au/support/support-groups/friends-of-rbg/cranbourne

Melbourne Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Inc. www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Friends of the St Arnaud Queen Mary Gardens www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of the Australian Botanic Garden Shepparton www.fabgs.org.au

Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens Inc. www.foskbg.org.au

WAMA Friends of Botanic Gardens www.wama.net.au

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc. www.wbgardens.com.au

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc. www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens www.wombathill.org.au

Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens www.friendsofwilliamstownbotanicgardens.net

Western Australia

Friends of Kings Park Inc. www.friendsofkingspark.com.au

Associate Members

Friends of Christchurch Botanic Garden www.friendschchbotanicgardens.org.nz

Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh www.rbge.org.uk

Kirstenbosch Volunteer Garden Guides <http://botsoc-kirstenbosch.org.za/>

Friends of Thurston Gardens Fiji www.fijimuseum.org.fj/historical-thurston-gardens

Calendar of events 2017-18

AAFBG Biennial Conference at Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Park 20-22 April 2018.

Websites worth visiting

Visit our website:

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Contact website editor to list your events or add garden photos to the members' gallery:
info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com

BGANZ on line Newsletter – *The Botanic Garden*
www.bganz.org.au/newsletter

Botanic Gardens Conservation International
<http://bgci.org/resources/news>

Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia
www.gpcaa.com

Australian Native Plants Society
<http://asgap.org.au>

Significant Tree Registers – there are a number of State and local registers. Search: Significant Trees

Plants for the Planet:
www.plantsfortheplanet.com

The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Association Committee. Neither the Association Committee nor the Association members accepts responsibility for statements or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable information.