



Campsis

Newsletter of the AAFBG No.43 November 2014

Big changes at AAFBG

The Association is celebrating a number of significant changes and additions in this issue.

First, the AAFBG Committee welcomes a new President, Kate Heffernan, from the Gold Coast, elected at the successful conference held at the Gold Coast in August; a new Secretary, Elizabeth Gilfillan from Ballarat; and Judith Trimble from Geelong as a new General committee member. There is a Conference report from Rana Baguley, Coordinator, and reports from Kate and Elizabeth later in this issue.

It is also wonderful to introduce the Association's inaugural Patron, Dr Philip Moors, previous Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. You will see in the article that follows that Dr Moors comes to the AAFBG with a wealth of experience in the fields of Botanic Gardens management and science. He has been a great supporter of Friends of Botanic Gardens for many years, particularly through BGANZ.

Another exciting change is the addition of 'Australian' to the Association's name. This reflects the national nature of the Association and its location. Of course, the the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG) will continue to welcome and encourage affiliate members from overseas. The name change has been approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria. (AFBG was incorporated in Victoria in 1993.) A new logo is on the drawing board.

The Association has recently been registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity. The next step is to apply for deductible gift recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Tax Office.

You are sure to enjoy the AAFBG Members' articles in this issue from: Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart; the National Arboretum and ANBG in Canberra; Maroochy in Queensland; Australian Arid Lands in Port Augusta; Burrendong, Eurobodalla, Lismore, Moama Echuca and Tamworth in NSW, and from Geelong in Victoria. Hobart have contributed a special article which covers scientific work done on orchids by a Hobart Friend. The Committee is keen to get more articles like this, so if you have some exciting scientific work to contribute to our next issue, let us know.



Tim Entwisle at the podium and a fascinated audience

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Incorporation: AOO26805Z

Office bearers

President: Kate Heffernan, Gold Coast RBG
Vice-President: Warwick Wright, ANBG ACT
Sec/Public Officer: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Ballarat
Treasurer: Karlene Taylor, RBG Melbourne

General Committee

Geraldine Davis, AALBG, Pt Augusta
John Bentley, Melton BG
Judith Trimble, Geelong BG
John Zwar, AALBG Pt Augusta

Admin Officer

Ro Noone, Geelong Vic

Address

AAFBG, PO Box 983, Geelong, Vic 3220
Email: info@friendsbotanicgardens.org
Telephone: (03) 5222 8787

Website

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org
Web Managers: Wordsworth Communicating
Email: info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com

Membership

Annual Membership from 1 April 2014: \$30
for up to 100 financial members, \$50 from
101-250 members, \$100 from 251-500
members, \$200 from 501-1000 members,
\$300 over 1000 members.
Pay by direct transfer to BSB 633-000
A/c No: 1045-71476 and use group name as
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Vic. 3220

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Editor Anne Rawson
email: campsis@friendsanbg.org.au

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photographs and important calendar events.
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AAFBG's new Patron, Dr Philip Moors AO

We are delighted to welcome our new Patron, Dr Philip Moors AO. Friends of Botanic Gardens know Dr Moors as past Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. That position also covered the Australian Garden at Cranbourne, The National Herbarium of Victoria and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology.

In his 20 years as Director Philip implemented major new programs and capital developments in visitor services, cultural activities and tourism, plant biodiversity and urban ecology research, education, and fundraising and revenue generation. Some highlights were:

- The very popular Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden at RBG Melbourne opened in October 2004.
- Guilfoyle's Volcano low-water-use garden opened 2010.
- A major project capturing and treating stormwater to provide an alternative source of irrigation water for RBG Melbourne was completed in 2012.
- The creation of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne, celebrating the diversity and beauty of Australia's plantlife and winner of many design awards.
- Winning a Gold Medal at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show for a garden inspired by the Australian Garden.
- Elected Inaugural President, Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BGANZ), 2005–2011 and has been a strong supporter of Friends groups, encouraging their membership and the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding with BGANZ.

Dr Moors' other life is as a birdo. Before he moved to RBG he was Director of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, now renamed BirdLife Australia, and before that he worked in New Zealand with national parks and wildlife.

He is a member of many boards, committees and research associations dealing with climate change, urban ecology, penguins, botanic gardens, arts and tourism, and Antarctica. In 2013 he became an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to conservation and the environment through contributions to the botanical and scientific community and the promotion of Australian flora.

We look forward to a very positive relationship with our most distinguished patron.

From the President

Kate Heffernan



As a child and frequent visitor to RBG Sydney I was in awe of the massive trees and formal layout of RBG Sydney and was infected with a lasting passion for Botanic Gardens. I'd like to share the journey that brought me into the position of AAFBG President. I became a Horticulture teacher in 1996, after a landscaping career that started in 1973. I acquired qualifications in Horticulture and Landscape at University of Queensland. It was confounding to be teaching horticulture at the Gold Coast without a place to visit to learn about plants. Buses weren't part of the teaching budget so only one trip a year to Brisbane's Botanic Gardens was possible. In 1997, as a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture I raised the question to our community.... should the Gold Coast have a botanic garden? The answer was a resounding yes, and the following few years were filled with lobbying, promotion, Friend-raising and later, after several successful presentations to council, a commitment to site selection and a Master Plan! This story is similar to those of many Australian Botanic Gardens and inspires me still in the power of community. I have been involved in the development of the Botanic Gardens ever since in a number of Honorary and professional roles and am still actively involved with Friends and in a consultant's role. I met my husband Alan Donaldson while reviewing the Master Plan, and we have been planting-partners throughout the whole development of the regional plant collection at the Gardens. The journey has been both a challenge and at times a heart-ache, but the results are now starting to be evident.

I have served as BGANZ Q Chair from 2010 til now, and hope to continue my involvement in a different capacity while also serving as President of AAFBG. As well as championing botanic gardens, I want to encourage and support Friends and volunteers in their amazing contribution. The committee warmly welcomed me at the recent Gold Coast AAFBG Conference, and although no stranger to Botanic Gardens there is much to learn and I am keen to work with Friends around Australia. It's impossible to imagine Botanic Gardens anywhere in the world managing without their Friends. Attending a Botanic Gardens Conservation International Congress in Dublin in 2010 I was initially overwhelmed by the long history of many Botanic Gardens attending. By the end of the Congress I had been convinced of the pivotal role and equal importance of the smaller regional botanic gardens in conserving the flora of Australia and protecting Australia's gardening heritage.

Together with the Committee I have high hopes for the next few years, and a deep respect for the Executive Committee and Friends members everywhere who have built the organisation that we now proudly serve. I welcome contributions and feedback from all Friends and I look forward to the first meeting with the committee, working as a team, and developing a joint strategy to meet the challenges of Botanic Gardens and especially of Friends.

Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Gilfillan



Spring, a time for new beginnings, so it is with my election as Secretary of AAFBG, following Annie McGeachy. I have huge shoes to fill, with the extraordinary contribution Annie has made to the Association. Sincere thanks Annie.

To introduce myself, I was born in NSW and have a Nursing background at RAHC Sydney. Life has led to a second career and passion in Horticulture, similar parallels. Having moved to Ballarat 30 years ago we were custodians of an historic garden whereupon I commenced my association with the Australian Garden History Society and a steep garden learning curve. I became a member of Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens at the time of its incorporation, have been active on the committee for the last 15 years and am the immediate past-President.

With a firm belief in the importance of the role of botanical gardens in the community, I became an AFBG committee member in 2008 at the Orange conference. My wish is to support Friends groups wholeheartedly.

The Gold Coast conference was a most successful event, with thought-provoking speakers, with visits to local gardens giving us the opportunity to learn about regional plants, sharing stories, and discussing the 'ins and outs' of their existence. It is always a great pleasure to meet members and I look forward to getting to know more in times ahead. Since the Conference the Association is very pleased to welcome a new member, Friends of the Botanic Gardens Cairns, and looks forward to many more Friends groups joining our network.

Recently through a friend, I had contact from Robin Yarrow in Suva, Fiji, who is involved in the restoration of the 1913 Thurston Botanical Garden there. We have been able to assist Robin already and I feel this highlights the Association's function of networking where ever we may be.

It is very exciting to welcome Dr Phil Moors as the AAFBG Patron and we look forward to his friendship and mentoring in the coming years.

Administrative Officer's Report

Ro Noone

Dear Members

I am still 'bouncing' from the biennial conference so professionally hosted by Friends of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens in August. It was lovely to meet and reconnect with so many members. I could have easily filled a whole day just chatting! However, the quality presentations were not-to-be missed. Summaries are available on our website: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org We now look forward to the next conference in Geelong, Victoria, in 2016.

At the AGM, the new Committee was elected as follows:

President	Kate Heffernan	Friends of Gold Coast RBG
Vice-President	Warwick Wright	Friends of ANBG, Canberra
Secretary/ Public Officer	Elizabeth Gilfillan	Friends of Ballarat BG
Treasurer	Karlene Taylor	Friends of RBG Melbourne
General Committee:	John Bentley	Friends of Melton BG
	Geraldine Davis	Friends of AALBG, Port Augusta
	Judith Trimble	Friends of Geelong BG
	John Zwar	Friends of AALBG, Port Augusta

You will see there is representation from Queensland, ACT, Victoria and SA. Hopefully Friends from NSW, WA and Tasmania will come on board in the near future. Thanks to successful teleconferencing, distance is no barrier.

Since the AGM, a lot of my work has been spent on:

1. The Association's successful registration as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). This is a result of the very hard work of the 2013-4 Committee, in particular, past-Secretary Annie McGeachy. An application for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status is now to be lodged with the Australian Tax Office.
2. The Association's new name: confirmation of Consumer Affairs Victoria approval; update of registration details with the ATO; consideration of a new logo; update of banking records; Association Rules; etc.

In this edition you will see a short survey on Communication Tools. This is in response to particular members' questions and to address your own group's needs. Your feedback via email would be very welcome. **Please complete the survey by 15 December.** If you are ever wondering what other Friends groups do in certain situations, don't hesitate to contact me and I will forward your enquiries to the membership.

It was a pleasure to be guided around the flourishing Gold Coast RBG by past Committee member Barbara Windsor during the Conference. The Friends Centre was a hive of activity and offered a good indication of all the work done over the past ten years or so, current projects and future plans. I also recently had a delightful self-guided walk around the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum, Victoria, which dates back to 1869. There is strong reference there to Robert Burns and the history of the area. The Gardens sit high on a hill behind the town where glorious views of the lakes and plains of the Western District can be enjoyed from all parts of the sloping site.

Remember to keep your eye on emails and the AAFBG website for events, new members and links.

Gold Coast AFBG Conference

8-10 August 2014

Rana Baguley

Coordinator of the AFBG 2014 Conference Committee

Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens were very happy with the success of the National Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens from 8-10 August 2014 at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort at Carrara. Many months of coordination had gone into the organisation of this conference and we were blessed with wonderful winter weather as we welcomed 97 delegates plus presenters to the conference and showcased our Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.



Yvonne Taylor, (the wife of City of Gold Coast Councillor Paul Taylor) with Rana Baguley, Conference Coordinator.

Preparation for the Conference started more than two years ago when, in Port Augusta, Friends of Gold Coast RBG 'put their hand up' to host the next biennial AFBG Conference. We looked upon the hosting as a great opportunity to attract Friends of Botanic Gardens from around Australia to Queensland for the first time and to showcase what has been achieved in the now eleven years since the first Community Planting Day at our Gardens in 2003. We also wanted to show that the Gold Coast does have a 'green heart' in the midst of all the glittering gold!



'The superbly created regional floral display' on the main stage.

The Friday Evening Welcome set the tone for a friendly, interactive Conference amid floral arrangements, displays and art exhibits. Cr Paul Taylor welcomed delegates to the Gold Coast as he expressed a sense of pride that the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens are the jewel in his City of Gold Coast Council Division. On Saturday morning, the superbly created regional floral display became the perfect stage for the 'Welcome to Country' performed by Linda and members of the Yugambeh Youth Choir. It was a very emotive experience as our national anthem was sung in Yugambeh language. Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education, Training and Employment, and Member for Surfers Paradise officially opened the 2014 AFBG Conference.



Alex Smart, RBG Cranbourne, retiring AAFBG Committee member after 10 years, including six years as President. The green top line says 'Gardens have many attributes'. Photo by R Noone,

With the theme *Growing Matters ... Growing Gardens, Growing Friends*, Professor Tim Entwistle, as Keynote Speaker spoke about the nature of Australia's changing seasons. Delegates remarked on the diversity of presenters and the quality of their presentations in each of the three themed sessions. A list of presenters and their topics follows and their presentations can be viewed and downloaded on the AAFBG website: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

The Memorandum of Understanding now established between the AFBG and BGANZ acknowledges the contribution that Friends make towards botanic gardens and in the future this partnership will strengthen Friends' role in the continued development of botanic gardens around Australia. The visit to the Gold Coast RBG was well received with seven groups being guided around the different precincts of our Gardens. The only complaint was that there wasn't enough time to further explore!



Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Centre

Photo: R Noone

The Conference Committee members brought their individual expertise and skills to create a memorable Conference. Behind our committee there is a team of hard working Friends who ensured that our Botanic Gardens were ready for the Conference. Our Friends continue to work in partnership with the City of Gold Coast Council. The Curator, Dr Liz Caddick and the horticultural team have been supportive partners for the Conference, working to give assistance financially and in kind. We thank Councillor Paul Taylor and local State Member of Parliament, Hon. John Paul Langbroek MP, who have both supported the Conference along with Zeppelin Travel, Wallum Nurseries, Fleming's Nursery, Bunnings, Gold Coast Tourism, Karen Andrews MP, Federal Member for McPherson, and the Mercure Gold Coast Resort.



Barbara Windsor guiding delegates in the GCRBG with Dale Arvidsson, President of BGANZ and Curator of Mackay RBG, in the foreground

All conferences require a collaborative effort to be a success. The AFBG Committee, in particular, Geraldine Davis as President and 2012 Conference Convenor, Annie McGeachy as Secretary, and Rosemary Noone as Administrative Assistant have given their welcome advice and sound support. The Mercure Gold Coast Resort was a wonderful venue with its very helpful staff, excellent facilities and delicious bush food themed menus on both days. Destination, Conference & Incentive (DCI) was very professional yet friendly in handling the registrations and booking of accommodation.

We have received many congratulatory comments, emails and feedback about the organisation and different aspects that the delegates enjoyed. We had a few glitches along the way but as a volunteer organisation, these things happen.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the conference! We wish Kate Heffernan, the Founder of Friends of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens all the very best as the new President of AAFBG, and extend our support to the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens as they prepare for 2016 AAFBG Conference.

Speakers and their topics at Conference

<i>Session 1: Growing Matters</i>		
Professor Tim Entwisle	Director and CEO of RBG Melbourne	Australia's changing seasons
Mark Ballantyne	Griffith University	The use of apps to communicate species conservation and learning
Lawrie Smith AM	Landscape architect of botanic gardens	Regional botanic gardens...Conserving and promoting Australian flora
Naomi Christian	Natural Areas Management, City of Gold Coast	Plants in Paradise: Managing threatened species on the Gold Coast
Gwen Harden	Publisher	Rainforest plants of Australia: Rockhampton to Victoria Interactive USB
<i>Session 2: Growing Gardens</i>		
Dr Liz Caddick	Curator, Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens	Prospering through partnerships: the synergies that make a regional botanic garden work.
Bob Ducrou and Malcolm Cox	Friends of Maroochy Bushland Regional BG	Collaborating with Council in a child-friendly challenge
Neil Morley	Friends Herbarium Coordinator GCRBG	The Herbarium in regional botanic gardens
Melinda Laidlaw	Senior Ecologist, Queensland Herbarium	Impact of environmental weeds
Dale Arvidsson	President BGANZ	ANBG and BGANZ: joint partnership and possibilities
Maya Harrison	Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens	'Bungee jumping caterpillars' engage children in botanic gardens
Neil Marriott		Wildlife Art Museum of Australia at the Grampians
Kate Heffernan	Horticultural Consultant & Founder Friends GCRBG	The living collection and landscape features of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens
<i>Session 3: Growing Friends</i>		
Pat Wright	Friend of Aust National Botanic Garden	Who's smartest? Plants or animals?
Richard Patterson	CEO Volunteering Gold Coast	Effective volunteer management
John Bentley	President, Friends Melton Botanic Garden	Community action and leadership; growing plants, growing people
Alex Smart	Friends of RBG Cranbourne	Gardens need advocates - Friends can do it!
Danielle Dunsmore		Marketing your gardens
Botanic Garden Success Stories from: Mike Sorrell, President Friends Ballarat BG; David Coutts, President, Friends ANBG Canberra; John Zwar OAM, Friends AALBG Port Augusta; Dr Seonaid Melville, Secretary Friends Noosa BG; Jayne Salmon, Friends Geelong BG; and Elinor Cox, President Friends Gold Coast RBG.		

Matthew Flinders 200th anniversary

*Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG)
Port Augusta, South Australia*



Leaf sculpture by Warren Pickering. Photo by Peter Hall

On 19 July 2014 we marked the 200th anniversary of the death of Matthew Flinders. This was a good reason for the Friends to set up an exhibition at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Visitor Centre honouring Flinders and Robert Brown, the botanist who travelled with him half way around the world discovering many new and unusual plants. Also with them was Ferdinand Bauer, the exceptionally gifted botanical artist. A guided walk by the Friends showing many of these plants was also held at the AALBG.

On 28 September there was a guided walk through the Eremophila garden highlighting its new large extension. The Friends and guides are hoping to give a guided tour at the AALBG on the last Sunday of the winter and spring months besides the ones they do every week day at 10am for the people who work during the week.

A small Wattle Display entitled **DO YOU KNOW YOUR WATTLE?** was organised by the Friends in the Visitor Centre to coincide with Wattle Week, beginning 1 September. On Sunday 31 August a Wattle Walk was held with a great turn up. With many wattles in flower it was a great walk around the AALBG with fair weather helping to make the day most successful.

The Garden management and Friends held a Garden Expo on 14 September to raise money for new garden seats with canopies over them to provide shade in the hot summer months. And the Garden also hosted the Arid Sculptural Exhibition, organised every two years by Country Arts SA. This years theme was 'Living on the edge' and there was a record 28 sculptures.



Matthew Flinders exhibition; Wattle walk; Displays tent at Garden Expo with Friends signing up new members and cooking a bbq.

A new home for Australian daisies

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

Andy Rawlinson



A new Asteraceae Garden is taking shape in the Australian National Botanic Gardens. In September, Friends helped Gardens staff put the first 3,000 plants into the ground as part of the massed displays of daisies that are a feature of this development. The Friends' Council has supported the creation of this Garden by voting a large sum to help fund construction and has had a representative on the Asteraceae Project Working Group almost from the start. The Australian National Herbarium and the Asteraceae Interpretation Group have also been involved in planning throughout.

The construction phase involved extensive re-shaping of the area. The root fungus *Armillaria luteobubalina* was known to be present and substantial earthworks were undertaken to remove infected root material and add the mitigating *Trichoderma* fungus. A feature of this phase was the use of recycled materials. Sandstone quarry waste was brought in from the Mittagong area. Soil left over from the ANBG's recently constructed Red Centre Garden, mixed with sand to specifications, was applied. Different soil mixes have been used to provide ideal growing media for different species. The Garden will also feature pipe containers which present small plants more prominently and contain specialised mixes for some of the more difficult-to-grow species.

Design of the Garden has focussed on displaying the huge diversity of this plant family. Daisies are found in most habitats in Australia, from deserts to rainforest fringes, coastal sand dunes to alpine areas. They range from small salt-pan ephemerals to large shrubs and small trees. Combinations ranging from wet depressions to raised well-drained mounds and full sun to shade will allow species to be matched with their preferred conditions. For example, the endangered *Leucochrysum graminifolium* (Pagoda Rock Daisy) will be on a mound amongst rocks and gravel, mimicking its restricted natural habitat of exposed sites in Blue Mountains heathland.

A feature of the Garden's design is the central circular area surrounded by five 'petal' beds, each containing one or two species illustrating one of the five different types of daisy flower, with explanatory signage.

Even though more than 5,000 plants (over 80 species originating from across the country) will be planted initially, the Garden will continue to develop as new species are sourced and propagated. The latter will include rare and endangered, weird and wonderful and more recognisable examples. All this diversity will ensure flowering through the seasons.

The ANBG began as a series of taxonomic beds; later developments were almost all ecological and horticultural. The original displays were planned by botanists for botanists; this one has been planned with the ordinary visitor very much in mind. The new Asteraceae Garden is in a sense a return to the ANBG's origins. It promises a great sensory experience, with visitors being able to immerse themselves in the sights, smells and feel of the plants. The mass plantings will be spectacular when in flower, and there will be plenty of interest during the rest of the year.

The Asteraceae Garden is scheduled to be opened by Lady Cosgrove, wife of the Governor General and the patron of the Friends of the ANBG, on 24 November.

David Taylor, Don Beer and Naarilla Hirsch

Celebrating 50 years

Friends of Burrendong Botanic Garden & Arboretum Mumbil, New South Wales



Rainforest gully under construction and as it is today.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Burrendong Botanic Garden & Arboretum (or The Arboretum as it is fondly known locally), located in Mumbil NSW, between Orange and Wellington, adjoining Lake Burrendong. The Arboretum's history begins with the dreams and efforts of two passionate amateur botanists, George Althofer and his brother Peter. During his travels around Australia collecting for his native seed business, George saw the ravages that grazing, cropping and road clearing were imposing on his beloved plants, and became concerned about the extinction of species. Their constant efforts lobbying eventually led in 1964 to the NSW Soil Conservation Service setting aside approximately 167 hectares of over-cleared and weed infested former farm land on the foreshores of the still incomplete Burrendong Dam for an arboretum that was to be devoted entirely to the conservation and display of native plants—the first of its kind in Australia. Many years of tireless effort by the Althofers, including Peter's wife Hazel, who is still propagating plants at the Arboretum today, the staff and the crew of hard-working volunteers has transformed this once damaged land into a wonder to see.

Today The Arboretum contain in excess of 1500 species of native plants from all over Australia, including an impressive array of Eucalypt species, a large collection of spectacular Western Australian plants, and a diverse group of ferns and rain forest plants growing in a once dry gully under the impressive Fern Gully canopy (once the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere). A portion of the originally cleared farming land was set aside early in The Arboretum's history as an experiment on the natural regeneration of the Australian bush, which now shows no signs of its original condition and is a haven for local bird life. Over 170 species of birds have been identified at The Arboretum by the annual bird banding study groups, most permanent residents.

Into the future The Arboretum's goal remains not only to continue to conserve our precious native flora and further increase our collection, particularly of rare and endangered species, but also to display it for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Geoff Cook (Chairperson FOBA)

For more information about Burrendong Arboretum go to: www.burrendongarboretum.org

Follow the Friends of Burrendong Arboretum on Facebook for regular photos of what is in flower and other updates, or contact us at foba@burrendongarboretum.org

Engaging with our community

*Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens
Batemans Bay, New South Wales*



Michael Anlezark, Manager ERBG and Heather Houghton at new BBQ site with Play Space in background

Eurobodalla's Friends organisation remains in constant touch with our community, and we have redoubled our recent efforts to ensure that local residents share the pleasure that our members derive from our outstanding amenity. Most of our fund-raising efforts are directed towards projects that enhance our visitors' experience, ranging from the initial work of the 1990s (planting the Arboretum, setting out walking paths, establishing the Herbarium and picnic facilities) through the noughties (Sandstone Garden, Children's Play Space) to the teens (improvements to features already mentioned, and an annual photographic competition providing illustrations for the annual calendar).

Visitor numbers are rising on a graph that would do ABC's Alan Kohler proud. It is particularly pleasing to see young families attracted by the Play Space. It's free, the equipment is unusual, and there is no potential hazard from traffic. Group visits from Garden Clubs, disability support associations and children's day care are becoming more common, such that Friends will contribute funds to a completely new barbecue area which groups can book. At present we have to rely on users' goodwill when two birthday parties want to use the cooktops simultaneously. (Tongs at 20 paces?)

Visitors' comments include: 'A blissful couple of hours strolling through gardens topped off with excellent Devonshire tea'; 'Well kept, pretty, great for adults AND kids'; 'Fantastic gardens, excellent labelling and interpretation'; 'A great initiative to preserve and protect' (London); 'Beautiful gardens and nice to walk in' (Malaysia); 'A birdwatcher's joy' (South Australia). So we must be doing something right.

Increased car parking and electricity supply are listed as improvements to Council's infrastructure to come on line in the foreseeable future.

Whereas in previous years Friends' funds benefited from retail plant sales, as from 1 July this year, this revenue now flows directly into Council's ERBG budget. Therefore we have increased the range and quantity of merchandise for sale, set up stalls at local markets, and kept up our traditional supplies of home-made preserves. (Jenny Liney's Medlar Jelly, unique to ERBG, flies off the shelves.) The Giant Plant Sale at Easter is now marketed as an Easter Fair, and each year the photo competition, linked to publication of an annual calendar, is becoming more appealing (235 entries, 113 on display). Entries in the new Junior section this year are just as good as those from adult photographers. Ownership of entries passes to Friends, so that we can use images for cards and other products.

Increases to visitor numbers and activities mean we need more space in the Visitors Centre. Friends want to see it redeveloped to include better facilities for the Herbarium, a proper shop, appropriate office space and a multi-purpose meeting centre. Our fund-raising efforts are currently directed towards that goal.

Heather Houghton, President, Friends of ERBG

Thriving plants; thriving Friends

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Geelong, Victoria

Last year, Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens began to consider back pain among some of our Growing Friends. Our Friends' Nursery plants are propagated on benches, but once out of the greenhouse, the plants were 'grown on' in their pots on the ground. Weeding, tidying up and labelling required a certain amount of deep bending. As we aged we began to find sustained bending increasingly difficult. We also recognised that our customers found bending to read labels and select appropriate plants was uncomfortable.

The Growers' request came into Committee of Management for tables to raise the plants off the ground. We wanted to support our Growers of course, but how well would the plants cope with summer coming on, bringing hot dry winds and long periods of strong sun. Surely they would suffer, and blow over. The decision was made to trial the request with twenty tables, and to watch the results carefully.

Don Spittle, then a Committee member and still a Growing Friend, undertook to manage the project: determining dimensions, materials and construction; identifying and contacting suppliers for competitive quotations; then ordering and installing the tables. Dealing with an agreed local steel supplier/fabricator, he ordered tables constructed with frames of 30 cm. x 30 cm. angle steel, each leg with a flat foot to prevent sinking into the ground. Full size sheets of steel mesh 1200 cm. x 2 m determined the size of the tabletops, raised 600 cm. above ground level and surrounded with a steel rail. All the steel was galvanised, and using full size mesh sheets avoided cutting and waste. Shade cloth was then laid over the mesh.

The first twenty tables were installed in September 2013, ahead of one of our hottest summers, where days were sometimes well over 40 degrees Celsius and strong hot winds prevailed.

During this period, our dedicated Growing Friends were rostered to water twice a day. To our amazement, the plants thrived, and we found they preferred air beneath the pots, rather than standing on wet ground after watering. Furthermore, the only plants to blow over were those still standing on the ground! Our Growing Friends were feeling the benefit of working with elevated plants, and our customers were noticeably more comfortable while searching out their purchases.

The outcome was such a raging success that we ordered another thirty tables for installation after 1 July 2014 (timed to fall into the next budget period), for a total cost of \$9,000 for fifty tables.

Judith Trimble, FGBG



Nursery Tables: FGBG Friends' Nursery Photographer: Judith Trimble

Establishing a Sensory Garden

*Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens
Lismore, New South Wales*

Since the very early days of our Botanic Gardens we have wanted to establish a Sensory Garden. Now, thirteen years after our first planting, we are able to start. We've looked at Sensory Gardens in other establishments. We consulted with people who work with people with disabilities, the aged and children, and are incorporating their recommendations. And we continue to search the internet looking for ideas that we can include.

Our aim with this Garden is to create a beautiful natural environment where people are encouraged to use their senses of smell, sight, hearing, touch and taste; a place to excite and stimulate both kids and adults, but also a restful place with little sheltered alcoves where people can be alone with nature. A lot of effort has gone into identifying suitable plants, those which have interesting textures, colours, perfumes etc, and that won't grow too big! Also those that show their own sensitivity to light, touch and other stimuli.

At the end of 2013 we had an initial map drawn up by a local firm and it was a catalyst to getting this project started. It excited everyone. We all had suggestions of how to tweak it and over time the design has evolved somewhat but the initial basic plan remained.

The main paths form a continuous loop along the middle of the long narrow site, with areas for planting inside the loop and between it and the boundaries. The paths are sealed and wheelchair friendly. We want this to be a site where people with mobility problems will be able to move easily. We will develop points of interest throughout the garden to stimulate and bring enjoyment to those who visit.

We have already planted *Syzygium* 'Firescreen' to form a hedge and windbreak along the southern boundary. And deciduous trees on the northern side to give us shade in summer and sunlight in winter. Unless we have an unexpectedly wet spring and summer, we will leave our main planting till autumn. Meanwhile we will install at least one shelter and also raised gardens, seating, tables, trellises and signs with print and braille writing. Gradually we will add structural features that are educational and entertaining. We are in process of having built, by a couple of local enthusiasts, a big set of tuned chimes, and a water feature will provide the sound of running water, particularly important for people with limited vision. A mosaic path is going in opposite the bus setting down area—local artists are currently preparing large mosaic pavers as the centre piece of this path.

This is an exciting time for us. We will of course be influenced by availability of funds and the weather but it is very rewarding to see this new section of the Gardens develop before our very eyes. We are starting something that will last a long time. We want to get it right.

Marie Matthews



New Sensory Garden ready for planting



Working on mosaic path pavers.

A challenge for children

*Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens
Buderim, Queensland*



Drawing published with permission from Sunshine Coast Council and Delve Consulting

Do we have a generation of biophobic, bubble-wrapped children, afraid to run, climb and jump in puddles? To overcome this 'nature deficit disorder', we need to provide children (particularly 3–8 year olds) with opportunities to play in nature with natural objects, to challenge themselves physically and to be creative. The Sunshine Coast Council and Friends are about to begin construction on a three-year project which will provide such a play space.

The Council engaged the services of Delve Consulting, led by Director, Emma Baker, for the design. Emma's guiding principles were that play should offer diversity in scale, setting and activity. It should be open-ended, and promote co-operation and collaboration among groups of children. Their mental development is very dependent on having these opportunities to play in nature.

The design is based on: 1. Shaping play features into the landscape, 2. Making things small scale, 3. Having lots of natural surfaces, textures and shapes, 4. Having unstructured and malleable elements, 5. Providing opportunities for risk, challenge and variety, and 6. Incorporating seasonal change in the activities.

The preliminary design has been completed and accepted by Council. The project has been broken down into a list of tasks, each with a budget cost and an indication of what parts can be constructed by the Friends, what parts can be done by outside contractors, and who (Council, Friends, Service Clubs, grants) might pay for what.

The existing site, called the Whipbird Walk after one of the more vocal inhabitants, covers nearly 2 ha and has some pathways through the natural bush, some 'inhabitants' (such as spiders, ants and butterflies of metal construction) and some interpretation, but has become degraded over time and is in need of rejuvenation.

During the design process there was extensive and intensive consultation between Council, Friends, the community and, most importantly, children. The final design expanded the scope of the existing site to include a dedicated sensory track, an orientation zone and new experiential zones. Adjacent to this site is a new area for creative projects and workshops, and a 'play village' made from steel frames and walls woven from local vines.

The Friends are about to begin the first stages of closing and rehabilitating some existing tracks, and upgrading the remaining tracks with new surfaces, new drainage (erosion is a big problem on the sloping and surprisingly sandy pathways) and edging, followed by an extensive re-vegetation program. The project has just received a fillip with the announcement of a grant from the Buderim Foundation to assist in this first stage of the project.

Council has commissioned Delve to complete the detailed design of the structures, as well as the artworks and signage, which will become an integral part of the children's learning experience.

This project has set a new benchmark for the Friends and Council in the good things that can happen when consultation is a major component in the development of such a major project.

Bob Ducrou

Stages One and Two

Friends of Moama Echuca Botanic Gardens *Moama, NSW*

The Moama Echuca Botanic Gardens are a developing community project, located at the Moama Recreation Reserve, Perricoota Road, Moama. The Gardens project was mooted in 2003 by members of the local community. Renowned landscape architect, Mr Chris Dance, employed by Murray Shire Council (managers of the land), planned a native, contemporary, water wise garden, expressive of the Riverina region, to be implemented in stages, as funding became available.

The Friends of Moama and Echuca Botanic Gardens are committed to continue to work with the Council executive and outdoor staff to implement the designer's plan, stage by stage. The Committee meets on a regular basis to discuss works to achieve this goal, and volunteers, led by Kron Nicholas, gather every Monday morning to aid council staff with garden maintenance. A cuppa and chat round off the mornings' activities. Our enthusiastic group is always happy to welcome new members.



Photos from the top: Lake, island and boardwalk. Photo by Bev Rankin; Stage One Photo by Nancye Smith; Stage Two ready for opening, Photo by Bev Rankin.

The first structure, completed in 2007, was the Nestle boardwalk. The boardwalk fringes a small lake with Melaleuca Island its centre piece. Stage One, a formal garden, was opened on 11 November 2011 by the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Member for Farrer. It includes signature *Brachychiton* trees, a rain garden, rock seating walls, indigenous plantings, gravel pathways and lawn areas.

The Stage Two settlement garden has been completed this year. Two mature Moreton Bay fig trees have been planted, a magnificent arbour constructed and stone masons created a well feature. Plantings of an orange grove, ornamental grape vines to cover the arbour, stands of myalls and a callistemon hedge complement the structures. On 11 November 2014 Ms Ley will return to Moama to launch the second stage.

The first decade of the Gardens' development has been archived in both booklet and pictorial form by Friends member, Bev Rankin. Both publications are available for purchase.

The Moama Echuca Botanic Gardens stand as testament to what can be achieved with cooperation between the community and local government. It is to be hoped that this exciting and unique project will be completed in the years to come.

Contacts:

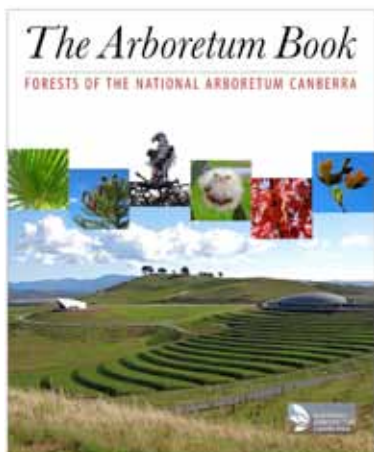
*Kron Nicholas 0354 809420 and
Nancye Smith 0354 809538*

The Arboretum Book is launched

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Canberra, ACT

After about 12 months of monumental effort, we have published the most comprehensive book yet about the Arboretum and its many forest species. *The Arboretum Book: Forests of the National Arboretum Canberra* also details the background to the project, development of the site, community involvement, Arboretum artworks, ceremonial tree plantings, ANU research, festivals and concerts, and the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia. Publication was funded by the Friends through years of fundraising and a loan of \$20,000 from the ACT Government. Once the loan is repaid, profits from the book will help fund further development at the Arboretum.

The book was launched at the Village Centre by Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Chief Minister, on 24 June 2014. This was a significant event in the history of the Friends and despite very wild weather on the night many Friends and friends of Friends attended and many books were sold. They are available from the gift shop at the Arboretum's Village Centre for \$35.00 each and also through our website: www.arboretumcanberra.org.au (plus postage). It is a soft cover book, 29 x 24 cm, 216 pages with around 850 colour photographs.



The Arboretum Book @ \$35.00 each; At the book launch: Katy Gallagher, ACT Chief Minister (centre) with Jocelyn Plovits, Chair of the Friends (left) and Linda Muldoon, compiler and editor (right); 2015 calendars @ \$10.00 each

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge planted an English oak at the Arboretum on 24 April 2014, and we managed to include photos of the ceremony in the book, just as it was off to the printers. A copy of *The Arboretum Book* has since been warmly received by Kensington Palace.

Our 2015 calendar is also available from the shop and through our website. A4 in size, it details eleven of the forest species and the prize-winning architecture of the Village Centre. This year we've also included a list of forest species and a map of the Arboretum, so this is much more than a collection of pretty pictures. Price: \$10.00 each, plus postage if purchased through the website.

More and more Friends are getting involved with the day to day running of the Arboretum and we are currently undertaking the first Forest Stocktake. This involves working in teams to record where trees are dead or missing or where they are in need of attention regarding pruning, disease, predators or animal attack. This process is contributing to the ongoing forest maintenance program and also refining forest maps which detail the many different planting patterns.

Visitors can now travel to and from the Arboretum by ACTION bus. Buses depart from Platform 9 at the City Bus Station (Route 81 on weekdays and Route 981 on weekends and public holidays).

Linda Muldoon, Publications Editor

The sex life of orchids

A success story from the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

Joan Booth, Friend of the RTBG

Tasmania has over 200 orchid species, many of which are endemic and highly threatened. Over one third of Tasmania's orchids are threatened with extinction and many others are naturally rare, only known from a small number of populations. Threats include climate change, competition from invasive weeds, land clearing for agriculture and urbanisation. There is an urgent need to undertake conservation research to learn more about why these species are rare and how best to preserve them.



Caladenia anthracina Black-tipped Spider Orchid; *Caladenia dienema* Windswept Spider Orchid. Photos by Malcolm Wells.

Research conducted by Drs Nigel Swarts and Magali Wright at the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens (RTBG), is aiming to improve the conservation status of Tasmania's most threatened orchids through a range of projects involving collaborations with community groups, NRM regions and other funding bodies.

Funding was received from the Australian Seed Bank Partnership to target 13 of the highest priority orchid species for seed and mycorrhizal collections in the 2013–14 field season. The Friends were successful in securing a grant from NRM South to undertake this project.

This project aims to continue the recovery process of target species through propagation at the Gardens. Under the guidance of Drs Swarts and Wright, volunteers from Friends and Threatened Plants Tasmania, have been trained in methods specific to terrestrial orchid propagation.

Plants grown for this project will be maintained in perpetuity by RTBG staff and Friends volunteers. They will be used as an *ex situ* collection; as an insurance against extinction and loss of genetic diversity; as a seed source for further propagation; and eventually for reintroduction back to natural habitat.

Orchids belong to one of the most species-rich and floristically diverse families in the world. A single

orchid capsule may contain between 1,000 and 100,000 seeds. Terrestrial orchid seed is like fine dust and has no stored food source to aid germination and early growth. In the wild, orchid seed requires the help of a mycorrhizal fungus for seedling development. Seed production in some orchid species is often low due to a unique pollination system, which relies on sexually deceiving male insects. A further complication is that orchid seeds are almost devoid of reserves. Consequently, the embryo relies on a symbiotic fungal infection for its water and nutrient supply. Some orchid species have a mycorrhizal association with one particular fungus, others can be infected by more than one member of the same fungal family. Yet others germinate in the presence of a range of unrelated fungi (that's the promiscuous bit!)

Orchids attract their pollinators by different means: (this is the sex bit!)



Caladenia saggoccola; and with a deceived insect. Photos by Malcolm Wells.

Sexual deception of male pollinators: these orchid flowers mimic the odour and appearance of female insects and pollination is achieved during mating attempts by the male.

Food deception: these orchids lure animal pollinators to the flower by false promises of food, but do not provide any. Most of these species are 'food deceptive' falsely advertising the presence of food by bright colours and sweet scents.

Food reward: these orchids provide the reward of nectar to their pollinators.

Continued next page

The sex life of orchids, continued

Some species set seed unaided but some require hand pollination.

What is involved in the reproduction of terrestrial orchids:

- First the orchids are located in the field and hand pollinated in some cases.
- A few weeks later seed is collected along with one of the plants.
- These are taken to the laboratory and cleaned. The underground parts are separated from the above ground parts.



Pterostylis melagramma, a greenhood orchid, separated into its above ground and below ground parts.

- The below ground parts are rinsed carefully and surface sterilised to limit possible contamination of our isolations.
- Under a microscope, the root tissue is teased apart and the mycorrhizal fungus which exists as tiny white coils of hyphae are isolated and cultured.
- Fresh nutrient agar media is prepared. The fungi is then plated onto a nutrient agar petri dish to grow.



The mycorrhizal fungi is plated onto a nutrient agar petri dish to grow.

- The above ground parts are pressed so that we have a voucher specimen for reference. This voucher along with its collection details is later lodged at the Tasmanian Herbarium
- Seed is collected, dried and stored at the RTBG so that the species is saved in perpetuity and that seed is available for future propagation projects.
- In a laminar airflow cabinet the seed is sown onto an agar based medium, normally containing a specific symbiotic fungus.
- After germination the plantlets are planted in sterile sand on agar and stored at 15°C for a couple of weeks.



Orchids now growing up in pots

- In the nursery the plants are potted in pasteurised mix, labelled, measured and weaned in the nursery mist house for 4–6 weeks, after which time they will be moved out into the Greenhouse.
- The process takes three to five years to produce a flowering plant.

I have been fortunate to be one of the Friends volunteers who have been trained in the propagation of Tasmania's threatened orchids. The work is done in a dedicated lab in the grounds of the RTBG and uses the facilities of the Seed Bank and Nursery as well. The project is a very exciting one and in June this year we successfully potted up over 200 *Caladenia saggicola*.

Acknowledgements:

Janes, Jasmine: *Nature Conservation Report 09/1*

Department of Primary Industries and Water. *Techniques for Tasmanian native orchid germination*

Swarts, N. Report: *Orchid seed and mycorrhizal collections for the Australian Seed Bank Partnership 2013-14*

http://www.facebook.com/Tasorchidcons/photos_stream

<http://www.rtbg.tas.gov.au/orchids>

Photos on this page from the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Garden's website: http://www.facebook.com/Tasorchidcons/photos_stream

Much happening in Melbourne

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Melbourne, Victoria

The Friends are contributing funds over the next few years towards the major revitalisation of the Fern Gully. Construction of a new board walk, with steel grating replacing damaged asphalt footpaths, is the first stage of the project, and is due for completion by Christmas.

The 12th Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition, a major endeavour of the Friends every second year, is being staged between 25 October and 9 November. Guided tours and demonstrations by artists helped visitors appreciate the degree of skill involved in this creative exercise. More than 150 works were selected for display and sale. Our botanical illustrators hold workshops and classes seven days a week, catering for beginners as well as experienced artists. There was such an overwhelming response to the three-day workshop in July, conducted by well-known French botanical artist and teacher Vincent Jeannerot, that a repeat was organised to cater for the demand.

Friends visited botanic gardens at Williamstown and Geelong this year, and learned of the latest developments at RBG Cranbourne through an address by its long-term Landscape Architect and Planner, Jill Burness. A visit to the National Herbarium demonstrated how dedicated volunteers carry out the intricate and detailed mounting of specimens. During a spring-time walk around the Tan (the path that encircles the boundary of the Gardens) our members learned of its history and of interesting places along its route.

Our spring program included a talk by Gardens Director and Chief Executive, Professor Tim Entwisle, about his recently published book *Sprinter and Sprummer*. He is advocating a new seasonal model of five seasons for southern Australia, and hopes to encourage people's awareness of the natural world around us, for example, how plants and animals respond to seasons as well as longer term climatic change. Sprinter (August and September) is the early Australian spring flowering season. Next is Sprummer (October and November), defined as the changeable season.

After wide consultation, a RBG Corporate Plan for 2014–19 has been presented. Its theme is 'Sustaining Life' and its vision is 'Life is sustained and enriched by plants'. The four new values chosen by RBG staff are *creative, open, brave* and *remarkable*. Tim Entwisle has revealed his 'wish list' for the future including a new Herbarium, a new glass house, and a Botanical Art Centre with areas for study and display.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden has been extended and refurbished to mark its 10th anniversary. A further generous donation from the Foundation has provided for even more imaginative play: a banana plantation, a new water feature, a desert island, a hammock and a palm tree.



Pineapple by Joanna Hyunsuk Kim and
Peony by David Reynolds.

On the Ornamental Lake, punting operated by a company has become a popular attraction in sunny weather. As passengers glide along they hear a commentary and see a different perspective of the Gardens. A new transport option being introduced by the Gardens is a one-hour daily tour on a people mover.

Heather Ironmonger

Two amazing exhibitions

Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens Sydney, New South Wales

Foundation and Friends have been buzzing with activity this spring. From garden shows and exhibitions to talks and walks and workshops.

After a successful first year the Australian Garden Show, Sydney was on again in September at Centennial Parklands. Despite some challenges with the weather over 16,000 people came out to celebrate our love of gardening and all things green. *Foundation and Friends* was at the show, with our Growing Friends selling a wonderful range of rare and unusual native and exotic shrubs. Plants are all propagated from the living collections of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan and the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, Mount Tomah. Berry Garden Festival was another wonderful show for our Growing Friends, raising an amazing amount, with proceeds from our plant sales supporting *Foundation and Friends* and the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.



Cactus chair by Jan Howlin in *Artisans in the Gardens*.

In October the Royal Botanic Garden played host to an eclectic range of emerging and established artists with two amazing exhibitions. *Cultivate: New Artisans* celebrates innovative approaches to the traditions of craft, offering Sydney-siders a rare opportunity to discover a new wave of young and talented artists. Redefining the relationship between art and nature, the works featured in this inaugural exhibition explored concepts of the new sublime and delicate idiosyncrasies of plants and landscapes. The ever-popular *Artisans in the Gardens* returned to Lion Gate Lodge for its 15th year. Featuring works from over 50 artists and craftspeople, the 2014 exhibition



Honeycomb Vases by Niharila Hukka featured in *Cultivate: New Artisans*.

showcased the exciting world of contemporary craft and sculpture, drawing inspiration from the beauty and complexity of the natural world and issues of sustainability and conservation.

As we move quickly towards the end of another year we are looking forward to welcoming in the New Year with friends and family at our annual members' picnic on the Mare and Foal Lawn in the Royal Botanic Garden! Each year *Foundation and Friends* hosts a wonderful mix of members and their guests for this family-friendly picnic. A special benefit of membership, the event gives members the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular firework displays that light up the harbour from one of the best seats in the house.

Our Summer Raffle also kicks off this November, with over \$10,000 in prizes up for grabs. Prizes include an amazing three-day trip for two exploring the breath-taking Larapinta Trail, to DVD packs and private behind-the-scenes tours of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney! Funds raised will assist the important projects of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, ensuring they can continue their vital work in plant conservation and biodiversity. For more information on our raffle and to keep up to date with what's happening in the Gardens and with *Foundation and Friends* visit www.rbg Syd.nsw.gov.au/foundationandfriends.

Asian Conifer Garden

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden *Tamworth, New South Wales*

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden are excited that work is to continue in the next few months on the Asian Conifer Garden. Tamworth Regional Council is to construct a rock waterfall feature which will be supplied with water from a bore for continuous flow and to maintain the water level in the existing dam which is part of the landscape. The garden will not have to rely on town water during periods of severe water restrictions, expected to be the case over the coming summer in Tamworth. This water supply can also be utilised to enable other water channels in our feature ponds to be continuously running as well, something that has not been possible ever since they were constructed.

The Friends have purchased Asian conifers, trees and ground covers, including *Chamaecyparis*, *Cryptomeria*, *Cupressus*, *Juniperus*, *Malus*, *Pinus*, *Nandina* and *Syzygium* species. This has used most of the \$10,000 private donation given to us for this project. We have previously purchased pavers for pathways and an oriental style gazebo using other grant funds. The Friends will be able to purchase additional plants from our own funds to follow this initial planting. We have already planted assorted magnolias and small shrubs around the gazebo. We were very pleased to be advised by members of the Council that funds would be made available to complete this project, without us needing to formally apply for grant funds from Council.

The Asian Conifer Garden has been the main development in the Garden for the current year. However, the team has been upgrading the plantings in other areas of the Garden where possible, and the Friends collaboration with the Australian Plant Society to maintain and expand the threatened species collection continues with a working bee from time to time.

We participated in the second annual 'Victoria Park Family Fun Day' during September. At this event all groups in the Victoria Park Precinct hold an open day to inform the public about their activities. These include the Model Railway, Marsupial Park, Mens' Shed, Organic Garden group, and the Australian Plant Society and Landcare were also represented. Attendance was good, however, there was little interest from potential new members, and our plant sale was not one of our best. We rely on the Council to publicise the event; perhaps it needs more promotion for a better outcome for all groups involved.

We held our Annual General Meeting in August and were barely able to elect a functioning committee, finishing with only enough committee members for a quorum. We seem unable to generate any interest from the existing membership base in the future management of the group. It was very difficult to fill the position of secretary until an existing committee member kindly agreed to take it on. Dwindling membership is our main problem. But 2014 has been a successful year in terms of our supporting role in the development of the Garden.



Removing guards from threatened species at Spring working bee



Laying pavers in Asian Conifer Garden

SURVEY OF COMMUNICATION METHODS USED BY MEMBERS

Recent enquiries from AAFBG members have prompted the following questions. Please complete and scan to: info@friendsbotanicgardens.org or post to: AAFBG, PO Box 983, Geelong, Vic, 3220

1. What communication tools are regularly used by your group, eg computer, phone, newsletter?

.....
.....

2. Which computer network/s does your group use, eg email, Facebook, Twitter?

.....
.....

3. Which is the most effective communication tool/s used by your group and why?

.....
.....
.....
.....

4. Has your group had any problems communicating with your members or the wider community? If so, give examples.

.....
.....
.....
.....

5. Does your garden have a system/regular contact for media? If so, what media is used eg newspapers, radio, magazines, brochures, and which are most successful?

.....
.....

6. How many members belong to your group? Approximately how much does your group spend per annum on your newsletters? \$..... And media? \$.....

7. When your group receives the AAFBG newsletter *Campsis* is it distributed to all your members?

If so, how?

8. In addition to news from other members, what would you like to see in *Campsis*?

.....

9. Does your group send your newsletter to AAFBG for distribution to other members by email?

10. Does your group like to receive regular copies of other members newsletters by email?

Thank you for your assistance. A summary of the responses will be sent to you. Nov. 2014

Members of Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

ACT

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Friends of. GPO Box 1777, Canberra ACT 2601.
National Arboretum Canberra, Friends of. PO Box 48, Campbell ACT 2812.

New South Wales

Albury Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1056, Albury NSW 2640.
Botanic Gardens Sydney, Foundation & Friends of. Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000.
Burrendong Arboretum, PO Box 465, Wellington NSW 2820.
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay NSW 2536.
Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 1327, Lismore NSW 2480.
Moama & Echuca Botanic Gardens. PO Box 545, Moama NSW 2731.
North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 648, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.
Orange Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 17, Orange NSW 2800.
Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 707, Moss Vale NSW 2577.
Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, Advisory Committee. 810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why NSW 2099.
Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1393, Tamworth NSW 2340.
Woollongong Botanic Garden, Friends of. 61 Northfield Ave, Keiraville, NSW 2500.

Northern Territory Darwin Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 36435, Winnellie NT 0821.

Queensland

Brisbane Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides, Mt Coon-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coon-tha Road, Toowong QLD 4066
Cairns Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 223, Edge Hill QLD 4870.
Gold Coast Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, QLD 9726.
Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Friends Association. PO Box 6850, Mackay QLD 4741.
Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 445, Buderim, QLD 4556.
Noosa Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 454, Noosa Heads QLD 4567
Peacehaven Botanic Park, Friends of. 30 Sunray Drive, Highfields QLD 4352.
Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens, Friends of. Forsythia Drive, Eagle Heights QLD 4272.

South Australia

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 2040, Port Augusta SA 5700.
Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, Friends of. North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.

Tasmania

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Friends of. C/o RTBG, Domain Road, Hobart TAS 7000.
Tasmanian Arboretum, PO Box 370, Devonport TAS 7310.

Victoria

Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, Friends of. PO Box 6912, Shepparton VIC 3632.
Australian Inland Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 2809, Mildura VIC 3502.
Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 33W, Ballarat West VIC 3353
Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland, Friends of. PO Box 589, Benalla VIC 3672.
Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Friends of. 71 Napoleon Cres. White Hills VIC 3550.
Buninyong Botanic Garden, Friends of. 102 Cornish St, Buninyong Vic 3357.
Burnley Gardens, Friends of. C/o Burnley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond VIC 3121.
Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust, Friends of. PO Box 270, Camperdown VIC 3260
Colac Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 403, Colac, VIC 3250.
Geelong Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 235, Geelong VIC 3220.
George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 490, Frankston, VIC 3199.
George Tindale Memorial Garden, Friends of. 2/92 Main St, Upwey VIC 3158.
Gisborne Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 564, Gisborne VIC 3437.
Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens Group. C/o M. Sietsma, 146 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap VIC 3381.
Hamilton Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 43, Hamilton VIC 3300.
Karwarra Australian Plant Garden, Friends of. Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama VIC 3766.
Kyneton Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 47, Kyneton VIC 3444.
Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs, Friends of. PO Box 116, Malmsbury VIC 3446.
Melton Botanic Gardens, Friends of. C/o PO Box 2381, Melton South VIC 3338.
Port Fairy Botanical Gardens, Friends of. 115 Regent St, Port Fairy VIC 3284.
Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, Friends of. 1000 Bullarto Rd. Cranbourne VIC 3977.
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Friends of. Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne VIC 3004.
Sale Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 506, Sale VIC 3840.
St Arnaud Queen Mary Gardens, Friends of. 5018 Ararat-St Arnaud Rd, Tottington VIC 3478

Victoria continued

St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1089, Elwood VIC 3184.
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1190, Warrnambool VIC 3280.
Williamstown Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 826, Williamstown VIC 3016.
Wilson Botanic Park, Friends of. PO Box 412, Berwick VIC 3806.
Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 267, Daylesford VIC 3460.

Western Australia

Kings Park, Friends of. KPBG, Fraser Ave. Kings Park, West Perth WA 6005

Affiliate Members

Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 2553, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand
Kirstenbosch Volunteer Garden Guides, Botanical Society of South Africa – Kirstenbosch Branch, PO Box 53445, Kenilworth, 7745, Cape Town, South Africa

Total

58 Members, 2 Affiliate Members

Calendar of events

2014

The Art of Botanical Illustration - 2014 Exhibition

At Domain House, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.
To Friday 8 November
Approximately 70 of Australia's leading botanical artists, along with some international artists, are showing their original artworks of the highest standard. All works available for purchase.

Rainforest Plant Identification Short Course,

Paluma (near Townsville) 28-30 Nov 2014, and Cairns in June 2015. Contact the Australian Tropical Herbarium (07) 4042 1837, or by email: enquiry@ath.org.au.

Australian Rhododendron Society Public Talk:

6.30pm, 27 Nov 2014, Domain House, RBG Melbourne. Dr Bob Moseley, Director of Conservation at Nature Conservancy. Contact Michael Hare: vicrhodo@gmail.com or 0418 340 240

John Dixon Hunt Lecture, 6.30pm, 5 Dec 2014, Melbourne School of Design. A world-leading garden historian presents the 'feigned truth' of landscape architecture. Bookings at Eventbrite.com. More info at (03) 5990 2200

Australian Native Plants Society

For events in your region, go to: <asgap.org.au>

For all regional BGANZ events go to:

<www.bganz.org.au>

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>

Weeds Australia
<www.weeds.org.au>

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

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

Australian Open Garden Scheme:
<www.opengarden.org.au>

Fungimap:
<www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/home>

Plants for the Planet:
<www.plantsfortheplanet.com>

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