

In this issue

This issue we have contributions from 20 gardens all round Australia with plenty of good news headed by Cranbourne's gold medal and by 150 birthday celebrations at Buninyong and St Kilda Gardens, a new Garden at Moama Echuca (Welcome!) plus a report from BGANZ Conference, a new building, a Eucalypt arboretum, a Japanese garden, a restored gun carriage and market gardening. Remember! It is time to register to go to the AFBG conference at Port Augusta next August, so check the website <www.friendsbotanicgardens.org.au>. Post script from Canberra: ANBG won a gold medal at Floriade!

Gold medal at Chelsea

*Friends of Royal Botanic Garden, Cranbourne
Cranbourne, Victoria*



Photo by Margaret Clarke

I thought you might like to hear firsthand from one who was fortunate enough to be on the wonderful trip to Chelsea and Gardens of the U.K. Tour in May of this year.

In the last issue of *Campsis* I listed all the gardens we planned to visit and our joyful anticipation of being at Chelsea to see the exhibit submitted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Cranbourne. Whilst we hoped, we didn't dare count on winning gold but wow... we got a gold medal and of course when we saw the exhibit we thought we deserved it! It was a huge challenge for Jim Fogarty to design a garden inspired by the Australian Garden at Cranbourne, within the 220 sq.m. allowed. It was the first time an Australian garden was featured on the Main Avenue which consisted of eight gardens.

We arrived at Chelsea after a long trip down from Oxford on the M4 where there was a bingle ahead of us. The Gold Award had been placed on the board in front of the exhibit earlier in the morning. There were kisses and hugs all round as we were greeted and invited into the exhibit. It was quite fun to look out on the admiring crowds from the inside. Our team was clad in matching jackets, shirts and jeans and we all looked very dashing—thanks to one of our sponsors.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

Incorporation: AOO26805Z

Office bearers

President: Janet Thomson, RBG Melbourne
Past President: Alex Smart, RBG Cranbourne
Vice-President: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Ballarat Vic
Sec/Treasurer: Graeme Caple, RBG Melb

Committee

Geraldine Davis, AALBG, Port Augusta SA
Amanda King, Warrnambool Vic
Annie McGeachy, Geelong Vic
Warwick Wright, ANBG Canberra ACT
John Zwar, AALBG Port Augusta SA

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Membership

Annual Membership is for a calendar year.
New memberships paid after 1 August are
valid until 31 December the following year.
Forms available on the website.

Annual Membership fees:
\$30 for up to 500 members
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Gold medal *(continued)*

Probably the most stunning achievement was the planting of such healthy wonderful plants from large bottle trees and Livistona palms to flowering grevillea and kangaroo paws, paper daisies and grasses. Most of the trees and shrubs were sourced from various parts of Europe and then had an acclimatising period in the UK. Seeing film taken during the construction and hearing the stories of the amazing working achieved by the team of English landscapers and horticulturists together with the Melbourne team from RBG Melbourne and Cranbourne made us realise what an achievement it all was. The detailed construction of a dry stone wall, a fire pit, a water hole, a dry river bed and a sand dune wall contributed to the level of excellence. Rusted steelwork representing rocky gorges and a pavilion furnished with round 'seats' resembling river pebbles ...quite comfy too, I tried one! A huge round 'light fitting' was made from rusty barbed wire wound into a sphere and added a very Aussie touch to the pavilion.

The day at Chelsea came in the middle of our 12 day tour. The gardens were so varied and all were memorable. We had an excellent guide appointed by Botanica, Sara Colclough. She was a very experienced guide who made history sound interesting and shared our love of gardens. By the end of our tour with our delightful leader from Friends of RBG Cranbourne, Jill Burness, we were a very happy and satisfied lot, if a little weary!

Margaret Clarke



On Wednesday 16 November 2011 Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens will be holding a cocktail party to celebrate the sesquicentenary (150th anniversary!) of the opening of the St Kilda Botanical Gardens. More information will be available closer to the date on the Friends' blog <foskbg.org>.

All are welcome. And if anyone has any historical or personal information about the Gardens we would love to hear from them. The Friends have spent some years collating information about the Gardens, stymied at times through lack of recorded information or loss of very important records. We've had two major disasters in the past 20 years—burning down of a large portion of the St Kilda Town Hall and flooding of the St Kilda Library basement.

From the President

Janet Thomson

Having been elected as President of the AFBG at its Annual Meeting in May I am delighted to be writing this column for *Campsis*.



Committee changes

The first thing I would like to do is to acknowledge and thank Alex Smart very much for the contribution that he made to the affairs of our organisation as President of the AFBG over the last six years. He is a firm believer in the value of the AFBG and the role it has and can play in the future—in being a voice for those who support botanic gardens and arboreta and in linking together and providing support and information to them. Alex is remaining on the Committee as an ordinary member.

As I am sure many of you are now aware, Annie McGeachy stepped down from the very onerous role of Secretary at the AGM. She'd been in this position since 2005 and in addition was the editor of *Campsis* as well as Treasurer for four years. The AFBG owes Annie a great debt of gratitude for all that she has done so skillfully and thoughtfully. If it hadn't been for her preparedness to work so hard, I have no doubt the AFBG would no longer exist. I am sure that you will all join with me in expressing our grateful thanks and appreciation to Annie. She is remaining on the Committee as an ordinary member and I am sure will continue to have considerable and very valuable input.

Patricia Bannatyne, representing the Orange Botanic Gardens, and Leigh Coggins, representing the Hamilton Botanic Gardens, retired from the Committee at the AGM. Patricia was a member for four years and Vice President for two of those years. The Committee greatly valued and appreciated Patricia's contribution and will miss her. Leigh was a member for one year but unfortunately her other commitments made it difficult for her to be involved.

Under the Rules of the AFBG it is possible for the roles of Secretary and Treasurer to be held by one person and we are most grateful to our Treasurer, Graeme Caple, who has agreed to being appointed as Secretary. Graeme has also been appointed as the AFBG's Public Officer.

Committee meetings

Distance is no longer a tyranny with teleconferencing and Skype! One or other of these forms of communication will be used in future for most Committee meetings.

Administrative Officer

By now I feel sure a number of you will have had contact with Ro Noone, the AFBG's Administrative Officer. She was appointed in May on a contract basis to provide a more stable administration in response to a suggestion made at the Mildura Conference in May 2010. We are very pleased to have Ro's support which has simplified the role of Committee members and in particular the role of the Secretary.

New logo

We are very pleased with our new logo which retains the original concept of the bugle flower, *Campsis radicans*, but gives it a modern look. We hope you approve. The original artwork was given to the Association by botanic artist, the late Beverly Graham, in 1993. See the May 2011 edition of *Campsis* for Beverly Graham's obituary written by Helene Wild.

Conference 2012

My greatest pleasure in being involved with the AFBG over the last twelve years has been meeting people from all over Australia—Friends of Botanic Gardens who work extremely hard to support their Gardens through good times and bad. In addition I have visited the Gardens of many members and enjoyed all that each Garden has to offer. It's been a marvellous experience. A wonderful experience yet to come is the next AFBG Conference which is being hosted by the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta on 17-20 August 2012. A preliminary notice was circulated to all members in September and I do hope that many of you are already making your plans to be there!

BGANZ

The AFBG was very ably represented by Annie McGeachy and Ro Noone at the BGANZ Congress held in Albury in October. Attending BGANZ congresses, regional meetings and other activities is an important way in which to raise the profile of our organisation and individual Gardens. As well, networking with Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers and sharing experiences and ideas can only enhance what we do and enable us to do it better.

Committee representation at Member's activities

From time to time, members invite committee members to attend meetings in their Gardens. Since the last edition of *Campsis* was sent out Alex Smart has made presentations at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, and at a BGANZ regional meeting in Castlemaine, and I spoke at the AGM of the Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland.

St Kilda Botanical Gardens

The AFBG wishes the St Kilda Botanical Gardens a very happy 150th birthday and sends very best wishes for a wonderful celebration on Wednesday 16 November.

I look forward to meeting or having contact with many of you in 2012 which I hope will be a fantastic year for everyone with lots of good things happening in your Gardens.

Happy festive Season, Janet Thomson

Administrative Officer's Report

Ro Noone

Having spent around 12 years associated with botanic gardens (RBG Melbourne and Geelong BG), it is a great pleasure to be bringing members from all around Australasia together in my new role with the Association. If you have something exciting happening in your Garden/Park, let me know and I will be happy to share the news!



The website has now had a complete remake. With the help of our Web Managers, WordsWorth Communicating, we will continue to build and improve the content. Do have a look at it and pass on any comments and/or suggestions for making it even better: <www.friendsbotanicgardens.org>

The latest inclusion to the site is a Members Gallery of Photos, where members have the opportunity to display photos showing the special qualities of 'their' Botanic Gardens. Send photos to Wordsworth Communicating.

Also please remember that if your group does not have its own website you can have a static page on the AFBG's website. This is a very good way in which to advertise your Gardens and your group. If you need some suggestions about how to go about this please contact me.

Website

Material for the website should be forwarded to the Web Managers at:
<info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com>

It is important to note that the Friends website is unique in that it provides both information and the location of over 50 of Australia's Botanic Gardens. Perfect for today's web savvy travellers. I urge you to make full use of the promotional opportunity!

Amendments to the Association Incorporations Act

Be aware of Consumer Affairs (Vic) 2010 Amendments to the Association Incorporations Act of 1981 which will become effective in July 2012. See their website. The updated Model Rules have yet to be completed and posted on site. The Federal Government also intends to rationalise the individual State Acts so that Associations in all states operate under the same rules with the same responsibilities.

Volunteering

Also be aware that there are 'National Standards for Volunteering – Not-for-profit Organisations', which of course vary considerably in size and complexity. The standards can provide a helpful guide to Friends' groups in establishing how to manage their volunteering activities.

Occupational Health and Safety requirements

Finally, be aware of the Occupational Health & Safety requirements affecting your particular activities. You may need to consider warden and/or first-aid training amongst your volunteers.

Address

Don't forget!! All mail should be sent to the AFBG's new address PO Box 983, Geelong, Vic, 3220, Or <info@friendsbotanicgardens.org.au>.

Staying valuable and viable

BGANZ 2011 Congress, 20-23 October 2011, Albury NSW

An excellent Congress with a very full and stimulating program attended by over 100 delegates representing all states and New Zealand. The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens was well represented by members at the BGANZ Congress including Committee members Warwick Wright (ANBG Canberra) and Annie McGeachy (Geelong Friends). Annie gave a 30-minute overview of the Association network and the value of Friends, to a large and interested audience. Our thanks to the BGANZ Council for this opportunity, as this was a first for the Association.

On Day 1, Ro Noone attended a workshop with the newly developed Botanic Gardens Education Network (BGEN) on 'Using mobile and social media to enrich the visitor experience'.

Day 2 began with an international flavour. Keynote speakers included Dr Andrea Kramer, Executive Director Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) US, with 'Assessing and integrating conservation through collections'. Dr Christopher P. Dunn, Director Lyon Arboretum, Honolulu, discussed 'Botanic gardens as drivers of community value and vitality'. Prof Mark Burgman, University of Melbourne, spoke on 'Managing the risks'. The audience then divided into two streams: Collections management and Community and education. Janelle Hatherly, RBG Sydney, spoke about 'Community Greening', an outreach program to provide government housing residents in New South Wales with the necessary resources to establish gardens. 'Youth Community Greening' is a more recent program targeting disadvantaged schools.

John Bentley, Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens, gave an overview of the Melton BG Eucalyptus forest development (see page 18). Wendy Hallinan, Australian Inland Botanic Garden, spoke about their latest acquisition of the old Peaka Homestead (see Mildura article on page 19). Kate Heffernan, Chair BGANZ Queensland and Friends of Gold Coast Botanic Gardens, presented on the most interesting new SMART, Gardener Volunteer Training Program. Read more about Janelle's and Kate's programs in the BGANZ Newsletter *The Botanic Garden* November 2010 issue.

On Day 3, we were captivated by Robyn Williams (*ABC Science Show*) 'Facing a turbulent future', and Prof. Brian Huntley (Kirstenbosch BG) 'Poverty to prosperity'. Friends will be interested to hear that plans for a new botanic gardens at Shepparton on a reclaimed site, have been developed. Please refer to the BGANZ website for the complete congress program. It was pleasing to see that past copies of *Campsis* and the newly revamped AFBG brochure were collected by many delegates. The congress dinner was enjoyed by all (see photos below), where we were entertained by Stephen Ryan (*ABC Gardening Australia*).

The next BGANZ Congress is in Dunedin, New Zealand in 2013. Mark your calendars now!

Congratulations to Anne Duncan, former Director ANBG and former Secretary of BGANZ, who is now President of BGANZ Council, replacing Dr Philip Moors who has lead BGANZ for six remarkable years.

Ro Noone

Happy diners, left to right: Maya Harrison (Mackay), Ro Noone (Geelong), Kate Heffernan (Gold Coast), Jill Bentley (Melton). Wendy Hallinan (Mildura), Annie McGeachy (Geelong), John Bentley (Melton), Chris and Charlotte Webb (front) and Jenny Kena (back) (Southern Highlands).



A fairy temple, a dinosaur and a troll!

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Albury, NSW

What a year in the Albury Botanic Gardens! French horticultural students, fairy temples, giant trolls, barn owls and a very big dinosaur! Scrumptious meals, massive plant sales and the BGANZ Congress here in October. The fun and games just keep rolling on.

The Children's Garden frames for the fairy temple and dinosaur entry features are to be installed within the fortnight to allow construction on-site to commence. The new Children's Garden fence has been completed. Eleven story telling seats have been carved by the artist James Cattell, featuring a Murray cod, snake, goanna, duck and crocodile and they are a big hit with the kids.



Puzzling over an enormous 400-year-old stump for a troll cave and a troll. Photos: Albury Botanic Gardens files.

French Horticultural student, Antoine Kieffer, has completed his eight week voluntary placement in the Botanic Gardens, as part of his 3rd Year AgroCampus Quest Course. This was our second year with French students being hosted. Antoine was involved in Crimson Spider Orchid surveys with Clarence Slockee (visiting from Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and Gardening Australia), construction works in the Children's Garden and prepared a photo display for the staff intranet. He has returned home safely and wishes to thank all the Friends, staff and people of Albury, who made him welcome and provided him with this great adventure.

Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand held its 2011 Congress here in Albury from 21 to 23 October on the theme 'Staying Valuable and Viable'. Albury Entertainment Centre is the venue. Congress guest speakers and keynote speakers include: Andrea Kramer, Executive Director of BGCI USA; Prof. Mark Burgmann, climate change scientist; Brian Huntley of Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens; Robyn Williams, ABC Radio National science presenter; and Stephen Ryan from Gardening Australia.

The Florilegium has progressed, with the artists completing over 50 botanical paintings of the Gardens most important plants. These will be displayed in January 2013 at the Library Museum, along with a display at the BGANZ Congress in October this year. The historical research has been completed and Lydia Mansell and David Lawrence from the Australian National University have done a fantastic job writing up the history to be included. Jo Bartels has completed photographing all our early pictures and prints for electronic records and many of these will also feature in the Florilegium publications.

And finishing on a domestic note—the new shadecloth and frame replacements for the glasshouses and new nursery area have been completed. This will provide a great work and storage area for the Friends, away from the depot traffic.

Paul Scannell

Are you coming to the Conference?

Friends of Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Port Augusta, South Australia

Friends have been busy helping garden staff with new plantings near walkways and growing new *Eremophila* species to enlarge and upgrade our *Eremophila* Garden.

The courtyard at the front of the visitors centre is now being completed and should be ready for our conference next year.

Guides have been hosting APS members on their pre-conference tour to the Flinders Ranges with a full day of tours through the Garden. Also many other tours with grey nomads on their winter trip north and many bus companies calling through for lunch and a tour. This last three months has been our busiest ever period at the AALBG.

Preparations for the conference next year are well under way and you should all have seen our 'Expressions of Interest' form sent to every Botanic Garden. We have many interesting tours and speakers and we all look forward to seeing and meeting you at the conference on 18 and 19 August 2012. After the conference you could set off for Alice Springs, drive across the Nullarbor or north into the Flinders Ranges.

With all the rain we have had in the past three months our Eucalypts are looking wonderful especially *Eucalyptus youngiana*, *E. landsdowneana* and *E. pimpiniana*. Their flowers bring many birds and the chorus in the mornings is wonderful. A great place for 'Birders'. Also many *Eremophilas* are flowering which the birds are also enjoying. With a new bird brochure produced by the Friends and designed by Peter Langdon now available at AALBG it is much easier for visitors to identify some of the birds.

Chris Nayda



Friends' working bee at AALBG. Photo by Shirley Mundy.

Salt tolerant stroll

*Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens
Buronga NSW via Mildura, Victoria*



Sweet Quandong, *Santalum acuminatum*, in the Gardens and as pictured on the logo.

A fascinating educational Salt Tolerant Stroll through one of the earliest established areas of the Gardens is the newest walking track in the AIBG. Amongst the proud construction team members are past and present students of the Mildura Specialist School who contributed to this lasting icon whilst surmounting individual challenges. Our Nature Trail and *Z-teams were integral, as was the Gardens' Education Officer.

Originally designed to overcome the problem of a high water table and accommodate saline soil, much of the planting in the salt tolerant exhibit took place in the very early 1990s. Now established trees and shrubs are thriving under the harsh conditions, having been carefully selected for their adaptation. All are native to Australia but unlike the nearby Mallee Nature Trail they are not all locally endemic.

Included in the stroll is the semi-parasitic Quandong, *Santalum acuminatum*, depicted on our Gardens logo.

A visit to the website <aibg.org.au> will yield more pictures and information about the new kitchen and training room in the Gardens. The Peaka building is the third historic building in the reception area of the Gardens. Murray pine, *Callitris spp* timber is from an original station home that once stood on the bank of the Darling River. Construction was finally complete in May and was immediately in use by the Friends for Brekkie Saturday, now a fixture on the fourth Saturday morning each month. Our meetings are held in the training area also used by our education officer for classes and hired out for functions.

There are celebrations being planned for the 21st Birthday of the AIBG's first planting of two lemon scented gums *Eucalyptus citriodora* by Lady Stephen and Sir Ninian Stephen in May 1991.

The new kitchen/training room clad with Murray Pine timber from the old Peaka Station home.



*The Z-team is a volunteer group of delightful, indispensable gentlemen who focus on maintenance and construction within the Gardens. They now have their own shed space—the Gardens Men's Shed!

Starting a photography group

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



Isopogon formosus

I am an Australian National Botanic Gardens guide, who is interested in photography. I bought my first DSLR camera in 2007 and took pleasure in photographing the flora and fauna of the Gardens. Myself and two other guides got together with an ANBG staff member, photographing the Gardens making our first edition of a DVD slideshow. It went on sale in the ANBG bookshop in 2009 and sales have since been good and steady for the Friends.

I have since been asked if it is possible to form a photographic society for the Friends and ANBG. I did a phone survey in 2011 and 40 people responded to a meeting which was held in April. The Friends Council was asked to approve the establishment of the group, and on 4 May 2011 we were approved and became official.

A committee was formed—a convenor, a secretary and two committee members. Members agreed to hold their meetings on the last Friday of the month from February to November. The meetings have a format of a small business section followed by a guest speaker and then showing members slides and prints. This is followed by a photoshoot in the Gardens. A storage committee was formed to arrange digital storage for our pictures.

We now have an advertisement on the Friends website (www.friendsanbg.org.au), an article in our magazine *Fronde* and this article in *Campsis*.

We aim to:

- improve our photography by the lectures, through group practice sessions and training courses
- have exhibitions
- share our pictures through a dedicated website
- make our pictures useful to the ANBG and supply pictures for the Friends activities
- thoroughly enjoy the company of like minded people.

To date we have had lectures on landscape photography, shutter priority, aperture priority and coming up is a lecture on old and antique cameras. We meet one Sunday a month at 8.30 am for a photoshoot walk around the ANBG. We will be forming a framing sub-committee to look into professional framing, for when we have an exhibition for the Canberra Centenary in 2013. We will also have six pictures up on the Friends website, which will be changed periodically.

Sheila Cudmore

The water is back in Ballarat

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Ballarat, Victoria

The rain gods have rediscovered Ballarat! It's been raining for over a year now and we do not complain about it anymore! Our Lake Wendouree is now full and the Botanical Gardens are 'blooming' beautiful with the garden beds brimming with the traditional annuals! The lawns are green and lush and the mulched mature trees are gradually recovering their health and showing us all the surprising resilience of some species.

An example of this is the planting of The Western Bed. This was a major project which saw the reconstruction of the garden border between the red scoria path and the Gillies Street boundary. It was a long running project financed by the Friends with the work done in collaboration with the Gardens staff. An exciting aspect was the introduction of many new plant species. One very attractive section features drought-resistant plants with grey and silver foliage. Other sections feature different colours and particular families of plants such as waratahs and eucalypts in the Australian garden. All plants have been clearly labelled and poles colourfully decorated with koori artwork create interest for visitors.

Now the Friends are busier than ever! With a membership of 240 and growing, the community interest in the Gardens is a testament to the fact that Ballarat is [still] the Garden City! Just recently the Friends have donated to the Gardens \$30,000 to refurbish and renovate the historically important MacDonald gates and arbour!

The History Group have embarked upon a mammoth project this year to write a book to compile the history of the gardens. This had meant hours of research, collecting photos and stories from the public during two open days. We hope to publish next year to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Friends.



The Educating Friends are a relatively new group who have been working on showcasing the wonderful opportunities in the Gardens for quality play and learning for young children and their families. With an established program of seasonal children's events the Educating Friends have staged: a Grandies in the Gardens Teddy Bears' Picnic; a treasure hunt; Mothers Day poster exhibition; Sailing Ship Trees—discovering the oaks; coffee and cake for the mothers' groups with collage and music for the little ones; and just recently an art activity called Draw and Explore for the school holidays.

Planning is well under way for the Great Big Gardens Play Day targeting the 0-8 year olds for Children's Week on 26 October a feature being the Great BIG Mud Pie! The group has just been successful in gaining a community grant from the Ballarat City Council.

The Engraving Friends produce identification labels for the plants and trees within the our Gardens. Each label shows information regarding the species family name, botanical name, common name, the growing dimensions of the plant and country of origin. The labels are attached to a metal stake, which is placed at the base of the smaller plants or in some cases attached to a tree. This group also undertakes engraving consignments for other botanic gardens, schools and community gardens. Please contact the group through our email contact on our website: <www.fbbg.org.au>.

Lunch with Tamie Fraser

*Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens
Buninyong, Victoria*

A lunch to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens was held in the Buninyong Town Hall on Saturday 14 May. The guest speaker was Mrs Tamie Fraser who took us through the four gardens that she has developed and nurtured during her various moves from Nareen in far western Victoria, to Canberra, and then back to their present home on the Mornington Peninsula.

Tamie explained her initial lack of gardening knowledge with her story of how, as newly-marrieds, she took a posy of 'snowdrops' when going to dinner with their neighbours. A life-long friendship began when her neighbour, the renowned gardener Mrs Joan Law-Smith, quietly explained that they were onion-weed flowers! Tamie's delightful commentary was interspersed with slides showing various aspects of their gardens in their 'before', 'during' and 'after' clothing.



Tamie is presented with a gift by her niece Tamara Petrov



The raffle is drawn by Tamie's husband, Malcom, while organiser Christina Hindhaugh and MC Peter Hiscock assist.

Much practical advice was in evidence, for example, placing garden beds no closer together than the width of a lawnmower. Comments about men's enthusiasm for building man-made structures during the wife's temporary absence brought knowing laughter from an appreciative and largely distaff audience, especially when such structures, while well meant, turn out to be hideously masculine in a sea of serene beauty!

Tamie's discussion was greeted with warm enthusiasm by the sell-out crowd of 140 avid gardeners and there was animated agreement about her comments during the gourmet boxed lunch and wine that followed. The event concluded with the raffle being drawn by Tamie's husband, Malcolm, for prizes such as gift vouchers from Unique Garden Decor in Buninyong, succulent pots made by Jill Salathial and a Wollomi pine.

The lunch was organised by a local sub-committee comprising Yvette Hiscock, Anne McLeod, Jill Salathial, Julie Richardson, Jane Luckock and Christina Hindhaugh who arranged for her sister, Tamie, to speak. The event raised funds towards Buninyong Botanic Garden's infrastructure and further 150th anniversary celebrations to be held in the Gardens in Scott St on Sunday 13 November this year—so put that date in your diary!

Russell Luckock

Gardens repaired and restored

Friends of Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Castlemaine, Victoria

The past two years have been a busy and exciting time in Castlemaine. Having received \$2.4 million from the Federal Government, we were finally able to implement a program of long overdue improvement works. Most of you would be aware that in the midst of work to strengthen the edge of Lake Joanna, heavy machinery was stolen and driven through the Gardens. Although we lost five trees and the rotunda, with other damage to fencing, water stand pipes etc. we were fortunate that the machinery became bogged before further damage could be done. The support we received from other Friends at that time was very heartening, and we thank you most sincerely.

Works completed include: a new playspace; refurbished toilet blocks; restored fountain with gardens surrounding it as in the original design; renewed arbours; restored bridges; major works to Lake Joanna with associated tree removal and consequent planting of new trees; new footpath lighting; car parking removed from within the Gardens, and two new carparks created on the boundary; new fencing; and complete restoration of the former Tea Rooms.



The Tea Rooms being restored...

...and restored.
Both photos by Trish Addis



We are delighted that a new position of Head Gardener has been created, and with a new Manager, Parks & Gardens, we are looking forward to a better working relationship with the Shire into the future. I believe that our constant pressure within the Project Reference Group brought results, and a new respect from Council Staff.

I hope that you can visit our renewed Gardens within the next year or two. It is looking a little sparse at the moment, because the long drought, followed by the flooding of late 2010 and early 2011, caused the demise of at least five mature trees, with many more red gums lost along the creek. Spring will bring new growth, and we look forward to a reinvigorated garden.

Trish Addis, Secretary

Engaging children

Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Batemans Bay, NSW

Our Children's Play Space is under construction, but in the meantime we have activities for children that are readily adaptable by all Gardens.

In keeping with our recreation, education and conservation mission, we aim to make the Gardens experience more than just a pretty park.

It is hard now to say where the inspiration has come from for our activities, but our links with the Australian National Botanic Gardens are strong through several volunteers and we unashamedly copy any good idea we see.



Claudia shows the nest on the touch table.

The 'At the Gardens I saw' puzzle is a kind of 'I spy' and was inspired by the materials used for the education program for Year 4 students run by our Council's environment team. The picture format makes it suitable for children with limited reading ability. It is surprising what fun very young children get from finding all the items; I suspect they enjoy the attention from family members as much as the thrill of the chase. The 'fake snake' is especially popular. Volunteers at the information counter enjoy giving out the rewards, appropriately jelly snakes.

For older children we have puzzles that take them on particular tracks. They find letter clues, and then spell a word from the collected letters. The Arboretum Track Teasers puzzle asks questions at stages of the journey.

The touch table in school holidays has been very popular. Visitors and volunteers have been inspired to give us birds nests, snake skins, seed pods and rocks to add to our collection.

The above activities can be run on a shoe-string, needing only imagination, some desktop publishing skills and printing facilities. The smiles on the faces of children and carers are our reward.

Sue Grahame

At the Gardens I saw Tick the ones you saw ✓

 a bird	 mauve Fairy fan flowers	 a burrawang
 a frog - you might hear but not see	 a fern	 a banksia
 a spider flower	 Grasses by the path	 a fake snake

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens
These are all found in the gardens around the Visitors Centre.
When you have found all the clues, return your pencil, and claim your share of the treasure from the Gardens volunteer (in green shirt) at the Visitors Centre.

Snake Bean Garden

Friends of George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens Darwin, NT

The Botanic Gardens Community Food Garden (known as the Snake Bean Garden) is for people who share a love of growing their own food but may not be lucky enough to have space for their own veggie patch. From a small fledgling band of wannabe organic growers we have grown into a dynamic, community spirited group utilising permaculture principles to demonstrate ways that we can live sustainably in tropical Darwin. Our take home message is that individuals can make a difference by growing their own food in a sustainable way.

Our group is also a member of the recently formed 'Darwin Garden Education Network' (DGEN), and so now we see ourselves as part of a larger connected community that is building community resilience through small scale food production that is both localised and sustainable.

Since our inception two years ago, we have become a popular and integral part of the Botanic Gardens. The initial food garden surrounding the Eco House was expanded this year and our veggies now sprawl and scramble down through the permaculture terraces to what will one day be our aquatic and wet area food garden.



Photo by Jenny Young

The 27 June was a significant milestone for our group as it was the day we received our Climate Change and Environment Grant for our Water Learnscape from Darwin City Council. The \$10,000 grant, which was obtained with assistance from the staff at the Botanic Gardens and under the umbrella of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, will allow us to undertake our first environmental project to improve the landscape around the food garden and provide an educational resource for the community.

The Botanic Gardens is a 'sink' for water drainage from nearby suburbs but a lot of this runoff is wasted as it pours down an old watercourse along the perimeter of the permaculture terraces, scouring out valuable soil and nutrients on its way. The problem is exacerbated because the runoff contains oil and detergents from driveways and other light industry pollutants from spray painters, panel beaters and mechanic shops.

The grant will provide the design and construction funds to allow us to enhance the existing watercourse so that it more closely mimics the patterns of nature and so the water will be useable and not wasted. The plan is to slow down the wet season torrent through specifically designed twists and turns and to use rock barriers to encourage the water to pool in three or four places rather than draining off in a fast flow.

We are going to plant filtration plants such as typha and reeds along the edges and use fine sand and small rocks to help filtrate, clean and oxygenate the water as it passes through each stage. The clean water will culminate in a wetlands sink at the bottom of the permaculture terraces where we can grow edible wetlands plants such as kangkong and water chestnuts. The final part of the plan is to install interpretative signage to turn our water feature landscape into an educational 'learnscape' for the community.

We think \$10,000 is a wonderful investment by Darwin City Council in improving the water quality and efficiency of what was previously wasted and polluted wet season runoff. At the same time the grant will help enhance the landscape aesthetics in the Botanic Gardens and create a model of localised food production. The flow on effect is a rich source of community education that will showcase permaculture principles and hopefully inspire and motivate Darwinians into thinking more creatively and sustainably.

Kathy Clayden, Snake Bean gardener



Photo by Susan Willis



Photo by Jenny Young

To the heart of the Gardens

*Friends of Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
Mackay, Queensland*



Both photos by Maya Harrison

The Meadowlands development in the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG) western sector commenced in June and earthworks have progressed rapidly to form the 200 berth car park, Outdoor Performance and Events Centre amphitheatre, terraces, concessions area and stage footings. Formation of the first stage of the Multifunction Access Corridor—the Gardens main arterial route for pedestrians, cyclists and services—has also commenced. This is the commencement of the main development node that will lead visitors into the 25 ha Meadowlands sector, the bioregional heart of the MRBG, featuring only flora native to the Central Queensland Coast bioregion that surrounds Mackay.

Friends planting bees have continued apace. Over 600 new plants have been added to the Gardens Living Collection over these cooler months and with spring now here they are leaping out of the ground. Many more will be added in the next month, including young trees purchased with a very generous donation from the Coffs Harbour Garden Club.



A Water Weeds Identification Workshop, held at the Gardens on 8 July with the Queensland Herbarium, gave Friends the opportunity to see demonstrations on collecting and pressing specimens, as well as how to send them to the state Herbarium. The group toured the Eulamere Wetlands at the MRBG and found native species and exotic weeds previously not recorded at this site. Two University of Central Queensland students joined the Herbarium volunteers as they collected further aquatic and riparian plant specimens from the Eulamere Wetlands. Specimens from the Gardens and wild collected material were sent and identification confirmed—an important role in ascertaining the distribution of species.

Several Friends attended the Conference for Walking Guides of Botanic Gardens held in Brisbane in mid-September, an inspirational event. This was an excellent opportunity for Regional Garden Guides to compare notes with our City counterparts and we all came home exhausted, but full of enthusiasm for what we are achieving in our young Gardens.

Beautiful new building

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



Photo by Helen Wallace

The new Arts and Ecology Centre in the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens was officially opened on 26 August, and will have a significant impact on both the gardens and the community they serve. The \$3 million centre was funded by the Australian Government through the Better Regions Programme, and was developed by the Sunshine Coast Council, with input from the Friends. The centre comprises a multi-function room, which opens onto a courtyard and is suitable for meetings and gallery exhibitions, a workshop area, a reading room, office space, a kitchen and future café space, and toilet facilities.

The building itself was designed for sustainability, and features solar panels returning excess power to the grid, water capture, storage and treatment, waste treatment, and passive climate control using thermostatically controlled louvres.

The Centre was opened by Senate President the Hon John Hogg and Councillors Debbie Blumel and Jenny McKay. 'The Arts and Ecology Centre will be a real community hub for the Gardens, providing valuable insight into the Coast's native plants whilst showcasing cultural events, learning opportunities and green art activities,' Cr McKay said.

Friends of the Gardens President, Joan Horgan, said she believes the union of art and ecology will help to promote sustainability and environmental protection. She paid tribute to the efforts of those Friends who had established and developed the Gardens over 15 years, and in particular the contribution of Maureen and Les Sheargold.

Cr McKay touched upon one aspect of the Gardens that sets them apart from most botanic gardens – the Gardens' aim is to showcase only those plants endemic to the region, which includes the coastal area from the NSW border to Fraser Island and up into the ranges behind. This requires the removal of some specimens that gives rise to a deal of angst among the Friends, but is necessary to maintain the integrity of the Gardens.

The Friends took the opportunity to put the new Centre to the test during the 12th Australasian Conference of Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens held in Brisbane. Fifty-seven delegates chose to visit the Gardens, and were entertained with guided walks and lunch. Both the Centre and the catering passed with top marks

Bob Ducrou.



Eucalypt species from areas of less than 450 mm of rainfall is the first major project in the development of the Melton Botanic Garden. It is a partnership between the Australian Plants Society Melton and Bacchus Marsh Group (APS), Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden (FMBG) and Melton Shire Council. The Arboretum area involves approximately four hectares located in the northern section of the Garden.

Funding has been forthcoming first from the Bjarne Dahl Trust grant of \$15,000 in December 2010 which enabled path construction and other works to be started. Recently we received a major grant of \$132,780 from the Vision for Werribee Plains which enables us to complete path construction, build fences, procure signage, plantings and other works.

In the selection of plants a decision was made by the plant sub-group to change from the original plant list for the Arboretum to dryland eucalypts. A donation from an APS member enabled seeds for the propagation of these trees to be purchased. More than fifty species of eucalypt mostly from areas having less than 450 mm of rainfall per year were chosen. The trees chosen are small to medium eucalypts which are much more suitable for small suburban gardens and the large choice of attractive species is to encourage the growing of more Australian plants including a variety of eucalypts. When established these trees will have a very low water requirement and should do quite well in the relatively dry climate of the Melton region which experiences significantly less rainfall than most of the greater Melbourne area.

The development of the Arboretum is now at an exciting stage. Over three planting days FMBG and APS members planted around 400 eucalypts. A list of further species for production and planting out next year has been developed. Next year it is intended to mass plant about 22,000 small ground cover species and shrubs throughout the arboretum which will give a more natural bushland aspect and be a unique feature of the Melton Botanic Garden.

Cutting of the primary paths and spreading a layer of road base has been done and they are now being used by people visiting the Melton Botanic Garden (and unfortunately by trail bikes). The secondary paths in the arboretum have been mapped using GPS and prepared for topping with bark.

The CVGT Work Experience Activity Team with team leader Andrew Traczynski commenced in June. They have been doing a great job in the Arboretum through planting, weeding and constructing fences. They will soon be commencing topping the secondary paths.

The project still requires site preparation building pathways, construction of an information shelter, a drystone wall, artwork, information signage, rock placement, weeding plus associated materials and equipment.

David Pye is the project leader and is involved in both APS and FMBG groups. It is most fitting that he has taken on this role with his prior experience in project management and his horticultural knowledge. This has been a great effort in organisation and preparation and was achieved by excellent planning by David and Barb Pye and by the work of many volunteers. Thanks to all who helped.

New Gardens to inspect

Friends of Moama Echuca Botanic Gardens Moama, NSW

After several years in the planning, Stage 1 and 1a are now taking shape at Moama. The last two years have seen a lot of plantings occur, to the stage where we now look forward to officially declaring the FMEBG open to the public. The opening will take place on Friday 11 November at 2 pm at the gardens site on Perricoota Road. The opening ceremony will be conducted by the Mayor of Murray Shire and the official opening will be by the Hon. Sussan Ley, the Federal Member for this area.

The Friends work in close harmony with the Murray Shire Council, who is the owner of the land on which the Gardens are being constructed. Our Gardens have been designed by a prominent Melbourne designer, to use minimal water, and will be developed in stages as funding is available. The signature trees in our Gardens are the *Brachychiton rupestris* (Queensland Bottle Tree), four of which trees will dominate the entrance with further plantings of this species along the walking tracks. As the landscape in this area is very flat, interest has been added by the building up of raised mounds on which plantings of different colour native species are growing well.

We invite gardening enthusiasts to view our Gardens and we welcome any travellers who may wish to attend the opening ceremony.

The photograph shows the day when the lawns were being laid with the assistance of students from the local grammar school. Three of these students may be seen in their red shirts

Gwen McPoyle, Hon. Secretary



New and old forests, ceremonial plantings

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Canberra, ACT

Planting is continuing apace and over 80 forests have now been planted. It is anticipated that all forests (over 100) will be in place by March 2013, in time for the official opening ceremony which will be a highlight of Canberra's centenary celebrations. Some forests contain more than one related species and Lot 100 is being developed as a regional botanic garden, managed by STEP (a voluntary community group) in association with the National Arboretum Canberra. Lots 110 and 111 are heritage forests of *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan cedar) and *Quercus suber* (cork oak) which have been incorporated into the Arboretum. The Australian National University has experimental plantings underway in Lots 92 to 96 and the Arboretum has set aside two lots for its own trial plantings.

Most of the young trees have grown well and we've already enjoyed patchworks of autumn colour and several species flowering for the first time. Not everything has gone to plan though, and some forests have suffered losses through too much rain which wasn't anticipated when the project began in the grip of a drought.

Ceremonial plantings have become a common occurrence as Canberra seems to have attracted many distinguished visitors of late. Prime Ministers, ex-Prime Ministers, the Governor-General and ex-Governor-General, Ambassadors, visiting dignitaries, musicians and sports stars have all participated, with most of those from overseas planting species which relate to their country of origin. To date there have been 32 ceremonial plantings, so this fledgling project is already gathering some history.

On 8 September Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, planted an olive tree (*Olea europaea*) at the top of the Central Valley. He was very pleased to see the involvement of school children and he asked them to help him fill the hole. An olive tree was chosen because an olive branchlet features in the United Nations' logo as a symbol of peace.



Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon speaking and planting an olive tree with the help of ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, and some school children,

On Saturday 12 November the Friends will be working at the Arboretum as ushers at the inaugural community concert 'Voices in the Forest'. This will be held in a natural amphitheatre below the Events Terrace. The program includes the highly acclaimed Swedish opera singer Anne Sofie von Otter, Henry Choo (tenor), Louise Page (soprano), Christine Wilson (mezzo-soprano) and a composite choir from Canberra schools and colleges. They will perform operatic arias, jazz and Broadway songs.

Construction is underway on the spectacular Visitors Centre and nearby Bonsai Pavilion which will house the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (currently displayed in temporary accommodation in Commonwealth Park).

The Friends host Open Days at the Arboretum on the second Sunday of each month. We've also just published a handsome 2012 Calendar with mailing envelope, available for sale through our website: <www.arboretumcanberra.org.au>.

A Japanese Garden

*Friends of North Coast Regional Botanic Garden
Coffs Harbour, NSW*



It is now 30 years since the opening of the Garden and there are many exciting changes being made.

The Japanese Garden moves on apace, with the help of a grant and plenty of work by the community, Council and the Friends of the Garden. Coffs Harbour has a sister city in Sasebo, Nagasaki prefecture, Japan, and engineers and gardeners from Sasebo have visited Coffs Harbour to give us the benefit of their advice and to teach us a little of the culture and expectations that make a garden in Japan a peaceful living place. The result is spectacular! Placement of rocks and structures, the Zen garden and the pleasing landscaping have captured the essence of the authentic Japanese Garden. The area should be complete and fully planted in time for Children's Day in May next year when the kites fly over the lake and bridge.

Botanica, our Spring Festival, is in its fifth year. It started as a seed of an idea from the Coffs Coast Calligraphers, the Conservatorium of Music and the Friends, to celebrate Spring with local native plant nurseries, arts and crafts, and information about waterwise projects, mulching and growing veggies. It has now grown to become a six-day Festival with Sustainable Living as the central theme. This year we have celebrities, Costa Georgiadis (SBS TV) and dirtgirl from dirtgirlworld (ABC Kids), to entertain and inform our visitors.

This year it also includes workshops as diverse as building houses using earth-friendly materials and techniques, renewable energy sources, no-dig gardens, raising chooks at home, and reducing costs of electricity. Last year the donations from Botanica went towards making our entrance, shop and display room more energy efficient, a very worthwhile project.

In January we will celebrate Australia Day with bush poets, a bush band (Headland), and Aussie games and foods. And in February and March the Jazz Festival features artists from Brisbane and Sydney as well as local artists. March is also the month for Harmony Day, and with more than 70 different countries represented in our population, this is a spectacular show of dancing, singing and performing artists. All these events are described in more detail on our website: <www.coffsbotanicgarden.com.au>.

The Friends volunteers continue to be involved in all areas of the Garden, from mulching and weeding, pruning and planting, to running the shop and café, catering, and raising funds through events. However there is a new direction as we enter the computer age. There is a drive to make a database of plants in our Garden for easy reference—to create an interactive display as an educational tool for school children and visitors alike. This is an exciting new area for us and we have recently attracted new members to the Friends who are willing to bring us into the 21st century of computers.

The road ahead is very positive and should be fun and rewarding for all involved.

Eve Colley, Publicity Officer

Cranbourne keeps growing

*Friends of Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne
Cranbourne, Victoria*



The photo shows that construction of Stage 2, to complete the Australian Garden, is advancing at a great rate. As various precincts are completed they are handed over to RBG for planting. It is expected that Stage 2 will be opened to the public around the middle of 2012. This will bring the completed Australian Garden to 22 ha.

The photo was taken by John Calvert-Jones and that is a story worth relating. John was escorting his mother-in-law, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, to a function. When Dame Elisabeth saw that the transport was a helicopter she asked the pilot if he could pass over the Australian Garden so that she could observe the progress. At 102 Dame Elisabeth, the Patron of Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne, maintains an active interest in the RBG Cranbourne.

Alex Smart

Scientists, artists, arborists, and more

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne South Yarra, Victoria

The Friends have awarded the inaugural Helen McLellan Research Grant to Dr Anna Syme from the RBG's Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division. Valued at \$20,000, it honours this generous benefactor. Anna will use DNA techniques to identify native and exotic grasses, including noxious introduced grass weeds.

The Eternal Order in Nature, an invitation exhibition supported by the Friends to showcase the finest Australian botanical art and the diversity of our flora, attracted about 3,000 visitors during the 18th International Botanical Congress hosted by the RBG in July.

Another exhibition in October focussed on Eucalypts in the RBG and Nature's Small Wonders. Our botanical artists learned how to capture iridescence and transparency in insects to paint them with the Eucalypts.

Dr David Cantrill, RBG Chief Botanist and Plant Sciences & Biodiversity Director, will tell us more about the Congress at our Annual General Meeting on 14 November, highlighting topics of Australian interest; some hotly debated, such as which scientific name to give Australian wattles. Also on this occasion, the 2011 winners of the Friends staff scholarships for professional development will be announced.

About 6,000 trees grow in the Melbourne Gardens, so the recent appointment of an Arboricultural Curator is of great importance. Apart from day-to-day management, he will work with the Gardens' horticulturists and botanists to determine which species will be most suitable for the Melbourne climate over the next 50-100 years. Some will be new plantings and others as replacements for old trees.

Following a successful introduction last year, RBG education staff and the not-for-profit Cultivating Community group are again presenting programs during spring. The aim is to support and inspire teachers, parents and community workers to create gardens in schools that have limited resources. As well as design and horticultural information about growing food, the provision of play areas in the garden and the importance of biodiversity are on the agenda. The RBG's Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden is an ideal setting for this program.

The Growing Friends have been diversifying their stock by introducing more unusual plants, such as Species Camellias and natives rarely obtainable in nurseries. The spring and autumn sales always boost our membership as well as our funds.

The Plant Craft Cottage is celebrating its 30th birthday. Members are linking this to the International Year of Forests by exhibiting dyes, basketry, pressed flower cards and fibre creations. The Voluntary Guides are putting together a collection of anecdotes to highlight 30 years of guiding at the RBG.

An analysis of Friends membership has revealed that 56 per cent are 60 years or older, 25 per cent are in the 40-59 years age group and less than 20 per cent are under 40. We're considering how to attract younger members. RBG's Manager of Public Programs has reported that social media has become important in actively engaging with the public. It is the preferred means of communication for 16 to 34 year olds.

Friends meetings have experienced some anxious moments when the audiovisual equipment in Mueller Hall falters. Relief is at hand; as we've invested in a major upgrade. We are pleased to share our meetings; recently we've combined with the Cranbourne Friends twice and also with the Australian Garden History Society.

Heather Ironmonger



A trolley-load of purchases at Growing Friends sale.
Photo by Dr Richard Kirsner.



Although relatively small in size (about 3.4 hectares) Stony Range has been in existence for more than 50 years, and has been wrought from an old and disused sandstone quarry. Attempts at sale of this area failed as it was deemed too difficult to build on then. In 1957 it was proclaimed as a wildflower reserve, when some foresightful people started to cultivate it on a volunteer basis.

Today; after many years of commitment and work, it has graduated from a floral reserve to a Botanic Garden with the work of enthusiastic volunteers, under the umbrella of the local Warringah Shire Council. Its management is also steered by a volunteer advisory management committee. It is only recently that the current Council has realised what an asset this garden has become, and it has been forthcoming with more financial help.

The Garden can be divided into a lower and a steeper section, each planted with its appropriate flora. Little was left of its original flora, but we now proudly have a small rainforest area, and a sloping sclerophyll forested area, interspersed with good tracks that lead to interesting pockets of endemic and general Australian plants. We have also the distinction of growing Australian bushland plants only, and in springtime the blooms are a sight to see! Interesting sandstone rock formations, a picnic area, a pool side stage for small functions, and our Centenary Cascades that follow a natural rainwater course are also attractions that are more and more appreciated. More recent projects have been a sensory track, and a 'bush tucker' area. Surrounding schools are now also making more use of our facility, creating an 'al fresco' classroom where students are taught ecological and horticultural science. The students love it, and their interest is palpable!

Certainly, there are other and much larger national parks and flora reserves not far from us, but we have the distinction of being situated slam bang in the middle of the beachside suburb of densely populated Dee Why, north of Sydney along a strip of beautiful beaches. An oasis of peace and true blue Ozzie bushland along a busy highway and accessible to all for free!

We also have our own propagation nursery, managed by fully qualified curators, where we also sell plants that have been grown from seed or cuttings. We try to be as self sufficient as possible, but the local Council's insurance policy, that covers us, prohibits us from doing arduous or dangerous work, which is outsourced to private contractors. Our volunteers are a gregarious bunch, mostly retired people; we even have a nonagenarian amongst us of 96 years. He is still very vital and does great work! Past professions and careers come to the fore again here, with greater fun and commitment, since one can literally see one's efforts 'grow' and not have the greater responsibilities.

Once a year, in the spring, we hold a 'Spring Festival' when we have sales and festivities for visitors. Attractions like a live animal show, a 'Wires' stand, guided walks and a sausage sizzle amongst many other things which provide a focus on our botanic garden, and it is attended by many local and surrounding garden lovers.

We welcome visitors always except Christmas day and New Years day, trying to impart a love for nature and a responsibility to look after it. Volunteers are there on Tuesday mornings and Saturday afternoons for advice or guidance.

Council invitation to contribute

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden Tamworth, NSW

The friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden held our annual general meeting in August. There was no interest from the membership, and the executive and committee were re-elected with the addition of one new committee member only. Increasing the membership is an issue which we need to address.

About mid year, Tamworth Regional Council appointed a new 'Team Leader for Victoria Park and Cemeteries' who is responsible for administration, design, projects and maintenance of the botanic garden, among other areas. There were other staff replaced and appointed, and the Friends were hopeful that at last there would be permanent staff at the gardens and that some of our concerns relating to the shortage of staff would be addressed. However, because of the addition of cemeteries maintenance to the department there is no improvement to the situation at all, and we are disappointed about this outcome.

The Council is undertaking the Keychange Project to identify the community's vision for the future of Tamworth and define key strategies to achieve this vision. The project framework allows councils to identify and plan for funding priorities and service levels in consultation with their community and will improve Council's long term community, financial and asset planning. We intend, as a community group, to respond to Council's invitation to contribute and participate in the process. More directly relating to the Friends' activities, Council is also undertaking an analysis of the Victoria Park area, comprising the botanic gardens, the marsupial park, the miniature railway and a proposed men's shed, to develop a master plan to guide and direct future land use in this area. Representatives of all these user groups have had discussions with the Strategic Planning Division to discuss our views on what we would like to see happen in future.

Our spring open day in September was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather. We held a plant sale and information site at the Rotary Outdoor and Sustainability Expo held at the botanic gardens later in the month. Sales were reasonable, considering there were other plant retailers at the expo. We feel that lack of promotion by the organisers and few site holders resulted in poor attendance at the expo, and we doubt the viability of the event in the future. Council has given us permission to have a half day plant sale once a month at the nursery compound. The number of visitors and sales on these days seems to be gradually increasing.

The Threatened Species program being undertaken jointly by the Friends and the Tamworth Australian Plants Society is now eighteen months old. The initial plantings have survived winter, appropriate frost tolerant plants having been chosen, and the next working bee scheduled soon will comprise digging trenches for irrigation, weeding and mulching. Collecting seeds and propagating is the next project, which interested APS/Friends members are busily doing.

Our next major project will be landscaping around our dam and hillsides, since the sealing of the dam floor has been successful. Incorporated into the landscape will be a small Japanese garden, simple in design, and the steep hillside rising up behind one side of the water. It should look quite spectacular when complete and will be an attractive feature.

Christine Reeves

Historic highlight

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Warrnambool, Victoria

The Botanic Gardens are one of Warrnambool's treasures; they are recognised as significant at local, state and national level and are on the Register of the National Trust the National Estate and Victorian Heritage Register. The Friends of the Gardens was established 22 years ago with the aim of preserving and promoting our Guilfoyle designed garden.

The historic highlight of our past year was the reinstatement of the gun in the Gardens on a new stand constructed by The Triton Woodworkers club with the generous assistance of many local donations. This is how the project unfolded. Warrnambool's *Examiner* newspaper reported in May 1872, that a 32pdr gun on traversing platform was on its way from Melbourne. This is probably the gun and platform that was placed in the Gardens in 1910. The carriage and platform of Burmese teak was constructed at the Royal Carriage Department of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich U.K. in the early 1860s, with local modifications by the Volunteers after arrival.

By 1995 it was apparent that immediate conservation work was necessary. The Friends were keen to be involved, but were advised the task was beyond them. In 2007 a fence was erected around the cannon as it was deemed to be dangerous to children who climbed on it. The Friends wrote to the Warrnambool City Council outlining their concern and expressing willingness to seek funding and to assist with restoration. Council agreed to the Friends taking responsibility and with the cooperation of the Warrnambool community the gun on its replica carriage was restored to the Gardens in 2010, one hundred years from when it was first placed there

Our other historic icon, the 'Lone Pine' of Gallipoli fame, is on the register of significant trees. Its provenance has been well researched. It was grown by Mrs Gray from a cone brought back by Sgt McDowall. This year a seedling grown by one of our members, Lou Hollis, was presented to the Lexton Progress Association. Other seedlings will be incorporated into our gardens.

Back in the present, for the first time we have had the luxury of meeting in our own room which we call Scoborio's shed. This derelict old sandstone building was made available to us by the Council. With the assistance of Rotary, the gardens staff and the Council it has been converted to a meeting room, office and repository for our records and books. These are currently being recorded and classified by two of our members.

The guiding Friends offer free guided walks twice a month and they now have upgraded guiding notes (thanks to Laurel Myers) and four new guides. Our annual Spring Garden Days are well attended and supported by numerous local businesses and the team at the Gardens. One third of our members have agreed to get a digital copy of our quarterly newsletter. Our waterwise garden is to be extended and will provide an educational display that tells the story of water over the years. And we are negotiating with Council for better signage to help visitors find our historic Gardens.



Before...
and After



Calendar of events

2011

National Arboretum Canberra Open Days
Second Sunday of every month 10am-4pm

2012

April 28-29 Southern Highlands NSW
Town & Country Gardens
<www.shbg.com.au>

17-20 August, Port Augusta, South Australia
AFBG Conference: 'Mangroves to Myalls & More'
Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic
Gardens
<www.australian-aridland-botanic-garden.org>

2013

September Christchurch New Zealand
Australasian Voluntary Guides Conference

October Dunedin New Zealand
6th BGANZ Biennial Congress
5th BGCI Global Botanic Gardens Congress

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

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>

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
<www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/>

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>

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.
Burrendong Arboretum, PO Box 465, Wellington NSW 2820.
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay NSW 2536.
Moama & Echuca Community 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.
Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Friends of. Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000.
Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, Friends of. 443b Moss Vale Rd, Bowral NSW 2576.
Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, Advisory Committee. 369 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why NSW 2099.
Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1393, Tamworth NSW 2340.

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

Queensland

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. Palm Creek Rd, Tanawha, QLD 4556.
Peacehaven Botanic Park, Friends of. 30 Sunray Drive, Highfields QLD 4352.

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, Queens Domain, Hobart TAS 7000.
Tasmanian Arboretum, PO Box 370, Devonport TAS 7310.

Victoria

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. PO Box 117, Strathdale 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.
Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 391, Castlemaine VIC 3450.
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 Gardens, Friends of. 21 Alphington St. Alphington VIC 3078.
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 Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 47, Kyneton VIC 3444.
Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs, Friends of. PO Box 69, 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 3850.
St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens, Friends of. 5018 Ararat, St Arnaud Rd, Tottington VIC 3477.
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. Volunteer Lodge, Fraser Ave., Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, West Perth WA 6005.

New Zealand

Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 2553, Christchurch 8140 New Zealand.