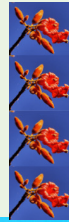


# THE CONFERENCE GUIDE BOOK



## The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate  
Changes and Technological Innovations*

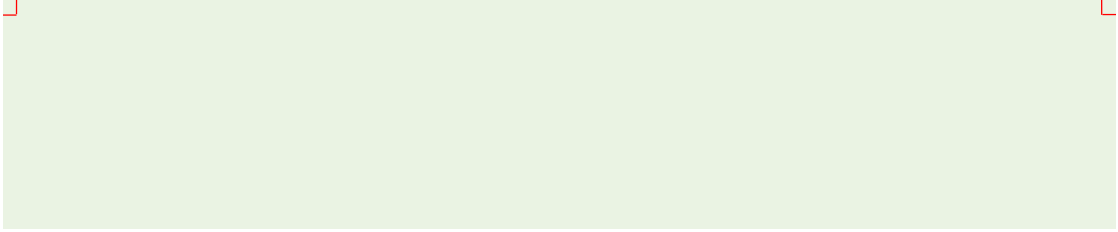
AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
- 26 August



Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden Inc



Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushlands Botanic Gardens

**The Challenge of Change**  
*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*  
 AAFBG Conference 2024  
 23 August  
 – 26 August

'We acknowledge the traditional owners the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi and the Jinibara peoples, and Elders past, present and emerging.'



# WELCOME

## My Message to the Conference

### **What is special about AAFBG?**

### **What is special about being here in Maroochy?**

Friends and volunteer groups are great avenues for us to build on existing skills and talents as well as pursuing new ones; ranging from initial information to detailed scientific knowledge about plants, their ecosystems, new technology, and enhancing other people's appreciation of them.

What do we like in addition to our own group?

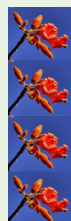
We love to learn about what other groups are doing in their different environments. Does their expertise open doors to solving problems we have, or great ideas for activities in our own groups? Let's go in for them.

What is special about AAFBG and Maroochy?

There are Friends and volunteer groups around Australia, as shown on our website's map. Maroochy has great examples of involving Friends in a range of botanic garden and related science activities. This AAFBG Conference 2024 is an example of like-minded people getting together from near and far to share experiences with solving problems, and strengthening our connections with other groups locally, regionally and nationally. It will engender greater inspiration in us and for our own group.

Linda Beveridge  
President

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

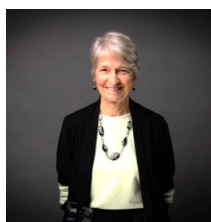
*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

**DR Judy West AO; Patron, AAFBG**



I began my botanical career with a Science degree at University of Sydney and a PhD at University of Adelaide, based on taxonomic and breeding system studies of the genus *Dodonaea* (hop bushes) in the family Sapindaceae. From 1980 I worked as a research scientist in CSIRO based in Canberra, as Director of the Australian National Herbarium and then as Senior Principal Research Scientist leading the Australian Flora and Natural Resource Management Program. Throughout my career, I have promoted plant taxonomic and systematics research through participation on numerous national and international associations and committees. I have also had a long term interest and have published on issues relating to biodiversity, biogeography and biodiversity informatics.

In 2009 I was appointed as the Executive Director of the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG), only retiring from this position in November 2022. It was a wonderful place to work and particularly to build its profile as an innovative scientific botanic garden. During my time at the ANBG I worked closely with the Friends of the ANBG and I respect and greatly appreciate their ongoing dedication and support of the Gardens. In all settings, Friends' assistance contributes significantly to the quality of the visitor experience and enhances conservation and research activities. With inspiration from you as AAFBG members I will continue to be a strong supporter and advocate of Friends Groups across the botanic gardens sector.

## THE SPEAKERS

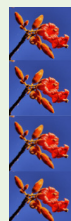
### **Linda Beveridge: President, AAFBG**



Since retirement from senior management in the Australian Public Service, Linda has found that there are wonderful avenues for her strong interest in conservation of plants, and the key roles that Friends and volunteers have at arboreta, botanic, heritage, and conservation gardens. Particularly with the AAFBG members locally and nationally, and their relationships with government and industry, as well as engaging the community.

Linda is an active member of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) and its Council, with a view to enhancing community awareness of the Friends, and ANBG's scientific, conservation and educational functions. Linda is also a strong supporter of the National Arboretum Canberra, and is convenor of the Friends of Black Mountain, a nature reserve, and a director of the Molonglo Conservation Group. These experiences are contributed toward the AAFBG, too.

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

**Cassandra Nichols ; CEO, BGANZ**



Cassandra is an ecologist who brings deep expertise in executive leadership of for-purpose organisations, strategic planning, financial management, cross-sectorial partnerships and stakeholder engagement. She was most recently CEO of Earthwatch Institute Australia and has also worked as Site Manager and Research Coordinator for the James Cook University Daintree Rainforest Observatory. Her passion is to work with all facets of society to ensure we value and protect the incredible planet we live on

#### ABSTRACT

With over 140 botanic gardens and arboreta across Australia and New Zealand, the value they provide to our countries is undeniable, yet highly underestimated. They are so much more than a beautiful place to visit, they conserve the very foundation of our lives - plants. And behind the scenes is this incredible workforce of volunteers - the Friends. I look forward to working with both botanic gardens and the Friends of botanic gardens to advance plant and biodiversity conservation, forge connections between people and plants and raise the profile of the critical work undertaken.

## THE SPEAKERS

### **Cr Joe Natoli; Councillor, Sunshine Coast Council**



Joe Natoli is a well-known and respected member of the Sunshine Coast community, having held a number of leadership and civic roles over more than 35 years. He was first elected in 1997 and served as a Councillor for two terms on the Maroochy Shire Council and was the last serving Mayor up until its amalgamation into the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in 2008.

Joe chaired various committees, including Environment and Community Services, Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens and Sister Cities. In 2020 He successfully ran for Division 4 Sunshine Coast Council and was re-elected for another 4 years in 2024.

### **Kate Heffernan; Horticulturalist, writer, presenter, tour leader - Master of Ceremonies**

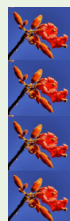


Now retired, Kate has spent two decades in professional and volunteer roles with Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens (GCRBG) and as a consultant to other botanic gardens. Kate is a former Chair of BGANZ Queensland, later National Representative, a committee member of AAFBG and a former member of BGCI. She has made presentations at Australian and international BGANZ, BGCI, and AAFBG conferences, and visited over 100 botanic gardens in her travels.

Career: Feature writer, Horticulture Australia and Gold Coast papers, Saturday Morning Garden presenter for ABC Gold Coast; Author, 'Celebrating Regional Biodiversity'; Tour leader to the gardens of France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Western Australia (wildflowers) and three AAFBG Tours. Awards: Gold Coast Australia Day Environmental.



## THE SPEAKERS



## The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

**Dale Arvidsson, Keynote Speaker,  
Curator, Brisbane's Botanic Gardens**



Dale is Curator of Brisbane's 3 botanic collections – Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha, the historic City Botanic Gardens, and beautiful Sherwood Arboretum, as well as Brisbane's well-loved and historic high profile parks.

Dale has 20 years' experience as a botanic garden's professional, with a diverse background that includes visual arts and design, tourism, and underlying all of this – a love for horticulture and plants.

Dale is impassioned about botanic gardens and their role in conserving and researching flora in the face of a changing climate and our increasing impact on the environment; as well as providing for places of beauty, history and connection to plants in modern and relevant ways. How Brisbane's botanic gardens and arboreta retain their relevance in today's world and making a real difference to the wider community through the Garden's experiences, is Dale's focus for the future.

### TOPIC

'The Challenge of Change'

### ABSTRACT

Botanic Gardens are often seen as static, unchangeable places of peace and tranquillity in our busy lives. Yet botanic gardens are everchanging environments often subtle, and sometime dramatically adapting to our changing world. Dale will address some specific projects that show how Queensland's capital city gardens are addressing change – the changing environment and changing visitor expectations of botanic gardens.

## THE SPEAKERS

**Bill Hadrill, Group Executive, Liveability & Natural Assets,  
Sunshine Coast Council**



Bill Hadrill is a Senior Executive with 15 years' experience in local and state government with a proven ability to drive business excellence through the development and implementation of contemporary long-term strategies that respond to future organisational and community needs.

In Bill's current position as Group Executive Liveability and Natural Assets he has oversight in balancing the need for sustainable residential, commercial, environmental and infrastructure management to meet the needs of the region's growing population.

The Liveability and Natural Assets Group's focus is on the natural environment, the environment we create and the living environment. The portfolio of responsibilities includes: long-term Environment and Liveability Policy development, sustainability policy, climate change, and resilience and adaptation planning and implementation.

### TOPIC

'A Changing Sub-Tropical Garden'

### ABSTRACT

With the Sunshine Coast region being one of the fastest growing regions in Australia, and in the face of climate change impacts and declining biodiversity, our botanic gardens play a key role in creating a sanctuary for nature and an inclusive and equitable green space for all people. Continuing to evolve and strengthen the relationship between the Friends, Council and other key partners to address The Challenge of Change and identify opportunities, will be critical to progressing successful outcomes for conservation, nature-based recreation, cultural heritage and education for the botanic gardens, now and into the future.

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

**Michael Gilles Environmental Visitor Centres Officer, Sunshine Coast Council**



Michael Gilles is an Environmental Visitor Centre Officer for the Sunshine Coast Council with 25 years' experience coordinating and implementing innovative conservation and community engagement programs. Michael has a strong sense of connection to the Sunshine Coast wallum and coastal heathland environments. His connection and knowledge of the many unique and wonderful wallum plants has been nurtured through many a wallum ramble with contemporary environmentalist including Barbara Henderson, Betty Sykes, Leigh Warneminde, Stephanie Haslam and Aunty Beverley Hand. Through these learnings he is keenly aware of the interconnectedness of all and everything and our role as custodians to look after and care for country.

#### TOPIC

A Changing Sub-Tropical Garden

## THE SPEAKERS

**Lawrence Smith AM,  
Landscape Architect; National Leader of ANSPA Garden Design Study Group**



Throughout his career as architect and landscape architect, from the early 1970's, Lawrie has been dedicated to his principal interest in promoting the sustainable use of our native flora in urban landscape projects of all scales, in Australia and internationally. This objective is specifically relevant to his involvement, particularly in Queensland, with the expansion of existing provincial Botanic Gardens and the development of new Regional Botanic Gardens planned to accommodate and encourage the significant but largely unrealised opportunities for continuing plant research and display. Botanic Gardens with his involvement, include: Gladstone, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Darwin, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville, Mackay, Whitsunday, Longreach, Barcaldine, Cairns and Cooktown.

### TOPIC

'Challenges always come with Opportunities?'

### ABSTRACT

This is true personally, but does it apply to botanic gardens? Grasping the opportunity that came with two unique personal challenges inspired my passion as a landscape architect for more than 50 years, and provided the opportunity to be associated with planning more than 20 botanic gardens throughout the bioregions of Queensland and elsewhere. A conference in 1984 to consider the "Status of native plants in the existing Botanic Gardens of Australia" set a challenge by recommending at least 18 new regional botanic gardens were necessary nationally. The opportunity was readily accepted in Queensland and supported by a network to encourage RBG members to meet, interact and make representation to government, council and corporate sector for assistance.

Without the dedicated input and assistance of a vital and vibrant group of community Volunteers and Friends, most town and regional Botanic Gardens would find it challenging to achieve the aims and create the opportunities for which their gardens were originally planned and developed.

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

#### **Malcolm Cox; Friends of MRBBG**

Malcolm is a retired teacher who enjoyed ten years as Education Officer at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and one year at RBG Edinburgh. His voluntary & environmental education interests began in marine mammal conservation. In retirement he has spent twelve years at Maroochy RBBG as a volunteer as well as a Friends' president and committee member.

#### TOPIC

'The Relationships That Define Us'

#### ABSTRACT

BG Friends groups operate in a complex set of ambitions, interests and expectations that achieve extraordinary outcomes through a complex set of connections. This short presentation describes five fundamental relationships Friends groups need to actively explore and integrate into their efforts to ensure that 'botanic gardening' continues to connect Plants, People and Place everywhere.

#### **Friends of Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta Inc.**

John Swar was unable to attend this conference but questions can be put to Greg Lane, Friends of the Botanic Garden, Adelaide.

#### TOPIC

'Changing the Appeal of Volunteering'

#### ABSTRACT

The new video 'Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens' celebrates the history of AALBG and the many roles played by Volunteers in its planning and continued development. The video offers insights into these roles, and the changes made in response to significant challenges.

## THE SPEAKERS

### **Dr Laura Skates; Events Officer, Friends of Kings Park**

Dr Laura Skates is a botanist, artist, and environmental educator living and working in the beautiful green city of Perth, Western Australia, on Whadjuk Noongar country.

In her research, Laura was fascinated by how plants interact with the world, and how people interact with plants. She completed her PhD on the nutrition and ecology of carnivorous plants, followed by an Australian Postgraduate Research Internship on science communication at botanic gardens.

#### TOPIC

‘Let’s grow wild: the role of Botanic Gardens and Friends Of groups in supporting pro-environmental behaviour change’

#### ABSTRACT

Botanic gardens and their Friends Of groups play an important role in raising public awareness of plant biodiversity and inspiring positive change for conservation and climate action. In this presentation, a framework for supporting community behaviour change will be shared, with a focus on how botanic gardens can support visitors and the wider community to adopt native gardening practices and help to restore urban greenspace beyond the boundaries of the botanic garden. Practical examples will be provided from the perspective of the Friends of Kings Park, which supports Kings Park and Botanic Gardens in Perth, Western Australia.

### **Renate Sliwa; Friends of Noosa Regional BG**

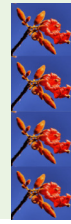
#### TOPIC

‘Connecting our garden to an on-line world’

#### ABSTRACT

The Friends of the Noosa Botanic Garden embarked on a long-term project in 2023 to map living plants in the garden into a multi-user spatial database. The database now contains 2800 records or about 40% of the plants in the garden. Along the way existing paper records were digitised, scientific names checked, basemaps created, varieties identified, and plants physically tagged. The tools evolved along the way, including switching from free open-source software to a professional on-line database. The project results to date have been used to publish new web maps and to inform a new 5 year council plan for the Garden.

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

**Sheridan Stewart; Dinner Speaker - Saturday evening**



SHERIDAN STEWART is an author and radio broadcaster known for her insightful, inspiring and relatable style – plus, she brings the fun! A popular FM presenter (Triple M), music journalist, comedy producer and speaker, Sheridan also facilitated personal and professional development workshops for women before joining the Australian Broadcast Corporation (ABC) in 2014. These days, Sheridan can be heard on ABC Radio Queensland (Sunshine Coast) when she's not swimming or writing! Sheridan's first book *I Am Enough – a 90-Day Challenge to Find Contentment*, was released in 2023, and she's currently developing a podcast inspired by her mantra *I have enough, I do enough, I am enough*.

Her talk will be on the challenge of change on a more personal note.

## THE SPEAKERS

**Liz Capelin;(Community Engagement Officer) & Mandy Botterell; (Education Officer), Environmental Visitor Centres, Sunshine Coast Council**

### TOPIC

‘Engaging the next generation: environmental programs and experiences for children and young people’

### ABSTRACT

From nature play activities and intergenerational events, to award-winning, region-wide programs inspiring future environmental leadership in school-age students, Mandy and Liz will discuss some of the innovative programs delivered by the Environmental Visitor Centres to engage children, young people, their families and educators at the Botanic Garden.

### **Dr Hilary Pearl; Botanist**

Dr Hilary Pearl completed her PhD in 2023 examining diversity values and the conservation status of the Sunshine Coast Heathlands. She now runs botanical workshops and leads the Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group of the Australian Native Plant Society of Australia.

### TOPIC

‘Collaborating for Change: Conservation of the Sunshine Coast heathlands’

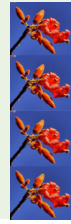
### ABSTRACT

The Sunshine Coast heathlands are threatened by urban development and population pressure. My research examined the extent and protection status of the remaining heathlands. The study identified areas of diversity and distinctiveness from Cooloola to Bribie Island, and to the montane heaths of our volcanic peaks. Excitingly, the broad matrix of the heath on the coast remains intact, albeit reduced in extent and patch size. This is a story of hope: with collaboration between community groups, councils, and organisations such as the Maroochy Botanic Gardens, we can retain the diversity values of the Sunshine Coast heathlands.

BINDING MARGIN



## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

#### **Dr Romane Cristescu, PhD MSc DVM; Research Fellow; Director, Detection Dogs for Conservation**

Dr Romane Cristescu is a conservation ecologist with a wide range of interests - all centred around this single and complex question: “how can we best help wildlife in a world dominated by humans?”

During the past decade Romane and her team have been developing detection dog and drone-mounted thermal camera survey methods, non-invasive molecular analyses (genetic, diseases and hormones measured in poo) and innovative technologies to monitor koala movement - both ear tag and collar based. Her methodology and legislation work has been specifically focusing on koalas.

Romane hopes that her research can be transformed into informed and effective policy, investments and management actions. Since its creation in 2015, the Detection Dogs for Conservation team has grown to include five detection dogs and many dedicated students and researchers.

#### TOPIC

‘Changing the koala’s fate through innovation: non-invasive methods and technology to safeguard our iconic species’

#### ABSTRACT

Koala, an iconic yet threatened species, is endangered throughout most of its range. The detection dogs for conservation team at UniSC has pushed innovative methods and technology with the aim to turn the koala’s fate around. Using specially trained detection dogs, drone mounted thermal cameras and Bluetooth eartags, evidence is accumulating that adaptive management methods and close collaborations between stakeholders can improve monitoring effort of koala populations, and ultimately reduce threats

## THE SPEAKERS

### **Joan Dillon, Committee Member, Barung Landcare**

Joan has been an active member of both environment and garden groups over many years. Her property in the Sunshine Coast hinterland is part of the Land for Wildlife network and then joined Gardens for Wildlife at the time it was established. A Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the Sunshine Coast Council is also in place. A major revegetation program and resulting habitat creation has attracted diverse wildlife to the property.

#### TOPIC

‘Community Nurseries and Gardens for Wildlife’

#### ABSTRACT

We are very fortunate in this region to have 5 community nurseries supplying many thousands of plants and information to individuals and other groups. Depending on availability of propagation material, a challenge in itself, a wide diversity of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, grasses and vines is stocked. Plant identification, weeds to look out for, control methods and revegetation techniques are constantly evolving workshop topics. Suitable space for workshop delivery can also be a challenge.

Growing plants could be described as our ‘bread and butter’ but we face constant challenges across many areas, particularly rapidly evolving communication methods which attract a younger demographic.

### **Tanika Orr; Eastern Arrente woman and founder, ‘Nooks & Cooks’**

Tanika Orr’s bush tukka-inspired catering business is based on Kabi Kabi country. She dedicates her work to educating both her community and the broader public on the rich culinary heritage of Indigenous Australians. Her business applies guiding principles of Aboriginal philosophy and wisdom passed down from seven generations of the past, promoting not only cultural awareness and appreciation but also celebrating the diversity and richness of Indigenous cuisine.

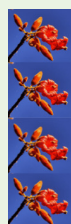
#### TOPIC

‘Bush Food Cultivation and Cooking from an Indigenous Perspective’

#### ABSTRACT

This session will give delegates a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of bush foods, the methods of cultivation, and innovative cooking techniques that honour and preserve Indigenous culinary traditions.

## THE SPEAKERS



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

#### **Christine Olney (President, Friends of Kings Park) with Dr Laura Skates**

Is your Friends Of group keen to encourage positive environmental change amongst your community? Join this workshop to learn more about the 6E's framework for behaviour change and how you can apply it to support your group's environmental goals. This framework recognises there is no single solution to promoting a sustainable behaviour change, and instead provides a mix of four key strategy areas (Enable, Engage, Encourage and Exemplify) which work together to target the motivations and barriers of different audiences. Surrounding these four strategies are crucial steps to Explore the context of the desired behaviour change, and to Evaluate the success of implemented strategies. Participants will be guided through the framework and encouraged to share examples of what has worked well (or not worked well) from their own botanic garden Friends Of groups.

#### TOPIC

'The role of Botanic Gardens in supporting community behaviour and changes toward native gardening'

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### Friday 23rd August

8.30am - 3:30pm

#### **Pre-Conference Bus Tour**

#### **'Snapshot of the Sunshine Coast'**

Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Noosa Botanic Garden, starting from and returning to the MRBBG

2pm - 4pm

Other delegates: **Registration**

Cafe (open until 2:30pm) and MRBBG Gardens are open.

Join others to have a walk around and to get to know the Gardens

#### **Wildflowers of the Gardens: Photographic Exhibition**

Arts and Ecology Building

4pm - 6pm

#### **Welcome Drinks – Arts & Ecology Lawn**

4:30pm

MC: Kate Heffernan

Welcome from President, Friends of MRBBG, Malcolm Cox, to Councillor Natoli; AAFBG Patron Dr. Judy West AO; AAFBG President, Linda Beveridge and Committee; delegates and partners

Welcome to the Sunshine Coast;

Cr Joe Natoli,

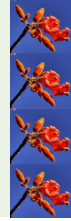
Division 4 Concillor, Sunshine Coast Council and Mayor of the former Maroochy Shire Council

Presentation of Handbury Awards;

Dr. Judy West AO, AAFBG Patron assisted by Linda Beveridge, President of AAFBG

#### **Tree Planting Ceremony**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



## The Challenge of Change

Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

### Saturday 24th August

8:30am - 8:45am

Last Minute Registration - Everyone Seated by 8:55am

8:55am - 9:00am

**Introduction to the Conference by the conveners**

*Lynn Viismas and Malcolm Cox*

*MC: Kate Heffernan, Friends of Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens*

9:00am - 9:15am

**Welcome to Country**

**Briana Hanson**, Kabi Kabi representative

9:15am - 9:30am

**Welcome from the AAFBG Patron**

**Dr Judy West AO**

9:30am - 10:30am

**'THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE': Keynote speaker**

**The Changing Climate and Changing Expectations of Botanic Gardens - Projects that address change**

**Dale Arvidsson**, Curator,

Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum, Brisbane, QLD

10:30am - 11:00am

MORNING TEA

11:00am - 12:00pm

**'A CHANGING SUB TROPICAL GARDEN'**

**Our Garden's role in how we meet the growing challenges in the decline of biodiversity, climate change impacts, population pressures, and our need for a sanctuary for nature**

**Bill Hadrill**, Sunshine Coast Council Group Executive, Liveability and Natural Assets, Sunshine Coast Council and

**Michael Gilles**, SCC Environmental Visitor Centre Officer; Mary Cairncross Rainforest Scenic Reserve, Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden, Bli Bli Wetlands

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Saturday 24th August (Programme Cont.)

12:00pm - 12:20pm  
Morning Wrap-up With the previous speakers'  
questions answered by THE audience  
Facilitated by **Kate Heffernan**

12:20pm - 1:20pm Lunch

1:20pm - 2:05pm  
**'CHALLENGES ALWAYS COME WITH OPPORTUNITIES?'**  
**The value of the promotion of native plants through  
Regional Botanic Gardens in Australia**

**Lawrence Smith AM,**  
Landscape Architect, National Leader of ANPSA Garden Design Study Group

2:05pm -3:05pm  
**'FRIENDS RESPONSES TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE'**  
- **the importance of maintaining strong Relationships**  
Friends of MRBBG  
- **changing the appeal of Volunteering**  
Arid Lands BG, Port Augusta, SA  
- **responding to changes in Climate**  
'Let's Grow Wild' Kings Park, Perth

**'FRIENDS RESPONSES TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE'**  
- **opportunities through Technology**  
'Plant Mapping' , Noosa Botanic Gardens

3:05pm - 3:25pm  
**Afternoon Wrap-up With the previous speaker's questions answered by  
the audience**  
Facilitated by **Dr Judy West AO** Former Executive Director, ANBG Canberra, ACT

### **Return to your accommodation**

5.00pm - 9.00pm **Conference Dinner  
at Mooloolaba Surf Club**  
Dinner Speaker - **Sheridan Stewart**  
Author 'I am Enough'  
and ABC Sunshine Coast Broadcaster, co-host - The Saturday Morning  
Gardening Club with Adam Woodhams

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



## The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August

8:30am - 9:30am

**Welcome to Day 2**, MC: Kate Heffernan  
& Introduction to Linda Beveridge, President AAFBG  
**AAFBG Presentation and AGM**

9:30am - 10:00am

**BGANZ Presentation**  
Cassandra Nichols, CEO BGANZ

10:00am - 10:30am MORNING TEA

10:30am - 11:00am

**'ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION'**  
**Environmental programs and experiences for children and young people**

**Ms Liz Capelin**, SCC Engagement Officer and  
**Ms Mandy Botterell**, SCC Education Officer  
from the Environmental Visitor Centres, Natural Areas Team, Sunshine Coast Council

11:00am - 12:00pm

**'COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE'**  
**Presentations from MRBBG Community Partners**

**'Conservation of the Sunshine Coast heathlands'**

**Dr Hilary Pearl**, Leader, Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group,  
Australian Native Plant Society

**'Changing the koala's fate through innovation: non-invasive methods and technology to safeguard our iconic species'**

**Dr Romane Cristescu**, University of the Sunshine Coast, Detection Dogs for Conservation

**'Bush Food Cultivation and Cooking from an Indigenous Perspective'**

**Tanika Orr**, Nooks and Cooks

**'Natives Naturally - How Community Nurseries can contribute to Gardens for Wildlife'**

**Joan Dillon**, Native Plants Sunshine Coast

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August (Programme Continued)** 12:00pm - 1:00pm

### **'THINGS WE FRIENDS WANT TO CHANGE'**

Come prepared with your thoughts to contribute to one of 2 facilitated 40 minute workshop discussions followed by a whole group presentation of ideas and Q&A

- **The Role of Botanic Gardens in supporting community behaviour and changes toward native gardening**

**Dr Laura Skates**, Botanist with **Chris Olney**, President, Kings Park Perth

- **Looking at our living collections backwards: making the science visible'**

**Dr Nita C Lester**, Former Qld Govt. Botanist, academic, author and botanical artist

1:00pm - 2:00pm LUNCH

2:00pm - 3:00pm

**RAPID FIRE - 'OUR STORY'** 6 groups of Friends are invited for 8 minutes to have a "brag session." Subject can be on any topic, program or achievement.

1 - Friends of MRBBG talk about our Council/Friends collaborative effort in creating a Sunshine Coast Butterflies and Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Garden

2 - Friends of North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour  
'An innovative use of social media – linking Instagram to our website'

3 - Adelaide Botanic Garden - 'Chihuly's Garden Cycle Exhibition' - the challenges of launching some events

4 - Mackay BG, Helen Paulsen

5 - Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum

6 -Pangarinda Botanic Garden, Samantha Blight, Coorong Council

3:00pm - 3:30pm

NEXT CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED, AND PRESENTATION

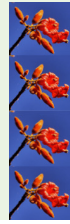
3:30pm - 4:00pm

**Wrap up of Conference** with AAFBG President, Linda Beveridge, Friends of MRBBG Conference co-conveners, Lynn Vlismas and Malcolm Cox and MRBBG Manager -Michael Gilles

FAREWELL FROM CONFERENCE 2024



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



### The Challenge of Change

*Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations*

AAFBG Conference 2024



#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August (Programme Continued)

3:00pm - 3:30pm

**NEXT CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED, AND PRESENTATION**

3:30pm - 4:00pm

#### **Wrap up of Conference**

AAFBG President, Linda Beveridge

Friends of MRBBG Conference co-conveners, Lynn Vlismas and Malcolm Cox  
MRBBG Manager - Michael Gilles

#### **FAREWELL FROM CONFERENCE 2024**

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August – Friends Day for Visitors & OUR BUSH MAGIC TOURS

Please select which walks you would like to take and sign on the sheets provide.

8:00am – 10am Walkers to meet Bob Ducrou & John McCabe at the A&E for the 'Tall Gums Bush walk.' This walk takes approx. 2 hours and covers 3.5km of uneven ground. Good walking shoes, water, hat and insect repellent a must, plus lots of enthusiasm.

9:00am – 10am Walkers to meet Malcolm Cox at the A&E for a walk in the Sculpture Garden. A gentle 900m walk through a subtropical garden.

10:00am **Morning Tea**

- Tallowood Shelter overlooking the Lagoon.

10:30am – 12 noon. **Inner Gardens Tour** Two different walks on offer:

- Nature Play: Whipbird Children's Garden with Malcolm Cox
- Birdwing and Butterfly Discovery Garden and Lagoon walk with Judy Burrows

12:30pm. **BBQ Lunch in the Gardens at the Friends Shed**

BBQ'd sausages in w/m wraps with onions, coleslaw and condiments, fruit and sweet treats, champagne, beer, sparkling water and juices

- At The Shed

1:30 pm

**Farewell from the Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, Tanawha**

## 3 QUESTIONS FOR SPEAKERS

Three questions that the speakers below will ask the audience based on their presentation (Saturday 24th only).

These will become the basis of the Wrap Up discussions on Day 1.

### **Dale Arvidsson**

**Q1** How is your garden/arboretum adapting to changing climate change - and how has this affected your Friends group activities?

**Q2** How have you noticed visitor expectations are changing around access to knowledge and information during interactions?

**Q3** How did Covid fundamentally change what you do or how do you do it - at your garden/arboretum - for the better? What was lost?

### **Bill Hadrill**

**Q1** How can Regional Botanic Gardens best contribute to the conservation of biodiversity under the influence of changing climate?

**Q2** What else can Botanic Gardens do to showcase the benefits of growing local native species in our gardens?

**Q3** How do Botanic Gardens best balance the traditional role of Botanic Gardens with the increasing demand from the community to access green space?

### **Lawrence Smith**

**Q1** PROMOTION:

Queensland NRBG (BGANZO) prepared a distinctive printed brochure to promote the network - have you seen it? Is it readily available, useful? What methods are most suited to promote regional botanic gardens? What is the audience? Preference for printed or digital versions?

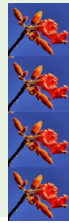
**Q2** STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Is there a need to develop a strategic document to guide optimum planning and management of botanic gardens that will assist all RBG to maximise the physical, scientific, educational and social values of their own facility?

**Q3** BOTANIC MULTICULTURALISM

Australia's population is rapidly becoming increasingly multicultural, consequently diluting the appreciation and use of Australian flora and increasing the use of foreign flora? How can RBG make a difference?

## THE SETTING



### The Challenge of Change

Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations

AAFBG Conference 2024



23 August  
– 26 August

The **Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden** is a relatively new garden set within a tall re-growth forest. It came about through a collaboration between the Friends and the then Maroochy Shire Council, now Sunshine Coast Council. The Friends group was set up in the mid 1990s, the Council purchased the site in 1997, the Masterplan, designed by Lawrie Smith AM was adopted in 1999, and the Botanic Garden was officially opened in 2001.

Much of the initial planting and maintenance of the site was achieved through the dedication, insight and efforts of the Friends group with some aspects such as landscape design, infrastructure, finance and support from the Council.

From the outset the goal of the Friends group has been.....

*'The establishment of a world class Regional Botanic Garden with a unique character based on the natural characteristics of the Sunshine Coast area.'*

By 2011, with the opening of the federally funded Arts and Ecology Centre, a venue which has hosted environmental art workshops for school children and adults alike, residencies for nature-based artists, talks about native plants suitable for backyard plantings, and exhibitions of Friends' and other artists' work, the Botanic Garden was well on the way to achieving its stated goal.

The building, designed to be an exemplar of the best sustainable design practices indeed showcases - "harmony between man and the living earth" with the gardens surrounding the building designed to illustrate the elements - earth, fire, air and water.

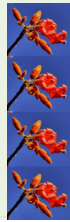
Some of the memorable gardens and walks well worth a visit while you are here is:

- the Fern Glade and Mossy Log garden
- the Children's Whipbird Village and Walk
- the Creek Walk
- the Rain Garden, Contemplation Garden and Rock Pools
- the Lagoon Walk
- the Sculpture Garden with its World Class sculptures  
*and*
- the soon to be planted Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Garden  
*and*

For those of you more energetic and more enthusiastic there are the extended bush trails noted on the map included in this booklet...

# MAP of REGION





# The Challenge of Change

Discussing Relationships, Volunteering, Climate Changes and Technological Innovations

AAFBG Conference 2024



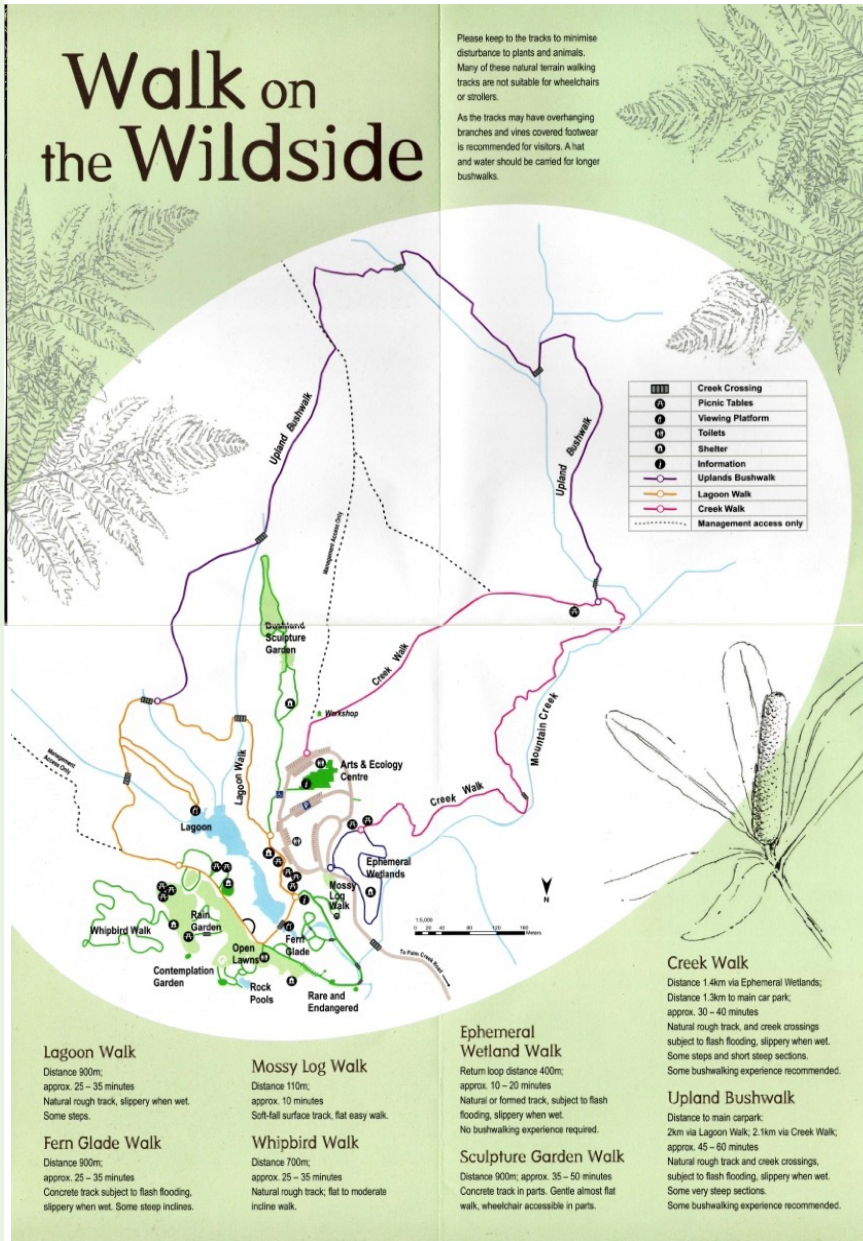
23 August  
– 26 August

## MAP of GARDENS

# Walk on the Wildside

Please keep to the tracks to minimise disturbance to plants and animals. Many of these natural terrain walking tracks are not suitable for wheelchairs or strollers.

As the tracks may have overhanging branches and vines covered footwear is recommended for visitors. A hat and water should be carried for longer bushwalks.



NOTES

NOTES



Friends of Marochy Regional Bushlands Botanic Gardens