



**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 and MRBBG Gardens are open.

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

**Wild Flowers of the Gardens Photographic Exhibition Open  
- Arts and Ecology Building**

4pm - 6pm

**WELCOME DRINKS - A&E LAWNS**

Welcome to the Mayor, AAFBG patron, AAFBG committee,  
delegates and partners,  
*President, Friends of MRBBG*

Welcome to the Sunshine Coast,  
*SCC Mayor, Cr. Rosanna Natoli*

Presentation Handbury Awards,  
*Dr. Judy West AO, AAFBG Patron*

**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**

Bob Ducrou, Lynn Vlismas and Malcolm Cox

MC: Kate Heffernan, Friends of Gold Coast Botanic Gardens

9:00am - 9:15am

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

**Briana Hanson**, Kabi Kabi First Nations

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, Queensland

10:30am - 11:00am

MORNING TEA

11:00am - 11:45pm

**‘Change in a Sub Tropical Botanic Garden’**  
**“The Challenges Involved in Creating a Bushland Botanic Garden within a Biosphere”- Making a difference by maintaining Biodiversity**

**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

11:45 - 12:30

MORNING WRAP-UP WITH THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS’  
QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE AUDIENCE  
Facilitated by Kate Heffernan

12:30pm - 1:30pm

LUNCH

1:30pm - 2:15pm

**‘Challenges always come with Opportunities?’**  
**‘The value of the promotion of native plants through Regional Botanic Gardens in Australia’**

**Lawrence Smith AM**,  
Landscape Architect,  
Native Plants Queensland Garden Design Study Group Leader

## SATURDAY 24th August PROGRAMME CONTINUED

2:15pm -3:15pm **'Friends Responses to the need for Change'**

- the importance of maintaining  
strong *Relationships*

- Friends of MRBBG

- changing the appeal of *Volunteering*

- Volunteering SC

- responding to changes in *Climate*

- 'Let's Grow Wild'  
Kings Park, Perth

- opportunities through *Technology*

- 'Plant Mapping'  
Noosa Botanic  
Gardens

3:20pm - 3:30pm DAY 1 WRAP UP

**Dr Judy West AO**

Former Executive Director,  
ANBG Canberra, ACT

Garden closes at 5:00pm

**Return to your accomodation**

5.30pm - 9.30pm **Conference Dinner  
at Mooloolaba Surf Club**

Dinner Speaker - **Sheridan Stewart**

ABC Sunshine Coast Saturday Breakfast and  
Gardening show Presenter, and Author

## SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

8:30am - 10:00am **Welcome to Day 2**  
& Introduction to Linda Beveridge, President AAFBG  
**AAFBG Presentation and AGM**  
**BGANZ Presentation**  
Cassandra Nichols, BGANZ CEO

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’**

**Panel Discussion with MRBBG Community Partners**

- **‘Conserving our unique Heathlands: what DNA tells us’**  
**Dr Hilary Pearl**  
University of the Sunshine Coast
- **‘Koalas, Drones and Dogs’**  
**changing the fate of Koalas through Innovation’**  
**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

12:00pm - 1:00pm

## **‘THINGS WE FRIENDS WANT TO CHANGE’**

Come prepared with your thoughts to contribute to one of 3 facilitated 30 minute workshop discussions followed by whole group presentation of ideas and Q&A

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

Presented by **Dr Laura Skates**, Botanist  
with **Chris Olney**, President Kings Park Perth (TBC)

**Point of Difference - The Rare and the Threatened**  
**Kate Heffernan**,

Landscape Architect, and former President AAFBG

**Changing visitor expectations:  
The growing pressure to make Botanic Gardens a  
multi-purpose social, educational and wellness venue  
for the community**

**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 to have a "brag session"  
6 groups for 8 minutes with a final 10 min Q&A.  
All digital material to be submitted prior to Conference,  
first in first chance.

Subject can be on any topic, programme or achievement.

- **Friends of MRBBG talk about our Council/Friends collaborative effort in creating a SC Butterfly and Richmond Birdwing Butterfly Garden**
- **(Another 5 Friends groups to nominate their topic)**

3:00pm - 3:30pm

**Next Conference announced, and Presentation**

3:30pm - 4:00pm

WRAP UP OF CONFERENCE

AAFBG President, Linda Beveridge

MRBBG President, Lynn Vlismas

MRBBG Manager - Michael Gilles

**FAREWELL FROM CONFERENCE 2024**



**MONDAY 26TH AUGUST**

**Our Bush Magic tours**

- 7:30am                    **Outer Gardens Tour**
- Bird Walk along the Creek Walk
  - Tall Gums Trail - with Bob Ducrou and John McCabe
- 10:00am                    **Morning Tea**  
Tallowood Shelter overlooking the Lagoon
- 10:30am                    **Inner Gardens Tour**
- Nature Play Whipbird Children's Garden
  - Art in the Gardens including the Fern Glade
  - Birdwing and Butterfly Discovery Garden and Lagoon walk
  - Walking with Dinosaurs
- 12:30pm                    **BBQ Lunch in the Gardens**
- 1:30 pm                    **Farewell from the Friends**