



EUCALYPT

AAFBG MAGAZINE

No 58 MAY 2022



The scene: The 2022 AAFBG Conference at Eurobodalla.

The announcement: The host for the 2024 AAFBG Conference isMaroochy!

The response: Oh dear! What have we done? What have we let ourselves in for?

How did it come about? When the possibility of Maroochy hosting the 2024 Conference was raised. 'We wouldn't rule it out absolutely.' Fatal mistake!

An early concern we raised was the similarity of Eurobodalla and Maroochy, as both are 'bushland' gardens, both are regional gardens, both started on disturbed land (here cleared for the dam, ours farmed and logged), both have only a small proportion of constructed gardens, both were very much created by the Friends, both were and still are very much 'hands on' with Friends activities in the gardens. Similar history, different outcomes, which, we were assured, makes for an interesting comparison. So with this concern dealt with, we accepted our fate.

So what can you expect in 2024 Conference? Maroochy!?

Where? Not sure at this point – we don't have the same fantastic facilities as Eurobodalla, so will probably have to find a venue away from our Gardens.

When? We are proposing to hold the Conference on 30 August to 1 September. August and September are our driest and least humid months. Temperatures are very pleasant and there are people swimming at

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS

The AAFBG has 68 members all round Australia plus 5 overseas associate members. See our website for a full listing.

Incorporation A0026805Z

Patron: Dr Philip Moors

Office bearers

President: Linda Beveridge, Friend ANBG

Vice-Pres: vacant

Sec/Public Officer: Bob Ducrou,

Friend Maroochy Reg. Bushland BG

Treasurer: Ahmed Rashidi, Friend Wombat Hill BG

General Committee

Kate Heffernan, Friend Gold Coast BG

Jill Brownlee, Friend Noosa BG

Elizabeth Gilfillan, Friend Buninyong BG

Merrill Shulkes, Friend Ballarat BG.

Admin Officer

vacant

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Membership

Annual subscriptions are due on 1 April

\$50 for up to 250 members

\$150 for 250-500 members

\$250 for 500-1000 members

\$400 for 1000+ members

Eucalypt

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our beaches without wetsuits! It's outside school holidays so it's less crowded and prices are off-peak. It's also a good time of year for other activities – peak wildflower time, there's whale watching, a recently opened twenty brewery Craft Beer Trail and plenty of other attractions. K'gari (formerly Fraser Island) is just up the road a bit and well worth a visit.

We are also looking at a pre- and a post- conference day trip. One would take in the iconic Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, the Bilai Wetlands, Noosa Botanic Gardens and a few surprises. The other has an Indigenous theme and was being developed by a local tour company when COVID struck. It was aimed at cruise ship passengers stopping off for the day and as an alternative to the famous Australia Zoo – home of the Crocodile Hunter.

So a great time and place to visit, but what of the Conference itself?

What will the theme be? Don't worry, we were assured, the theme will come to us. So far it hasn't arrived.

The format of the conference is also not yet determined, but will probably be a mixture of formal presentations, workshops and discussion groups. If anyone has any suggestions or comments on theme or format, we'd love to hear from you!

So, the Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens invite you, in two and a bit years, to take part in the 2024 AAFBG Biennial Conference and to enjoy the delights of the Sunshine Coast.



Photos from Maroochy website:

www.friendsofmaroochybotanicgardens.org.au

Past President's report

Kate Heffernan



This report was originally presented at the AGM at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

There have been some highlights deserving of mention this year, not the least that there has been a return to near normal for most of us. My role as President didn't commence until August 2021 after AAFBG was unable to gain a President at the Annual General Meeting held in Adelaide. It's been a time of activity and meetings, and finally a Conference after a 4-year interlude.

To meet face to face at Eurobodalla must be the highlight for what I believe are the four most important things for our Association - communication, commitment, collaboration, and camaraderie.

To fulfil the objectives of AAFBG takes committed people and it takes communication. This year, once again, Anne Rawson has presented our *Eucalypt* magazine faultlessly. Nine Friends groups, as well as reports and individual articles, resulted in an informative and inspiring most recent edition. Special thanks to Anne who manages *Eucalypt* so well.

e-ucalypt news also makes an impact. Over twenty four Friends groups contributed either once or more often throughout the past year, as well as other relevant information about grants or articles, and news from BGANZ, BGCI, and Garden Clubs Australia. Thanks go to Chantal de Vere, AAFBG Administration Officer, for putting this together, initially fortnightly and more recently every three weeks. Chantal resigned in March, and thanks have been sent officially. We wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

AAFBG website is managed professionally by WordsWorth communicating, and they also provide valuable administrative assistance.

Zoom committee meetings are friendly and productive, with a lot of the emphasis this year being on the Conference, and general business introducing merchandise such as AAFBG tea towels, and our postcards. Thanks Elizabeth for making these things happen. We also looked at the role of administration and suggested a small increase in total hours, a reduction in our *e-ucalypt news*, to every three weeks, as well as a new banner design to keep up with technology. We also discussed sponsorship, and if the year had been not quite so busy had hoped to develop a sponsorship prospectus and a list of potential sponsors who align with our values and approach.

Thanks to members who suggested Tasmania for garden visits and to Jon Baines Tours – Jon gave professional and personal service to AAFBG, and the tours were organised to run seamlessly, on time, and introduced participants to diverse, beautiful, and interesting botanical locations. Not to mention the meals, wine tastings, and camaraderie. The tour gave us time to talk, to get to know each other, and learn about each Friends group. The tours also generated very worthwhile income for AAFBG, and more are in the planning. (See page 19.)

Sharing ideas, successes and challenges are vital to an Association whose principal role includes collaboration through information sharing, watching out for and letting members know about potential funding opportunities, providing informative news, as well as advocating for members. Recently AAFBG sent letters of support to two member groups where the backing of AAFBG added strength to their stated objectives.

The Handbury Awards are not only recognition of the contribution of individual or Friends member groups, the awards add to the reputation of Friends groups and hopefully lead to acknowledgment from their Botanic Gardens management organisation, and local communities. Congratulations to this year's recipients. (See page 14.)

I've enjoyed my role as President, and I was honoured to be asked and to be appointed to fill the casual vacancy. Thank you to all the committee members I've had the pleasure and privilege to work alongside since last August, Ahmed for financial matters, Bob, Elizabeth as Acting Secretary, Jill, Lynne, Merrill, Murray as Vice President, and Neville.

Lastly, congratulations and thank you to the Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. All the time I've watched and seen the efforts by Lynne and the team working towards the conference, and demonstrating a lot about resilience and renewal. Inspiring!

Kate Heffernan

Lesley Vincent



Past Acting Secretary's report

Elizabeth Gilfillan

This is an edited version of the report originally presented at the AGM at Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens



Conferences and events don't just happen; through passion and commitment our members have hosted conferences, the last being in Benalla four years ago, having unfortunately to cancel the Brisbane Conference in 2020. It was in Benalla that we met Liz Barraclough representing Eurobodalla. Liz spoke to us and said this was something that would be great for Eurobodalla and here we are. Sincere thanks to Liz who had to step back from leadership and now to Lynne Anlezark and her team our appreciation for this great weekend. I feel confident to quote Lynne 'everyone attending the conference will return to their groups energised, inspired and better equipped to meet the challenges that we face'.

Communication between AAFBG members is invaluable showing support and advocacy. The website is the resource of current news, historical information and governance documentation. Our thanks to WordWorth Communicating for their professional technology support. Technology plays a vital role and it has exploded since AAFBG inception. Professional expertise in support of your peak body operations is essential. Eight years ago, with finances at break-even, the AAFBG received the generous gift from Dr Geoffrey Handbury of \$10,000.00 per annum for five years, to support administration. The remainder of the gift is held in term deposit and of course AAFBG has managed very well until the last three years which have taken a considerable toll but has been ably supported with the success of the recently held two very successful AAFBG botanical tours to Tasmania.

The AAFBG states in its Structure and Rules the requirement for Administrative Assistance. A contracted Administration Officer responsible to the COM Executive manages the general operations and communication with members. (Part 5. 47 (2) The Secretary acts in association with the Administration Officer.) My appreciation and best wishes to Chantal de Vere for her assistance over the past two years. The support of all AAFBG committee members and magazine editor, Anne Rawson, is greatly appreciated. It was a great pleasure to welcome Kate Heffernan back during the year and our sincere thanks for her Presidency.

Reminders to Members, to reference the valuable Information Kit available with updates, on the website . It is essential guidance for members and for newly forming groups to download and print hard copies to have in your offices. Also your AAFBG committee highly recommends members identify affiliation with its own peak body by adding AAFBG logo and web details to publications thus adding strength to their endeavours.

The title of this conference 'Thriving together, Resilience and Renewal in a changing world' has never been more appropriate, with many of AAFBG members encountering obstacles of many varieties over the past three years and of course your peak body committee is not exempt. At this AGM it is proposed that the new incumbent committee investigate a fresh pathway to the future and we look to everyone for guidance, the outcomes from this conference weekend will be very poignant within the decision making process.

The Legislation re Associations doesn't mandate the structure of the governing body so 'an Association can determine the structure it wants' [needs]. This national peak body of passionate representatives are extremely busy in their own roles. The peak body plays a vital role in connection and advocacy. It meets four times a year by Zoom, including face to face at the AGM, holds conferences and facilitates communication, so at this AGM your committee will seek your approval to investigate future governance possibilities.

Promotion through the bi-annual *Eucalypt* magazine, broadcasting members achievements and stories, along with regular three weekly *e-ucalypt news*, keeps us up to date with your events and happenings, your input is greatly appreciated and we ask you to please pass on to secretaries and send these publications to to all your members.

Meeting passionate people and being inspired by achievements in other parts on the botanical tours to both Singapore and Tasmania has been a great source of pleasure and will be repeated in new locations. AAFBG merchandise, tea towels and post cards are now available to share.

Dame Nellie Melba I am not, this is my final farewell as your Acting Secretary; I thank you for the honour of this office. My time on this committee began 14 years ago, representing Friends of Ballarat and Friends of Buninyong. Over eight years ago, as the then Vice President, I accepted the nomination of Secretary. The responsibility of the role remains with me, with great respect for those who have preceded this committee and the fine work of all who have contributed for the past thirty years.

My personal connection with Friends and support for Botanic Gardens comes from lifelong understanding and appreciation, beginning with childhood connection to the environment and gardening, through to a career in nursing with connection of sciences the land and human wellbeing. Thank you for the privilege.

Elizabeth Gilfillan.

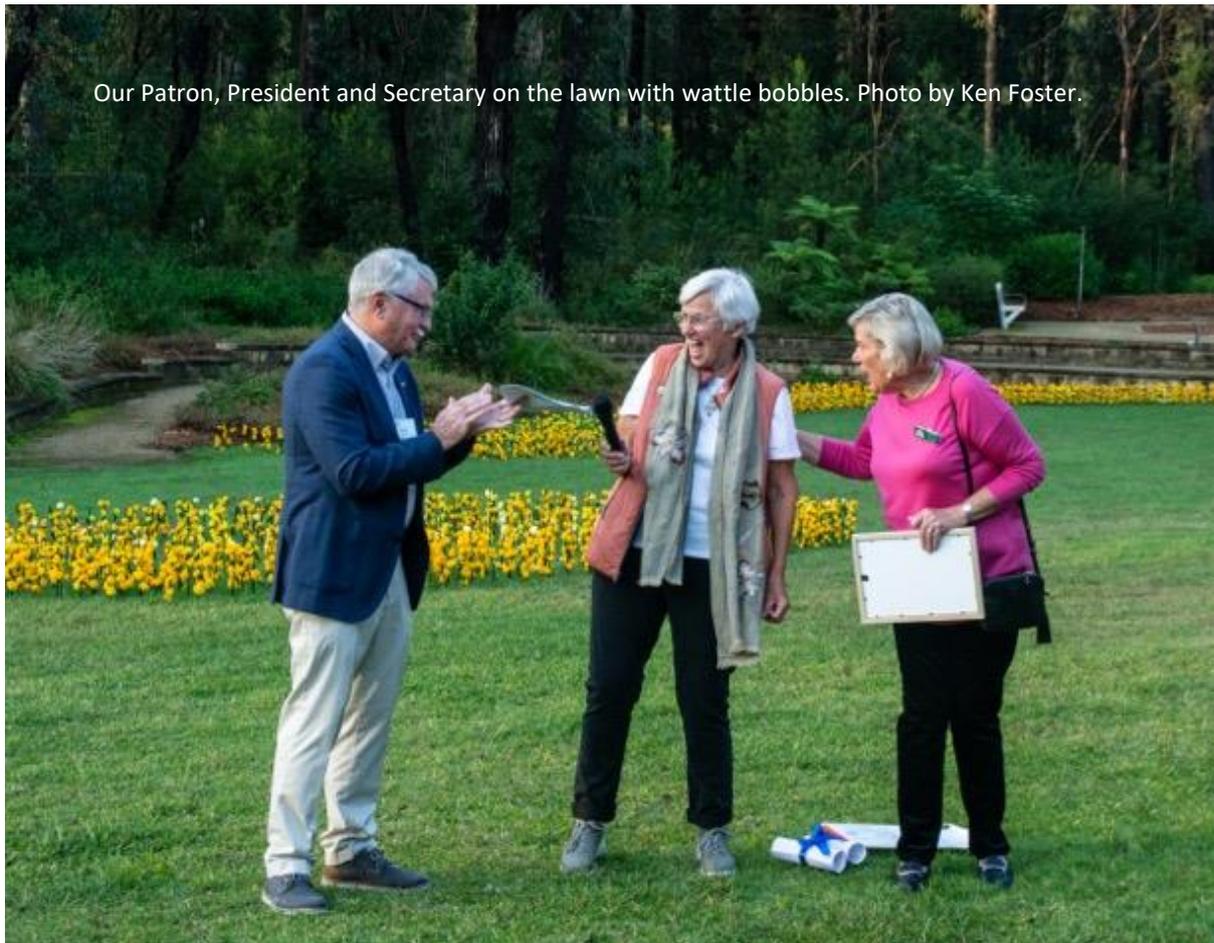
Lesley Vincent



2022 AAFBG Biennial Conference: Resilience and Renewal



Coming to the ERBG for the conference, the theme of resilience and renewal was on show all around. The creek we crossed from the car park to the Garden was rich with green plants and the creek was bubbling. There was a thriving *Hardenbergia* twined over the bridge railing. The lawn on the other side was lush and green and was covered in swathes of yellow bobbles, woollen acacia blooms on green stems made by members of the community. We got one of these stems-with-yellow-bobbles in our welcome bag, along with a big drink flask, program paper work and some tourist information.



Our Patron, President and Secretary on the lawn with wattle bobbles. Photo by Ken Foster.

Registration check-in and guided walks on Friday afternoon was followed by welcome drinks and finger food. The Mayor was unable to attend at the last minute, however Dr Catherine Dale, the General Manager of Eurobodalla Shire Council, stepped in to welcome delegates to the Eurobodalla. The sun shone, and the threat of 'rain until June' proved hollow!

The presentation of the Handbury Awards was conducted by Kate Heffernan, AAFBG President, and Dr Phil Moors, AAFBG Patron. The recipients were: Elizabeth Gilfillan for 14 years tireless work, eight as Secretary of the AAFBG; Friends of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens and Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens. (See page 14 for more details.)

The program proper started on Saturday morning with the President of Friends of ERBG, Gabi Harding, taking up the big job of MC. Then a very special welcome to Country by Patricia Ellis, a member of one of the many tribes making up the Yuin people on the South Coast of NSW. This area was known as the

valley of the lost lovers; they defied the laws governing who could marry whom and were punished. Patricia said the moral of the story was: 'You do it you die'.

Our Patron, Dr Philip Moors, introduced us to the devastation of the Eurobodalla Garden; the trees became lines of ash on the ground that were then washed away in the flood. There was nothing to show that the trees had ever been there. The Gold Coast Garden was inundated and Lismore had landslides and is now closed. The Friends are critical to the renewal of these Gardens.



Michael Anlezark told us the traumatic story of the fire that swept through the Eurobodalla Garden on New Years Eve 2019. Just 15 days after \$3m and 18 months of building work was finished the fire destroyed nearly everything. 'It was so brutal, so fast.' Two thousand five hundred signs went; 60 kangaroos reduced to six. The Army came to help but they couldn't use chainsaws, so had to find other jobs. They rethought design: use steel instead of wood; maintain the wood that remains; NO plastics (never use poly-piping for taps); no organic mulch near buildings; expand asset protection zones. The Visitor Centre, in which we were meeting, survived on its own; there were no firefighters. So this is a model for the future. Friends were not allowed into

the1 Garden so each adopted a box of plants to care for; 4,500 plants went to the community. It was clear that the pain and trauma are still just below the surface. There were lots of questions, and tears.

After a morning tea of moreish scones and jam and cream, Professor Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (Tim to his Friends), took us through the changing realities of Gardens today. Through climate risk and climate readiness, succession planting, mapping the future of trees, world-wide modelling, conservation seed banks, collecting on high plains, Care for the Rare plans. (See Sale BG in *Eucalypt* No.57.) It was a big topic! What sticks in my mind is the picture of the big tree, the White Oak, that fell down in two bits and which was then cut and shaped into artistic seating. Now there are three new, climate-resilient trees planted among the logs, and they are doing much better than expected – succession planting in practice.



Lunch came in boxes that were full of sandwiches, wraps, bikkies, cheese, fruit, a lemon tart and a chocolate. I had the left overs for breakfast. In the afternoon we thought about how to be better Friends by splitting into four skill builder workshops to discuss:

- Maintaining a Flexible Backbone. Creating powerful and purposeful governance documents, conducted by Gillian Boyd, President Ulladulla and District Garden Club.
- Finance Matters. Grants and income conducted by Sue Cogger and Gail Stevens, Friends of Eurobodalla Regional BG

- How to Win Friends and Influence People. Attracting and retaining members conducted by Roger Permezel, Friends of Buninyong BG
- Regional Botanic Gardens. Safeguarding the future relationships, masterplans and MOUs conducted by Merrill Shulkes & Elizabeth Gilfillan, Friends of Ballarat and Buninyong BGs

If you wish to know the outcomes of these workshops, please contact Eurobodalla Gardens at: aafbg2022@erbg.org.au.

The last item for this first day was headed: People, Plants and Places. Paddie Lane and Daren Martin from Royal Botanic Garden Sydney Community Greening Team spoke about their work bringing communities together through community gardening. This is an outreach program, and takes them from Eden to Wilcannia, though much of their work is being done in south west Sydney.



The dinner that night at the Soldiers Club, Bateman's Bay, was a very convivial gathering. The food was good, stuffed chicken breast or beef brisket, plus dessert, but the best bits were the trivia quizzes conducted by the maestros, Derek and Fran Anderson, long term Friends of ERBG and frequent volunteers. There was an endless supply of chocolates as prizes.

Early risers on Sunday morning were conducted on bird walks through the Garden and were then given a barbecue breakfast, all managed by the local Friends. It was noted that the birdlife is still returning to the Garden since the fire. Dylan, one of the ERBG Council staff, also provided an impromptu orchid walk option. It was a wonderful opportunity to be in the Garden at that busy wildlife time of early morning, and before the Garden is usually open.

The Sunday morning program was AAFBG business, the AGM. President, Kate Heffernan, noted that too often when a group of Friends develop a Garden the council then takes over, so she encouraged Friends to invite Councillors to meetings and events, to partner with local TAFEs and unis, to stay in touch with local media, to exchange news via *Eucalypt* and *e-eucalypt news*. Acting Secretary, Elizabeth Gilfillan, reported that an Information Kit was available, that Admin Assistant, Chantal de Vere, had resigned, that the committee was planning a review and assessment of future pathways, that the next AGM is at Melbourne Gardens on 5 May 2023, and that she was resigning as Secretary after 14 years.

Elections for President, Vice-President and Secretary were called for by Philip Moors, but there were no takers. However seven committee members, Kate Heffernan, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Ahmed Rashidi, Jill Brownlee, Merrill Shulkes, Bob Ducrou, and Linda Beveridge were accepted by proclamation. At a later meeting of the committee it was decided that Linda would be President, Bob Secretary and Ahmed continue as Treasurer.

In special business it was noted that the new committee would look at the governance of the organisation, at possible new pathways, at project based planning and at ways to service the members.

The final admin. number was a report by Chris Russell, President of BGANZ, who reported that they have 130 Garden members, that the Global Botanic Garden Congress will be held in Melbourne in September and that Botanic Garden Day is on Sunday 29 May.



The conference program continued with a focus on education at the Eurobodalla Garden, starting with the Wallace Herbarium. This important collection of species in the local area from the mountains to the sea, begun by the Wallaces in 1986, is run by volunteers, managed by knowledgeable volunteer curator, Tricia Kaye. The Herbarium contains 14,000 specimens, collected by 65 volunteers over 40 years. The new purpose built Herbarium, opened in 2019, survived the fire which burnt 75% of the collecting area, 60% at high to extreme severity, putting 45 species at risk. One of the post-fire miracles was the reappearance of the rare *Hibiscus richardsonii* and the discovery of two new species of *Correa bauerlenii*.

The school education program, run by Lily Berry, focusses on Year 4 students, 600 of whom spend a day in the Gardens each year; they come one school at a time! The children dissect a *Correa reflexa*, learn about the life cycle of plants, pot up a *Lomandra* and rush about the Garden trying to find particular things. It gives the kids a lesson about science and nature and gives them a connection to the bush. Lily herself participated back in 2003, and credits it with contributing to her love of the environment.

Chris Heazlewood told us about the Jenny Liney OAM Scholarship which is worth up to \$5000 a year and is awarded to one or two secondary students about to start tertiary studies in environmental, natural sciences. We then saw a video of the latest recipient, Lavinia, a bright, beautiful, articulate young woman.

This had been a very full morning so there was no time for morning tea or a toilet break and we moved straight on to four presentations about thriving together in community partnerships. Annie Lane pointed out that Ferdinand Mueller got 1300 recruits to collect plants, an early model of citizen science. This is a cost effective way to collect data and the data from water watch is now being used by some government agencies. The app *inaturalist* lets you record your observations of anything out in nature, discuss it with others, and finally it goes to the Atlas of Living Australia.



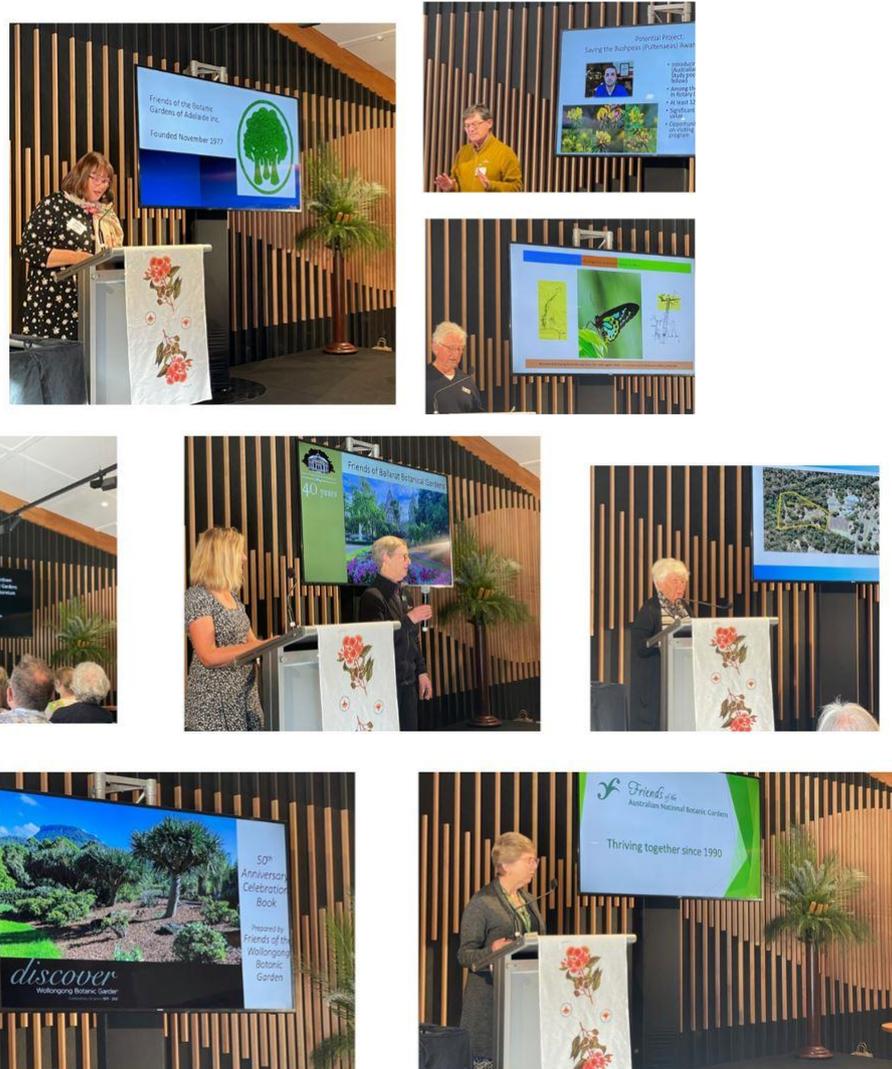
Catherine Maxwell from SHASA, the Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance, detailed a list of the projects they run or support: installing bulk solar; hiring out electric bikes; building heatwave and bushfire havens; running a Repair Café; upgrading community halls; giving locals the opportunity to test drive an electric vehicle before deciding to buy; and advocating for more charging stations. She also spoke about the need to be organised and ‘grant ready’ at all times. It has proved very beneficial for them.

A group of concerned parents, wanting more services in the Eurobodalla for their children who live with disability, set up Muddy Puddles in 2014. It has grown to employ 30 staff and volunteers. It provides therapy and support, giving these children and young adults the opportunity to develop their skills and achieve their goals. She outlined how involving all staff, paid or volunteer, in setting and understanding the organisation’s goals has been vital.



Finally to food, to Mark from SAGE which produces sustainable food, demonstrates how to grow it, runs a farmers market and workshops, has a kitchen community garden, and has a turnover of \$100,000 a year. It also has a catering business, so we retired for a delicious vegan lunch in a box from SAGE.

The Rapid Fire was a brag session when nine Gardens had less than ten minutes each to tell us about something special that was happening at their place. Gold Coast: membership of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (see *Eucalypt* no.57). Maroochy: butterfly walk (See *Eucalypt* no.56). Camperdown: making a beautiful garden while fighting Council. Wollongong: Their book to mark 50 years. ANBG: Banksia Garden. Hall's Gap: Their recent grant that built a toilet for volunteers. Ballarat: Costa's recent un-scheduled visit. Sydney: The Growing Friends Program. Adelaide: Their recent publication, *A walk through history*.



So at the end of this conference we heard that Maroochy had volunteered to host the next one in 2024. Bob Ducrou lamented that their Garden did not have the sort of meeting space we had been using at Eurobodalla, that they would have to be creative about finding a space. But they would! And that there would be much thought about a theme; perhaps appealing to the young, or younger, perhaps the use of technology to spread the message. Whatever it was they would do the work to make it as good as the one that was just wrapping up. (See article by Bob Ducrou on the front page.)



So it was wrapped up with all the usual thankyou's from all the usual people, with a big thank you to Eurobodalla's front line workers in their distinctive sashes. We went home looking forward to a visit to Horse Island the next day.



At nine o'clock on Monday morning two buses and four or five cars set off for the one hour trip south to Horse Island in Tuross Lake. We went through Mogo which had been wiped out by the fires and were pleased to see it looking nearly normal, and through Bodalla, still promoting and displaying its cheese heritage. It was a beautiful sunny day. We turned off the highway and crossed a narrow wooden bridge to enter the private property of Horse Island where we were welcomed by its owner, Christina Kennedy, and her head gardener.

This 200 acre island has wide, green sweeps of lawn (a compact golf links) lined with very tall Eucalypts, between three (or was it four) gracious Tuscan-styled buildings. The gardens around the buildings were all native plantings, but they looked very different from their usual free-form selves. They had all, or most of them, been pruned into round or flowing shapes, so there was the appearance of a more formal garden. It was stunning, and a lot of work.

We were free to roam through the kitchen garden, Grevillea garden, down the line of natives pruned on to very tall trunks, like standard roses, past the circular pond and rill with goldfish, to the Buddah grove by the lake, to the swimming pool surrounded by its Italianate pavilion where there was morning tea of excellent coffee and delicious and plentiful cake.



Pruned plants photo by Jason Busch

Patron, Philip Moors, choosing cake, and group at morning tea by Anne Rawson.

After a couple of delightful hours we straggled back to the buses where Christina Kennedy was thanked profusely and sincerely for her generosity in welcoming us to her unique island home.

If you wish to know more check the following: <https://landscapeaustralia.com/articles/horse-island-a-garden-of-grandeur>.

Back at ERBG we had lunch and then, in three groups, did tours of three special places in the Garden: the Herbarium, the nursery and propagation space, and the new Naturescape Display Gardens. These last are four sample gardens to show the parents of kids playing in the nearby playground, and others, what you can do with natives in different sorts of gardens from formal to casual. These were set in a large open green space that in future will have a little forest and more garden. Tricia introduced us to the Herbarium which is a collection of record not of research, so while material is prepared in the same way as research collections it is stored differently. At this point I gave up and sat and gossiped with others who had also opted for a sit down.

In this casual way we came to the end of a great weekend of learning and making friends and eating too much and generally having a good time.

Anne Rawson, with much help from Lynne Anlezark

Three Handbury Awards 2022



Lismore, the town, has had a very hard time in 2022, so it was good that Lismore, the Rainforest Botanic Garden, got a Handbury Award in 2022. The Wednesday Work Group, which started with six members in 2009, now has 25 core members with many others attending intermittently as other commitments allow. Though many have no qualifications or experience in horticulture or bush regeneration they are very adaptable, researching needed information and willingly taking on whatever needs to be done. They include home gardeners, teachers, carpenters, lawyers, labourers, nurses, builders, doctors, welders, accountants, farmers, artists and more. The main work of the Group includes weeding, planting, pruning, watering, fertilising, mulching, spraying, grass cutting, plant propagation and control of erosion in water courses. They have built large and small viewing platforms, high and low level walkways, a mosaic path, a decorative wooden bridge, a solar clock, a Cool Cubbie for kids, a stony labyrinth, paved paths and seating areas, installed watering systems, built and maintained unsealed discovery trails and put bridges over creeks. The LRBG aims to include ALL the species known to have grown in the original 'Big Scrub' rainforest so it is part of a corridor for local native plants and animals in this area. Without the Wednesday Work Group the Lismore Gardens would not have become a reality; they are the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens!

Elizabeth Gilfillan has done so much for the Ballarat Botanic Gardens and for AAFBG that it is hard to write a precis! She was an inaugural member of the Ballarat Friends and after 22 years of service has just stepped down from the committee. In those 22 years she has done a heap of work on the administration of both bodies from developing an MOU with BGANZ, to maintaining good relations with Ballarat Council, to finding new members, updating the AAFBG's Information Kit, establishing the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation and dealing with various crises along the way. On the ground in Ballarat she has been a key player in the long running projects to renew and invigorate the Fernery and the Gatekeeper's Cottage. Her contribution to both organisations has been invaluable and significant.

The third winner was the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens. They have maintained a courteous, cooperative relationship with the City of Greater Bendigo Council, which has resulted in the development and implementation of the Gardens' Masterplan, the Friends' proudest achievement. They also raised \$80,000, set up a Heritage Archive, got the old caretaker's residence repurposed for use by the Friends, developed a new website in 2010, organised the Gardens' 150th birthday party, and played a key role in the consultation and planning process for the award-winning Garden for The Future, which opened in 2018. There are currently over 70 members and the Friends are rightly proud of the incredible improvements witnessed over the last 22 years as a result of the ongoing positive collaboration between the City of Greater Bendigo Council and the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

Second tour to Tasmania

Beth and Raoul Dixon

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens

All the things we saw!

A visit to Launceston's **Cataract Gorge** was special; a natural rocky area carved out by the South Esk River. We were shown many endangered plants. Lunch at the Josef Chromy Winery was excellent with good food and wine in beautiful surroundings.

The owner showed us around **Old Wesley Dale**, an historic property at Mole Creek that is a gardener's dream. It was an ideal time to visit with many of the flower beds in bloom.

Wychwood is a beautiful woodland garden being magnificently restored by two enthusiastic guys.

Culzean is a grand estate and the owner gave us a guided tour. Glorious drive, some amazing trees, including a huge Oak, and a Catalpa. A walk around the large lake and the productive orchard were highlights. We saw excellent examples of hedgerow layering.

At **Windsor**, we visited a Seed Bank and Native Nursery run by volunteers growing rare plants for Tasmania. Tony Roberts, a Council employee, is beautifying the flat and swampy areas along the Tamar River. We were in awe of his vision and enthusiasm.

Near Devonport we visited an **Arboretum** set in 66 hectares. We learnt that there are many types of Leatherwood, from Tasmania, Victoria, and NSW.

Strathmore, at Evandale is a beautiful heritage estate with a walled vegetable garden. The wall has chimneys, and originally fires were lit to heat the wall in winter. A large orchard, beautiful old trees, and the Dahlia Society had a garden showing dahlias at their best.

At **Patterdale** we saw the restored homestead and garden of the early colonial artist John Glover.

We had a gin and whisky tasting in **Kempton**. The neat gin had me reaching for the tonic water.

A visit to **Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens** is always a pleasure. A staff member, who trains the Friends' Guides, spoke on the Garden's history and then we had time to wander about.

Then a visit to the **Edible Garden** – set amongst warehouses at the wharf. Fruit and vegetables are available for anyone to pick.

Finally, two gardens on **Bruny Island**. Inala grows endangered species representing the Gondwana flora. You can see the same species from different countries side by side. These plants are vulnerable, because, if burnt, they will not regenerate and the area will revert to Eucalyptus forest. We were all fascinated by the large bumble bees in Tasmania. They cause harm in the natural habitat, to native bees and birds. The second garden was Sprockelwood Art Garden. Lovely trees and unusual and creative artworks by the owners.

A great trip led by AAFBG President, Kate Heffernan, and well researched by Elizabeth Gilfillan and Merrill Shulkes.



Old Wesley Dale at Mole Creek; Garden at the grand estate, Culzean; Wychwood woodland garden. Photos by the Dixons.

A sense of place

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens
Warrnambool, Victoria



Senses play an important role in interpreting our environments and most particularly those of Natural and Heritage Culture. The use of senses, combined with descriptive and creative language to enhance activities helps in encouraging connections to environments which assist in leading to memorable visitor experiences. Senses assist to determine pathways by adding sound, movement and colour to a variety of environments and experiences.

The Warrnambool Gardens portray a tranquil and inviting environment created by one of Victoria's most renowned landscape designers, William Guilfoyle. Gardens were a comfort and reminder of home for many of the first European settlers who came to Warrnambool. These migrants brought with them images of 'home' and attempted to recreate these in a landscape vastly diverse and different to those of home. Warrnambool Botanic Gardens carries the characteristic style of Guilfoyle, who promoted English Park like gardens comprising of sweeping lawns, tall trees, wide curved pathways and dense shrubberies which portray a variety of plants. His design allowed for people to develop 'a sense of place and belonging' and feel connected.

The Gardens' future depends on how people engage and connect with it. The creation of the Nature Based Play Space provides an avenue to ensure future generations will engage and connect with the gardens. Early developmental play encourages the use of and provides opportunity to experience the five key senses, touch, feel, sound, sight and taste –perhaps the fifth should not be encouraged in this environment. The variety of natural resources within this area are ideal mediums for children, encouraging exploration and learning of their natural environment. Clambering over a log, feeling the textures of sawn ends, the roughness of the bark, and observing the various shapes of the basalt rock. The sharpness matched by the smoothness and curve of the rock, combined with the observation of colours reflected by these natural materials is a unique play area, and the effect of light and shade providing very different experiences for play. The noise of others running and jumping on the soft flooring of natural material, the sound of the wind in the canopy of trees alive with birds and other small creatures. This space is more than a play area, it is a virtual classroom providing an environment to encourage and engage youngsters' appreciation of a natural heritage. It is a means of securing the longevity of the Gardens by encouraging a sense of place and connection that could become a lifelong involvement.

By weaving the past to the future, the yesterday can be preserved, and the tomorrow of the Gardens ensured for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. What better time to reflect on this new acquisition to the Gardens than now, almost 12 months since its opening.

Penny Irons

Three Friends Groups turn 40!*

Merrill Shulkes

Friend of Ballarat Botanical Gardens and AAFBG Committee Member



Melbourne Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Recognition by concerned citizens that substantial areas of the Melbourne Gardens needed rejuvenation led to the Friends' foundation in 1982. They sought to promote the Gardens by encouraging community involvement and providing a fundraising mechanism to support projects. The Friends' influence grew as a direct result of its strong membership (1800 members) and successful fundraising – more than \$3 million has helped to realise critical projects such as a more sustainable Water Management Program, Guilfoyle's Volcano, and the Fern Gully Redevelopment.

The Melbourne Friends launched their 40th celebrations with a Gardens morning picnic in February. Ongoing events will include guided walks showcasing some of the projects that the Friends have supported.



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

This group began with 16 founding members who met on 10 February 1982 to determine if there was sufficient interest to form a Guides group. In 1991 their activities expanded to include: the recruitment of more members; selection of Gardens' projects for support; and the facilitation of the Friends' incorporation in 1992. Today the 400 Friends and the BBG Foundation are committed to supporting the Gardens into the future and more than \$1 million has been contributed to projects including the restoration of the Claxton Monument and the Gatekeeper's Cottage and the Fernery Redevelopment. Growing Friends are a major source of revenue.

The Friends began their celebrations with a 'Ruby' themed morning tea, preceded by the launch of a new Gardens' booklet by Patron, Professor Tim Entwisle. In October, at a party in the historic Ballarat Mining Exchange, Friends who have made a significant contribution will be recognised.



Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens

There was talk of a Sydney Friends' organisation in the early 1970s but it wasn't until 1982 that the Friends of RBG Sydney was formalised at a meeting on 27 July 1982, though not officially launched until 19 April 1983. They were immediately successful, attracting a diverse range of people who understood the importance of RBG Sydney and saw the need for an independent body to support and promote the Gardens. RBG Sydney grew to include gardens at Mt Tomah (1987) and Mt Annan (1988). In 2012 the RBG Foundation and the Friends merged to form Foundation & Friends of the Botanic Gardens. In the past eight years \$7.5 million has been committed to a range of projects across all three sites. Key initiatives have included: contributions towards the development of the Calyx; digitisation of the Herbarium collection; Plantbank at Mt Annan; Plant Pathology; scholarships; and educational programs.

The achievements of their many members (3,481) will be recognised at a celebratory event later this year.

*Friends of Adelaide Botanic Gardens turn 45 in November!

Inspired by Nature 7

Friends of Geelong Botanical Gardens
Geelong, Victoria

Botanical art and botanical illustration have a long history throughout the world. Before cameras it was the only means of recording the anatomical features of plants. While fashions in the world of art have come and gone, botanical art has continued to feature in botany, horticulture and in fine art. Our prestigious exhibition recognises the important role of botanical art but in a more contemporary way, and records the beauty and complexity of what is becoming even more important today; our green environment..

In this, the seventh *Inspired by Nature* exhibition, there were over 70 artworks by 21 students and their tutors from the Geelong School of Botanical Art, which is managed by the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The exhibition ran from 5 March to 1 April. Many of the artists involved have received numerous awards and are represented in botanical art collections both nationally and internationally, plus many beginner artists.

The exhibition showcased a very eclectic range of subjects, all inspired by nature, and nature's detail was depicted in watercolour or gouache paintings, or graphite drawings.



Judy Lavery- *Acer japonicum*, Full Moon Maple; *Paeonia suffruticosa*_Wu Jin Yao Hui_John_Pastoriza Piñol; and a leaf by artist Wilma King.

One featured artist was Judy Lavery, who says that her lifelong interest in plants was what led her to botanical art. 'What I particularly love about botanical art is that our paintings have to be both botanically correct and artistically pleasing. It bridges art and science. Through our art the very fine detail of each specimen's structure can be readily observed.'

Of particular interest was the bibliography of John Pastoriza-Piñol, who also tutors in the USA, and elsewhere overseas. His artworks are included in both the 'Highgrove Florilegium' and 'Transylvania Florilegium', projects created under the aegis of H.R.H Prince of Wales' Charitable Foundation.

There was something for everyone who loves the world of art and plants. If we can encourage others to value and nurture the environment so it can be sustained for future generations through such exhibitions, we have achieved our goal.

Denise Feldman, President



A misty, early spring morning in the garden at Old Wesley Dale

A Botanical Tour of Tasmania
with the Australian Association of
Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)

29 October – 5 November 2022

4 nights Launceston – 3 nights Hobart

"All garden visits were exceptional with dedicated people keen to show us around and share their vision."

Murray Fletcher and Vicki Glover, participants AAFBG Botanical Tour Tasmania Feb 2022



The cost of the tour is \$3,480 per person sharing a room

The cost of the tour is \$4,160 per person with a room to yourself

The cost includes:

- The services of tour leader, Kate Heffernan
- 7 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in at Grand Chancellor Launceston and Grand Chancellor Hobart*
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch at Josef Chromy with wine, tea and box lunch on Day 7, farewell dinner with wine at Mures
- Gin and whisky tastings on Day 4
- All specialist talks and visits and admission fees
- AAFBG donation
- GST
- All transport services

* Rooms in Hobart are mountain view rooms. We have a number of harbour view rooms for a supplement, see below.

The cost excludes:

- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Arrival and departure transfers.

Additions:

- Additional night on arrival \$238 per room (\$218 if one person per room)
- Additional night on departure \$330 per room (\$304 if one person per room)
- Upgrade to a larger executive room in Launceston for \$90 per room for the three nights
- Upgrade to a harbour view room in Hobart for \$150 per room for the three nights



Inala Jurassic Garden

Itinerary 29 October – 5 November 2022 B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

4 nights Launceston – 3 nights Hobart

Day 1: Launceston (Sat, 29 Oct)

Pm: Arrive and check into the hotel
Eve: Welcome drinks

Day 2: Launceston (Sun, 30 Oct) B L

Am: Visit City Park in Launceston, including the historic John Hart Conservatory, for a private tour with a gardener. Onto Cataract Gorge Native Reserve for a guided walk with native plant specialists, Roy and Louise Scabo.
Pm: Welcome lunch at Josef Chromy Wines with wine tastings. Visit the famous rose garden at Woolmers.

Day 3: Launceston (Mon, 31 Oct) B

Am: Visit Old Wesley Dale at Mole Creek, an English Arts and Crafts garden. Hear an introduction talk and visit the gardens. Continue to Wychwood Garden and rare plant nursery to hear hear an introduction talk and visit the garden and nursery.
Pm: Visit Culzean, an historic garden at Westbury with significant trees, sweeping lawns, perennials, a dam and a lake.

Day 4: Launceston (Tue, 1 Nov) B

Am: Visit Riverside Park and the native plants nursery. Meet with the horticulturalists and members of the Tasmanian Native Plants Society.
Pm: Drive to Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, known for its design with over 24,000 rhododendron and companion plants. Emu Valley has a lovely café for lunch (at client's own expense).

Day 5: Launceston / Hobart

(Wed, 2 Nov)

B Gin / Whisky tasting
Am: Visit historic Strathmore Garden at Evandale, known for its heated, walled garden, for a talk and tour. Onto Patterdale, the homestead of the artist. John Glover. Hear a talk in the

studio followed by self-guided tours of the house and garden.

Pm: Visit Ross with time at leisure for lunch. Tour the Shene Estate with its whisky and gin distillery, including tastings and snacks.
Overnight at Grand Chancellor Hobart Hotel.

Day 6: Hobart (Thur, 3 Nov) B L D

Am: Visit the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart for a hosted tour by the Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart.
Pm: Visit the Edible Precinct with the coordinator.
Eve: Dinner at Mures overlooking the ocean.

Day 7: Hobart (Fri, 4 Nov) B L D

Am: Drive to Kettering and take the ferry to North Bruny Island and drive across the neck to South Bruny Island and Adventure Bay. This sheltered bay was visited and used as a re-watering site by Captains Cook, Bligh, Furneaux and D'Entrecasteaux, amongst others. Visit the Inala Jurassic Garden and see examples of the flora of Gondwana and learn of the relationships, similarities and differences between the plants of the southern continents that made up Gondwana. Time at leisure with opportunity to see the plant fossils in the museum.
Pm: Visit Sprokkelwood Art Garden for a light lunch and visit the garden designed and created by artists in 1998. Return to Hobart.
Eve: Farewell dinner.

Day 8: Hobart (Sat, 5 Nov) B

Am: Depart Hobart, with the option to visit the famous Salamanca Market.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

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Gatekeeper's Cottage, Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens