

Your Association at MIFGS

For the first time, AAFBG was represented publicly at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), held on 27-31 March 2019. It is the largest and most successful event of its kind in the southern hemisphere, and had over 103,000 visitors this year.

Organised and set up by John Bentley (AAFBG Vice-President and President of Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden), the site offered information about AAFBG and its members, some providing displays and/or brochures about their Gardens. Volunteers came from RBG Melbourne and Cranbourne, Ballarat BG and Melton BG. Thanks to local Friends groups who also contributed equipment and/or funds to produce such an excellent stand. This support is very much appreciated by the Association.

The Discovery Table at the front of the marquee helped to engage and entice visitors to the display. The floral display from Cranbourne attracted lots of attention as did the plants from the growing groups. The large map of Australia where we inserted pins to show the locations of member groups provided good interaction with questions like, 'which gardens can I visit on my way home to NSW?' Many thanks to Sign Perfection in Melton for producing and donating the large map. The volunteers recorded around 500 visitor engagements during the show. The data is now being analysed.

Feedback was very positive and those involved this year are keen to return in 2020, when the Show will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Reminders will be sent to you via the *E-ucalypt News* if you would like to join in or send your brochures.

John Bentley and Ro Noone



Alex Smart



Helen Morrow



John Bentley



Helen Morrow

Visitors at AAFBG display; floral arrangement from Cranbourne; Volunteers; Cranbourne's stand.

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Incorporation: AOO26805Z

Patron: Dr Philip Moors AO

Office bearers

President: Dennis Ayliffe, Friends ANBG

Vice-President: John Bentley, Friends Melton BG

Sec/Public Officer: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Friends
Ballarat BG

Treasurer: Kathy Wright, Friends RBG
Melbourne

General Committee

Bodo Jensen, Friends Adelaide BG

Murray Fletcher, Friends Orange BG

Robyn Saunders, Friends Benalla BG

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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

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Editors Anne Rawson and Lynden Ayliffe

email: eucalyptar@gmail.com

We welcome your articles for inclusion and pho-
tographs and important calendar events.

Closing dates are 30 March and 30 September
approximately six weeks prior to publication.

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SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY 19 JULY 2019

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS

Hosted by



Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens Limited

Meeting starts at 11 am in Maiden Theatre

Preceded by morning tea and followed by tours of the Gardens

More details on enclosed flyer and at

<https://friendsbotanicgardens.org>

From the President

Dennis Ayliffe



Your Association has been active over the past few months with the Committee meeting in Melbourne in December 2018 and most recently by teleconference on 29 April 2019.

The Association also set up a week-long Gardens Tour of Singapore in March of this year that attracted enough participants to contribute a very welcome \$5500 to our coffers. By all accounts it was a successful event and a full article about the tour comes later in this edition.

At its meeting in December 2018 the Committee agreed to provide funding to contribute to a display at the recent Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. Your Vice President, John Bentley from the Melton Friends, put a lot of effort into ensuring the Association was well represented. Again a full article about the Show appears on the front page of this edition.

Our Annual General Meeting for this year is being held at the beautiful and historic Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney on Friday 19 July 2019. I urge you to attend to not only be part of the governance of the Association but to hear well-known speakers after the meeting. I have recently written to the Presidents of all our members alerting them that the AGM is happening and asking them or any of their members to consider attending what promises to be an educational day.

Also in this edition of *Eucalypt* is an article about next year's biennial conference to be held in Brisbane from 22-25 May, celebrating Banks and Solander's work on Australian and New Zealand flora 250 years ago. It will be a seminal event in your Association's history. I urge you to attend.

I look forward to seeing you in Sydney and next year in Brisbane.

Editor's note about Solander

Solander appears twice in this edition of *Eucalypt*, as the subject of our next biennial conference in Brisbane on page 8 and in a major article on page 18, written by the Swedish Ambassador to Australia. This article was first published in ANBG Friends' magazine *Fronde*. The Ambassador was keen to get it published in other magazines and newsletters put out by botanic gardens round Australia.

So if you have space in your publication and would like to publish this article, contact Anne Rawson at: eucalyptar@gmail.com

Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Gilfillan



Your Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens has been out and about lately as you will read in this edition of Eucalypt. The opportunities to network and meet new Friends are always rewarding and beneficial, your AAFBG aims to facilitate connections of Friends of Botanic Gardens Australia and World-wide.

We hear some great stories and some of hardship, our thoughts have been with those suffering from drought and hope there has been relief from recent rains. Funding cuts are another concern for some and your AAFBG supports its Members in endeavours to secure funding and to make submissions to administrators. Please inform us of circumstances and your AAFBG will assist.

Six years ago your AAFBG Peak Body was the fortunate recipient of a generous gift to assist with Administration. The gift was given by Dr Geoffrey Handbury a great supporter of botanical gardens Australia wide, it consisted of \$10,000 annually for a period of five years, \$50,000 in total. Less than fifty percent has been needed thus far. The AAFBG relies on subscriptions and shared proceeds of the Biennial Conference plus additional endeavours. Your subscription is vital and in real terms equates to approximately 50cents contribution from its personal individual Members.

The AAFBG Committee proposes to award a Dr Geoffrey Handbury Certificate of Merit, at the AGM, for extraordinary contribution of an individual or group to a particular Botanic Garden. AAFBG would like Members to nominate for this award.

We are looking forward to meeting you at your AGM, when AAFBG Members meet other Friends in Sydney, details in this edition. Our thanks to Sydney Foundation and Friends CEO Melissa Ellis for facilitating the meeting.

This is my last Secretarial report. It has been a privilege and great experience to be Secretary of this valued organisation. I have met and made many Friends. Thank you all.



Connecting through Friends

An example of Elizabeth connecting through Friends when she visited Wollongong Botanic Gardens



Administrative Officer's Report

Ro Noone



Greetings to all members and friends.

Welcome to the newly-formed Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens Inc (formerly Tamborine Mountain Garden Club) as a new member. I suggest you visit their fresh new website: <https://tmbotanicgardens.org.au> for more information.

As the days start to cool down in the southern parts of the country, it is the traditional time to take stock in our gardens. I would also like you to think about how AAFBG may be able to best support your group.

The fortnightly *E-ucalypt News* provides an opportunity to share stories and advertise your events. Not many members currently take this up. I am aware that some AAFBG member groups who receive *E-ucalypt* do not forward it to their members, but I encourage you to do so. It aims to provide information and inspiration for groups and individuals as well as news from charities and philanthropic agencies. I would be pleased to know what else you might like to read in this regular e-publication. Simply email me at info@friendsbotanicgardens.org. Don't forget to attach fliers or photos with your articles, keeping in mind that *E-ucalypt* is emailed on the first and fifteenth of the month.

Our *Eucalypt* editors in Canberra, Anne Rawson and Lynden Ayliffe, do a fantastic job with our biannual newsletter, which is sent by email and in printed form in May and November. Again, do make the most of the opportunity to showcase your gardens, parks and arboreta in *Eucalypt* by sending your articles by 30 March and 30 September.

Planning for the AGM on Friday 19 July at RBG Sydney is well underway. See Notice of Meeting attached for details. Various Committee positions will become available. PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING. Giving is always receiving! (Nomination form enclosed.)

Attending the AGM is a great way to connect with Friends, learn from each other and enjoy a day in the host's botanic garden.

AAFBG offers a variety of ways for members to connect through correspondence, meetings, conferences and events. In March I attended the highly successful AAFBG Singapore Gardens Tour with 11 other plant enthusiasts. AAFBG's presence at the Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show in March gave members a platform to promote Friends and their gardens. We would be glad to hear your suggestions for future opportunities.

Lastly, 2019 Subscriptions were due on 1 April. Membership renewal forms were sent with the November 2018 issue of *Eucalypt* and reminders have been included in *E-ucalypt News* fortnightly since 15 February. If your group has not yet paid, please renew your membership as soon as possible. Your support is vital for the future of AAFBG. Forms and payment options are available at <https://friendsbotanicgardens.org>

Our fabulous Singapore gardens tour

by Ro Noone



Our tour group in the excellent Heritage-listed Botanic Gardens. (L to R) Kim Rabbidge (Tour Leader), Helen Wright, Ro Noone, Kathy Wright, Kathy White, Anne Gregory, Libby Thomson, Kate Hickey, Peggy Muntz, Nigel Taylor (Director of Singapore BG), Fiona Caro, Kathy Mossop, Ben Hickey. Photo by Ro Noone.

On 17 March, a plant-savvy group of eleven AAFBG members and friends joined tour leader Kim Rabbidge for a marvellous six-day tour of Singapore, concentrating on a range of highly successful green spaces. In the mix were six themes: formal, historical, educational, architectural, sustaining and entertaining.

1. Singapore Botanic Gardens. Director Nigel Taylor guided us through highlights of the 156 year-old Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage site, particularly famous for its orchid breeding program and displays.
2. Fort Canning and Kranji War Memorial. Our daily local guide, Christopher, provided us with Singapore's history and an understanding of life in Singapore today. Fort Canning, which includes a Heritage Tree trail, was once home to Malay royalty and is where the British surrendered to the Japanese during WWII. Kranji War Memorial was designed by Sir Edward Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll and represented many of Australia's fallen.
3. HortPark and Bollywood Veggies offer opportunities for locals to grow fruit and vegetables and educate people of all ages about the origins and benefits of fresh food.
4. Marina One is a residential and commercial complex of four high-rise buildings designed around a 'Green Heart' which extends over several stories. It incorporates high-density living with an organic feel.



Couroupita guianensis Cannonball Tree (Singapore BG); Rooftop Garden at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital; *Carica papaya* Red Papaya (Bollywood Veggies). Photos by Ro Noone.

5. Khoo Teck Puat Hospital. Designed for the well-being of patients and staff, KTPH also attracts a large variety of birds, butterflies, dragonflies and fish species to its massive central gardens and balconies which cover four times the footprint of the hospital buildings. A working rooftop garden produces vegetables, herbs and medicinal plants. It is farmed by local volunteers, providing produce to the hospital kitchens and sales to the community.

6. Gardens by the Bay. Principal Horticulturist Anton van der Schans guided us through this paradise of outdoor themed gardens and the massive indoor Flower Dome and Cloud Forest. A grove of metal Super-trees provide the scaffolding for vertical gardens and offer an amazing skyway walk above the gardens by day and a highly entertaining sound & light show by night. Gardens by the Bay covers all six themes and attracts people of all interests and ages (even teenagers!).

Congratulations to Kathy Wright for instigating the tour and to Opulent Journeys for their excellent organisation.



Anton Van Der Schans, Principle Horticulturist (on the Gardens By the Bay Skyway).. Photo by Ro Noone.



2020 Banks and Solander
'Friends celebrating 250 years'

AAFBG BIENNIAL CONFERENCE – BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND

May 22-24, 2020

□ Banks & Solander □ Celebrating 250 years of □ Botanical Friends □

Hosted by Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens & Sherwood Arboretum

Now is the time to start planning for your opportunity to network with Friends Groups f Australia and overseas at our next biennial Conference. During the conference, we will celebrating the botanical wonders of 1770s exploration and the influence on botanical knowledge, the use of Australian and South Pacific tropical and sub-tropical flora, and legacy of botanical research by Banks and Solander - who we could claim as the first 'Friends of Botanic Gardens'.

Expert speakers, social activities and guided tours of Brisbane Botanic Gardens - City, - Mt Coot-Tha, and Sherwood Arboretum will be included. A sunset gathering in the dome Mt Coot-tha Gardens will be the official start to a wonderful botanical journey in SE Q

Pre and post-tours of regional Botanic Gardens are being arranged for Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21st and/or Monday 25th May.

Details and updates will appear in *E-ucalypt News*, and on websites for Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum <https://fbbgsa.org.au> and AAFBG <https://friendsbotanicgardens.org>

Brisbane Botanic Gardens - City



Ballarat Gardens' new Foundation

*Ballarat Botanical Gardens
Ballarat, Victoria*

The Board of the Ballarat BG has just launched the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Inc which has been created to enable the community to contribute tax deductible donations to the Gardens and to attract grants for Gardens' projects, now and for future generations. It will also support current initiatives, such as restoration of the Gothic Fernery and the development of the original Gatekeepers Cottage as an Educational and Interpretation Centre.

Back in 1988 the Friends, in conjunction with the City of Ballarat, established the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Community Fund, for the same purpose of receiving tax deductible donations. Late last year we upgraded to the Foundation which is a company limited by guarantee. There are five initial directors with out-going AAFBG Secretary, Elizabeth Gilfillan, as the elected Chair. The Foundation is registered as a charity with Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) and endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) by the Australian Taxation Office. The funds remaining in the original Community Fund have now been transferred to the Foundation.



L to R Patron John Hawker, Daina MacLeod, Robert Selkirk, Mark Schultz, Elizabeth Gilfillan and Peter Wilson

The Foundation's overriding purpose is to raise funds to provide a strong, sustainable financial basis for the Gardens, but its additional purposes include advancing the natural environment in the Gardens and, in so doing, advancing and preserving the Heritage of the Gardens as a Horticulture museum. To achieve its objectives the Foundation will:

- put on activities which will generate financial and community support for the maintenance and development of the Gardens
- develop relationships with key stakeholders, in particular the City of Ballarat
- apply the principals of good governance, and meet all compliance and regulatory requirements
- encourage the broader community to contribute financially to the long term benefit of the Gardens.

Historically, private philanthropy has played a vital role in maintaining the quality and evolution of our Ballarat Botanical Gardens. We hope that the introduction of the new Foundation will ensure that this continues. Check the web for the Foundation: www.ballaratbotanicalgardensfoundation.com.au

Monkey business at the Gardens

*Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens
Bendigo, Victoria*



Photo courtesy of Jenny Carrington:

Ask any long term resident of the Bendigo District about their memories of the Botanic Gardens at White Hills and they will inevitably mention the monkeys.

The Gardens housed monkeys amongst other animals since the earliest days. The Bendigo Advertiser 27 December 1865 reported ‘...lately an addition was made to the monkey family by the birth of an interesting little stranger: the mother since the birth has carried the youngster in her arms, and manifests the greatest affection for it’.

Initiated and promoted by the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria (formed in 1861), most of the regional botanic gardens in Victoria during the 1860s and 70s had some form of zoological enclosure, to acclimatise exotic animals, and observe native ones. By the 1870s and 80s, when separate zoos were being promoted, Gadd (the Curator) was encouraged to disperse the animals from the Bendigo Gardens, and to establish a collection of small birds in a new aviary on the island.

Public interest in animals persisted however and at various times the Gardens housed deer, kookaburras, koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, emus, peacocks, and rabbits, in addition to the aviary birds and aquatic birds on the lagoon. In 1946, due to public demand, monkeys were re-introduced into the Gardens in a specially constructed monkey cage. Deemed to be never as friendly as the previous monkeys, they still held great interest for visitors and 26 were recorded to be there in the 1970s.

Before he died in 2015, Daryl McClure, well-known in Bendigo as Mayor, Councillor and State MP at various times, told Jan Orr, Past-President of the Friends, his favourite monkey story. He was riding his bike on his usual route through the Gardens to school at White Hills Primary, when an escaped monkey suddenly jumped on his back. He was terrified and pedalled like mad towards the gardens’ exit until finally the monkey jumped off and returned towards its cage. Clever monkeys don’t like to be confined!

Monkey numbers were reduced at times and were finally totally removed from the Gardens around 1974 after a little girl from Sydney had part of her finger bitten off. She had injudiciously poked her finger into the cage despite extra security fencing having been put in place to keep people further away from the enclosure. Current standards for animal care meant the last of the animals (kangaroos and wallabies) were removed by 2012 with only the bird aviary retained.

Judy Milne, Secretary

Celebrating special trees

Friends of Camperdown Botanical Gardens and Arboretum Camperdown, Victoria

The first event to mark the 150th anniversary of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum (Gardens) was the unveiling of five plaques for trees listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees (Register).

Back in 1869, Camperdown Public Park had just been gazetted. The local Council asked Daniel Bunce, curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, established only 15 years earlier, for advice on layout and planting. Many of our trees date from those early days. Among them was an avenue of nine European Lindens (*Tilia x europaea*), which is the only known example of an avenue of this tree in a garden in Victoria. It is a beautiful feature in all seasons, with fragrant bee-attracting flowers in spring, golden leaves in autumn and apple-green heart-shaped leaves in summer.

On Thursday 14 March a group gathered in the Gardens for the unveiling of five plaques for these and other special trees. Representatives of Camperdown Historical Society, Warrnambool Botanic Gardens and the Australian Garden History Society joined Corangamite Shire's Mayor, Council staff and members of the Gardens Trust for the ceremony.

Justin Buckley, manager of the National Trust's portfolio of gardens across the State, and John Fordham, an arborist and member of the Register committee, travelled from Melbourne for the event. Justin was impressed by the setting of the Gardens with its panoramic views across the Western Victorian volcanic plain and crater lakes Bullen-Merri and Gnotuk. He commented on the State significance of the place, calling it an 'exceptional site' and 'one of the best locations of any botanic garden in the country'.

Other celebrated trees were an African Holly (*Eleodendron croceum*), a 'red list' endangered tree in its natural environment in southern Africa, and two Himalayan Oaks (*Quercus lanata*), which are at risk in their home at the foot of the Himalayas, where they have been over-used for fodder, fuel and building materials.

A splendid specimen of the New Zealand Akiraho (*Olearia paniculata*) is the most recently listed tree on the Register. The genus *Olearia* is a group of daisy plants in the family Asteraceae, which mainly grow in Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea. This species is most often seen as a large shrub or hedge, but ours is a multi-trunked tree, and a favourite with children who enjoy climbing its low spreading branches. It grows in dry coastal areas so it is thriving on the windy western side of our Botanic Garden. Right now, in autumn, we are enjoying its clusters of tiny fragrant flowers.

As a community-based, non-government organisation, the National Trust is concerned with promoting and conserving Victoria's heritage and advocating for its protection. The Register highlights special trees and encourages their appreciation and celebration. The new plaques will enable our visitors to enjoy and learn more about some of the special trees in our Botanic Gardens.

Janet O'Hehir, President



Carol Eagle



Janet O'Hehir

Stegosaurus in the Cycads

Friends of Darwin Botanic Gardens
Darwin, NT



The latest Friends' contribution to the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens was unveiled on 27 September, just in time for the NT October school holidays.

Five small-scale fibreglass dinosaur replicas were funded by the Friends through a \$10,000 NT Government Community Benefit Grant. They included a *Tyrannosaurus*, *Kentrosaurus*, *Allosaurus* and two sizes of *Stegosaurus*.

Director of the Botanic Gardens Bryan Harty explained that the Cycad Garden was an appropriate location for the dinosaurs because these plants were believed to have been 'dinosaur food' in prehistoric times.

"We also thought this would be a great way to get visitors and families to visit this top end of the Gardens," he said. Chairperson of the Friends, Peter Pusterla, also spoke at the unveiling and thanked the Gardens staff for their invaluable assistance during the installation process.

The dinosaurs are now a permanent part of the Darwin Botanic Gardens!

Sue Dibbs

Music-making in Hamilton BG

*Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens
Hamilton, Victoria*

Music has been an integral part of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens' history. A balance sheet published on 18 May 1909 records Gardens Concerts and half-band Concerts, raising £53 and £48 respectively, towards the final cost of £445 for the perimeter wrought iron fence. The Hamilton Spectator reported on 6 February 1908 that: 'The Band Concert was a...splendid success. The ground was illuminated with electric light and crowded with a large concourse of people who promenaded about, enjoying the various attractions (including an Italian Cafe).



On the Thompson St side of the Gardens is a small hill, known as Craig's Hill, that at one time was referred to as Band Stand Hill. The bandstand that stood there was removed in 1920.

Music concerts in the Gardens continued throughout the 20th century and the Friends have the framed poster of the 1930 New Year's Eve Dance-Band Concert displayed in the Friends Cottage.

A sound shell was constructed on the eastern side of the Main Lawn in the 1960s but due to safety concerns it was demolished in the 1980s. The natural slope of the Main Lawn provides a wonderful

natural amphitheatre. Since the historic rotunda was relocated from Melville Oval to the Gardens in 1988, it has become the focus for concerts and music in the Gardens.

In 1990 an approach was made to the Council from the Friends of the desirability of having regular Pleasant Sunday Afternoons of Music over the summer months. These concerts have continued on the first Sunday from December to March. Local musicians have given their time freely and as there is no charge to the public they have become an institution. The Friends have also been fortunate in 2018-19 to receive a Council grant to defray the costs of advertising.



Instead of the formality of the earlier Band Concerts these Sunday afternoons of music range from jazz, rock and roll, country and western to blues with a mixture of music from the 20th century to the present day. Visitors bring their chairs and afternoon tea, and sit under the shade of the magnificent trees enjoying the company, the toe-tapping music, and above all the Gardens. This year 'Daffy' Steer also included in his repertoire, a lolly scramble and a conga line for the children.

A truly Pleasant Sunday Afternoon of Music for all.

Article and photos by Helen Christie

Good relations with Council



Celebrating signing MOU with Council. Photo by Marie Matthews.

Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens (LRBG) were established and developed by the Friends of the LRBG and Lismore City Council (LCC). Although not without occasional conflict, this has been a mutually beneficial partnership from the beginning for a number of reasons.

Tourism is very important to the region because the Far North Coast of NSW is an area of outstanding natural beauty and a biodiversity hotspot. In addition, the environment and maintaining biodiversity is relatively high on the agenda for LCC and we have always had strong advocates for our cause on Council.

In 1997 LCC suggested that some land at the waste facility, part of which was reclaimed landfill, could be a suitable site for a botanic garden. Changes in legislation at that time meant that Waste had to rehabilitate any land degraded or contaminated by its use so Council was looking for a project to both rehabilitate the land and end up with a community asset. The first planting on the new site occurred in 2002. The Botanic Gardens were considered part of the waste facility for budgeting purposes and waste management were very helpful in many ways in the establishment of the Gardens.

The Gardens were formally opened in 2013 and the Friends signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council; Council agreed to pay for a gardener for three days a week plus \$15,000 for expenses. That might sound a lot to other small gardens but it is never enough to do all that we would like to and we are lucky to have benefited from donations.

This arrangement with Council continued until 2017 when the Council was looking to make up for a budget shortfall and the Botanic Gardens were moved to Civic Pride budget line. The Friends were quite worried that we would lose our funding – there was a suggestion that our funding should be cut altogether and we should rely on grants. The Friends spent time lobbying and attending Council meetings.

We reminded Council that LRBG is an asset to Lismore and all that had been achieved at the Gardens in turning a weed infested landfill site into a tourist attraction, a living repository of biodiversity and a place for recreation and education. It was also noted that we have an active, enthusiastic, well-qualified, well-managed volunteer work group and that we have made links with the local university, Friends of the Koala and mental health advocates. We also noted that, while grants are often available for defined projects there is not much on offer for routine maintenance, development and management.

We were successful in retaining our funding for the next three years but we do not take this for granted. We aim to keep up good communications with Council, use their funding productively, report back to them regularly and ensure that LRBG is an asset worth supporting into the future.

Florence Treverrow

Botanic beauty promotes peace

Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park Highfield, Queensland

In 2004, Stan Kuhl, a successful local farmer, donated a 4.7 hectare parcel of land to the Highfields community to be developed into a botanic garden. Stan also generously donated \$100,000 to commence stage one of the Park's development. Sadly, Stan died in May 2005 before his dream was realised. Celebrating Stan's vision to promote global peace is the Peace Garden Compass with views across the Darling Downs. Since its opening in August 2005 it has expanded, incorporating an existing stand of mature eucalypts, and providing habitat for native wildlife. The Friends have worked to ensure the sensitive development of the Park as a botanic resource and a community space. Stan's legacy is remembered with a statue at the park's entrance.

Friends of Peacehaven Park volunteers, in conjunction with the Toowoomba Regional Council, have transformed the original landscape design to incorporate new pathways, barbecues, picnic tables, park benches and an exciting children's adventure playground. The park is wheelchair accessible making it a drawcard for everyone in the community.

Our Native Nursery provides funds for many ongoing projects including signage, sculptures and mosaics. There is a detailed article about our nursery in *Campsis* May 2014. 'The Stump in Time' records the history of the area on the growth rings of a 300-year-old tree stump (see *Campsis* November 2013)



Lynelle Westlake is an artist, photographer and author/illustrator of Children's Books. As a member of Friends of Peacehaven Park, she produces the Friend's monthly newsletter as well as working in the onsite Native Nursery. The beauty of the park is a constant inspiration for her paintings and photos.

Toowoomba Regional Council is developing the park's facilities, including an extended car park ready for increasing visitor interest in the area. During Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers, busloads of visitors arrive to enjoy the expansive vistas to the Bunya Mountains.

The local community spends lazy summer afternoons listening to 'Music in the Park'; enjoys the annual Carols at Peacehaven in early December; encounters the abundant native wildlife among the tall, mature eucalypts; and watches the water birds and tortoises on the lake. Walking through the park at any time of day, visitors can enjoy watching and listening to a diversity of native birds in their natural habitat.

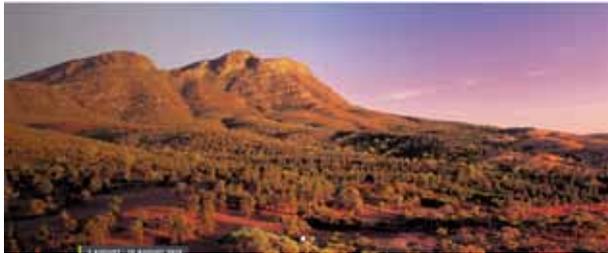
Within the Park, education programs are conducted by Amaroo Environmental Education Centre and other local schools. Friends offer tours for interested parties and talks in schools upon request. Weddings and other special events happen most weekends.

Any visit to the Darling Downs region is not complete without a visit to the spectacular Peacehaven Botanic Park. Discover more about the Park on Facebook and Instagram or visit the website www.peacehavenpark.org.au but nothing beats experiencing the park in person so we hope to see you soon.

Lynelle Westlake

Tour the world with Sydney Friends

*Foundation and Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden
Sydney, New South Wales*



Flinders & Beyond: Tour of South Australia

Travel on the Pichi Richi Railway to the Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta, then to Blinman Pools and Brachina Gorge and Wilpena Pound. Our tour concludes in the Claire Valley wine region.
Friday 2 to Saturday 10 August 2019



Southern Japan with Relle Mott

Back by popular demand, this trip to southern Japan with Relle Mott is not to be missed. Experience the hospitality and serene culture of this beautiful country when it is ablaze with colour during this autumn journey from Nagasaki to Kyoto taking less travelled by-ways.

Saturday 9 to Monday 25 November 2019



The Art of Travel & Gardens in Colourful Mexico Tour

Be surrounded by beautiful coloured colonial buildings, sketching your surroundings from quaint coffee shops, gardens and piazzas. Visit the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, El Charco Botanic Gardens, and the Las Pazos Sculpture Garden.

Monday 18 November to Sunday 1 December 2019

Full details available on the web page of Sydney Foundation and Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden under What's On at: rgbsyd.gov.au/foundationandfriends

Introducing the Tasmanian Arboretum

Tasmanian Arboretum

Eugenana, near Devonport, Tasmania

Howard Rawson



The Tasmanian Arboretum nestles in the largely forested valley of the Don River about 10 km south of Devonport. It began in 1984 when a group of local people, who shared the vision of developing an arboretum in the district, came together. A farm of 47 ha was found and purchased with Federal Bicentennial funds. An adjoining 11 ha of natural eucalypt forest was donated to the Arboretum in the late 1980s and 7.9 ha of an adjacent property was purchased more recently. The members now have ownership.

The Don River flows through the property along with a significant tributary, Melrose Creek. The valley floor is surrounded by gently undulating hills to the south and steeper slopes to the west. The underlying geology is limestone with a number of rocky outcrops, one with cliffs over the Don River. The later acquisition included a disused limestone quarry which is adjacent to the small Eugenana State Reserve, set aside as a Geological Reserve for nationally significant early marine fossils and tectonic features.

About 20 ha of the property is remnant natural vegetation, including important stands of White Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis*, and Stringybark *E. obliqua*. The rest is dedicated to collections, with areas set aside for the planting of trees and other woody plants from the temperate zones of the world's major geographical areas. We now have some 4,700 specimens of 1,000 species. Included are a Gondwana Collection and, of course, a Tasmanian Collection, which were the two original focus collections. There are thematic collections including the Southern Hemisphere Conifer Collection in partnership with the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. Many of the earlier tree plantings are now becoming well established.

There is Founders Lake with water birds and platypus. An internal circuit road, including numerous bridges, was developed in the early days. Other constructions have included a caretaker's cottage, propagation nursery, a kiosk, along with picnic and bbq facilities and walking tracks and trails linking the collections. The Education building was constructed by the Master Builders Association for their centenary and is used for exhibitions, meetings and education programs with local schools.

The Arboretum is now an important part of the local tourism industry. Photographers come for the bird life and for the almost guaranteed sighting of a platypus. It is also a popular venue for weddings and for casual walkers, gardeners and family groups.

All aspects of management, maintenance and development are undertaken by volunteers, and on-going funding comes from membership fees, gate takings, the kiosk, tree sponsorships, plus philanthropic donations and grants, including an annual grant from the Devonport City Council towards maintenance costs.

Those of us who have been involved from the earliest days of the Arboretum's development can appreciate and marvel at what has been achieved over those 35 years. The Arboretum is a beautiful property with much to offer anyone with an interest in trees and plants, and the natural world as a whole.

More information about the Arboretum including its location, history and the collections can be found on our website <http://www.tasmanianarboretum.org.au> The Arboretum also has a Facebook page.

Philip Milner

Paradise Lost - Daniel Solander's legacy

His Excellency Ambassador Pär Ahlberger

The Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander was one of the foremost botanists on board the Endeavour during its voyage in 1768 - 1771. He represents the first encounter between the Nordic Region and the Pacific Region based on botany, linguistics, culture and astronomy. The Polynesian scholar Tupaia and Solander formed an important bond during the Endeavour voyage. It was the first exchange between the Swedish culture and the Polynesian, Maori and Aboriginal cultures. It is a partly forgotten story which needs to be told again.

Daniel Solander was born in 1733, in a town only 100 km from the Arctic Circle. He was described as short and stout. His eyes were small, his face jovial with a fair complexion. He

was a careless dresser and liked bright waistcoats. He was a person well liked, combining humility, charm, absent-mindedness and social skills. He studied medicine and natural history in Uppsala as the favourite student of Carl Linnaeus, the founder of modern systematic biology. In 1760, at the invitation of British naturalists, Solander travelled to London to give instructions in the Linnean methods. He never returned to Sweden, much to the disappointment of Linnaeus.

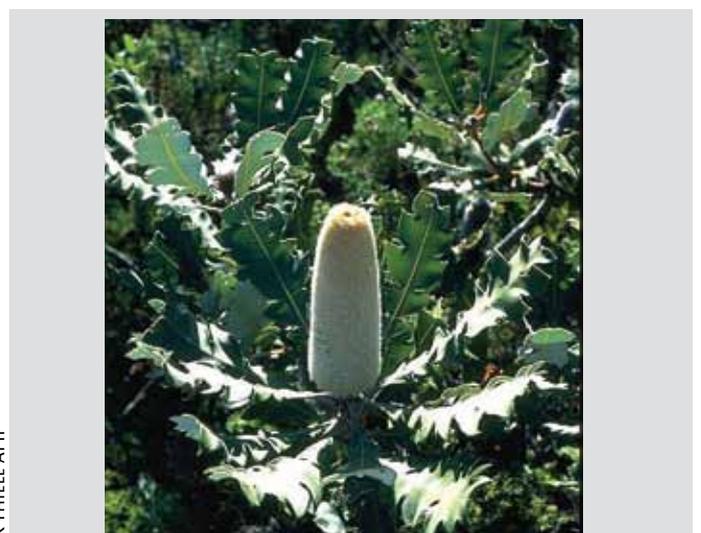
In 1763 Solander was appointed assistant keeper at the British Museum. He formed a strong friendship with Joseph Banks and joined the scientific staff on the Endeavour expedition. This deciding moment was later described by Banks in a letter to a friend in Sweden.

Of this (the Endeavour voyage) I promptly informed Doctor Solander, who received the news with much pleasure and immediately promised to provide me with complete information on all aspects of natural history which could probably be met with during such an extensive and unprecedented voyage. But some days afterwards, when we were together at Lady Monson's table and spoke about the unique opportunities I should get, Solander got remarkably fired, sprang up a short time later from his chair and asked with intent eyes: Would you like to have a travelling companion? I replied: Such a person as you would be of infinite advantage and pleasure to me! If so, he said, I want to go with you, and from that moment everything was settled and decided.

During the voyage Solander and Banks collected around 17,000 plant specimens. The specimens from Australia included around 900 species and in New Zealand 349 species. Solander was the author of the first individual floras of Australia and New Zealand. These were major but unpublished botanical works. His pioneering descriptions have



The Simpling Macaroni, 13 July 1772 / M. Darly Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales / PXA 1353 Macaroni, a satirical etching portraying Daniel Solander, holding a plant specimen with flowers and root in his right hand, and a curved knife (lettered *Savigny*) in his left.



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Banksia solandri, Stirling Range Banksia. The species name commemorates Daniel Solander. It was first gathered in 1829 in the Stirling Range WA by William Baxter. (*The Banksia Book*, AS George, p 80)

been described as scientifically comprehensible, yet elegant and poetic. He also recorded important ethno-botanical information, including many Maori names. The Polynesian navigator and interpreter, Tupaia played a crucial role in this.

In a letter to Sweden, Banks later described the intensive work on board the Endeavour.

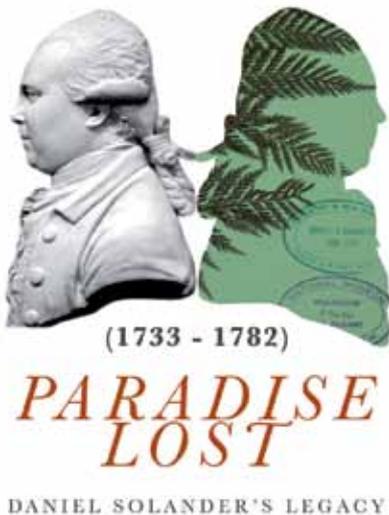
During this voyage, which lasted three years, I can say of him (Solander) that he combined an incomparable diligence and an acumen that left nothing unsettled, with an unbelievable equanimity. During all that time we did not once have any altercation which for a moment became heated... We had a reasonably good supply of books with us for Indian natural history and seldom was a gale so strong that it interrupted our usual time of study, which lasted from approximately 8 o'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and from 4 or 5 o'clock, when the smell of cooking had vanished, we sat together until it got dark at a big table in the cabin with our draughtsman directly opposite us and showed him the manner in which the drawing should be done and also hastily made descriptions of all the natural history subjects while they were still fresh.

Solander and Banks used large quantities of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* to press the specimens during the voyage.

After returning to London, Solander resumed his post at the British Museum. He continued to work with Banks and they made several smaller expeditions, among them to the Isle of Wight, Scotland and Iceland. The plan was to document the botanical results of the Endeavour expedition. However, Solander passed away following a stroke in 1782, which left Banks devastated. In 1784 he wrote to a friend in Sweden: *The botanical work, with which I am now occupied, is drawing near to an end. Solander's name will appear on the title page beside mine, since everything was written through our combined labour. While he was alive, hardly a single sentence was written while we*

were not together. This was not to happen.

The Embassy of Sweden and the Solander Gallery in Wellington, NZ, have launched a unique art collaboration: *Paradise Lost - Daniel Solander's Legacy*. Ten artists have been invited to respond creatively to the legacy of Daniel Solander, with works including painting, watercolours, limited edition prints,

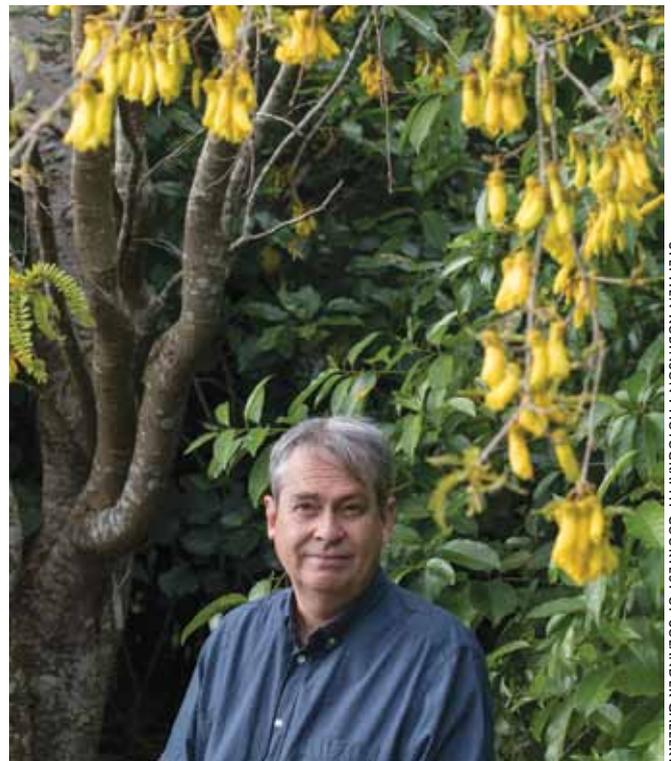


artist books and three-dimensional objects. The research by Dr Edward Duyker has been important in this project. I would like to recommend his book: *Nature's Argonaut: Daniel Solander 1733-1782*.

The artists involved in the project are Sharnae Beardsley from Christchurch, Dagmar Dyck from Auckland, Tabatha Forbes from New Plymouth, John McClean from New Plymouth, Alexis Neal from Auckland, Jo Ogier from Christchurch, Jenna Packer from Dunedin, John Pusateri from Auckland, Lynn Taylor from Dunedin and Michel Tuffery from Wellington.

The exhibition will be officially opened at the Solander Gallery in Wellington in February 2019 and will tour New Zealand until mid-2020. It will visit Australia and I hope that it will be first opened at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) in Canberra. Our good friends at ANBG gave us invaluable support when we created a Solander Garden at the Embassy in Canberra, which was officially opened last year. I am looking forward to hosting the Friends of ANBG at the Embassy in 2019.

We are also looking forward to collaborating with the Florilegium Society in Sydney on a watercolour art exhibition of plants collected by Solander and Banks, planned for 2020.



Swedish Ambassador to Australia, Pär Ahlberger, in the Auckland Botanic Gardens under a *Sophora microphylla*, coined by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander. The common name of this tree is Kowhai, family Fabaceae, native to New Zealand and widely regarded as the NZ national flower.

STEPHEN ROBINSON PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SOLANDER GALLERY

Members of Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

For information about Members see AAFBG website at

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

also see website for full calendar of events

Calendar of events 2019

AAFBG Annual General Meeting on Friday 19 July at 11 am in Maiden Theatre at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney,

16th Australasian Guides Conference. Beauty Rich and Rare. 16 - 20 September 2019 at Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth, WA.

National Gardening Week. Dig In & Celebrate! 13 to 19 October 2019 . For more information: ghoad@internode.on.au

AAFBG Biennial Conference. Banks and Solander. Celebrating 250 years of Botanical Friends. 20 - 24 May 2020, Hosted by Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum.

Websites worth visiting

Visit our website:

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Contact website editor to list your events or add garden photos to the members' gallery:
info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com

BGANZ on line Newsletter – *The Botanic Garden*
www.bganz.org.au/newsletter

Botanic Gardens Conservation International
<http://bgci.org/resources/news>

Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia
www.gpcaa.com

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

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

Plants for the Planet:

www.plantsfortheplanet.com

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