



FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST

8.30am - 3:30pm **PRE-CONFERENCE BUS TOUR**

'Snapshot of the Sunshine Coast'

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

2pm - 4pm

Other delegates:

Registration - Cafe (open until 2:30pm) and MRBBG Gardens are open.
Join others to have a walk around and to get to know the Gardens

Wildflowers of the Gardens: Photographic Exhibition

Arts and Ecology Building

4pm - 6pm

WELCOME DRINKS - A&E LAWNS

4:30pm

MC: Kate Heffernan

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

Welcome to the Sunshine Coast;
Former Mayor, Cr. Joe Natoli, Sunshine Coast Council

Presentation of Handbury Awards;
Dr. Judy West AO, AAFBG Patron

Tree Planting Ceremony

SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST

8:30am - 8:45am Last Minute Registration - Everyone Seated by 8:55am

8:55am - 9:00am **Introduction to the Conference by the conveners**
Lynn Vlismas and Malcolm Cox

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

9:00am - 9:15am **Welcome to Country**
Briana Hanson, Kabi Kabi representative

9:15am - 9:30am **Welcome from the AAFBG Patron**
Dr Judy West AO



SATURDAY 24th August - PROGRAMME CONTINUED

- 9:30am - 10:30am **‘THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE’: Keynote speaker**
The Changing Climate and Changing Expectations of Botanic Gardens - Projects that address change
- Dale Arvidsson**, Curator,
Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum,
Brisbane, Queensland
- 10:30am - 11:00am **MORNING TEA**
- 11:00am - 12:00pm **‘A CHANGING SUB TROPICAL GARDEN’**
Our Garden’s role in how we meet the growing challenges in the decline of biodiversity, climate change impacts, population pressures, and our need for a sanctuary for nature
- Bill Hadrill**, Sunshine Coast Council Group Executive,
Liveability and Natural Assets, Sunshine Coast Council
and
Michael Gilles, SCC Environmental Visitor Centre
Officer; Mary Cairncross Rainforest Scenic Reserve,
Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden, Bli Bli Wetlands
- 12:00pm - 12:20pm **MORNING WRAP-UP WITH THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS’**
QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE AUDIENCE
Facilitated by Kate Heffernan
- 12:20pm - 1:20pm **LUNCH**
- 1:20pm - 2:05pm **‘CHALLENGES ALWAYS COME WITH OPPORTUNITIES?’**
The value of the promotion of native plants through Regional Botanic Gardens in Australia
- Lawrence Smith AM**,
Landscape Architect, National Leader of ANPSA Garden Design Study
Group
- 2:05pm -3:05pm **‘FRIENDS RESPONSES TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE’**
- the importance of maintaining strong *Relationships* - Friends of MRBBG
 - changing the appeal of *Volunteering* - Arid Lands BG, Port Augusta, SA
 - responding to changes in *Climate* - ‘Let’s Grow Wild’ Kings Park, Perth



The Challenge of Change

Relationships, Volunteering, Climate and Technology

AAFBG Conference 2024

23 August – 26 August

bgfriends2024@gmail.com



SATURDAY 24th August - PROGRAMME CONTINUED

'FRIENDS RESPONSES TO THE NEED FOR CHANGE'

- **opportunities through Technology**

- 'Plant Mapping' ,
Noosa Botanic Gardens

3:05pm - 3:25pm

AFTERNOON WRAP-UP WITH THE PREVIOUS SPEAKER'S QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY THE AUDIENCE

Facilitated by **Dr Judy West AO**
Former Executive Director,
ANBG Canberra, ACT

Garden closes at 5:00pm

Return to your accommodation

5.00pm - 9.00pm

Conference Dinner at Mooloolaba Surf Club

Dinner Speaker - **Sheridan Stewart**
Author 'I am Enough'
and ABC Sunshine Coast Broadcaster, co-host - The Saturday
Morning Gardening Club with Adam Woodhams

SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

8:30am - 9:30am

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

9:30am - 10:00am

BGANZ Presentation
Cassandra Nichols, CEO BGANZ

10:00am - 10:30am

MORNING TEA

10:30am - 11:00am

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

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



SUNDAY 25th August - PROGRAMME CONTINUED

11:00am - 12:00pm **‘COLLABORATING FOR CHANGE’**

Presentations from MRBBG Community Partners

- **‘Conservation of the Sunshine Coast heathlands’**
Dr Hilary Pearl
Leader, Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group, Australian Native Plant Society
- **‘ Changing the koala’s fate through innovation: non-invasive methods and technology to safeguard our iconic species**
Dr Romane Cristescu,
University of the Sunshine Coast, Detection Dogs for Conservation
- **‘Bush Food Cultivation and Cooking from an Indigenous Perspective’**
Tanika Orr, Nooks and Cooks
- **‘Natives Naturally - How Community Nurseries can contribute to Gardens for Wildlife’**
Joan Dillon,
Native Plants Sunshine Coast

12:00pm - 1:00pm **‘THINGS WE FRIENDS WANT TO CHANGE’**

Come prepared with your thoughts to contribute to one of 2 facilitated 30 minute workshop discussions followed by a whole group presentation of ideas and Q&A

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

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

Looking at our living collections backwards: making the science visible’

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

1:00pm - 2:00pm **LUNCH**

2:00pm - 3:00pm **RAPID FIRE - ‘OUR STORY’**

6 groups of Friends are invited to have a “brag session”
6 groups for 8 minutes with a final 10 min Q&A.
All digital material to be submitted prior to Conference,
first in first chance, ***still one space available***
Subject can be on any topic, program or achievement.

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



SUNDAY 25th August - PROGRAMME CONTINUED

- **Friends of North Coast Regional Botanic Garden, Coffs Harbour**
'An innovative use of social media - linking Instagram to our website'
- **Adelaide Botanic Garden**
'Chihuly's Garden Cycle Exhibition' - the challenges of launching some events
- **Mackay BG, Helen Paulsen**
- **Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum**

3:00pm - 3:30pm **NEXT CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED,
AND PRESENTATION**

3:30pm - 4:00pm **WRAP UP OF CONFERENCE**
AAFBG President, Linda Beveridge
Friends of MRBBG Conference co-conveners, Lynn Vlismas and Malcolm Cox
MRBBG Manager - Michael Gilles

FAREWELL FROM CONFERENCE 2024

MONDAY 26TH AUGUST

Our Bush Magic tours

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