



EUCALYPT

AAFBG NEWSLETTER

NO 47 NOVEMBER 2016

Welcome to Edinburgh

The AAFBG welcomes our newest Associate member, the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh.



Aberglasney, south-west Wales (left) and Monkey Puzzle Trees, Chile.

In April of this year, the Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) handed over £30,000 to the Gardens, to fund a range of projects in all four of the gardens which comprise the RBGE: Benmore, Dawyck, Logan and Edinburgh. These funds were raised through various activities held throughout the year.

Plant Sales are held in May in the Edinburgh, Benmore and Dawyck Gardens and are our best fund-raising effort. In Edinburgh, preparations take place throughout the year in a corner of the RBGE nursery, where a number of volunteers, called the Potters (for obvious reasons!) nurture plants to sell at the sale. In May 2015, we raised £12,000 and this was surpassed in May 2016 when £16,000 was raised (in two hours!).

Our other major source of funds is through a series of tours: one day; 4/5 day UK tours; and, over the past two years, an overseas tour. In 2015, we visited three gardens locally and our UK tours took us to Dumfries and Galloway in south-west Scotland and south-west Wales. However, the highlight of the year, was the tour to Chile/Argentina, led by RBGE botanists, Martin Gardiner and Sabina Knees, both of whom



Plant sale at Benmore (left) and at Edinburgh (right)

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Incorporation: AOO26805Z

Patron: Dr Philip Moors

Office bearers

President: Dennis Ayliffe, Friends ANBG

Sec/Public Officer: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Friends
Ballarat BG

Treasurer: Kathy Wright, Friends RBG
Melbourne

General Committee

John Bentley, Friends Melton BG

Bodo Jensen, Friends Adelaide BG

Murray Fletcher, Friends Orange BG

Robyn Saunders, Friends Benalla BG

Admin Officer

Lisa Tuck, PO Box 33253, Melbourne, 3004

Membership

Annual Membership fees for 2017 will be invoiced in early February 2017 and will be:

\$50 for up to 250 members

\$150 for 250-500 members

\$250 for 500-1000 members

\$400 for 1000+ members

Address

AAFBG, PO Box 33253, Melbourne, 3004

Email: info@friendsbotanicgardens.org

Telephone: (03) 5222 8787

Website

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Web Managers: Wordsworth Communicating

Email: info@WordsWorthcommunicating.com

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Editor Anne Rawson

email: eucalyptar@gmail.com

We welcome your articles for inclusion and photographs and important calendar events.

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

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Welcome to Edinburgh (cont.)



Winner of Photography Competition 'Inverleith House' by Alan Pottinger;

had done extensive conservation work in Chile. We were, therefore, privileged to be able to visit a number of reservations which were not normally open to the general public. Undoubtedly, one of the most memorable areas we visited was Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*) trees in their natural habitat. They are under threat from encroaching development and fires and are now on the IUCN Red List as an endangered species.

The Friends also ran a successful Photography Competition, and were responsible for the Plant Creches at Gardening Scotland, our national garden show held at a show-ground near Edinburgh.

The 14 projects which the Friends are funding this year include a Chainsaw Sculpture in Dawyck Garden to complement the existing sculpture by David Douglas (plant collector in North America); a Squirrel Hide in Benmore; and new interpretation panels in the Alpine area of the Edinburgh Garden

All of these activities are only possible with the volunteers on the committee and support from our Membership Office. The challenge facing the Friends' Committees is recruiting willing volunteers who will plan programs of activities and contribute to the successful running of the various events throughout the year. The Friends of the RBGE are now approaching their 25th anniversary and a number of special events have been planned, including a half-day conference on Climate Change and a celebratory Ceilidh. If any of your members are in the vicinity of the RBGE on Friday 28 October they would be most welcome to join in the fun!

*Shiona Mackie, Committee Member,
(formerly Convener)*

From the President

Dennis Ayliffe



The Association Committee of Management has met twice since being elected at the Annual General Meeting on 1 May held in Geelong, once by telephone conference on 11 June and face-to-face in Melbourne on 22 July 2016. That last meeting was held to coincide with a workshop at which we considered the results of a Conference hosting requirements review, strategic plan development and upgrading the Association's website, amongst other matters.

My thanks to all Committee members who contributed to those efforts and I am pleased to be able to report that progress on these issues is underway.

I have also asked Committee members if they are travelling to visit local member gardens and meet with Friends Groups as a way of maintaining contact with members.

In this regard, my wife and I attended a family event on the Queensland Sunshine Coast in July and took the opportunity to visit the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanical Gardens at Tanawha where we were shown around by Malcolm Cox, the President of the Gardens' Friends. We also visited the Noosa Botanic Gardens where we were shown around by local gardening personality Paul Plant. Both Gardens are a tribute to the outstanding efforts of their Friends groups and are well worth a visit.

In August my wife and I were lucky enough to find ourselves in Edinburgh and visited the Royal Botanic Garden and joined a tour run by Shiona Mackie (author of an article in this edition of *Eucalypt*), a highly experienced guide. The Friends group is an affiliate member of the AAFBG. The Gardens contain a large number of plants from China brought to the Gardens by collectors in the 18th and 19th centuries. These plants then formed the basis of re-establishment efforts for these species back in China after the Cultural Revolution in that country. We found the Gardens in great condition with well-maintained facilities and, on the Sunday we were there, very popular with tourists. The relatively newly opened entrance at the John Hope Gateway is a spectacular building.

We also visited a stunning walled garden at Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye (below left), and the Abbey Gardens at Treviso on the Isles of Scilly, complete with Australian tree ferns (below right).



I have to report that we have had three resignations from the Committee. Two of these were the representatives from the Friends of the Geelong Botanical Gardens. A dispute arose between the Association and the Geelong Friends when it became apparent that our Rules did not allow for two representatives on the Committee from the one member organisation. The Geelong Friends ultimately decided to resign from the Association altogether which meant that their two members were obliged to resign also. The third resignation was that of Robert Wright who represented the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

These resignations mean that we are now looking for interested and motivated members of Friends groups to join our Committee. Anyone interested and wanting further information is encouraged to contact me at president@friendsbotanicgardens.org or more generally at info@friendsbotanicgardens.org.

AAFBG Annual General Meeting 2017

Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

Saturday 20th May 2017

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the Friends to showcase the Botanic Gardens in Canberra with a program including guided walks and lunch.

More details to follow.

Kangaroo Paw Celebration

at Royal Botanic Garden Victoria at Cranbourne Gardens

The iconic kangaroo paw and its relatives will be celebrated in a number of activities.

The Australian Garden at Cranbourne will be enlivened by the planting of over 5000 kangaroo paws.

Over November the Gallery at the Australian Garden Visitor Centre will have a Kangaroo Paw and relatives themed exhibition of artworks, crafts and floral art.

The 'Kangaroo Paw Picnic' over the weekend of Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 November will provide a varied program of activities.

A Special 3-Day Event:

Kangaroo Paws, Bloodroots, Cottonheads and More Symposium

Thursday 24 November: Science Day
Botanical, zoological and horticultural aspects

Friday 25 November: Professional Day
Breeding, design, cultivation, diseases.

Saturday 26 November: Home Gardeners Day
Subjects that gardeners like

Enquiries: Rodger Elliot, email: rgelliot@optusnet.com.au

Secretary's Report

Elizabeth Gilfillan



A lot has been happening since the new committee met in July. It is both promising and exciting to be planning for the future.

Friends of Benalla are enthusiastically planning for the 2018 conference – read more in Robyn Saunders article. Members can look forward to planning a visit to Benalla in Victoria and sharing all that this unique rural gem has to offer.

President Dennis Ayliffe is tentatively making plans to hold the next Association 2017 AGM in Canberra when we hope many Friends will take the opportunity to share time together in this beautiful location.

By the time this edition is published the new website will be available for viewing. The site will be an evolving thing and we urge members to submit photographs to be included and remind you that your Garden can have its own page on the website. Thanks to Lisa and Wordsworth for all their work on this.

Your committee is seeking sponsorship for both this newsletter and the website, if any members know of a business which may be interested in the opportunity to promote nationally, please contact AAFBG administration.

As we congratulate Sydney on their 200 year anniversary and all the activities associated, it was a great pleasure to visit in August especially to visit the new Calyx Pavilion and view the Cocoa exhibition and to learn the story and history of this amazing plant. Do visit if you have the opportunity before the display closes early next year.

On a recent road trip to South Australia before the storms, we had great pleasure in visiting Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta, looking fantastic after recent rains, and the Flinders Ranges, green! In Adelaide Botanic Garden it was wonderful to learn the inside story of the Friends from committee member (President) Bodo Jensen. I especially loved the story of their Little Sprouts children's program. There was no storm damage to the Adelaide Gardens but Mt Lofty was not so fortunate and will be closed for the immediate future. Our thoughts are with farmers in the region who have lost vast areas of crops that were looking amazing previously.

A metal midge in the Cocoa exhibition at The Calyx in Sydney. The sign says "Midge. Only midges in the *Forcipomyia* genus pollinate the oddly shaped flowers of chocolate trees. On average only one in every 400 flowers visited by the midge results in a chocolate pod and only 30% of pods reach maturity!"

Photo by T. Gilfillan.



Administrative Officer's Report

Lisa Tuck



Dear Members,

Thank you Anne for your work on the latest *Eucalypt* and to all the members who have sent in articles to share.

Garden visits will be a high priority for me now that I've stepped down from my role as Chair of the Australian Garden History Society (Vic. Branch). I'm very keen to see the work of Friends, meet some of the members and offer support where I can.

Current AAFBG Executive:

President	Dennis Ayliffe	Friends of Australian National BG
Secretary/VP	Elizabeth Gilfillan	Friends of Ballarat BG
Treasurer	Kathy Wright	Friends of Royal BG Melbourne
General Committee	John Bentley	Friends of Melton BG
	Bodo Jensen	Friends of BG Adelaide
	Murray Fletcher	Friends of Orange BG
	Robyn Saunders	Friends of Benalla BG

We would like to welcome Robyn Saunders to the Committee. She has recently joined us from Benalla BG, where plans for the next Biennial Conference in April 2018 are well underway. We met with Benalla Friends this month to look at where the event will be convened and to offer our assistance. The Benalla Botanic Gardens looked wonderful with the extra rain and strong Spring growth.

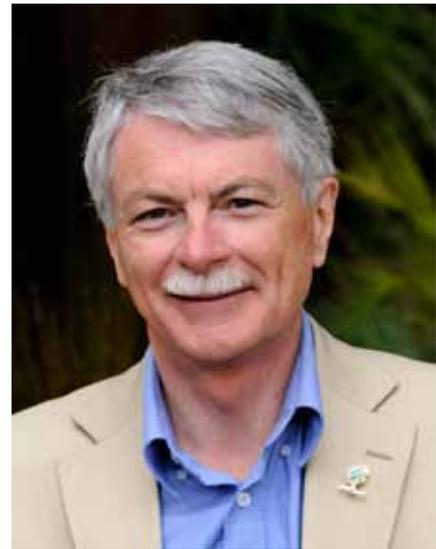
The AAFBG website upgrade is due at any moment. This will produce a much more responsive site with the use of latest technology. This is a very exciting time for us and you will be informed when the site will be closed for a few days.

Welcome to Wildlife Art Museum of Australia Friends of BG and Friends of Waite Arboretum, who joined AAFBG after the Geelong Conference. Congratulations to the Sydney Botanic Gardens on their 200th Celebration.

If you know of fledgling Friends groups who would benefit from being a member of the Association please spread the word. We are able to support members by hosting a web page through our website, giving them the benefit of an internet address without the expense. And, of course, all members get *Eucalypt* twice a year.

Our eminent Patron

Dr Philip Moors



Philip has had a long involvement with Australia's botanic gardens, which he has been delighted to continue as Patron of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens.

He was Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria from 1992 until 2012. During that time he implemented new programs in visitor services, cultural activities and tourism, plant biodiversity and urban ecology research, education, and fundraising and revenue generation. In Melbourne the popular Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden was opened in 2004 and Guilfoyle's Volcano low-water-use garden in 2010, and a project to capture and treat stormwater for Garden irrigation was completed in 2012. Philip led the creation of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne. Completed in 2012, the 15-hectare Garden, celebrating Australia's remarkable plant life, has won almost 30 regional, national and international awards, including the 2013 World Landscape of the Year, and has inspired Gold-Medal-winning gardens at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show and 2014 Hampton Court Flower Show.

Philip's interest in botanic gardens, and in ecology more generally, spread well beyond the bounds of those specific Victorian Gardens. He was inaugural President of Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) from 2005 to 2011; a member of the Victorian National Parks Advisory Committee from 2010 to 2013; and Chairman of the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology from 1998 to 2012.

He started this impressive career in New Zealand where, from 1974 to 1988, he was a Research Scientist with the New Zealand Wildlife Service and Department of Conservation. Philip's other major interest is birds and in 1989 he became Director of BirdLife Australia, a position he held until 1992. He is currently the Deputy Chancellor of La Trobe University and Chairman of Trustees of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. He is also Patron of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

In 2013 Philip was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to conservation and the environment through contributions to the botanical and scientific community and the promotion of Australian flora.

A brand new Conservatory!

*Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
Canberra, ACT*



CHROFI

Artist's impression of the future Ian Potter National Conservatory



CHROFI

Side garden room with board-walk, artist's impression

The biggest news from the ANBG has no direct link with the Friends, but like everyone else we are very excited! The Gardens are getting a new Conservatory, called the Ian Potter National Conservatory, because the Ian Potter Foundation gave the Gardens \$1.5 million towards the cost. The plan was launched by the Hon. Josh Frydenberg MP, Minister for the Environment and Energy on 17 October and the Commonwealth has made \$4.5 million available to go towards the cost. The winning architects were CHROFI with lead architect John Choi.

The ANBG Conservatory does not look like a conservatory; some have called it an Esky, more kindly it is a hovering cube. It was this entirely novel approach to the design of a conservatory which influenced the panel's decision to select this plan over the other four contenders in the competition. Amazingly much of this building is made of concrete which will act as a heat source in Canberra's chilly nights and cold winters while the exterior is clad in polycarbonate. Light will enter through the roof, the skylights on the garden rooms and windows set into the concrete walls on the north and west sides. In the planning for such a building much work has been done on modelling the patterns and levels of light that will fall on the plants.

The plants will be all Australian, of course, sourced from Kakadu, Christmas Island and northern Queensland. Many of them will be unfamiliar, unknown, to visitors to the Gardens. Work is already under way on preparing the plants that were living in the glasshouses here at the Gardens for their move into this new, bigger, taller space. It is tall enough to accommodate the King Fern which has fronds eight metres long, the largest produced by any fern in the world. The Ian Potter National Conservatory will be opened to the public in 2018. Another reason to visit Canberra.

The Friends have been involved in more ordinary things, like the AGM that elected some new committee members; organising the weekly talks on Thursday lunchtimes; propagating, growing and selling plants sourced from the Gardens; painting beautiful paintings of plants that grow in the Gardens and that are sold at an annual exhibition; and producing our triennial magazine, *Fronde*. The latest issue contains a long article, and many pictures, about our new Conservatory.

Anne Rawson

Heritage and modern roses

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland
Benalla, Victoria



The historic Benalla Botanical Gardens enjoy a beautiful setting on the shores of Lake Benalla – right in the heart of town. The Gardens are a fine example of 19th century public gardens, designed by Arthur Sangwell, offering a wealth of mature, shady trees and serpentine paths connecting large, perennial garden beds all surrounding a picturesque oval. They are listed as an area of significance by Heritage Victoria, and are managed by the Benalla Rural City Council. The Friends of the Benalla Gardens and Riverine Parkland provides physical and financial support to the development of the Gardens.

The Gardens sit on the banks of the Broken River – in dry spells it used to break down into a series of water holes. Local Aboriginal people call the river the Marangan, or ‘big waterhole’.

Generations of travellers remember stopping by the ‘Rocket Park’ children’s playground and BBQ area currently undergoing a major renovation in a joint project between the Friends and Benalla Rural City Council.

A collection of around 1000 roses has proven a major drawcard to the Benalla Gardens for over 50 years. Rose fanciers will find a notable collection of modern and heritage rose varieties, including Australian roses, seldom found in public gardens. We even have the Benalla Rose, an orange-pink hybrid variety, bred by George Dawson. In 2004 a new island bed featuring solely red roses was created. This bed is flanked by beds containing separate plantings of coloured roses (except red!). A heritage rose garden was added in 2009 to commemorate 60 years of rose plantings in the Gardens.

The wide curving pathways create a framework for the creation of elliptical and triangular beds, some still planted according to their traditional plant families, while newer plantings favour drought tolerant species. The Gardens contain three specimens of *Ulmus viminalis*, the only known elm trees of their kind in Australia, which are listed on the National Trust’s Register of Significant Trees.

Benalla’s pride in its community is demonstrated in the Gardens by a collection of memorials which appeared after the First World War. The celebrated WW II surgeon and locally born Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop is honoured by a bronze sculpture crafted by Louis Laumen, installed in 1996.

Formation of the Friends was sparked by the chance discovery in 1985 of historic images of the Gardens on glass slides showing how the Gardens appeared between 1920 and 1930. Further research uncovered a tracing of Sangwell’s original plan from 1886. The images were displayed during a seminar on Historic Gardens of Victoria in Benalla in the bicentennial year, 1988. The seminar recommended restoration and preservation of the Gardens, providing impetus for the creation of a community group to support the Gardens. The inaugural meeting of the ‘Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens’ was held in 1988.



The Friends expanded in 2003 to become the Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland. The new name recognised Benalla’s unique cultural centre, with its heritage-listed Botanical Gardens, outstanding Art Gallery and memorials being intricately linked to Lake Benalla, the ceramic mural, show-grounds and riverine landscape in the heart of town.

In memory of Made Wijaya

Friends of Darwin Botanic Gardens *Darwin, NT*

In August this year the Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens were delighted to host a special celebrity guest at the Tropical Garden Fair weekend held at the George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens on 13 and 14 August. That guest was internationally acclaimed tropical landscape designer Made Wijaya, who spent two days supervising the construction of an Eastern Indonesian-themed garden in the Botanic Gardens.

His vision for the garden was to have a focal point of a campong – a raised stone platform found in main squares of ancient Eastern Indonesian villages, used for meetings, ritual dances or sanctuaries. Made often in pairs these structures, with guardian statues or modern art, creating an intriguing primitive modern mix. A palm thatched shelter provides a secluded viewing point for the campong.



The raised campong platform is home to local Top End rocks and the central ficus tree will grow to be a significant feature of the garden area. Photo by Leon Blignault



A small coconut palm frond thatched shelter provides a shady and secluded viewpoint for the new campong style structure. Photo by Leon Blignault

He had designed the garden after a preliminary visit to Darwin in May, and supplied detailed working drawings and suggestions from his office in Bali before his arrival for the weekend event.

Tragically, Made Wijaya died suddenly in Sydney on 28 August, just two weeks after the completion of his Darwin project. He was receiving treatment for a recently diagnosed cancer, and his passing was met with grief and shock by all who knew him and his body of work.

Born in Sydney, Michael White (as he then was) studied architecture at Sydney University before arriving in Bali in 1973. He fell in love with the island and its customs and architectural heritage and decided to make it his home, initially eking a living teaching tennis, tutoring English and writing a column for a local newspaper. He was informally adopted by a Brahman family in a rural village, became fluent in the Balinese language and an adept of the island's Hindu religion. In 1975, a Brahman priest conferred his new name, Made Wijaya, on him in a temple ceremony.

A keen interest in landscape architecture landed him a commission designing the gardens of the Bali Hyatt resort in Sanur and his reputation as Bali's premier landscape designer was secured. His company, PT Wijaya Tribwana International, employing hundreds of designers and gardeners, has designed the gardens of fine hotels, resorts and private residences in Bali and around the world, including Singapore, India, Spain, Morocco, Hawaii, Australia, the USA and Mexico.

Made Wijaya published numerous landmark books on garden design and architecture, including his *Tropical Garden Design* (1999) and *Modern Tropical Garden Design* (2007), and contributed to many other publications. He is sorely missed.

Sue Dibbs

Looking to the future

*Friends of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
Mackay, Queensland*



Please note: This article was meant to appear in the Conference edition of *Eucalypt* which came out in May this year. Unfortunately, it got forgotten by the editor. Apologies. Anne Rawson.

2015 ended with a very successful Christmas in the Gardens event once again. Thankfully the weather was pleasant for a crowd of several hundred families picnicking on the lawns and singing along to the carols.

Changes are continuing at our Gardens. Ross Demuth, our Team Leader, is leaving after 11 years and relocating to Brisbane. We will miss him greatly. Ross and some of the Friends have lately spent many hours auditing plants within the Gardens. Another Friend has been entering the data into the computer using Bauble software which will allow people to click on an entry, find a photo and go to Google for more information. This is a time consuming process, but will be invaluable to the community eventually. The data will also be used to produce labels, both long lasting aluminium ones and interim sticky signs on plastic sticks.

There have been several Advisory Board meetings with the design consultants for the development of meadowlands. Friends' representatives also attended workshops recently for in-depth discussions of the proposals. The workshops have raised some issues which will need to be worked through in coming months.

Sadly several large trees providing shade near the children's Play Garden have had to be removed. They have been infected with *Phellinus noxius* (brown tree rot). We had already lost several trees in other areas of the Gardens, so hopefully this soil fungus will not spread any further.

Recently the last two of five explanatory signs were erected on the Lagoons deck. One sign describes Lagoon Life, while the other, Imagine the Future, shows what we hope will happen in coming years. This project has taken many years to come to fruition, but is very popular with Gardens visitors.

What was originally proposed as a secondary entrance to the Gardens has become the main entry by default, but visitors were unsure of where they really were. However we now have a wonderful new sign filling a whole wall beside the front office showing our logo and the name of our Gardens – a great identification photo opportunity for visitors!

Robin McWhinney, Secretary

Something to celebrate

*Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra
Canberra, ACT*



We always get excited when one of the Arboretum's forest species comes into flower for the first time but this first flowering is particularly exciting because *Sophora toromiro* (Toromiro) is extinct in its native habitat, Rapa Nui (Easter Island), and it had been living on in just a few botanic gardens around the world.

S. toromiro occupies part of Forest 77 at the National Arboretum Canberra where 80 trees were planted from 2011 onwards. The planting pattern consists of one central tree surrounded by four concentric circles of trees. These 80 trees are surrounded by a much larger host forest of *Styphnolobium japonicum* (Pagoda trees).

By 2013, progress was disappointing with many Toromiros losing their leaves and then dying. However, members of the Friends' tree monitoring sub-group noticed that caterpillars were causing the leaf loss. Later, armies of Friends' volunteers set about physically removing all the caterpillars in Forest 77 and in Forest 64 where a related species, *S. microphylla* (Kowhai) from New Zealand, was also suffering caterpillar attack. Since then both species have grown remarkably and their delicate-looking evergreen leaves have tolerated Canberra's winter frosts.

Six of the Toromiros formed buds during the third week in September and one month later they were still flowering, with one specimen being quite heavily laden. The showy flowers are about 3 cm long so they can be seen from afar. If these trees keep progressing this forest will certainly be something to behold in spring-time in the years ahead. But now we are waiting for the next stage: will they develop pods?

Linda Muldoon, Publications Editor

Wattle walk with waffles

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens
Orange, NSW



Acacia meiantha flowering in the Mullion Ranges near Orange. Photo by Murray Fletcher

On 4 September, Chris Mills gave a short talk introducing the wattles of the Central West of NSW, followed by a walk by the 30 to 40 interested participants, around the wattle collection in the gardens. This included a good look at *Acacia meiantha*, a local species which was recently listed under the NSW *Threatened Species Act*. Following the walk we enjoyed a delicious morning tea of warm, freshly cooked waffles topped with jams and marmalades made by our talented catering team.



Baobab in the Ifaty Spiny Forest reserve in SW Madagascar with a fence of living Didieriaceae. Photo by Murray Fletcher.

The latest in our series of Cultivated Chats on 12 October featured Dr Murray Fletcher who visited Madagascar in April to explore some of the local national parks. Murray explained why Madagascar is such an interesting place for biologists, particularly botanists, and reviewed the plants, invertebrates, lemurs, chameleons and birds he had seen on the trip, including many endemic species. Highlights included a visit to the Spiny Forest Reserve near Ifaty on the arid south-west coast with several species of baobabs (*Adansonia* spp) and spiny species like *Alluaudia procera* (Didieriaceae) and *Euphorbia steno-clada* (Euphorbiaceae). The talk was followed by a delicious lunch provided by the Friends.



Murray and Brown Lemur friend in Madagascar, Photo by Vicki Glover.

Dogs off their leash continue to be an issue in OBG. Most owners do the right thing but there are recalcitrants who believe that they have the right to let their dogs run free in the Gardens, including swimming in the waterways and chasing the ducks. Council has increased its ranger patrols in the Gardens and it is hoped that a few judicial fines might get the message out to those dog owners.

Guided tours around the Gardens included one on 17 September for the Jaguar Car Club of Australia on their recent tour through the central west. Dennis Croucher, FOBG President, showed them around the Botanic Garden where they were particularly interested in our *Edgeworthia* which was in full flower. The bird walks on the first Sunday of each month continue to attract an enthusiastic (and growing) group of bird lovers to explore the various habitats provided around the Gardens. These are normally led by Bernie and Colina Huxtable but there are a number of other knowledgeable birdos who attend regularly and who lead the walk when the Huxtables are not available. A number of nesting boxes for birds and bats have now been installed in the Gardens, funded by FOBG. Already, there has been interest shown in the larger boxes by Wood Ducks and species of Rosellas.

Murray Fletcher, Secretary

‘What’s cooking in the Gardens?’

Friends of the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens Redcliffe, Queensland

July is one of the most frenetic months for the Friends of the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens’ volunteers. While our Nursery is open for sales on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, the Moreton Bay Regional Council’s ‘What’s Cooking in the Gardens?’ event draws thousands of visitors to our Gardens and the FRBG team has to be ready.

‘Being ready’ means checking off the checklist:

1. Are there enough of popular selling items, Hoveas and Acacias, available in tube stock and small pots?
2. Are the pots weed-free?
3. Are sufficient pots correctly labelled with botanic name, common name, expected size, best growing conditions?
4. Are there enough signs throughout the Nursery for ground covers, shrubs, perennials, bloody great big trees, prices?
5. Are there enough volunteers? The FRBG team not only looks after the Nursery on the day BUT also provides members to collect the ‘gold coin’ donation entrance fee on the day. FRBG volunteers also run the Peninsula Herb Garden stall and the Permaculture Garden stall on this day.

Sincere thanks to all volunteers who helped on August 7.

Volunteers were rewarded big time when Don Burke asked to see our Gardens and our Nursery. That had never happened before. The Nursery crew were lifted to another level of excitement when Don declared the Nursery had such sweet air, there was clearly no evidence of plant disease. Matt Golinski delighted the Permies by using fresh products from their garden in his cooking display.

In the midst of all this activity, time was set aside for the opening of the Wallum Centre. For many years the FRBG volunteers have had to share a building with the local Lapidary Club. This stunted our ability to work with school groups and have a regular meeting place. In recent years, the Council has recognised this problem and decided to construct a dedicated base, the Wallum Centre. I was pleased to assist Councillor Winchester in the opening of this building which provides FRBG with a kitchen, meeting room and library/herbarium. The Centre now renews the role the Gardens used to play in environmental education for local schools through the ‘Wallum Sub-centre of the Redcliffe and Area School Support Centre’. The Wallum Centre is now part of the Council’s Environmental Education Centre network and is available for school bookings.

This brings us to the other role of the FRBG volunteers. Council provides a grounds-person while FRBG provides additional plant expertise and labour. Sure, many Friends groups can relate to this situation. So not only is the FRBG team preparing the Nursery, Herb Garden and Permaculture Garden for the BIG event BUT the team is also removing obvious weeds and preparing paths throughout the remaining 4 ha of the Gardens.

The future at the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens has never looked brighter.

David Lergessner



Celebrity gardener, Don Burke, Councillor Koliana Winchester and FRBG President David Lergessner take time out at the restored cowyards in the Redcliffe Botanic Gardens.



Councillor Winchester representing the Moreton Bay Regional Council and FRBG President, David Lergessner, declare The Wallum Centre, headquarters of FRBG, officially open.

Ian Harding

Ian Harding

200 years old and still growing

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

As the sun begins to set on the 200th Birthday celebration of the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, we look back in amazement at what we've achieved, the knowledge we've gained, friendships we've made and strengthened, as well as the everlasting memories that we'll treasure. We feel very honoured to have played a significant role within the 200th Birthday celebration. We started by welcoming in the year with 3,000 of our members and guests at a spectacular celebration with floral-inspired fireworks and plant projections on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. During the year we hosted four exhibitions: International Garden Photographer of the Year; Botanica at Farm Cove; Treecycle 2016; and most recently Artisans in the Gardens.



'Sweet Addiction' in the Calyx. Photo Foundation & Friends, Royal BG Sydney.



Glasshouse opening in the Calyx with Clive Austin Chairman of Foundation and Friends and Mark Speakman MP. Photo by Chris Gleisner.

The 200th Birthday year would not have been complete without gifts to the Garden. We donated \$1m to the state-of-the-art production glasshouse to support the exhibitions in the new horticultural display centre – The Calyx – officially opened in June 2016. Our 5,000 members had the opportunity to receive complimentary tickets to the inaugural exhibition Sweet Addiction on the Garden's actual birthday, 13 June. We also gave a special gift of a 200 year old *Macrozamia* tree for the Garden's Bicentenary Bed.

2016 also saw the launch of The Governor Macquarie Legacy Circle, our bequest program, a lasting way for members, friends and supporters to provide for the future of our Botanic Garden. We continued to receive generous support from our Waratah Patrons which meant we were able to continue our funding of the scholarship program for Botanic Garden's staff. We continued our fundraising efforts in support of science with our Save a Species appeal and the Plant Pathology Laboratory Project.

Our dedicated 330+ volunteers have made an enormous effort, contributing, so far, over 30,000 hours of their time. So many of our endeavours would not be possible without this support. This includes our volunteer group Growing Friends, which saw a growth in plant sales of over 30% in 2015-16 compared to the previous financial year – an outstanding effort.

This is not an exhaustive list of all we have done, in-between each of these major events and programs, there have been walks, talks, workshops, art classes, the Garden Design Lecture series and many plant sales. With so many events came the opportunity to engage the community and showcase the importance of our Botanic Garden and, of course, why it is fantastic to be a Friend – after all Friends help our Garden to grow!

These highlights would not have been possible without the generous and amazing support of our members, volunteers, donors, Botanic Garden staff, our team and other supporters. No matter

how they supported – they are all important and contribute to sustaining our Botanic Garden into the next 200 years and beyond.

I would like to congratulate our wonderful team at Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Garden – What a year! Now bring on 2017 – we can't wait for the 30th Birthday celebration for the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden Mount Tomah!

Louisa Goodall, Marketing and Membership Manager.

Changes at Melbourne Friends

*Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
Melbourne, Victoria*



A selection of paintings by Botanical Illustrators. Photos by Greg Hoxley

The biennial exhibition staged by our Botanical Illustrators in spring (15-30 October) took a new direction this time. Artists were given the creative option of departing from the strict traditional form in their paintings and drawings. A record number of 175 works by 90 artists were selected for display and sale in Domain House.

Our Growing Friends have also adapted to change. Their usual weekend spring sale was subsumed into an ambitious Botanic and Rare Plant Fair at Observatory Gate, a partnership between the Melbourne Friends, the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the highly regarded Diggers Club (Mornington Peninsula). The Growing Friends introduced some new rare plants to their catalogue for this occasion. Their plant sale last autumn was a resounding success, realising \$30,900.

As usual, the Friends' regular activities covered a wide range of topics.

A walk and talk at the RBG's famed Camellia collection began with refreshing tea made from the leaves of *Camellia sinensis*. Rare and spectacular varieties are among the 900 plants. Another walk-and-talk series had the provocative title of Boozy Botanicals. Led by Tim Entwisle and bartender Shaun Byrne, drinks derived from plants were followed by a walk in the Gardens to identify the sources of the refreshments. Something similar is being planned for summer.

A bus trip to the Bellarine Peninsula led us to Point Lonsdale's Trust for Nature Sanctuary. We saw wild orchids, grass trees and other native plants that were once widespread. In nearby Queenscliff, the old Vicarage, constructed in the 1860s, and its meandering garden, were of historic interest. A surprise addition to the itinerary was a visit to Coriyule at Drysdale, a home that has won a heritage award for historic restoration.

A three-day workshop introduced our Illustrators to Cyanotype, a rare printing process, first used in 1843 to make ghost-like images of algae, ferns and feathers. The process was demonstrated using Australian plant material. (See christinejohnsonartist.com)

Illustrated talks about Scottish gardens and castles, and grand Italian Renaissance gardens, whet our appetite for overseas travels.

Future projects: planning is well-advanced for the creation of three small Health and Well-being gardens within Fern Gully; and the Friends are providing funds for refurbishing the Visitor Centre at Observatory Gate.

Heather Ironmonger



Queue at the latest plant sale. Photo by Peter Tregloan

A '5 star' native bee hotel

*Friends of the Waite Arboretum, University of Adelaide
Adelaide, South Australia*

The Waite Arboretum was established in 1928 and is a part of the University of Adelaide's Waite Institute, home to agricultural science departments. The Arboretum is a collection of 2,300 trees. Its Native Bee Hotel is a sculptural and functional 'five star' accommodation complex for solitary native bees and is situated on the edge of the Mallee section of the Arboretum. It was designed and constructed for research, education, and biodiversity conservation.



Terry Langham

There are approximately 500 species of native bees in South Australia and 2,500 across Australia. South Australia's native bees include Green Carpenter Bees, Reed Bees, Blue Banded Bees, Teddy Bear Bees, Leafcutter Bees, Resin Bees, *Homalictus* bees and Masked Bees. They range in size from less than 2 mm to 24 mm.

The hotel was made using six timber logs from Arboretum trees with fallen limbs from age or storm damage. One of the logs was sawn and positioned to create an overhanging eave to provide some protection for the nesting holes and materials. A variety of holes were drilled into the other five logs, ranging from 3 to 38 mm

diameter and 60 to 150 mm depth. A number of these holes form nesting 'homes' for the bees and some of the holes can have various materials placed into them, for example paper straws, bamboo, and some native grasses.

Most of the gaps between the timber logs have been tightly filled with 150 mm lengths of bamboo. A number of the larger diameter timber and bamboo nesting holes have been filled with elderberry, crocus, salvia and wheat materials to create a wider selection of habitat for the bees to reside in. In addition, rebates were cut into the top and bottom of the logs to allow placement of nesting materials, for example, dried herbaceous garden plants (raspberries, brambles, teasels and elder), soft deadwood such as banksia, mud bricks of rammed earth and various mixtures of clay and sand. In January 2015 evidence could be seen of some of the over 120 species of local native bees residing in the eight and 16 mm diameter holes.

Elements of the hotel's design and artwork include: lettering of Waite Arboretum Bee Hotel; a representation of a native bee (Blue Banded Bee, *Amegilla* sp); a jewel beetle (*Castiarina gardnerae*); the Friends of the Waite Arboretum logo, *Dracaena draco*; and a teapot. In August 2015 interpretative signs were installed providing information about native bees, an identification chart of six common species, plus information on the designer and maker of the hotel and the support from the Friends of the Waite Arboretum.

Waite Arboretum Curator Dr Jennifer Gardner instigated the project which was opened by Dr Katja Hogenboom from the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the Waite Campus on 9 December 2014. As a Friend I accepted the opportunity to take on maintenance of the hotel which involves adding bamboo lengths as old ones dry out and cleaning out used nest holes, removing any spider webs and replacing any missing paper straws.

Terry Langham



An update on the development of the AGC. See *Eucalypt* No.46 May 2016 for the launch of AGC.

The Australian Garden Council has had a slow public profile start during 2016 due to finalising all the legal responsibilities of setting up an operating identity. Accountants, ASIC, ABN's, lawyers, NFP Co, et al, taking up months of time to complete but we are nearly there. Interestingly it hasn't slowed the progress of enquiries and support from across Australia, and indeed, from overseas.

Schools have been enquiring about training, referrals and mentoring requests. We've been receiving enquiries from secondary high schools, our primary target, without any real campaign being launched. Word of mouth has been serving us well. But it also seems as though the entire horticultural industry has suddenly discovered in 2016 the drastic apprenticeship numbers in ornamental horticulture that have been trending down for ten years.

The Australian Institute of Horticulture along with the Sir John Pagan BBM Awards again rewarded one lucky young horticulturist with a \$10,000 UK travel scholarship and the AGC is again supporting their training time in the UK and Europe.

Community gardens and groups have continued to blossom across Australia and we now have, from my personal observations and research, more home gardeners growing vegetables and fruit trees than ever before, a fantastic position. Garden centres, as well as the very competitive hardware stores, even with the demise of Masters, have traded very well in autumn and spring. Winter sales of dormant fruit trees, roses and pruning equipment have also been strong. Some garden centres have recorded their best spring sales in decades.

In the garden tourism business, Australia is still waiting for confirmation from local governments in Queensland following approval being granted by the BIE and International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) for an international garden festival for 2020. Meetings have been held by AGC directors with state and federal ministers discussing AUSTRALIS and other gardening matters.

I attended a major trade conference between Australia and China during the year where I learnt that a staggering 11 million Chinese have 'indicated' an interest in travelling to Australia to visit gardens and horticultural events and venues. I wasn't surprised as 11 Chinese cities have populations above or near Australia's total population.

Attendance figures for garden events organised by botanic gardens and private marketing companies during 2016 continued to grow. Another good sign.

Season's Greetings to all AAFBG members.

Graham Ross VMM, Founder and President

Members of Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

Go to www.friendsbotanicgardens.org for email addresses and phone numbers

ACT

Australian National Botanic Gardens, Friends of. GPO Box 1777, Canberra ACT 2601.

National Arboretum Canberra, Friends of. PO Box 48, Campbell ACT 2812.

New South Wales

Albury Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1056, Albury NSW 2640.

Botanic Gardens Sydney, Foundation & Friends of. Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000.

Burrendong Arboretum, PO Box 465, Wellington NSW 2820.

Dubbo Regional Botanic Garden, Friends of. P O Box 81, Dubbo NSW 2830.

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay NSW 2536.

Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 1327, Lismore NSW 2480.

Moama & Echuca Botanic Gardens. PO Box 545, Moama NSW 2731.

North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 648, Coffs Harbour NSW 2450.

Orange Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 17, Orange NSW 2800.

Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 707, Moss Vale NSW 2577.

Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden, Advisory Committee. 810 Pittwater Rd, Dee Why NSW 2099.

Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1393, Tamworth NSW 2340.

Woollongong Botanic Garden, Friends of. 61 Northfield Ave, Keiraville, NSW 2500.

Northern Territory

Darwin Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 36435, Winnellie NT 0821.

Queensland

Brisbane Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides, Mt Coon-tha Botanic Gardens, Mt Coon-tha Road, Toowong QLD 4066

Cairns Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 223, Edge Hill QLD 4870.

Gold Coast Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, QLD 9726.

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. Friends Association. PO Box 6850, Mackay QLD 4741.

Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 445, Buderim, QLD 4556.

Noosa Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 454, Noosa Heads QLD 4567

Peacehaven Botanic Park, Friends of. 30 Sunray Drive, Highfields QLD 4352.

Redcliffe Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 299 Clontarf QLD 4019.

Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens, Friends of. Forsythia Drive, Eagle Heights QLD 4272.

South Australia

Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 2040, Port Augusta SA 5700.

Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, Friends of. North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000.

Waite Arboretum, Friends of. The Waite Campus, University of Adelaide, PMB 1 Glen Osmond SA 5064.

Tasmania

Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Friends of. C/o RTBG, Queens Domain, Hobart TAS 7000. .

Tasmanian Arboretum, PO Box 370, Devonport TAS 7310.

Victoria

Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, Friends of. PO Box 6912, Shepparton VIC 3632.

Australian Inland Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 2809, Mildura VIC 3502.

Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 33W, Ballarat West VIC 3353

Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland, Friends of. PO Box 589, Benalla VIC 3672.

Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Friends of. 71 Napoleon Cres. White Hills VIC 3550.

Buninyong Botanic Garden, Friends of. 102 Cornish St, Buninyong Vic 3357.

Burnley Gardens, Friends of. C/o Burnley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond VIC 3121.

Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum Trust, Friends of. PO Box 270, Camperdown VIC 3260

Colac Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 403, Colac, VIC 3250.

George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 490, Frankston, VIC 3199.

George Tindale Memorial Garden, Friends of. 2/92 Main St, Upwey VIC 3158.

Gisborne Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 564, Gisborne VIC 3437.

Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens Group. C/o M. Sietsma, 146 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap VIC 3381.

Hamilton Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 43, Hamilton VIC 3300.

Karwarra Australian Plant Garden, Friends of. Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama VIC 3766.

Kyneton Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 47, Kyneton VIC 3444.

Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs, Friends of. PO Box 116, Malmsbury VIC 3446.

Melton Botanic Gardens, Friends of. C/o PO Box 2381, Melton South VIC 3338.

Port Fairy Botanical Gardens, Friends of. 115 Regent St, Port Fairy VIC 3284.

Queen Mary Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 146, St Arnaud VIC 3478

Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, Friends of. 1000 Bullarto Rd. Cranbourne VIC 3977.
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Friends of. Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne VIC 3004.
Sale Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 506, Sale VIC 3850.
St Arnaud Queen Mary Gardens, Friends of. 5018 Ararat-St Arnaud Rd, Tottington VIC 3478
St Kilda Botanical Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1089, Elwood VIC 3184.
WAMA Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 172 Stawell VIC 3380.
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 1190, Warrnambool VIC 3280.
Williamstown Botanic Garden, Friends of. PO Box 826, Williamstown VIC 3016.
Wilson Botanic Park, Friends of. PO Box 412, Berwick VIC 3806.
Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 267, Daylesford VIC 3460.

Western Australia

Kings Park, Friends of. KPBG, Fraser Ave. Kings Park, West Perth WA 6005

Affiliate Members

Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Friends of. PO Box 2553, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand
Kirstenbosch Volunteer Garden Guides, Botanical Society of South Africa – Kirstenbosch Branch, PO Box 53445, Kenilworth, 7745, Cape Town, South Africa
Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Friends. Membership Office, RBGE, 201 Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR, Scotland, UK.
Thurston Gardens, Cakobau Rd, Suva, Fiji.

Total

60 Members, 4 Affiliate Members

Calendar of events 2017

Celebrating Kangaroo Paws at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria at Cranbourne. Many activities throughout the month and a 3-dat symposium on 24-26 November. See page 4. Enquiries email: rgelliot@optusnet.com.au

AAFBG 2017 Annual General Meeting in Canberra, hosted by Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens on 20 May 2017 (Provisional date). Lunch and guided walks provided. Check details on AAFBG website: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Biennial Conference of Volunteer Guides 15-19 October 2017 at Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. The theme of the conference is 'Informed Guiding – Discovering the mystery and magic of our Gardens'. For more information go to: www.friendsanbg.org.au.

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

Weeds Australia
www.weeds.org.au

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

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

Fungimap:
www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/home

Plants for the Planet:
www.plantsfortheplanet.com

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