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Email or post material to the *Fronds* Committee at the above addresses or place in the Friends letterbox, located inside the Gardens' Visitor Centre, between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm, Monday to Sunday. Editorial messages: telephone (02) 6250 9548.

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Luminous Botanicus II



Something different everytime you turned a corner. Ghosts in the mist, eerie yet fascinating. Butterflies on the trees. Thank u @anbg Luminous Botanicus 4 having me. A magical night. Tweeted by Erna Glassford@ SimplyCheeky about her experience at the Gardens Enlighten event in March.

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Cover: *Eryngium ovinum* (Blue Devil) flowers were collected by a Seed Bank collecting team in December for the study of pollen grains by researchers at the Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania, Italy. Photo by Barbara Podger.

National Seed Science Forum

Jeanette Jeffery and John Fitz Gerald



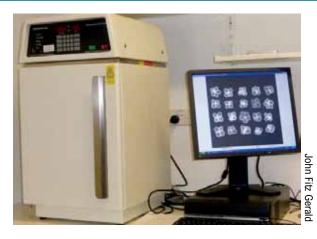
These seeds are in use for seed research at the ANBG seedbank. These golden-haired seeds are from the grass Themeda triandra, cleaned for germination studies. Each seed is around 1 millimetre thick. This photo by John Fitz Gerald entered in the Photograghic Competition at the Forum

The Forum was held at the Australian PlantBank in the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan, and we found it most stimulating. A hundred and thirty delegates heard papers, read posters and held discussions about current issues in seed banking and longevity, seed collecting, seed treatments, germination studies, through to restoration projects, agriculture, and traditional knowledge in seed usage. Delegates included seed researchers, academics, students, staff of gardens and conservation agencies, land managers, volunteers and horticulturalists with wide ranges of age and experience, all linked by the common thread of enthusiasm. Delegates came from around Australia but also included some from overseas.

The forum was an initiative of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership with much organisational work done by its National Coordinator Lucy Sutherland, well known to us at ANBG. Other key partners were the Botanic Gardens & Centennial Parklands, the Australian Grains Genebank, and the Australian Network for Plant Conservation.

Presentations covered advances to date but focused on the many challenges in future usages of seed for crops and for the environment. Perhaps the most common theme was continuing to understand the many bottlenecks of seed germination, then seedling emergence in plants, especially for threatened species and for difficult environments. General agreement seemed to be that gathering of knowledge could not slow and that information should be better shared between agriculture and conservation.

The forum was also the ideal opportunity for the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia to launch its National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration



File PB X-ray, Seed X-ray facility at PlantBank for imaging intact seed capsules to assess amount of seed fill and insect attack. The image at right shows 20 capsules, each with 4-5 chambers but few are full.

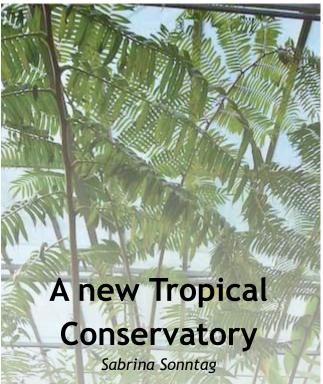
in Australia. This important code of conduct, a world-first, was launched by the Commonwealth's Threatened Species Commissioner, Gregory Andrews, amongst plantings around the forum venue consisting of species collected onsite from the nearby Endangered Ecological Community of the Cumberland Plains grassy woodland. The Standards document can be downloaded from the Society's website, along with much more information on restoration.

We took short guided strolls into the Cumberland Plains Woodlands to find out more about plants and weed management and viewed the memorial to stolen generations installed along the walking tracks.

Delegates also toured through the seed banking and research laboratories of PlantBank. This world-class facility for plant seed and tissue research and storage is housed in a striking and award-winning building that was a perfect setting for this seed-science forum. It was particularly interesting to those of us from ANBG to view these facilities and to look forward even more excitedly to the time (five or so years) when a new ANBG Seed Bank has moved from plan to completion.

Another component of the forum was a seed photo competition; 44 entries were submitted, including some from ANBG. All delegates were able to vote on their favourite and a striking image of an opened female cone of Macrozamia communis took out the top prize.

The Friends of the ANBG paid the fees for us to attend the forum. We are both most grateful for this support as volunteers and expect it will further strengthen the links Friends have with the ANBG Seed Bank in seed collections by Seedy Vols and in support for equipment purchases.



The Gardens will soon begin work on the \$3 million Ian Potter Foundation National Conservatory. The Ian Potter Foundation has generously matched Australian Government funding for this project in the largest ever private donation to the Gardens. The Conservatory will showcase some of Australia's rarely seen and most spectacular tropical plants from northern Australia and islands, as well as a selection of Australian orchids, in a building featuring the latest sustainable energy technology.

Largest ever private donation to the Gardens!

A conservatory plant working group is now considering options for sourcing and growing a range of key species that will form the Conservatory's structural and display elements. Meanwhile, Gardens staff are getting ready to propagate and grow new plants, but also to remove and prepare plants currently in the Tropical Glasshouse for transplanting into the Conservatory. All Conservatory plants will be grown in pots and it will take many months to containerise and stabilise the existing plants so they are in the best condition possible for the opening of the Conservatory in 2018. Some species are very slow growing and our horticulturists will need as much time as possible to get the plants into a displayable condition. The Tropical Glasshouse is now closed to the public and fully dedicated to growing the Conservatory plants. Our horticulturists will attempt to secure all of the plants currently in the Tropical Glasshouse.

Angiopteris evecta (King Fern) in the Tropical Glasshouse. Photo by Murray Fagg.



As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG) organised a Special Survey of Gang-gangs that involved: a Casual survey between February 2014 and February 2015; quarterly 'Muster' counts to determine the presence and absence of the bird at specified locations; and a supplementary survey focussing on breeding behaviour in spring and summer 2015-2016.

About 25 Friends of the ANBG observed Gang-gangs during the Muster Weeks, and reported incidental observations in other parts of the Gardens. Records included the number seen during an observation period of 20 minutes, the birds' behaviour, and what plants they used. Breeding behaviour was of particular interest.

The highest number of Gang-gangs seen in the Gardens on any one occasion was 32 on 11 September. This was one of the larger sightings seen in Canberra and the region. Most Gang-gangs were seen in pairs.

Not surprisingly, Gang-gangs were observed most frequently flying between, perching, and grooming each other in local native trees; most frequently local eucalypts, *E. mannifera* and *E. macrorhyncha*. They were observed eating buds, flowers, fruit, and new shoots of these two eucalypt species in several places, a corymbia, and at least five species of acacia.

There were several records of Gang-gangs inspecting hollows in the ANBG; the most seen on one occasion was eight pairs. However, one of our observers hit the jackpot. The COG report issued in January stated that 'there was a single breeding event recorded at the ANBG where recently fledged begging young were observed next to a tree hollow and hence is the only breeding confirmation in urban Canberra during the survey'.

For more information visit the COG website at: http://canberrabirds.org.au/observing-birds/gang-gang-survey/

Revisiting woody weeds in ANBG

Rosemary Purdie



Acacia baileyana flowers; A. rubida juvenile foliage, taken at Aranda; A. baileyana fruit; Billardiera heterophylla flowers and fruit; Pittosporum undulatum seedling; P. undulatum fruit.

In August and October 2015 the Friends of Black Mountain and ANBG rechecked six 'natural' sections of the Gardens, located adjacent to its southern and western boundaries, where the Friends had cut and poisoned almost 3000 woody weed plants in 2013. The recheck was to remove plants missed during the 2013 weeding sessions and any plants that may have germinated since.

Woody weeds are usually perennial plants that have woody stems, such as shrubs, trees and some vines, and may also be listed as environmental weeds. As mentioned in Fronds December 2014, pages 6-7, environmental weeds can be species introduced to Australia (for horticulture or other specific reasons, or accidently) or species native to Australia that invade natural ecosystems and impact negatively on the suite of local native plants (i.e. indigenous species) present. An example of the former is the Blackberry (Rubus anglocandicans), while examples of the latter are Cootamundra Wattle (Acacia baileyana) and Sollya (Billardiera heterophylla).

The Friends took out another 1,200 woody weed plants in 2015, comprising 50 different species (most of them native) during 92.5 volunteer hours. The most common species removed are shown in the table. While the Babingtonia/Baeckea, Cootamundra Wattle and Redstemmed Wattle plants were mostly small individuals that had been missed in 2013, most of the Sollya and Sweet Pittosporum plants removed were seedlings that had germinated over the two years since the initial weeding. The majority of other woody weeds removed in 2015 appeared to have been species naturalised in small numbers from plants cultivated within ANBG.

The continued germination of Sollya and Sweet Pittosporum, either from the soil seed store and/or through reintroduction after bird dispersal, highlights the importance of ongoing weed monitoring in the peripheral sections of the Gardens.

Most abundant species removed	No. ren 2013	noved 2015
Babingtonia/Baeckea sp.	Missed	126
Cootamundra Wattle (Acacia baileyana)	560	105
Red-stemmed Wattle (Acacia rubida)	34	79
Sollya (Billardiera heterophylla)	697	567
Sweet Pittosporum (Pittosporum undulatum)	305	125

Next weeding exercise

The next Weeding Work Party in the ANBG is planned for 9.00 am to 12.00 noon, Saturday 7 May, meeting at the ACTEW substation in Frith Road, behind the CSIRO and the ANBG. If you wish to join this, and/or other work parties at different sites on the first Saturday of each month, please check the meeting points in the calendar on the Friends' website www.friendsanbg.org.au or contact friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com.

Growing Friends

Yvonne Robinson

Growing Friends continue to grow, with a number of new members joining recently. Sadly, we say farewell to Ros Cornish and John Wilkes, two founding members who have relocated to Newcastle. We wish them well in their new venture.

In conjunction with ANBG staff, GF Members are busy planning a mother plant area adjoining our propagating facilities. It is designed to establish a small number of selected plants to use for propagation. These plants should provide us with newer growth of cuttings than has been possible from some of the older plants within the gardens.



Our autumn sale is scheduled for 9 April and features banksias and hakeas that have been grown from seed and have put on some extraordinary growth over the warmer months. Banksias are excellent plants to encourage native birds and animals to the garden and can be quite sculptural additions to the landscape. The range on offer includes: Banksia aemula, B. canei, B. coccinea, and several forms of B. ericifolia; Hakea laurina, H. multilineata and H. petiolaris as well as a selection of boronia, grevillea, correa, crowea and patersonia.

Feel welcome to join our monthly meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 9.00 am during spring and summer and 9.30 in autumn and winter in the Joseph Banks Building. We also have a working bee on the third Tuesday of each month.

AUTUMN PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 9 APRIL 8.30 to 11 am Car park behind Crosbie Morrison Building See What's on page 17 for details

Photography Group

Brenda Runnegar

At the Group's recent AGM David Cox was elected Convener of the Group and he and the new committee have initiated some new ideas with an exciting year planned.

Over the summer holidays members were involved in photographing events, which included Summer Sounds, Delicious After Dark, The Bee Hotel launch, Snakes Alive and the launch of the Conservatory Project. Photographing these events has given the group an additional focus and assisted both the Friends and the Gardens by providing images which can be used for promotional purposes.





David Taylor propping up a eucalypt and addressing the Photography Group; Margaret Webber embracing a eucalypt on the walk with David Taylor.

The year began on a high note with guest speaker David Taylor, Curator of Living Collections, who focused on eucalypts in a lead up to Eucalypt Week. After the talk he led a walk around the Gardens to show the diversity of eucalypts in the Gardens. In March PG member Dave Bassett gave a presentation on bird photography.

Future events and topics include early morning walks, night and flash photography and a field trip. The Group always welcomes potential speakers and new members. Contact us at photo@friendsanbg.org.au.

Garden Guides

Christianna Cobbold

Following a successful recruitment campaign, 20 people commenced training on 8 March to become Voluntary Guides at the ANBG. There were 10 full days of training spread over six weeks with lectures from ANBG staff, current Guides and external experts on botany, taxonomy and communication; meet the collection walks within the Gardens; visits to the Seedbank, Nursery and the Herbarium; as well as practice walks to help the trainees develop their skills. Current Guides involved in the program have enjoyed getting to know our new colleagues over the summer.

Flora tours continued to increase in popularity over the summer and extra tours were offered on some weekdays during the school holidays.



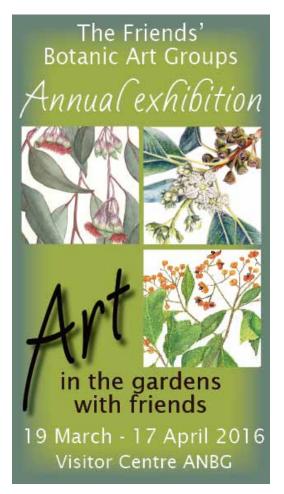
Guides were also involved in the Enlighten Festival event in the Gardens. We were located in three spots along the route and provided information and directions, and pointed out particular areas of interest with a spotlight as the visitors found their way from the Rainforest to the Red Centre Garden, enjoying the themed lighting, music and other activities.



At the end of March, the Gardens' Eucalypt Week involved a number of special themed activities and events and Guides offered free booked Eucalypt Walks every day during the nine days of the Eucalypt Week in addition to the regular 11 am and 2 pm walks.

Botanic Art Groups

Helen Jesma



The New Year has been busy for the members of the Botanic Art Groups as they prepare for the annual Art In The Gardens With Friends. This is when we celebrate the wonderful selection of Australian native plants the Gardens has to offer the members to paint and draw. It is the annual showcase of members' work and a means of raising funds for the Friends.

The selection day for works to be entered in Art In The Gardens With Friends was held mid-February and the committee was pleased with the standard of entries. Everyone appreciated the input and advice from the botanists at the Gardens who assessed the paintings for botanical accuracy before the artists, Helen Fitzgerald and Lesley Wallington, gave their advice.

Forty-five members entered at least one painting and a total of over ninety paintings are in the exhibition. Everyone has to be thanked for their enthusiasm and support.

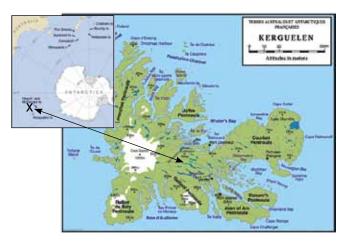
During Eucalypt Week, additional matted works were exhibited.

We encourage all Friends to visit the exhibition which runs until 17 April and buy a painting and support the work of the BAG members.

Kerguelen Cabbage

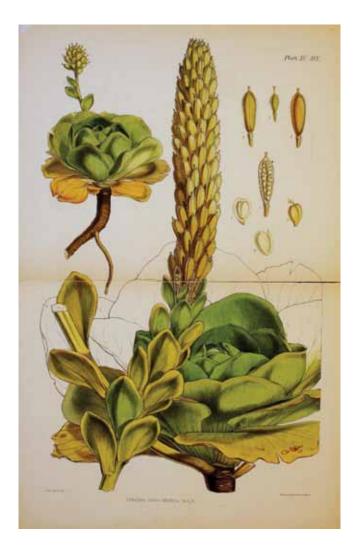
Elizabeth Truswell

The Kerguelen Cabbage takes its popular name from the Kerguelen Archipelago, a collection of islands in the southern Indian Ocean, some 3,000 km SW of Fremantle. The main island, Grande Terre, is surrounded by some 300 smaller islands, with ragged coastlines cut by myriad fjords. The climate is raw and windswept, with rain and snow throughout the year. The vegetation is tundra-like, dominated by mosses and lichens, without trees. There are, however, coal beds with large trunks of Araucaria, showing that forests formerly grew there under warmer climates.



In spite of the bleakness and isolation of these islands, a host of stories swirl about their early discovery and exploration. They were discovered by the French navigator Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen de Tremarec in 1772, although that commander never went ashore. James Cook visited the islands during his third voyage in 1776, christening the bleak complex the Isles of Desolation. Whalers and sealers followed. One of these, the Englishman John Nunn, was shipwrecked there in 1825; he and his companions surviving for some years by building a hut of turf and living on seals, seabird eggs and, significantly, on cabbage. Douglas Mawson was another visitor, carrying out research in 1929, en route to Antarctica to stake a claim for Australia.

The first plant collections on Kerguelen were made by William Anderson, surgeon on Cook's voyage. Among the relatively small number of plants he collected was one he described as 'not unlike a small cabbage, having not only the appearance, but the watery acid taste of antiscorbutics'.



This was used to supplement the meals of seal meat for Cook's crew. Anderson assigned the plant to the genus Pringlea, after John Pringle, then president of the Royal Society.

James Cook clearly recognised the value of the plant in combatting scurvy, but this was long before the British Navy recognised the value of fresh produce in fighting the disease. Scurvy, which we now know to result from a deficiency of vitamin C, is known to have killed more sailors than enemy action, and was particularly prevalent in the 16th and 17th centuries, when long voyages of exploration to the New World were being undertaken.

While the first diagnosis of scurvy is known from records on papyrus from Egypt dated as 1500 BC, wherein treatment with onions was recommended, it was not until 1747 that the Scottish surgeon, James Lind, undertook clinical trials on groups of sailors dying of the disease, and noted that the most effective of his treatments was 'two oranges and one lemon, to be given every day'. But, possibly because Lind failed to advocate his cure strongly, it was not until 1795 that the British Navy adopted it. So James Cook was a little ahead of his time in advocating the use of Kerguelen Cabbage.





Captions from left: Map of Kerguelen Island with insert map showing distance from Australia; Kerguelen Cabbage (Pringlea antiscorbutica), from Joseph Hooker, The botany of the Antarctic voyage of H.M. Discovery ships Erebus and Terror in the years 1839-1843, under the command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross. London. Reeve, 1844-60. NLA BibID 1937410; Azorella selago and P. antiscorbatica on Heard Island from website: http://heardisland. antarctica.gov.au/gallery/plant; Hurley, Frank. This sub-Antarctic edible plant is known as Kerguelen Cabbage (Pringlea antiscorbutica) [1910]. National Library of Australia nla.obj-158044360.

It remained for a very young Joseph Hooker to provide a full description of this remarkable plant, naming it Pringlea antiscorbutica. Hooker, then aged 22, and with a newly minted degree in medicine from the University of Glasgow, was appointed botanist on the Antarctica voyage of Captain James Clark Ross in the vessels Erebus and Terror in 1842. This was Hooker junior's first venture abroad as a plant collector, and he was particularly keen to impress his often stern father, Sir William Hooker, then Professor of Botany in Glasgow.

Young Joseph flung himself enthusiastically into collecting the cryptogam botany of Kerguelen, seeming to enjoy the challenging conditions, and, as he described, often having to sit on lowly lichens and mosses to thaw out the tiny plants, and to hammer out pieces of the rocks on which they grew. But he did collect the scarce flowering plants of Kerguelen as well.

Throughout the four year voyage, Sir William maintained a correspondence with his son, urging him to adhere to strict scientific methods, and also to concentrate on particular plant groups. The cryptogam flora of Kerguelen provided Joseph Hooker with that opportunity. It also spurred him to think of the wider 'philosophical' aspects of his botany, such as the methods of plant distribution. These ideas he expressed in the comprehensive *Botany of* the Antarctic Voyage published in 1860.

In the same volume, Hooker's illustration of P. antiscorbutica shows the hardy perennial plant with its tall influorescences. From these, projecting stamens and long thread-like projections from the stigmas, suggest wind pollination, unsurprising under the climatic conditions.

Joseph Hooker urged that the Kerguelen Cabbage be served to the crews of *Erebus* and *Terror* during their stay. Of this he wrote:

To a crew long confined to salt provisions...this is a most important vegetable, for it possesses all the essentially good qualities of its English namesake, whilst containing a great abundance of essential oil it never produces heartburn or any of the disagreeable sensations which our pot herbs are apt to do.... The root tastes like horseradish and the young leaves or hearts resemble in flavor course mustard and cress. For one hundred and thirty days our crews required no fresh vegetable but this...during which time there was no sickness on board.

There have been attempts to grow Kerguelen Cabbage in Australia, notably at the ANBG, and also at the Tasmanian Botanic Gardens. In the ANBG, Kerguelen Cabbage was collected from Heard Island by horticulturalist Stuart Donaldson in 1989 and 1993, and after some time in refrigeration, specimens were planted out into a 'small Subantarctic garden' in the shelter of Acacias and close to the Herbarium building. A search of reports of collecting these plants from Heard Island mentions this garden but it has not been possible to discover for how long the garden and the plantings survived. Readers might be able to shed more light on this aspect of the story.

Testings were also carried out on the commercial potential of *P. antiscorbutica* in Australia, with uncertain results. Even if it could be grown, would the public accept the taste? One official taster in the growth experiment however did comment that Kerguelen Cabbage might go nicely with smoked salmon and lemon!

Dr Elizabeth Truswell is a Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Earth Sciences at the ANU; previously she worked at the Bureau of Mineral Resources. Liz has presented more about the Kerguelen Archipelago in a 2014 episode of Ockham's Razor. Go to: http:// www.abc.net.au and search for 'Isles of Desolation'.



Over the past 10 years, a florilegium, a collection of contemporary botanical paintings, has been created for the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust. The artists of the Florilegium Society have gifted the original paintings to the Trust to form this unique collection. Established botanical artists were invited to join the Society and submit paintings for inclusion in *The Florilegium*. The subjects are chosen from a curated list and the selected paintings are of the highest standard, botanically accurate and painted as individual responses to the subject.

The majority of artists are Australian, from each state, as well as the US, the UK, Japan, Korea, Canada, France and New Zealand. Many have been awarded gold medals by the Royal Horticultural Society, have contributed to The Highgrove Florilegium and are represented in the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, as well as the Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Library, the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens Library and the Shirley Sherwood Collection of Botanical Art.

Canberra artists Cheryl Hodges, Halina Steele and Helen Fitzgerald have all contributed paintings to *The Florilegium*.

Cheryl painted the *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, the Forest Red Gum, which is part of the vegetation around Port Jackson. Descendants of the original trees grow in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the Domain. Cheryl found that her experience in identifying it paralleled that of JH Maiden, director of the Gardens from 1896 to 1924!

I chose to paint E. tereticornis and discovered that it grows around the Clyde River at Nelligen NSW, where we spend a lot of our holidays camping. My friends Rob and Rosie Mc-Clelland have three large old trees on their property that we thought could possibly be it. They were all flowering at the time. I took specimens from each tree as they all looked a bit different to each other and took them to the ANBG for identification. They were all E. tereticornis! I was relieved to read from Colleen Morris' text that JH Maiden commented that three of the E. tereticornis growing within a few hun-

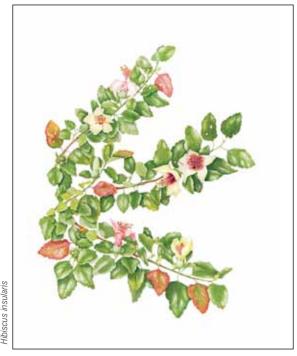
dred metres of each other 'differ in flowering periods, habit and bark' – so surely I can be excused for being cautious!

I obtained more specimens from one of the trees and worked on the flowers while there were still a few left. To the amusement of Rosie who thought her part was done, almost every time I visited Nelligen I took a new specimen – fresh is best! I did the painting over a period of a year, so I was able to capture the different stages including the beautiful cream flowers, the interestingly shaped buds, the juvenile leaves, mature fruit and bark. It was a labour of love, and it's an honour to have been involved in this special project.



Halina Steele has contributed *Hibiscus insularis*, a critically endangered plant endemic to Phillip Island, six kms south of Norfolk Island. It was first collected and sketched by one of the finest botanical artists of all time, Ferdinand Bauer.

Halina said: There were so many wonderful plants to choose from! After much deliberation, I settled on a plant growing



the Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan, H. insularis (or Phillip Island Hibiscus), a lovely little Australian native. Each weekend, I drove to Mount Annan to study, sketch and take notes. Caz McCallum, Assistant Director, and Tracey Armstrong, Gardens Information Officer, very kindly provided me with samples of the plant so that I could work on it from home.

Phillip Island was severely degraded by the grazing of pigs, goats and rabbits during Australia's early colonial days. Through a National Recovery Plan for Norfolk Island, much work has been done to improve environmental conditions on Phillip Island in an effort to save this beautiful plant. Plants

Eucalyptus robusta

have been grown successfully ex situ in other botanic gardens including Sydney, Booderee, Norfolk Island and the ANBG. H. insularis has many features making it desirable for horticulture including a long flowering period (9-10 months), bird attracting, disease free, dense bushy form and it's easily grown. It was such a joy to paint this plant with its delightful flowers and delicate leaves.

Well known painter Helen Fitzgerald commented that:

... being particularly fond of the eucalypts I chose two. One was Eucalyptus robusta although I had no idea at the time where I would find a specimen. I was telling a close friend about this and he informed me that there was one in his garden that he had planted many years ago. This was about 30 km south of Canberra and we had not had a lot of rain. When I finally saw the tree it was doing well although it had sustained considerable insect attack. I was able to obtain a good specimen with all the stages of the plant observable.

Getting specimens of E. sideroxylon 'Fawcetts Pink' was not as straightforward. I contacted Mount Annan and Tracey came to my rescue; as soon as their trees were flowering she sent up specimens for me to paint plus photos of the trees showing the beautiful juvenile bark colour which changes as the tree ages. This was enough for me to complete a painting of this lovely tree.

Beverly Allen

Paintings on show

Florilegium: Sydney's painted garden will be a major exhibition at the Museum of Sydney to be held 30 July to 30 October. Curated by Colleen Morris, the exhibition will explore the role of the Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, and its influence on the private gardens, landscapes and public parks of New South Wales since 1816.



Eucalyptus sideroxylon

Threatened species project

Martin Henery

The ANBG living collection contains over 300 species which are currently listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999. The ANBG saving threatened plant species project is aimed at improving management of *ex situ* plant and seed collections for the purposes of plant conservation. Key outcomes of this project will include:

- improved information management relating to *ex situ* plant collections
- strengthened partnerships between institutions managing ex situ collections
- strategic and coordinated development of ex situ collections that will secure plant material and provide more reliable resources for species recovery programs.

As part of the project, the CSIRO has sponsored a summer student to undertake a genetic study on a test species, *Grevillea wilkinsonii* (an endangered species), to determine how representative the ANBG holdings are of the diversity present in the wild.

Following assessment of the threatened species holdings at the ANBG, the project will then shortlist 20 regionally represented species (southern NSW and northern Victoria) that the project will target to: (a) conduct population monitoring to determine if populations are still extant and what their trajectories are, and (b) enhance the genetic diversity of *ex situ* stocks via collection of additional cuttings and/or seed. Financial assistance from the Friends has been committed for this field work component, subject to provision of a draft field work program and there will be an opportunity for volunteers to assist in the field. I will be able to report on progress towards the project outcomes soon.



Martin Henery, Project Officer ANBG Threatened Species Project, and Adam White sampling *Grevillea wilkinsonii* in the ANBG living collection for a CSIRO study on the species' genetic diversity.

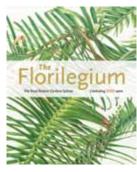
From the Bookshop with Bookshop staff

woodland flora Woodland Flora: A Field Guide for the Southern Tablelands (NSW & ACT) Sarah Sharp, Rainer Rehwinkel, Dave Mallinson and David Eddy 2015 Paperback, Spiral Bound 286 pages Full colour photographs \$27.50

From the authors of best-selling field guide *Grassland Flora*, comes *Woodland Flora*, covering 444 plant species found in local woodlands. Each entry features a description of the species outlining its leaves, flowers, fruit, habitat, abundance and distribution, as well as a colour photograph to aid identification. Included are native trees, shrubs, climbers and herbaceous species (grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes and orchids) as well as species that have been introduced. The species also in *Grassland Flora* have a briefer entry in this new publication, in order for the two field guides to act as companions. *Woodland Flora* has been produced and distributed by the Friends of Grasslands who are committed to the conservation of local grasslands and grassy woodlands.

Pip Magazine – Australian Permaculture

Issue 5 has just landed in store. Feature articles include: 'Ten ways to create a fairer food system', 'Aboriginal traditional foods and an alternative Australian history' and 'Connecting with Nature for a more positive world'.



The Florilegium: Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, Celebrating 200 years Colleen Morris 224pp. full colour Hardcover \$90 Softcover \$65

This book documents the Sydney Gardens' botanical and horticultural development. Its historical theme relates the species painted to each period of the Gardens' history. (See page 10 for the plates painted by Canberra artists.) Text has been written by noted garden historian Colleen Morris, with botanical descriptions from *Flora of New South Wales* botanist Louisa Murray.

Garden Shorts

Executive Director's Report

Summer Sounds



Justine Clarke kicking up her heels.

The 2016 Summer Sounds season was a great success. It was presented by a new sponsor, Maliganis Edwards Johnson, with supporting sponsors including MIX106.3, Icon Water and Hotel Realm. The iconic annual event was a popular social occasion for thousands of Canberrans who gathered over their picnic blankets to enjoy the music atmosphere on the Eucalypt Lawn. Seven of the eight programmed concerts proceeded as scheduled attracting approximately 6,600 visitors. This year's program encompassed a broad selection of music from Gypsy Jazz to indie rock plus feature guest performer from ABC TV - Justine Clarke.

A delicious range of food and drink was available for purchase on-site from wood fired pizzas to gelato icecream. This year's program also had a broader array of children's activities including National Dinosaur Museum fossil finding and Bush Blitz bee hotel and spider

spotting. The Gardens is grateful for the ongoing support of Summer Sounds by the Friends of the ANBG. I would like to extend a special thank you to all who gave their time in an extensive volunteering effort.

Grant for Conservatory

We are excited to be the recipients of the generous contribution by The Ian Potter Foundation of a grant of \$1.5 million towards The Ian Potter Foundation National Conservatory, matching Australian Government funding, in the largest ever private donation to be received by the Gardens. The Ian Potter Foundation National Conservatory will present Australia's amazing array of sub-tropical and tropical plants from Christmas Island and Norfolk Island to Kakadu, as well as seasonal displays of native flowering orchids to our more than 450,000 visitors a year. This is the first major infrastructure project for the ANBG Master Plan, which will see the Gardens remain at the forefront of botanic gardens world-wide. The Clonservatory will be a space for educational programs, functions and a diversity of visitor experiences. (See article on page 4.)

Treehouse gazebo



Melaleuca Swamp

Four artists have been selected, with the involvement of the Friends, to provide a concept design from which a winning concept will be selected for a new Treehouse Gazebo to be constructed in the Gardens' Melaleuca

Swamp. The Treehouse Gazebo, being funded by the Friends, is part of the ANBG Master Plan construction program and in accordance with the ANBG Public Art Policy & Master Plan 2013 - 2022. The four concept designs are due back in early April 2016. It will be an exciting time with the winning concept to be revealed. The winning artist will finalise their design and undertake the construction works expected to be completed by July 2017.

Orchid medal



Dr Mark Clements. Photo from SMH 12.3.16.

Congratulations to Gardens' orchid researcher, Dr Mark Clements, for being awarded the prestigious Westonbirt Orchid Medal from the Royal Horticulture Society in the United Kingdom. Mark's work in the field of orchid research is quite phenomenal, and his passion is well-known. His career spans four decades and in that time he has discovered about 250 new species of Australian orchids and curated tens of thousands of specimens. He has dedicated his career to a better understanding of, and appreciation for, orchid biology, systematics and evolution, publishing over 100 scientific papers on the subject. Mark began his career at the Australian National Botanic Gardens before moving to the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, a joint initiative between Parks Australia's ANBG and CSIRO.

> Peter Byron Acting Executive Director

Garden Shorts

Bush Blitz collections yield success

There has been some good news following on from the Gardens' involvement in the Oxley Wild Rivers Bush Blitz species discovery program event in late 2015. Gardens' nursery staff have successfully propagated and are growing on several very rare species, including Grevillea quthriana, G. beadleana, Prostanthera sp. aff. howelliae, and several other species as the start of a back up strategy to secure these plants ex situ in the Gardens living collection.

This news is well received by NSW National Parks and Wildlife staff and colleagues at the University of New England, ensuring the door is kept open for future ongoing action and collaboration on threatened species priorities for a unique and wild part of Australia. Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery project.

Native bee hotel open for guests

There's a new hotel open at the Gardens, but this one doesn't offer the usual concierge services or crisp white linen. Instead it's an enhanced habitat for native bees.



Department of the Environment Secretary, Gordon de Brouwer, unveiled the Australian Native Bee Hotel in the Gardens.

Australia is home to over 2,000 native bee species that play an essential role in the pollination of native plant species as well as in crop pollination. However, in recent decades there has been a significant decline in native bee habitats, especially in urban areas.

The bee hotel was developed by the Bush Blitz species discovery program and staff at the Gardens. The hotel's timber hollows and separate rooms are an ideal environment for an array of native bees to establish multiple hives, and will raise awareness of the role native bees play in a healthy ecosystem.

Meet Sue Fyfe



Sue Fyfe seed collecting out in the

Welcome to Dr Sue Fyfe as Director of the newly formed Biodiversity Science Knowledge and Information Management (BSKIM) section. Sue's role brings a new strategic overview to the coordination of Parks Australia's investments in science and the collection, use, re-use and online accessibility of biodiversity science data and infor-

Sue's professional experiences range from a PhD in seagrasses biology to Director of Information Management and later, Director of Geoinformatics and Data Services at Geoscience Australia.

'I've always had a love of native vegetation and my early career focused on horticulture, landscape design and environmental consulting,' says Sue. 'I am thoroughly enjoying working with people who have a passion for Australian biota

and its conservation, including the BSKIM staff and our external science stakeholders. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to get out in the field on the odd occasion.'

Bushland Precinct walking trail



Gardens staff and Friends admiring the view from the Bushland Precinct.

A new walking trail for the Bushland Precinct will be completed at the end of June 2016 as part of the Gardens Master Plan. The trail will start from the Gardens front gate and meander through the Bushland Precinct to an outlook in the clearing on the southeast side of Black Mountain, with views toward Parliament House, the lake, the city and beyond.

Views and glimpses across the landscape will be complemented with sections of the trail traversing slopes and gullies lined with lomandra, patches of kunzea thickets, orchids, eucalypts some grand and aged, swathes of red anther wallaby grass and interesting understory shrub layers including the restricted Grevillea ramosissima. One of several concept designs, detailing a number of walking trail alignments, will be selected for the



Grevillea ramosissima subsp. ramosissima photo taken on Black Mountain.

Sabrina Sonntag



Looking towards the Arboretum from Black Mountain Nature reserve.

Walking to the **Arboretum**

The Friends of Black Mountain organised a special walk on 8 March from the ANBG, following a proposed trail route through the ANBG Bushland Precinct, into Black Mountain Nature Reserve, and on to the National Arboretum. Walkers admired the views along the way, and learned about local plant species from botanist, Isobel Crawford.



Examining the vegetation in the Bushland Precinct



The Fronds team is looking for new members. If you love the Gardens, have good writing and communication skills and would like to join a friendly team to produce Fronds, email us at:

newsletter@friendsanbg.org.au or phone Barbara on 62477188.

Friends

From the President

As a community group dedicated to supporting the Gardens, we are often looking for volunteers to help the Friends. The Friends' Council is very grateful to all who volunteered during the summer concerts and Enlighten.

Rather than collect information about our members' skills when they join, and possibly not use it, we advertise 'volunteering opportunities' as they occur, mostly in stand-alone broadcast emails, and sometimes in Fronds.

We suspect that there is a good deal of talent out there among the 2,000 or so Friends, and hope that we can persuade some of you to put a hand up when opportunities arise. Sometimes we are looking for people with very specific skills, as occurred when we advertised for people with financial skills last year. Other times we may be looking for people with broader skills who are well-organised and happy to help with Friends events and social activities.

I know that spare time is often lacking for people working and/or with family responsibilities. But if you do have the time, getting involved means that you can help the Friends and the Gardens, and meet interesting new people as well. So if you are thinking you may like to help out, keep an eye on the broadcast emails.

Lesley Jackman

Friends planning

The Friends Council is currently undertaking a review of our Strategic Plan. In the next few months we will be holding consultations with Friends' volunteer and special interest groups and members.

Aboriginal trail opening



Aunty Agnes Shea, Ngunnawal Elder, launched the Aboriginal Plant Use Trail at the Gardens on 21 January. She and Barbara Podger, Chair of the Friends Public Fund, unveiled an interpretive sign, one of the 27 on the Trail funded by the Public Fund.

New faces

We welcome Helen Elliot as our new Treasurer. Helen has been a member of the Friends for a few years and is an experienced accountant and financial planner. She will join Kim Liston on the finance team.

Helen replaces Marion Jones who agreed at the AGM to continue as Treasurer in an acting capacity until a replacement could be found.

A big thanks to Marion for agreeing to stay on, even though she had announced her intention to retire as Treasurer. And of course an even bigger thanks for doing such a wonderful job for so many years.

We also farewelled our long serving Membership Secretary, Barbara Scott, and her partner Les Fielke. Barbara has managed the membership renewals and database for many years, and done a wonderful job keeping it accurate and up to date. Les has been doing a fantastic job for many years keeping all our computer systems ticking over, and managing the membership database program. They have migrated north to avoid Canberra's cold winters, and we wish them well. Lesley Harland now heads up the Membership team, assisted by Pam Cooke.

Friends Briefs

Summer Sounds 2016

Another highly successful Summer Sounds season has just concluded here at the Gardens. This year's season began in mid-January and ran for four weekends. And this year, apart from one damp and stormy weekend in which one concert was cancelled, the weather was perfect for summer evening relaxing with friends and family on the beautiful Eucalypt Lawn.

Holding eight concerts over four weekends involves a substantial effort by all involved, the Gardens staff and the Friends. Once more volunteers from the Friends handled collecting entrance money, driving the assistance vehicles, staffing the information tent, and assisted in managing the parking. This year the Friends raised a record total of just over \$21,000 from entry collections, \$10,000 of which was used to help pay for the bands and the sound amplification system. The remaining funds will be used by the Friends to support the Gardens in a variety of areas.

Our thanks to so many volunteers for a huge effort!

For the first time we used an online roster system to manage the rosters for all the volunteer roles. This proved successful, with most volunteers mastering the new



system, and enabled us to keep the roster up to date.

These days it is increasingly important that sponsorship help defray the costs of running such a large event. We would like most warmly to thank our Major Sponsor Maliganis Edwards Johnson, Supporting Sponsor Icon Water, and MIX 106.7 and Hotel Realm for their generous support.



Successful talks

The program of weekly lunchtime talks, known as the Friends' Thursday Talks, proved more popular than ever in 2015. The 42 talks given last year, presenting cuttingedge research in the natural world, attracted an audience total of 3,047 (about 73 audience members each talk) and nearly \$5,000 in donations. The talks are public events, all welcome, entry by voluntary gold coin donation, every Thursday at 12.30 pm in the Theatrette. See What's on for the new program.

Plant Science Group

by Anne Campbell

The most recent Technical Talks, on the first Monday morning of each month, have covered:

Biodiversity metrics and their visualisation, by Nunzio Knerr, Bioinformatics, CANBR. Examining different ways of looking at biodiversity data, using current visualisation technologies, taking some iconic Australian plant families as examples.

Getting to know an area's flora, by Dr Rosemary Purdie, Ecologist. Rosemary examined what's required and how many specimens are 'enough' when travelling by camel in the Simpson Desert and by foot on Black Mountain.

Seeds and fruit, by Dr Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn, Research Scientist, CSIRO. What different types of fruit there are, how to recognise them, and what constraints certain aspects of fruit morphology place on other aspects of the plant.



Did you know that oranges and grapes are berries? -Dr Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn

The Group's subcommittee of Murray Fagg, Lesley Harland, Diana Kirby, Maureen Connolly and Anne Campbell have planned other activities for the year, including a visit to the Herbarium, the Seed Bank, and Plant Bank at the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan. If you are a Friend and would like to join the Group, please email: plantscience@friendsanbg.org.au so

we can keep you updated. Further

org.au/activities_plantscience

information is at: http://friendsanbg.



where friends meet to eat

Open every day (except Christmas) 8.30 am-4.30 pm

Friends receive a 10% discount (on production of membership card or name tag) Floresco Bookings – (02) 6248 9680

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in the Gardens (Call 02 6162 6707)
enquiries@hellenicpremiumcatering.com.au

What's on at the Gardens

April – August

Details of events are correct at the time of printing. For changes and updates please check the Friends' website at www.friendsanbg.org.au or the Gardens' website at: www.anbg.gov.au or the local press. Exhibitions in the Visitor Centre are open from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm.

The Friends of the ANBG thank the many speakers who volunteer their time and talents to further the knowledge of all who attend the events in the Gardens. The Friends use the 'gold' coin donations received at each activity to support Gardens' programs and development. The Friends thank all those who have donated. Please note: unless otherwise indicated, talks are in the ANBG Theatrette.

Summaries or PowerPoint presentations of Thursday talks are available to Friends from the ANBG library. A donation to the Friends for the use of this material will be gratefully accepted.



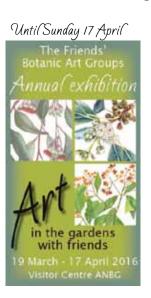
Saturday 2 April and first Saturday of every month at various times

Experience more of the Gardens on one of our special Ranger led tours held monthly with additional tours during ACT school holidays. A wonderful evening shared with family and friends. Due to the length and timing of tours, these events are not suitable for children under 5 years. Further details at www.anbg.gov.au/gardens Cost applies





EXHIBITIONS Visitor Centre Gallery 9.30 am to 4.30 pm





Forbidden Fruit

Wednesday 20 April to Sunday 8 May

An exhibition of paintings by Prue Sailer and drawings by Susan Ryman who both share a fascination for the glorious minutiae of everyday life in the natural and domestic worlds - with a keen sense of its fragility.

Australian Treasures

Wednesday 10 May to Sunday 12 June



Contemporary and traditional drawings, paintings, collage and mixed media that celebrate the Australian animals, plants, and landscapes. The artists work aims to highlight the value our precious and diverse flora and fauna.

APRIL



Friday 1 April 10-11 am and first Friday every month

Come along to enjoy the Gardens with some specially themed stories and crafts. \$5 per child. Suitable for preschoolers. Follow the signs from the Cafe bridge.

April – Easter Bilby: meet the animal who has what it takes to do the Easter Bunny's job.

May - 'Mums': everyone needs their mum, even the bush creatures.

June – 'Feathered Friends': as the weather gets colder we explore more about the life of birds.

Thursday 7 April 12.30pm Gerard Early 'Birdlife Australia'

Gerard, President of Birdlife Australia, will discuss the contributions of dedicated researchers and citizen scientists to science-based conservation.



Saturday 9 to Monday 25 April Flora Explorer Tours

During the School Holidays 10.30 am tours will run every day, plus 1.30 pm tours on weekends and ANZAC Day public holiday

Saturday 9 April 8.30 - 11am **GROWING FRIENDS PLANT SALE**



Australian plant sale specialising in natives propagated and tended by the Growing Friends from material sourced from the Gardens. All proceeds go to support the Gardens. Be early for the best selection and bring a bag or box for your purchases. Car park behind the Crosbie Morrison Building.

Plant list available one week before the sale at: friendsanbg.org.au/activities_growingfriends

Thursday 14 April 12.30pm Dr John de Majnik 'Latest Research and Development for the wildflower industry of Australia'

John, Senior Program Manager for RIRDC, will give a broad-ranging talk on the latest research and development for Australian wildflowers.

Thursday 21 April 12.30pm Matthew Higgins 'Ainslie to Kossie: Window on a wonder wander'

Matthew, a professional historian, will give an illustrated presentation on the natural values found between Canberra and Mt Kosciuszko.

Thursday 28 April 12.30pm TBA 'Capital Metro Light Rail: Landscape planning and sustainability'

Flora and fauna habitat action plans and strategies.

MAY

Sunday 1 - Saturday 7 May **ACT Tree Week**

Self Guided Walk: 'Facts, Feats and Achievements of Australian Native Trees' Take the opportunity to become more intimate with Australian native trees and their notable features. Who's hairy and why? Who's the 'weeping mini'? And in which tree will you find nature's most prolific graffiti artist? Drop into the Visitor Centre and collect a self guided map booklet and head out on a fascinating tour of the Garden's trees.

Wednesday 4 and Saturday 7 May Public Workshops: 'Buy Smart, Plant Smart: ensuring success for your Native Trees'

A 2 hour workshop on how to make considered native tree purchases for suburban backyards including suitable space and habitat conditions, planting preparation and the first weeks of plant care. Workshops include a walk through the Gardens' living collection to inspect mature and 'successful' tree plantings. Further details at www.anbg.gov.au/ gardens. Cost applies

Thursday 5 May 12.30pm Doug Laing 'A trip to the Tip: Cairns to the Torres Strait'

Doug, an ANBG educator and volunteer quide, travelled overland from Cairns to Cape York; his talk will focus on the birds and flora of that region.



What's on

Friday 6 May 12.30pm **Canberra International Music** Festival – Gardens of Delight

Adult \$55, Conc \$50, U30 \$35, U16 \$25, Student Rush \$25. A musical excursion through the Gardens presented by Continuum Sax, Speak Percussion, ANU Experimental Studio and others. For bookings and further information – www.cimf.org.au



Thursday 12 May 12.30pm Dr James Petrie 'Modifying oilseed crops to produce fish oils'

James, a CSIRO Research Scientist, will explain his research in engineering canola seed to accumulate long-chain omega-3 oils that are important in human health.

Thursday 19 May 12.30pm Peter Reynder and Dr Wolf Mayer 'Dirk Hartog and other early expeditions'.

Peter and Wolf will celebrate the chance visit to our west coast by Dirk Hartog, 400 years ago.



Thursday 26 May 12.30pm **Bush Blitz Team 'Bush Blitz** species discovery program putting biodiversity on the map'

Bush Blitz is Australia's largest nature discovery program. Its aim is to document plants and animals across Australia.

JUNE

Thursday 2 June 12.30pm Dr Liz Dennis 'Hybrid vigour in plants; how does it work?'

Liz, a CSIRO Fellow and renowned plant geneticist, will explore the theory and practice of hybrid vigour in crops.

Thursday 9 June 12.30pm Mark Butz 'The best system of trenches in Australia: World War I training trenches at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands'

Mark, a cultural historian, will mark the centenary of the Duntroon instructional trench system.



Thursday 16 June 12.30pm Lori Gould 'Jerrabomberra Wetlands: Little known jewel in the heart of Canberra'

Lori, Program Manager at Jerrabomberra Wetlands, outlines the national and international significance of this refuge for migrating birds, and much more.

Thursday 23 June 12.30pm **David Young 'Fascinating flowers** of Tongass National Forest, Alaska'

David, well-known garden advisor, will explore the flora of Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.



Thursday 30 June 12.30pm Dr Chris Cargill 'Why you shouldn't eat your crusts: adaptation and diversity in a remarkable liverwort'

Chris. Australian National Herbarium. will talk about her current research into the adaptive strategies of Riccia, a remarkable Australian liverwort.



Riccia sp

Thursday 7 July 12.30pm Wally Bell 'Today's Aboriginal culture: A Ngunnawal Perspective'

Wally, Director, Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation, will describe the development and content of the 'Ngunnawal Plant Use Guide' in recognition of NAIDOC Week.

Thursday 14 July 12.30pm **David Coutts 'Botanic gardens:** where did they come from?'

David, immediate past President of the Friends, takes a look at the history of botanic gardens, especially in Europe.

Thursday 21 July 12.30pm Dr Cathy Offord 'Understanding our rainforests from the seed up: conservation research on Wollemi pine and other Australian rainforest species'

Cathy, Principal Research Scientist at RBG Sydney, assesses the storage potential of seeds from Australian rainforest species.

Wollemi Pine

Thursday 28 July 12.30pm John Turnbull 'Trees, Woods and Man'

John, a former CSIRO scientist, will talk about the importance of trees in Australian culture and the impact of treeplanting on the livelihoods of people in developing countries.

Thursday 4 August 12.30pm Ben Walcott 'Gardens that have influenced us'

Ben and Ros Walcott have created a large native garden in Red Hill. This talk reflects on the many gardens worldwide that have inspired its creation.

Thursday 11 August 12.30pm Dr Janine Deakin 'Transmissible tumours threatening survival of Tasmanian devils'

Janine, University of Canberra, will discuss the genetics of transmissible tumours in Tasmanian devils.



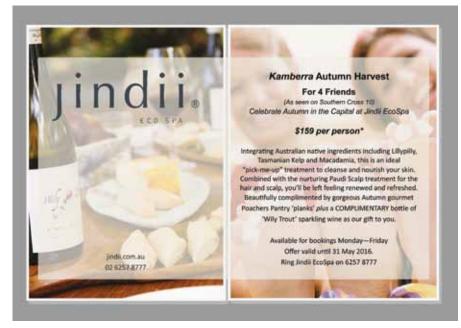


Memorial to John Gilbert in St James church, Sydney

Thursday 18 August 12.30pm Dr Susan Serjeantson 'John Gould's shooter: the unsung hero, John Gilbert'

Sue, Chair of the Friends' Thursday Talks committee, will celebrate the contribution of John Gould's collector in Australia, John Gilbert.

Queries about talks to Sue. Serjeantson@bigpond.com



Friends' Benefits

As a Friend you are entitled to:

Three issues of Fronds a year

Three hour free parking pass

Botanical Bookshop – discount on most items

Discount at Floresco cafe

Discount at Jindii Eco Spa

You also get:

Advance details of lectures

Advance bookings for some events

Discounts on some events

ANBG library membership borrow books, serials, videos, DVDs plus use of computers and interactive CD ROMs

Function facilities – special rates for functions at ANBG

And opportunities to:

Join Botanical Art Groups, **Growing Friends**

Photographic Group Plant Science Group

Assist with Gardens research projects

Become a Guide

Relax in the Friends Lounge – in the Ellis Rowan Building, open to members 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. Relax with tea/coffee and lots of interesting reading.



www.botanicalbookshop.com.au

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