

Fronds

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens
Number 72 December 2012





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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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Cover: Marjorie Roche's beautiful watercolour painting of a bouquet of celebratory Australian flowers. It will be raffled during the 2013 Friends' Botanic Art Exhibition and sale.

Leaves in the ANBG

2012 Schools Photo Competition



From top left, going clockwise: *The odd leaf*, Third Prize Digital Effects, by Tooba Faridi, Canberra College; *The curl*, Second Prize College Colour, by Jessica Nguyen, Canberra College; *Circles upon circles*, First Prize Digital Effects, by Courtney Mahon, St Clares College; *Furry friend*, Highly commended High School Colour, by Venuri Hewa-Bowalage, Canberra High School; *Decay*, Second Prize High School Black and White, by Venuri Hewa-Bowalage, Canberra High School.

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My Patch

An occasional series introducing the Gardens' horticulturists and the sections they care for

Troy Miles cares for the gardens outside the main entrance gates, the *Eremophila* terrace on the main path, the Mallee sections behind the Administration Building, and also the Proteaceae and Monocot sections. He came to the ANBG in 2008 after nearly 20 years caring for the grounds at Tidbinbilla Tracking Station.



Troy tending the *Eremophila* beds. Photo by Anne Rawson.

What are you trying to achieve in your sections?

It all comes down to making the Gardens a place people love to visit. The front entrance gardens are designed to give visitors a taste of a woodland experience but they are a thoroughfare rather than a place people wander. They need big bold plantings, so for example, I prune the *Banksia integrifolia* for maximum driveby effect. Surprisingly, the impressive Queensland Bottle Tree, *Brachychiton rupestris*, needs little maintenance—the site and soil preparation that preceded its translocation from Queensland in 2004 have really paid off.

When visitors are walking along the pathways in the main Garden they can peer into and appreciate the smaller native flowers. I would like to see the Gardens use more expendable plants, like the Black Kangaroo Paw, *Macropidia fuliginosa*. They won't establish here but they are great draw cards.

What are some of the challenges of your sections?

In the *Eremophila* section, the first challenge is always getting the right soil mix, as excellent drainage is essential. We are redoing part of the section at the moment trialling a 30 cm deep crushed sandstone profile. While the existing section's mix of crushed granite and washed river sand has been reasonably successful we are keen to see if the sandstone can achieve even better results. We've found a 10 cm pebble mulch on top works well as insulation and we will probably repeat that with the new plantings.

One major challenge in the *Eremophila* section is to keep the plants from being trampled. They can be small brittle plants and it's surprising how often visitors inadvertently step on one in their enthusiasm for a close up view or photograph of a flower or bird. And the kangaroos' love of lying on the warm pebble mulch at night definitely doesn't help.

Then there's the ever present challenge of finding the time to get everything done. I'd like to do some succession planting outside the main entrance gates and I'd like to extend the mass plantings of *Grevillea lanigera*. It's a constant challenge to fit in the longer-term planning in the face of the day-to-day demands of each garden's immediate needs.

Least favourite job?

Like everyone else—weeding! And picking up rubbish that collects in the entrance gardens. It's mainly fast food containers thrown from passing cars and, surprisingly, discarded Gardens' parking tickets.

Do you garden at home?

My home garden is very small and very easy care. It's mainly gravel, lawn and Pittosporum hedging with a mixture of Australian natives and exotics—to keep the wife happy! We also have a small vegetable/herb garden, assorted potted plants and my young sons' prized collection of cacti and carnivorous plants.

Any hints for growing Eremophilas at home?

A well drained site is essential. A brightly sunlit area with some frost protection is best for these plants. The last cold, wet winter was very tough on *Eremophilas* and even the ones here were looking sad by the end. Don't be discouraged – they have great ability to bounce back!



Acacia leprosa 'Scarlet Blaze' at the front gate. Photo by Anne Rawson.



Allo: the other Casuarina

John Turnbull

Remarkable survivors

Allocasuarinas grow in some mighty tough places. They are highly adapted to growing in low nutrient soils with some found in the driest of deserts while others tolerate waterlogging and salinity.

How have these *Allocasuarina* species been able to survive and prosper in such challenging environments? Firstly, most species have reduced their demand for water and nutrients by remaining shrubs or small trees. Protective modifications to foliage are common when a plant has evolved in dry conditions. All casuarinas have leaves reduced to 'teeth' located on photosynthetic branchlets (cladodes). Raised ridges along the cladodes protect the stomata from direct heat and reduce water loss through transpiration. Fine hairs around the stomata also mitigate moisture loss.

Secondly, casuarinas can harvest atmospheric nitrogen and scavenge for scarce nutrients from infertile soils. Actinomycete bacteria in root nodules fix atmospheric nitrogen; endo- and ecto-mycorrhizal fungi in and around the roots aid uptake of phosphorus and other elements; and cluster roots (proteoid roots) form a dense mat near the soil surface to capture nutrients washing through the soil.

Fossils in South America, South Africa and New Zealand indicate an ancient Gondwanaland family. Pollen records suggest casuarinas were much more common in Australia prior to the recent Ice Ages, but were then displaced by more fire resistant eucalypts.



What's in a Name?

Allos=other, so '*Allocasuarina*' = other casuarinas
Casuarina was named after the cassowary, *Casuaris casuaris*,
 in allusion to the supposed resemblance of the 'foliage' to the
 cassowary's plume.

Fire remains a regular threat to *Allocasuarina* survival. Many are easily killed by fire but reproduce from seed released from a seed bank maintained in woody cones retained for many years. A few species also have lignotubers enabling them to survive and re-shoot after fire.

Some species struggle to survive despite these adaptations. A prime example is *A. portuensis*, a straggling shrub, known originally from a single population of 10 individuals on a sandstone headland in the Sydney Harbour National Park. These plants have all died and only planted specimens exist.

Photos, from the top:

Perhaps the most remarkable survivor of tough sites is the Desert She-oak, *Allocasuarina decaisneana*. It grows into a tree 15 metres tall despite living in desert areas of Central Australia, where it experiences some of the hottest and driest conditions on the continent.

A. littoralis Black She-oak. Artist: Edward Minchen (1862-1913) from: *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of New South Wales*, Part 6 (1897) by J H Maiden NSW Government Printing Office. Published as: *Casuarina suberosa*. From the ANBG website.

A. nana, is also found on harsh sites. On the tablelands of south-eastern Australia it grows in exposed heathlands, ridges, and hilltops on shallow, sandstone-based soils, and is often only one metre tall. Usually dioecious, this plant has both male and female flowers on the one bush. Photo by HM Rawson.

A. inophloia with its shaggy bark growing by the Cascades in ANBG. Photo by Anne Rawson.

Sorting out Allos from Casuarinas For expert eyes only!

In the 1980s the family Casuarinaceae was divided into four genera: *Allocasuarina*, *Casuarina* (the two main genera), *Ceuthostoma* and *Gymnostoma*. Morphological differences between the two main genera are quite subtle with *Allocasuarina* characterised by red-brown to black seeds in thick, woody cones.

Allocasuarina is the largest genus with around 60 species occurring only in Australia. Most are shrubs or small trees growing on highly weathered soils with low nutrient status. They are found mainly in temperate southern Australia, especially Western Australia, but a few, including *A. inophloia*, *A. littoralis* and *A. torulosa*, extend into tropical Queensland.

For plants with little variation in their foliage, *Allocasuarinas* vary wildly in their bark. Particularly eye-catching is *A. inophloia* with its unique densely hairy, shaggy bark described by one observer as having a 'continuous bad hair day!' One example is growing near the Cascades outside the ANBG Visitor Centre. It is just one of the 29 *Allocasuarina* species in the Gardens.

Most casuarinas have separate male and female plants (dioecious) and there are good examples in ANBG. When flowering the male trees of the Forest She-oak, *A. torulosa* have a rusty brown appearance that contrasts with green, slender drooping foliage of the female trees. The crowns of both sexes often have an attractive purple or coppery hue and the thick, deeply furrowed and corky bark is quite striking.

Growing Friends

Yvonne Robinson

In the August edition of *FronDS*, I provided some information on propagating from seed using four techniques to overcome dormancy. The results of these trials are very encouraging:

Acacia (several) and *Pomaderris* species were successfully propagated using Hot Water Treatment; several species of *Hakea* were propagated using Smoke Water; and *Nuytsia floribunda* was propagated using Seed Starter Granules and grown with host grass plants.

Plant Wish list

Growing Friends have been keeping a wish list that records details of plants members have seen in the Gardens and which they suggest for propagating. It has been decided that the practice be extended more generally by having a list located in the Friends' Lounge. Friends visiting the Gardens could record some details of a plant they have seen in the Gardens and which they think Growing Friends might be able to propagate. There is also an email address: growingfriends@friendsanbg.org.au where suggestions or enquiries could be directed.

Plant sale

Propagation continues following our successful Spring sale.

Two small *Acacia* that will be ready for the Autumn sale:

Acacia imbricata: A dense, multi-branched, medium shrub 2-3 x 2-6 metres. It is adaptable growing in most medium to well-drained, light to heavy soils and tolerates dappled shade and partial or full sun. The flowers are globular and bright yellow, appearing from late winter to spring. This plant is very showy and ornamental and used as a windbreak.



Acacia imbricata and *A. williamsonii*. Photos by Murray Fagg.

Acacia williamsonii: A small to medium spreading shrub 1-2 x 1-3 metres that prefers full sun and good drainage. It is tolerant of heavy shallow soils, will grow in semi-shade and is frost hardy to -7°C . Profuse pom-pom flowers appear in spring, followed by brown pods. It is very drought resistant and one of the most decorative wattles available for cultivation.



Photo by Alan Munn.

The White Waratah

Doreen Wilson



White Waratah flowering at ANBG October 2012. Photo by Janice Hanlon.

Thistle Harris—I had not heard that name for many years and now she was on the radio. This was post 1974, after my return from PNG, and I was keen to catch up on Australian wildflowers. Thistle spoke about the white Waratah she had visited at Colo Vale in the 1950s after friends had advised of its location. The owner refused to allow any cutting material to be taken and had a vicious dog chained nearby. Thistle advised against transplanting, which the owner was planning to do, and gave horticultural advice such as hard pruning. The plant was moved and died!

The next news of a white Waratah Thistle spoke of was while she was at 'Wirrimbirra' at Bargo, a sanctuary for flora and fauna that she and her husband had established. The news claimed that a white Waratah was on the bar of the Thirlmere Pub. The flower had gone when she arrived but enough information was gained to pursue the origin.

An employee, Norm Peachy, of the Sydney Water Board, now Sydney Catchment Authority, decided to pick a bunch of Waratahs for his wife and so he entered

the 'closed' bush of the SCA near Kangaloon in the Wingecarribee Shire to be confronted by a shrub bearing white flowers—he thought he was seeing a ghost! Five blooms were collected and distributed to various places in the district. This event was in 1968.

In 1970 Thistle was escorted into the area to obtain cutting material which was propagated at 'Wirrimbirra'. The successful plants were distributed to colleagues with two planted at 'Wirrimbirra'. These plants, well established by 1977, were burnt to the ground, but regenerated. *Telopea* 'Wirrimbirra White' was registered as a cultivar (colour form of *T. speciosissima*) in 1986.

I visited the Thirlmere Pub when returning to Canberra in February 2012. My enquiries led me to the home of Norm Peachy, the picker of the famous flower, who was only too happy to describe the event and explain why the waratah was on the bar. He had returned home to get the flower as the patrons thought he was 'having them on'.

The plant in the wild is still being cared for by the staff of the SCA and they were sure flowers were forming in 2011, but the buds proved to be leaves only.



Telopea 'Wirrimbirra White' in the ANBG. Photo by Murray Fagg.

Early sightings of white Waratahs

The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority references an interesting Aboriginal account for their colour in *Gulpilil's Stories of the Dreamtime* compiled by Hugh Rule and Stuart Goodman.

In September 1867 George Bennett MD FLS received from a friend 'a delicate and beautiful variety of the Warratah or native tulip...' which had been gathered in the Currajong Range near Richmond, NSW. In an article for the 1868 *Journal of Botany* George Bennett went on to describe in detail the white flowering form of *Telopea speciosissima*.

A sighting was recorded by J Maiden (1902–16) in the Kurrajong area.

Another recorded sighting was made 17 miles from Narara near Gosford in 1919.



Norm Peachy holding the photo inscribed: To Norm Peachy, In appreciation. Sydney Catchment Authority. Photo by Doreen Wilson.

Keeping up with the Guides

Glenys Bishop, Volunteer Guides Convenor

Take a walk up the Gardens path

Have you ever been on a guided walk with one of our volunteer guides? The chances are you haven't. Most visitors on guided walks are from interstate or overseas. Occasionally locals stumble across a guided walk; they often enjoy the walk the most because they enjoy learning about this national treasure in their own city!

How do the guides know so much about the Gardens? All guides have a general interest in native plants and the Gardens; many have specialist knowledge from their own interest and research; or their careers. Guides are always looking for ways to extend their knowledge of our Gardens, of Australian native plants, and of other gardens.

Guides' monthly meetings include a professional development segment. Speakers are often guides who have delved more deeply into a topic and wish to share their knowledge. Kath Holtzapffel told us about her investigation of Gondwana plants: she prepared a list and a map of species in the Gardens, and took us on a walk to see them. Doreen Wilson shared the story about the discovery and subsequent history of the White Waratah (see page 6).

Sometimes speakers are members of ANBG staff. Kaiya Browning recently brought the guides up to date on the planning and construction of the Red Centre Garden, followed by a guided tour.



Mt Annan Botanic Garden. Photo by Fran and Mike Johnson.

In November, a group of guides drove to the Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan, to have a guided tour in their people mover (see Friends briefs). This was a valuable experience for those guides who are, or may become, guides on our Flora Explorer.

Further afield, four of our guides toured 17 botanic gardens in South Africa in September with guides from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Our Warwick Wright spoke to the guides during the October professional development session, using maps of the SW Cape of South Africa and the SW of Australia to show the remarkable similarity between these two floral regions.

Flavours of Aussie flora

Harry Stevenson, Floresco Executive Chef

Visitors to the Gardens have been experiencing a new menu and cuisine from the Floresco team since they took over the management of the Gardens cafe in May this year. Floresco has introduced a number of dishes that incorporate the flavours of Australian native flora. The bush tucker elements have been used where they can enhance a familiar flavour, without being gimmicky. They provide subtle flavour changes when used in the following ways.

- Bush Tomato—to enhance traditional tomato
- Wattle Seed Extracts—for coffee and chocolate tone
- Wild Limes, Lemon Aspen and Lemon Myrtle—for commonly used citrus
- Davidson's Plums—for vibrant stone fruits or cherries
- Grevillea Water or Grevillea Essence—for rosewater
- Pepper Berries & Native Mountain Pepper Leaf—for seasoning bases
- Coloured Rosella Petals, brilliantly perfumed—for raspberries

Floresco is striving to meet the needs of visitors to the Gardens, and would be pleased to hear any comments or suggestions from members of the Friends (see contact details in advertisement in this issue).



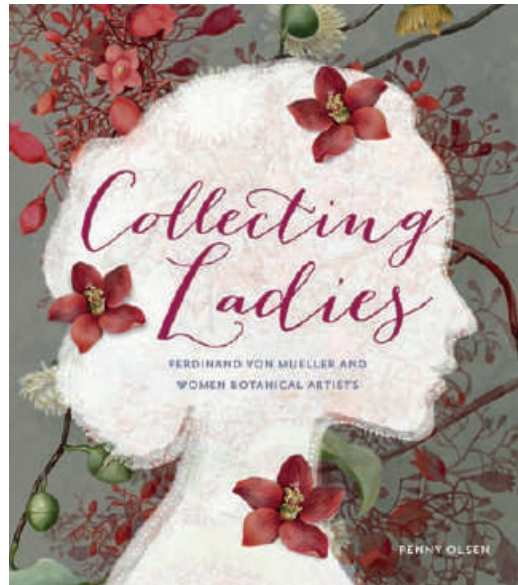
Davidsonia jerseyana Davidson's Plum. Photo by Murray Fagg.

Collecting Ladies

A centenary treat is in store for anyone who likes their native plants wrapped up with art, science and some inspirational stories of pioneering women. A forthcoming book by Penny Olsen, *Collecting Ladies: women botanical illustrators and Ferdinand von Mueller*, provides a fascinating account of the liberating effect on a range of women from very diverse backgrounds who volunteered in Mueller's 3,000 strong army of plant specimen collectors. In an age where painting flowers and a 'polite interest in botany' were the only acceptable feminine botanical pursuits, the extension to collecting encouraged by Mueller provided these women with their first opportunity to make a genuine scientific contribution.

Olsen starts with an intriguing account of Mueller's life and achievements, delving into the essence of the man behind the science. Despite his many achievements and formidable output of correspondence, Mueller 'seemed unable to deal with emotional matters'. Never marrying, despite several proposals and engagements, (and perhaps attributable to his reluctance to bathe) it is ironic that Mueller inspired and encouraged so many women in his network of collectors. Some were honoured by being referenced in scientific publications or by having their name immortalised in that of a new species they had collected for him—a heady experience for women inclined by societal norms to self-deprecation and anonymity.

Olsen details the lives and connections with Mueller of fourteen of his lady collectors and artists. Some, like Ellis Rowan, an artist rather than a collector, are very well known but others are not. Although Harriet and Helena Scott were Australia's finest zoological illustrators of the



time, they struggled to make a living from their art after finding themselves in difficult financial circumstances. Between them they illustrated most of the scientific literature produced in Sydney at the time and Helena also had the dubious honour of designing the first Christmas cards published in Australia.

Margaret Clarke

Don't miss Penny Olsen's Centenary Chat on 28 February to find out more about these remarkable women and their age of botanic discovery.

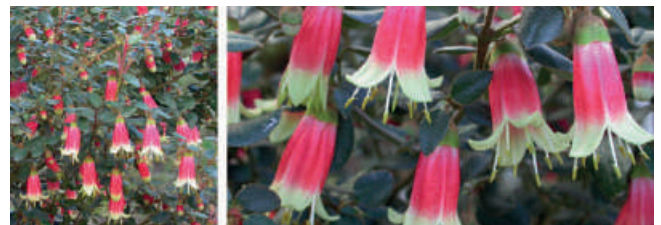
Follow-up with a Friends' only tour of the National Library's Ellis Rowan collection on 13 March (see 'What's On' for details)

Collecting Ladies will be published by the National Library of Australia in April 2013.

Care for your *Correa* 'Canberra Bells'

Many Friends will now have the official Centenary flower *Correa* 'Canberra Bells' planted in their gardens. While this commemorative plant has only been commercially available for a year or so, it has been used in planting trials in the ANBG for around two years to determine its optimum growing conditions. Gardens' horticulturist Rosella Uwedo-Hampshire has cared for a number of trial plantings and has found *C.* 'Canberra Bells' flowers best in a sunny position. Its least favoured growing condition appears to be moist shade.

Rosella's other tips for growing *Correa* 'Canberra Bells' are:

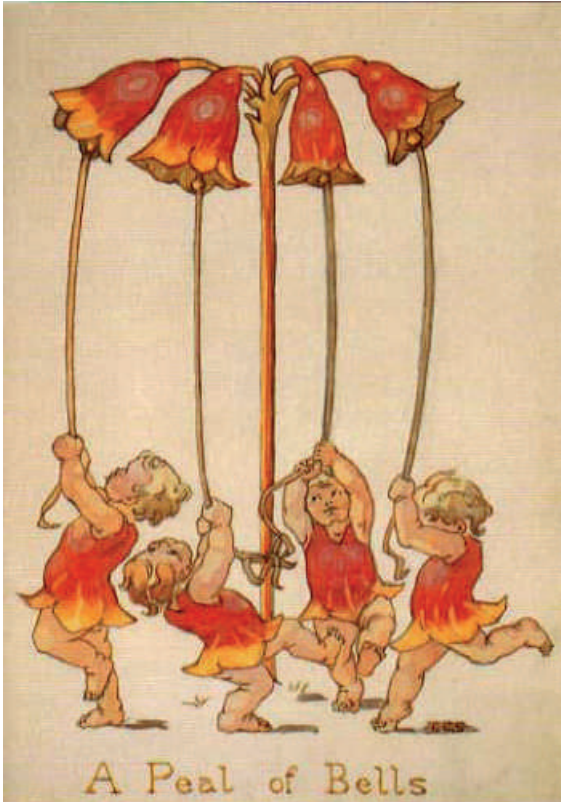


- To make it bushy, tip prune during the growing season (perhaps twice in a season depending on how fast the new growth is occurring).
- It makes an ideal pot plant in a free draining potting mix for natives. Add fertiliser for natives and tip prune as above.

Let's hope our Canberra Bells are in full bloom for Canberra's 100th birthday on 12 March.

Art Groups celebrate

Gillian Bellas



Blandfordia grandiflora in 'A Peal of Bells' by Grace Cossington Smith from ANBG website.

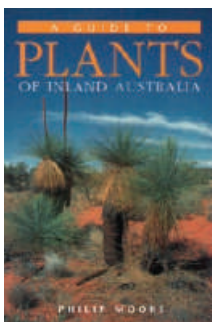
2013 is a year of celebration for Canberra and flowers have always been a part of celebrations. With that in mind the Botanic Art Groups have chosen 'Flowers of Celebration' as the theme for their 6th 'Art in the Gardens with Friends' Exhibition, from 7 March to 7 April 2013.

Wattle day has been celebrated since 1910 and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*) and Christmas Bells (*Blandfordia*). In addition there are the floral emblems that each state and territory has adopted to celebrate their unique identity. Not least of which the ACT has the *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* and, to celebrate its centenary, the *Correa* 'Canberra Bells'.

Increasingly florists are being asked to prepare arrangements that feature Australian flora for special occasions and many brides now carry bouquets of native flowers. My daughter had a beautiful bouquet of WA native flowers and foliage around a colour scheme inspired by *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess'. One of our ANBG Rangers had NSW flannel flowers.

At the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney winners were presented with posies of native flowers that included Waratah, Flannel flower, Wax flower, Grevillea, Kangaroo paw, and Eucalyptus leaves. Many readers will be aware of other significant occasions where native flowers have been used and artists of the Botanic Art Groups would love to hear from you if you have any information that would help us to develop our theme of Australian flowers used in celebration. Contact: gillian_bellas@yahoo.com.

From the Bookshop with Tom Butt, Shop Manager



A Guide to Plants of Inland Australia
Philip Moore
\$49.95
Paperback, 212mm x 143mm

The ideal companion for inland travellers who are curious about the many and varied plants they encounter, or for our very own ANBG Red Centre Garden visitors, when it opens next year. A handy reference for amateur and professional botanists, this book features over 900 inland plants. Each entry comprises a detailed description, at least one colour photograph and a distribution map, all designed to help you identify the plants you see.

2013 ANBG Calendar

Beautiful native floral images photographed in our much treasured Australian National Botanic Gardens.

An excellent souvenir of the Gardens and handy Christmas present. Once sold out, no more till next year!

\$9.95 but with your Friends' discount, only \$8.95

Another successful year

July 2011 to June 2012

Following are edited versions of the reports to the 24th AGM of the Friends on 25 September 2012 by David Coutts, President of the Friends; Marion Jones, Treasurer; Dr Judy West, Executive Director ANBG; and Guest Speaker Malcolm Thompson.



President's Report

I am very pleased to be able to present my second report as President of the Friends. The key point I want to underline is that there is a wonderful spirit of cooperation from those who actively assist with the Friends activities and from the staff at ANBG. This makes the President's job relatively easy.

A key development for the Gardens was the release of the new 10 year Management Plan. This is full of exciting ideas which the Friends support. However, we are concerned about the climate of further efficiency dividends being levied on Parks Australia, and therefore the Gardens. While the Gardens have so far managed to hold the line on the operational budget it is clear that these ideas are going to be hard, if not impossible, to fund from traditional sources. It is clear that a more structured approach is needed to get funds from other sources and it will be necessary for the Friends to play a significant part in that. The Friends have made clear that we want to provide input to the setting of the major priorities for the Management Plan.

An Advisory Council for the Gardens is mentioned in the Plan but we urge management to move now to put such a body in place. I am disappointed that this proposal has not been acted on.

Without any order of priority, the achievements during the past year include:

- Fifth Botanic Art Exhibition held in April/May. The Friends will buy one work from these exhibitions for permanent exhibition at the Gardens.
- Fifteenth schools photographic exhibition in November 2011. Thanks to Denise Ferris from the ANU School of Art, for judging; to Shirley McKeown for organizing the competition for years; and to Carol Summerhayes for taking over this year.

- Thursday talks—thanks to the new organising group for a successful program beginning February 2012.
- Social activities—Death in the Gardens; Twilight dinner with tour of rainforest lighting donated by Friends; Right Royal trivia night; Summer sounds.
- Breakfast with the birds—to be held again this year with breakfast at Floresco.
- Research—alpine garden to be replanted; Seedy vols collected seeds of local flora.
- Membership growing steadily, now 1800.
- In Flower this Week—Barbara Daly was injured earlier in the year but is now recovering. Thanks to Barbara and those who continue this valuable activity.
- Guides continue to do regular walks and a range of special and booked walks. New intake of guides during 2013 being considered.
- Projects—new projector, screen and computer for the Theatre; Flora Explorer volunteer guides/drivers have been trained but more will be needed; rainforest lighting; Climate watch trail, a joint project with Earthwatch.
- Public Fund—thanks to Pauline Wicksteed who retired during the year. David Headon and Beth Heyde were appointed.
- One activity that I am concerned about is the Botanical Resource Centre. The Centre is still there and accessible but the volunteers have become discouraged due to lack of programs to promote effective use. This is something that I want to discuss with the Gardens for the future.

For the Centenary in 2013, the Friends Council has agreed to provide \$100,000 to create and install a central meeting place in the Red Centre Garden, based on an artwork by a Central Australian artist. We have been awarded a

\$15,000 grant to stage a Bush Capital celebration to highlight the gardens as a national institution. Other Friends centenary activities include the 6th Botanic Art Exhibition, a photographic exhibition by our photography group, and centenary themed Thursday lunchtime talks.

Andy Rawlinson is standing down from Council at this AGM after four years. I thank him most sincerely and



hope he will continue to provide his special skills to help the Friends and the Gardens in the future.

I conclude by thanking all our volunteers and especially the other members of Council and those who coordinate and participate in our various groups.

David Coutts

Treasurer's Report

The audited financial statements were presented by the Treasurer, Marion Jones. They show that the Friends ended the financial year with accumulated funds of \$351,868.

The main sources of revenue, as usual, were membership fees and the Summer Sounds concerts. The Art Exhibition was particularly successful making an overall profit from commissions and a raffle of \$2,200. Plant sales, Thursday talks, booked guided walks and Breakfast with the Birds continue to be popular and well supported with donations and/or sales from these activities being a welcome additional source of income. As well as the always popular Friends Annual Dinner, three very successful social events were run: Death in the Gardens, a Night Walk and our Royal Trivia Night and while fundraising was not the primary purpose, each event showed a profit, about \$3000, \$400 and \$1100 respectively.

Expenditure on major projects for the year totalled \$93,800, including the final payment for the Alpine Project.

The Public Fund ended the year with accumulated funds of \$52,151. Although no projects were funded last year, it has committed to fund \$10,000 towards signage and a brochure for the new Eucalypt Walk. Another \$10,000 has been approved to fund the installation of an interactive educational feature for the Red Centre Garden.

The full Treasurer's report and the audited financial statements can be found on the Friends website.

Executive Director's Report

It's been a productive year at the Gardens and many of our achievements have been delivered with the support of the Friends. Some of our highlights include approval of the ANBG Management Plan 2012-2022

We have had 449,733 visitors including 12,234 school students in 2011-12. Some other positive statistics during

this period include 7,247 new plants added to the living collection, 231 new collections to the Seed Bank and 15,326 specimens added to the Herbarium database.

Construction of the Red Centre Garden is well underway with major drainage and earthworks completed including the installation of rock features. Landscape works such as pathways, interpretation areas and a viewing platform will occur in the coming months. Eighty per cent of the plants have been propagated and are growing in the nursery. The first stage of plant out, including an eight metre *Livistona mariae*, will occur in October. The design incorporates a 'Meeting Place' pavement artwork designed by a prominent central Australian indigenous artist.

Over the next two years the ANBG seed research program will focus on the ecological drivers of seed germination in Australian bog and fen environments. Research into the germination and propagation of three rare orchids of the ACT is underway to facilitate future translocation by the ACT Government.

A new range of visitor experiences supported by the Friends was introduced in 2012. Following the installation of the lighting in the rainforest, *afterDARK* tours were introduced in June, and will be presented on the first Friday of each month in summer. The Flora Explorer was launched in May. The one hour tour of the Gardens is presented by volunteers from the Guides and operates daily on weekends, public holidays and school holidays, enabling visitors to access distant parts of the Gardens.

Following a tender process and extensive renovations earlier in the year, the ANBG cafe has opened as *Floresco in the Gardens*. Floresco provides a different dining experience featuring fresh produce and Australian bush foods. It also caters for onsite functions and events.

The ANBG Public Art Advisory Committee was

re-established this year and a revised Public Art Master Plan is being undertaken with the expertise of Pamille Berg.

Recruitment is underway to appoint a new staff member to carry on Murray Fagg's role as manager of botanical information, the website and the Australian Plant Image Index.

The ANBG has launched an online donation system and bequest program at: www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/support.

Judy West



The *Livistona mariae* arriving at the Red Centre Garden on a low loader.
Photo by Anne Rawson.

Guest Speaker: Malcolm Thompson

Deputy Secretary, Department of Sustainability,
Environment, Water, Population and Communities

Malcolm provided a sweeping overview of some of the Government's initiatives in biodiversity conservation, including the Marine Reserves Network proposal; the Murray Darling Basin Plan and the Wildlife Corridors Program which connects ecosystems to enable plants and animals to move in response to a changing climate.

He highlighted the special role the ANBG plays in policy development by having a readily accessible pool of expertise that policy makers can quickly access for practical and informed advice. The Herbarium and the seed banking and seed orcharding programs in the Gardens have all contributed to the Department's wider biodiversity conservation initiatives. Indeed the ANBG is a very model of sustainability, embodying all the elements of the newly accepted definition of this (often misapplied) concept.

Sustainability: What it really means

Sustainability = the maintenance of wellbeing over time

where:

Wellbeing = the combination of economic prosperity, community liveability and environmental integrity, determined by the quality, quantity, distribution, use and preservation of stocks of economic, human, social and natural capital.

Livistona mariae in the Red Centre Garden



The first major planting in the Red Centre Garden happened on 16 October when the *Livistona mariae* arrived on its low loader. In front of a fascinated group of staff and Friends it was craned to its spot in the south-western corner of the Garden and lowered into its hole. Its fronds have now sprung into their correct shape, as seen in the photo by Barbara Podger on the right; on the left a palm in its true home in Palm Valley, Central Australia. Photo by Rosemary Purdie.



Photo by Alan Murnns.

Nursery Visit

On Thursday 8 November about 40 Friends got a close up look in the Nursery at the propagation of arid-zone plants for the Garden's new Red Centre Garden, which will open in October 2013. We saw seedlings of many iconic species of Central Australian plants, ranging from Ghost Gums and Desert Oak to saltbush, daisies and spinifex. Many thanks to the Nursery staff for an interesting visit.

The Friends are giving \$100,000 to create and install a meeting place art work for the Red Centre Garden as our centenary gift to the Gardens.

The Red Centre Garden opens in October 2013 as the ANBG's major celebration of the Centenary of Canberra.

Garden Shorts

!!!IMPORTANT!!!

Nominate the Gardens

Now is the time to nominate the Gardens for the 100 best things in Canberra. We all know that the ANBG is one of the best things in Canberra, but it is up to us, and all the people who love the Gardens, to ensure that the ANBG gets into the official listing for voting on the 100 best things. You can nominate via Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #likecanberra. But even if you are not part of the Twitter generation you can still nominate by going online to www.canberra100.com.au and wait for the 'What do you like about Canberra?' page to come up. Click on the question and you will go to a page where you can nominate your five favourite things. Voting on these nominations happens between 14 January and 14 February.

Gardens gets social



200 social-media savvy humans from around Australia tweeted, posted and blogged about their experiences live from the Gardens as part of the world's first Human Brochure campaign. The Gardens was one of 30 attractions and operators to host the visitors. The campaign, sponsored by ACT Tourism, aimed to leverage off the social media word-of-mouth effect to paint a picture of Canberra as a destination, a city, a community and as the national capital.

Our Facebook page statistics show the potential to attract a wide range of virtual visitors. Thirty per cent of our followers live overseas, a third interstate and a third are locals. Over half of our followers are in the 25–44 year age group, a group who are less likely to come to the Gardens. Over time we hope to engage that community more deeply in long-term relationships around the scientific, botanical and social aspects of the Gardens. If you aren't there already, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, check in on Foursquare and join our conversation.

Visions of Eucalypts

Preschool students from Blue Gum Community School visited the Gardens to research and document the bush environment as part of Blue Gum's *Community Classrooms* explorations throughout 2012.

This initiative involved students and educators spending time immersed in the natural world at the Gardens. A particular focus was The Eucalypt Lawn. As they investigated this space, students' were captured by the notion of 'looking up and beyond' the breathtaking majestic gum trees.

The students' observations, reflections and responses to their botanic journey inspired the twenty-five artworks of the *Visions of our Eucalypts* exhibition displayed in the space outside the Theatre in October.

Caring for Country

The Gardens is working to restore two iconic grassland reserves within the Australian Capital Territory and surrounding area in partnership with Greening Australia and the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research. Gardens' staff have created seed production areas for threatened and grassland plant species to

eliminate the need to harvest from wild populations, which has become ecologically unsustainable and financially inefficient. Gardens Seed Bank expertise will capture the genetic diversity of populations and provide resources to unlock issues related to seed dormancy and germination. The project is being funded through a Caring for Country grant.

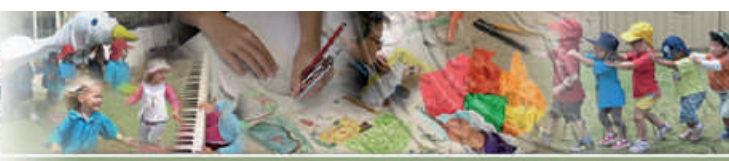


Bulbine bulbosa, one of the grassland species being propagated under Caring for Country program. Photo by Murray Fagg.

afterDARK Dreamtime

Over 140 visitors were treated to a cultural experience on the spring afterDARK Dreamtime Tours. Participants were welcomed with traditional face painting and didgeridoo performances. Local indigenous artist and presenter Duncan Smith, and Queensland-born Lee Burgess told fascinated participants how traditional land owners cared for and interacted with country, how land was used for cultural gatherings with linkages to rainforest plants and about traditional roles of men and women. The tours finished with the walk through the lighted rainforest and spotlighting in the Gardens. Check 'What's on' for details on summer tours, Delicious afterDARK, which will include live string music and gourmet tastings of locally produced food and wine at Floresco.

*Garden Shorts compiled by
Sabrina Sonntag*



Friends Briefs

Eucalypt Discovery Walk



Photo from ANBG website.

Eucalypts dominate Australia's landscape and the Gardens. With over 100 species scattered predominantly around the Eucalypt Lawn, it can be a challenge to locate and identify one species from another. Soon, the hard work will be done for you with the opening of the self-guided Eucalypt Discovery Walk. In around an hour, the walk will introduce you to some 22 eucalypts; each with an interpretative sign and a key message. A brochure with a route map to the selected eucalypts will be your guide.

The project is supported by a grant from the Dahl Trust (<http://dahltrust.org.au/>). Bjarne K Dahl, a Norwegian Forester, left his entire estate to the Trust, which focuses solely on eucalypts. Matching funds came from the Public Fund of the Friends.

The project is jointly managed by the Friends (represented by John Turnbull and Anne Campbell) and ANBG Management (Sabrina Sonntag). Thanks to the Friends who helped with the underpinning research and initial drafting for the signs and web site.

The project is due for completion in mid-December 2012. Further information will be provided on the Friends' website.

Anne Campbell and John Turnbull

Centenary Chats

The Friends of the ANBG will mark Canberra's Centenary with the Thursday Talks program. Each month there will be a special talk reflecting the monthly theme(s) identified by the Centenary organisers. The theme for June, for example, is The Political City whereas August's theme is Science.

Please note that in 2013 the Thursday Talks will resume on Thursday 31 January, with Ian Warden's Centenary Chat, speaking to the first theme of 'Family and Friends in the Capital'. Ian will tell you why Marion Mahony Griffin would have boycotted Floriade.

Lesley Jackman

Visit to Parliament House



Photo by Jan Finley.

Over 20 Friends were fortunate to have a warm and sunny day for the tour of the interior courtyard gardens at Parliament House on 4 October. Paul Janssens, Director of Landscape Services at Parliament House, led the tour, which included the history, structure of the courtyard spaces, information about plants both exotic and native (and their different landscape treatments). It was interesting to observe the beautiful combination of both native and exotic plants. We hope to repeat this tour in autumn.

Jan Finley

Breakfast with birds

Breakfast with the Birds was very successful in its ninth year. The majority of the 182 participants saw our stars for this year, the Tawny Frogmouth on the nest with its partner close by, and



Photo by Jill More.

the Satin Bower Bird in its bower. The Gardens were looking magnificent and leaders and participants, as well as looking at the Red Wattle Bird, White winged Chough, Galahs, and nest building Pied Currawongs and Common Bronzewing, also enjoyed the profusion of spring flowers. The new bird brochure proved very useful as many of the species listed were sighted and/or heard. Breakfast at Floresco, was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this annual event.

Louise Muir



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
www.floresco.inthegardens.com.au

Also catering for
Weddings, Conferences and Special Events
in the Gardens Call (02) 6162 6707

www.hellenicpremiumcatering.com.au
enquiries@hellenicpremiumcatering.com.au

Pt Augusta conference



Conference delegates at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta, with the Stuart Highway in the background. Photo by Anne Rawson.

The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens biennial conference at Port Augusta was an outstanding success: there were 150 happy delegates (seven from ANBG); the speakers were exceptional; John Zwar was a cheery MC; the Arid Garden was blooming beautifully; and the food, prepared by the women workers from the Golf Club, was delicious and plentiful.

The speakers told us about: Goyder's Line, marking the limit of agriculture in SA; Harry the camel who shot Horrocks the explorer; the South Australian view of the Murray-Darling; the beautiful Western Myall; the importance of mangroves; the threat coming from buffel grass which smothers and burns very hot, killing *Acacias*; and much more. Read *Campsis*, the journal of AFBG for a full report. There is a copy in the Friends' lounge.

The *Eremophilas* at the Arid Lands BG were blooming beautifully when we went to the Garden to look at them and at the local birds. And at the AGM that followed the conference Warwick Wright was elected Vice President.

Anne Rawson

Experiencing the Warrabirra Wanderer

The 416 hectare (c.1000 acre) Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan is glorious in the spring. Twelve Guides and Friends members from the ANBG drove there in early November to experience the motorised guided tours - ranger driven paid tours in a minibus and free tours in an electric people

mover with a volunteer guide.

We were treated to both tours, driving through a variety of gardens and arboreta including the cool Wollemi Walk, and the Cyprus Pine, Kurrajong, Mallee Eucalypt and Fig Arboreta.

Mt Annan is physically the largest botanic garden in Australia. Carols by Candlelight and food and wine festivals attract up to 8,000 people at a time.

Fran and Mike Johnson



Photo by Fran and Mike Johnson.

Wattle Day launch

The Friends of the ANBG celebrated National Wattle Day in style with the launch of *A Celebration of Wattle - Australia's National Emblem*, a revised edition of Maria Hitchcock's book *Wattle* (AGPS 1991).

On a stunning, if chilly, Canberra spring day some 80 people crowded into the Theatre for the launch, which was co-hosted by the Friends and the Wattle Day Association. National Wattle Day has been celebrated annually since 1992 through the efforts of Maria Hitchcock that led to gazettal of the golden wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*, as Australia's National Floral Emblem and National Wattle Day on 1st September each year.

The Canberra Colours choir delighted the audience with songs with a distinctively Australian flavour. Terry Fewtrell of the Wattle Day Association spoke of the importance of celebrating National



Terry Fewtrell, David Coutts, Maria Hitchcock and Minister Garrett. Photo by Suzette Searle.

Wattle Day, while Maria Hitchcock recounted the history of the wattle's use in celebration. The book was launched enthusiastically by the guest of honour, the Hon. Peter Garrett MP, Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth.

David Coutts

Schools Photographic Exhibition

Prize giving for the 16th schools photographic exhibition took place at the Visitor Centre on 20 October. This competition is open to ACT and Queanbeyan high school and college students and is intended to encourage their interest and skills in photography, the ANBG and native flora and fauna. There were almost 300 entries this year in six categories and the standard of entries was very high. The exhibition was judged by Penny Boyer from CIT Creative Industries. Prizes were presented by the President of the Friends, David Coutts, and Penny Boyer.

Wollemi Pine donation

The Gardens and the Friends are pleased to thank Jann Adamson, who has donated two Wollemi Pines to the Gardens, in memory of her late husband, Colin. The specimens are over 6ft tall in pots and have registration papers. The Gardens is slowly building a collection of Wollemi pines; it may in the future be part of a special display.

We need some help at the Summer Concerts

At the 2013 Summer Sounds Centenary concerts we will need volunteers to help with a range of tasks, some of which are different to previous years. Even if you have never helped with the concerts before, please consider volunteering for one or more, as the success of the concerts relies heavily on voluntary work by the Friends. Have fun, meet new people . . .

Role	Number of Volunteers per concert	Task/Time
Drivers	2 (drivers licence required; training can be provided for electric vehicle)	To provide transport for people who find it difficult to walk up to the Eucalypt Lawn. Two vehicles will be used: a similar vehicle to last year's, plus our electric vehicle, Flora Explorer. Time: Arrive at 4pm, required until 6.30pm. Also 1 driver required at the end of the concert: 7.30pm to 8pm
Donation Collectors	6 (briefing will be provided)	This year, donations will be collected at the Gardens entrance rather than during the concerts. A \$5 entry donation will be collected by two teams from occupants of cars once they have entered the Gardens. Two teams required + individual to work at the pedestrian gate. Time: Arrive at 4pm, 6 people required until 6pm, 1 or 2 of whom will be needed until 6.30pm
Drinks Table	3 (must be aged over 18)	Sell drinks, including alcohol, to the public. Time: Arrive at 5pm, required until 7.45pm
Children's activity	2	Assist with education activity for children and families Time: Arrive 5.00pm, required until 7.30pm

A briefing and information session will be held on **Tuesday 11 December at 1.30pm in the Gardens Theatre** to provide information on the tasks involved. A roster will be on the notice board in the Friends Lounge from 3 December. Or email summerconcerts@friendsanbg.org.au, or phone the Friends Office (6250 9548) and leave a message if you would like further information or to put your name on the roster.

ANPC Conference

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) held its 9th national conference in Canberra in October, marking the 21st anniversary of ANPC and the collaboration with the ANBG. ANPC members include scientists, land managers, state and Commonwealth departments, industry, the volunteer movement and the broader community. It is dedicated to the conservation of plant species, communities and ecosystems. The Friends have been a member for a number of years.

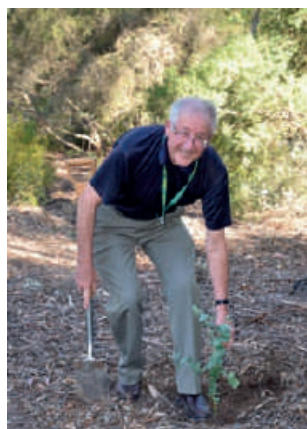
The conference opened with a ceremony at ANBG which included the **21 Gum Salute**. This involved 21 people planting 21 rare or threatened Eucalypt species in the Eucalypt lawn area. A list of the species and the planters will be on the Friends website.

There was a strong focus in the papers on the role and potential of NGOs and volunteer groups in the field of native plant conservation. As President of the

Friends I gave a paper which is available on our website. Many of the papers will be published in the next issue of the ANPC journal, *Australasian Plant Conservation*, available in the Friends lounge and on the ANPC website.

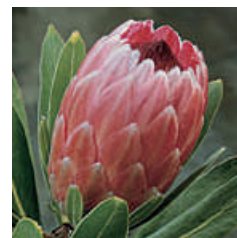
The Friends of ANBG were a sponsor of the conference and one of our members, Kristiane Herrmann, served on the organising committee.

David Coultts



John Turnbull planting one of 21 gums.
Photo by Graham Brown.

Come to South Africa



Several ANBG Guides shared a delightful tour to the Botanic Gardens and countryside of South Africa earlier this year. Thanks to the South African volunteer organisers (who are guides from Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens) a trip is planned to depart Canberra Monday 26 August 2013 returning Friday 13 September 2013. There are only 12 places available, at a total cost of approximately \$3000 each for plane fares and around \$3300 land component. Costs might change slightly with exchange rates until firm bookings are made. If you are interested, please contact Pat and Warwick Wright as soon as possible on email: warwickwright@netspeed.com.au

What's on at the Gardens

December 2012 to April 2013

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' site at: www.anbg.gov.au or in the local press.

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, and all those who will.

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.

2013 marks the Centenary of Canberra and there is a special program of events all year in the Gardens, marked with the yellow logo.



CENTENARY SUMMER SOUNDS CONCERTS

JANUARY WEEKENDS 5.30 to 7.30 pm

DATES: 5/6, 12/13, 19/20 & 26/27

New and old bands playing jazz, swing, big band, Latin American, country, reggae, popular music; dancers swinging to all this music; delicious food and wine; and a 'family hub' to distract the kids.



THE BANDS

Sat January 5	As Famous as the Moon
Sun January 6	Key Grip
Sat January 12	Dorothy-Jane Gosper Band
Sun January 13	Los Chavos
Sat January 19	The Cashews
Sun January 20	Plump
Sat January 26 (Australia Day)	The Fuelers
Sun January 27	Annie and the Armadillos

NEW FEATURES

(See Friends website for full details)

New start time of 5.30 pm

New entry donation \$5 or more per car or group

New Family Hub area where kids and parents can learn about the environment and staying healthy. Limited numbers at each session at 5.30, 6.15 and 7.00.

New concert picnic hamper from Floresco, \$60 for two. Has to be pre ordered. (See Friends website)

New Dinner on the Lawn Service, mini souvlaki, veggie kebabs or cheese burgers off the BBQ (\$5 - \$12)

New barista coffee cart

New free 30 minute guided walks to aid digestion.

Wine and soft drinks for sale by the Friends

DECEMBER

Friday 23 November to
Wednesday 2 January 2013
9.30 am–4.30 pm

CIT/UN Photographic Exhibition Visitor Centre Gallery

This exhibition features the prize winners and selected images from the joint United Nations and Canberra Institute of Technology International Year of Sustainable Energy for All 2012 Photography Competition.

Saturday 1 December 12.30–2.30 pm

Colours of Christmas

Cafe Lawn

Enjoy traditional and Australian carols presented by Sing Australia whilst the children make their personalised Christmas tree decorations. Gold coin donation



Bush Magic Story Time

Enjoy stories and craft activities in the Gardens 10.00 - 11.00 am

\$5 per child

Suitable for pre-schoolers

Friday 7 December

Christmas in the bush theme

Friday 1 February

Water Hole Stories

Friday 1 March

Dinosaur Stories

Delicious afterDARK

Friday, 7 December 7.30 pm

Friday, 4 January 7.30 pm

Friday, 1 February 7.30 pm

Summer night tours of the Gardens featuring live string music and gourmet tastings of locally produced food and wine at Floresco.

\$35 per person (over 18 years only)

Online bookings essential www.anbg.gov.au/gardens

JANUARY



FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN THE GARDENS



A CAPITAL EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION

FRIDAY 4 JANUARY to
TUESDAY 5 MARCH

Visitor Centre Gallery

A special photographic exhibition celebrating botanic gardens from capital cities from around the world Free entry Further information: www.anbg.gov.au/gardens

Snakes Alive!

17-20 January

Crosbie Morrison Building

Weekdays, 10.00 am – 4:00 pm

Weekends 10.00 am – 6.00 pm

Live displays of snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs and crocodiles. \$2 child, \$5 adult and \$4 concession



CENTENARY CHATS

in Theatrette at 12.30

THURS 31 JANUARY

IAN WARDEN



Ian Warden will launch the Centenary Chats program with 'Tiptoe through the Telopees: Why Marion Mahony Griffin would have boycotted Floriade.' Ian will explore Marion's enthusiasm for our native flora,

which is shared by modern-day Canberrans.

FEBRUARY



OPTUS FLIX IN THE STIX

SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY
FROM DUSK

Flix combines a unique award winning collection of short films with live music performances featuring The Whitlams. See www.flixinthestix.com.au for all event & ticketing details.



SUNSET CINEMA

THURSDAY 7 FEBRUARY to
SATURDAY 16 MARCH
EVERY THURSDAY, FRIDAY &
SATURDAY NIGHT
FROM DUSK

Picnic under the stars and enjoy blockbuster, family, classic and art house films across a 6-week season. Tickets and full season program available online from: www.sunsetcinema.com.au

What's on



CENTENARY CHATS
in Theatrette at 12.30
THURS 13 FEBRUARY
JOCELYN PLOVITS



'The National Arboretum Canberra: relationship and synergy'. Jocelyn Plovits will address the history, design, challenges and successes of the project and look to the future, from the perspective of the Friends of the Arboretum.

Thursday 14 February 12.30 pm
Matthew Higgins 'Elyne Mitchell: mountain author'

Historian Matthew Higgins will speak about Elyne Mitchell, renowned for her Silver Brumby books. Elyne also drew on her connection with the upper Murray and the Snowy Mountains in writing pioneering non-fiction works addressing Australians' relationship with their environment.

Thursday 21 February 12.30 pm
Speaker tba under the Lunchtime Talks tab at: www.friendsanbg.org.au

Thursday 21 February, 6.30 pm
Friends Centenary Twilight Dinner at Floresco

You are invited to the 2013 Friends Twilight Dinner which will have a Canberra Centenary theme. The menu will be based on banquet recipes served 100 years ago, and our speaker will also have a centenary flavour. Cost: \$65 for three course meal including one drink. Members of the Friends are welcome to invite one guest. Bookings essential: see separate booking form or download one from the Friends website.

Enquiries: twilightdinner@friendsanbg.org.au



CENTENARY CHATS
in Theatrette at 12.30
THURS 28 FEBRUARY
DR PENNY OLSEN



ANU's Penny Olsen will discuss the women who, reflecting worldwide interest in the science and art of native plants, illustrated and promoted Australian flora, and Baron von Mueller's influence on their work.



CENTENARY CHATS
in Theatrette at 12.30
THURSDAY 7 MARCH
HAZEL DAVIES



Florist Hazel Davies will discuss the contribution of Australian and exotic flora to our culture when marking significant life and society milestones.



ART IN THE GARDENS WITH FRIENDS

8 MARCH to 7 APRIL

Visitor Centre Gallery



The Friends Botanic Art Groups present an exquisite collection of botanic art works of Australian native plants, with a special emphasis on their use as celebratory flowers.

MARCH

Seasonal Colours Concert

Saturday 2 March
1.00 pm & 2.00 pm

Cafe Lawn

Choral performances by Sing Australia Choir celebrating the start of autumn

Enlighten AfterDARK

Sunday 3 March
Monday 4 March
Tuesday 5 March
Wednesday 6 March and
Sunday 10 March
All at 7.00 pm

Make your own star shaped lantern and be guided through the magically lit rainforest gully where stars have been pulled from the sky for Enlighten. Finish with a star gazing experience with the Canberra Astronomical Society on the Rock Garden Lawn.

Suitable for families. Meet at the Visitor Centre. \$15 concession, \$20 Adult + booking fee.

Further information:
www.anbg.gov.au/gardens

Wednesday 13 March, 9.15 or 10.45 am

Viewing of the Marion Ellis Rowan Collection
National Library of Australia

(Friends members only)

Friends are offered an exclusive opportunity to view the Marion Ellis Rowan Collection at the NLA. Choose between two sessions, 9.15 am or 10.45 am, on 13 March. We are grateful to Barrie Hadlow, a good friend of the ANBG, for facilitating the visit. Meet in the foyer of the Library 15 minutes ahead of the session start time. Parking around the NLA is very tight, so allow plenty of time to find parking. Numbers are limited and bookings are essential, by phone: 62558441, or email: bookings@friendsanbg.org.au indicating name/s, phone number and time preferred.

Thursday 14 March 12.30 pm
**Barbara Allan 'COG's Bird Blitz:
the First Eight Years'**

Barbara Allan will report on the first eight years of the Canberra Ornithologists' Group ACT-wide bird count each October.

Thursday 21 March 12.30 pm
**Anne Rawson 'Learning to Love
Flowers'**

Anne Rawson, an editor of *FronDS*, will talk about the flowers she and her husband discovered at their property, Wombalano, on the Bombala River in south eastern NSW; and about being a sheep and berry farmer.

Thursday 28 March 12.30 pm
**David Taylor and Dan Marges 'A
Walk in the Sydney Basin'**

Join the ANBG's Dan Marges and David Taylor as they take you through the recent reconstruction of the iconic Sydney Basin. The walk will begin at the Theatrette (the wet weather plan is to remain in the Theatrette).

APRIL



CENTENARY CHATS
in Theatrette at 12.30

THURSDAY 4 APRIL
DAVID HEADON



David Headon of the NCA will provide some eclectic 'Centenary Musings – Cricket, Canberra and the New Commonwealth', on the Centenary and the auspicious timing of Federation.

Sunday 7 April 11 am to 3 pm
Family Picnic Day
Cafe & Crosbie Morrison Lawns

A delightful day out for the entire family with a special focus on celebrating our oldest and most senior members of their extended families. The program will include displays, guided walks, garden workshops, presentations and performances. Learn about the variety of lively, stimulating and essential support groups that operate within the Gardens and how they offer opportunities to explore new skills, experiences and knowledge. Bring your own picnic or partake in the special bush BBQ service available from the Floresco cafe deck.



CENTENARY CHATS
in Theatrette at 12.30

THURSDAY 11 APRIL
PETER OLLERENSHAW
and **CATHY FRANZI**



The Correa 'Canberra Bells' was selected as the floral emblem for the Centenary. Peter Ollerenshaw will talk about developing 'Canberra Bells', while ceramicist Cathy Franzi will discuss interpreting the Correa artistically.

Thursday 18 April 12.30 pm
**Dr Tony Fischer AM 'Feeding the
Billions: Can Crop Yield Increase
Continue to Meet Growing
Demand?'**

Tony Fischer (CSIRO) will consider whether crop yield increases, highly successful since 1960 in feeding a doubling in world population, can still cover growing demand and eliminate persistent hunger, without accelerating land area expansion.

Friends' Benefits

As a Friend you are entitled to:

Three issues of *FronDS* a year

Free parking pass

Botanical Bookshop – a discount on most items

Discount at Floresco cafe

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

Assist with Gardens research projects

Become a Guide or an Education Ranger

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.

The Botanical Bookshop

www.botanicalbookshop.com.au

always welcomes Friends!

A 10% discount is offered:

- on purchases over \$10
- on production of your membership card
- to the person whose name is on this card