



## Report of the President of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens to the 37th Annual General Meeting

16 October 2025

It is my pleasure to present my first annual report as President of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG).

We have continued this year to successfully support the development of the ANBG; as well to foster awareness of the scientific, educational, conservation and recreational functions of the Gardens.

There have been some challenging projects such promoting and gaining stakeholder support for the walk across Black Mountain from ANBG to the National Arboretum Canberra; and creating new resources to support our IT services. These are slowly making progress.

Maintaining a productive partnership with ANBG is fundamental to our endeavours. This year we farewelled Peter Byron, who had been the Director of the Gardens for fifteen years and welcomed Matt Parker. The Friends presented Peter Byron with an honorary Friends membership in recognition of his magnificent service and his dedication to our Friends' community.

Another highlight was the generous bequest we received from Bruce Lindenmayer – I will elaborate on his benevolent act later in my report.

Our membership is the bedrock for achieving our goals. Friends' membership has been stable, we continue to fund projects that support the mission of the ANBG and the special interest group reports for 2024-25, presented in the Appendices, are generally very positive.

Notable **Special Interest Group** developments include:

- Gross proceeds from the Growing Friends plant sale in March set a record. The net contribution of 2024-25 sales to Friends revenue was \$11,603. A new seed propagation bed was acquired and installed at the end of 2024, and this has re-ignited interest in seed propagation. Most new members in recent years are looking for weekly (rather than monthly) involvement in propagation activities. It is estimated Growing Friends' members contribute a minimum of 1800 hours of volunteer time each year. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the leadership of Maurice Hermann as Convenor of Growing Friends. He is retiring from the position soon, after eight years. Thank you, Maurice.
- The Students' Photographic Competition restarted in 2024 following the pandemic. Entries increased significantly in 2025. This year's competition was enhanced by a grant of \$1,220 from the Australian Government 2024–25 Volunteer Grants program.
- The Plant Recognition Group organised 12 workshops for 112 participants, several workshops were heavily oversubscribed.

- The Plant Science Group successfully continues to seek speakers for the technical talks.
- The aggregate attendance at Thursday Talks increased by ten percent in 2024-25. Each of our three PhD scholarship holders presented a Thursday Talk this year, with the presentation by Jay Nicholson of the ANU among the fifteen heavily attended Talks.
- The Photographic Group has enjoyed strong growth in membership, with monthly meetings, the staging of its 11th photographic exhibition in November/December 2024, and managing the process for the 2026 Gardens Calendar, among other things.
- The Botanic Art Group has 135 members and convenes three well-attended meetings each month. The annual exhibition plus the workshops for beginners generated net revenue of \$5,218.
- The Social Events and Activities Committee organised numerous activities, most of which were booked out, including butterfly and bird walks, and in the Spring, "Wake up with the Birds".
- Nature journalling continues to meet in the Gardens' peaceful settings in the warmer months of the year.
- Ros and Ben Walcott continue to publish a fortnightly Flowers, Fruit and Foliage brochure, on behalf of Friends of the ANBG. They have been doing so since 2013.
- Pat and Warwick Wright, Life Members, have been self-appointed voluntary ambassadors, accepting speaking invitations, promoting the ANBG, the Friends and native flora. In the 23 years from 2002 to September 2025 they gave 225 talks to 9275 people. Regrettably, they have had to draw their magnificent innings to a close. Their efforts and enthusiasm over this long period are greatly appreciated.

In the background there has been significant progress made toward upgrading our website and introducing an online membership system. These projects were restarted under the guidance of Christianna Cobbold late in 2022 and much of the work has been progressed more recently by Beth Tyerman on the website and David More working with Member Jungle on the membership management system.

Another exciting development has been consulting and negotiating the guidelines for the Bruce Lindemayer Memorial Lecture series with his sons, Phil and David. The inaugural lecture is scheduled for February 2026.

## Council

The Council meets monthly on the second Thursday, commencing in February. In addition, the Executive, comprising the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer meet on the first Thursday of the month, commencing February. Council met on eleven occasions in 2024-25, but a quorum was not present for the May meeting.

Since the 2024 AGM, Cathy Robertson was appointed as Secretary and Darrell Porter was appointed to Council to fill her position and to take on the role of Public Officer, when the latter was vacated by Christianna Cobbald. Following a ballot, Stacie Hall was appointed in July 2025, due to the unfortunate resignation of Chris Mackay for health reasons.

The Council, since July 2025 has comprised, Linda Beveridge, President, Alan Henderson, Vice President, Cathy Robertson, Secretary, Rod King, Treasurer, Stacie Hall, Darrell Porter, Ian Primrose, Kerry Moir and Beth Tyerman.

## **Membership**

It is satisfying that the number of memberships (individual, household and groups) and members have remained stable during a period of living cost pressures. The number of members as of 30 September 2025 was 2,888, close to the number at the same date last year 2,883. Memberships as of 30 September 2025 were 2,161, marginally above 2,142 a year earlier.

New members' morning teas were held in March and September 2025. The events were opened by the President or Vice President, followed by presentations by representatives of the Guides and special interest groups, concluding with morning tea and the option of a guided walk through the Gardens. Invitations were issued, covering 220 members in March and 100 in September. Attendance rates at both events were around 16-18 percent.

The Membership Team in 2024-25 comprised Lesley Harland, Pam Cooke and Evelyn Jacobsen. More recently, Pam Cooke has retired following a decade of sterling service and been replaced by Merelyn Southwell-Keely.

## **Gift Fund**

Tax deductible donations to the Gift Fund of \$34,159 in 2024-25 represent a pleasing increase of forty percent over the previous year. This was in addition to the further annual donation of \$5,000 from the family of the late Don Beer.

## **Bruce Lindenmayer Memorial Lectures**

The late Bruce Lindenmayer OAM (1936-2022), a long-time resident of Canberra, was a dedicated environmentalist, conservationist and ornithologist. The Gardens was one of his favourite places in Canberra. Bruce bequeathed \$35,811.98 to the Friends of the ANBG. Council has agreed in consultation with Bruce's sons, Phillip and David, to apply the bequest to the establishment of a lecture series in their father's memory. The bequest will fund distinguished speakers for at least ten annual lectures, with the inaugural lecture scheduled for Thursday 5 February 2026.

## **Communications**

Editions of our masthead publication *Fronds* were published in August, December and April by the team comprising Sharon Abrahams, Barbara Podger, Cathy Robertson and David Warne.

As well as *Fronds*, an ebulletin is published for Friends monthly, plus ad hoc emails when special, timely information is required. The ebulletin team has expanded to two members: Doris Kordes collates information received and prepares a draft; Beth Tyerman manages the IT end of the process, keeping members' emails up to date, converting the draft ebulletin into Mailchimp format and adding photographs before dispatch.

The Friends has a new website which will be implemented once we have sufficient IT support. In preparation for the rollout, the Website Team has expanded to seven web editors who publish a variety of information on the Friends website. Published items include advice on Friends activities, calendar updates, Thursday Talks, news items and publications from other agencies. The assistance of the web editors is greatly appreciated.

The Friends offers members a range of activities for ticketed events, photographic competitions and plant sales that rely on a range of IT systems. We are transitioning to an online membership system, Member Jungle, from the current manual system and are

scheduled to implement a new website with associated services for online payments and donations from November 2026.

The Annual Reports received from our Special Interest Groups and committees have been attached in the Appendices to his Report.

## Projects

The Friends' Project program expenditure in 2024-25, included a contribution of \$82,000 toward the informative permanent exhibition in the foyer of the Visitors Centre, and \$60,136 for a fogging system in the Tasmanian Garden. The second year of instalments of \$7,500 were paid to supplement the stipends of each of the three PhD scholars, Tasha James at University of Canberra, Jay Nicholson at ANU and Shelley Rowntree at University of New England. The donation of the family of the late Don Beer partially funds Tasha James's scholarship.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to this expenditure in 2024-25, Council committed \$52,000 for four water bubbler stations, and \$25,000 for projection microscopes. Projects to install a liquid crystal information display in the bus shelter and improve furnishing in the foyer of the administration building and the Visitors Centre also are under consideration.

The Project Committee is responsible for evaluating and ranking project proposals for consideration and as appropriate, approval by Council. The committee comprises Alan Henderson (Convenor), Sharon Abrahams, David Coutts, Lynne Curran, Wanda Filsell, Kristiane Herrmann and Ian Primrose.

To everyone who has contributed over the past year, including Council members, Special Interest Group Convenors, the membership team, workers, volunteer guides and Garden staff I offer my heartfelt thanks.

Linda Beveridge

President

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

9 October 2025

1. Total expenditure on scholarships in 24-25 of \$37,500 included a delayed first year payments for Rowntree and Nicholson.

## Appendices: Special Interest Group Reports

1. **Voluntary Ambassadors: Pat and Warwick Wright**
2. **Growing Friends**
3. **Plant Recognition Group**
4. **Student Photographic Competition**
5. **Photographic Group**
6. **Botanic Art Group**
7. **Nature Journaling Group**
8. **Flowers, Fruit and Foliage**
9. **Plant Science Group**
10. **Social Events and Activities Committee**
11. **Thursday Talks**

### 1. **Voluntary Ambassadors: Pat and Warwick Wright**

Early in their lives as Members of the Friends and volunteer Guides at ANBG, Pat and Warwick Wright saw a need. A need for someone to be out in the community – raising awareness of our wonderful native plants, the important role of ANBG and the valuable work of the Friends of ANBG. So, they made themselves volunteer ambassadors of all three.

They have kept a full record of the talks they have presented and endeavoured to keep the ANBG and the Friends aware of their activities.

In the 23 years between 29 July 2002 up to 17 September 2025 they gave 225 talks to 9275 people. The majority of these talks have been in the ACT. Also: NSW, Qld., Vic. and South Australia, as well overseas in N.Z. and South Africa.

They have spoken at the incoming training of the ANBG Guides, several conferences of the Friends of Botanic Gardens and NSW Garden Club; to Friends groups; garden clubs; Field Naturalists; Probus; Rotary; Legacy; Community Services; retirement villages and homes.

They did not advertise. Invitations usually came by “word of mouth”, or from inquiries to the ANBG and Friends for a speaker and, in some cases repeat visits after their initial talk.

They did their best to encourage people to come to the ANBG, have a guided tour, especially a paid guided tour to bring a little money into the Friends.

They have enjoyed their ‘made up’ job, meeting many people and hopefully encouraging them to appreciate the real world of which they are a part.

### 2. **Growing Friends**

Growing Friends had another very successful year and has a very good level of active membership.

The group held monthly planning and propagation meetings, and weekly working bees to pot-on newly rooted plants, to maintain the health of stock in our nursery and to do general maintenance around our facilities.

The group held plant sales in October 2024 and March 2025, raising \$6,964 and \$8,806, respectively. The March sale was the group's most successful sale ever.

A new seed propagation bed was acquired and installed at the end of 2024, to replace a much smaller and failing unit. This has reignited an interest in seed propagation in the group and is producing excellent results. Work was commenced towards the end of the financial year to replace the group's aging cutting bed and it is hoped that this will provide a better microclimate for cuttings and will lead to a higher propagation success rate.

The nature of the group's weekly activities has changed significantly over the last 2-3 years. In particular, most new members are looking for weekly (rather than monthly) involvement in propagation related activities. This change in weekly activity level has meant that the format of the weekly working bees has changed from just potting up and general maintenance, to also include seed collection, finding plants for monthly propagation sessions and an exploratory walk around the Gardens to discover new plants and observe the growing habits others.

At the end of June, Growing Friends had approximately 65 registered members, of which some 45 attend activities on a regular basis. Some 30-35 members attend each monthly meeting and 15-20 attend each weekly working bee. In addition, some members are involved in watering rosters, without attending regular meetings or working bees.

The group has four formal positions:

- Convenor, Maurice Hermann
- Deputy Convenor, Deb Denniss
- Secretary, Bronwyn Houlden
- Assistant Secretary, Sue Waterworth

However, there are many other members who undertake roles which are crucial to the group's ongoing health and viability. These include:

- Maintenance of the group's propagation database which has records of propagation successes, failures and lessons learnt over the last 28 years.
- In close consultation with, and excellent support from, Gardens' staff, maintaining and updating the list of plants approved for propagation.
- Coordinating the weekly working bees.
- Preparing plant descriptions and photos for public plant sales.
- Coordinating advertising for the group's plant sales.
- Managing the group's EFT machine and financial reporting during plant sales and at other times.
- Coordinating watering rosters.
- Purchasing items such as pots, cutting mixture ingredients, fertilisers etc.
- Maintaining the group's library of plant PowerPoint slides, which is the principal resource of information about the plants which the group propagates.
- Updating the group's Procedures Manual.
- Progressing the group's upgrade and refurbishment project.

Growing Friends estimates that group members contribute a minimum of 1800 hours of volunteer time each year. This includes time spent on plant propagation and care, facilities

maintenance, input to and quality control of information systems, conducting plant sales, and general planning and administration.

### **3. Plant Recognition Group**

It has been an exciting year for the plant recognition group. The organisers of workshops enjoy providing interested Friends with the opportunity to enhance their plant recognition skills. The time and effort of leaders to prepare for workshops is greatly appreciated. The support of the ANBG is valued, including their permission to collect specimens in the Gardens under the guidance of a Ranger.

The Plant Recognition Group organisers are Julia Newton-Howes (Convenor), Linda Beveridge, Leonie Jones, John Vranjic, Cedric May and Paul Lewis.

The Group has held monthly workshops at which participants learn the identifying characteristics of a group of plants from an expert leader, with a range of specimens available to examine. Workshops included Acacias led by Suzette Serle; Ferns of the ANBG with Alison Turner and Marilyn Faunt; Macrophytes of the ACT led by Jane Roberts; and Asteraceae led by Dr Alexander Schmidt-Lebruhn. Participants have access to hand lenses and microscopes to examine specimens in detail.

In addition to the Group organisers in attendance, the 12 workshops this year have had 112 participants. Numbers are limited to ensure each participant has access to a microscope. Some workshops were heavily oversubscribed.

A recent survey of Friends has provided insights into participants views of the workshops. Responses indicated that access to expert leaders to discuss plant identification and the ability to view specimens in detail with the microscopes or hand lenses are highly valued by participants. Survey responses have provided a list of plant families of interest for future workshops, and this will guide forward planning.

### **4. Student Photographic Competition**

The Friends' Students Photographic Competition team successfully delivered the 25th annual student photo competition in 2025. The competition is open to Australian-based students in years 3 to 12, for images taken in the Gardens in Canberra in the preceding year. It aims to share the value and beauty of the ANBG through the students' photographic skills.

The 2025 competition surpassed the popularity of last year's. Entries were received from 223 students, and more than 440 eligible images across 5 categories (primary monochrome and colour; secondary monochrome, colour and altered reality). Most entrants were ACT students, with a handful from NSW, Victoria, Queensland, Christmas Island and four homeschools.

Winners received cash prizes and certificates at a presentation on 27 September. The winning and commended entries were displayed in the Banksia Garden for the following month. All entries were displayed on the video wall outside the Theatre.

The project received a grant of \$1220 from the Australian Government 2024–25 Volunteer Grants program.

The team comprised Linda Beveridge and Julie Hamilton (Co-convenors), David More (technical expertise), Tracey Bicknell, Elaine Staples and Amanda Coleman (ANBG Visitor Experience rep). Simone Slater (Photographic Group) joined the team as a judge and liaison for the judging panel. The team was delighted to welcome Cristy Froehlich, a local professional photographer, and Ben Harvey (Photographic Group) as the guest judges. The

team was grateful for the advice of Cecilia Melano and Malcolm Watson when handing over to this year's team.

## 5. Photographic Group

This year has been one of strong growth for the Photographic Group. The membership database was reviewed and 130 people confirmed their wish to remain as members. The Group gained 19 new members. The Group's contribution to the Friends has continued to grow, particularly in its Social Media presence.

The Group held its 11th photographic exhibition "Illuminate '24" from 28 November to 15 December 2024. The exhibition comprised 36 framed images from 18 exhibitors. Merchandise produced by group members included cards, unframed prints, calendars, bags, earrings and scarves. First and second prizes in the raffle were framed prints of the award winners from Illuminate 2023 - People's Choice (*Gang-gang Jibber Jabber*, Ben Harvey) and the Rangers' Choice (*Frosty Morning Banksia menziesii*, Simone Slater).

The Group designed the Illuminate '24 Bookmark using photos from members and 3000 were printed and distributed, with around 2400 included in the Fronds magazine.

Gross sales from Illuminate '24 were approximately \$6,700, including \$2,900 from framed prints, \$720 in raffle tickets and \$3,100 from merchandise sales. \$1,200 was raised for the Friends.

The Council's framed image choice for purchase and donation to the Gardens was *Pink Petal and Native Wings* by Debbie Howard. The Rangers' Choice was *Sitting Pretty* by Steven Playford. The People's Choice was *Lookout! Superb Fairy-wren on Kangaroo paw* by Phil Green.

External judges for the David Cox Memorial Flora (*Grevillea*) and Fauna awards were Karleen Minney, Photographic Editor, Canberra Times and Brian Rope, Canberra Critics Circle. Total prize money of \$900 was awarded, funded by the David Cox bequest. The winner of both the *David Cox Memorial Flora Award (Grevillea) and Fauna Award* was Simone Slater, for *Washed Out* and *Two's Company* respectively.

The Group is grateful to those who helped run the Exhibition: Jim Gould, Graham Gall, Simone Slater, Steven Playford, Kevin Gale, and David More.

The Group managed the process for the 2026 Gardens Calendar. Using photos taken exclusively by members in the Gardens, it showcases the diversity of Australian native flora and the birds and insects that interact with them. This year, the Botanical Bookshop ordered 300 copies. Thanks to Con Boekel, who selected the images and the Botanic Bookshop, which funded the production of the calendar. The calendar working group comprised Wendy Shelton, Kevin Gale and Steven Playford (Chair) and the Gardens staff, Helen McHugh and Anna Monro, provided editorial and taxonomical identification input.

The Group's monthly program of meetings covered a diversity of topics by external presenters including fungi, the Birdlife Australia project 'Birds on Farms', NatureMapr, and presentations by Group members (post processing tips and insights, macro photography and landscape photography).

Net Income from the 2024 PG Exhibition was approximately \$1,200. Speaker gifts for the monthly meetings were covered by Members' gold coin donations. The bequeathed fund balance for David Cox Memorial Award is \$2,730.

The Photographic Group Committee managed the activities of the Group and the Speaker Program and provided oversight of the production of the Gardens calendar and Illuminate '24. The 2025 Committee comprised Phillip Green (Convenor), Paul Bainton (Membership), Stephen Hunter (Publicity) and General Members Kevin Gale, Ron Cawthron and Simone Slater.

## 6. Botanic Art Group

The Botanic Art Group meets three times a month, meetings are generally well attended, particularly the Saturday meeting. Total group membership is 135 Friends. The Group also organized several full day workshops for beginners. The Group is grateful to the horticulturalists who provide specimens from the Gardens as art subjects.

The 18th annual exhibition of artworks of Australian native plants, many on the theme "Rainforest", was held from 6 April to 5 May 2025. Friends were invited to a preview of the exhibition on Friday 5 April. The exhibition included 67 paintings and drawings available for sale, as well as cards, squares and raffle tickets. The Friends purchased a watercolour painting of *Asplenium nidus* by Jenny Mun which was subsequently donated to the Gardens for inclusion in their collection.

The net proceeds from the workshops were \$2,050, and the annual exhibition \$3,168.

## 7. Nature Journaling Group

2025 is the fifth anniversary year of the Friends Nature Journaling Group, which began at the time of the COVID pandemic in 2021.

The opportunity to gather outside in a calm natural environment during the period of pandemic restrictions offered ideal circumstances for the birth of the Nature Journaling Group.

Nature Journaling is an international movement. In America and the United Kingdom, it is very popular. Kew Gardens in the UK and New York Botanic Gardens in the US both have active nature journaling groups, as do most botanic gardens throughout the world.

It is an activity that anyone can undertake in a quiet space observing nature. Recording what one sees, either drawing, painting, photographing or writing. It has a very calming peaceful experience. The result does not have to be a work of art. Instead, it is a very personal activity, like diary writing.

Lesley Page is the convenor of the Group. The past year has been active, except for a recess during the colder months of July and August. Spring 2025 started with a beautiful sunny day, and fifteen journalists came out. The acacias were in flower and the lighting bright and positive.

Friends Members are always welcome.

## 8. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage

Ros and Ben Walcott publish a fortnightly *Flowers, Fruit and Foliage* brochure, on behalf of the Friends of the ANBG. Ros chooses 15 different plants in flower, or with interesting foliage, nuts or fruit and Ben photographs them. Ros writes a short description of the plant, including aspects of the foliage, flowers and fruit or nuts, if present, and record its native distribution. Sometimes note is made of the person for whom the genus or species is named. For hybrid plants, instead of distribution, sometimes the persons, or nurseries, who developed the plant is noted. Ben uses Microsoft Publisher to create a brochure which folds into three parts. Ben also makes a map of the Flowers, Fruit and Foliage walk and shows the numbers of the

plants and where they are in the Garden. The stake pictured is used to mark each plant and these 15 stakes are moved every fortnight for each new walk. The Flowers, Fruit and Foliage brochure is available on the Friends website [friendsanbg.org.au](http://friendsanbg.org.au). *Flowers, Fruit and Foliage* continues the publication *In Flower This Week* which Barbara Daly, Life Member ANBG, 1925-2020, produced for 25 years before Ben and Ros Walcott began in 2013.

### **9. Plant Science Group**

There have been four Plant Science talks this year with an average attendance of about 22. Due to the difficulty in sourcing suitable speakers the continuation of this group beyond this year is in doubt. Any assistance with sourcing speakers would be appreciated.

### **10. Social Events and Activities Committee**

The Social Events and Activities Committee has welcomed some new members this year, and has organised a number of activities for both members and for the public.

Most events have been held at the Gardens, and most have been booked out.

We are using Trybooking for our bookings, and this seems to be working well.

Activities have included:

Butterfly walks in the Gardens in January, attended by 34 people.

Bird walks for Friends members in March were attended by 80 people.

In the spring, we revived the "Wake up with the Birds" walks, for members and the public. These were held on Saturday and Sunday mornings on two weekends in September, and were very popular, with 127 people attending.

Walks after dark in the Gardens with Education Rangers. A walk for members was organised in November 2024 (30 people attended), and in September 2025 we arranged another which was open to members and the public, attended by 32 people. Both events were booked out.

Volunteers at the STEP garden at the Arboretum kindly agreed to take 30 people (Friends members and their friends) for a walk and talk at their garden in September. The small \$5 donation was split between the Friends and STEP.

In August, Questacon invited volunteers and Friends members to a free viewing of their "Mangroves: Tales from the Tide" exhibition. About 35 people took part in the visit.

Members of the committee also assisted with serving morning tea at the morning events to welcome new members, in March and September.

Our thanks to Gardens staff for their assistance with many of these activities, and to our volunteers without whom these events would not go ahead.

### **11. Thursday Talks**

Thursday Talks took place on 42 weeks in 2024-25; the speaker scheduled for 29 May cancelled at short notice because of illness.

The total audience for the year was 2202 (an increase of approximately 10 per cent compared to the previous year), with just over \$3,100 in donations received, similar to last year.

Thursday Talks Team members are Sharon Abrahams (convenor), Linda Beveridge, Kate King, John Vranjic, Elaine Staples and Barbara Hamburger.

A booking system, Trybooking, has been in place for all talks. It has been very useful, particularly for the very popular talks. If a talk is heavily booked, the people who have booked seats have priority. There is usually a waiting list for the fully booked talks, who fill cancellations. Plus, a number of people wait in the foyer to see if any person who booked has not arrived. On most occasions there are places to seat the people who are on 'stand-by'.

Several talks were heavily booked. They are shown in the table below, with a full list of 2024-25 Thursday Talks shown further below. The program has included scientific research undertaken by ANBG staff and partners, along with other speakers from CSIRO, some research departments at the ANU, and other organisations. The speakers covered a wide range of topics related to botany as well as current and historical environments.

Heavily booked Thursday talks 2024-25		
Date	Speaker	Topic
04 Jul 24	Professor Steve Webb	Empty deserts: Megafauna demography and extinction
25 Jul 24	Dr Nicki Taws	Native grassland restoration
08 Aug 24	Dr Ana Gracanin	Why hollow there! The importance of tree hollows
15 Aug 24	Jay Nicholson	Plant dieback and drought tolerance in Uluru-Kata Tjuta
05 Sep 24	Dr Marita Bradshaw	The National Rock Garden
26 Sep 24	Prof Nerilie Abram	Tipping points in Antarctica
10 Oct 24	Graham Gall	Flora in focus
06 Feb 25	Roger Farrow	Five years on from the 2020 mega-fires
20 Feb 25	John Turnbull	Emigrant eucalypts
27 Mar 25	Brad Opdyke	Paleoclimate records and stratigraphy from Lake George
03 Apr 25	Kylie Cairns	Dispelling the wild dog myth
10 Apr 25	David Lindenmeyer	A 25- year experiment in forest biodiversity
17 Apr 25	Fullagar & Davey	The rodent eradication program on Lord Howe Island
08 May 25	Doug Lang	Invasive species in Australia
22 May 25	Mathew Trinca	Writing the Brindabellas

#### Thursday Talks 2024-25

Date	Speaker	Topic
04 Jul 24	Professor Steve Webb	Empty deserts: Megafauna demography and extinction
11 Jul 24	Em Prof Patrick De Deckker	Belgica to Antarctic
18 Jul 24	Sally Ingham	The Plant Science Learning Hub
25 Jul 24	Dr Nicki Taws	Native grassland restoration
01 Aug 24	Jo Harding	Taxonomists don't stuff things
08 Aug 24	Dr Ana Gracanin	Why hollow there! The importance of tree hollows
15 Aug 24	Jay Nicholson	Plant dieback and drought tolerance in Uluru-Kata Tjuta
22 Aug 24	Dr Keith Bayless	The wonder of tiny dark flies
29 Aug 24	Violet Marriott	Ginninderry Conservation Trust
05 Sep 24	Dr Marita Bradshaw	The National Rock Garden
12 Sep 24	Anthony Whalen	CSIRO has a new building for Australia's national biodiversity collections
19 Sep 24	Dr Tobias Hayashi	The sexual chemistry of greenhood orchids
26 Sep 24	Prof Nerilie Abram	Tipping points in Antarctica

03 Oct 24	Dr Alex Wall	Traps'n'Maps
10 Oct 24	Graham Gall	Flora in focus
17 Oct 24	Dr Rebecca Pirzl	Bending the biodiversity curve
24 Oct 24	Anna Howe	Southern California meets Australian native
31 Oct 24	Dr Mitzy Pepper	How geomorphology controls biodiversity
07 Nov 24	Shelley Rowntree	<i>Chrysocephalum</i> daisies evolve
14 Nov 24	Joshua Botti-Anderson, and Tomas Mitchell-Storey	Long-term changes of plant-pollinator communities in the high country, and Pollen transport by insects in the Australian alpine
21 Nov 24	Tasha James	Endemics on the edge - Mt Imlay
28 Nov 24	Prof Peter Kanowski	Reviving the Arboretum Dream:
06 Feb 25	Roger Farrow	Five years on from the 2020 mega-fires
13 Feb 25	Jane Roberts	Macrophytes in upland ACT streams
20 Feb 25	John Turnbull	Emigrant eucalypts
27 Feb 25	Pip Alvarez	The bottleneck at the beginning of the plant-universe
06 Mar 25	Brad Desmond	Small seeds, big impact
13 Mar 25	Benjamin Schwessinger	Pest monitoring in the ANBG
20 Mar 25	Luke Keogh	Museum collections
27 Mar 25	Brad Opdyke	Paleoclimate records and stratigraphy from Lake George
03 Apr 25	Kylie Cairns	Dispelling the wild dog myth
10 Apr 25	David Lindenmeyer	A 25 year experiment in forest biodiversity
17 Apr 25	Fullagar & Davey	The rodent eradication program on Lord Howe Island
24 Apr 25	Emma Cookee	Genetic rescue of Canberra's Small Purple Pea population
01 May 25	Rod King	Not too hot, not too cold: plant reproduction
08 May 25	Doug Lang	Invasive species in Australia
15 May 25	Kathy Eyles	International commitments towards conservation
22 May 25	Mathew Trinca	Writing the Brindabellas
29 May 25	Duanne White	Antarctic ice shelves. CANCELLED ILL HEALTH
05 Jun 25	Jochen Brocks	deep origins of our eukaryotic ancestors and algae
12 Jun 25	Dr Ben Walcott	Our garden 20 years on
19 Jun 25	Dr Peter Caley	So, how many foxes in Tasmania?
26 Jun 25	John Feehan	Dung beetles are a win-win