

Growing Matters

Volume 22 Autumn 2020



wild may trail

This delightful trail sets out from Illaweena Lagoon and winds through paperbark-lined wetlands.

Spring brings wildflowers, like the beautiful wild may flower, a native tea-tree that dots the water's edge, attracting nectar-hungry insects and birds. Watch for platypus along Scrubby Creek.

spotted marsh frog

This adaptable frog loves water, even if it's only rain collected in a ditch.

The spotted marsh frog is usually the first frog to colonise new dams and road-side ditches. You may see it in grass near Karawatha's waterways.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Friends vision for a visitor facility gains momentum
- Botanic Gardens Day 2020
- Lots about Friends activities



Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Inc

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2020 Management Committee

President

Alex Jakimoff

Vice President

Rana Baguley

Secretary

Catherine Simpson

Treasurer

Harry Ellis

Members

Cindy Murray

Susan Bahr

Patron: Gene Rosser

Cover image -

A selection of facilities that inspire Friends' vision for our Botanic Gardens. See President and Secretary's report and comments from Kate on page 7.

Is this YOU?

Friends are seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to learn about an interactive software program called Intuiface and to trial it on a dedicated touchscreen computer. The program has the capability via the touchscreen for visitors to swipe and drill down through layers of information to follow their interest in a particular subject.

A volunteer with either existing communications or IT skills, or someone who loves to learn, would be ideal to take on this exciting new task on behalf of the Friends.

Contact:

communications@friendsgcrbg.org.au



From the President - Alex Jakimoff



“It does not matter how long you are spending on the earth, how much money you have gathered or how much attention you have received. It is the amount of positive vibration you have radiated in life that matters”

Amit Ray



Bev Windsor



A few pics of flooded BG
by Bev Windsor

We would really appreciate you helping to achieve our planned Biodiversity Centre - you have received an email asking for active support as we approach the Council elections in March. It is critical that we make some noise and are seen and heard.

Please make a difference and send an email, send a letter, ask a question of your Council candidates and make them aware of our project ... it all adds up and makes a difference.

Our Australian summer of shocking bushfires following a prolonged drought, and then finally some rejuvenating rains has highlighted our extreme climate. The threats to our own regional plants and animals has never been greater and we need a Regional Biodiversity Centre more than ever.

As Friends we can make a difference and we are doing just that... conservation is one of our most important goals. Did you know that almost half of Queensland's threatened plants are right here in the Gold Coast region?

Of course our exciting concept for an innovative Biodiversity Centre is much *much* more than that, with fantastic potential for tourism and economic benefits for the Gold Coast. I'm looking forward to a progressive far sighted Council endorsing and supporting the next phase of this development.

Our monthly Enewsletter now arrives in your email box at the beginning of every month and we believe this is a great complement to our more detailed Growing Matters quarterly. Keeping you up to date with short sharp articles monthly allows everyone to be in touch and it has been well received by members.

Our Coordinators who produce the newsletters, manage the nursery, organise all our Group activities etc deserve a big pat on the back. Thanks to our wonderful Coordinators we can run so many successful groups and events... and of course supported by our active volunteers. You're all doing a great job!

Our upcoming Botanic Gardens Day in May will feature the opening of a brand new area—the Coastal Headland garden. This new addition has been planned to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Banks/Solander botanic expedition along Australia's east coast and will be officially opened on 17th May.

The Curator Paul Cockbain and horticultural consultant Kate Heffernan have been working hard to design and implement this exciting new garden my inside tip is that the features will be **Big Bold and Beautiful!**

Of course the recent heavy rainfall has been wonderful with beautiful full water features enhancing the appeal, so everything is being set up for a spectacular showcase day in May.

Looking forward to an exciting year ahead!





“Of drought and flooding rains” (abstract from My Country, Dorothea Mackellar) are very apt words for the current weather patterns and the impact they are having across the country, including our very own Botanic Gardens.

From our lagoons' drying out almost completely and the feature lake's water level being at its lowest that most people remember to torrential downpours and consistent rain that has seen this February one of the wettest on record. The gardens have seen over 900mm of rain this year already which is more than all of last year's total of 755mm).

I would like to thank Wendy and the maintenance team for keeping the gardens looking the best possible during these trying times. From hand watering during the hot and dry periods to keep the plants alive to digging spoon drains and clearing drains to prevent any further damage to infrastructure such as paths and bridges.

I would also like to thank 'The Friends' volunteers during this period for their tireless work, especially in replacing washed away mulch and gravel on the Gondwana path and Mangrove to Mountain path.

Of course there has been a positive outcome with all of this rain with the lake and lagoons full again, and providing a haven for our native wildlife, and a fantastic flush of new growth across the gardens (and unfortunately those pesky weeds!!!) so I recommend that you come and visit and enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

The next few months will see some exciting times with the annual Botanic Garden Day being held on Sunday, May 17th, between 11am and 3pm. Botanic Garden Day is held across Australia and New Zealand with this year's theme being 'Conserving Plants, Our Lives Depend On It'. Once again a very appropriate message given the devastation caused by our changing climate and its impact not only on the human environment but also on our precious wildlife.

March through to May will also see the construction and opening of the Coastal Headland Garden. This garden, in part, recognises and acknowledges the important role the Endeavour voyage played in the identification and classification of Australian native plants to the larger global community. 2020 is the 250th anniversary of this voyage with a number of botanic gardens across the country holding events.

The garden will be positioned overlooking Lake Rosser with large, basalt boulders strategically placed reminiscent of Fingal Headland that the Endeavour sailed past in 1770.

This autumn will also see the gardens receiving 20 native bee hives as part of a larger council program. With the help of Gareth and Neil, our very knowledgeable volunteers, these hives will be located in specific areas to ensure that the bees can enjoy the gardens as much as the rest of our visitors.

Once again I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the ongoing success and hard work at the gardens over the very busy Christmas and New Year Period and look forward to seeing you in the gardens leading into and during the very beautiful autumn period.



Flooded Botanic Gardens Image: Rana Baguley





Your Secretary - Catherine Simpson

After a month's break in January, the Management Committee met for the first time on 11 February. While relieved of meetings, Agendas and Minutes, your Secretary was still busy with administrative matters such as insurance renewals and statutory reports. This may seem simple but we have four types of insurance - public liability, volunteers, business and contents - and we report annually to three statutory bodies - Queensland Office of Fair Trading, Australian Not-for-Profit Commission and the Federal Register of Environmental Organisations! In addition to the regular annual reports to these bodies, several motions from the AGM required special submissions to be lodged.

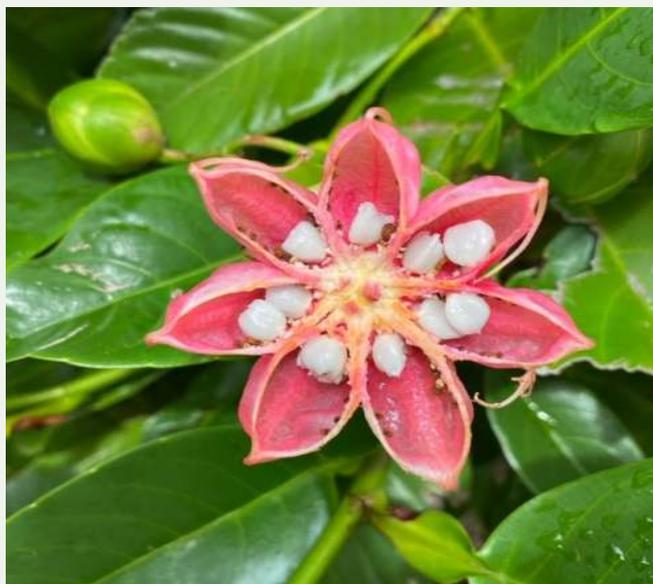
The Biodiversity Centre Working Group did meet on 29 January to assess progress by Council officers on the proposed concept design and funding prospectus. In order to seek more clarity we arranged to meet with Ron Jacobs and were able to also meet the Project Manager, Rebecca Wood. I hope you took the time to read through the email we sent to members on 20 February advising that we are now campaigning for the Biodiversity Centre publicly and with Council candidates. We are gathering endorsements from environmental and horticultural associations and will soon have a petition to sign at the Friends Centre. We do hope you will let as many people as possible know of the Friends' plan and approach your local Council candidates. Council officers will be presenting the proposal to recently elected Councillors in the upcoming 2020-21 budget and their approval is critical for the project. Even then, the earliest we will have a Centre is 2024! So please help by talking it up and if you are able to collect signatures on a petition there will be a proforma on the website so you can download it for this purpose.

We are writing to all Council candidates informing them of the benefits of the Biodiversity Centre and including the Friends' 2019 Annual Report so they can understand the valuable contribution of the Friends to the Gardens, to conservation and to the community. Councillors Paul Taylor and Dawn Critchley are long-time supporters of the Friends and the Gardens. Since they are both retiring, we will be writing to them to show our appreciation of their contribution.

I trust everyone had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying the New Year. After a very long dry spell I am sure everyone is happy to see some rain. While the Gardens fared well, they are now looking amazing!

Your Secretary - still from the dining room table!

Catherine



P. Reilly



Image of Red Beech Tree by Nikki Murphy



Gardening

by ALEX JAKIMOFF

Wow what a difference a few weeks makes. From desperately trying to keep plants from deteriorating during drought we now have ample moisture and vigorous growth - from both plants and weeds!

The record rainfall in February came with some side effects of course with some paths being washed out and a few plant losses. We had some serious mulch clean-ups and other repairs to make but the lake and lagoons are wonderfully full and such a joy to be gardening when the Gardens are looking so lovely.

We had delayed pruning as much as possible during the drought, but now with renewed rampant growth we have been getting into some serious pruning of late. With the improved moisture levels it is also time to be planting so that will be ramping up soon, mainly replacement planting for short lifespan plants or those unable to cope with summer rain, wet soils and humidity.

It's also been a pleasure to work around the Rosser Garden too, admiring the massive trees planted 150 years ago. Interacting with the wildlife is always interesting, one of our recent experiences involved coming across a beautiful carpet python resting on our grevillea!

The critically endangered Ormeau Bottletree *Brachychiton sp* Ormeau we planted in December has just rocketed away on the Curators Avenue. With only 130 of these remaining in the wild around Ormeau it's great to see it growing so well.



Brachychiton Ormeau
Photo Kate Heffernan

**“Interacting
with the
wildlife is
always
interesting”**



Carpet python
Photo Leanne Ware



Drawing inspiration from other visitor centres -

Kate Heffernan

Every member would be well aware of the efforts of Friends Management Committee and Friends Biodiversity Centre Project Group championing the cause of a purpose built facility at our Botanic Gardens. Continuing on from twenty years of advocacy and seventeen years of planting events, Friends role has grown to include a wide variety of operational roles.

We are all aware of the pressures placed on members who provide these vital services in around 25sq metres of indoor space, and in a demountable herbarium. It's a tribute to the commitment and patience of Friends that they continue to manage so effectively, but unrealistic to expect this to continue indefinitely.

Some space is now used by **coffeeatthegardens**, who have helped significantly in drawing visitors to the Friends Centre and to the Botanic Gardens, and adding to Friends fund raising. There is no better place to enjoy coffee and tea than overlooking the lagoons and parts of the Mangroves to Mountains Plant Collections.

Visits to similar facilities show our Botanic Gardens as lagging behind in key visitor infrastructure but there are good signs of progress. Visiting facilities at other botanic gardens and at environmental parks has shown us the added success that an indoor facility can add in regard to conservation, science and education and as added space for dining and environmental events. Pictured on the cover are images from several facilities in South East Queensland that endorse the need for a facility at the Botanic Gardens which enriches the experience of our community and our visitors.

It's very clear that Gold Coasters and visitors from across Australia and overseas are eager to see our flora and to learn about its unique qualities and the wildlife it supports - and to simply enjoy the captivating surroundings the Botanic Gardens provide. Catherine and Alex have provided updates on the current status in their reports and outlined how Friends members and the community could help. Just as Friends stood firm in the need for a botanic garden on the Gold Coast, it's time to stand up for a facility that acknowledges not only the amazing plant collections and landscapes that have been created, but the operational contribution that the Friends make to the environment and City of Gold Coast community.



Photo taken at Karawatha showing the two educational workshop rooms which open up to become one space for 60 people or a natural play space area.



Education matters ...

with Rana Baguley

With Summer behind us and the successful school holiday program of activities, we look to the cooler months of Autumn!

Over Summer there were 257 children and 64 adults involved in educational activities.

During the upcoming holidays in April, Friends Botanica group will be offering the following:

Exploring the Gardens ... what treasures can you find?
Tuesday 7 April 9:00 - 10:30am, Suitable 5-12yrs. Cost \$5.00

Bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/BISQX>

Nature's Arts and Crafts Friday 17 April 9:00 - 10:00am; 10:00am - 11:00am

This is sponsored by Naturally GC and both sessions are already booked out!

It's wonderful to have such great community support for our activities.

In December and January the Friends Centre display focussed on 'Endangered Plants in the Gardens'.

This display highlighted the role our Botanic Gardens plays in conserving endangered species. Visitors were able to take a map and go on a self guided Endangered Plant Trail to locate these plants all of which have an interpretive sign.

Thanks to Kate Heffernan for creating the display and the self-guided walk.

The current display is called 'Woody Hollows'. Hollows found in older trees provide a home for many different species of Australian animals including insects, birds, reptiles and mammals.

Within the Gardens, there are a number of veteran trees that 'house' a variety of wildlife. A map showing the location of these trees is available. Other trees have had 'man-made' hollows cut into branches and nest boxes also attached. A tree needs to be around 100 years old to develop hollows ... a very good reason to keep these trees!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this display and a big thank you to Habitec for generously giving the Friends a loan of some man-made natural nesting hollows and nest boxes. Visitors can also take away a book produced by C of GC Council called 'Hollows are Homes'. It gives you a very good understanding of the importance of hollows and how you can increase the biodiversity of animals in your garden or neighbourhood.

Friends website www.friendsgcrbg.org.au or Facebook page www.facebook.com/friendsgcrbg
To book these activities, please go to <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/gardensevents>



“With Summer behind us and the successful school holiday program of activities completed, we look to the cooler months of Autumn!
Over Summer there were 257 children and 64 adults involved in educational activities”



Friends' Australian Plants Group

Our first get together was held at Friends Centre in February with the topic based around the proposed Coastal Headland Garden. A short presentation provided some background to Dutch and English plant notes and plant collections, leading to the more comprehensive 1770 collections and descriptions of Banks and Solander and the illustrations by Parkinson. This was followed by a walk to the site by Rosser Lake. The event went ahead despite some hiccups with the projection and a bit of a squeeze from the well-attended afternoon by a very patient group!

The next meeting will be at the Gardens again. Until the hot weather has passed it's more comfortable to avoid long walks. The group wants to advance their idea of an Orchid House and will discuss possible options, and visit the existing collection which is held at Rosser House.

The next visit in April will take us further afield to Redlands Indigiscapes, their community nursery and the newly renovated Information Centre. This will hopefully be a shared visit with the Nursery Group. We will car share and depart the gardens by 9.30am as the Redlands Nursery is only open on Saturday morning. A date that doesn't coincide with Easter will be agreed at our March meeting.

After a recent reconnaissance visit to Karawatha Forest Park and Discovery Centre this would become another worthwhile visit later in the year. It's a 600 ha site so a few more recce visits will determine a moderate walk from many possible tracks. The Discovery Centre is well worth a visit, and despite being a weekday was busy with young families and a large school group. Brisbane Council Officers were very welcoming. The natural play area is inspiring and conforms to ideas put forward by Curator Paul for some nature based facilities at GCRBG.

Perhaps our May outing could take us to Fingal Head to view the flora and geology that has inspired the Coastal Headland Garden? Several members have already planned for Saturday 16 May, taking a light brunch to share looking out over the ocean where HMS Endeavour passed by on this same date 250 years ago. The walk to the headland is through Littoral rainforest. There may be an event at Point Danger which is undergoing renovation - will keep this in mind as well. Fingal Head is more natural and would be a fitting way to reflect on the long history of indigenous plant use in Australia and the impact of the plant collections on the recognition, understanding and popularity of Australian flora in early 19th C England and Europe.

We have discussed a Sunshine Coast visit with an overnight stay. Details after the next meeting. There are no separate joining requirements needed to attend Australian Plant activities. But please email Gareth at [ausplantsgc@gmail](mailto:ausplantsgc@gmail.com) so you can receive updates on activities and dates.



Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre now in its 4th year of adding value to the plant and wildlife stories of Brisbane. Photo and text Kate Heffernan



Flowers by Friends - Claudia Knapman

Celebrating Banksias!



Banksia speciosa

April 2020 marks 250 years since the East Coast of Australia was first sighted by the captain and crew of the *Endeavour*. The young Joseph Banks - experienced traveller, natural historian and botanist - headed a remarkable team of skilled professionals, including distinguished naturalist Dr Daniel Solander and fine botanical draughtsman and painter, Sydney Parkinson.

The new genus *Banksia*, which (if including *Dryandra*) consists of around 170 species, was named in Banks' honour. They range from spreading groundcovers to tall trees.

Banksia serrata (Saw or Old Man Banksia) was collected at Botany Bay in April-May 1770 and, along with their many other specimens, was taken to London for scientific classification and research. Of course, these plants had been familiar to and used by Australia's original inhabitants for tens of thousands of years.

Many of us first learned about Banksias from May Gibbs' *Snugglypot and Cuddlepip*, which tended to spoil their reputation somewhat, since they were

portrayed as the Bad Banksia Men. They are wonderful and beautiful plants, however. They are our favourite feature flowers and many different species are used by Flowers by Friends at different times of the year.

We use local species like our Friends' logo *Banksia aemula* (Wallum Banksia), *Banksia robur* (Swamp Banksia), *Banksia spinulosa* (Hairpin Banksia) and *Banksia integrifolia* (Coast Banksia). Another favourite, from North Queensland, is *Banksia plagiocarpa* (Hinchinbrook Banksia).

Western Australia provides us with *Banksia prionotes* (Acorn Banksia), *Banksia menziesii* (Firewood Banksia), *Banksia coccinea* (Scarlet Banksia) and *Dryandra quercifolia*, for example. Our data base shows we have used 19 different Banksias in our floral designs to date.

Flowers will be available for Mother's Day and among them will be beautiful Banksias.



Banksia hookeriana and Banksia spinulosa



Banksia coccinea



Birds of the Gardens #21

BY JENNY ROSEWELL

Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*)

More often located by its noisy chatter, the Eastern Rosella is one of those birds that when it catches my eye it always brightens my day with its colourful plumage and flash of vivid red. The Eastern, or White-cheeked Rosella is a beautiful sight, whether spotted in undulating flight or foraging among the shrubs.

A medium sized colourful parrot, the Eastern Rosella is recognised by its bright red head, neck and breast with white cheek patches. The back is yellowish-green spotted with black, while the underbody is yellowish with a

red undertail and the wings are blue. Despite this bold colouration, they are extremely well camouflaged and can be difficult to detect among foliage. Females and juveniles are usually similar to males but duller in colour. The similar Pale-headed Rosella has a pale yellow head.



Found in south-eastern Australia from Queensland to Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, the Eastern Rosella has also been introduced into New Zealand. Its usual habitat is open forests, grasslands and in urban areas, parks and gardens. Here at Benowa pairs and small groups cover a wide area and can be spotted at various locations throughout the Gardens and nearby golf course. Keep a lookout among the grevilleas or unkempt grassy areas.

Their diet consists of seeds, fruit, berries, buds and flowers, nectar and insects. They mostly feed on the ground among grasses, also eating weeds and tree seeds. They frequently forage among trees and shrubs. Eastern Rosellas may cause damage to fruit and other crops.

Eastern Rosellas mate for life. Females choose and prepare a nesting site, usually a deep, narrow gum tree hollow.

Four or five round, white eggs are laid on a bed of decayed wood within the hollow, with the female incubating the eggs being fed by the male. Nest boxes are often used when there is a shortage of nesting hollows, but I am unsure whether any of our Eastern Rosellas have made use of the nest boxes around the Gardens.

Like many parrots, their bright colouring makes them very desirable to collectors. Being intelligent creatures, they are often kept as pets, being taught to whistle tunes and mimic a few words or phrases. Still relatively common in natural areas, many have adapted well to urban life where gardens such as the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, provide a suitable habitat.



THE ROSE GARDEN

Sally-Anne Simankowicz

Summer blooms and scents from our Hybrid, Floribunda, Grandiflora, Bush, Rosa Chinensis and Climbing varieties of roses have been outstanding.

Water Dragons and Black Moorhens fossick through the rose bed. Various birds sit in the branches of the Magnolia tree in the middle of the Garden singing and chortling away. Native and honey bees and a variety of insects get their food supplies. Butterflies fluttering around add an ethereal effect.

The Rose Garden is truly a soul inspiring place to spend some leisure time and is a photographer's dream.

Check out the *Rosa Chinensis* sp Mutabilis. It's the very large shrub to the right of the Magnolia tree in the middle of the Rose Bed. Its common name is The Butterfly Rose.

Why you may ask?

Its simple single-cupped flowers change colour from a honey yellow to coppery pink then to watermelon and finally a rich mahogany . The flowers are spread across the whole bush and look like dancing butterflies with all their colour varieties.

Just some of the roses that have shown off their best are Double Delight, Fearless, Leading Gold, Brindabella Pride, Chippendale and Chicago Peace.



Chippendale by Liz Caddick



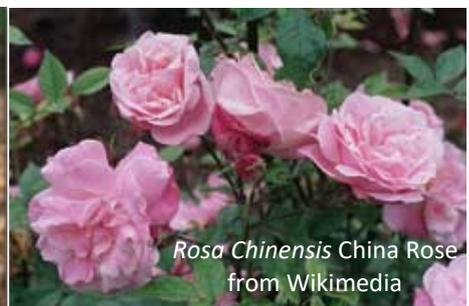
Chicago Peace by Leanne Ware



Double Delight by Leanne Ware



Fearless by Leanne Ware



Rosa Chinensis China Rose
from Wikimedia

Flowers for Mother's Day : Sunday 10th May

Unique Australian native floral arrangements, bunches and wreaths will be available for sale, and orders for collection, on

Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May.

Please place your orders for unique Australian native floral arrangements by Friday 1st May to ensure availability. Contact us through the Friends' Centre, phone us on 0429412968 or email flowersbyfriends@friendsgcrbg.org.au

All proceeds support the development of the Botanic Gardens





Volunteer Garden Guides - Shelly Kelly

Welcome to guiding with the Friends at the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens in 2020. Our native bee and bird walks commenced in January and were then joined in February by Josephine and the butterfly walk.

Our first guided garden walk for the year was on Sunday 1st March so an autumn walk through the horticultural display and sensory gardens was appropriate for this first day of autumn. The weather was perfect after many days of rain during the week.

We are very happy to have our lake and lagoons back from their gloom during the drought.

Many of us hurried to the botanic gardens on Sunday 18th January to witness what gift the 1 in 100 year rainfall event had given to our gardens. The 260mm of rain lifted the spirits of not only the human visitors but also the birdlife which flocked back to our overflowing lake and lagoons to share in the celebration.

Eucalypt Australia promotes and celebrates National Eucalypt Day on the 23 March each year to honour the generous bequest of Bjarne K Dahl for the purpose of promoting conservation, education and research of eucalypts. We are very grateful to Bjarne K Dahl whose bequest in 2010 established the Trust that formed Eucalypt Australia and the funds for the excellent signage in the gum tree corridor.

Join our guide Poul on Wednesday 25th March at 10am for a guided walk through the Gum Tree Corridor titled "The World's Most Remarkable Tree".

We have many interesting walks planned for the months ahead. See p16 for details of the schedule and visit our Facebook events page

https://www.facebook.com/pg/friendsgcrbg/events/?ref=page_internal

We are making a call for volunteers to join our guiding team. This is an expression of interest as the commencement date for the course has not yet been settled. If you are interested, please send an email to info@friendsgcrbg.org.au and we will add your name to the list to contact when the details have been confirmed.

If you have any enquiries or wish to book a group walk,

please ring 0449 561 674 or email info@friendsgcrbg.org.au



Some photos by Georgie Kelly - after the rains



5th BOTANIC GARDENS DAY -

Sally-Anne Simankowicz - Friends coordinator for this event

Formerly called BGANZ OPEN DAY this is an annual event supported by Botanic Gardens across Australia and NZ at the end of May with a new theme each year.

THEME :

“ CONSERVING PLANTS - OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT”.



We will hold our **Botanic Gardens Day** on **Sunday 17th May 11 - 3pm** on the grass area adjacent to the Children's Playground and Amenities Block.

The date - May 17th also coincides with the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook passing the Gold Coast in 1770 and Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander the famous botanists making their recording and collecting specimens of our east coast's amazing flora.

The nearly completed **Coastal Headlands Garden** near The Wallum Garden area will be officially opened on Botanic Gardens Day with dignitaries invited to arrive at 10.00am for this part of the proceedings. All may attend that also.

General activities will begin at 11am including two free Guided Walks.

Friends Nursery Shade House installation - Alan Donaldson

After some unavoidable delays due to the recent wet weather, the Friends nursery shade house is now scheduled to be installed by Sundowner Fern and Orchid Houses on March 17th.

The shade house will provide the nursery with a 6m x 5m fully enclosed animal and bird proof shaded growing-on and work area. Three doors will give volunteers access in and out of the structure. In addition, a more efficient overhead watering distribution system can be installed later.

Preparing space for the installation has involved considerable reorganisation of our work area, including relocation of plant trays, bench relocations and automatic watering modifications. Thanks to all the nursery volunteers who have assisted as well as volunteers from the maintenance group who helped with the movement of the heavier benches and our shed's roof and gutter cleaning.

We now look forward to no more damage to our young plants from possums and birds. In addition, it will mean not having to work with the unsightly and inefficient temporary shade and netting structures that we have had for some time.

Once it is installed, call up to the nursery on our next sales day to check it out, while you are there please purchase some plants to help Friends pay for the installation.

Further information will appear in the next issue of Growing Matters.



Seedling pics by Kerri Cronin



CLIMATE WATCH - Peter Reilly

Visit the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens and pick up a species field guide, and a recording sheet from the Friends/Information Centre and walk the ClimateWatch trail.

Also keep an eye out for Friends Guided Walks of the ClimateWatch trail.

Want to walk the trail again? Download a species field guide and recording sheet from this page to mark your observations. Remember to enter all your observations into the ClimateWatch website when you get back to a computer.

The trail can be explored for short or long walks, it's up to you. Make sure you wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen, and have some water with you.

Please call into the Friends Centre to pick up information and recording sheets if you are interested in joining the Friends Climate Watch group at our Botanic Gardens.

Visit our Climate Watch website by following this link:

<https://www.climatewatch.org.au/trails/gold-coast-regional-botanic-gardens>



Peter and Lyn Reilly taking notes for Climate Watch
Photo: Shelly Kelly

BIRD WALKS



Neil recording bird sightings for the Climate Watch Birds Study. Photo Shelly Kelly

On Tuesday mornings you may like to join Neil and Sarah-Jane as they conduct a bird walk through the Botanic Gardens. Meet at the Friends Centre to start the walk and be greeted for an induction into the walk itself and what you may be spotting.

Collect a guided walk program from the Friends Centre and join Gareth for his native bee walk and Josephine for her butterfly walk.

Just some of the nature walks you may enjoy to complement the Natural Collection Walks.

Check the Website, Facebook and Instagram for further information or just a good virtual look around the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.

Addresses can be found in other articles and on the last page bottom ribbon.



Butterfly News - Josephine Romeo

The recent rains and warm temperatures have provided ideal conditions for insects to breed, including butterflies, moths and unfortunately mosquitoes. There have been many butterfly species flying around in large numbers during late February and early March.

The most common of these has been the Lemon Migrant Butterfly (yellow). They host off Cassia and Senna tree species and there are hundreds of these butterflies currently at the Gardens.

The Common Crow Butterflies (dark brown with white spots) are also in abundance, they host on a few different plants, including the Ficus Tree, Monkey Rope Vine and Oleander. We also have been seeing large numbers of Blue Triangle Butterflies (bright blue with black edging), these butterflies host off the Camphor Laurel Trees and native Laurels. The Blue Tiger butterflies (blue and black tiger markings) are also migrating up the East Coast, these are coastal butterflies. This trend will last for another few weeks as they all will be laying eggs before the cooler months begin.

It is very exciting to see so many butterflies around after the obvious decline of their numbers in recent years, mainly due to the drought conditions.

Join Josephine for the Butterfly Walk on the first Tuesday of the month or visit our Butterfly House at Carrara Markets on the weekends to learn more about planting Butterfly habitats in your own garden to help with the conservation of our butterflies.



Images from the gardens by: Darina Noic



Josephine Romeo, our butterfly lady, was interviewed by Channel 7 at the Carrara butterfly house in regard to the Butterfly influx over the past several weeks.

Check the guided walk table for information on her and other guided walks.

* Josephine interviewed on Ch 7.



Friends Centre

.... Paula Wu Friends Centre Coordinator

We are open from 10am to 2pm

The Friends Centre is the information hub and should be your first port of call. Come and see our Friends Centre Volunteers to help you find your way.

Information you will find at the Friends Centre:

- Map of the Gardens
- Brochures on Friends Guided walks, climate watch projects, NaturePlay passport quest,
- Kaialgumm Games and other children's activities
- Flyers on upcoming events and activities
- Fact sheets on the plants and wildlife in our gardens
- Friends information brochure and membership forms
- Changing displays



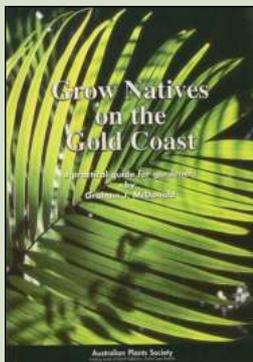
Myall Park china mug \$18.00

Friends Centre activities:

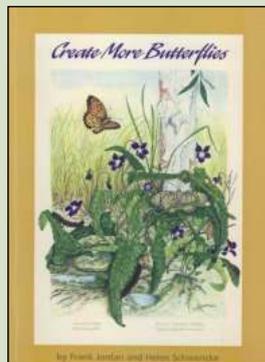
- A regular meeting place for all Friends Activity Groups
- A base for events and activities in the Gardens
- Avenue for small workshops

Books and other articles for sale.

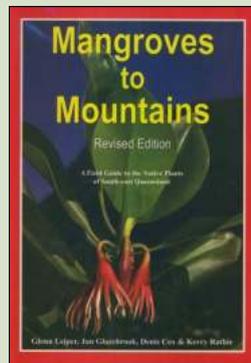
Note: RRP is shown with Friends discount following where appropriate.



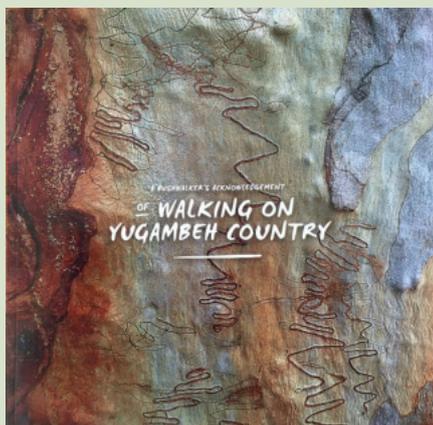
RRP \$10.00 Friends \$8.00



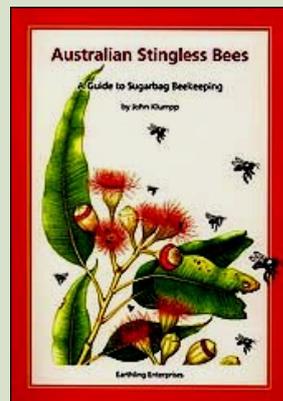
RRP \$32.00 Friends \$28.00



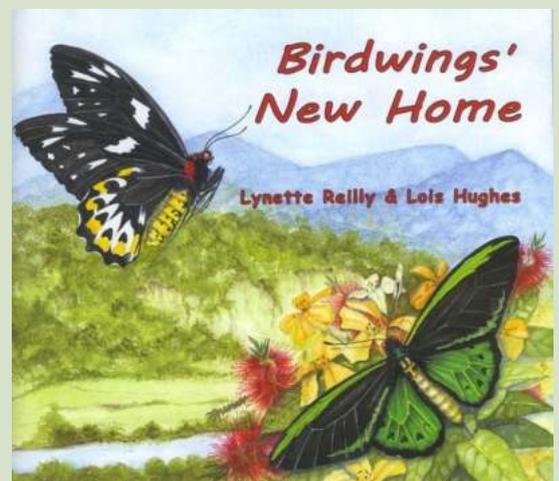
RRP \$55.00 Friends \$50.00



RRP \$30.00 Friends \$25.00



RRP \$33.00 Friends \$29.50



\$10.00



Merchandise: what's for sale at the Friends Centre?

Katrina McIntosh

- ◇ Bell Art Designs: Floral Emblems Gift tag wallet, Aroma BLOQ infusers, Botanic coasters
- ◇ Beeswax candles & Local Honey
- ◇ Books: bees, birds, bushwalks, butterflies, frogs, plants local species and identification
- ◇ Botanical bookmarks and paintings
- ◇ Enviro vegie bags & craft items by Margaret Morley
- ◇ Fine china mugs, Grevillea by Myall Park Botanic Garden
 - (Catalogue available to order extended range)
- ◇ Gift cards including photos taken by our members in the Gardens
- ◇ Native spices & seasonings, jams & flower extracts & organic teas
- ◇ Plants: variety of pot sizes, from the Friends Nursery volunteers
- ◇ Pottery based on leaves of plants in our Gardens by Helen Parer



The new products from Bell Art are a selection of beautiful notebooks.

Four different Australian floral designs are the cover images and a gorgeous Eucalypt, "GUNGARRU" tray which is food safe and dishwasher proof.

Please Note:

We replenished Bell Art stock and Wild Hibiscus stock for Christmas shopping so now there is a good supply.

Fingerlime Marmalade was replenished and still stock available of this wildly popular item.

Prices on the new Bell Art notebooks are RRP \$7.95.

Eucalyptus food and dishwasher safe tray has a RRP of \$39.95 with a members price of \$34.95.

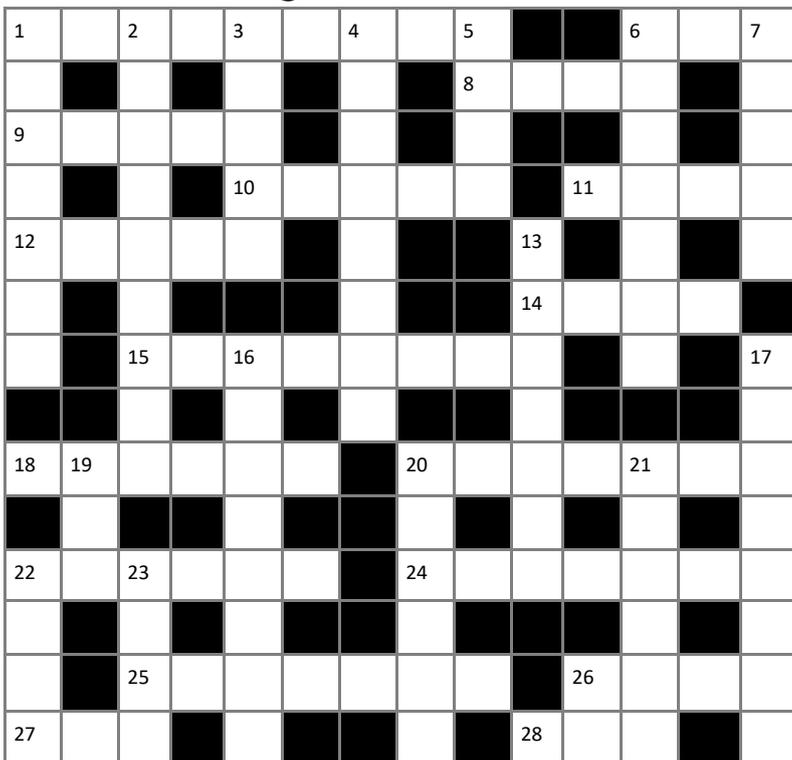
Bell Art Coasters and Aroma Bloqs have been replenished with more designs and scents available.

Coasters RRP \$11.95 Member Price \$10.45

Aroma Bloqs RRP \$13.95 Member Price \$11.55.



Dick's Challenge #18



Down

1. Sweet scented vine
2. He fell in love with his own reflection
3. Yellowish fossil resin
4. Mountain range west of Werribee VIC
5. Small Salamander
6. Top of the mountain west of Bellingen
7. Pandora vine
13. A problem tree in the gardens Laurel
16. 18th and 19th Century Prussian biogeographer for whom a vital Eastern Pacific Current is named
17. A now out of favour common name for the Xanthorrhoea
19. These large shady exotic trees are planted extensively in SE Australian towns and cities
20. Melbourne bayside suburb
21. 2019 was the garden's _____ year
22. Tool used to cut a flat surface on a log
23. Pre metric land area measure
26. Aussie Aussie Aussie

Across

1. Famous woolshed west of Dalby
6. Gentle form of precipitation
8. Wallaroo
9. A name once given to Rainforests
10. North African country with the Lotus as its national flower
11. Croak
12. Even colder
14. The ship on which Jason and the Argonauts sailed
15. Peat moss
18. Bread rolls and loaves often topped with this seed
20. Spiky ant eating Australian
22. The "Lungs of the World"
24. City of the "Southern Downs"
25. Fabulous Californian forests
26. Norwegian capital
27. Cyclone's centre
28. Skin spot

Significant trees - Herbarium

Our project:

A baseline record (diameter at breast height, DBH, notes on history) of present and potentially significant trees in the Gardens is essential if future generations are to gain an historical perspective of individual trees.

Trees which might be considered significant at this time would be the *Kauri* in the Rosser family garden, the naturally occurring *Blackbutt* on the hill above the Friend's Centre and the large *Eucalyptus crebra* at the base of the slope below the Dry Rainforest.

Today, (18th February 2020) the DBH was measured on 18 trees starting with the huge *Eucalyptus pilularis* on the hill (diam.1.76m) and included many of the recently planted *E. tereticornis* beside the lagoons. This data will be recorded for use in the gardens records.

'Herbies' including Poul, Peter, Clyde, Diane and Russell measure the *Eucalyptus pilularis*. Photo: Peter Reilly.



Archives



The Friends archives constitute a collection of materials in all forms to preserve a record of our Association and its vital contribution to the City of Gold Coast. Our archivist, Helena Kelso, and several Friends members also belong to the Garden History Society and understand the importance of well documented and stored garden records. Helena asks if all members could contribute any news clippings, photos (digital or otherwise), video clips, pod casts or any other material that should be archived. This material is being kept safely in anticipation of a permanent home at the Biodiversity Centre in years to come and is also supplied to the John Oxley Libraries historical records.

Helena Kelso, archivist

Please keep this archive collection growing....

information contact: info@friendsgcrbg.org.au

Dick's Challenge #18

Solution

Across

1. Jondaryan 6. Dew 8. Euro 9. Scrub 10. Egypt 11. Frog 12. Icier 14. Argo 15. Sphagnum 18. Sesame 20. Echidna 21. Driest 22. Amazon 24. Warwick 25. Redwood 26. Oslo 27. Eye 28. Zit

Down

1. Jasmine 2. Narcissus 3. Amber 4. Youyangs 5. Newt 6. Dorrigo 7. Wonga 13. Camphor 16. Humboldt 17. Blackboy 19. Elm 20. Elwood 21. Driest 22. Adze 23. Acre 26. Oi



A lovely arrangement from FlowersbyFriends

Coffee at the Gardens

REFRESHMENTS, ICECREAMS, HIGH TEAS

Visit Jason and Samantha at Coffee at the Gardens to partake of their delightful cuisine.

Open from 9.00am on the verandah of the Friends Centre.

Bookings for groups can be made or just pop by for an enjoyable break.

Proudly supported by
CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.

Our thanks to Gold Coast City Council for their continued assistance with this Newsletter.

