

# GROWING MATTERS

Volume 23 Spring 2020



## Contents

President's Report	.....p3
Curator's Report	.....p4/5
Your Secretary	.....p6
Gardening	.....p7
Wildlife Coordination	.....p8/9
Nursery News	.....p10
Education	.....p11
<i>Hovea acutifolia</i>	....p12/13
Covid Virus affect on plants	....p14
Birds of the Gardens	....p15
Volunteer Garden Guides	.....p16
Flowers by Friends	.....p18
Kids in Conservation	.....p19
A Covid Safe Friends Centre	.....p20
Thinking of volunteering	.....p21
Merchandise	.....p22
Dick's Challenge #18	.....p23
The Back Page	.....p24

## 2020 Management Committee

### President

Alex Jakimoff

### Vice President

Rana Baguley

### Secretary

Catherine Simpson

### Treasurer

Harry Ellis

### Members

Cindy Murray

**Patron:** Gene Rosser



### Cover photo

*Hovea acutifolia* taken by  
Kate Heffernan

See pages 11 & 12 for more  
photos and information on  
this striking plant.

## Naturally GC Online free presentation

Be inspired by an online tour of  
fabulous Australian native plant  
gardens with Kate Heffernan

Friday 2 October 6 – 7pm .

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naturallygc-zoom>

Supported by Division 7 Councillor  
Ryan Bayldon -Lumsden

## AGM

The 2020 Annual General Meeting  
will be held at Country Paradise Parklands

231 Beaudesert-Nerang Road

Nerang Queensland 4211

Sunday 29 November

10 am until 12 noon

Refreshments to follow



## From the President - Alex Jakimoff



Back on June 22<sup>nd</sup> we were very pleased to hear that the Council had allocated 2020/21 budget funds for the next stage of the Biodiversity Centre building. That was for the detailed design and planning and our Councillor Bob La Castra was instrumental in advocating for this allocation.

With the increased pressure on Council funds this year it was a big achievement to get this across the line, so our Friends Working Group and Cr La Castra deserve our appreciation.

Nevertheless our involvement with this project over the last 3 ½ years has had its ups and downs, so it was satisfying to see Friends members turn up at our General Meeting in August and express their opinions and concerns. Your thoughts were valuable in informing our Friends Working Group in their continued negotiations with Council officers.

It is vital that this project reflects the essential values of a Botanic Gardens and your input has helped reinforce our determination to see that retained. Just this week our local Southport Qld Member of Parliament Rob Molhoek visited the Gardens and was also extremely supportive of the Friends vision of the Centre's purpose and operational functions.

The newest addition to the Botanic Gardens is the Coastal Headland section which recognises the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Endeavour voyage where our wonderful Australian flora was introduced to the rest of the world. We had planned to ask Friends to plant out this new area but the recent change to Government Covid restrictions has forced a change of plans. However we are hopeful that the official opening in October on Arbor Day can still proceed as planned.

Another unfortunate casualty of the Covid restrictions has been the cancellation of this year's Botanical Bazaar garden show. Friends have attended this wonderful event previously and are hopeful that our close allies Gold Coast Rotary can hold this again next year, bigger and even better than before.

As with all things there are winners and losers, and the Covid situation has also resulted in our Friends nursery selling record amounts of plants and being swamped by customers ... yay ! The huge wave of new visitors to the Gardens has also benefited Coffee at the Gardens who are now kept busy with loads of takeaway sales.

Our new timber donation box has arrived and it's a lovely work of art, check it out at the Friends Centre.

With the extra visitors our Facebook and Instagram outlets have also been busy exciting the community with what's on offer ... we have had a strong response from the public to these social media channels. Thanks to our volunteers who are so enthusiastic in regularly putting up posts and generating public interest.

The Friends organisation has been the continuing driver of initiating and activating the Botanic Gardens into becoming a wonderful community asset enjoyed by many.

*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better –Albert Einstein*





Current times are still challenging as we continue to adjust to the 'new normal' and imposed restrictions. Thankfully as we head into spring Mother Nature is still providing places for relaxation and recreation and displays of inspiration and wonder. The Botanic Gardens are proving more popular than ever as everybody seeks an opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle and to reconnect with the outdoors. This increased popularity brings its own challenges as different user groups utilise the gardens and its facilities to meet their needs. These needs can often impact other visitors or the gardens themselves so council is continually looking to manage these impacts and improve the enjoyment and experience for all visitors, volunteers and staff at the gardens.

As you may have noticed, or have seen the posters and signage, the main lake currently has a large covering of Duckweed (*Lemna aequinoctialis*). This is a native aquatic plant, and as the name suggests, is usually transported from lake to lake by ducks or other birds. It is a seasonal plant and usually starts to disappear as the weather warms up (October/November).

Although Duckweed may look unsightly to some it actually provides two key benefits to the lake. Firstly it provides a food source (you might have noticed our swans and cygnets munching on it!) and habitat for the native wildlife. Secondly, it improves the water quality by removing excess nutrients that enter the lake through stormwater, runoff, bird droppings and organic matter. By helping to reduce excessive nutrients levels Duckweed also assists in helping to manage toxic algal blooms in the warmer months such as Salvinia and Blue-Green Algae.

As it is beneficial to the quality of the water and the native wildlife that use the lake and lagoons unless there is an approximate coverage of 80% of the entire Lake no action is taken. If the coverage reaches 80%, at which time it may cause deoxygenation of the water, council will evaluate and may bring in water harvesters to reduce the coverage.

As mentioned in the Winter edition of Growing Matters there were plans to construct the Coastal Headland Garden by May 2020. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions this did not happen but I am very happy to announce that work did begin in late July and the main construction has been completed. The garden is approximately 800m<sup>2</sup> and is designed to resemble the headlands that you find at Burleigh and Fingal. Following is a list of materials and equipment used with over 800 native plants found in these areas to be planted out in the coming weeks.

### Equipment Used

- 1 x 15 tonne excavator with Rock Grabber (move, bury, place larger rocks and 400L Pandanus)
- 1 x Possitrack (transport, place and spread soil and mulch and profile site at completion)
- 1 x Backhoe (Initial preparation of site by turning existing soil, transport, place and spread initial soil. Creation of drainage line and placement of rock retaining wall between path and water)

### Materials:

- Approx. 100m<sup>3</sup> of soil and sand added to site
- Approx. 60m<sup>3</sup> of mulch
- 4 x large rocks (>2 tonne) placed
- Over 20 rocks (between 150kg and 1500kg) installed
- 10m<sup>3</sup> of road base laid for track
- 140m of Irrigation line installed

Over 800 native plants to be installed over the next few months.

I would like to thank all of those people involved in the planning, design, construction and ongoing maintenance of this fantastic addition to the Botanic Gardens.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

I would personally like to thank the following people who have played an integral part in this garden coming to fruition.

Liz Caddick (former Botanic Garden Curator)

Kate Heffernan

BTJ Earthmoving (Ben, Chris and Luke)

Total Eden (Irrigation)

Simon Corney (Backhoe)

Wendy Lamp

Tim Wall

Harbhajan Singh

Gold Coast Tafe (led by Kim Hodgkisson)

Alan Donaldson (Friends)

Finally we have had numerous comments over the last few months saying how well the gardens look and how well they are kept.

I would like to thank The Friends Gardening Group for their tireless efforts and would particularly like to thank the Botanic Garden staff who take great pride in their work, as you can see by their results, and are a pleasure to work with.

Once again everyone stay safe over the coming months and remember to get to the gardens as they are in full bloom.

Paul Cockbain

Curator

Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens

City of Gold Coast

55 82 9361

[pcockbain@goldcoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:pcockbain@goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

A few of the many photos taken by Paul during development of the Headland Garden.





## Your Secretary - Catherine Simpson

Who would have anticipated that by the Spring edition of Growing Matters we would still be dealing with the coronavirus. Not only that, as of 29 August, the Gold Coast has had to take a step backwards, reducing gatherings to 10 inside and out unless there is a COVID-Safe Plan. Such a plan would require approval of Council since the event would be on Council property but we were advised that Council is reluctant to approve such plans at this stage. This time the restrictions have derailed the special planting and sausage sizzle get together we were organising for

Friends' members in the new Coastal Headland Garden. Thankfully, Kate is now organising smaller groups of under 10 to do a number of plantings, starting with one on Friday 11 September.

The subject on most members' minds, apart from the virus, is the Biodiversity Centre which is now nearing the end of its 4<sup>th</sup> year of planning! An email to members on 21 July provided an update on progress. This informed members that Councillor Bob la Castra had contributed \$50,000 of his own Council funds and secured a further \$150,000 in the 2020-21 Council Budget for the next stage of concept development. The email also highlighted issues with the Concept Design presented by Guymer Bailey architects to the Working Group on 17 June and included a link to the response we sent to Council on 29 June. In order to provide members with the opportunity to properly consider the Concept Design, a General Meeting was convened for 14 August. Thirty-four members attended and viewed the Concept Design and voiced their opinions. These have been recorded in the Draft Minutes to which a link will be sent to members shortly. The following Motions were unanimously approved by at the meeting:

1. That the Friends write to Alison Ewens and advise that we reject the current Concept Design because it does not reflect the values and roles required in the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.
2. That we wish to continue engaging with Council in the design process.

In the meantime, Council officers have put on hold further development of the Concept Design by Guymer Bailey. The Working Group has met several times to consider how we may persuade Council to respond to our concerns. Several dates for meetings with Alison Ewens, Director of Community and Lifestyle had been proposed but each was delayed and then cancelled completely. We finally wrote to Alison Ewens on 12 August and received assurance by email on 13 August that our concerns were important and that a meeting would proceed. The Working Group met again on 28 August to draft a further letter to Alison Ewens this time proposing a way forward. The Working Group considers that this more positive approach to Council may be more effective.

The critical issue is that there are assumptions made by Council officers about **the role** of the Botanic Gardens and the Biodiversity Centre. These have substantially altered since the original Friends vision of the concept of a Biodiversity Centre. Members were very clear about this in the General Meeting. We intend to challenge these assumptions as a first step in redirecting Council officers and Guymer Bailey towards a Biodiversity Centre that is in keeping with the roles of a botanic garden.

We can also report that Cr Bob la Castra is aware of our concerns.

Meanwhile the Community Petition is gathering signatures and as of 19 August had 754.

My thanks to the Friends Centre volunteers attending to moving the Petition table to the verandah each day.

### AGM

Annual General Meeting

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held at Country Paradise Parklands

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Nerang Queensland 4211

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## Gardening Alex Jakimoff

The new gardeners joining our team include Andrew Kos, Greg Norris, Kyle Ruddell and Craig Woolley with Tafe horticulture students boosting our numbers. It's a win-win situation with the students learning horticulture through practical experience and the Friends benefiting from their added energy.

Recently we have extended the mulched drip lines for various trees, both in the Regional Arboretum and the ADF (Aust Defence Force) plantings. The root zones are then able to store more moisture and nutrients for the trees to access without competing with the surrounding grass lawns.

It's amazing to see how the native grasses spring back after a strong pruning. With shears we cut back hard the *Pennisetum* and *Themeda* clumps and within weeks they vigorously regrow and look fresh and vibrant again. This treatment mimics the occasional bushfire or the regular grazing by our native marsupials in the bush. Such successful treatment also works well on other grass like plants such as flax lily *Dianella sp* and Mat Rush *Lomandra sp*.

Our keen gardeners have enjoyed the wonderful winter/spring flowering of so many beautiful local native plants. Waves of colours greet us on Wednesday mornings from the Purple Pea bush *Hovea* and Native Sarsaparilla *Hardenbergia*, golden flowered *Hibbertia* and wattles *Acacias*, red and pink Bottlebrushes *Callistemon sp* and spectacular cream flowered Grass tree spears *Xanthorrhoea sp* reaching for the sky.

You will see a lovely display within the median strip at the Ashmore Rd front entrance - visitors are greeted by the Grass trees there *X.glauca* which are flowering for the first time, contrasting beautifully with the cheery yellow paper daisies *Xerochrysum* surrounding them.



*Hardenbergia violacea*



*Dianella species*



*Leptospermum*  
cultivar (Tea tree)



*Grevillea banksia*



*Callistemon*

Pictures courtesy of Leanne Ware



*Xanthorrhoea glauca* Grey Leaf Grass Tree and  
*Xerochrysum bracteatum* Paper Daisy



*Xanthorrhoea fulva* Swamp Grass Tree



## WILDLIFE AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS



Recently there was an excellent panel discussion on the BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia New Zealand) website for Botanic Gardens Day. The Directors present all stressed that our Botanic Gardens offer the urban dwellers an opportunity to be part of NATURE. As cities expand with the loss of the natural environment, people have less chance to observe, relax and learn directly about our natural areas. The panel's views supported the ideas of some Friends in forming a Wildlife Group which could be involved with the Fauna we have in our Botanic Gardens. While not taking away the main focus of the Gardens which of course is the Plant life of our area. There are many animal species which utilise the Gardens. It seemed that if the animals could be nurtured, our visitors were able to experience both Flora and Fauna elements of our environment. These ideas were discussed with those who are already involved in some way with animals. We have guide walks for Bees, Birds and Butterflies in addition to our excellent Plant walks. A number of brochures and signs have been produced for visitors. Also matters about the care of the animals present have been addressed eg. the

loss of most bird chicks through predation by eels, appropriate host plants for butterflies, the addition of nest boxes for ducks and possums and the establishment of bee hives. Following these activities and discussions it seemed a reasonable step for the Friends Committee to form a Wildlife Group to supplement its many excellent service groups to support the Council employees in maintaining and presenting the Botanic Garden to the Gold Coast community. The following outline was approved by the committee and forms the basis for this new group's activities.

## WILDLIFE COORDINATION AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS

A New Beginning for enthusiasts of all ages.

The Botanic Gardens are understandably focused on the Flora as the title suggests. However the area also provides a habitat for many species of animals and these are also of interest to visitors. The Gardens also provide an area within the urban region where many species are able to successfully live within the bounds of the Gardens. The Friends already have some members who have been involved with the survey and in guiding the public with Birds, Butterflies and Native Bees. At times other aspects of species in the Gardens have been discussed e.g. eels' effect on young birds, feeding of birds, signage and native bees. These activities and issues could be expanded to cover all the species which live or visit the Gardens. These may be addressed by members already involved and other Friends who have experience with particular families of animals.

The three areas which could be studied are the Surveys, Citizen Science through guiding and signage and Assistance in providing suitable habitat for species.

### SURVEYS

Regular monitoring will assess the types, numbers and viability of species in the Gardens. Research into historic species which have been found could also be carried out. These can then be added to the Gardens information websites. Time tables for the surveys will gradually be determined. At present, birds are done weekly, butterflies and bees regularly but groups such as mammals, reptiles, fish and most invertebrates not at all. We do have Friends with expertise of these groups and should be added to the our studies.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE

Regular guiding and information sheets for adults and children are already part of the Friends activities. These activities could be expanded to cover other species that would be of interest to visitors.

### ASSISTANCE TO INCLUDE ANIMALS

Friends have members who have background in the management of various animals and this awareness can be utilised where required. At present there is an ad hoc arrangement and assistance is given when needed however this could be increased if there is an interest in other animal species. Host plants for butterflies, nest sites for birds, feeding regimes for various groups and overseeing of the distribution of native bee hives.



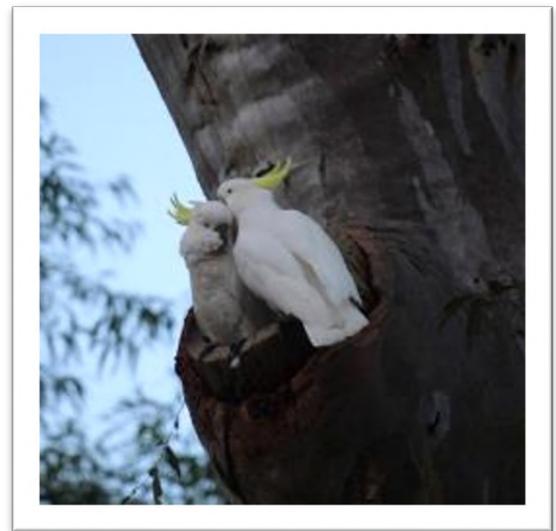
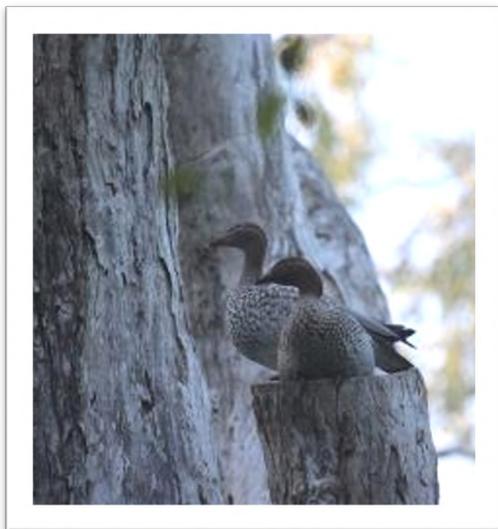
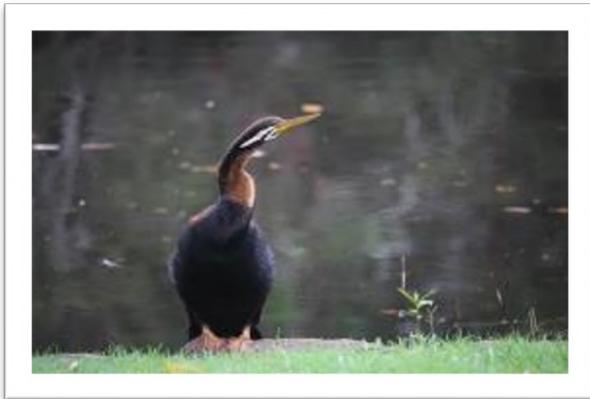
These activities could be coordinated through the Wildlife Coordinator to facilitate communication with the Committee and the Gardens staff. At present we have Geraldine and Susan working on Birds, Josephine working on Butterflies and Gareth working on Native Bees. We could utilise Sarah Jane on Reptiles and Amphibians, Josephine on Moths and other insects and Neil on Mammals. All these people have a strong background working with these groups.

Hopefully there may be other Friends who may be interested to be involved and these could be approached through word and newsletter.

As Friends can read, the group will attempt to identify, teach about and care for the animals which inhabit the Gardens. There are of course other animal groups which are not listed at this stage. The group needs to include fish, insects, spiders and perhaps other less obvious species. Should there be any Friends who have expertise or interest in these animals in particular or in the general aims of the wildlife at the Botanic Gardens she/he could contact me as the present coordinator of the Wildlife Group.

Neil Morley Wildlife Coordinator ([nmmorley@bigpond.com](mailto:nmmorley@bigpond.com))

Photos courtesy of Kate Heffernan



*Xerochrysum bracteatum*  
growing and flowering in a  
crack between a concrete  
wall and concrete steps! In  
stock at the Friends nursery.

Alan Donaldson



## Another marauding mystery solved at the Nursery

Kate Heffernan

Friends Nursery volunteers were so pleased, and relieved, to see the shade house installed in March just prior to the Covid 19 lockdown. Finally a place to protect young plants from the sun, and from hungry possums and birds.

Months later after irrigation was installed and a fibreglass roof on one section let in light, but not rain, nursery production was looking good. Suddenly a new mystery group of marauding seed eaters appeared. Immediately some makeshift wire covers provided some protection, but once again Friends volunteer Dick Baber brought a permanent solution in the shape of wire lift-off covers as pictured. Perhaps either feral or native marsupials were digging out seeds and damaging propagation mixes and setting production back weeks, months or even a year for some species as new seeds had to be collected.

The Friends Nursery volunteers are a hardy and dedicated group, all keen to keep production at a premium as it is now one of the few locations where locals can purchase regional and other native plants, and small pots of cottage plants and herbs. Curator Paul and Wendy, leader of the Horticulture team have made major improvements to access for staff, volunteers and customers from the top of the Montane Plant Collection Zone. Monthly plants sales day, and sales from the Friends Centre have been a continuing success since Queensland lockdown was discontinued, but requires careful management of numbers of volunteers and customers at the nursery at any one time.

Terrific effort by all involved.



## Education matters ...

with Rana Baguley

Again this year we have seen our beautiful native plants flowering from the beginning of August leading into September. This 'season' is often referred to as Sprinter! With the official beginning of Spring on 1 September, we celebrate National Wattle Day. There are over 1000 different wattle species growing in Australia so no wonder the Golden Wattle is Australia's floral emblem.

In the Friends Centre there is a display to celebrate our national flower. Although the sprigs of wattle, pressed by the Herbarium Group may have been sampled by visitors, you can still find out about not only the Golden Wattle but also the different species of Wattle growing in our Gardens. They always put on a showy display and the perfume floats in the air ...



Friends Botanica Group will be conducting a number of school holiday activities in the Gardens during the Spring holidays. Thank you to our members who share their expertise and skills in these areas so generously. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to attend, please book through the sites below:

### Kids in Conservation:

#### Taking Flight in the Gardens Tuesday 22 September at 9:00 - 10:30am.

Join our expert guides outside the Friends Centre to identify the birds living in the Gardens.

Record your sightings on our Field Guide and take it home to record any more birds you see. Cost: \$5.00 per person. COVID 19 restrictions in place.

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

### Kids in Conservation:

#### Butterfly Flutterby Tuesday 29 September at 9:00 - 10:30am

Join our expert guides outside the Friends Centre to identify the butterflies living in our Gardens.

Record your sightings in our Butterfly Field Guide and take it home to record any more butterflies. Cost: \$5.00 per person. COVID 19 restrictions in place.

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

#### Nature's Arts and Crafts Friday 2 October 2 sessions 9:00 - 10:00am; 10:15 - 11:15am

Use natural materials to create your own works of art. Meet at the Rotary Education Pavilion.

This is a free event sponsored by Naturally GC. COVID 19 restrictions in place.

Bookings essential:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naturallygc-natures-art-and-craft-kids-workshop-tickets>

Enjoy the wonderful plants and animals that call these Botanic Gardens their home!



Great Egret



*Acacia amblygona*



## *Hovea acutifolia* Purple Pea

Kate Heffernan

Each year without fail a brilliant display of purple flowers of *Hovea acutifolia* heralds the transition from winter to spring. The Genus *Hovea* is entirely endemic to Australia, with thirty-eight species across states and territories, but more predominant along the Eastern seaboard and southern Western Australia.

The distribution for the regional species *Hovea acutifolia* (pictured) stretches across north east New South Wales into South Eastern Queensland, mostly coastal districts but reaching just to the west of Ipswich.

The National Herbarium of Victoria has the first pressed specimen, collected by Botanist and Explorer Allan Cunningham in 1827 west of Mt. Warning.

The massed display (pictured) are of a group of 3 planted closely in July 2012 in the Blackbutt Forest, a landscape created to protect the wonderful veteran *Eucalyptus pilularis* whose age has been estimated by two experts as between 150 to possibly 300 years old. Over 60 different species and a total of almost 700 plants including many grasses were planted by seventy-four Friends and community on National Tree Day July 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. The intent was to limit access and protect the root zone of this giant tree with its amazing woody hollows and to display a plant community under threat on the Gold Coast. Sometimes considered relatively short lived these and other *Hovea* in this Zone are now in their 8<sup>th</sup> year, always putting on a colourful show through mid to late August.

They grow best with some shade protection from the hottest part of the day, naturally at home as understorey in *Eucalyptus* woodland as well as in coastal heathland. They make a fabulous garden plant and are best planted in groups to ensure a longer flowering time. Plant near some of the golden pea flowers including *Pultenaea* and *Oxylobium* species for contrast. They all require little maintenance and only a light prune to maintain shape.

The name *Hovea* commemorates Anton Hove, a Polish botanist who was a collector for Sir Joseph Banks in the 1790's, principally in India. The species name *acutifolia* describes the pointed leaf tips.

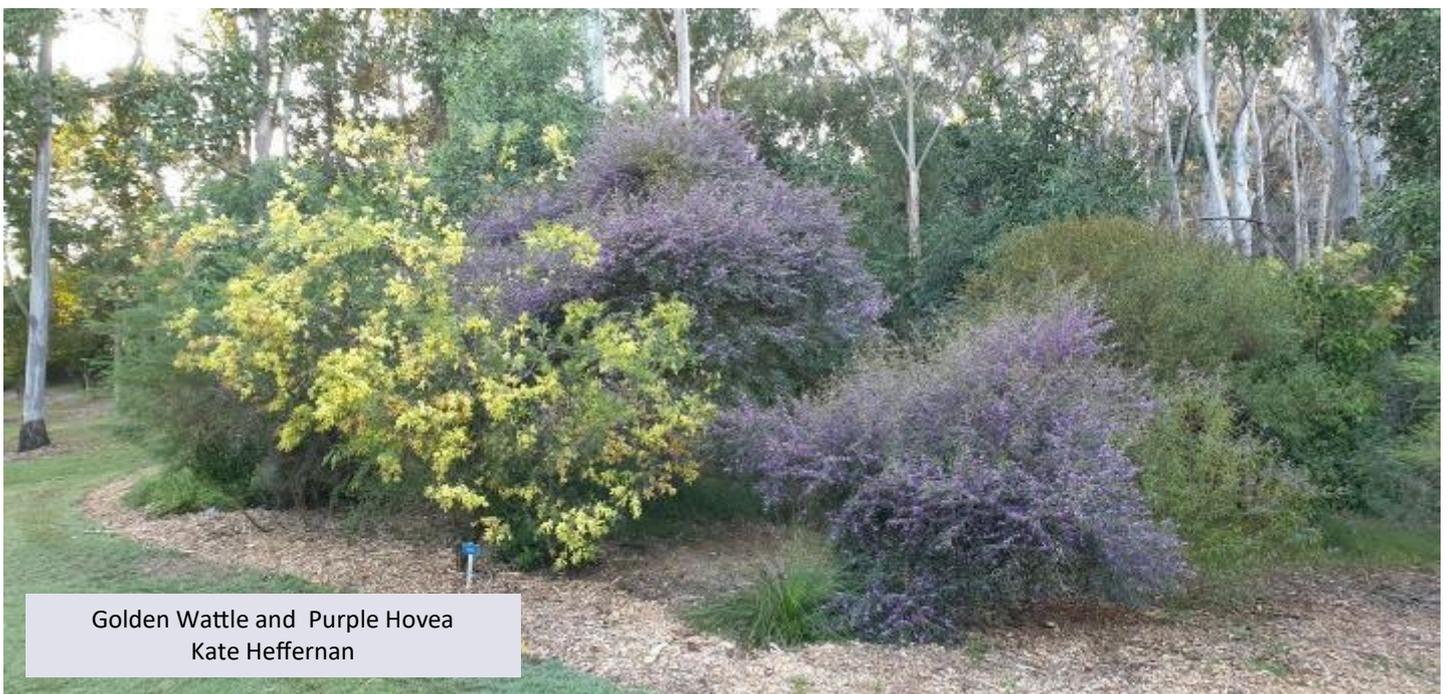
Each year at the beginning of summer if you visit this Zone and remain quiet you can listen to the sound of black seed pods popping open. The Friends Nursery regularly collects seed and propagates *Hovea acutifolia* for sale to local gardeners. The seeds easily germinate after pouring boiling water over them and soaking overnight.

**Footnote :** The Planting Day image 2012 shows Sandy Woods most likely the planter for these exceptional *Hoveas*. Sandy is a long-time Friend of GCRBG and for the past few years horticulture contractor to the Botanic Gardens and recently successful in her application as a full time horticulturist at GCRBG. Well done Sandy - your commitment and horticulture skills deservedly recognised!





Hovea Images by Kate Heffernan  
Same Plant taken at different times.  
Top taken in August 2012  
Bottom taken in 2020



Golden Wattle and Purple Hovea  
Kate Heffernan



## Luckily the Co-vid virus doesn't affect flowers

It's great to see that Co-vid restrictions don't apply to flowers and flowering times.

During the pandemic, Peter and I have enjoyed walking in the Botanic Gardens, distancing ourselves from the many other people there.

In July as winter moved towards spring, we journeyed to Bribie Island to check out the wildflowers there - one of the last remaining patches of coastal heath in southeast Queensland. Some of the early blooms we saw are also growing in our Gardens here.

*Grevillea banksia* immediately caught our eye - but were they local or someone's garden dumping?

Our reference books are ambivalent - Bribie's latitude seems about its southern occurrence, and the sandy heath is suitable. However, it is associated with the Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association so perhaps it is a true local.

*Hakea actites* (once *H. gibbosa*) was in vigorous bloom, even in small plants.

Some of the other blooms: *Boronia falcifolia*, *Acacia suaveolens*, *Pultenaea myrtoides*, *Dillwynia floribunda*.

Bird of the trip - an osprey at close quarters.

Now in mid-August, we've just returned from Bribie again to check on the Spring flowering. This time there were previously unseen wedding bushes *Ricinocarpos pinifolius* completely covered in white, as were two species of *Leptospermum* - *L. polygalifolium* and *L. liversidgei*.

White Patch in the National park had the most abundant flowers, among them pink *Boronia falcifolium* and *B. rosmarinifolia*, yellow *Aotus lanigera*, white *Phebalium woombye* with its protruding stamens and rusty buds, and the fruit of *Dodonaea triquetra* in shades of purple and green.

An inquisitive Golden Whistler was the notable 'bird of the trip'.

How lucky we are to have our Gardens to learn about these Australian Plants.



*Gompholobium virgatum*



*Grevillea banksii*



*Aotus lanigera*



*Boronia falcifolia*



*Boronia rosmarinifolia*



*Dillwynia floribunda*

Text Lyn Reilly

Photos Peter Reilly



## Birds of the Garden #23

with JENNY ROSEWELL

### Australian Wood Duck

*(Chenonetta jubata )*

A common sight in Gold Coast parks, reserves, golf courses and backyards, the Australian Wood Duck is one of the most common waterbirds at the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. It can be spotted swimming across waterways, feeding on lawns or resting in shady spots. Wood ducks are very distinctive birds, easily recognisable, being quite different to other ducks. Their beaks make them look more like a goose. Also known as the Maned Duck, or Maned Goose, the male has prominent neck feathers resembling a mane.

The male is grey with two black stripes along the back, a brown head and mottled breast. The female has a paler head with white stripes above and below the eye and mottled underparts. Both sexes have grey wings with black wingtips. In flight it is the only duck to have a noticeable white bar on the underside of its wings.

The Australian Wood Duck is widespread, found in all states of Australia including Tasmania. It can be found in woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, farms and dams, sewage ponds and even around backyard swimming pools. Preferring to forage on land, often in flocks, they can also be seen swimming in deeper water unsuitable for other duck species to feed. Wood Ducks walk easily on land and can frequently be seen perching on logs and in trees

Unlike other ducks, they graze mostly on land with their food source including grass seeds, herbage, clover and occasionally insects. Wood Ducks also forage in shallow water.

Listen out for the female calling from high in a tree, a distinctive, loud 'gnow' sound. The male rarely makes much noise.

The Wood Duck nests in a tree cavity above or near water. Nests consist of a pile of down feathers. Breeding pairs stay together for life. Nine to eleven creamy-white eggs are laid with the female incubating the eggs while the male stands guard on the ground, defending the nest. Once hatched the female flies to the ground and the parents call to the ducklings, encouraging them to leap from the tree, The ducklings

*(Continued on page 17)*





## Volunteer Garden Guides

with Shelly Kelly

Welcome to spring!

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens' guides have been back in action for two months now with our scheduled and booked guided walks whilst adhering with the Government Covid-19 restrictions that are in place.

Our guiding programme was cancelled for 15 weeks after the Native Bee Walk on Friday 20th March. Coincidentally, when a decision was made to resume the walks, our first guided walk in July happened to be Gareth's popular Native Bee Walk.

Amongst the changes to our walks is that all our guided walks now must be booked and group numbers are limited to 10. Information and booking links for our various guided walks can be found on the Friends Facebook page in the "Events" section or at this link <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/gardensevents>

We were happy to see Judith's return to guiding with a tree walk on National Tree Day which is the first Sunday in August. Most celebrations of our beautiful trees in Australia were cancelled. A fortunate group of walkers on this day had the opportunity to learn about the special trees in our botanic gardens and Judith's appreciation, love and knowledge of our precious trees.



I joined the guided bird walk with Neil and Geraldine in July and was amazed with the knowledge and observation skills of our expert Friends' volunteers. Neil treated the walkers to an avian anatomy lesson using our emu sculpture in the Sensory Garden as a model. Neil is a retired Zoologist and an ex Director of the famed Healesville Sanctuary.



*(Continued on page 17)*



(Continued from page 16)

We have so many more just as interesting guided walks taken by our trained guides. Sadly, so many are missing out on these walks due to the limited group number allowed and those who have booked not showing for the walk.

Unfortunately, our plans for the training of new guides is currently not possible. If you are interested, please send an email to [info@friendsgcrbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgcrbg.org.au) and we will add your name to the list to contact when the situation has improved and details can be confirmed.

If you have any enquiries or wish to book a group walk, please ring 0449 561 674. If you have any enquiries or wish to book a group walk,

please ring 0449 561 674 or email [info@friendsgcrbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgcrbg.org.au)

(Continued from page 15)

follow along with mother and father at either end of the family group. Both parents care for and feed the young.

The creation of dams and fields, reserves and parks has benefited the Wood Duck, giving it a supply of food and water throughout much of Australia. Clearing of land has however reduced nest hollows for breeding.

Our Botanic Gardens is an ideal safe haven providing perfect conditions for Wood Ducks to thrive and breed.



Listening  
My whole being quiet  
A gentle breeze in my hair  
Bird song fills the environment  
Leaves rustling in the soft breeze  
Sunshine whispers warmth and light  
Workers machinery echo in the silence  
Nothing can break the beauty of nature



Gold Coast Botanic gardens  
Poetry composed in the gardens by Linda Cooper  
Photos also by Linda



Please Note this message from Flowers by Friends

# Flowers by Friends



Friends  
of the  
Gold Coast  
Regional Botanic Gardens Inc.

*Spring is here and Flowers by Friends are now offering fortnightly sales at The Friends Centre Friday - Sunday.*

- \* Featuring unique Australian native floral arrangements
- \* Vases, posies, bouquets and wrapped bunches
- \* Environmentally friendly practices
- \* All proceeds support the development of the Botanic Gardens

**Orders welcome!**



E: [info@friendsgcrbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgcrbg.org.au) Ph: 0449 561 674



**Flowers  
for all  
occasions**



# Kids and Young adults in Conservation

Kids in Conservation has been a holiday activity for children for a number of years.

Now we would like to devote some pages of Growing Matters to further engage younger people and would like them to direct the development of this.

We know there are artists, photographers, scientists, gardeners, birdwatchers among you and we would like you to share your experiences with us and all our readers.

Sharing your interests with others is a good way to keep involved in your activity and to find others who may share your interests.

If you have ideas please tell us what you would like to see included.

We will advise you of anything that is coming up in the gardens for you to enjoy.



We would also like some of those old enough to be able to come without their parents or minders to come together in a way in which they are able to learn to tell stories for the younger children to experience what you like in the botanical gardens.

To start with we will have adult leaders for you to discuss ideas and to learn from.

At the present time we will concentrate on putting materials together and then we can launch the children's activity groups on a special day.

Enjoy making this opportunity come to fruition

The picture included here shows school kids from Robina League for Life with teacher Graeme Hurley getting ready for planting in the Buffer – September 2012 and now it has grown as a complete screen of regional natives. Alan Donaldson is leading the planting induction process.



## Maintaining our COVID-19 Safe Friends Centre

We have learned over the past few months the importance of maintaining our COVID-19 safe plan to ensure the Friends Centre can remain open to Friends and visitors alike. Social distancing and exemplary hygiene measures remain an important part of operating our Friends Centre.

As previously outlined, Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens have been guided by the principles set out by Safework Australia to maintain a safe Friends Centre.

Friends recognise that all our volunteer workers, have the right to a healthy and safe working environment, and, that the Friends Centre should be a safe place to visit for all of our clients and visitors.

Friends continue to manage identified risks:

- ensure the Friends Centre operates effectively while requiring physical distancing use only contactless payments
- limit the number of people in the Friends Centre and on the veranda according to current guidelines at any given time (as signs show)
- record contact details for both visitors and Friends
- provide hand sanitiser
- clean throughout the day
- keep the bathroom and common areas clean; have ample hand wash and paper towels
- encourage handwashing.

When you come to the Friends Centre, please,

- act safely and observe **social distancing** and limits on **number of people**, record your presence in the **Friends sign-in/out register**,
- take reasonable care for your own health and safety and for the health and safety of others.

Importantly, you are asked not to come to the Friends Centre when you are unwell.

Mary Woods  
Coordinator  
Friends Centre Operations





## **Thinking of volunteering?**

### **Consider the Friends Centre in the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens**

- **learn more about the Botanic Gardens to share with visitors**
- **chat with visitors**
- **promote our events and activities**
- **sell our plants and botanically inspired gifts**
- **meet new Friends**
- **Training provided, work with experienced volunteers**
- **Flexible hours**

**Contact Paula: 0412 007 648 or  
[FriendsCentre@friendsgcrbg.org.au](mailto:FriendsCentre@friendsgcrbg.org.au)**



## 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:

Bell Art stock and Wild Hibiscus stock - a good supply.

Fingerlime Marmalade in plentiful supply and a wildly popular item.

Prices on the 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.

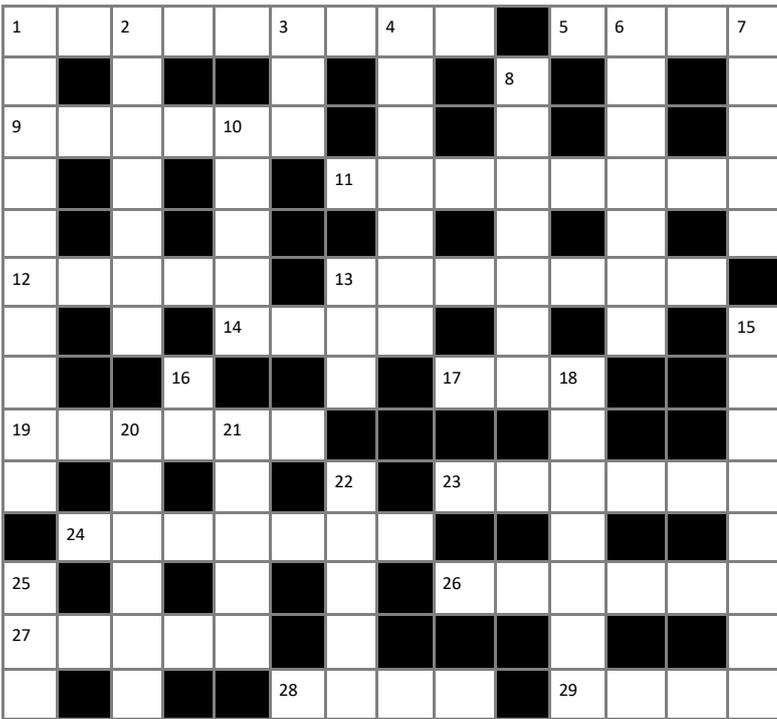
Bell Art Coasters and Aroma Bloqs have been replenished with more designs and scents available.

Coasters RRP \$11.95 Member Price \$10.45

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



# Dick's Challenge #18



## Across:

1. Hard shelled, edible nut
5. Bedroll
9. Termite eating marsupial
- 11 Glossy leaved, multi trunked tree native to North QLD but a weed on the Gold Coast
- 12 Ferdinand ..... botanical illustrator accompanying Matthew Flinders
- 13 Persoonia
- 14 Australian housewife Mrs Everage
- 17 Colourant often derived from plants
- 19 A type of inflorescence
- 23 Australia's 2<sup>nd</sup> Prime Minister (surname)
- 24 Prized marine molluscs
- 26 Australian inland aquatic fern
- 27 The Cushion Flower is an example of the genus
- 28 Inland Australian Lake
- 29 Shell-less gastropod

## Down:

- 1 "Citrus capital of QLD"
- 2 Flat bottomed fluffy clouds
- 3 Fire ....., a greater environmental threat than cane toads, cats and rabbits combined
- 4 Morning Glory vine
- 6 A pre 1960's industry at Tangalooma, Morton Island
- 7 Victoria's "..... Ocean Road"
- 8 Syzygium moorei
- 10 Bright sky blue
- 13 Wildebeest
- 15 The tallest tree in the ADF garden, Blue .....
- 16 Chemical symbol for Iron
- 18 Floral emblem of Victoria
- 20 Small Tweed Shire town
- 21 Dame Nellie
- 22 Australian River immortalised by Banjo Paterson
- 25 Casuarina "..... oak "

## Open Garden



## Tani Tei En

*Must-see garden with rainforests, themed plantings, restored dairy and spectacular Japanese garden with tea house and lake.*

Saturday 26th & Sunday  
27th **SEPTEMBER, 2020**

519 Currumbin Creek Road  
Currumbin Valley 4223

9am-4:30pm  
\$5 entry (18+) Kids free  
All proceeds to charity  
Refreshments & plants available

Find us on Facebook  
@Tani Tei En  
[evmarshall@westnet.com.au](mailto:evmarshall@westnet.com.au)

Solution back page



## 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](mailto:info@friendsgcrbg.org.au)

## Dick's Challenge #19

### Solution

Across 1 Macadamia Swag 9 Wombat  
11 Umbrella 12 Bauer 13 Geebung 14 Edna  
17 Dye 19 Raceme 23 Deakin 24 Abalone  
26 Nardoo 27 Hakea 28 Eyre 29 Slug

### Down

1 Mundubbera 2 Cumulus 3 Ant  
4 Ipomoea 6 Whaling 7 Great 8 Durobby  
10 Azure 13 Gnu 15 Quandong 16 Fe  
18 Epacris 20 Cobaki 21 Melba 22 Snowy  
25 She

## Links

We will affix to this box any links sent in that are of general interest to our readers.

Copy the address into your browser or press on the hyperlink.

[EucalyptNo54May2020.pdf](#)

<https://www.instagram.com/goldcoastbotanicgardens/>

## Naturally GC Online free presentation

Be inspired by an online tour of fabulous Australian native plant gardens with Kate Heffernan

Friday 2 October 6 – 7pm .

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naturallygc-zoom>

Supported by Division 7 Councillor  
Ryan Bayldon -Lumsden

## 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.



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

