

# Naturelink

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

## Discovery Day

### Whale Watching Cruise at Phillip Island

Monday 10 July 2017

### Highlights *in this issue*

#### Discovery Day: Inverloch Dinosaur Fossil Tour 8



#### Growing Friends Plant Sale 16



Following the success of our Wilson's Prom cruise last year, Wildlife Coast Cruises has offered Cranbourne Friends exclusive use of Kasey Lee for a four-hour Winter Whale Cruise from Cowes Jetty. A marine biologist will be on board to field questions and provide commentaries. You may like to check out [www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au](http://www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au).

The July date has been chosen to provide an 80% chance of spotting humpback whales, southern right whales and even orcas (I don't like using the term 'killer whale').

The cruise includes:

- Cruise right around Phillip Island with great views of the rugged south coast and features such as Pyramid Rock, The Nobbies and Cape Woolamai.
- Close-up with thousands of seals at Seal Rocks.
- Dolphin sightings.
- Seabird sightings – such as gannets, terns and hopefully the giant petrel or the shy albatross.

The cruise includes morning tea and a lunch of soup and sandwiches.

Please use the booking form attached to this Naturelink or go to [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au) and click on 'Book your winter events now'.

#### Contact

Alex Smart, 9707 5275  
[smartie38@bigpond.com](mailto:smartie38@bigpond.com)

#### DETAILS

Departs Cowes Jetty at 9.30am, returning at approximately 1.30pm

Members \$105, Non-members \$125



The Kasey Lee on which we will be aboard to watch whales, seals, dolphins and various seabirds as we travel around Phillip Island. Photo: Wildlife Coast Cruises

## Bushland Breakfast with Warren Worboys

Saturday 3 June 2017, 8am

Elliot Centre, RBGV Cranbourne Gardens

Members \$15

Non-members \$20

Students \$10

Join with other Friends for an informal breakfast with the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's longest-serving employee, Warren Worboys, who is also an honorary life member of the Cranbourne Friends. Warren has been based at Cranbourne from before the Friends were formed 25 years ago.

We'll start with a continental breakfast, including hot drinks, at the Elliot Centre before going for a wander to explore the bushland area of the Cranbourne Gardens under Warren's expert guidance. The walk will be at a slowish pace – a 1.5–2 hour round trip depending on the treasures we see. Be prepared for wintry weather; rug up, bring wet weather gear and water, and wear walking shoes. Price includes breakfast. That's a bargain!

Entry to the Cranbourne Gardens will be at the West Gate (back gate) on Ballarto Road. Please be at this gate promptly at 8am.

#### Contact

Chloe Foster, 9725 3569.



Warren Worboys explaining Stage 2 works of the Australian Garden in February 2011. Photo: Rodger Elliot

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1000 Ballarto Road  
Cranbourne Victoria 3977

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## Executive Director's Report

Chris Russell



### The role of botanic gardens in urban greening

A lot has been said about the value and benefits of plants and broader biodiversity in cities and residential areas, mostly under the now popular banner of 'ecosystem services'. The concept is simple and, for most, intuitive in recognising that the health of humans and the cities we live in relies greatly on the benefits provided by the environment. Some of the benefits are fundamentals for survival, such as the provision of breathable air and clean water, or the mitigation of the 'heat island effect', where built environments get hot, and stay hot for longer, owing to the thermal properties of the materials of which they are composed. But some of the benefits are very subtle and relate to the positive effects of having opportunities for recreation in natural areas and spiritual connection to nature. The summary of all of this is quite simple – cities with more greenery are healthier places to live.

The question closer to hand is 'what roles do botanic gardens play in urban greening?' At the most obvious level, botanic gardens provide an oasis of green within a surrounding environment of concrete and asphalt. The plant collections themselves can play a vital role as the lungs of the city, and provide a place for residents and visitors to escape the heat, the smog (to some extent), and the hustle and bustle of the noisy, fast-paced and hectic city life beyond the boundary. This role of sanctuary and refuge is a critical part of our function as botanic gardens, but so is it also for public parks and open spaces in built environments. There are other unique ways that botanic gardens contribute to the promotion and establishment of urban greenery.

As a garden located within one of the southern hemisphere's fastest-developing urban growth corridors, Cranbourne Gardens has some specific opportunities and challenges at hand. Rapid urban expansion will always stretch planning authorities as they seek to balance the needs of different stakeholders – from housing densities, infrastructure provision and the allocation of open space through to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity values. Many of you would be aware of the strong advocacy role we played in striving for the establishment of biolinks to connect Cranbourne Gardens with the world beyond the Botanic Ridge residential development. Our principle has always been that the future survival of the plants and animals on site relies (in the long term) on maintaining a level of ecological connectivity with surrounding landscapes and biodiversity. We achieved some (albeit narrow) habitat corridors through the development, and our attention can now focus on the important education function that botanic gardens can play in this space.



Manager Horticulture John Arnott singing the praises of Josie Vaganiance.  
Photo: Jo Fyfe



Josie (front 2nd left) and friends gather at the ceremonial planting of *Daphnandra johnsonii*.  
Photo: Jo Fyfe

While biolinks and public open space are important for landscape connectivity and ecological viability, the role of home gardeners as land managers is often under-recognised. The bulk of the land making up Botanic Ridge (and indeed most residential development) is freehold owned by individuals who have the potential, through home gardening, to influence the shape and composition of the landscapes in which they live. Our role, through both the natural bushland and the Australian Garden, is to provide inspiration, information and education on the importance of retaining and creating sustainable and functioning living landscapes in built areas, for the benefit of the human community and the other biota living within (and supporting) it.

Within the Australian Garden, our series of display gardens target a home-gardener audience by providing ideas and inspiration relating to themes such as water availability, habitat creation, use of recycled materials, appropriate plant selection and cultivation. Supported by face-to-face encounters with Gardens staff and volunteer Garden Ambassadors, our residents are building inspiration and knowledge which we hope, over time, will help achieve the vision of creating a green and leafy 'botanic precinct' in our surrounding neighbourhood. The Gardens also support home gardeners everywhere, contributing to making our cities more livable through the greenery they support in home gardens and plant displays.

I will have the privilege of sharing this story,

in greater detail, with the world botanic gardens community at the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva in late May. It will be a great opportunity to showcase not only the Australian Garden but also the role that Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria is playing in urban greening.

#### Changing of the guard

Many of you would have come across Josie Vaganiance in her long and fruitful career at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. Josie commenced in 1986 as a Nursery Technician based in Melbourne, where her work ranged from curating a collection of orchids through to providing indoor plants for Government House. She moved into the role of Nursery Manager at Melbourne Gardens before moving to Cranbourne Gardens to head up the Nursery. She coordinated the huge task of procuring and producing plants for the first stage of the Australian Garden,

which involved leading a number of field trips collecting seed and cuttings from areas such as Western Australia, the Flinders Ranges, southern New South Wales and East Gippsland. In 2005 Josie moved out of the Nursery into the Australian Garden, leading one of two teams as Coordinator Horticulture. Josie supervised, mentored and supported dozens of people through her time with us, and her steady and mature approach will leave a big hole.

But, as they say, as one door closes another one opens, and so we welcome Russell Larke and Jess van der Werff into the vacant roles of Coordinator Horticulture, and Mandy Thomson as our new Coordinator Nursery. It is exciting to be building a new horticulture team ready to take the Australian Garden into its next phase.

## From the President

Indra Kurzeme



Dear Friends,

It is with a great deal of excitement that the Cranbourne Friends Committee announces the news that Angus Stewart has joined us as our Patron. Angus was a wonderful supporter of the Kangaroo Paw Celebration and very generous with his time and knowledge. Throughout his work with us he expressed his high regard for Cranbourne Gardens, and the next logical step was to ask him to become a Friend in a more formal role. I have had a couple of very interesting conversations about what being a Patron might mean and asked him to share his thoughts with us.

*It is an extraordinary honour and privilege to be invited to be patron of the Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. My special connection to the Gardens is that my grandmother, Victorian wildflower painter Daisy Wood, actually raised her family for a number of years on the family farm in Cranbourne, when it was still largely a bushland area. She delighted in discovering and painting the local flora, particularly terrestrial orchids, and recording the exquisite detail for posterity. Her work inspired me to pursue a career in horticulture, specialising in Australian plants.*

*The Friends is a tremendously vibrant group of passionate people who bring something incredibly special to the Royal Botanic Gardens. In my experience, the total of what the Friends bring to the Gardens is far, far greater than the sum of the parts. I see amateur (and sometimes former professional) propagators, scientists, horticulturists, ornithologists, naturalists, gardeners and plant-lovers all bringing an energy that helps the Gardens to*



Angus Stewart, Patron, Cranbourne Friends

*become a friendly community as well as a place of conservation, education and scientific learning.*

*It is my fervent hope that I can complement and help to represent the Friends in the true spirit of supporting and enhancing the wonderful work of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne Gardens.*

We will be working together to determine the ways in which Angus can support our work and in turn support the role of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne Gardens.

Indra Kurzeme

# ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2017

We hope there will be no changes to the program, but if there are, members will be notified via *Quicklink* and/or email.

## JUNE

**Saturday 3 June 2017**

Bushland Breakfast with Warren Worboys  
See page 1

**Saturday 17 June 2017**

Day of talks: Attila Kapitany – 'Australian Succulents' and 'Boabs and Bottle Trees'  
See page 7

**Sunday 25 June 2017**

Talk: Frank Udovicic – 'Australian Eucalypts: What Is Their Status?'  
See page 4

## JULY

**Saturday 1 July 2017**

Useful Australian Plants Day  
See Page 7

**Monday 10 July 2017**

Discovery Day: Whale-watching cruise at Phillip Island  
See Page 1

**Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 July 2017**

Growing Friends Plant Sale  
See Page 16

## AUGUST

**1-31 August 2017**

Exhibition: 'Native Seduction' - Cranbourne Friends Botanical Illustrators  
See page 5

**Thursday 10 August 2017**

Open House talk: Carolyn Landon – 'The Illustrated History of Botanical Illustration'. See page 5

**Sunday 13 August 2017**

Talk: 'Fascination of Pollination', an adjunct of the 'Native Seduction' exhibition.

**Sunday 20 August 2017**

Start of WA Wildflower Tour – finishes 11 September

## SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 16 September 2017**

Basketry Workshop: 'Basket over a Mould'  
Info in next *Naturelink*

**Wednesday 27 September 2017**

Discovery Day: Inverloch Dinosaur Fossil Tour  
See page 8



Tutufo bubo shell at the Inverloch Shell Museum.  
Photo: Shell Museum Bunurong Environment Centre

## Australian Eucalypts: What Is Their Status?

Frank Udovicic

Sunday 25 June 2017, 2pm

Australian Garden Auditorium,  
RBGV Cranbourne Gardens

Members \$20

Non-members \$25

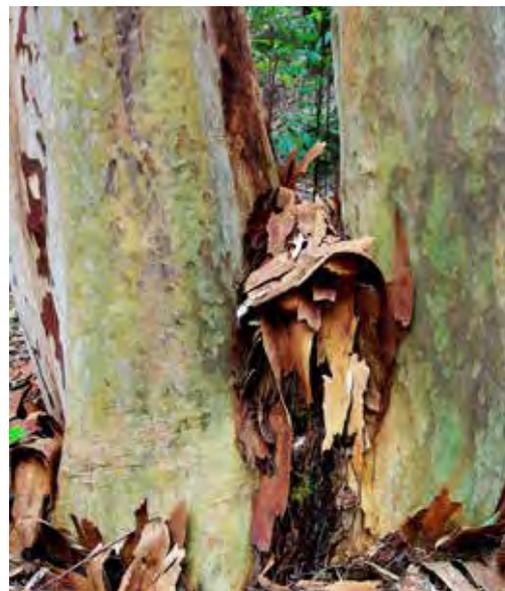
Students \$10

Come and hear about the latest botanical developments regarding our iconic eucalypts so that you can really impress your next dinner party guests! You will be up to date with exciting research that has come out of the National Herbarium at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, which needs to be spread to a broader public. Frank Udovicic is a graduate of the University of Melbourne School of Botany, with a BSc and PhD.

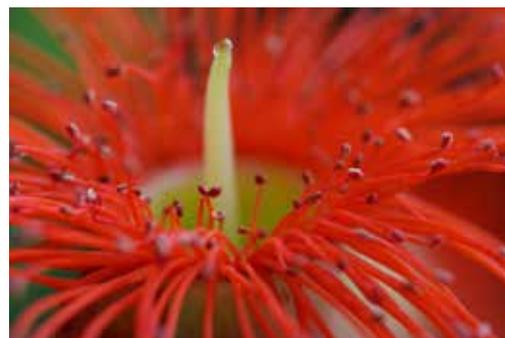
Some people are concerned, or even confused, about the recent changes to the names of eucalypts. Frank will provide an overview of the eucalypt research that affects the naming and classification of Australia's most important tree species and their close allies.

Frank has been interested in eucalypts for a long time and his research has centred on molecular genetics and plant systematics. (Do not let that scare you off!). He has been exploring the relationships between *Eucalyptus* and *Angophora*, the *Eudesmia* subgenus of *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia*, and *Callistemon* and *Melaleuca*.

Frank will also talk about *VICFLORA*, an online publication that is now available to the public (<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/>). It is a marvellous and valuable resource that provides much information in text and includes many photographs. Once you hear about *VICFLORA*, you will undoubtedly want to experience it for yourself.



Recently shed bark at the base of *Angophora costata* trunks. Photo: Rodger Elliot



The brilliance and intricacy of a *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Baby Orange' flower.  
Photo: Rodger Elliot

## Botanical Art Exhibition

'Native Seduction'

1 - 31 August  
2017, 9am - 5pm

Visitor Centre  
Gallery, RBGV  
Cranbourne  
Gardens

Free Admission

The RBGV Cranbourne Gardens is presenting an exhibition by the Friends Illustrators describing how a variety of native Australian plants attract pollinators in order to secure their own reproduction.

Come and admire an artistic record of nature's ingenuity. Our artists-in-residence will be demonstrating their skills and answering questions each Sunday during the exhibition between 10am and 2pm, and visitors will be able to meet the artists for an informal talk on Wednesdays, 2 and 16 August between 11am and 12 noon.



## Afternoon Talk by Carolyn Landon

'The Illustrated History of Botanical Illustration'

Thursday 10  
August 2017, 2pm

Elliot Centre,  
RBGV Cranbourne  
Gardens

Free Admission

Carolyn Landon, author of *Banksia Lady*, a biography of famous botanical illustrator Celia Rosser, will give a talk about the history of botanical illustration at the regular Elliot Centre Open Day.

Carolyn's talk on the history of botanical illustration will be based on Blunt and Stearn's book *The Art of Botanical Illustration*, as well as her photographs of the Bauer brothers' work in the Kew Gardens Library. This includes pages from *Curtis Magazine* circa 1790 and first-edition prints from Bauer and Brown's *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen*. She also hopes to prove the truth of Wilfrid Blunt's statement to Celia Rosser, when he looked at her work and told her that the world had been waiting 200 years for her.



Carolyn Landon.  
Photo: Fosters Little Bookshop

## Drawing Foliage Workshop with Geoff Sargeant

21–22 August 2017

Elliot Centre,  
RBGV Cranbourne  
Gardens

Members \$165

Non-members \$190



Grevillea with bees. Work by Geoff Sargeant

To coincide with the Botanical Illustrators exhibition, 'Native Seduction', we are privileged to hold a two-day colour pencil workshop with Geoff Sargeant. The workshop will explore the subtleties of drawing foliage and is open to all skill levels. A materials list will be supplied upon registration.

Geoff, an architect, works in the medium of colour pencils on fine papers. He is a fellow of the Australian Guild of Realist Artists and has won many prizes for his

work in their recent exhibitions; he is also a member of the San Francisco chapter of the Colour Pencil Society of America. His work is represented in local, private, government and overseas collections. Check out his fabulous work on the internet at [geoffsargeantartist.com](http://geoffsargeantartist.com)

Bookings via booking form.

For further information, contact Margaret Holloway on 0438 985 382.



Geoff Sargeant working in his studio

## (Some of) What's On at RBGV Cranbourne

For enquiries and bookings phone 5990 2200. For information about more activities at RBGV, see <www.rbg.vic.gov.au>.

### JUNE

#### Garden Shed, Northern Display Gardens

This winter, the friendly Garden Ambassadors will be highlighting Eucalyptus trees for the home garden. Borrow a deck of the 'Go Find It' cards and head out to the Australian Garden to explore.

Daily across Winter, 11am to 3pm

Meet at the Garden Shed

All ages and free. No bookings required

### JULY

#### Winter Wonderland

Listen to the sounds of the bush symphony and spot the signs that plants and animals are talking to each other.

Wednesday 12 July, 10 to 11am

Meet at the Visitor Centre

Suitable for children aged 3 to 5

\$11.90 per child

Bookings 03 5990 2200

### AUGUST

#### Communing with nature

How does nature speak to you? Textile artist Tina Whiteley will lead you on a discovery of art and design in the Australian Garden.

Saturday 19 August, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Meet at the Visitor Centre

Suitable for adults

\$40 adult, \$35 concession.

Bookings 03 5990 2200

## (Some of) What's On at RBGV Melbourne

The following events are presented by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

For enquiries contact the Friends office on 9650 6398 or at <friends@frbgmelb.org.au>.

Book events online, or download a booking form from the FRBGM website at <www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org>.

### JUNE

#### Special Winter Discovery Tour in Auslan for the deaf and hard of hearing

Enjoy beautiful and unique aspects of the Gardens in winter. Be surprised with how many plants are in bloom.

Saturday 17 June, 11.30am to 1pm

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate

Suitable for adults

Bookings 03 9252 2429

### JULY

#### NAIDOC

Koolin ngargee - Celebrate Aboriginal culture and language during NAIDOC week at Melbourne Gardens.

Thursday 6 July, 10 to 12.00pm

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate

Suitable for adults and children

Bookings 03 9252 2429 or RBGV website.

### AUGUST

#### Story time under the Weeping Pine

Escape to Everywhere and join us during National Children's Book Week at Melbourne Gardens for a storytime session, dancing and singing, inspired by the special plants and magical places in the Melbourne Gardens.

Saturday 19 August, 11am to 12noon

Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate

Suitable for children 3 to 5 accompanied by a parent

Bookings 03 9252 2429 or RBGV website.

## Request for help from members at activities and events

We are looking for assistance from members who will be attending events and activities organised by the Cranbourne Friends. Often there are small tasks that need attention and having people to help with these tasks on the day can make the activity or event even better for the attendees.

On the Booking Form, below the listing of Activities and Events there is an 'ASSISTANCE' line where you can write the activity in which you would like to help plus a space for your name. The coordinator of the activity or event will contact you to provide details of how you can be involved

It would be wonderful if we can have members involved in this way at our activities and events.



## A Very Special Day with Attila Kapitany

'Australian Succulents' and 'Boabs and Bottle Trees'

Saturday 17 June 2017, 10am

Australian Garden Auditorium, RBGV Cranbourne Gardens

Morning (talk & refreshments):  
Members \$20  
Non-members \$25  
Students \$10

Afternoon (talk & refreshments):  
Members \$20  
Non-members \$25  
Students \$10

All day (includes refreshments):  
Members \$30  
Non-members \$40  
Students \$15

This is a new format for the Cranbourne Friends, two talks on the same day. We would love to have you attend what should be a stimulating day with Attila, who is an excellent speaker and presenter.

Attila is a very enthusiastic succulent expert and author of many popular books on the subject. He loves to share the knowledge he has gained over the years.

He will provide information that differs from some conventional theories and ideas about the diversity and beauty of the Australian flora. He believes that at least 400 of over 20,000 Australian species have a notable degree of succulence, and some are stunning plants.

While some people are aware that Australia has the Queensland bottle tree, *Brachychiton rupestris*, most don't know that several other species within the genus that also develop bottle-shaped trunks, such as *Brachychiton compactus*.

The day will start with Attila in the Gardens Shop signing purchased books, followed by morning refreshments and informal discussion with Attila in the Auditorium. At 11am, Attila will give his presentation on Australian succulents.

In the afternoon, Attila will be in the Auditorium to chat with people from 1.45pm and at 2pm will give his presentation on boabs and bottle trees. Attila will then be available for further signing and informal talk in the Gardens Shop for about 30 minutes.



Stunning jelly-bean like leaves of the prostrate annual, *Calandrinia creethae*. Photo: Michele Kapitany



Attila Kapitany. Photo: Michele Kapitany

## Useful Australian Plants Day

Saturday 1 July 2017, 9.30am - 4pm

Australian Garden Auditorium, RBGV Cranbourne Gardens

Members \$60  
Non-members \$75  
Students \$30

For a number of reasons, this promises to be a very special day. Put the date in your diary now and book ASAP as this activity is likely to be booked out very quickly.

This activity is a little different from those normally undertaken. The day will concentrate on providing information on Australian plants that are useful for a number of purposes, including food, fibre, timber, dyeing, and art and craft. There will also be displays of crafted items.

We are extremely fortunate to have Australian Indigenous writer Bruce Pascoe, from the Bunurong clan, coming to speak. Bruce, the renowned author of *Dark Emu*, *Black Seeds: Agriculture or Accident?*, will be talking on 'An Alternative View of Pre-Colonial Food Production and Aboriginal Society', and will be covering the plants used and methods of ensuring a plentiful supply. Bruce's book will be available for sale in the Gardens Shop.

Julian Hills, head chef at Paringa Estate Winery in Red Hill, will be delighting our tastebuds, providing an afternoon tea of delectable morsels made using Indigenous

foods, some of which will be foraged from the Mornington Peninsula.

John Thompson will cover the use of native Australian plants in art and craft; Pat Dale, one of Australia's leading basket makers will show what magic can be created with native plant materials. Andrea Hopgood will reveal the uses of our plants for dyeing fabrics; and members of the Wonthaggi Woodies will cover woodworking with a range of timbers.

Chloe Foster will demonstrate propagation techniques that can be used at home.



## Discovery Day

### Inverloch Dinosaur Fossil Tour

Wednesday 27  
September 2017,  
9.30am

Bunurong  
Environment  
Centre and Shell  
Museum -  
Corner Ramsey  
Blvd & The  
Esplanade,  
Inverloch, Victoria.

Adult \$20

Child/student \$5

### What child or adult is not fascinated by dinosaurs and fossils?

Come as a family – bring your children and grandchildren.

Join the Cranbourne Friends for a guided tour of the Inverloch dinosaur fossil beds with the South Gippsland Conservation Society.

In the third-term school holidays, this fossil-hunting exploration day will be a not-to-be-missed experience.

After a picnic lunch, spend time exploring the Shell Museum (free entry), where you will find over 6000 specimens and touch-tables for the inquisitive.

### Getting there from Melbourne

Via S Gippsland Hwy/M420, M420 and Bass Hwy/B460

or

Via S Gippsland Hwy/M420 and S Gippsland Hwy/A440

### Notes

- Please don't be late.
- Access to the fossil site is down steps and over rocks.
- Have you thought of staying in Inverloch overnight? There is so much to see in the area.
- Tide times are available online from the Bureau of Meteorology.
- All children under 12 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Appropriate footwear and clothing must be worn for all activities.
- Please ensure that you have drinking water, sunscreen, and hats and clothing appropriate for the day.



Dinosaur Skeleton. Photo: Taken from Dinosaur Dreaming Exhibition Website

### Resources

Dinosaur Dreaming – <http://dinosaurdreaming.net/>

Melbourne Museum '600 million years' exhibit – <https://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/discoverycentre/600-million-years/>

### Contact

Christine Kenyon  
9589 2154 or 0438 345 589  
[cekenyon@bigpond.com](mailto:cekenyon@bigpond.com)

Lyn Blackburne  
9776 4994 or 0419 583 076  
[lynb1950@gmail.com](mailto:lynb1950@gmail.com)



Dinosaur footprint. Photo: Dinosaur Dreaming Website

## Membership Update

Helen Morrow

Please contact Helen if you have any membership queries:

Phone: 9850 9125; if you leave a message I will return your call

Email: [membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

We are pleased to welcome 25 new members this quarter, and we look forward to meeting them throughout the year at some of our activities and workshops. All members are welcome to join the special interest groups listed in *Naturelink*. A variety of activities are planned for each month and are advertised in this newsletter. The co-ordinator's details are found on the booking form.

### Welcome to new members

Lynn Aitkinson, Miranda Brown, Murray Cameron, Barbara Colenso, Michael Cook, Pru Ervin, Linda Evans, Anne Gallace, Anne Gardiner, Barb Grove, Kate Herd, Kerry Hoare, Bakthi Jayasuriya, Ruth Kennan, Jean MacDonald, Kim McKee, Lynsey Poore, Linda Rennie, Roslyn Rogers & Allan Gillies, Heather Runge, Yvonne Sanders, Michael Tanner, Jan Weiner, Jan Wishart.

The Cranbourne Friends financial year ends

on 30 June and the subscription for 2017–18 is due on 1 July. A renewal form is included in this newsletter. We invite you to renew your membership of the Friends, and thank you for your continuing support of the Gardens. Please fill in and send the form by post or email with your payment. If it is a household membership, please include all members. A new membership card will be sent to each member when the subscription is received.

Payment is by cheque, money order or bank transfer. For bank transfers, please include "your name & sub" on the transaction so that Karen, our very hard-working Treasurer, will know who has deposited the money and what it is for.

For members who joined from April to June this year, their membership is extended to June 2018.



## REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

The Cranbourne Friends RBGV run several regular monthly activities, which are described below. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, even on an irregular basis, please ring or email the contact person, or just turn up. Don't worry if you don't have specific skills, you will learn on the job, and you will be made most welcome!

### Botanical Fabricators

2nd Tuesday of each month, 10am

Elliot Centre,  
RBGV Cranbourne

#### Contact

Gwen Elliot 8774 2483

fabricators@  
rbgfriendscranbourne.  
org.au

The Sixth Australian Textile Exhibition was held in the Australian Garden Visitor Centre from Tuesday 28 February through to Sunday 5 March 2017. This year's exhibition was for six days rather than the ten days in previous years, and did not include the Labour Day weekend. Our attendances were still approximately the same number of people per day as in previous years. There were visitors from throughout Victoria and all Australian states with the exception of the Northern Territory.

We had overseas visitors from New Caledonia, United Kingdom, United States, Canada, Germany, Croatia, Czech Republic, Russia, Indonesia and India. The winner of the quilt raffle was Janet Goodyer from Trigg, England, who was staying with friends who live in bayside Melbourne. The second prize of a bag plus fabrics went to Margaret Brown of Yallourn North, and the third prize of four patchwork and quilting books was received with much pleasure by Joan Bowman of Berwick.

Our thanks are again due to Leesa Chandler of Chandler's Cottage, who was the main organiser of the exhibition and donated the quilt that was the major prize in the raffle. Items made by members of the Botanical Fabricators group were also displayed in the auditorium, and our sales of just over \$2000 will further assist in the ongoing development of the Cranbourne Gardens.

The dates for next year's Australian Textile Exhibition will be different. It will be held from Tuesday 8 May through to Sunday 13 May 2018 (Mother's Day).



The Botanical Fabricators display in the Friends Elliot Centre. Photo: Gwen Elliot

There is now a permanent but constantly changing noticeboard displaying some of our work in the Elliot Centre



Handbag display at the Australian Textile Exhibition. Photo: Gwen Elliot

### Formation of a New Friends Special Interest Group

'Working Bees'

Once a month

This new group is for members who wish to get their hands dirty at the Cranbourne Gardens.

Who has dreamt of working in the Red Sand Garden, or weeding the Australian Garden and generally helping to keep the Australian Garden and other horticultural landscapes well-groomed?

For all those who have asked about the possibility of contributing 'hands on' in the Garden, now is your chance. The Cranbourne Friends are forming a new group - with the aim to organise monthly working bees.

- It is expected that the group's members will work from 10am to 12.30pm once a month.
- Different tasks will be set for each month.

- Each day will begin with a 'tool box' meeting when you will be given instructions and tools for the day.

- You will work under instruction from the horticultural staff and John Arnott, Manager Horticulture.

- The Friends will provide protective/distinctive attire.

It would be wonderful if the group finished the day by having lunch together in the Elliot Centre.

We anticipate this group will begin work in spring.

If you are interested in becoming a member of this new group, please contact Christine Kenyon, cekenyon@bigpond.com.

## Growing Friends

3rd Wednesday and every Thursday of the month

Growing Friends Nursery

### Contact

Marjanne Rook  
9769 7881

growing.friends@  
rbgfriendscranbourne.  
org.au

To join our Growing Friends or to receive more information, contact Marjanne on 9769 7881 or Don on 9736 2309.

### A sad farewell to a Growing Friend

The Growing Friends' oldest and longest-serving member, Lola Mensch, sadly died in early January at the great age of almost 93. Her memorial service was attended by a number of Growing Friends.

As one of the very early Growing Friends, she attended the monthly Wednesday group and with her husband Charlie Mensch assisted at every plant sale. Lola and Charlie would take numerous opportunities to sell Growing Friends plants at a variety of venues, loading up their car with trays of plants and taking them to an Open Garden event or to a particular plant fair. Lola is much missed at the Wednesday group and she will leave an empty space at this year's Cranbourne Friends luncheon, which she never missed. Thank you Lola for your many years at Growing Friends' activities.

### Autumn sale

The Autumn Plant Sale was bathed in warmth and sunshine. We started with a very busy Saturday morning, with people waiting for the gate to open at 9am. We ended with a very quiet Sunday afternoon, when a hot sun kept away potential customers. Our takings from this plant sale totalled \$14,500, which made for a very successful weekend.



### Winter sale

At the winter sale in July, we will be selling some more large and small eucalypts.

*Eucalyptus uncinata*, hook-leaved mallee. A spreading, densely foliated 1-4 m x 1.5-5 m, small-to-medium mallee shrub with a smooth grey bark; deciduous in late summer revealing light-brown new bark; branchlets reddish when young; flowers cream; prefers well-drained sands or loam.

*Eucalyptus doratoxylon*, spear-wood mallee. Its stems were used by the Indigenous people for spears. A spreading, densely foliated 3-7 m x 3-7 m small-to-medium mallee; bark powdery, smooth white to cream; branchlets purple-red to red-brown; flowers cream and profuse. A highly decorative plant most suitable for gardens

with well-drained sands or loam. Limited numbers.

*Eucalyptus lansdowneana*, red-flowered mallee. Small tree; 4-8 m high x 4-6 m wide, with red and pinkish flowers.

*Eucalyptus macrandra*, Hardy, smooth-trunked, medium tree; 6-8+ m high x 4-6 m wide. Flower colour variable - greenish yellow.

For a colourful shrub, try the *Callistemon* 'Tangerine Dream', a large shrub growing to 3 m high x 2 m wide, with eye-catching bright-orange flowers with gold tips from spring to autumn.



*Grevillea* 'Lemon Supreme'. A fast-growing shrub, 1-1.5 m x 1-1.5 m, with masses of lemon spider-like flowers from winter to spring; bird-attracting.

*Chamelaucium x Verticordia* 'Paddy's Pink'. Medium shrub, 1.5 m x 1.5 m, with spicy fragrant foliage and rosy-pink flowers in spring; great cut flower.



### Nursery open to members every Thursday

Remember that our nursery is open to members every Thursday from 10am to 3.30pm. If you can't come on Thursdays but really wish to buy some plants, contact Marjanne. Contact details are on this page.

### Special orders

As always, if you have any particular needs, perhaps a plant you have seen in the Gardens or multiple plants for a large area, contact the Growing Friends with your request and we shall endeavour to grow them or may even have them in stock.

**Growing Friends Winter 2017 Plant Sale**  
Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July 2017  
For more information, see page 16 (back page)

## Botanical Illustrators

1st and 3rd  
Wednesday of each  
month, 10am to  
3pm

Elliot Centre, RBGV  
Cranbourne

### Contact

Margaret Holloway  
0438 985 382

illustrators@  
rbgfrienscranbourne.  
org.au

## Wednesday Botanical Illustrators Group

The Botanical Illustrators group meets regularly in the comfort of the Elliot Centre to enjoy the pursuits of painting, drawing and sharing ideas. We support and encourage each other, hold workshops and talks, and work towards holding exhibitions. We welcome visitors and new members.

### Reports of Recent Events

#### Botanical Art Talks

15 February 2017

#### Talk #1: Sketchbooks – a presentation by Joan Mason

Joan Mason described how she keeps travel diaries in the form of sketchbooks. Her booklets are full of studies of objects that have taken her interest and are pertinent to the places she has visited. Joan usually uses pen and ink and watercolour, sometimes pencil, employing a compact travel set. Her pages show a wonderful knowledge of composition, often putting together many different objects on the one page and accompanied by brief notes. Joan shared her lovely work, helpful hints and anecdotes, and fielded questions. Her large audience was delighted and inspired.

#### Talk #2: An update about the Beckler Project by Roslyn Glow

Roslyn Glow gave a comprehensive update on the 'Beckler's Botanical Bounty' project, now in its seventh year. A group of artists have been collecting and pressing botanical

specimens, and painting the same plants that Hermann Beckler collected in and around Menindee in 1860 on the Burke and Wills expedition. An exhibition of work from this project will be held at the Ballarat Regional Art Gallery, 25 February – 16 April 2018. Participants have included illustrators from Cranbourne and Melbourne Friends. The audience was most interested to hear Roslyn's thorough summary of the background and progress of this project and to see the slide show she presented.

The full house at the Elliot Centre enjoyed these inspiring, interesting and entertaining speakers as well as the samples of stunning work on show, generously shared by the speakers and various colleagues.

#### Beginners' Watercolour Workshop with Marta Salamon

27–29 March 2017

Marta led a most successful workshop, enjoyed by a room full of enthusiastic participants who accomplished much fine painting. Following on from the beginners' drawing workshop last October, this workshop covered basic colour mixing, creating light and dark within the composition, and the varied ways of applying paint at different stages.

Marta is a highly experienced botanical artist and art teacher, has exhibited widely for many years, and won the Celia Rosser Medal at the 2016 Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition in Melbourne.

## Friends in Focus

2nd Saturday of  
the month at 2pm

### Contact

James McKee  
0411 102 107



Come along and meet the Friends in Focus, and learn or indulge in your passion of taking beautiful photos.

This photo - 'Gondwana over Lilypad Bridge' - was taken by Mack Fenwick, a member of the group.

## Botanical Basketmakers

3rd Saturday of  
each month, 10am  
to 2pm

Elliot Centre, RBGV  
Cranbourne

### Contact

Lynn Lochrie  
0437 759 610

basketry@  
rbgfrienscranbourne.  
org.au

We meet on the third Saturday of the month, in the Elliot Centre, and would love you to come and join us. We work on our own projects, using native plant material from our gardens. Members are happy to help newcomers get started, and advise on plant materials and preparation. Come and have a cuppa with us, and learn about the wonderful things you could make.

If you are an experienced basketmaker, we're sure you would enjoy getting to know this lovely group while doing your own work.



'Small Basket Over a Mould' using Lomandra, Eleocharis, and Cumbungi, by novice basketmaker Cynthia. Photo: Lynn Lochrie

**Open House at the Elliot Centre**

2nd Thursday of each month, 1pm to 4pm

Elliot Centre, RBGV Cranbourne

**Contact**  
Helen Morrow  
9850 9125

The Elliot Centre is open to members on the second Thursday of each month. Members are invited to come along to interesting and inspiring presentations and enjoy afternoon tea with other Friends.

In November the presentation by Rodger Elliot was a preview of the Kangaroo Paw Celebration. The Growing Friends Nursery was open and members were able to purchase some of the new cultivars that were ready for sale at the celebration.

December and February are busy times for most people but the Centre and Nursery were open as usual, and mince tarts and mini Christmas puddings were available for those who fancied relaxing with a cuppa.

The first presentation for the year was in March. Approximately 20 members came to an inspiring talk with Mariam Issa, founder of the RAW Garden. Members also visited that garden when they attended the Discovery Day on 2 May.

Topics for 8 June and 13 July are still being planned. Please tell us if there is a topic you would like to have discussed, and we will do our best to organise it. Topics each month will be advertised by email and in Quicklink. The presentations start at 2pm, leaving plenty of time for discussion over tea or coffee.

**10 August 2017** – Carolyn Landon will present a talk based on the *Illustrated History of Botanical Illustration*, as well as her photographs of the Bauer Brothers’ work in the Kew Gardens Library, which include pages from *Curtis Magazine* circa 1790 and first-edition prints from Bauer and Brown’s *Prodromus Florae Novae Hollandiae et Insulae Van Diemen*.

The event is free and afternoon tea is supplied. Members can consult the Friends Reference Library during these times.

The Friends Nursery is open on Thursday to 2pm.

**Illustrated Afternoon Talk: Western Australian Wildflowers with John Thompson**

Sunday 19 February 2017

by Rodger Elliot

There was a bumper roll-up for this talk. Many members who will be travelling with John as their leader on the Friends tour in August–September were present, hoping to gain an insight into the amazing flora of south-western WA. There were also many other people present, including a number of Field Naturalists Club of Victoria members. In typical fashion, John provided a stimulating presentation. Not only did he discuss many of the magnificent plants of the region, but his talk was also full of other anecdotes that covered exploration, and other history that gave the presentation extra strength.

It was interesting to hear comments from some of the attendees during refreshments

– ‘there are many new names that I will have to learn before the tour’, ‘I’ve never heard some of those plant names’, ‘weren’t the photographs superb?’ and ‘it will be staggering if we remember the names’. We received an amazing 37 evaluation forms from the attendees. By and large, they were extremely complimentary: ‘everything was a highlight’, ‘the standard of the presentation was very high’, ‘John’s expertise shone through’ and ‘very friendly ambience’. The afternoon refreshments were also a highlight for many people, thanks to Liz McDonald’s scrumptious plum cakes.

So all in all, it was a very successful and friendly occasion. Thanks so much, John and Liz.

**New Year Brunch in the Forest of Figs**

Sunday 5 February 2017

Margaret Clarke

The weather was good for our BYO-everything brunch early in February. This event used to herald the start of a new year of activities. For several years now, we have been pipped to the post by the gathering even earlier in the year of the Nuytsia Fan Club. Well, whether ours is the first gathering of the new year or the second – who cares? It is still a very relaxed and friendly gathering in the Hill’s Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var. *hillii*)

Forest. A special feature this year was the cutting of the cake to celebrate Alex Smart’s much-deserved honour of the OAM, which was announced on Australia Day. The chocolate cake was delicious and very cleverly decorated by Gwen Elliot, who has become an absolute expert at this particular task. Join us again next year!

Below: Alex Smart cutting OAM Cake New Year Brunch. Photo: Gwen Elliot

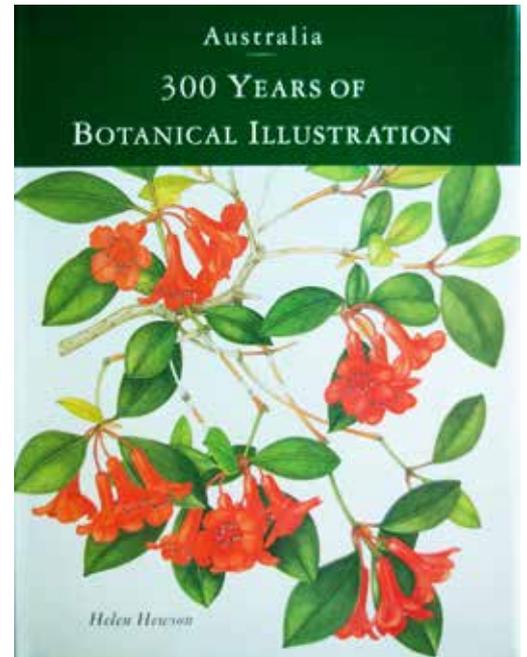


## Australia: 300 Years of Botanical Illustration

Ann Miller,  
Honorary Librarian

A very welcome addition to the Friends library collection was the gift late last year of *Australia: 300 Years of Botanical Illustration* by Helen Hewson, published in 1999 by CSIRO Publishing. The dust jacket has a very inviting, superb illustration of *Rhododendron lochiae* by Margaret Stones. This book is located at 'Sa' with other botanical artworks. Helen relates the activities of the early explorers, botanists, naturalists, gardeners and artists, and the close association of all of these with the discovery, exploration and development of Australia. She relates the first steps in collecting and recording Australian plants for science; the establishment of botanical gardens in the several states and the setting up of herbaria; and the development of the art of illustrating plants and the methods of reproducing those illustrations, including various forms of metal engraving.

While about three-quarters of the book comprises text, there are many wonderful illustrations. These include Ferdinand Bauer's *Brunonia australis*, *Crocea saligna* and *Banksia coccinea*; *Mimosa decurrens* (now known as *Acacia decurrens*) by Redouté; James Sowerby's exquisite *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*; works by Sydney Parkinson, William Hooker and William James Hooker; and Joseph Hooker's *Dianella tasmanica*, to name but a few. Moving closer to our time, there are reproductions of paintings by Celia Rosser, Stanley Kelly, Anita Barley, Margaret



Book jacket for Australia 300 Years of Botanical Illustration

Menadue, Jennifer Phillips and Margaret Stones.

While there is not a list of illustrations, and nor can one find *Dianella tasmanica* or *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* via the index, there is an excellent index to the explorers and the artists, and to the authors and titles of many floras.

## Staff Profile

Robin Penty

Executive Director  
Engagement and  
Impact



I have worked in the arts and culture, not-for-profit, higher learning and public sectors for over two decades, with a focus on social inclusion, creative partnerships, innovation and entrepreneurship for the entirety of my career.

Earlier, I worked professionally as a choreographer and dance educator for fifteen years, whilst earning a Master by Research degree and doctoral study in contemporary performance from the University of Melbourne. That was a rich time in my life, and it has afforded me great agility and insight in the way I now lead teams and generate ideas.

Prior to that, I completed an Honours Fine Arts degree at York University in Toronto, including studies in humanities, art history, social policy, public health and commerce. Since then, I've completed executive training and formal study with the Fundraising Institute of Australia, and learned a lot from working with a mad group of entrepreneurs, artists, leaders and start-up types along the way, so I draw from a pretty broad palette in the way I think about communities, systems and solving problems.

I've worked as a business development and marketing executive, director of public programs, executive producer,

arts programmer, qualitative researcher, strategy and planning consultant, and skilled facilitator. I'm driven by inquiry and therefore am at my best when negotiating the landscape between differing organisations, people, ideas, needs and approaches. I do this by asking great questions, and trusting my team and collaborators to unearth and define the best solutions.

In my private life, I keep busy with an abiding love for books and ideas, gardens and plants, music, pop culture, social justice, urban design and public spaces, as well as my two beautiful teenage sons, and an outrageously spoilt cavoodle named Basil. I love that my new role at the Gardens combines so many of the things I love into one job. Thanks to everyone I've met so far. It's been an exciting and creative time, and you've made me feel very welcome!

[www.linkedin.com/pub/robin-penty/22/880/750](http://www.linkedin.com/pub/robin-penty/22/880/750)

## Mt Hotham Adventure

12 - 16 January  
2017

Right: Some of the Cranbourne Friends at JB Plain near Dinner Plain.  
Photo: Chris Clarke

Our group of 20 young to maturing participants with varied interests and expertise had an exhilarating time exploring the Mt Hotham region over the 5 days. We were based at the excellent and comfortable Kalyna Lodge. Each day we visited different areas to explore where we strived to learn more about the marvellous array of plants, birds, animals and insects in this magnificent region of Victoria. One excellent aspect of the five days was that separate groups could explore special spots and then come back and report what they had seen in their forays.

We also enjoyed some inspiring and

entertaining evening presentations by Chris Clarke, Pat Macwhirter and Colleen Miller. A journal covering each day's activities was compiled as well as a plant spreadsheet and bird list. For people who would like to see these they will be available on the Friends website.



## Hike to Mt Feathertop

15 January 2017

by Pat McWhirter



On top of Mt Little Higginbotham.  
Photo: Marg Margitta

When Rodger Elliot asked for a show of hands for who would like to do the 22 kilometre Mt Feathertop walk, only two went up. So I found myself on a beautiful sunny morning at the start point, with a vast array of new, unattached, uncertain Latin plant names from the previous two days floating around in my brain. I also had walking poles, as advised by Marjorie, and Joe Wilson as a hiking partner. What a memorable journey it turned out to be.

We thought we might see some mountain hovea, *Hovea montana*, in bloom with purple flowers as we climbed the slopes. We had seen plenty at lower levels but almost all had gone to seed. Alas this wasn't to be, but there were lots of things of interest along the way. There were all those 'podo' (foot) things: yellow-flowered *Podolobium alpestre* (alpine shaggy pea); *Podolepis robusta* (mountain lettuce), which the cattle selectively graze and which has been coming back since their exclusion from the National Park; and, rarely, purple-flowered, dwarfed *Podocarpus lawrencei*, the mountain plum pine.

Asked earlier whether the picturesque mountain celery, *Aciphylla glacialis*, was in the same family as the salad vegetable, Rodger had assured us it was, and so too were mountain caraway (*Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*) and alpine trachymene (*Trachymene humilis*), which we also encountered along the trail. Besides the many mauve *Brachyscome* spp (snow daisies), *Viola hederacea* (ivy-leaved violets) and occasional *Prostanthera cuneate* (alpine mint bush), *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* also provided highlights of purple-blue. Trigger plants (*Stylidium armeria*) and bidgee-widgee (*Acaena novae hollandiae*) added pinks, while twin-flower knawel (*Scleranthus biflorus*) sprawled mat-like over rocks.

Dandelions unfortunately outnumbered the native billy buttons (*Craspedia* spp) in many locations, but both looked beautiful and were common. Other yellow daisy-like plants included yellow buttons (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*), scaly buttons (*Leptorhynchus squamatus*), button everlasting (*Helichrysum scorpioides*), orange everlasting (*Xerochrysum subundulatum*), hoary sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans*) and yam daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*). The yam daisy was one of the few plants I knew before starting on this excursion,

because of its significance as a food plant for Indigenous communities. I also recognised *Senecio* species – groundsels – from vet school 40-plus years ago, where we were taught they could cause pyrrolizidine alkaloid toxicoses, but I had no idea as to species. *S. linearifolius* is the common alpine one.

Petite, pale-yellow *Callistemon pityoides* (alpine bottlebrush) was a quieter version of its lowlands cousins, while *Kunzea muelleri* recalled Baron von Mueller's early explorative treks to the High Country. Ivy-leaved goodenia (*Goodenia hederacea*), grey guinea-flower (*Hibbertia obtusifolia*) and buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp) provided pockets of bright-yellow splashes. Remembering that buttercups were also found in the stomachs of frozen woolly mammoths raised the puzzle of how these pretty flowers managed to find their way to both Siberia and Mt Feathertop in ancient times. Joe had no idea either, but a subsequent Google check indicated that, so far, the earliest buttercup-like fossils have been found in China dating back 125 million years, getting back towards a time where they could perhaps have spread across the ancient continent of Pangaea before it completely split into Laurasia and Gondwana.

Both of us had been given the names of two plants to 'discover'. Mine were both white daisy-like flowers, *Stellaria pungens* (prickly starwort), a soft but prickly herb with a pungent smell, and *Olearia frostii* (Bogong daisy-bush). We had first encountered both on Little Mount Higginbottom on the first day of the Mt Hotham trip, and both were growing along this trail. Other *Olearia* spp encountered included *O. algida* (alpine daisy-bush) and *O. phlogopappa* (dusty daisy-bush). I kept repeating 'Olearia beat-a-daddy' as I struggled to remember the Latin name.

Other pretty little white flowers we saw included *Euphrasia crassiuscula* (thick bright eye), *Ozothamnus secundiflorus* (cascading everlasting), *Asperula pusilla* (alpine woodruff), and a beautiful white paper-daisy-like flower that formed large drifts. There was quite a lot of discussion about its name when we got back, and I'll need to get Joe and Rodger to confirm what it was.



Spider house is full in this Wahlenbergia gloriosa on the Dargo High Plains Road. Photo: Alex Smart



A photogenic Wandering Percher beside water at Dinner Plain. Photo: Chris Clarke

*Boronia algida* (alpine boronia) was also a bit of a puzzle for Joe, but the few remaining four-petalled flowers and the aroma gave it away.

Joe was a fount of knowledge, fitness and patience as we climbed ever higher. I could manage okay on the level sections, but steep bits became more challenging and I was frustrated at not being able to recall all those new names. (Note to self #1: wear proper hiking pants and more 30+ if you ever attempt this again.) When we got to the last big climb before the summit, it was late and I was wrecked. 'We can have our lunch here and head back down again,' Joe suggested. 'Let's have our lunch and then decide,' I replied, thinking, 'There is no way I'm going to have made it this far and not get to the top.' After a break, I left my pack, climbed the last hard bit and beckoned Joe to follow. We both made it to the breathtaking vistas of the Kiewa Valley and vast swathes of silvery snow gums, *Eucalyptus pauciflora*, burnt in past fires but now regrowing grey-green. There, with us at the top, were all those young chaps who had easily raced past us on the way up. It was sweet.

Birdlife wasn't diverse, but we watched, and were watched, all the way. A lovely orange-breasted flame robin cheered us along at the start of the journey, then grey fantails took

up the cause. Australian or, far less often, little ravens were almost always in sight, as were little brown Richard's pipits, especially on our way down. A grey goshawk hovered overhead near the summit, and we could hear distant calls of yellow-tailed black cockatoos and see them flying afar.

I paused to watch a 7 cm baby copperhead snake go quietly about its business as I started back down the razorback, but I was too tired to pull out the camera to take a picture of a big black, probable mouse spider (*Missulena* sp) further down the track. We were overdue back at base camp but not worried as we had plenty of light left and the weather was fine. Unbeknown to me, Chris Clarke had stalked from a distance with his 500 mm lens as I slowly made my way back along the track, so no one else was worried either when we arrived three hours late. (Note to self #2: take another bottle of water next time. I didn't run out until the last kilometre, but those quickly drunk three glasses of cold water tasted awfully good when we got back to the lodge.)

Thank you, Joe and everyone else, for being such a knowledgeable and pleasant group of travelling companions. It was a beautiful day and a lovely four-day excursion. It's hard to think when learning has been so much fun.

## Behind the Scenes at Melbourne Zoo and Royal Park

Saturday 25 March 2017

by Lyn Blackburne

A group of 20 Friends met Chloe Foster, Nursery Technician at Melbourne Zoo, at the Main Gate entrance. As we headed to the Zoo's plant nursery, it was extremely difficult to resist the urge to stop and admire the elegant giraffes and many other animals. At the nursery, Chloe explained the very involved process for providing the food source for the butterfly larvae and the Lord Howe Island stick insects. We learnt about the plant regeneration process after larval feeding, the intricacies of pest control and the need to ensure that the appropriate food source is available at the right time.

We then entered the Butterfly House, where everyone was spellbound by the colour, size and shape of these beautiful invertebrates. We took many photos and were then firmly moved along as we had a schedule to follow!

The next stop was the glasshouse, where the larvae were munching away on the plants that Chloe and her colleague had prepared for them. We had another very informative talk as we viewed larvae of various shapes and sizes, including in the pupal stage. The pupae are placed in enclosures until the butterflies emerge, they are then released into the Butterfly House.

We were very fortunate to see the Zoo's breeding program for the Lord Howe Island stick insect, which was assumed extinct. The zoo staff involved in this program spoke to us about their work, and we viewed the life cycle from the eggs to the adults.



Cranbourne Friends at the Butterfly House, Melbourne Zoo. Photo: Gwen Elliot

Following our zoo visit, we met Kaye Oddie from the Friends of Royal Park. Before heading off across Royal Park – the largest of Melbourne's inner-city parks – Kaye told us about the park's history. As we walked through Royal Park, we saw many of its unique features, such as the cairn marking the departure point for Burke and Wills' 1860 expedition. We continued across Royal Park to the Australian Native Garden, which contains many interesting plants, including extensive plantings of indigenous trees and native grasses.

The group then finished this wonderful day by visiting Trin Warren Tam-boore, the Royal Park West wetland that collects and filters water to irrigate the entire Royal Park.

## March Open House with Mariam Issa

RAW Visit to Friends

Thursday 9 March 2017

by Christine Kenyon

At the Open House, Mariam Issa – storyteller, author of *A Resilient Life: One Woman's Refugee Journey*, and founder of the RAW (Resilient Aspiring Women) Garden in Brighton – kept about 20 people spellbound. She told stories of her childhood and her family's life in the Horn of Africa and Kenya, then their arrival in Australia as refugees and how she established her community garden to bring different cultures together. Mariam is a truly inspirational woman, telling her story with humour, compassion and insight. There were many questions asked. Alex Smart had his copy of Mariam's book autographed.

On the following Sunday, six Friends hosted a similar number from the RAW community: it was, after all, the March long weekend. Over a delicious morning tea, we showed off our Elliot Centre and told of the Friends' activities and why we support the wonderful Cranbourne Gardens. Rodger Elliot and Alex regaled us with stories from the past and showed off their knowledge of the Gardens.



RAW Garden members Zoe, Sarah, Mariam Issa and Jackie on Trig Point Lookout. Photo: Christine Kenyon

Mariam, her daughter Sarah and their very own storyteller Jackie, with John and his daughter Zoe, all had interesting and entertaining life stories to tell. Alex, Wendy Smart and Rodger led a walk to Trig Point, where the difference in how each culture relates to their land and plants was very evident. Our visitors were excited to roam and explore the Australian Garden, guided by Rodger.

### Cranbourne Friends Committee

<b>President:</b> Indra Kurzeme	0408 002 026	<b>Bookings Officers</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b> Helen Kennedy	9560 0185	Marjanne Rook	9769 7881
<b>Vice President:</b> Helen Morrow	9850 9125	Ros Shepherd	5932 5611
<b>Vice President:</b> Amy Akers	0423 513 281	bookings@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	
<b>Immediate Past President:</b> Richard Clarke	5974 1750	<b>Events Sub Committee</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b> Karen Russell	9878 4857	Rodger Elliot, Coordinator	Alex Smart
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Helen Morrow	9850 9125	Amy Akers	Barrie Gallacher
<b>RBGV Representative:</b> Chris Russell	5990 2200	Lyn Blackburne	Barbara Jeffrey
<b>General Committee</b>		Margaret Clarke	Liz McDonald
Margaret Clarke	5974 1750	Richard Clarke	Marjanne Rook
Rodger Elliot	8774 2483	Chloe Foster	Ros Shepherd
Chloe Foster	9725 3569	<b>Naturelink Editor:</b> Ashley Michailaros	0408 949 914
Christine Kenyon	9589 2154	naturelink@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	
Marjanne Rook	9769 7881	<b>Quicklink Editor:</b> Chloe Foster	9725 3569
Roger Watts	0409 857 664	<b>Social Media Convenor:</b> Amy Akers	0423 513 281
		The General Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at 6.30pm.	



## GROWING FRIENDS WINTER PLANT SALE

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July 2017

10am to 4pm both days

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria - Cranbourne

Plant list will be available on our website one week prior at: [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

