

NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and learn, the peoples of the Kulin (Koolin) Nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria,
Inc. 1000 Ballarto Road, Cranbourne Victoria 3977
Inc no. A0025281B, ABN 43 551 008 609
Web address: www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Banksia 'Yellow Wing', Future Garden by Amy Akers. *Banksia* "Yellow Wing" is a cultivar with parents, *Banksia* 'Giant Candles' and a yellow-flowered selection of *Banksia spinulosa* var. *collina* from Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland.

Upcoming events for your diary

Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 October 2025

10am to 4pm, at the Australian Garden.

Plant lists are available one week before the sale, on our website:

rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria





**Growing Friends
Spring Plant Sale**
**Saturday 11 &
Sunday 12
October 2025**
10am to 4pm
**Australian Garden -
Cranbourne**
Come along and select from a wide
range of plants many of which you
will find in the Australian Garden.
Border plants, climbers, grasses, ground-
covers, small, med & large bushes, strappy-
leaf plants, trees, plants for wildlife.
Plant-list available 2 weeks before sale:
www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au
[f rbgfriendscranbourne](https://www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscranbourne)
Eftpos available

Events Planning Day for 2026

Sunday 21 September, in the Auditorium at Cranbourne
at 2pm.

Do you have ideas about activities, trips or workshops that the Cranbourne Friends could offer in 2026? Are you interested in getting involved in organising an activity or tour? Members are invited to attend, to enjoy the pooling of ideas and the sharing of talk. Afternoon tea will follow.



Annual General Meeting 2025

Sunday 9 November 1.30pm, in the Auditorium at Cranbourne.

All members are warmly invited to attend this meeting. As well as the normal business of the AGM, a wonderful speaker has been booked who will be talking to us about koalas at Cranbourne Gardens. Afternoon tea will follow. Papers will be sent out by email.

Open House talk and Christmas afternoon tea

Thursday 11 December 2pm

Open House speaker: staff member Tricia Stewart on the current Wylie's Creek restoration project. It has been federally funded and a staff member has now been appointed to the project. The free Open House talk will be followed by Christmas celebrations for Friends members!



Volunteering and involvement in our Gardens

Love the Gardens? Passionate about the bushland? Use your enthusiasm and skills to get involved in your Gardens and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts.

The Cranbourne Friends group works in support of the RGBV, fostering appreciation for Australian native flora. The funds raised through our efforts contribute to essential projects aimed at enhancing offerings within the RGBV Cranbourne Gardens and surrounding bushland.

Joining us as an active volunteer could provide you with a new sense of purpose and numerous opportunities for sharing, growth, and learning. For example, getting involved with a committee allows you to offer your ideas and participate, and to contribute your leadership, writing, graphic design and/or technical skills. Committee members have fun together, get to know people and are enriched by their involvement.

The Committee needs more members as several positions are not filled at present, and everyone on the committee is also busy with other matters. The Committee is an important element of the Friends organisation – we are required to manage the money raised by plant sales and events which is given to fund projects suggested by the Gardens management. You will see in this magazine that this year we are funding a concept plan for the Kids' Backyard Precinct Redesign and the renovation and expansion of some parts of the Gardens Nursery.

We also arrange events that attract people to visit the Cranbourne Gardens, like the Banksia Festival, and guide the Friends towards a positive future by ensuring that we attract new members. If you are interested in joining the Committee please contact Secretary and Acting-President Rosemary Miller by email: rrm001@bigpond.net.au.

Making new friends

If you are new to the area you can make new friends by attending our weekend workshops and talks, or taking up one of our Special Interest Group activities:

- Nurturing plants in the Growing Friends nursery
- Joining the gardening team in the Australian Garden (FIGS)
- Learn about plants native to Cranbourne with the Herbarium Collectors - see page 12
- Participating in an artistic special interest group that focusses on an activity like photography, illustration or fabric craft. These groups meet at different times of the week, but we have our own "club room" – the Elliot Centre.

For example, our new revitalised Weaving group meets at the Elliot centre on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Find out more about our Special Interest Groups and how to contact them in this magazine.

Group members learn from each other, enjoy each other's company, and raise funds for the Gardens, while all having fun together

March 2025 – the FIGs group out on the Red Sand Garden getting involved. Photo B. Jones

Reimagining the Heart of the Australian Garden

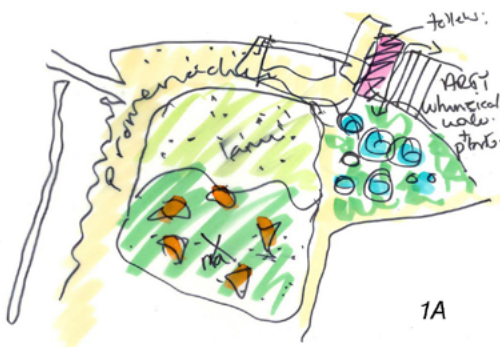
RBGV embarks on a journey to revitalise the Kids' Backyard and Rockpool Waterway

Thanks to the generous support of the Cranbourne Friends, RBGV has embarked on a reimagining of the 'Kids' Backyard' and 'Rockpool Waterway' areas that sit at the heart of Cranbourne's Australian Garden.

The design is a collaborative project between RBGV Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw and TCL, the landscape architecture firm who have worked with us for more than 20 years as the original designers of the Australian Garden. The brief was to create immersive, natural, relaxed spaces for a range of active and passive uses. Places that encourage people to gather, dwell, and connect with their environment while enabling opportunities for events, learning, play, and connection.

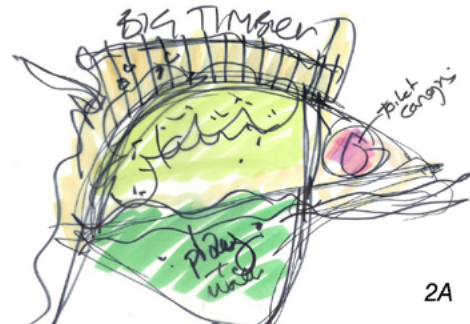
4.0 CONCEPT SKETCH OPTIONS

TPOLOGY 1 - SHADY LAWN & PLAYFUL GARDENS



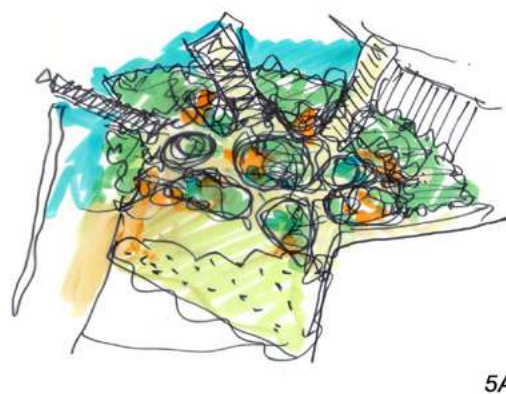
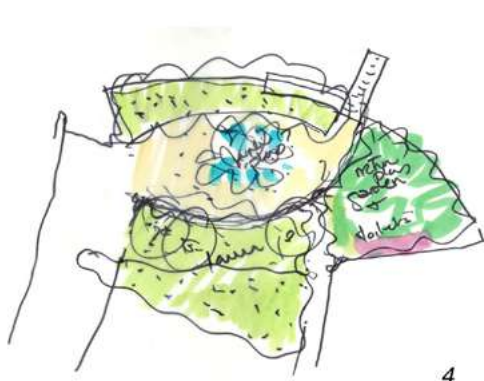
4.0 CONCEPT SKETCH OPTIONS

TPOLOGY 2 - WATERFRONT PARK



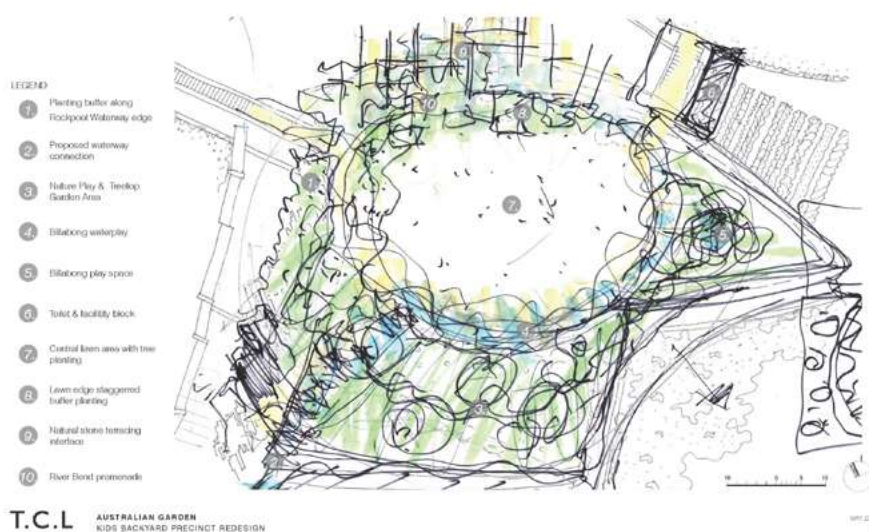
The project has included a detailed site appraisal, extensive staff consultation, and the development of several concept options. The appraisal mapped existing features, movement patterns, grading, and services. Key elements to be retained include the Waterhole Bridge, Escarpment Wall, Rockpool Waterway, Angophora Grove, and River Bend Promenade. Views and outlooks were recorded to highlight visual connections to water and the surrounding landscape. Existing access points, desire lines, and maintenance requirements were also identified to ensure seamless integration with the broader Australian Garden.

The consultation phase, led by TCL and RBGV staff, helped refine the design brief and clarify priorities. Staff recognised the strengths of the current site—particularly its naturalistic character and strong relationship with water—while identifying the need to replace dated play equipment and increase shaded areas. The vision is for a nature-based, intergenerational play and learning environment that is distinctly Australian. Key audiences include families with young children, school groups, and casual visitors. Priorities include accessible water play, shaded lawn areas, natural play structures, strong planting character, and connection to the wider landscape.



Early concept typologies explored a variety of approaches, from shady lawns and garden play spaces to water-oriented designs such as ‘Waterfront Park’ and ‘Garden on the Water.’ The preferred direction, developed with Andrew Laidlaw, is ‘The Billabong’—a central water play and nature play area connected to the Rockpool Waterway, framed by planting buffers, terraced stone edges, and shaded lawns. The layout strengthens the relationship between water, play, and habitat while preserving key sightlines.

4.0 INITIAL SKETCH TCL WITH ANDREW LAIDLAW -THE BILLABONG



The process to date has delivered several concept options, which RBGV is currently reviewing through cross-divisional consultation. Final design options are expected in spring, with the intent to incorporate the outcome into our updated Cranbourne Masterplan—a key focus project for the organisation.

Illustrations are from the Site Appraisal document presented to RBGV by TCL and are working sketches only. Final design options are to come and will need RBGV Board approval.

Acting President's report

Rosemary Miller

By the time of publication, the Australian Garden will be full of plants in flower, including some native orchids if they have managed to escape the depredations of the occasional Swamp Wallaby.

We can look forward to the redevelopment of the "How to" Garden which is in its final design stages and will be completed over spring and summer. It will be a beautiful area when completed. Cranbourne Gardens are now fortunately able to make use of the talents of landscape designer Andrew Laidlaw.

Another area of the Gardens which might be redesigned is the Rockpool Waterway and Kids' Backyard area. The Cranbourne Friends have funded the development of the concept plan for this area led by landscape architects from TCL. See Tim Sansom's report on page 4 for more information.

Another reason for optimism is that, finally, the roundabout in the South Gippsland Highway has been completed and accessing RBG Cranbourne will again be straightforward from this major route.

I spent a pleasant Saturday recently at the Mornington Peninsula APS group's Epacrid seminar. It was heartening to see a strong representation of Cranbourne Friends in the audience and the Friends' Illustrators and Fabricators (Savvy Stitchers) presenting their beautiful artwork and craft items. These works, which were designed around the seminar theme, were greatly appreciated by the seminar participants, and many items were sold.

The Cranbourne Friends' Banksia Festival, from 16 to 24 August was truly a triumph. This momentous event started off really well, with fascinating talks in the Tarnuk

Room, given by: Professor David Cantrill, who spoke on the fossil history and origins of the *Banksia* species; Kevin and Kathy Collins, who are experts on growing the many *Banksia* species from Western Australia and elsewhere in the country; and in the afternoon, author Dr Inga Simpson, who discussed the use of Banksia images in Australian literature. These talks were recorded by our tech guru Tim Morrow, and are expected to be made available online to Friends soon.

Downstairs, a beautiful art and handcraft exhibition was mounted in the Auditorium, basketry and photos were on display in the Visitors Centre, banksia plants were in major demand at the under-croft plant sale, and Banksia-focussed tours of the Australian Garden and the Special Collections were popular.

The Event and Festival teams, led by Mick Robertson, did a wonderful job in getting ready for the Banksia Festival, particularly Paul Sierakowski who grew a large number of Banksia plants on behalf of Growing Friends. All those who were involved in turning the Auditorium into a showcase of creativity are to be commended because it looked absolutely beautiful (see picture). Considerable cooperation was extended to the Friends by RBGV staff members to assist in ensuring the Festival went well.

What nature can bring to our lives is also being celebrated this spring through two Nature Journaling activities hosted by the Botanical Weaving group, led by ecologist and artist Dr Paula Peeters - a leading light in her field in Australia. As well as an "Introduction to Nature Journaling", she is offering a specialised immersive program on "How to Teach Nature Journaling".



Friend Quiz 21

Charles Young

This is our “coming of age” quiz, so we will look back a little – then forward to more happy times learning about our native plants.

Q1. We met *Xanthosia rotundifolia*, Southern Cross, back in Quiz 1. The question today is: What is the origin of the generic name *Xanthosia*?



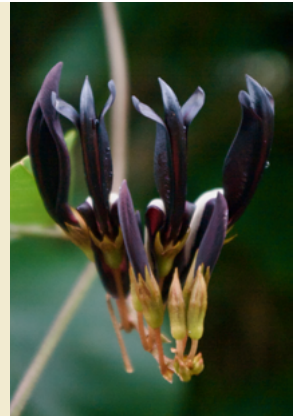
Q2. In Quiz 11, we learned that *Corymbia ficifolia* has *Ficus*- or Fig-like leaves (*L. folium*). Which begs the question: which fig(s)? (the cultivar ‘Baby Scarlet’ is shown).



Q3. This is *Diuris conspicillata* or Spectacled Donkey Orchid, endemic to coastal southwestern Western Australia. What are the two scientific names referring to? Why is it called a Donkey orchid?



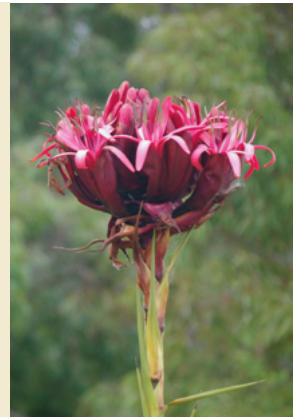
Q4. This plant, in a genus named after Scottish nurseryman John Kennedy, is notable for its black flowers (the cultivar ‘Minstrel’ is shown). What are the common and scientific names of this plant?



Q5. These are the flowers of *Conospermum eatoniae*, from Western Australia. What is the origin of the name *Conospermum* and what is the common name given to plants in this genus?



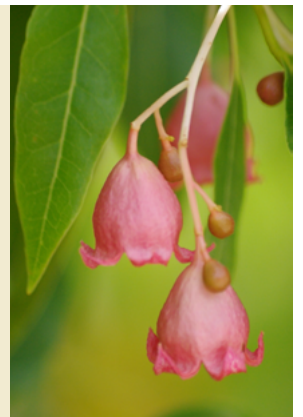
Q6. There are only two species in the genus *Doryanthes*. What are they (scientific and common names) and which one is shown in the image?



Q7. The seeds and flower colour of Native Frangipani inspired its scientific name. What is that name and how many species are in the genus?



Q8. This natural cross of *Brachychiton populneus* and *B. acerifolius* is named after the Riverina town where it was found. What is the cultivar name and where would you find the original tree?



Friend in Focus

Photography group meets
2nd Saturday of the month, Elliot Centre.

2pm, April to September
(9.30am, October to March). Come along



Verticordia staminosa subsp. *cylindracea* by Peter Williamson



Callistemon Sweet Burst by Peter Williamson



Hakea clavata by Peter Williamson



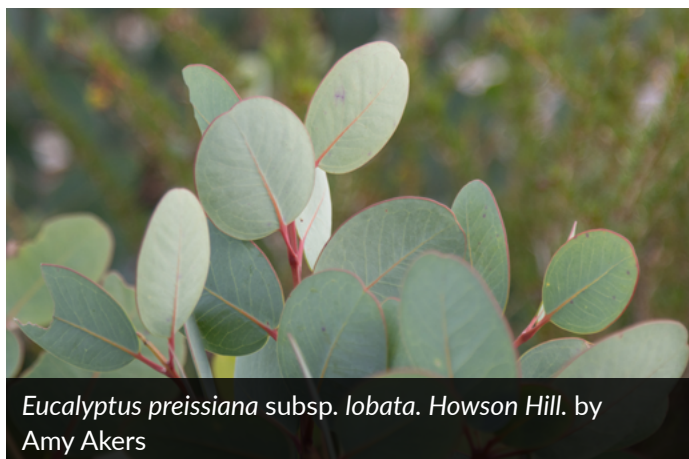
Bottle tree *Brachychiton rupestris*.
Weird and Wonderful Garden. by
Judith Cooke



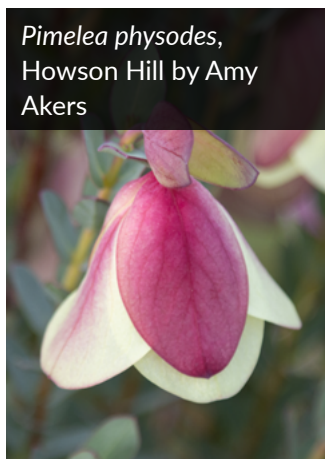
Qualup bell *Pimelea physodes*. Howson Hill by Judith Cooke



Conostylis bealiana. by Judith Cooke



Eucalyptus preissiana subsp. *lobata*. Howson Hill. by
Amy Akers



Pimelea physodes,
Howson Hill by Amy
Akers



Banksia menziesii,
Stringybark Garden by
Amy Akers

Early Spring Warning/ Reminder

Dennise Rossetti, FIGS member

As I contemplated what I would write about for Naturelink an event happened which reminded me that, all too often, although we see warnings, we decide that they don't really relate to us or presume "that it won't happen".

Mulching/composting are normal gardening tasks. I have enjoyed assisting the FIGS to reinvigorate the rear of the dunes in the Red Sand Garden. My hubby and I had been re-mulching a large portion of our own garden. I love nothing better than seeing my home garden at its best.

Within 4 days of finishing our home garden I began to feel like I was coming down with the flu. Within 9 days I was at Casey ED on oxygen, with 90% of my left lung full of pneumonia.

I was transferred to St John of God Hospital and spent 8 days not eating, sleeping, on constant antibiotics, having constant blood tests and CCT's, and finally on the 9th day, the lung specialist decided I had to have a Bronchoscopy to get a biopsy and flush the lung. The issue - my symptoms were a-typical.

After the Bronchoscopy, the specialist informed me that they had sent the biopsy off but he was confident that my pneumonia had been caused by mulch/soil and that I had *Legionella Longbeachae*!
Well – that blew my mind!

I had to stay another three days until I had received the required number of antibiotic infusions and then I was allowed home but with strict instructions that it will be a six -week recovery period.

So, this is my message: "It can happen" and I am fortunate that I have no underlying health issues. So please take care when around mulch, compost and soils. Think about your health and consider wearing a mask. It may seem "overkill" but believe me it isn't.

Comment from Committee - Please follow advice on protection when dealing with potting mixes, mulch and soil.



Join Friends in the Garden

FIGS meets outside the Visitors Centre on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month for a 9.30 am start.

Contact: Christine Kenyon

Email: figs@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Phone: 0438345589

The FIGs group, with Mathieu Lascostes, spruce up the garden beds near the entrance to the car park.

Growing Friends

Marjanne Rook

growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Spring Plant Sale – a wonderful time for planting after the cold of winter.

The Growing Friends plant sale will be on 11 and 12 October from 10.00 – 4.00 around the kiosk where, after your plant shopping, you can relax with a cup of coffee. If you want to avoid the Saturday morning business, our nursery is open to Members every Thursday from 10.00 – 2.00 - except the Thursday before the Plant-sale - Thursday, 9 October 2025.



Sannantha pluriflora – also known as *Baeckea virgata* and once upon a time as *Camphoromyrtus pluriflora*. *Sannantha* after Sanna Wilson, wife of New South Wales botanist Peter Wilson who chose the name for the genus. *Pluriflora* – is from the Latin '*pluri*' meaning 'many' and '*flora*' 'flowers' – referring to the large number of flowers produced by this species. Commonly known as the Tall Baeckea. It is endemic to SE Australia, where it occurs on the coast and nearby tablelands, generally growing on deep, sandy soils, in full sun to part shade. It is an attractive plant, suitable as a screening shrub or low wind-break, and can be pruned into a small tree. Masses of white flowers in summer attract a range of bees and other insects.



We are also selling a number of species of the genus ***Calothamnus***. *Calothamnus* for the Greek words '*kalos*' – 'beautiful' and *thamnus* '*thamnos*' meaning 'a shrub or bush'. Common names can be One-sided Bottlebrush or Claw Flower which are given to some species due to the flowers clustered on one side of the stem or because of the claw-like appearance of their flowers. They are generally medium to tall shrubs and sometimes a low growing groundcover. They have needle-like leaves and the usually bright-red, dense clusters of flowers through spring and summer attract many birds. Most species prefer an open, sunny position and well-drained soils.



Our special plant will be ***Platycterium bifurcatum*** or what is commonly known as the Elkhorn Fern. The name comes from Greek '*platys*' meaning 'broad or flat' and *keris*, 'horn' and Latin '*bifurcatum*', to fork or divide twice. An Elkhorn Fern is an epiphytic fern growing on the trunks and branches of trees.

The fern grows from a collection of plantlets (a bit like the 'hen and chicken method'), which attach to the host tree. Each of these smaller plants has a central nest frond, and this central nest sends out long antler shaped fronds. The plant can become quite large as it grows new plantlets. They need a shady spot and like to be kept moist. They are not frost-hardy.

Our young Elkhorns are ready to hang and are mounted on slices of fern-tree rounds or on a rectangle of marine plywood. Prices start at \$35.00.

Botanic Illustrators report – by Kerryyn Robinson



The Botanic Illustrators have welcomed several new members to our group. No doubt their knowledge and skills will enhance those of our current members, who continue working towards long-term, ongoing projects that include contributions to the Cranbourne Collection, and exhibitions. During the winter months members of the Botanic Illustrators group were finalising artworks for exhibitions to be held in August.

In early August, they supported the Australian Plant Society FJC Rogers Seminar entitled The Epacrids. Eight of our members worked for nearly three years on artworks depicting members from the family *Ericaceae*, subfamily *Epacridoidea*. Methods included linocut prints, pencils, graphite and watercolours. Techniques taken from historical and traditional botanic illustration were used to depict several of the Genera from this very large botanic subfamily, which also includes the Victorian state floral emblem, *Epacris impressa*. As the epacrid flowers are only at their best for a very brief period, often the painting of a particular genera may take over a year so that a full life-cycle is captured. Comments made by the seminar participants were positive and complimentary of the artwork presented, and demonstrated an appreciation of the work involved and time taken for the completion of each piece.

Five of the works sold. Two of these pictures were presented to the organiser of the Seminar and her secretary. The cards, which are miniature reproductions of the featured artworks, continued to prove popular, with the exhibition participants purchasing a good selection. Money from the sale of these cards contributes to the ongoing support our Friends Group provides to the Gardens.

Illustrations: Jan Maslen, *Epacris longiflora* x *reclinata* 'Pan Pipes', watercolour.
Kerryyn Robinson, *Styphelia foliosa*, coloured pencil.



Botanic Illustrators

Details

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10am to 3pm, in the Elliot Centre

Contact

Margaret Kitchen
0413 664 295

illustrators @
rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Photos: Kerryyn Robinson (L)
and Margaret Kitchen at the
Epacrids Seminar



Announcement

Savvy Stitchers (previously Fabricators)

At the recent FJC Rogers Seminar on Epacrids, held at Mornington, it was pleasing to see many of our items selling, sewn with fabrics depicting Epacrids. We had been building up their supply for some time. Our sales totalled \$307. Because our prices are very reasonable, that was quite a turnover of goods.

We were grateful that our two requested trestles were ready for us on arrival, just leaving us to search for a power point to keep the Eftpos machine charged. Luckily, our extension cord reached the adjoining kitchen.

For August, we will continue displaying the Botanical Fabricators placard, even though we are now called Savvy Stitchers. With so much previous planning and correspondence, regarding the Banksia and Epacrid events, it might cause confusion to refer to our new name. We really enjoyed displaying our wares on the Banksia weekends.

Join Us

Savvy Stitchers
(previously Fabricators)

Date:

Meet 2nd Tuesday of the month,
at 10:00am.

Location:

The Elliot Centre

Contact:

Jenny Rollason, ph 5998 2457

Email:

rickrollason1@bigpond.com

Photo: Bev Williamson and Jenny
Rollason at the FJC Rogers Seminar.

Herbarium Collectors

Learn more about plants native to the Cranbourne bushland with the Herbarium Collectors and help them finalise their huge and vital collection.

The team meets on the first Monday of the month.

If you are interested in assisting the team, please contact Nola Foster.
Email: nola.foster@gmail.com.



Botanical Weaving, Artist Profile – Gail Rossi

Tess Holderness

A diverse range of works by textile artist and weaver Gail Rossi (at right) recently featured in a solo exhibition at Lemon Hill Gallery, East Gippsland. Some pieces also appeared in the Botanical Weaving display at Cranbourne Gardens Visitor Centre during Banksia Week.

Gail is a member of the Cranbourne Friends' Botanical Weaving Group, which meets monthly to explore weaving, basketry and fibre arts. "It's valuable to be able to connect with like-minded people, to discuss ideas. Our styles can be quite different so it's interesting to see what others are working on. People are happy to their share knowledge and resources, and offer support for each other," she said.

She also belongs to Basketmakers of Victoria and experiments in her own studio as part of her personal practice. Although she has worked with textiles since her teens, it was during COVID that she first explored weaving, through an online course with an Indigenous weaver – a 'gateway' into working with plants and natural materials.

With a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management and a later degree in Environmental Sciences, Gail worked for Melbourne Water and on plant surveys in the Northern Territory, where she also learned about Indigenous uses of native plants.

Now living on the Mornington Peninsula, she draws inspiration from her garden. "I enjoy working with native plant fibres like

Lomandra and Dianella, and I'm currently exploring native grasses ... but I also like things like Rhubarb, which retains a lovely burgundy colour, and Arum Lily, which is so soft and pliable to work with," she explains. "Experimentation has been the key for me – that's how I tend to learn, including from all the mistakes! I try not to be too prescriptive – starting with a basic idea but also letting the materials guide the creation as it takes shape. It doesn't have to be perfect – slight imperfections are what can make a piece truly unique," Gail points out.

An advocate for being 'waste wise', she prefers to repair rather than discard, upcycling textiles and weaving in plant fibres, even weeds. "I like to interweave different materials, to create something new. It can be good to bend the rules a bit. It's about finding your own form of creative expression," she reflects.

Gail's personal exploration of her craft has now given her the confidence to guide new members of the Cranbourne group.

To find out more about the Botanical Weaving group, please contact weaving@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



Join Us

Botanical Weavers

Details:

Meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at the Elliot Centre.

One group meets from 10.00 to 12.30, and a second group meets from 1.30 to 4.00.

Contact:

Tess Holderness,
0412 195 283

Email:

weaving@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

All photos: Tess Holderness

Raising Rarity event at Sale Botanic Gardens

Heather Harrington

Friends of Sale Botanic Gardens had the privilege of participating in a variety of activities during Botanic Gardens' week including an excellent presentation on **Raising Rarity** with Dr Meg Hirst (Seed Ecologist at RBGV) and Tash Van Velzen (a senior horticulturalist also at RBGV), at Nakunbalook, Cutural and Environmental Centre, Sale.

Raising Rarity is a collaborative project helping to conserve the much loved Grey Billy-Button *Craspedia canens*, a unique and threatened plant species.

Students from Loch Sport and Rosedale primary schools have been learning more about Raising Rarity and how they can support local biodiversity. It was wonderful to share this experience with them during BGANZ week.

This inspiring program is bringing together science, education and horticulture through community involvement with our local schools.

It was a special 'Ah ha' moment when the students realised the threatened plant species, Grey Billy-Buttons, *Craspedia canens*, they were planting, were grown from the seeds they had collected at school!

Learn more about this wonderful initiative through the RBGV website. www.rbg.vic.gov.au

Thank you to Heather Harrington for providing this report to Naturelink about Botanic Gardens Week at Sale in 2025. Heather is the President of the Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens and an accomplished floral artist; she recently demonstrated floral art at the Banksia Festival at Cranbourne.



Photo: Students planting at the Sale Botanic Gardens. Heather Harrington.



Ellis Rowan Presentation, by Stephen Ryan - July 2025

Julie Thompson

Sunday July the 13th started as a very gusty cloudy day. Meeting Stephen for the first time was a breath of fresh air and he filled the room with sunshine. It was a packed house and so lovely to see so many in attendance. Thank you for supporting this event.

Stephen spoke on his project to erect a statue of one of Australia's most renowned female artists, writer, plant hunter and explorer for over 50 years. Marion Ellis Rowan lived from the 1800's to the early 20th Century. She was born in a time where woman's accomplishments were not very well recognised. Stephen hopes to try to rectify this, by publicising her extensive contributions to the cataloguing of Australia's flora and fauna through her lifelong association with Ferdinand Von Mueller and the Royal Botanical Gardens Melbourne. Ellis Rowan was also an internationally-renowned artist, painting some 3,000 works that reflected her exploration of Australia. Queen Victoria had some of her paintings in her personal collection.

Ellis Rowan always dressed impeccably in her Victorian dresses and hats whether she was in the jungles of New Guinea or at a dinner party. Quirky yes, a true story that would fit well into any girls own annual of the time or even now for that matter.

The statue will be set in the grounds of the Mount Macedon Horticultural Society and will be a 1.25 x life size bronze. It has been commissioned and sculptor Jenny Mann will be responsible for its creation. The statue will become a lasting legacy of Ellis work and contribution to Australian Women in Australian history.

If this article has left you wanting to donate and learn more about this very worthwhile project, Stephen Ryan as President of the Macedon Horticultural Society, would be delighted to receive any kind gesture that you could make. Visit the page below for more information:

<https://www.mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au/calendar>

All Ellis Rowan's paintings courtesy of The National Library of Australia.

Nelumbo nucifera
Gaertn, family
Nelumbonaceae,
Herbert River,
Queensland, 1887
[picture] / Ellis Rowan

Erythrina variegata L.
syn. *Erythrina indica*
var. *phlebocarpa*
(Bailey) Domin, family
Fabaceae, ca. 1886
[picture] / Ellis Rowan

Swainsona formosa
(G.Don) Joy Thomps.
syn. *Willdampia*
formosa (G.Don)
A.S.George, family
Fabaceae [picture] /
Ellis Rowan

Answers to Friend Quiz 21 on page 7

A1. Popular interpretations invoke yellow flowers or hairs but Edward Rudge stated: "Nomen a ξανθος flavus [xanthos yellow]. This plant [X. pilosa] when immersed in warm water changes it to a yellow colour."

A2. Certainly not the edible, bowdlerizing *Ficus carica* with its palmate leaves! von Mueller identified them as "the series [sic] of rubber figs (*Ficus elastica*). The allusion is to the similar general shape, drip tip, petiole and parallel venation of the plants' leaves.

A3. *Diuris* "two-tails" refers to the hanging sepals whereas "donkey orchid" refers to the ear-like upper petals. This species is named for the spectacle-like markings on the labellum, from New Latin *conspicillum* "spectacles."

A4. This is *Kennedia nigricans* or Black Coral Pea. The specific epithet is Latin for "blackish." Kennedy provided the seeds of the plants grown to establish the genus.

A5. *Conospermum* was derived from the Greek words *konos* "cone" + *sperma* "seed," in allusion to the shape of the nut in some species. The common name is Smokebush.

A6. Species are *Doryanthes excelsa* (Gynea Lily, image) and *D. palmeri* (Spear Lily). *Doryanthes* is derived from Greek *doru* "spear" + *anthos* "flower," alluding to the flower stalk of *D. excelsa* (flowered from a cut stalk brought to England from Australia!).

A7. This is *Hymenoporum flavum*, named from Greek *humen* "membrane" + *spora* "seed," for the membranous wing around the seed, and Latin *flavum* "yellow," the flower colour. This is the only species in the genus.

A8. This is *Brachychiton* 'Jerilderie Red,' from Jerilderie, N.S.W. You won't find it there anymore as it has been unceremoniously cut down! Two specimens are growing in the Water Saving Garden.

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