



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

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Naturelink

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

Water & Water Treatment Discovery Day

Tuesday 20 March
at 10.30 am

Richard Clarke

Highlights

in this issue

Australian Garden Update 3



Spiranthes australis 15



In May 2017, the State Government awarded the RBGV a grant of A\$6.96 million to deliver a drought- proof, secure and protected irrigation water supply at both Cranbourne and Melbourne that will enable them to become fully independent of the potable water supply. This discovery day is to provide Cranbourne Friends with a background on two relevant projects which are reliant on recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant and as a preview, to learn about what has to be achieved so that Gardens, Nurseries and in particular Australian native plants, can safely use recycled water. (The Australian Garden will be taking a feed from recycled water emanating from the Eastern Treatment Plant, but the Gardens project is currently only in the design stages).

Starting at 10.30 am, we will visit Australian EcoSystems (Melway 98 D6) and nursery (pictured). Australian EcoSystems offer a range of services including plant supply, landscape construction, storm water treatment, wetlands management and revegetation. One of their projects was the total landscaping and plant supply for the Wonthaggi Desalination plant, which several groups of Friends have already visited. For this complex project, they supplied 3.2 million plants, 100,000 cubic metres of mulch and 5 hectares of jute matting.

We will then drive a short distance for lunch at our afternoon visit, the Bunurong Memorial Park which, understandably, is



Australian Ecosystems Nursery



Bunurong Memorial park

not perhaps a top priority on a 'must see' list of places to visit. While the Memorial Park has been in operation for a number of years, many new buildings have recently been added. Notable, in the Memorial Park is the use of Australian native plants and water as well as its inspirational design, which draws significantly on the Australian Garden design.

Details about lunch etc. will be sent to those making a booking.

Annual Friends Luncheon

Saturday 21 April
2018

Tarnuk Room
Australian Garden

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

Have not booked for our popular annual Cranbourne Friends Lunch? It is now time to do so as bookings close soon.

Come, mingle and chat with your friends and other like-minded people, to enjoy a delicious three-course lunch, while overlooking the Red Sand Garden. Our Master of Ceremonies for the event is one of our favourite members, Alex Smart, who will no doubt ensure that we all have an enjoyable time together. The popular silent auction and raffle will also be highlights of this event.

We are privileged to have Anna Foley, Regional Operations Managers for Trust for Nature, as our guest speaker.

Anna is the State-wide Co-ordinator for Trust for Nature's regional teams which work with

landowners and volunteers to protect and conserve a network of private conservation reserves and covenanted land, totalling nearly 100,000 hectares across Victoria. (See Luncheon Insert)

We look forward to seeing you at this very special annual event.

Saturday, 21st April 2018
11.30 am for 12 noon start
\$65 per head

Bookings Close 11th April

Contact:
Richard Clarke for bookings information only
5974 1750, richard@theclarkes.biz

Barbara Jeffrey about other enquiries
0408 564 379, bajeffrey@westnet.com.au

Acting Director's Report

Ricardo Simao



I love it when a plan comes together, whether by design, hard work, serendipity - or a combination of all of these!

The Cranbourne Gardens Master Plan: Connecting Through Nature and Community 2016-2026, whilst a great guide, contains some aspirations that are not entirely within the control of the RBGV. Progressing some of the ideas requires significant support and direction from other government agencies and/or other interested groups.

Casey Integrated Transport Strategy

One of the key priorities of the plan is to "provide connection to public transport hubs". During 2017, the City of Casey commenced work on drafting an Integrated Transport Strategy to replace its 2008 Transport Strategy. It was very pleasing for us to be invited to have direct input into the process. The strategy was endorsed by Council at its 19th December meeting. The next step will be to hold stakeholder workshops in February 2018 (which will again include RBGV representation) to identify key priorities for the strategy action plan, and from that, key actions will be prepared for State government funding opportunities. So hopefully in the not-too-distant future, we will see more visitors using more sustainable modes of transport, which is of benefit to all!

Entry Precinct Improvements

Thanks to recent, very generous donations by the Cranbourne Friends, our front entry precinct has received some landscape improvements through the removal of a stand of mature radiata pine trees along Ballarto Road (*Pinus radiata* is listed as an environmental weed by the City of Casey's Weed Identification Guide), and the reinstatement of the sculptural main logo sign just inside the main gates. A conservation plan for the area (known as the 'The Front Block') identifies its conservation values and the adverse impact caused by the trees and calls for their removal, to be followed by remedial and rehabilitation works to improve biodiversity. This sentiment was reinforced more recently during the development of the Master Plan - and so removing the trees became one of the urgent goals. Nearby residents had also voiced their concerns about the trees - fire risk, health (allergies) and the impact of needles and pollen on infrastructure and other assets (solar panels, gutters, vehicles, etc.).

Water is life (and life is sustained and enriched by plants!)

As actor Kevin Costner said in a movie: "If you build it, they will come", so if you plan it, it will happen. This seems to hold true. Establishing recycled water as the primary source of water for irrigation is another goal in the Master Plan. Keep in mind that the plan was published in November 2016 and although RBGV had repeatedly (but unsuccessfully) applied for



Steven Liu picking up floating aquatic vegetation in the new amphibious harvester machine in the Ornamental Lake at Melbourne Gardens
Photo: Ricardo Simao



Will Jones, Michael McNabb and Steven Liu pruning the Floating Treatment Wetland vegetation in Guilfoyle's Volcano at Melbourne Gardens. Photo: Ricardo Simao

funding for a number of years, it was not until May 2017 that the State government announced an allocation in the budget for this project (surely a perfect demonstration of design, hard work and serendipity coming together!). The Cranbourne approach for securing a sustainable water supply for irrigation of our precious plant collections is different from that of Melbourne Gardens. At Melbourne, stormwater is harvested from the surrounding roads and the Gardens itself; it goes through a natural filtration and treatment process before undergoing further ultra violet and chemical disinfection to ensure it is safe and clean to release to the landscape. Maintaining the Melbourne lakes and the floating treatment wetlands within is a full-time gig, involving lots of manual labour as well as innovative technology - as evidenced by the newly acquired Amphibious Harvester. The Cranbourne approach will be to take already treated recycled water from the Eastern Treatment Plant (the purple pipe!) and further refine the water via an onsite treatment system, to produce water that is suitable for our native plants. A consultant has been engaged to design the system and it is envisioned that construction will begin in August. All going well, the system will be operational before summer and replace approximately 35 megalitres of potable water being used per year.

Wishing you all peace, health and contentment in 2018!

Ricardo

From the President

Indra Kurzeme



Only ten more months remain of my final year as President of Cranbourne Friends; how time flies! At our Annual General Meeting in November, much to my delight a number of our past Presidents were in attendance, so I took the opportunity to corral everyone together for a photograph. All of these people have contributed to our history; I hope you get the opportunity to refresh your memories of how the Cranbourne Friends Group came about - or discover how this vibrant group was established - by purchasing Carolyn Landon's history of the Cranbourne Friends.

Cranbourne Friends is one of the most active and dedicated groups that I have ever come across. At the end of last year, I jumped at the opportunity to join the Friends to look for the terrestrial orchids *Spiranthes australis* after receiving an email from Alex Smart a mere 48 hours before. A good-sized crowd turned up on this overcast last day of 2017 to delight in and admire these tiny, fragile, exquisite hot pink orchids. The opportunity was made possible by action taken by Robin Allison to protect the orchids from 4WDs several years ago. Alex described Robin's approach as being "polite but firm". Thank goodness for Robin and her determination to protect these beautiful plants.

Two brand new committee members joined us this year: Alexandra Stalder, Membership Secretary and Janette Wilson, general committee member. We are enjoying working with them. Alexandra brings marketing and membership skills and Janette brings media experience gained while working for a publishing company.



Cranbourne Friends Presidents (from l) John Armstrong, Richard Clarke, Indra Kurzeme, Gwen Elliot, Don Jewell (Founding Pres.), Alex Smart, Rodger Elliot & Margaret Clarke. Photo: Judith Cooke

As some of you already know, there have been many changes to staff at Cranbourne Gardens over the last six months or more. We will continue to profile staff in Naturelink to ensure that you get to know these new members. Chris Russell, Director Cranbourne Gardens, continues to attend our committee meetings and updates us on Cranbourne Garden projects that ensure the continual improvement of one of the world's leading Botanic Gardens.

See you in the Gardens!

Indra

Australian Garden Update and Development with John Arnott

Tuesday 27th
March 2018,
9.30 am

Visitor Centre

Members \$15
Non Members \$20
Students \$10

Come and join this morning walk and talk event in the Australian Garden with the ever-enthusiastic Cranbourne Gardens Horticulture Manager, John Arnott. John will talk about the horticultural issues arising from the Master Plan for the Royal Botanical Gardens Cranbourne, which was released last year.

One major aim of the Plan is to improve the experience of visitors to the Gardens through creating bushland wildflower and wetland walks that start from the northern Australian Garden. These walks will highlight the beauty of flora which is indigenous to the site.

John will also talk about the Living Collection plan, with its focus on south-eastern Victorian flora, and how this will be reflected in the Australian Garden.

This event will be an ideal opportunity for you to learn first-hand how some of the ideas and initiatives from the Master Plan have been implemented or will be achieved in the Gardens over the coming years.



Red Sand Garden. Photo: Amy Akers

After this fun and informative tour with John, you might like to have lunch in the Boon Wurrung Café and chat about what you learned, with others who love our marvellous Gardens.

Please note the date has changed from that previously advertised in the Summer Naturelink

Contact:
Barbara Jeffrey

0408 564 379 or bajeffrey@westnet.com.au

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR MARCH - MAY 2018

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

MARCH

Sunday 4 Beckler's Botanical Bounty – Afternoon Talks. See page 6.

Thursday 8 Open House, Elliot Centre: Hunting Bush Foods in NSW & Qld with Nikki May. See page 7.

Wednesday 14 Botanical Illustrators Train Trip to view Beckler Botanical Project Exhibition at Art Gallery of Ballarat. See page 6.

Sat 17- Sun 18 Growing Friends Plant Sale. See page 16.

Tuesday 20 Water & Water Treatment Discovery Day. See page 1.

Tuesday 27 Talk & Walk: Australian Garden – Update & Development with John Arnott. See page 3.

APRIL

Thursday 12 Open House, Elliot Centre. Wilson Botanic Park with Ian Chisholm and Lex Nieboer. See page 7.

Wednesday 18 Botanical Illustrators sketching in the Australian Garden Free activity, booking not required. See page 11.

Saturday 21 Annual Luncheon in Tarnuk Room, Australian Garden. See page 1.

Sunday 22 Workshop: Basketry – Melon Baskets. See page 7.

Sunday 29 Workshop – Habitat Gardening. See page 7.

MAY

Tues 8 – Sun 13 Australian Textile Exhibition, Australian Garden See page 8.

Thursday 10 Open House, Elliot Centre: Polar experiences around the Svalbard Islands with Ken & Carlene Gosbell. See page 7.

Friends of RGBV Melbourne Some Events of Interest

The Shrine Reserve - Illustrated Talk

Thursday 8 March 2018, 6pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

Friends \$20
Non-members \$25
Students \$10

Who could imagine Melbourne without the Shrine? Before its construction, however, there was controversy.

Join us to discover how the architects' vision of this area as a place of pilgrimage has developed over the past 90 years.

Bookings close 2 March - book online at www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Beyond the Garden Gate - Insiders Walk

Thursday 15 March 2018, 10am

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage

Members Only \$20

Beyond the Lych gate, learn of the close relationship between the Domain Gardens and the RGBV Melbourne Gardens

Bookings close 12 March.

Art Workshop - Keeping it Simple: Painting Birds in Watercolour

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 April, 10am to 4pm

Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne

Friends \$215
Non-members \$280

Weekend Art Workshop with Nadine Dudek - artist and teacher who specialises in wildlife art especially birds

This weekend workshop aims at developing a loose style—finding the minimum number of brush strokes to produce a convincing painting with fluidity and speed.

Booking essential: Online or 03) 9650 6398.

Fantastic Friends - School Holiday Workshop

Wednesday 11 April 2018, 10am to 2.30pm

Plant Craft Cottage, RGBV Melbourne

\$7 per child

Create a 'Fantastic Friend' to take home

Using a variety of plant material including gum nuts, cones and interesting seed pods, children are invited to spend half an hour or so, creating a 'Fantastic Friend' to take home.

No bookings required.

New Zealand Study Tour - Illustrated talk by Kate Roud

Tuesday 24 April 2018, 6 for 6.30pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Friends \$20
Non-Members \$25
Students \$10

Fascinating talk on Kate's study tour in New Zealand including a field trip to Franz Josef Glacier and Okarito Lagoon.

Bookings close 20 April, online at www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Spiders eat astronomical numbers of insects!

This fascinating article appeared in the March 14, 2017 issue of Science Daily <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases>

A new study reveals some stunning estimates about just how much the world's spiders eat annually: between 400 and 800 million tons of insects, springtails, and other invertebrates. In the process, these eight-legged carnivores play an important role in keeping countless insect pests, especially in forests and grassland areas, in check. This is according to the findings of Martin Nyffeler of the University of Basel in Switzerland and Klaus Birkhofer of Lund University in Sweden and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg in Germany, which were published in Springer's journal, *The Science of Nature*.

Using data from 65 previous studies, Nyffeler and Birkhofer first estimated how many spiders are currently to be found in seven biomes on the planet. Their conclusion: altogether there are about 25 million metric tons' worth of them around. Most spiders are found in forests, grasslands and shrublands, followed by croplands, deserts, urban areas and tundra areas.

The researchers then used two simple models to calculate how much prey all the world's spiders as a whole kill per year. In their first approach, they took into account how much most spiders generally need to eat to survive, as well as census data on the average spider biomass per square meter in the various biomes. The second approach was based on prey capture observations in the field, combined with estimates of spider numbers per square meter. According to their extrapolations, 400 to 800 million tons of prey are being killed by spiders each year.

For a sense of just how much this is, take the following into account: all humans together consume an estimated 400 million tons of meat and fish annually. Whales feed on 280 to 500 million tons of seafood, while the world's total seabird population eats an estimated 70 million tons of fish and other seafood.

According to further calculations, spiders in forests and grasslands account for more than 95 percent of the annual prey kill of the global spider community. The figure reflects the fact that forests, grasslands and savannas are less frequently disturbed than for instance agricultural or urban areas, and therefore allow for greater spider biomass.

"These estimates emphasize the important role that spider predation plays in semi-natural and natural habitats, as many economically important pests and disease vectors breed in those forest and grassland biomes," says lead author Martin Nyffeler.

According to the researchers, spiders are not only important predators, but are also



A magnificent Golden Orb Spider with its netted collection of victims.
Photo: Rodger Elliot

valuable sources of prey. Between 8,000 and 10,000 other predators, parasitoids and parasites feed exclusively on spiders, while spiders at the same time form an important part of the diet of an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 bird species.

"We hope that these estimates and their significant magnitude raise public awareness and increase the level of appreciation for the important global role of spiders in terrestrial food webs," adds Nyffeler.

Editor's note:

This article ties in very nicely with the Friends upcoming Habitat Gardening Workshop on Sunday 29th April, which will have as its theme "Ecology is the cornerstone of habitat gardening!" See page 7 for further information.

Afternoon Talks

Beckler's Botanical Bounty

Sunday 4th March
2018, 2-4 pm

Members \$15

Non-members \$20

Students \$5

Afternoon
refreshments
included

A special afternoon of adventure, history, botany, art.

Presenters will include:

Dr Linden Gillbank, Honorary Researcher, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne, who contributed the essay on von Mueller and Hermann Beckler in *Burke & Wills, The Scientific Legacy of the Victorian Expedition*; Dr Roslyn Glow OAM will describe how the Beckler Botanical Bounty project evolved and the Menindee experience; artist Pam McDiarmid will illustrate some of the excitement of plant discovery and portrayal; leader and coordinator of the project Mali Moir will outline some of the botanical and artistic challenges and what may be seen at the Ballarat Gallery.

The fate of Burke and Wills on the Victorian Exploring Expedition in 1860 is familiar to most Australians. What is less acknowledged is the considerable scientific legacy left by the scientists who joined the Expedition – surveyor, astronomer, meteorologist, geologist, mineralogist, zoologist and botanist. This last role was fulfilled part-time by medical officer and botanical collector, Dr Hermann Beckler.

Beckler was to resign when the Expedition reached Menindee on the Darling River. He remained there awaiting a replacement doctor for the Expedition, and was at last able to make considerable progress with his botanical findings. He sent 120 plant specimens to Ferdinand Mueller at the Melbourne Herbarium, where they are housed. Only one plant specimen was painted in the field, and this task was never completed.

As part of the 150th recognition of the Expedition, a group of Melbourne botanical artists decided to celebrate Dr Hermann Beckler's contribution by revisiting his plant collections made in Menindee. Every year since 2010 a group, led by botanical artist Mali Moir and with generous help from botanist Andrew Denham, has spent time searching for, collecting and pressing specimens for lodgment in the Melbourne and Sydney herbaria, and painting them.

This exciting and challenging project has culminated with the Beckler's Botanical Bounty Exhibition at the Ballarat Gallery, opening on 27 February by Professor Tim Entwisle, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

The Cranbourne Friends botanical illustrators group will be travelling to Ballarat to see the exhibition on Wednesday 14 March. All welcome. See page 11.

Queries: Liz McDonald 5997 6130



Typical saltbush country near the Afghan camel-driver's grave outside Menindee; We found *Solanum chenopodium* growing under *Maireana* species and Turkey bushes (*Eremophila gilesii*). Photo: Liz McDonald



The Darling River at Menindee. Photo: Liz McDonald



Pressing specimens in the shade. Photo: Roslyn Glow

All Day Workshop Habitat Gardening

Rodger Elliot

Sunday 29 April
2018, 9:30 am to
3:30 pm

Australian Garden
Auditorium,
RBGV Cranbourne
Gardens

Costs:

Members \$60

Non-members \$75

Students \$30

Ecology is the cornerstone of habitat gardening! The Oxford Dictionary of Natural History tells us: "Ecology is the scientific study of inter-relationships among organisms and between organisms, and all aspects, living and non-living of their environments".

So we all need to become ecologists!

There is a very rich and strong relationship between Australian animals and Australian plants. We can learn firsthand a great deal more about these relationships if we become habitat gardeners. Habitat gardens allow us to observe nature right in our own backyard. This can be a very exciting and enriching experience!

There will be a series of presentations in the Auditorium then we will spend time in the Gardens observing how plants are important for animals and vice versa. We will have a range of experienced presenters who will lead us to a greater understanding of this fascinating aspect of gardening.

Some questions to be asked and answered

regarding important relationships at this workshop include:

- a) Do different birds require plants of different heights?
- b) Which plants are best for attracting butterflies?
- c) Why are flies important to plants?
- d) How are moisture-retentive swales beneficial for wildlife and plants?
- e) Why is it important to have open spaces?
- f) What is a simple way to have permanent water in your garden?
- g) Which are the best plants for attracting insect-eating birds?
- h) Is untidiness a prerequisite for having a working habitat garden?
- i) Do we need to have a large garden?
- j) How can we attract lizards?
- k) How do we maintain a habitat garden?

We are in the process of finalising presenters and as soon as the program is settled we will be emailing all Friends Members to entice you to book for what should be an excellent workshop.

Open House at the Elliot Centre

Second Thursday
of each month

Elliot Centre
RBGV Cranbourne

1pm - 4pm

Free

Open House at the Elliot Centre ran right through to the end of 2017 with diverse and interesting talks.

In October Mandy Thompson, Nursery Co-ordinator Horticulture at RBGV Cranbourne, and a recipient of the Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarship in 2014, spoke about her study trip to the Northern Territory. Mandy took us on a virtual tour of the Alice Springs Desert Park and Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, then on to Darwin to the George Brown Botanic Gardens and the Territory Wildlife Park Berry Springs.

The purpose of her trip was to gain an insight into the flora of the regions and to assess the plants that might be suited to cultivation at the Australian Garden. Thank you Mandy for telling us about your tour.

November was the final talk of the year. The speaker was Mick Robertson, the recently retired co-ordinator of the Cranbourne Gardens' Schools Education Program. The program has been running at RBGV Melbourne and Cranbourne since the mid 1990s. Mick has been an educator all his working life and was with the program for the last 14 years. Thank you Mick for telling us about this very important program.

Talks will continue throughout 2018 at the Elliot Centre, on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Topics are advertised in *Naturelink* and *Quicklink*.

Future Topics

March 8

Nikki May Cranbourne Gardens Staff:
Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarship - Hunting
Bush Foods in NSW and Qld.

April 12

Ian Chisholm and Lex Nieboer: Wilson
Botanic Park.

May 10

Ken and Carlene Gosbell: Polar experiences
around the Svalbard Islands

The Elliot Centre is open from 1 pm – 4 pm. Members are invited to come along to this free event, no booking required. Afternoon tea is provided.

The Friends Nursery is open on Thursday
10 am to 2 pm.

Contact Helen Morrow 9850 9125 for further
details.

Melon Basket Workshop - Using Native Materials

Sunday 22 April
10am to 4pm

Elliot Centre

The melon basket is a favourite of basketmakers and is sometimes called a frame basket. This is one of the first techniques that basketmakers usually learn and covers some of the basics of Basketry.

Harvesting and preparation of materials will be discussed and we will learn some of the basketry terms often used by basketmakers.

Cost: \$65 non member, \$60 member,
includes all materials (there is a limit of ten

participants.)

Bookings: via Friends Event Booking sheet,
further information contact Lynn Lochrie on
0437 759 610.

What to bring: lunch, notepad and pen,
secateurs, and a old towel or apron to protect
your clothes.

Tea and coffee are provided.

Australian Textile Exhibition

8th – 13th May
2018

10am to 4pm each
day

Australian Garden
Visitor Centre Gallery

The seventh annual AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE EXHIBITION will be held later than usual this year, from Tuesday May 8 through to Sunday May 13, from 10am to 4pm each day. This will provide an excellent opportunity for people to come along and bring Mum for a special treat on Sunday 13, which is Mothers Day - or you might like to come earlier in the week to avoid the crowds and have first choice of the great variety of gift items for sale.

The exhibition will be held in the Visitor Centre Gallery and also in the Auditorium downstairs. Entry to both areas is free.

The Australian Textile Exhibition is again being co-ordinated by Leesa Chandler of Chandlers Cottage and a special feature will be the release of a new pastel-coloured fabric in her 'Under the Australian Sun' range. Plants featured include native *Hibiscus*, *Boronia*, *Epacris*, Fringed Lilies and *Pandorea*. A range of fabrics will be available for purchase.

The Exhibition includes items that demonstrate many skills, from patchwork quilts to knitting, felting, embroidery, and other handmade items and giftware. There will also be demonstrations of different sewing techniques.

There will be a Great Australian Bag Challenge, with a Bernina Sewing Machine as first prize.



Entries in the 2017 Great Australian Bag Challenge. Photo: Gwen Elliot

Our Botanical Fabricators members will be on hand throughout the Exhibition, with a wide range of items made by the group available for purchase.

Leesa has very kindly donated a quilt for first prize in our Raffle, plus a trio of European sized cushions for second prize and a Princess Gum handbag for third prize. Tickets are \$2.00 each and all proceeds assist the ongoing development of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne.

Further information – 8774 2483;
info@chandlerscottage.com

Cranbourne Friends 2018 Grampians Tour

Monday 15th –
Friday 19th October

Chloe Foster

"Spring in the Grampians!" is a phrase uttered by many a nature-loving, native-plant loving person. And it has been a while since the Cranbourne Friends took a trip there. Well, the time has come! We will be taking a wander through the Grampians wilderness in October; dates will precede the APS FJCRogers Seminar to be held at Horsham.



An itinerary is still being finalised, however, with almost a week in the area, we will be able to cover the very best parts of the Grampians region. There will be walks and activities for all types of fitness abilities. Accommodation will be at Gariwerd Motel, Halls Gap.



Left: A field of *Sprengelia incarnata*.
Right: The Grampians Thryptomene,
Thryptomene calycina.
Photos: Chloe Foster

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

The Friends RBG Cranbourne 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!

Herbarium Collectors

1st Monday of each month

9am to 2pm
Elliot Centre

Contact

Nola Foster
9583 5731

The Herbarium Collectors have been out collecting since the start of spring. Very little new material however.

We are refreshing the collection if a particular plant has a very early tag number and are also adding material if only a small amount was originally collected. We have very few blanks left in our original list, which are mainly due to such circumstances as weather, rarity, short flowering or fruiting time etc.

Some plants, particularly some orchids, do not appear for years. We have a box of unknowns, mostly grasses and aquatic plants, waiting to be identified, and these might fill some of the blanks. But with the total number of species collected now exceeding 735, from an original list of 530, we believe we have covered the bulk of the site. However, we are still hoping to find that elusive type.



Nola Foster (l) and Dawn Neylan (r) collecting a specimen of *Leptospermum continentale* in the Gardens bushland. Photo: Ivan Margitta

Botanical Basketmakers

3rd Saturday of each month

10am - 2pm
Elliot Centre

Contact

Lynn Lochrie
0437 759 610
basketry@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
org.au

We are a group of enthusiastic Basketmakers whose skills range from novice to experienced, and we would love you to join us on the third Saturday of the month, in the Elliot Centre. We meet from 10am to 2pm, BYO lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Most of us work on our own projects and share ideas, whilst having a cuppa.

If you are interested in learning about basketmaking, you are most welcome to pop in for a visit and see the work we are doing; we can chat about the materials used, harvesting, and popular techniques. We look forward to seeing you!

If you are an experienced Basketmaker, I'm

sure you will enjoy getting to know this lovely group, whilst working on your own projects.



Basketry Group Harvest Day in Liz McDonald's beautiful garden. Photo: Lyn Lochrie

Botanical Fabricators

2nd Tuesday of each month

10am
Elliot Centre

Contact

Gwen Elliot
8774 2483
fabricators@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
org.au

Our very enjoyable monthly get-togethers continue this year and visitors and new members are always very welcome. If it is your first visit and you are not sure how to get to the Elliot Centre, just phone or email.

Many of our projects will be displayed and available for sale at the 2018 Australian Textile Exhibition, starting on Tuesday May 8th. For further details, see page 8.

Among the items produced in recent months has been a small number of our special Commemorative Signature Quilts. These are always very popular as gifts for special occasions, from use as a crawling rug for new babies, to a knee rug celebrating a senior's birthday. A fine-tip laundry marker pen is included so that people can include their signatures plus special messages for the recipient. We plan to have some of these quilts at the Australian Textile Exhibition, but if you need one earlier, please contact us.



Signature Quilt.

Growing Friends

Marjanne Rook

3rd Wednesday and every Thursday of the month

Growing Friends Nursery

Contact:

Marjanne Rook on 9769 7881 or Don on 9736 2309

growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Nursery open to Members on Thursdays 10am – 3pm

Autumn Plant-Sale

Autumn! Again! Too soon! But a good time for new plants in your garden - so this means coming to our Plant Sale in March. We will have an amazing range of plants available, including a selection of always-popular *Grevillea*, *Callistemon*, *Hakea* etc. We will also have a range of *Calothamnus* – the one-sided Bottlebrush or Claw Flower. Wikipedia tells me that the name is derived from the Greek words 'kalos' meaning beautiful and 'thamnus' meaning a shrub or a bush.

Then for something totally different from the above there will be both small and large pots of *Scleranthus biflorus*. 'Scleranthus' means hard-flower and 'biflorus' two-flowered. It is a bright green cushion-like plant with an attractive growth habit and a moss-like appearance. With a height of just a few centimetres and spreading up to 40cm, it makes a lovely plant for a border and is great in a rock garden as it can crawl into crevices and cling to rocks. It has tiny, tiny cream-green flowers with 2 to a stem up to 4cm high. Have a look at some of the wonderful photos on the internet of all the above plants.

I am on the scrounge, and would like the following:

Laptop with Windows 8

Do you own a somewhat aged laptop with Windows 8 or more - unused and lying around? Would you like to donate it to the Growing Friends, so that we can use it in our nursery for our 'propagation practice information' database? We would love to have it!

Garden Bench

Some of our outdoor seating is becoming the worse for wear and will soon be beyond repair. You might be downsizing and have a spare bench in reasonable order for which you would like to find a new owner. Should it need some work, my 'live-in' restorer will do a great job - as he has with all the Growing Friends outdoor furniture.

Forestry tubes and small round pots

A number of people have dropped off pots for recycling and are sincerely thanked for doing so. We could still use more forestry tubes – these are pots 12cm high x 5cm square - and small round 7-9cm diameter pots. Please drop them off at our nursery inside a plastic bag or box. We have enough larger pots at the moment.

Spare plants

Should you have a large space to revegetate, here are few great plants to help fill your

space - and all are selling quite cheaply at 50 cents each: *Acacia brownii*, *Carex appresa*, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Leptospermum scoparia*, *Spyridium parvifolium* and *Viminaria juncea*. Contact the Growing Friends if you are interested - details are on this page.

The Growing Friends Nursery is open to Members for plant sales every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm.

Special Orders

If you have a wish for a particular plant - perhaps for one you have seen in the Gardens - or for multiple plants for a large area, then contact the Growing Friends with your request and we will endeavour to grow them for you; we might even have them in stock. See the contact details.

Growing Friends Autumn 2018 Plant Sale

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March

For more information, see back page.



A selection of plants for the Plant Sale. Photo: Marjanne Rook

Botanical Illustrators

1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the
month

10am to 3pm
Elliot Centre

Contact

Margaret Godlewski
9802 5756

illustrators@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
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, run workshops and talks and work towards holding exhibitions. We welcome visitors and new members.

After our summer break, we look forward to our growing program of activities.

Recent Events

Beginners Watercolour Workshop with Marta Salamon

23, 24, 25 October, 2017

Following our successful beginners workshop earlier in the year, we were able to provide a follow-up 3-day workshop to refresh and extend skills in painting and drawing and give an opportunity for beginners. In

particular, the aim was to complete a set of drawings looking at the geometrical shapes of flowers as a way of achieving an accurate resemblance. This workshop was led by Marta Salamon, a distinguished botanical illustrator and fine art teacher; Marta was also winner of the Celia Rosser medal at the 2016 Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition Melbourne.

Participants enjoyed the challenges presented and learned some more about the intricacies of illustrating flora from live specimens. As seasonal pruning in the Australian Garden governs the availability of freshly cut specimens, the subjects available provided an even steeper learning curve than anticipated. Marta's encouragement and generous instruction kept the class engaged and all felt they had made progress. There was much valuable feedback to assist in developing our future short workshops.

Botanical Illustrators 2018 Events

Contact

Margaret Kitchen
0413 664 295

Excursion to Ballarat to see Beckler's Botanical Bounty Exhibition

Date: Wednesday, 14 March, 2018

See page 6 for more about the Beckler Botanical Bounty Exhibition and the celebratory afternoon tea on 4 March.

Sketching in the Australian Garden

Date: Wednesday 18 April, 2018, 10am – 3pm

Meet: Elliot Centre, RBGV Cranbourne

Free activity, no bookings required

During one of our regular meetings, the Botanical Illustrators will take their sketch books into the Australian Garden for a few hours of drawing native flora, weather permitting. BYO materials and equipment.

Bird Workshop with David Reynolds

Dates: Sat 14 & Sun 15 July, 2018

Venue: Elliot Centre, RBGV Cranbourne

Cost: \$170 Members, \$200 Non-members

Bookings via Booking Form

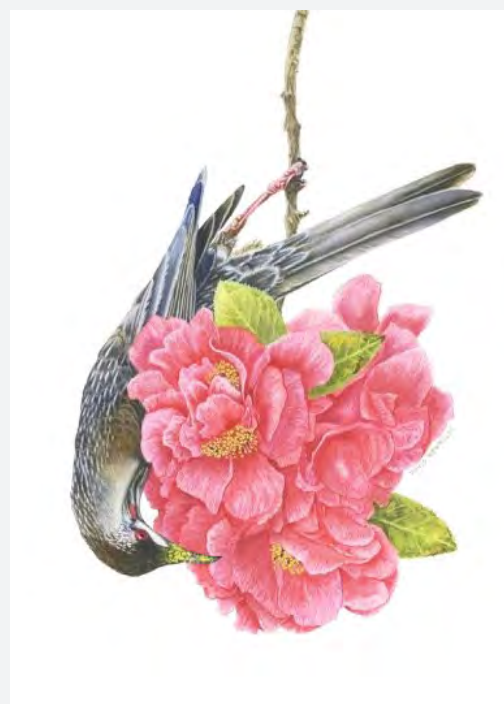
The Illustrators are pleased to have David Reynolds, artist and teacher, conduct a 2-day workshop on the drawing and painting of birds, an aspect of art for which he is renowned. More details to be published soon.

2-day Workshop with Dianne Emery

Dates: Mon 10 & Mon 17 September, 2018,
10am – 3pm

Venue: Elliot Centre, RBGV Cranbourne

Dianne Emery has been teaching Botanical Illustration at RBGV Melbourne for many years and is a distinguished artist. We are delighted that she is to give this workshop at Cranbourne. More details to be published soon.



Red Wattlebird in a Camellia, watercolour painting by David Reynolds.

Staff Profile

Rufino Ramos,
Manager Visitor
Experience, Access
& Tourism

I began working at Melbourne Gardens in 2013, as Coordinator, Customer Service, but since then I have held several positions including Teacher and Supervisor, Visitor Programs. My current role as Manager Visitor Experience, Access & Tourism across both our sites is definitely the most challenging and rewarding role so far. There are many things I love about my role but the weekly visits to Cranbourne Gardens and my encounters with wallabies, echidnas, koalas and even tiger snakes, is definitely a highlight.

The move to the RBGV was part of a bigger tree change for me. After living in the inner city most of my life, my family and I moved to Diamond Creek where I became obsessed with creating a garden and decided to study Horticulture at NMIT. My interest in plants undoubtedly stems from my childhood, and from my other great love, food. I grew up in an apartment in Madrid, so we didn't have a garden but regular visits to the markets taught me a great deal about the delicious quality of plants and it wasn't long before I learnt to anticipate the seasons based on what was in the stalls at the market.

My parents had restaurants in Madrid, and later Melbourne, where we migrated in the mid-seventies. My mum was a fantastic cook, so not surprisingly I was a chubby kid who preferred spending time in the kitchen learning how to cook, rather than be out playing with friends. In my twenties I travelled a lot and had several career changes including teaching and community work, but eventually I followed in my parents' footsteps and spent a great deal of my working life in Hospitality, including running my own restaurant. I greatly enjoyed my experience in Hospitality. It taught me how to quickly connect with people from a wide range of backgrounds, and the importance of being a good host.

When I finished my Horticulture studies I was ready for another career change. More than anything, I wanted to be a gardener. I



did volunteer work at Edendale Community Farm and at Heide MOMA in the hopes that I would be able to secure a hort. tech. role, but quickly realised that the skills and experience I had gathered over a thirty-year work history would take me down another path.

My current role allows me to put years of management and customer service experience into practice. The RBGV is constantly redefining itself and the importance of putting our visitors at the centre of everything we do resonates deeply with me. Every visitor to the Gardens presents an opportunity for the Visitor Experience team to connect and talk about the amazing work we carry out here: the tours and Learning programs, conservation and scientific research, and the curatorial management of our amazing and diverse botanic collections.

I am still a mad gardener. I spend every available moment of my free time in the veggie patch at home. My successes vary from year to year, but the promise of every growing season still fills me with anticipation, something that I now share with my daughters and wife.

Membership update

by Helen Morrow

For further information
phone 0458 550 509

Email: membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

As of this month the Cranbourne Friends have a new Membership Secretary; I would like to introduce Alex Stalder. Alex joined the committee at the AGM in November and has kindly offered to take over this job. If you have any queries about membership the method of contact has not changed; if you email membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au your message will be forwarded directly to Alex.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the contact I have had with members over the years and no doubt I will continue to meet many of you at our various activities into the future.

We are pleased to welcome 26 new members this quarter and look forward to meeting

them at some of our activities: Chris Ashdown, Robert Casamento, Charmaine Cranenburgh, Maureen Hayes, Catherine Irwin, Mairwen McQueen, Rosemary & Peter Miller, Seam Lam, Brian & Lee Riley, Ralph & Judy Smith, Felicity Teague, Christine Troth, Marnie Turner, Danny Vadasz, Wilma & Garry Van Dijk, and Janette Wilson.

Remember! The Elliot Centre is open to members on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 1.00 to 4.00pm. Friends can consult the reference library during these times. Just pop in after visiting the Growing Friends Nursery! Tea and coffee is available, and you can listen to the interesting monthly talk and join in the discussion. See page 7 for details.

Everything about Australian Birds Workshop

29th October 2017

by Kate Walsh

Bird calls surrounded us as we entered the Cranbourne bushland and guidance from David Ap-Thomas and Max Burrows enabled us to gradually distinguish individual species. Whatever our prior knowledge, there was something everyone could learn. There was much to be discovered, the first sightings being a nesting Tawny Frogmouth and an awesome Peregrine Falcon perched on high.

So the day unfolded – learning about birds from many speakers and perspectives, including practical tips about equipment to aid observation.

Who doesn't love Fairy-Wrens? We were entranced (and amused) as Anne Peters gave insights into their complex family lives. Kerri-Lee Harris and Paul Whittington explained the synergies between bird observation and photography. (Proximity is important).

Pat McWhirter brought humans even closer to birds by pointing out that 312 mya we came from the same evolutionary line. By comparing features over the intervening years, Pat identified the differences and similarities between us. She emphasised the importance of habitat and nature-links for both human and bird well-being. Specific bird requirements and sustainable populations are paramount to the work of Bruce Quin, who described the lessons and

achievements of the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Program at Woori Yallock.

Nicholas Day bridged the gap between science and art by treating us to a "behind the scenes" description of bird illustrations for identification purposes. He is part of a talented lineage of artists and craftspeople, beginning with the first known Australian artists about 40,000 years ago. John Thompson surprised and delighted us with stories of birds in human arts and culture to the present day.

Habitat is essential for bird survival. This was stressed repeatedly by various speakers throughout the day. Dr Richard Loyn discussed it on a global scale with migrating birds. Amy Akers explored habitat considerations in gardens. Different birds have different food and landscape requirements and we can help by creating gardens diverse in species and structure and including some indigenous plants and watering points.

Thank you to organisers, caterers, and presenters. I didn't learn everything about birds but I had a delicious taste to enhance my appreciation and encourage me to learn more of everything about Australian birds.

2017 Friends AGM Report

by Helen Kennedy

Forty eight members attended the 26th AGM of the Cranbourne Friends, held on November 26th 2017. President Indra Kurzeme touched on some of the highlights of the year, including Alex Smart's OAM, Elaine Canty's speech at the Annual Lunch and the writing of the Friends' History, which Carolyn Langdon hopes to have finished by early 2018. She also referred to the Committee's work on succession planning, necessitated in part by the departure of several long-standing Committee members: Amy Akers, Rodger Elliot, Marjanne Rook and Margaret Clarke. All were thanked for their years of service and two new Committee members, Alexandra Stalder and Janette Wilson, were later welcomed.

Before the AGM began, Margaret Holloway presented Tim Entwisle with a beautiful painting of *Olearia lirata* for the Cranbourne Collection, and the meeting ended with the presentation of a Life Membership to John Armstrong by Jill Burness, who spoke eloquently about his 25 years of involvement, in many capacities, with the Gardens. Alex Smart then entertained everyone with a talk on the history of the site, which included new information and visuals seldom seen before.



John Armstrong being presented his Friends Life Membership by Jill Burness. Photo: Tim Entwisle

Friends' Benefits

by Helen Kennedy

"Old" members know that being a member of the Cranbourne Friends brings many benefits - both tangible and intangible - and new members receive a list of the discounts that are available. But at the start of a new year it is perhaps worthwhile reminding everyone what they are: that a number of excellent nurseries, holiday accommodation places and art and garden art suppliers offer worthwhile discounts on purchases. A Conservation Park, a very fine garden tool company and a stunning Designer homewares store also offer 10 and 20% discounts. All you have to do is show your membership card when you

make a purchase.

In addition to our outside supporters are of course all the on-site providers: the wonderful Growing Friends Nursery, the Gardens Shop and Café all offer discounts to members, and participation in the wide range of yearly activities run by Events also comes with a discount. In addition to all this, the Friends membership has its own home on site, the Elliot Centre, with a library and many other facilities, where members can meet in a friendly environment, to listen to talks and share ideas.

Sensory Gardens Workshop

Sunday 12
November 2017

by Amy Akers, Debbie Foster and Chloe Foster

The Sensory Gardens workshop was a great day and was much enjoyed by everyone, due to its hands-on approach. It was also nice to be outside in the warm sun for part of the day.

The first speaker was Steven Wells, a registered nurse and qualified horticulturist, who works at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre and whose talk was both informative and entertaining. He told us about several examples of using gardening to assist patients, where they learned new skills and how to interact with others and gain self-confidence, while doing therapy without it feeling like therapy. He showed us the amazing transformation of a little-used space into a sensory garden - for use by those undergoing rehabilitation, for staff, for welcoming new patients and for people to simply catch-up and relax. It provides dappled light, nice aromas, textural features and quirky art, some of which has been donated by patients and their families. It also has been designed to change with the seasons, so it always provides interest.

Then AB Bishop awoke our senses with Australian native plants. AB is both a successful author and horticulturist, as well as a former researcher for Gardening Australia. She spoke about the evolution of the Earth's species and how sensory perception between species also evolved. She told us how different colours can evoke different emotions and feelings, whilst showing us examples of different Australian native plants that we could use to evoke those feelings. The highlight was having an array of plants and plant material handed around the audience to touch and smell, including lemon myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*), sandpaper wattle (*Acacia denticulosa*) and mountain pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*). Soon murmurings between attendees turned into excited chatter whilst everyone discussed the different plants.

After listening to the very interesting presentations, we were fortunate to meet Marg, Maree and Maddy from Vision Australia. We ventured out into the gardens with them where Maree told us about how her senses of touch and smell were



Participants embarking on their tours of the Australian Garden.

Photo: Chloe Foster



AB Bishop awakened everyone's senses!!

Photo: Chloe Foster

heightened as a result of being vision impaired, and about how Maddy her guide dog has enabled her to enjoy the outdoors.

We then joined RBGV staff, John Arnott and Nikki May, who took us on a walk through the Peppermint Garden where we learned about the good and not-so-good points of some plants, such as the Mouse Plant with its unpleasant mouse-like odour and the Chewing Gum Plant which smells like Juicy Fruit chewing gum. John also told us that one of the citrus smelling plants' leaves can be used in cooking to wrap around fish to give it a lemony flavour.

The last third of our day involved a sensory experience everybody loves but perhaps does not get to do that often... getting our hands dirty! In actual dirt! Participants were shown how to make cuttings and potted up a myriad of Australian shrubs for their own gardens. We also got our hands really, really dirty by dividing up a couple of old pots of *Lomandra* and *Libertia*.

It was a beautiful way to spend a sunny November day, opening our minds to the sensory powers of plants.

Black Armbands for *Nuytsia floribunda*

4th January 2018

by Wendy Smart
with Rodger Elliot

At the annual pilgrimage to inspect the *Nuytsia floribunda* on Howson Hill in the Australian Garden, 21 people looked with sorrow at its current state.

Black armbands were worn on the day by some attendees to indicate that the tree might not survive much longer.

Sadly, it is in serious decline and unlikely to survive. There have been occurrences of the fungal disease Armillaria Root Rot, *Armillaria luteobubalina* in close proximity to the nuytsia. It would appear that this disease may have contributed to the state of the tree. One of the main trunks was rotting and supports were tied from this branch to others in an effort to hold it. Many of the crown branches have already died.

For several years, pilgrimages have been held in early January, to enjoy the stunning flowers that make the nuytsia the iconic West Australian Christmas Tree. Evolving some 50 million years ago, it is a hemiparasite, reliant on hosts for its survival. It is extremely difficult to propagate as it must have a specific host plant and it's uncertain which plant this is. Our nuytsia has been placed on the Significant Tree List.

In the 1600s, European explorers described the wonderful vibrant yellow-orange flowers that were visible for long distances. This year the Cranbourne Gardens' tree has just one small branch bearing flowers.

Discussions were held about its future. Some suggested cutting it back to the base



Cranbourne Friends viewing and discussing the state of the *Nuytsia floribunda*. Photo: Larry Hills

(coppicing) hoping it could re-shoot or produce suckering growth, which is a strong characteristic of plants in the wild. Others felt that if it could not be saved, the timber should be preserved in some useful or memorial way. The Gardens staff are considering a number of actions including injections of phosphonic acid which should be done before you receive this publication and also the possibility of coppicing at ground level which could induce suckering.

Gardens staff contacted Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth where they have had success with propagation from cuttings. This method has been undertaken at Cranbourne with many cuttings prepared by Gardens staff and the Growing Friends. We hope there is success with cuttings producing roots.

Ladies Tresses Orchids, *Spiranthes australis*

by Wendy Smart

Robin Allison has been monitoring a colony of *Spiranthes australis* orchids at Cardinia Reservoir Park over many years.

Having been told she might discover them there, she finally found a small group of the orchids in a swampy area below the spillway. These distinctive orchids have tiny pink flowers and white frill that form a spiral up the stem. Unfortunately, in 2003 she also discovered that temporary fencing erected in the area to protect revegetation had been removed, and that four-wheel drive vehicles were using the area for off-road activities, churning it into mud and putting the orchid colony at risk.

When she requested that Parks Victoria protect the orchids by excluding the vehicles, bollards were installed within a week. Robin feels that this was her most successful request to Parks Victoria! Mick van de Vreede, who has been the Parks Victoria officer responsible for the area for many years, continues to protect the orchid area by scheduling mowing and maintenance to avoid flowering and seeding times.

On Saturday 30th December, a diverse group of 21 people met at the Reservoir. The group included visitors from Cranbourne Gardens, APS Berwick, Wilson Botanic



Left: *Spiranthes australis*, flowering plant
Right: Close-up of *Spiranthes australis*, flowers. Photos: Clem Thompson

Park, and others from the district. All were keen to find the orchids, some were avid photographers, others were concerned about the environment.

Two days before, there had been about 12 plants. But following good rain many more *Spiranthes australis* were found, plus Leek Orchids. Given that notifications were sent out only when the flowers were at their best, two days prior, the response was very good.

Expressions of Interest for Proposed Tours

Rodger Elliot

We are seeking further expressions of interest (EOI) for the proposed tours listed below.

1. Alpine areas of Victoria for early 2019
2. Grampians, Western Vic, in October 2018
3. Far north-east Qld in July or August 2019
4. Costa Rica probably in late 2019
5. New Caledonia
6. New Zealand
7. USA National Parks

There is still the opportunity to register an EOI re Costa Rica on the current Booking Form.

The Grampians Tour is definitely going to take place, from Monday 15th – Friday 19th October 2018, and there will be a maximum of 30 places for this Tour.

Initial planning is underway for the far north-east Queensland Tour. Itinerary and prices are now available for the Costa Rica Tour. Let me know if you would like this information.

We have enough people expressing interest in the New Caledonia, New Zealand and USA National Parks Tours for us to investigate further the possibility of running these tours.



White-necked Robin from Costa Rica.
Photo: Coates Wildlife Tours

If you would like to be included on a listing for any of these proposed Tours, make sure you place your name in the allocated space on the Booking Form and please send it to Ros Shepherd our Booking Officer.

Many tours organised by the Friends have been very popular and successful. Tours are excellent fundraising events and the funds benefit the Cranbourne Gardens.

Cranbourne Friends Committee

President: Indra Kurzeme	0408 002 028	Booking Officer	
Secretary: Helen Kennedy	9560 0185	Ros Shepherd	5932 5611
Vice President: Helen Morrow	9850 9125	bookings@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	
Vice President: Vacant		Events Sub Committee	
Immediate Past President: Richard Clarke	5974 1750	Rodger Elliot	Alex Smart
Treasurer: Karen Russell	9878 4857	Lyn Blackburne	Liz McDonald
Membership Secretary: Alexandra Stalder	0458 550 509	Richard Clarke	Marjanne Rook
RBGV Representative: Chris Russell	5990 2200	Chloe Foster	Ros Shepherd
General Committee		Naturelink Editor:	
Chloe Foster	9725 3569	Ashley Michailaros	0408 949 914
Christine Kenyon	9589 2154	naturelink@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	
Barbara Jeffrey	5998 5410	Quicklink Editor:	
Rodger Watts	0409 857 664	Chloe Foster	9725 3569
Alexandra Stalder	0458 550 509	Social Media Convener:	
Janette Wilson	0477 711 569	Amy Akers	0423 513 281
		The General Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at 6.30pm.	

GROWING FRIENDS AUTUMN PLANT SALE

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 March,
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

Top *Scaevola aemula* 'Fan Dancer'. Photo: Marjanne Rook
Bottom: *Calothamnus quadrifidus* flowering stem. Photo: Rodger Elliot

