

Naturelink

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

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.

Morning Coffee, Cake & Talk

Sunday 10
February, 2019
11am – 12.30pm

Australian Garden
Auditorium,
Cranbourne
Gardens

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

Contact:
Rodger Elliot
rgelliot@optusnet.
com.au
8774 2483

Highlights

in this issue



Update on
the Red Sand
Garden.....2

Discovery Tour:
Hotham Wildflower
Adventure, January
12-17.....16

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

Island Hopping in the Galapagos: In the Footsteps of Darwin

The Galapagos Islands are undoubtedly one of the wonders of this world. They are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the eastern Pacific Ocean, approximately 1000 km west of Ecuador in South America, the country to which they belong. Discovered in 1835, they have since been visited by pirates, whalers and famous people such as Charles Darwin - and now by tourists.

The Galapagos Islands had a profound impact on Darwin and his future studies. The islands are known for their range of endemic animals including giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, flightless cormorants and marine iguanas, but not so much for their variety of plants.

Our Guest Presenter

Lynsey Poore is a volunteer guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Melbourne Gardens. Gardening and botany are her passions. She was born in New Zealand and trained to be a secondary teacher after graduating with a science degree from the University of Canterbury. Her career has involved science teaching, demonstrating biology at Monash University and managing laboratories. Now retired, much of her time is occupied by being President of the South Melbourne Garden Club as well as guiding at the Royal Botanic Gardens. She also volunteers at the Growing Friends and in the Herbarium. In 2016 she was elected to the Council of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens and now is one of the two vice-presidents.



Darwin Lake, Isabela, Galapagos.

Photo: Lynsey Poore



Blue-footed boobies. Photo: Lynsey Poore

This talk is being held in the morning before the day warms up too much.

We begin the morning with coffee or tea and a delightful cake or slice at 11am. Lynsey's talk will start at 11:30 am!

Please make sure you do not miss out on this wonderful presentation by completing the Booking Form and forwarding it to the Booking Officer.

Cranbourne Friends Brunch Spring Plant sale results

Sunday March 17, 2019, 10am to 12pm

Australian Garden, Forest of Figs, opposite the Greening Cities Garden.

Join us to ins our more about the Cranbourne Friends and meet our new President. See page 5.

The Growing Friends Spring Plant sale, with many plants in flower, was very successful. It was held on the last weekend in October. Customers came early, many buying up big.

All in all a good weekend. We sold out of many of our plants and took over \$18,500. Both customers and workers seemed to enjoy themselves.

Next sale will be in Autumn - a good planting season - see page 5.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**NEXT PLANT SALE
AUTUMN 2019**
Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March

Executive Director's report

Chris Russell



Life is sustained and enriched by plants

This spring has well and truly lived up to its reputation of being the season for new growth and transformation. The Australian Garden has been re-dressed with a new layer of mulch, providing an amazing visual lift to accompany the wonderful colour of spring flowering. The Red Sand Garden has received a full makeover with new edging, replacement of soil in the growing beds, new mulch and even a change in plant type in the circles. And our younger visitors have been transformed into trees, monsters, fairies... really whatever they wanted, as Polyglot Theatre's *Paper Planet* took over the Visitor Centre Gallery over the school holidays.

Red's makeover

A bit more follows on the Red Sand Garden renovation. The TCL design is an evocative abstract impression of a central Australian landscape, which '...evokes strong feelings, both to go into it, but also of fear of being lost in its openness.' It challenges visitors '...to see beauty in openness, in rhythmic patterns, in ephemeral bursts of growth and in exquisitely detailed responses to adversity.' (From *The Australian Garden Sketch Design Report*, by Taylor and Cullity Pty. Ltd. with Paul Thompson, July 1996). From this early vision, the Red Sand Garden has come to be the most photographed and viewed space within the Australian Garden, providing a unique and awe-inspiring first experience upon emerging from the Visitor Centre. We are very proud of its distinct design and difference from most other botanic landscapes (which often incorporate a water feature as the central vista), but as Gardens Director I have never felt that we quite achieved the visionary design intent - the blue-grey 'discs' of *Rhagodia spinescens* salt bush floating above the red sand substrate, vast and open under a vaulted blue sky. Yes, the sand is red and vibrant and the sky (sometimes) vaulted blue, but the salt bush has suffered from grazing by rabbits and the occasional Swamp Wallaby. Despite a replacement to a more vigorous form a few years ago and installation of unsightly and ultimately unsuccessful rabbit exclusion fencing, TCL's 'rhythmic pattern' vision has never quite been realised.

Imagine the discussion and debate within the Horticulture team! Do we stay with the aesthetically perfect plant for the occasion (one *R. spinescens*) fortified from rabbit attack through an expensive architectural exclusion device (fancy fence) requiring weekly inspections and maintenance, or do we find an alternative plant that rabbits don't adore? About 40 possible candidates were put through a sophisticated assessment matrix which scored things like colour, form, fit to design intent, ability to thrive in the



Play with paper and plants in Polyglot Theatre's *Paper Planet* (all materials recycled).

Photos: Mark Gambino



The Red Sand Garden prior to renovation, showing 'patchy' salt bush.



New growing media, edging and mulch ready for planting in autumn 2019.

growing conditions, longevity, availability and, importantly, rabbit palatability. I am not quite ready to call it publicly, but I can say that we have a possible winner (genus starts with "W") likely to be planted in the renovated landscape next autumn when conditions are optimal. Thanks go to the Horticulture and Infrastructure teams for the huge amount of work that has gone into this important project.

Soils ain't soils

Horticultural staff have also been undertaking some critically important work in building on our knowledge of the soils throughout the Australian Garden. The recent increase in State government funding has provided the ability to undertake extensive soil testing across the garden. This new information, building on previous knowledge, has allowed us to develop a highly targeted approach to remedying some of the diverse and quite localised soil issues that have resulted in poor plant performance in some precincts, especially low nutrient

Continued next page

availability and poor drainage. We are all excited to see how the plants respond to the new treatments to get our Australian Garden looking even better.

Respect your embers

As we rapidly approach another fire season, and one that is predicted to be more extreme than average given the below average rainfall (September was the driest month on record across Australia), we continue to invest in the skills and competency of our in-house fire-fighting team. Fire behavior and the business of managing fire risk are fascinating and complex disciplines that demand a high

level of respect and humility. We never cease to learn about fire, as each fire season new information emerges across the country that fire-fighting agencies see fit to pass on. Recent week-long training has refreshed our knowledge and highlighted some new approaches to conducting planned burns, including some different lighting patterns which we will trial next autumn. In the meantime, we will continue our practice of regular fire patrols and the closing of areas of the site in response to the fire danger rating of the day. Check the RBGV website www.rbg.vic.gov.au for details if you plan to visit the bushland during the fire season.

From the President

Indra Kurzeme



Hello Friends,

Welcome and congratulations to Rosemary Miller, on this, her first issue of *Naturelink*. Rosemary answered our call for new committee members and we quickly identified a role for her. Rosemary currently works in online publishing for Monash University Library and has taken the opportunity to come on board as our *Naturelink* Editor as she transitions to retirement. If you are thinking about retiring and you would like to continue to work in some capacity, please contact us, we are always looking for active members! Thank you to Ashley Michailaros who has compiled *Naturelink* for us over the last two years. Ashley jumped in to help us out at very short notice and has now decided to move on to pursue other work. We wish you the very best of luck Ash! Please note you will now find past issues of *Naturelink* available as PDF files on our website rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au under *About us*.

Another opportunity exists on the Cranbourne Friends Committee, as we are currently seeking a new Treasurer. Karen Russell has indicated that she wishes to step down from this position and although we will miss her terribly, grandchildren and travel are calling her. This role would suit a current or recently retired CPA or Chartered Accountant who is experienced in MYOB. We are also interested in talking to any Bookkeepers who may be interested in volunteering. Please contact Karen Russell, treasurer@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au or see our website for more information.

I would like to take a moment to pause and remember John Armstrong. I first knew of John when I saw his name on the Garden Ambassador list at Cranbourne Gardens, when I was appointed Volunteer Co-ordinator. He had a star next to his name as one of the more experienced volunteers. I was always a little in awe of the Garden Ambassadors who had stars against their names however, I soon got to know John and

his passion for botanical illustration. We worked together on the very first botanical illustration exhibition in the Visitors Centre at Cranbourne Gardens and I know he was immensely proud to have his work on show. I am also very pleased that we were able to award him an Honorary Life Membership. He was very honoured to receive this acknowledgement and I remember we had a hug and we both had a few tears that day. John was one of our very dear friends and we will continue to remember his contribution through the Cranbourne Collection.

This is my last post as your President. Three years have flown past so quickly! A role like this is an honour and I hope I have done it justice with the limited amount of time I have had available. Thank you to all current and past members of the Committee, it's been fun! It wouldn't have been possible without the strong and steady support of Helen Kennedy who has organised me, found missing information, drafted documents and been my number one support person. I would also like to thank Richard Clarke, Immediate Past President who has been a great sounding board. Our working relationship with the Cranbourne Gardens staff has always been strong and I think this ability to collaborate with staff has made our work and fundraising easier. Your generous donations have such a great impact on improving Cranbourne Gardens. Working with Chris Russell and his staff is an absolute pleasure; we have been able to identify and support funding applications, infrastructure improvement, staff development opportunities, support and contribute to public programs and purchase necessary equipment. Keep an eye out for the Garden Explorers as they now have signage on them crediting Cranbourne Friends for funding them. Thank you Cranbourne Friends! Thank you Cranbourne Gardens' staff! Have a wonderful summer and I hope your gardens survive the heat.

See you on the beach!

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Place the dates in your diaries now.

JANUARY

Saturday 12 – Thursday 17

Discovery Tour: Hotham Wildflowers Adventure. See page 16.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 10

Morning Talk: 'Island Hopping in the Galapagos' – Lynsey Poore. See page 1.

Thursday 14

Open House, Elliot Centre

Sunday 24

Open House Weekend: Barrie Gallacher 'Landscape Architecture'

MARCH

Thursday 14

Open House, Elliot Centre – Paul Birch, Maranoa Gardens

Saturday 16 – Sunday 17

Growing Friends Plant Sale; Friends Brunch See page 5.

APRIL

Wednesday 3 or 17

Botanical Illustrators' Calligraphy

Thursday 11

Open House, Elliot Centre

Friday 12

Family Discovery Day (with Gardens): 'Frogs and Bugs'

Sunday 28

Afternoon Talk: 'Australian Plants as Weeds'

MAY

Saturday 4

Annual Lunch in Tarnuk Room, Australian Garden: Guest Speaker Dean Stewart. See page 7.

Thursday 9

Open House, Elliot Centre – John Arnott: 'Gardens Leading Projects for Regional Botanic Gardens'

Monday 13

Walks and Gawk in Cranbourne Gardens with John Arnott:

Sunday 19

Workshop: Fungi – Morning talks and afternoon walk in Bushland

Saturday 25 – Sunday 26

South Gippsland Discovery Tour. See page 6.

JUNE

Sunday 2

Friends Planning Day for 2020-21

Thursday 13

Open House, Elliot Centre

Sunday 23

Afternoon Talk: Yarra and Werribee Riverkeepers

Wednesday 26

Discovery Day: State Library Victoria – Behind Scenes #2

JULY

Thursday 11

Open House, Elliot Centre

Saturday 27 – Sunday 28

Growing Friends Plant Sale

AUGUST

Saturday 3

Afternoon Talk: 'The Earth Moves in Mysterious Ways' – Professor Peter Betts, Monash University

Thursday 8

Open House, Elliot Centre

Monday 12

Discovery Day: Kew Cemetery and Studley Park

Sunday 18

Open House Weekend: Gwen and Rodger Elliot: "Nature, Gardens and Frank Lloyd Wright in Pennsylvania".

Saturday 31 – Friday 6 September

Proposed Discovery Tour NW Victoria and Trust for Nature's Ned's Corner

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 12

Open House, Elliot Centre

Monday 16 – Wednesday 18

Botanical Illustrators' Workshop: Waratahs with Marta Salamon

Sunday 22

Discovery Evening: Moonlit Sanctuary

OCTOBER

Thursday 10

Open House, Elliot Centre: A Plant Collection Trip to NW Victoria – Elisabeth Murdoch Scholarship Report by Broni Swartz

Sunday 13

All Day Workshop: Banksias (includes Dryandras now)

Monday 21

Talk and Gawk: Australian Mistletoes with Peter Rogers

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27

Growing Friends Plant Sale

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3 – Tuesday 12

Discovery Tour: Costa Rica

Thursday 14

Open House, Elliot Centre

Sunday 17

Annual General Meeting

DECEMBER

Thursday 12

Open House, Elliot Centre

*This calendar maybe subject to change- Please see the latest *Naturelink* or *Quicklink* for details.

Note: Open House events are for Friends Members only



Tree Violet (*Melicytus dentatus*) beside the wetlands, South Gippland. Photo: Kate Walsh

Cranbourne Friends Brunch

Australian Garden,
Forest of Figs,
opposite the Greening
Cities Garden

Sunday March 17,
2019

10am to 12pm

Join us in March 2019 to find out all about the Cranbourne Friends and how this energetic and engaged group has supported Cranbourne Gardens for over 25 years, and meet our new President.



Everyone is welcome to join us for Sunday brunch in the Forest of Figs (above). Bring a plate to share or just grab a take away coffee from the Boon Wurrung Café or nearby Kiosk. Meet current and new Cranbourne Friends and find out about our events, activity groups, fundraising and committee work.

After you've met old and made new friends, join Rodger Elliot AM, Australian native plant expert, for a tour of the Weird and Wonderful Garden in the Australian Garden.

Finish the morning by wandering down to the plant sale by the Kiosk and pick up a few stunning Australian native plants grown by the talented Growing Friends.

NEXT PLANT SALE AUTUMN 2019

*Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March
2019*

10am to 4pm both days

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria -
Cranbourne

Plant-list available one week prior to
sale -

www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



Rhododendron lochiaie
Drawing: John Armstrong

Membership update

Alexandra Stalder

Email:

membership@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
org.au

Mobile: 0431 025 733



New
Cranbourne Friends
members guide

This quarter we are pleased to welcome 62 new members: Carole Armstrong, Carol McCall, Gary Richardson, Chris Wilson, Sturt Gibbs, Elaine Musgrave, Paul Girdler, April Byrne, Karen Buckley, Michele Guajana, Adam Sullivan, David Rodwell, Brea Rodwell, Janis Rodwell, Andrew Runciman, Anna Schepis, Peter Sabin, Gina Ramsay, Daniel White, Leslie Miller, Jenny Zitzlaff, Ryan Cawse, Kristin Campbell, Fatima Dosen, Barbara Green-McLaren, Christine Mammone, John Payne, Jill Payne, Jillian Durance, Tony Trood, Robert Powell, Carol Pawsey, Ric Pawsey, Helen Davidson, Jason Ceddia, Matt Stern, Gabby Stern, Kathryn Coolbear-Stern, Tim Coolbear, Martin Stalder, Natalie Brown, Aaron Sargent, Kate Sargent, Sophie Sargent, Jade Sargent, Ann Niehof, Tiffany Hall, Christopher Hall, Melanie Browne, Lauren Johnson, Faye Gerdson, Mitko Angel Dimitroff, Barbara Adams, Jennifer Wishart, Karen Lewis, Paivi Salo, Sharon Start, Phillip Start, Andrew Start, Marilyn Meyer, Diana Renou, Christine Grevis-James. I hope that our new members are enjoying all that the Friends have to offer.

The Friends Expo and Winter Plant Sale saw our membership numbers swell; a great result for the Friends, and the Cranbourne

Gardens. *A Guide for New Members of the Cranbourne Friends* has recently been developed and sent to all our new members. This new publication showcases our range of Friends' special interest groups, activities/ events, member benefits, and highlights how new members can get involved. The Guide will be updated on a regular basis and I am keen to hear feedback and suggestions from existing and new members regarding content; i.e. what would have been useful to know when you first joined the Friends?

Membership Projects

The Friends Committee will be conducting a membership survey early next year (to be included with *Naturelink* in 2019) to help the Friends Committee and the Events sub-committee improve their understanding of what our members are seeking from their membership. We are also working on another project - introducing the option of online credit card payments through our website. Cheques, cash, bank transfers etc. will all still be accepted and available as payment methods; however we will be introducing this option for those who would like to join or renew online. We hope to have this up and running soon.

South Gippsland Discovery Tour

May 25-26,
2019

Enquiries

Kate Walsh:

0409 418 223,

katewa20@gmail.com

The discovery tour of South Gippsland will start at Koonwarra Reserve at 10:30 am on Saturday 25 May and finish at Cape Paterson Eco Village on Sunday afternoon 26 May. The tour aims to provide you with unique insights into present, past and future landscapes of South Gippsland and the people who shape(d) them.

We will look at current land uses and the challenges of protecting and restoring biodiversity in a fragmented landscape. We will dip into thousands of years of human history and delve even further through geological time to when the land was part of Gondwana and flowering plants were just emerging. The local community, the Major Road Projects Authority, and a coastal housing development will all describe how they plan to protect and ultimately enhance the environment.

In consultation with public land managers, the Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group developed a vision and plan for the Black Spur Creek Wetland area. They identified its significant features and continue to liaise with stakeholders to encourage implementation of the plan. You will have the opportunity to learn about 115 million-year-old fossils, significant cultural artefacts belonging to traditional landowners, and the wetland and Tarwin River flora and fauna.

During the weekend we will:

- Walk part of the Great Southern Rail Trail and enjoy views from 128-year-old bridges that provided the first land-based transport links to Melbourne. Learn about the massive highway re-alignment that aims to traverse this landscape whilst respecting its values.
- Taste local produce and fossick through shops in Meenyan, the local town renowned for its Garlic Festival.
- Visit a potter who, like his father before him, is close to his environment and has never connected to the electricity grid. His wood-fired kilns create unique glazing effects and his handmade pots are gaining recognition in Australia and overseas.



Rebuilt surface on historic timber trestle bridge over the Tarwin River.

Photo: Kate Walsh

- Dine – on Saturday evening - at the famous Inlet Pub in Inverloch, and after dinner watch a presentation on the Black Spur Creek Wetlands and hear speakers on bird life on the wetlands, plus a special presentation on the unique *Eucalyptus strzeleckii*.
- See a significant collection of Banksia in a farmland setting and stroll through Wywurri, a 30-year-old Australian garden that is being treasured and revitalised by new owners.
- Visit Cape Paterson Eco Village - an innovative development, which aims to achieve high sustainability and community outcomes. We'll be able to see a couple of examples of the houses, some of which are 10-star ranking, visit the community garden and view the revegetation and landscaping.

Although we will not be exploring Inverloch, we will use that as our base as there is plenty of accommodation for an overnight stay on Saturday: camping and caravan park facilities, two motels, or the RACV resort. We have yet to determine the overall cost of the Discovery Tour. Aside from accommodation, costs will include minimal fees for speakers, dinner on Saturday night, plus morning teas and picnic lunch on Sunday and the usual Friends organisational donation.

We are looking for expressions of interest from members. See the booking form. Numbers will be limited to 25-30.

The wetlands at the confluence of the Tarwin River and Black Spur Creek fill with water during the wetter months.

Photo: Kate Walsh

Annual Friends Lunch

Saturday May 4, 2019

11:30am

Tarnuk Room

RBGV Cranbourne Gardens

Enquiries

Barbara Jeffrey

0408 564 379

bajeffrey@westnet.com.au

Mark Saturday 4th May, 2019 in your diaries so you do not double-book this important date!

The Cranbourne Friends Annual Lunch will be held on Saturday 4th May 2019 in the Tarnuk Room, overlooking the Red Sand Garden at Cranbourne. This is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and share your interests, as you enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Sorrento Catering.

Our guest speaker for this great occasion is Dean Stewart, who is a passionate Wemba Wemba-Wergaia man of Victoria. Dean has over 25 years' experience creating, coordinating and conducting cultural education, tourism, conservation and interpretation programs and projects. Dean has worked with Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria and wrote most of the Indigenous culture and history programs that are so important to the interpretation of RBGV, Cranbourne.



2018 Annual Friends lunch.

Photo: Judith Cooke

Also included in the day's proceedings are our Silent Auction, Raffle and Lucky Seat prizes. If any member of the Friends would like to donate towards these fundraising activities, please contact the Events Subcommittee organizer.

Booking will begin in February, through Eventbrite bookings or by the booking form that you will receive.

We look forward to seeing you at the Friends Annual Lunch on 4th May, 2019.

Friends in the Gardens (FiGs)

3rd Tuesday of month

Meet Administration Building tea room

9.45 am

Enquiries: Christine Kenyon

0438 345 589

cekenyon@bigpond.com.com.au

We are still few in number but relish the thought of new members joining this very friendly and enthusiastic Group.

Each month we meet on the 3rd Tuesday morning at 9.45 am in the Administration Building tea room to learn of the day's activity, as each month there are different tasks. Then it is into the Australian Garden from 10am to approximately 12.30pm.

Recently we have weeded and tidied the Backyard Garden, raked and swept paths and helped with mass plantings, by beautifying and detailing the new planting.

If you are interested in 'hands on' involvement in the Cranbourne Gardens we will welcome you with open arms. Just bring gardening gloves, water, hat, and sunblock.



Friends in the Gardens with Matt, raking the Backyard Garden neat and tidy.

Photo: Judith Cooke

Vale Marian Brookes

Marian Brookes, Cranbourne Friends member and in so many ways a wonderful supporter of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, died on 15th May 2018. Her daughter Margaret was a Cranbourne Gardens Ambassador and Friends member for a number of years.

Marian had a long and very productive life. She was a very highly accomplished gardener and avid plantswoman. Outside of her gardening and plant interests her professional involvement was as an anaesthetist and psychiatrist.

In 1983 she was appointed a member of the first RBG Melbourne Board. Marian was a long-term member of the Maud Gibson Trust Advisory Committee, including during the period when the Cranbourne Friends (then known as the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne) were established. She always had a deep and abiding interest in the activities of the Cranbourne Friends.



Marian getting a close view of *Epacris glacialis*, Mt Stillwell, Kosciusko National Park, January 1994. Photo: Rodger Elliot

A photo of Marian, with then Friends President Don Jewell, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch and Hon Peter Howson at the Opening of the Friends Nursery in 1993, appeared on the back cover of the Spring 2018 issue of *Naturelink*.

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

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

Botanical Fabricators

2nd Tuesday of each month at 10am in the Elliot Centre.

Further information - Ph. 8774 2483

Gwen Elliot

As summer is here many Victorians will be spending more time outdoors, rather than sewing and keeping warm indoors. On the other hand, you may prefer to keep out of the hot sun and enjoy the cooler conditions of your lounge room, while having the opportunity to work on a current project.

Sewing enthusiasts seem to always find time to enjoy their craft, as it is a real pleasure to be involved in this activity.

Our Botanical Fabricators' get-togethers will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month over the Christmas/New Year holiday period. Many of our members prefer to stay at home during this time to avoid the holiday crowds. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Just give us a ring first to get further details.

In recent months we have provided displays at the Friends Expo during July and August at Cranbourne, at the Australian Plant Society's Native Plant Sale at Wilson Park Berwick on September 1st, and at the 'Designed Down Under' Handcrafts with an Australian Theme exhibition at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden in Kalorama, at the end of September.

We continue to receive requests for displays which help to promote our beautiful native flora and are happy to assist where possible. We even have an advance notice request for early 2020.



Tawny Frogmouth Fledgling – Applique by Wendy Smart. Photo: Alex Smart

Botanical Basketmakers

3rd Saturday of each month from 10am to 2pm in the Elliot Centre.

Contact

Lynn Lochrie
0437 759 610

basketry@
friendscranbourne.org.
au

This enthusiastic group meets from 10am to 2pm on the third Saturday of the month in the Elliot Centre. You are very welcome to visit and see if basketry is for you! We work on our own projects, but usually have a small amount of spare material that visitors can have a play with whilst chatting about suitable Australian native plants for basketry, the techniques we use, etc.

The Friends Expo, held in July 2018, featured work by members of the group. Several members who are new to basketry exhibited for the first time, and showed just what can be achieved after only a short time.

Do come along, bring your lunch, enjoy a cuppa with us, and consider joining us to also become a basket maker. Hope to see you next month!



Basketry using Australian native plant materials by Liz McDonald and Lynn Lochrie. Photo: Lynn Lochrie

Botanical Illustrators

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

Contact

Margaret Kitchen 0413
664 295

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 to share ideas. We support and encourage each other, hold workshops and talks and work towards holding exhibitions. We welcome visitors and new members.

Gallery Visits to MPRG & McClelland Gallery – 29 August, 2018

Our group enjoyed a splendidly sunny day out to visit two fascinating exhibitions. First, the National Works on Paper at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery gave us much inspiration and food for thought as we admired the artists' range and versatility.

Then, Gordon Ford's superbly presented archive at McClelland Gallery reminded us of this pioneering gardener who masterfully recreated the Australian landscape and inspired generations of gardeners, both professional and amateur.

The day was crowned with a convivial lunch in the light-filled McClelland café, where we felt we were welcoming spring. A waddle through the sculpture park reminded us that it was still winter.

Future Events

There are fewer activities during the summer period as we pause for the festive and vacation season. We are currently hatching plans for 2019.

End-of-year Lunch at Boon Wurrung Café – 5 December, 2018.

Calligraphy demonstration and short workshop – 2019 date TBA.

Botanical Art Workshop with Dianne Emery – 10, 17 & 24 September, 2018

Dianne Emery, who regularly teaches botanical art at RBGV Melbourne, conducted a three-day workshop with us, in drawing and painting the flamboyant *Eucalyptus caesia*, Silver Princess. We were most fortunate to have excellent fresh cuttings in splendid bloom to work from, intrepidly found and supplied by Ann D and Marg K. Dianne made the process seem very straightforward and led us from sketches to finished paintings and drawings during three very pleasant days in the studio. Her warmth and generosity in sharing her broad repertoire of skills provided us with a rich and memorable experience.



Demonstration by Dianne Emery.



Participants in action.

Friends in Focus

2nd Saturday of
each month in the
Elliot Centre

9am October to March
(Daylight Saving)
and at 2pm April to
September

Further information:
president@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
org.au

Members of Friends in Focus were very pleased to display photographs in the Friends Expo. Our prints attracted attention and certainly showed many aspects of the Cranbourne Gardens from landscapes and flowers to birds and insects. Following the Expo many of the Friends in Focus photos were displayed at Karwarra Australian Garden at Kalorama.

Winter, although fairly dry this year, took us into the Conservation area where we were rewarded with some great shots of Fungi and later, after a heavy rain storm, with photos of the Dry Riverbed flowing. Spring, as usual, provided a flush of flowers and busy birds, thereby providing subjects for a 2019 Expo.



Friends in Focus member Mack Fenwick getting down to ground level to capture a very small fungus on camera. Photo: Alex Smart

Growing Friends

Every Thursday
10am – 2pm

Growing Friends Nursery

Contact
growing.friends@
rbgfriendscranbourne.
org.au

Marjanne 9769 7881

Autumn Plant sale

16-17 March 2019

Nursery open to members:

Thursdays 10am –
3.30pm

Thomasias, Lasiopetalums, Guichenotias - members of the Malvaceae family

A few weeks ago I attended a Foothills, Australian Plant Society meeting where Trevor Blake, one of the Cranbourne Friends' plant gurus, was giving a presentation on the above plants. Trevor loves these beautiful and useful plants and recommends them highly for many spots in the gardens. They come in a range of sizes from the little *Thomasia pygmaea* less than 0.5m high to the larger *Thomasia solanacea* with a height often over 2m. Many are smothered in cup-like pink to mauve flower from winter to spring to summer. Some grow well in part-shady conditions, others in full sun. Some can be recommended for coastal areas and most are suitable container plants. All benefit from a light pruning.

I am trying a few in my clay garden.

The Growing Friends grow the following species, usually at different times; at our Autumn sale in March we should have a number of these ready to sell.

Guichenotia ledifolia – a narrow-leafed shrub to 0.8m high with clusters of small pink flowers in winter to spring. It is semi-hardy and grows in sun or part shade in sandy or loam soils.

Guichenotia macrantha – a graceful, spreading, open shrub. 1-2m high and 1.5-3m. wide with large mauve/pink to purple/pink, papery flowers from winter to spring. Sun to part shade. Sandy to gravelly soil.

Lasiopetalum baueri - bushy, spreading plant. 0.8-1m high and 1.5-2m wide. Grey/green foliage with reddish hairy new growth. Pink flowers in spring to summer. Full or part sun and is good for alkaline soil.

Thomasia laxiflora - dwarf to small shrub with pink to purplish star-shaped flowers in Spring. Flowering can be profuse. 0.5-1m high and 0.5-1m wide. Responds well to pruning, well-drained soil.

Thomasia petalocalyx - low spreading shrub to 0.8m high and 1.5m. wide. Papery pink flowers spring-summer. Sun to part shade.

Thomasia pygmaea - a very ornamental ground cover with a profuse display of small mauve/pink to pink pendent flowers in spring. 20-30cm high and 50-80cm wide. Sandy loam. Sun to part shade.

Thomasia quercifolia - much branched small shrub with aromatic leaves. Dainty sprays of mauve/purple flowers in spring. H0.6-1.3m x W0.8-1.5m. Sandy loam. Sun to part shade.

Thomasia rhynchoarpa - hardy small shrub with attractive reddish new growth. Showy racemes of purple slightly papery flowers in spring. H1-1.7m x W1.5-2m. Most soils. Sun to part shade.



Guichenotia macrantha



Thomasia pygmaea



Thomasia rhynchoarpa

Thomasia sarotes - small shrub to H0.5-1m x W1-1.5m. Pink to purple or white flowers in Spring-Summer. Acidic soil with moderate drainage. Suitable for containers. Sun to part shade.

Members can buy plants every Thursday

Our nursery is open to members every Thursday from 10am to 3.30 pm. If you can't come on Thursdays but really wish to buy some plants, email growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au or phone/text Marjanne 0431 607 796 and leave a message. It may be possible to visit the nursery at another time.

Open House at the Elliot Centre

Helen Morrow

Friends are invited to come along to The Elliot Centre on the second Thursday of each month for a program of interesting and inspiring presentations and the opportunity to enjoy afternoon tea with other members.

Members can consult the Friends Reference Library during these times or visit the Friends Nursery which is open on Thursday to 2pm.

For further details contact Helen Morrow 9850 9125. Please leave a message.

It was full house in July when Alex Smart presented 'The Cranbourne Gardens Development'. This was an update of his presentation at last year's AGM.

He showed recently found photos of the site in the days when extensive sand mining was in full swing, including the full gauge railway that was used to transport sand for the building trade. This took place in the section where the Australian Garden is now situated. The area was also used for market gardening.

Maud Gibson set up the Maud Gibson Trust in memory of her father. She was keen to establish a native plant annex to the RBG Melbourne. The 363 hectares of bushland was purchased in 1970; it remained an annex with very few staff until 1988 when funding was granted to establish the Australian Garden. The Cranbourne Friends was launched in 1991 by a group of people keen to support and watch the Garden develop. A brief for the Australian Garden was presented in 1994 and the design by landscape architects Taylor Cullity Lethlean was accepted in 1995.

Thank you Alex for telling us the history of the Gardens and much more.

In August we invited Lindy Harris, Horticulturalist at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden, to talk about its development and day to day running. In 1960 the Mount Dandenong Horticultural Society agreed to establish a native garden on the two hectare site at Kalorama on Mt Dandenong. It was a neglected site covered in blackberry and other general weeds.

The garden opened in 1971. Ellis Stones had early input and examples of his rock outcrop work are still to be seen.

In the late 1970's Kath Deery designed the layout of paths and garden beds.

The Yarra Ranges Council manage the garden and the maintenance is overseen by Lindy to ensure the integrity of Kath Deery's design is maintained. Lindy's very busy schedule also includes managing the nursery.

Thank you Lindy for finding time to come and talk to us about this important native garden.

Christine Kenyon took us travelling in September with a visit the Patagonia & Antarctica.

This was an adventure of volcanoes, lakes, glaciers, plants and mountains.

Christine and Michael spent four weeks in Patagonia walking in the National Park, travelling across lakes and staying with an indigenous family. The photographs of the lakes, glaciers and scenery were spectacular.

From Ushuaia, the city at the end of the world, they went by ship to the Antarctic Peninsula, for 15 days of ice and snow with penguins and whales added for extra interest. More stunning photos - it was obviously a wonderful trip.

Christine talked to us last year about Iceland. Having now been to both ends of the globe, where to for your next adventure? We look forward to seeing and hearing about it.

Thank you Christine for coming to Open House.

Alf Reina came to the Elliot Centre in October for his presentation on "Migration, Refugees and Peace Keeping".

Alf was 17 when he arrived in South Australia with his family. He learnt English and furthered his education at night school, a path many migrants have followed.

He moved to Canberra in 1969, with Marjanne and three year old Richard, when he joined the Department of Immigration. Initially, his role was to research the economic impact of immigration. He also managed the English programs for both adults and children, and later headed the area of the department responsible for the assessment of applications for refugee status from asylum seekers. Overseas appointments followed: a diplomatic post to London recruiting professional people in the 1970s, then to Bonn, Germany from 1994 to 1997, with responsibility across Europe for humanitarian and refugee programs. Alf described the horrors of the Balkan war and Australia's role in dealing with the refugee crisis, with the UNHCR and agencies.

In 1992 Alf was seconded to the United Nations peace-keeping mission in Cambodia, with responsibility for the Ministries of Immigration and Foreign Affairs. His role included ensuring respect for human rights, capacity building and participation in the UN-conducted general elections in May 1993.

In 1999 Alf participated in the UN peace-keeping mission in East Timor following the withdrawal of the occupying Indonesian forces. He helped design the structure for the interim government and to prepare Timor for self-government.

Following early retirement in 1997, Alf worked for several years with the United Nations and other international agencies on projects in Rwanda, Africa and the Middle East.

He outlined the global refugee situation and described Uganda's humane and friendly approach to the 1 million refugees currently in that country.

Thank you Alf, we appreciate your in-depth account of a subject so often misreported.

Staff profile

Tricia Stewart



Tricia Stewart, Team Leader Natural Areas, Environmental Systems, Cranbourne Gardens

Barely a sapling on the scale of the average RBGV career spans, I planted myself as but a seed (as Natural Areas Team Leader) in the Cranbourne Gardens a smidge over two years ago.

I like to think I now have my roots firmly established and that you're going to have a real problem trying to get rid of me.

Rather than regale you with the boring timeline of my previous employment, let's just say I've worked in a variety of conservation land management fields, government, private and self-employed over the better part of 20 years, following a science degree from Monash University, majoring in Botany and Conservation Ecology.

That way we can move on to the good stuff. The really nerdy, geeky things about me that I know my fellow Royal Botanic Gardenites will dig, on a deeper, daggier level.

I was indoctrinated into the wonderful world of conservation ecology by none other than Ranger Stacey - an enthusiastic, animal-loving, 'stubby short-wearing' personality, who took to our TV screens in the '90s. This lifestyle was further encouraged in the 2000s by Steve Irwin. Another enthusiastic, animal-loving, 'stubby short-wearing' personality. (See a trend appearing here?).

Motivated by the flora, the fauna and the fame, I've dabbled in TV/YouTube publications, presenting mini site documentaries for Landcare groups, and developing interpretive audio-visual trail narratives for schools and conservation

reserves all around Victoria. Yes, I wore stubby shorts, and yes, I began forcing people to call me Ranger Tricia (which I will unashamedly continue to do).

Following in the footsteps of Stacey and Steve, I pride myself in bringing the conservation ecology message to people in the most engaging and enjoyable way I can conjure up. With my team at RBGV responsible for managing approximately 300 hectares of conservation bushland surrounding the Australian Gardens, I have no shortage of nature stories and 'fun facts' to tell everyone about, even if they seem uninterested... in fact, ESPECIALLY if they seem uninterested (because I love a challenge)!

Away from the work sphere, I have a random assortment of peculiar passions and curious pursuits. These include spending all my money on my critters (horses and dogs), hugging them tightly around the neck whispering 'I love you, I love you, I love you' while I struggle to get away, to doing promotional work for Australian rodeos and professional bull riding events, and blatantly avoiding any garden work in my own jungle-esque backyard in Koo Wee Rup. I categorise its overgrown nature as an 'indigenous, conservation cottage garden'. (See, sounds totally legitimate).

I also enjoy long walks on the beach, loudly announcing the 'meanings' of the Latin nomenclature even though no one asked, and arguing over correct pronunciation of plant names.

Visit by Melbourne Friends RBGV

Thursday 23rd August, 2018

On a beautiful winter's day, Melbourne Friends RBGV combined a tour to Attila Kapitany's succulent garden at Narre Warren with a visit to the Cranbourne Gardens in the afternoon.

The tour was fully booked and the group was met in the carpark by Rodger Elliot and Barbara Jeffrey. A few members headed off straight to the Gardens while the rest went to the Elliot Centre to have their lunch and a nice hot cup of coffee or tea. Rodger and Gwen Elliot spoke to the group about the Elliot Centre and the Cranbourne Friends. The Melbourne Friends were very appreciative of this hospitality.

The next stop for our guests was the Growing Friends Nursery, which was open as it was a working day. They clearly enjoyed their visit to the Nursery and seeing what had been propagated by our Growing Friends; like all plant lovers, many could not resist buying plants to take home and put in their gardens. I hope these will a great reminder of their visit to Cranbourne.



Growing Friends nursery.

Photo: Alex Stalder

The final part of the day for the Melbourne Friends was an hour-long walking tour of the Australian Garden with three Garden Ambassadors and a quick visit to Garden Shop before departing.

Hopefully, it is not too long before the Cranbourne Friends and Melbourne Friends are able to meet up again and extend warmth and hospitality to each other.

Bushland Breakfast: Special Collections with Warren Worboys

Saturday 4 August, 2018

Amy Akers



This old flower of *Banksia aemula* has some personality.

Photo: Amy Akers

On a slightly chilly and windy winter's morning, a group of 15 enthusiastic attendees met at the Elliot Centre at 8am for breakfast and hot cups of coffee and tea, before embarking on a guided walk with Warren Worboys.

Although the main reason for the walk was to visit the Special Collections area, Warren pointed out various interesting things along the way. These included Sweet Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*), the tiny flowers of Cherry Ballart (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*), Spoon-leaved Sundew (*Drosera spatulata*), Nodding Greenhoods (*Pterostylis nutans*), Trim Greenhoods (*P. concinna*), Pink Beard-heath (*Leucopogon ericoides*) and Prickly Geebung (*Persoonia juniperina*).

On our way, Warren showed us an area that had been fenced off to prevent wallabies from entering and to allow plants to recover. The difference the fencing has made was noticeably visible. Amusingly, someone soon spotted a wallaby in this fenced off area, and it was quickly herded out of the enclosure. Some taller fencing may be required!

As we arrived at the Special Collections area, Warren explained its history. Alf Salkin had approached the Royal Botanic Gardens to gain permission to plant a collection of *banksia* species found in Eastern Australia, from Cairns all the way down to Tasmania. After permission was granted, various study groups from the Australian Plants Society also gained permission to include other plants including *dryandra* species (now classified as *banksias*), *persoonias*, *hakeas*, *callistemons*, *Adenanthos sp.*,



Warren Worboys explaining facts about *Hakea amplexicaulis* to Wendy Smart.

Photo: Amy Akers

and *Lambertia sp.* Some plants unfortunately did too well and spread into the bushland. Warren noted some *Persoonia* species as being particularly bad as seeds were spread by birds and plants found several kilometres away. He explained that the area is being assessed and that the intention is to remove all of the introduced plants in the Special Collections area, so that the bushland may return to its natural state. These introduced plants would be saved where possible and used elsewhere.

Plants we particularly enjoyed include Kangaroo Island Gland Flower (*Adenanthos macropodianus*), Prickly Hakea (*Hakea amplexicaulis*), *H. scoparia*, *H. bakeriana*, Grass-leaved Hakea (*H. multilineata*), *Lambertia uniflora*, Mountain Devil (*L. formosa*), Woody Pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*), and Wallum Banksia (*Banksia aemula*).

Note: The Special Collections Area is not open to the general public.

Proposed Cranbourne Friends Tours

Rodger Elliot
rgelliot@optusnet.com.au
or phone:
0448 013 8928

- Alpine Victoria:** January 2019 and will be at Mt Hotham from Saturday 12th – Thursday 17th January. See page 16
- Sicily Tour:** Alf Reina is organising another Sicilian Tour for May 2019 and we are seeking expressions of interest. Time is short and Alf is wanting to finalise arrangements for this tour.
- Costa Rica:** 10 day tour, 3 – 12 November 2019. We may have one vacancy for tour.
- Far north-east Queensland:** Initial planning is underway for the far north-east Queensland Tour and will be leaving from Cairns. It will be held in May or June 2020 to coincide with the Banks & Solander celebrations and the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference being held in Brisbane.
- New Caledonia:** Possibly 2022.
- New Zealand:** Possibly 2023.
- USA National Parks:** Possibly 2022.
- Lord Howe Island:** Especially for people with an interest in birds, the tour will take place in October 2021 when many of the migratory birds will be present and breeding on Lord Howe Island. The tour will be limited to 14 participants but our leader Ian Hutton is happy to do back-to-back tours if 28 people register.
- Tasmanian Tour:** Our Patron Angus Stewart has offered to lead a Tour in January 2021 and is currently working on
- New Caledonia, New Zealand and USA National Parks:** We have a sufficient number of EOIs in these tours for us to investigate further the possibility of running the tours.

If you would like to be included on a listing for any of these tours, place your name on the Booking Form and send it to our Booking Officer Ros Shepherd.

Many tours organised by the Friends have been very popular and successful. Tour participants pay a levy for each tour with the funds benefiting the Cranbourne Gardens.

Rodger Elliot: rgelliot@optusnet.com.au or phone: 0448 013 892

Microbats Talk by Dr Casey Visintin

September 23,
2018

On the 23rd of September around 35 people, including children, members of the Cranbourne Friends and visitors, attended a presentation on microbats led by Dr Casey Visintin, who is a microbat specialist with a BSc, B.Arch, MSc (Env) and PhD (Env).

Dr Visintin started the presentation by taking questions from the audience, and answering them with educated responses. Dr Visintin spoke about endangered and common microbats found in Australia, and cleared up common myths around (micro) bats, such as whether they drink blood (the answer to this myth is that bats in Australia do not drink blood)! Another myth that Casey clarified was that not all bats echo-locate and not all bats have bad eyesight.

The most common bat found in Australia is the Gould Wattled Bat. This bat often has twins and is an insect specialist. Gould Wattled Bats are also extremely adaptable and while other bats have specific roosting needs and requirements, they will settle into almost all foliage and tree hollows. Gould Wattled Bats can be found in backyards and parks all around Melbourne.

Dr Visintin informed the audience on echo-location and the types of microbats that have the ability to use it. Echo-location is the ability to send signals that bounce off

different animals and objects. Some species of bats echo-locate using their noses whereas others use their mouths. Some bats, like the large fruit bats, don't even need to use echo-location because they are not hunting for bugs in the night sky, but fruit on the trees. Like the myth that was cleared up before (all bats are blind) the fruit bats have as good eyesight as we do and are able to find their food without needing echo-location.

At the end of the presentation, people were able to get up close and view three different species of microbats: a Little Forest bat, a Free Tail bat and a Gould bat. Overall Dr Visintin held a great presentation and kept the audience interested and engaged.

If you would like to find out more on bat boxes, e.g. what they are, where you can get them and how to monitor them, visit www.monitoring.batboxes.wordpress.com. This site is run by the Melbourne bat box monitoring program, which involves bat researchers and volunteers from around Melbourne CBD.

This report was written by young teenage cousins Isabel Freeman Smith and Chavon Freeman, two of the world's best grandchildren according to Alex Smart. We heartily thank them for their contribution.

Victorian Environmental Friends Network (VEFN) Awards

Saturday August
25, 2018

In August, the Cranbourne Friends hosted the State's VEFN Best friend awards for 2018.

The awards recognise outstanding environmental volunteers and friends groups, with recognition supplemented by financial grants to groups.

About 70 visitors attended, many of whom had not been to the Cranbourne Gardens before. After a welcome by Paul Strickland, the Convenor of VEFN, Alex Smart described the activities of the Cranbourne Friends and amused all with his suggestions on how best to progress environmental causes.

Janet Bolitho, the Chair of the Judging Panel, and Chris Russell, Executive Director Cranbourne Gardens, congratulated the awardees and celebrated the efforts of volunteers to preserve and promote the natural environment of Victoria through Friends Groups.

Recipients of Best Friend Awards were:

- Judy Ingram (Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley)
- Graeme Lorimer (Friends of Bungalook Conservation Reserve, Kilsyth South)
- Fiona Topolcsanyi (Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve).

Cranbourne Friends were delighted to see two of their members receiving the Highly Commended award, as Margaret and Richard Clarke were acknowledged



Margaret and Richard Clarke celebrate their VEFN awards with colleagues.

for their tireless work providing committee leadership, fundraising, innovation and business acumen for the Cranbourne Friends since 2006. They both served as President of Cranbourne Friends for three years; projects they oversaw included the conversion of a donated building into the Elliot Centre and construction of the Growing Friends Nursery.

Other recipients of the Highly Commended awards were Ben Ellis (Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve, Yarra Ranges), Melissa Holden (Friends of Wonnangatta Valley) and Claude Odorisio (Friends of Organ Pipes National Park).

Following the award presentation and lunch, visitors could undertake a ramble in the Gardens with Rodger Elliot, Alex Smart or Helen Kennedy, or a trip around the Australian Garden on the Garden Explorer.

Spring afternoon bushland wildflower ramble

September 18,
2018

Judy Mallinson

On a blustery rain-threatening afternoon over 30 Friends gathered to explore the bushland with Warren Worboys. First stop was by the gate to the depot where Warren explained the importance of ecotonal strips such as where we stood. This is the area between two different ecosystems where they abut one another. Here species such as *Acacia brownii*, *A. suaveolens* and Donkey Orchids (*Diuris*) can be found. With the whole site becoming much drier, there are fewer species to be found, some disappearing altogether. For example, *Epacris gunnii* was only found south of the Stringybark Picnic Area but has now died out and *Tetratheca ciliata* and *Indigofera australis* occur on the margin of the southern edge of the heathland and the southern grasslands.

In the Southern Grasslands, Kangaroo Grass and Spear Grass had survived along old boundary fence lines where cattle were unable to graze and have now spread further across the area. Wallaby Grass is now becoming the dominant sward in most areas and programmed selective mowing allows the seed to set but reduces the risks for fire management.

On the access road behind the Visitors Centre, *Platylobium obtusangulum* stood out with its bright yellow/red pea flowers and triangular leaves. Further on, the yellow flowered shrubs of *Aotus ericoides* made even more of a splash of colour. This shrub is popular wallaby fodder. Interspersed between fairly sparse vegetation in sandy soil were found several plants of the dainty Pink Fingers orchid – *Caladenia carnea*.

From various points we could see beginnings of the white flowers of *Leptospermum myrsinoides* which pervades the Cranbourne bush at this time of year. Warren pointed out a lone pink specimen which occurs occasionally.

We made our way along the rabbit exclusion fence and were intrigued by the special bandicoot 'gates' through the wire – a piece of plastic pipe with a little door which the bandicoots have learned to open with their pointy noses, but the rabbits haven't. At Cranbourne we have the most secure habitat for Southern Brown Bandicoots in the world, so we need to continue to provide the right conditions for them.

Reaching the Research Garden, we learned about the latest project, a collaboration between Melbourne University and the University of Sheffield, UK. Here tough species have been planted which will be slashed to ground level three times a year to test their survival ability for use in the planting of urban areas, such as housing sites or vacant city blocks.

Some of the monies gifted to the Gardens by



Warren Worboys discusses small native plants in the bushland on the east side of the Australian Garden.

Photo: Judith Cooke



Aotus ericoides is a very showy small local shrub that can perform well in cultivation.

Photo: Judith Cooke



Warren Worboys showing the small fruit on a twig of Cherry Ballart, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*.

Photo: Judith Cooke

the Friends has been allocated to the creation of large wallaby exclusion zones. Through his involvement with the Cranbourne site for over thirty years, Warren is aware of the many species which were prevalent in the early days, but are now undetectable due to excessive wallaby grazing. Now some of these species such as *Tetratheca ciliata*, *Caleana major* and the Native Parsni, are re-appearing in small experimental exclusion zones. Encouraging!

Nearing the end of our ramble, raincoats were donned and we all headed back to the Elliot Centre for a most welcome afternoon tea and convivial conversation.

We are most fortunate to benefit from Warren's vast knowledge of the Cranbourne site and its history, and we thank him very much for imparting his knowledge to us.

Discovery Tour: Hotham Wildflowers Adventure

12-17 January,
2019

This tour in the Mt Hotham region will be on Saturday 12 – Thursday 17 January 2019, when we will be able to explore the wonderful alpine flowers that abound there over summertime and wallow in the wonderful scenery.

We will be based at the very well-appointed Kalyna Ski Club at 10 Davenport Drive, Hotham. It is very close to the General Store. We used this same lodge in 2017.

The breadth of *Brachyscomes* of various hues, carpets of cushion plants, clumps of *Craspedias*, the possible opulence of *Olearias*, interesting members of the *Erica* family, colonies of *Stylidium*s, expanses of *Xerochrysum*s from yellow to orange, multi-coloured trunks of snow gums plus the mazing vistas make this a part of the world one should visit whenever the opportunity arises

The program for the period will involve walks and rambles. Generally the walks will be low key but if anybody wishes to be bold and take the Mt Feathertop walk that is possible too; however, people will need to be in fit condition to undertake such a walk. On some occasions we will drive to locations prior to exploring the area.

In the evenings there will be opportunities to identify plants that we saw during the day or just socialise.



Mixed flowerhead colours of
Brachyscome rigidula.

Photo: Rodger Elliot



A stunning display of *Xerochrysum subundulatum*. Photo Rodger Elliot

We will have digital projection capabilities if any participants would like to make use of such facilities. Maybe someone will have a presentation that they would like to share with everyone.

Cost will be \$275.00 per person for 5 nights accommodation in twin-share rooms with en-suites.

We may be able to offer a couple of four-share rooms if there is a group of friends who would like to be together, with the price still being \$275.00 per person.

The cost of a Family Deal is \$550.00 per room plus \$100.00 for each child

Doonas, pillows & blankets are provided but you will need to BYO linen and towels

Participants need to supply all food and drinks for breakfasts and lunches. A number of cafes/restaurants will be open for evening meals but participants can also cook evening meals at Kalyna.

If you are interested in being part of this wonderful Hotham Wildflowers Adventure please complete the Expression of Interest section on the Booking Form and forward it as soon as possible to the Booking Officer Ros Shepherd.

Cranbourne Friends Committee

President: Indra Kurzeme	0408 002 028	Booking Officer	Ros Shepherd	5932 5611
Secretary: Helen Kennedy	9560 0185		bookings@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	
Vice President: Helen Morrow	9850 9125	Events Sub Committee	Barbara Jeffrey (Coordinator)	Rodger Elliot
Vice President: Roger Watts	0409 857 664		Alex Smart	Deb Abbs
Immediate Past President: Richard Clarke	5974 1750		Lyn Blackburne	Richard Clarke
Treasurer: Karen Russell	9878 4857		Marjanne Rook	Ros Shepherd
Membership Secretary: Alexandra Stalder	0458 550 509	Naturelink Editor:	Rosemary Miller	0422 893745
RBGV Representative: Chris Russell	5990 2200	Quicklink Editors:	Alex Stalder	
General Committee			Janette Wison	
Christine Kenyon	9589 2154	Social Media Convenor:	Amy Akers	0423 513 281
Barbara Jeffrey	5998 5410			
Alexandra Stalder	0458 550 509			
Janette Wilson	0477 711569			
Rosemary Miller	0422 893745			
Mick Robertson				

The General Committee meets on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at 6.30pm.