

NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

VOL 31:4 SUMMER 2024



Hakea multineata in bloom at Chris Larkin's garden, Lysterfield, August 2024. Photo Tess Holderness.



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

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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

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.

Cyanotype Workshop 23 February 2025

Gail Stiffe is offering Friends members a hands-on workshop in Cyanotype artwork on Sunday 23 February, for which we will be taking bookings (see link below)

The workshop is preceded by a free Open House talk about the procedure on Thursday 13 February. This talk, to be held at 2pm at the Elliot Centre, will be recorded and made available to anyone who is unable to attend that event.

Cyanotype is a simple photographic process that requires little special equipment or chemicals. It has changed only slightly since 1842 when Sir John Herschel discovered it. Also called blueprint, it requires two chemicals that, when mixed together, become light-sensitive. These are painted onto paper or fabric and images are produced by either photographic negatives or by objects being placed on the paper or fabric before exposure to UV. The chemicals wash out of the areas that are masked out and those areas exposed to the sun produce a beautiful blue image.

The workshop will cover mixing chemicals, coating paper, exposing and washing. Gail will supply all materials including some pre-coated paper, so a materials fee will be included in the workshop price. Information about how to organise printing from a photograph, rather than a plant, will be provided.

The cost of the workshop is \$95 for members, \$105 for non-members..

Bookings: <http://thq.fyi/se/-EtkIU>



Cyanotypes of a *Grevillea* and a *Corella*.
Artwork by Gail Stiffe

Autumn Plant Sale

The Autumn Plant Sale will be held on **March 22 and 23, 2025**.

The sale will be held at the kiosk building at the north end of the Cranbourne Gardens

Lists of the plants we have on offer will be released on our website about a week before the sale:

rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



Plant sale October 2024.
Photo: Janette Wilson.
See more photos on page 10-11

Exciting Friends events in 2025 - save the dates!

Sunday May 18
Raising Rarity -latest developments.

This is a Friends Sunday morning event in support of RBGV's Raising Rarity program, led by the Rarity team Meg Hirst, Russell Larke, and Matt Henderson.



Saturday August 16 -
Sunday August 24
The Genus Banksia

Join the Cranbourne Friends and RBGV for a series of lectures, workshops, exhibitions, sales and guided walks at the RBGV Cranbourne.



Annual General Meeting November 2024



New Committee for 2025

At the Annual General Meeting on 10 November, a new Friends Committee was elected, and some adjustments have since been made.

The current Friends Committee:

President - (temporarily vacant)
Vice President and Treasurer - Wendy Herauville
Secretary - Rosemary Miller
Immediate Past President - Erin Cosgriff
Membership Secretary - Alexandra Stalder

Ordinary members:

John Arnott
Jill Burness
Helen Kennedy
Kim McKee



Top: Chief Executive Chris Russell speaks at the Cranbourne Friends AGM 2024; artists Jenny Rollason and Margaret Kitchen present artwork to Professor David Cantrill; Acting Executive Director Cranbourne, Kevin Alexander; retiring office-bearers President Erin Cosgriff (L) and Secretary (Jennifer Potten).
Photos: Peter Miller

Pardalote workshop report- August 2024 | Kerryn Robertson

In August the Botanical Illustrators held a two day workshop painting a Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*, surrounded by Red Box leaves, *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*.

It was ably led by David Reynolds, a well known botanical and wildlife artist who teaches at RBG Melbourne and Park Orchards. David led us through all the processes required to paint the pardalote and the leaves in a comprehensive and enthusiastic manner. In addition we were fortunate to be given some leaves of *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* from the Australian Garden to gauge the particular blue-green colour and shape of the leaves. It was a very busy two days enjoyed by all participants.

Our thanks and best wishes go to Jan Maslen who organised the workshop.



Painting: Kerryn Robertson



Greetings Friends,

I am writing this last President's letter with very mixed feelings. It has been a very interesting five+ years on the committee of the Friends, four as President. Many, many highs and quite a few challenges, just as in any job or role really, although COVID was one out of the box. But it's always good when you can say the satisfaction, rewards and connections have been well worth the efforts.

So, to my fellow committee members - thank you - you have been the details-people working away quietly and very effectively in the background. A sterling group that has supported me being the 'face' of the Friends Committee, your support has been so reliable and freely given - a balm in tricky times and many laughs in the highlights. The camaraderie and true teamwork have been wonderful. It's truly the committees that shoulder the work and responsibilities especially those in the executive positions who won't want to be named, but we all know who you are, and your dedication is quite marvellous and inspiring.

It's also been a privilege getting to know so many members, active volunteers, Special Interest Group people and leaders, Events sub-committee, plant advisors and Gardens' staff. The cavalcade of those who love these gardens and work tirelessly to promote them is too vast to mention all by name. The use of the word cavalcade has given me a visual of a long conga line - or even a chorus line - of all who pitch in and keep the goodwill flowing. Quite the vision! But you get my drift - it takes an army to achieve so much output.

This organisation is truly complex and multi-focussed. So many people bring skills, knowledge and enthusiasm to making our endeavours worthwhile and appreciated. I trust that all those who give of themselves are rewarded with a great sense of satisfaction and belonging as I have been.

The Friends organisation is productive and socially connected, and will continue to further the mission of supporting the RBGV Cranbourne through hard work and financial projects and, equally importantly, through being true ambassadors for our Australian plants and gardens. Our achievements are so beautifully recorded in each Annual Report - our opportunity to highlight the projects realised and the benefits of contributing.

I urge you to value and contribute your skills to keep us relevant, interesting and educative for the following generations. The responsibility and pleasure in encouraging new interests and understanding of our natural world for those who follow, gives back abundantly.

My personal thanks go also to the senior staff of the RBGV, who have supported and encouraged my role in being a conduit between the Friends and the Gardens. Your availability, kindness and respect have been notable and very appreciated.



Can you believe that 2024 is almost over? We have achieved so much including the construction of a new western entrance to our beautiful site, a new raised boardwalk through the Gondwana Garden linking up with the Lily Pad Bridge, the completion of the Ian Potter Lakeside Precinct kiosk extension, and new way-finding signage to welcome our guests at our main carpark. Recycled water has also been connected to our nursery to increase our sustainability.

Our nursery staff have completed 10,086 cuttings and developed 7,694 plant tubes for the Gardens. Over 300 new plant accessions have been added to our living collection, as well as a range of planting across multiple curated areas; Dry Riverbed, Gondwana, Arid Garden, Box Garden and Howson Hill to name a few. We welcomed many new staff to our team over the year, which is wonderful, however we have said goodbye to some as well, following the retirement of John Arnott who has had a stellar 15 years with our organisation as Manager Horticulture. Our Australian Garden would not be what we enjoy today without the vision, horticultural wizardry, and leadership of John. We wish him well in his future endeavours and will enjoy catching up with him in-between cycling trips. Some of our staff also stepped up this year; none more so than our inspirational leader Mr. Chris Russell, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

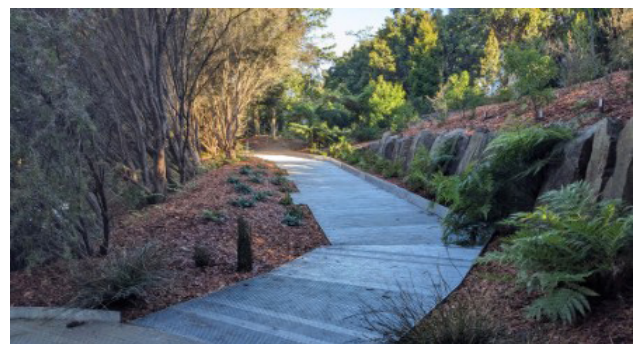
Old friends returned to our site this year, with 20 breeding pairs of Pookila being released on-site under the guidance of Zoos Victoria. I'm told our returned guests, not seen on our site since 1976, are doing well in the Conservation Zone, digging around and doing what comes naturally to Pookila.

The Raising Rarity team have been leading the way in conservation horticulture, presenting to many groups and seminars including the Australian Plant Society Conference, Field Naturalist Clubs, science seminars, Friends groups, Parks and Leisure Australia, the Alpine Society, the 8th International Botanic Congress Singapore, and numerous tours of the Australian Garden.

The Raising Rarity team have also been working with several organisations across the state, including the City of Melbourne to develop their Rare and Threatened Species Plan and garden assessments, as well as supporting the Wildlife Art Museum of Australia (WAMA) Halls Gap, the Sale Botanic Gardens and Mallacoota Endemic Botanic Gardens. Not forgetting the vital link to our next generation, the team have also been working with Melbourne Grammar, St Johns Regional College, Rosedale Primary School, Glengarry Primary School and Loch Sport Primary School through intensive outreach programs.



We are very proud that in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, the Rasing Rarity program was recently presented with the 2024 Australian Institute of Horticulture Award of Merit. Congratulations team, your work and effort are making a huge impact.



Australian Plant Society Conference at Nunawading; the new raised boardwalk in the Gondwana Garden.
Photos: Kevin Alexander

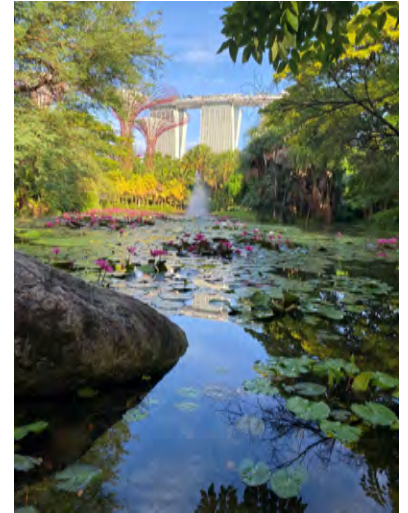
As all these activities have been happening while our normal day-to-day endeavors have continued like clockwork, I'd like to thank all the Friends, volunteers and staff who have made this year a success. I look forward to more exciting developments during 2025, including the re-imagining of the 'How To Garden', our inaugural 'Lightfall' event in April (see page 14), and of course a beautiful show of plants across the seasons.

Finally, I wish to thank and congratulate the outgoing Cranbourne Friends Committee for all they have achieved during their term. It's been a pleasure working with you all. I look forward to working with the new committee in a similar manner. I wish everyone an enjoyable summer and I'll see you in the Gardens soon.

8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Singapore | Kevin Alexander

Thanks to the generous support of Cranbourne Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, I was lucky enough to attend the 8th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Singapore. The trip itself was a very full itinerary: a week full of presentations and workshops, site tours to experience some of the best landscapes and environs Singapore has to offer, and of course many opportunities for informal networking and conversations were afforded.

I learnt that Singapore has been delivering a 'Greening the City' program for almost 50 years. This program (see iconic image at right) doesn't just involve putting trees in the ground, although they have done that very well. If anyone tells you trees don't mix with infrastructure, point them towards Singapore, a city within a forest. A large portion of Singapore's greening program is about engaging with locals about nature and horticulture, across various platforms – public green spaces and gardens, education programs, and mental health support programs – providing an inspiring model. As a result, the local communities seemed engaged in their environment, proud and respectful of the green city in which they reside, and aware of the biophilic benefits they get from living within and directly engaging with the natural environment.



While not every city in the world has the climate and rainfall to develop a city within a forest, a regular discussion point was about getting 'the right' plants available in nurseries, and then into community planting programs. We heard of multiple programs across the globe, including North America, Asia, and South America with similar messages and objectives to our own Raising Rarity program. The question asked is 'How do we raise awareness of these special plants?' We slowly shift the community's understanding with successful outreach programs, which in turn assist wider communities to take action to protect rare and threatened species. I was proud to see our own Raising Rarity team deliver a workshop at the congress, positioning our organisation at the leading edge of conservation horticulture across the globe.

Sitting with leading Botanic Garden practitioners from around the world, it was ironic that the question 'What role does a Botanic Gardens play in global conservation?' was asked. Of course it had many answers, but the role of sharing our knowledge was high on the list. Many spoke about raising awareness, which leads to community learning, and hopefully action on the ground.

I was specifically interested in the concepts of raising awareness, and the theory of Push vs Pull communication methods. In very simplistic terms, pushing a message is about delivering data that is important to the sender of the message. Meanwhile, pulling of a message is described as the interpretation of data that is important to the receiver. An interesting concept, I encourage you to consider this the next time you receive information or attempt to deliver it, I find it fascinating.

This really is a brief summary of the complex discussions and conversations throughout the entire week. My attendance wouldn't have been possible without the support of Cranbourne Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, for which I am truly grateful.

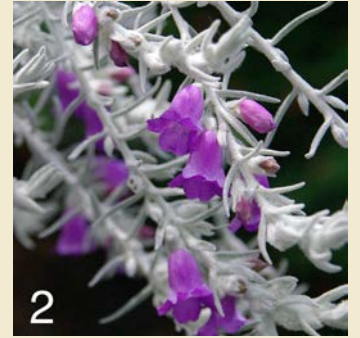
Friend Quiz 18 Charles Young

I trust all you phytophiles ('plant lovers') have enjoyed another wonderful year in the garden – your own or Cranbourne's! This quiz is based around some plants that have recently flowered in my little patch! Good luck and Season's Greetings!

Q1. 'Dry,' 'golden,' and 'sticky' appear in some of the names of this widespread south-eastern Australian daisy. What are the common and scientific names of this plant?



Q2. This *Eremophila* is rare in the wild (W.A.) but widespread in cultivation. Its specific epithet conjures up images of a well-known moisturiser! What is this plant, the moisturiser and their connection?



Q3. This tall, graceful *Grevillea*, endemic to south-western W.A., is commonly called the Flame Grevillea. What is its scientific name and what does it signify?



Q4. This large shrub resembles a snow-covered Christmas tree when its profuse, white flowers decorate its branches. Its slender, weeping leaves are also a feature. What is this popular plant?



Q5. *Orthrosanthus multiflorus* is a clumping plant that produces delightful blue flowers. The opening time and number of the flowers are reflected in its name. How so?



Q6. This is the flower of *Diuris sulphurea* or Tiger Orchid. Its scientific name alludes to tails and the chemical element sulfur (the correct spelling). How and why was the name formed?



Q7. True or false? The Mount Spurgeon Black Pine, *Prumnopitys ladei*, is named after Rev. Frank Lade, a methodist clergyman and social reformer who worked in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.



Q8. *Chorizema cordatum* never fails to delight. What inspired this plant's scientific and common names?



Photos by (and plants grown) Charles Young.

Check your answers on page 16.

Friends in the Gardens

| Christine Kenyon & Bill Jones

Volunteers are important! Volunteering can be defined as: *“pro-social behaviour, done of one’s own free will and without monetary reward, to benefit another person, group or cause”*.

There are no prerequisites for volunteering: assisting staff is a wonderful learning environment. All that is required is an interest in botanic gardens, plants and meeting others with similar interests. There are so many groups volunteering across the Cranbourne site, there is bound to be one that suits your interests – try FIGs.

The FIGs group members help the horticulture staff in the Australian Garden. We are continually learning about the Gardens, plants, horticulture and, importantly, enjoy each other’s company.

Our wonderful FIGs people have been busy in the Australian Garden raking prunings from the *Syzygium* hedges; tidying the carpark gardens; in the Bloodwood Garden some of the *Lomandra* borders have been renovated (more renovation and planting in autumn 2025) and the was sand weeded and prepared for a new topping after the new tree plantings. Our group generally looks after those areas and gardens that do not have a horticulture staff curator – The Serpentine Path, Red Sand Garden, Bloodwood Garden – and help staff with other gardens.

By the time you read this article we will have been on our end-of-year outing to Karwarra Gardens and the Chelsea Australian Garden at Olinda.

During our days in the AG we do interact with the local fauna. We have previously written about the Swamp Rat, so in this edition we will cover Jumping Jack Ants: *Myrmecia pilosula*.

Why Jumping Jack Ants? Here is Bill Jones to explain:

A funny thing happened in the Bloodwood garden on a recent FIGs day. I was bitten by ants, twice! The culprit: Jumping Jack ants. Actually, Jumping Jack bites are not funny. Whilst they are not “painful” you can get an itchy swelling and, in rare cases, an allergic reaction. A quick call by Mathieu Lascostes to the VC office and a first aid kit was on its way. Treatment consisted of an ice pack and antiseptic spray. No major damage was done, just slight swelling and an itch for a day or so. Fortunately, I did not experience an allergic reaction. And, as per Cranbourne Botanic Gardens policy, an accident report was filled out and submitted.

Myrmecia pilosula, commonly known as Jumping Jacks, Jack Jumpers, Jumper ants or Hopper ants, belong to one of the most fascinating and complex ant groups – the *Myrmecia* genus. They are found across Australia but are especially common in Tasmania.

Join FIGS

If you would like to join this amazing and friendly group:

FIGS meet outside the Visitor Centre on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 9.30 am start.

Guided by Mathieu Lascostes, we assist with weeding, raking, sweeping and pruning – generally helping to keep the Australian Garden looking wonderful.

Contact Christine Kenyon (Coordinator)

**Email: figs@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au
Mobile: 0438 345 589**



Maurie Spano, Jim Sinnema, Andrea Hunt, Linda Jones, Wendy Herauville raking *Syzygium* hedge prunings.

Below: Susan Delaney, Dennise Rossetti, Sue Gilbert, Jim Sinnema, Bill Jones, Wendy Herauville, Andrea Hunt at the end of the day weeding and raking the Bloodwood Garden.

Photos: Mathieu Lascostes



These ants are medium-sized, 8-10mm long with a black body and pale jaws and legs. They have the best jumping ability of all ants: and, when defending themselves can jump 7 - 10 cm repeatedly. They are aggressive when disturbed and are notorious for their painful sting and, more importantly, the allergic reaction some people have to the stings.



Jumping Jack Ant.
Photo by Reiner Richter at Badgers Creek. 2020
(CCBY-NC-SA). INaturalist

They prefer woodlands, open forest, open habitats, including pastures, gardens and lawns near light bush and can be found under rocks near bushland, preferring fine gravel and sandy soil. The Australian Garden is ideal habitat! They forage on small insects, honeydew from sap-sucking bugs and nectar near eucalypts, wattles and associated understorey bushes and they can successfully hunt grasshoppers and huntsman spiders.

These ants are hard to find, as are their nests- they do not form trails and they nest under fallen logs, in stony areas, rock walls or in sparsely vegetated open ground. The entrance to the nest is often surrounded by a pile of sand and pebbles 6 cm in diameter with a central hole. In the nest the worker ants can live up to 2 years but the queen can live for 10 years or more. All worker ants are female, and are the ants that sting. Male ants grow wings and leave the nest when they reach adulthood.

Did you know? Echidnas, particularly the short-beaked echidna (*Tachyglossus aculeatus*), feed on the larvae and eggs and find the ants very tasty and are not worried by the venomous sting.



Left: *Lechenaultia biloba*, Dry Riverbed; *Telopea* 'Bridal Gown' and *Telopea* 'Braidwood Brilliant', both Future Garden. Photos: Judith Cooke

Friends in Focus

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

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



Left, from top: *Alyogyne huegelii*; *Olearia tomentosa* 'Toothed Daisy Bush'.
Above: *Melaleuca fulgens* 'Hot Pink'; *Isopogon divergens*.
Photos: Peter Williamson

Exploring Botanical Weaving and Plant Fibre Arts

| Tess Holderness

Earlier this year a number of weaving workshops, led by First Nations creatives, took place at the Cranbourne Gardens, exploring some traditional and contemporary practices, and providing inspiration for the revival of a Cranbourne Friends 'Botanical Weaving' Group. A few monthly gatherings have now taken place, enabling participants to meet with others sharing an interest in exploring the various forms of plant fibre arts - from weaving to basket making and the creation of more sculptural works.

The new group's friendly and informal gatherings welcome all skill levels and provide a space where participants can share ideas, techniques and resources. An environment is created where people have an opportunity to talk about projects that they are working on, or to demonstrate (or alternatively, learn) different techniques. We are very grateful for the mentorship from some of the more experienced weavers within the group, who have been so generous in sharing their knowledge and skills. It is nice to see people connecting, enjoying a creative and mindful activity, and having the chance to learn from each other. Thank you to Maree Hart for continuing to guide us with a 'Random Weaving' technique, using freshly harvested *Lomandra* plant fibres (see photos).

Thank you too, to Garden Ambassador, Eileen Blake, for her fabulous catering, inspired by native plant foods and flavours, including Wattle Seed, River Mint and Lemon Myrtle. Botanical Weaving sessions will continue to take place on the '4th Sunday' of each month (except December and January), with plans for a couple of field trips and workshops in 2025. For further information about the Cranbourne Friends Botanical Weaving Group, please contact Tess Holderness (on 0412 195 283 or email tessholderness@gmail.com).



Top: Maree Hart harvests *Lomandra* to use for a 'Random Weaving' demonstration; examples of the 'Random Weaving' technique - from fresh green fibres, to a partially dried tiny basket (by Pam Everson), and a completed bowl design (by Maree Hart).
Photos: Tess Holderness



Botanic Illustrators turn Green

| Pam Everson

In November the Botanical Illustrators enjoyed another informative watercolour workshop with David Reynolds. Their chosen subject was the Australian Kangaroo Paw fern, (*Microsorium diversifolium*). This beautiful fern has large, glossy leaves and contrasting black stems, giving the illustrators the opportunity to explore the colour green. Many artists have difficulty mixing realistic greens so this was a very valuable exercise. Students were generously supplied with a live fern by fellow Illustrator, Jenny Rollason, so that each painting was unique. There were some good discussions on different aspects of art that students were having problems with.

The workshop was held over two consecutive Fridays with day one spent covering colour theory, colour mixing and an important element of art, composition. Students progressed from a carefully planned drawing on day one to a watercolour painting by day two.

Thank you to David for a very enjoyable and informative workshop and to everyone who participated. We hope you enjoyed your experience and feel more confident in your watercolour journey. Thank you also to those who provided refreshments and helped with the set up and clean up of the Elliott Centre. It is very much appreciated.

David Reynolds teaching the workshop
Photo: Vanda Cummings

Growing Friends | Marjanne Rook

Spring Plant Sale

What can I say – the Plant Sale in October was a great success. We were very busy on the Saturday, with buyers with boxes everywhere, and at some stage, a long queue heading up to the Pack and Pay section. We took a record amount on that day of over \$27,000. Saturdays seem to get busier all the time.

Friends' patron Angus Stewart attended all day on Saturday and, after collecting some suitable plants, did two presentations to an interested audience. Many people remember Angus well and it was a unique experience to have a well-known TV gardening guru at our Plant Sale to talk with anyone who approached him, with all sorts of 'gardening' questions. Thank you, Angus, for travelling from Tasmania for our sale.

Sunday was not quite so busy but nevertheless there was a steady flow of buyers until about lunchtime and record takings for that day as well. With pre-sale sales to staff and GF volunteers, our takings for the Plant Sale as a whole made almost \$35,000 in total.

Second chance plant sale

As we were not holding a Winter Plant Sale, it was decided to hold a second chance plant sale sometime after the Autumn Plant Sale. A weekend day was included for members who can't come on Thursdays – this was appreciated. Most customers bought plants from our regular stock and a few half-price plants.

Wilson's Botanic Park Friends

During August and September, four Friends of Wilson's Botanic Park have worked with us over a period of four weeks in order to learn about propagation, potting, plant maintenance, record keeping, various aspects of labelling and general plant nursery practices. Collecting plant material is still outstanding and was to go ahead in November. It was a busy time with four extra apprentices on board, who were keen to learn and very much enjoyed themselves. They hope to commence working in their nursery before Christmas under the guidance of the Wilson's Botanic Park propagation and horticulture staff.

A special farewell and 'Thank You' morning tea for Alex and Wendy Smart was held by the Growing Friends.

Due to the cold weather, this most pleasant morning tea took place indoors which in fact was very apt as Alex had the opportunity to admire the very building project he contributed to in such a big way. Wendy too has been involved with Growing Friends, be it by participating in the setting up of very early plant sales in the carpark or assisting the building project by finding a second hand kitchen and other items for the GF and loading them into a trailer.

Some 'old time' Growing Friends were invited and a 6-page, handmade card with many annotated photos of Alex was read out while everyone enjoyed some home-made cakes and savouries. The Growing Friends, after consulting with Alex, presented him with a *Brachychiton rupestris* which he will plant outside the gate of the retirement village and which will, he said, outlive him. Wendy was presented with a bonsai Huon Pine - *Lagarostrobos franklinii* - complete with a mossy and lichen rock which can live in their reduced size orchid house. It was a nice occasion enjoyed by us all.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Growing Friends

Meet Thursdays at the Growing Friends Nursery

Contact: Marjanne Rook via email:

growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



Happy customers loaded up with plants at the Spring Plant Sale 2024. Photos: Janette Wilson

Australian Native Plant Society Australia visits.

On 1 and 3 October total of five groups of about 17 people on tour from the APANSA conference visited the Gardens and Growing Friends nurseries. Our plants were very much admired and numerous people bought a few plants. Some wanted to but as they were from interstate were unable to because of state restrictions.

Special plants

At our Plant Sale we had some specials in the form of rock orchids donated by Alex and Wendy Smart with approval by the Gardens. Alex and Wendy couldn't take their many orchids with them to their new residence where there is less space for a big collection. They were very popular and the customers and quickly sold.

We also had some 25 small starter bonsais – some in beautiful small traditional Japanese unglazed pots. Just only four small ones left. These were the idea of one of our newer GF who has an extensive experience with bonsai plants and who tried to convince us that it is easy.

With the encouragement of one of the GF who loves growing special plants we have had some huon pines on sale. This lovely and unique tree, slow growing as it is, seems to be coveted by collectors and has a collectors' price. It can double up as a gorgeous bonsai for our next sale.



2024 Spring Plant Sale
Photos: Janette Wilson

Botanical Fabricators

| Jenny Rollason and Bev Williamson

At the spring Plant Sale, we were very pleased with the look of our trestles, once they were covered with baskets of our handiwork. In packing, ready for the weekend, we were appreciative of all the work Gwen and Wendy had put in previously to present products.

Our Fabricators group were busy, right up to the Tuesday before the event, when many items sold, hot off the press.

The buyers seemed happy to choose from varieties of the same type of article, gathered in separate baskets, for example, all aprons, all Christmas items, a basket of \$5 items, etc. Our sales were impressive and encouraging, and we now have a good idea of what to focus on, in restocking.

The raffle was a money spinner, and we were delighted, when Erin drew the raffle, that young Rebecca Stalder won first prize, as she had come both days to help Alexandra Stalder.

The second and third prize winners, were notified, and their prizes posted to them. Fabricators meet at 10 am in the Elliot Centre, every month, on the second Tuesday. You are welcome to join us.

Botanical Fabricators

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, Elliot Centre, at 10 am.

Contact: Jenny Rollason, Ph 5998 2457

Email: rickrollason1@bigpond.com



How to access Member Resources Online

Member Resources include recordings of Open House presentations, selected tour diaries and journals from Friends trips taken over the years, as well as back issues of *Naturelink* magazine.

Members can access these special resources through our TidyHQ system via the following steps:

1. Access the Member resources page via a link on our website or go to our TidyHQ page.

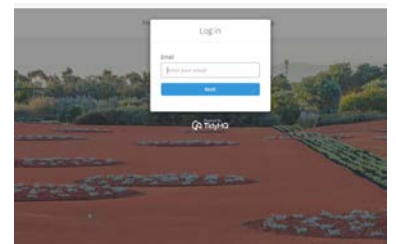


rbgfriendedcranbourne.org.au



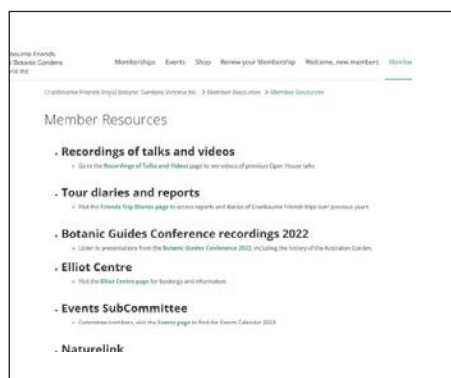
cranbournefriends.tidyhq.com

2. Log in to TidyHQ



If you don't have a password follow the links to create an account; or if you have forgotten your password follow the instructions to create a new one. Every current member of the Friends has an account in our TidyHQ system.

3. Choose the Member Resources page, and from that select the particular resource you are looking for.





Lightfall makes its world-wide debut at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne - this April

Don't miss the exclusive world-wide debut of Lightfall – an all-ages light trail experience at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Premiering in the April school holidays between the 6th and 20th of April 2025, this 1km trail of takes visitors through an illuminated landscape of the award-winning Australian Garden.

From large-scale illuminated sculptures to lakeside reflections and an immersive soundscape, Lightfall promises to be a magical evening. Whether you're looking for a family-friendly outing, a romantic date night, or simply an escape into nature's after-dark charm, Lightfall offers something special for everyone.

With tasty food and drink options to complement your evening, Lightfall is expected to be the hottest school holiday event in April 2025. With easy access from the bayside suburbs, Mornington Peninsula, and outer South-east, the event will give visitors the opportunity to enjoy a world-class event, on their own doorsteps at an affordable price.

Inspired by the award-winning sensation, Lightscape at Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Lightfall has been created in partnership with Sony Music Entertainment, with the support of Presenting Partner, City of Casey and Major Partner Red Energy.

Tickets start at \$15 for children and \$22 for adults and are on-sale now, just in time for Christmas gifting.

Key details:

Sunday 6 April to Sunday 20 April 2025

First entry 6pm and last entry 8:30pm

Entry is through the West entrance to Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne [<https://maps.app.goo.gl/n5qLdNBiixGFupVP8>] (The East entrance near South Gippsland Highway will be CLOSED).

Note that parking will cost \$10

Tickets:

Peak (Tue-Sat): Adult: \$26, Child (4-12yr): \$18, Family: \$88 Concession: \$23

Anytime pass: \$35

Off-peak (Sun & Mon): Adult: \$22, Child (4-12yr): \$15, Family: \$72 Concession: \$20

Anytime pass: \$32

Parking: \$10

For further information and to book tickets, visit:

www.lightfallcranbourne.com.au

Open House Garden Visit - August 2024 | Nicky Zanen

On a dry but very windy day in August, 17 Friends members visited the gardens of two of our members.

Both of these gardens were subsequently visited by ANPSA conference delegates in October, who were interested in Gardens for Wildlife. This popular program commenced in the City of Knox, at the instigation of these two women and other keen gardeners.

We first met at Bev Fox's garden in The Basin, and to start off with there was much catching up with each other; it took a while before the group continued on, wandering through the garden. Although Bev's garden is small it is filled with plenty of colour and interesting plants and we were surrounded by many bird calls.

We then drove to Chris Larkin's garden in Lysterfield where Chris insisted that we didn't follow her around but took the time to relish the atmosphere and get absorbed by what was around us. (Both Chris and Bev describe their gardens as 'Stroll Gardens' and by their design, both gardens are very relaxing).

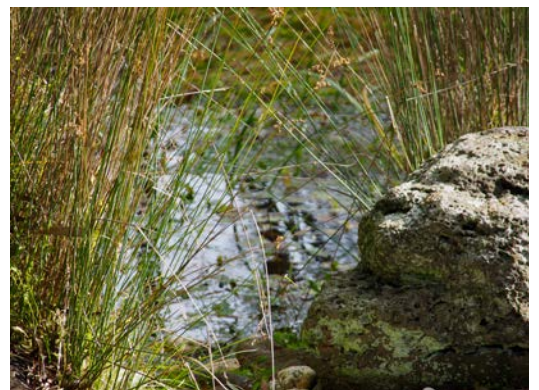
As a result, while I was on my own in a sunny part of Chris's garden, I saw a little lizard disappear in front of me, giving me a sign that perhaps summer was finally approaching.

Chris's garden is very steep and she has put in paths that run across her property to slow the flow of water and enable it to be retained on her property.

Chris gave us a couple of tips including to take care not to plant too close to the fence as this restricts airflow and to prune internally to let moisture and light in. In addition, prune before summer to reduce moisture requirements and don't feel the need to water in hot weather as plants have a dormancy period in summer.



Bev Fox and her beautiful native garden at The Basin which provides great habitat for wildlife.



Chris Larkin in her stunning steep native garden at Lysterfield, which is also a haven for wildlife. All photos on this page by Tess Holderness.

Answers to Friend Quiz 18 on page 7

A1. This is *Xerochrysum viscosum* or Sticky Everlasting. The generic name was formed using the earlier names *Xeranthemum* and *Helichrysum* – so, indirectly from Greek *xeros* ‘dry’ + *chrysos* ‘gold.’ Latin *viscosum* means ‘sticky’. The names allude to the long-lasting, dry, golden bracts and sticky leaves.

A2. This is *Eremophila nivea* or Silky Eremophila. *Nivea* (Latin for ‘white/snowy’) refers to the dense, white indumentum (covering of hairs) of this species. The moisturising cream is NIVEA, which was also named for its white colour.

A3. This is *Grevillea excelsior*, the specific epithet being Latin for ‘higher’, in allusion to the plant’s relative height within the genus. I think it also excels in its beauty!

A4. This is *Myoporum floribundum*, the Weeping or Slender Myoporum, named for the abundance of its flowers (Latin *floribundum*) and the character of its leaves.

A5. *Orthrosanthus* is derived from the Greek *orthros* ‘dawn, morning’ + *anthos* ‘flower’, indicating that the flowers open in the morning (hence, Morning Iris). *Multiflorus*, Latin for ‘many-flowered’, indicates the number of flowers per spike.

A6. The generic name *Diuris* alludes to the two hanging (tail-like), lateral sepals (from Gk *dis* ‘double’ + *oura* ‘tail’). *Sulphurea* refers to the predominant yellow colour of the flower, like the common form of sulfur.

A7. False: Despite statements to the contrary, Rev. Lade has no connection with this plant. It is a tree from north-eastern Queensland and is named after Crown Land (Forestry) Ranger Mr. F. W. H. Lade, who collected the type specimen in 1902.

A8. *Chorizema* is derived from the Greek *chorizo* ‘to divide’ + *nema* ‘filament’, in reference to the stamens that are separate and not united in a sheath, which is the case with many other ‘pea plants’. The Latin *cordatum*, refers to the heart-shaped leaves, hence the common name Heart-leaved Flame Pea.

Cranbourne Friends Committee

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The General Committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month (except January).

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Wendy Herauville	Tanya Johnson
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