

NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

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Olearia pannosa subsp. *cardiophylla*, grown at the Cranbourne Gardens Nursery under the Care for the Rare program, for the Colac Botanic Gardens. Photo: Kaishan Qu. See John Arnott's report on [page 5](#)



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

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Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria to celebrate 175th milestone with 'garden gathering'

Year of festivities launched with bumper day of free activities

On Saturday 27 March, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria kicks off celebrations for its 175th year, with **Garden Gathering Vol 1**, a full day of free activities, including curator talks, guided tours, creative workshops and self-guided activities. Taking place at Melbourne Garden's Arid and Dry Lands Precinct, it's the first in a series of events that honour the past, present and future of Melbourne Gardens, well beyond its 175 years as a botanic garden.

The Melbourne Gardens site has a long history and heritage and many of the events will allow visitors to explore the living collections from a new perspective. The Gardens' Aboriginal Guides, horticultural and design teams will guide visitors through the Arid Garden, Australian Forest Walk and California Collections and discuss the traditional Aboriginal uses of plants, biomimicry, management of the Gardens' precious living collections and modern-day plant collecting expeditions.

Workshops inspiring creativity and wellbeing in nature will be led by a number of guest guides, including: Lee Couch, who will lead a Wayapa® workshop - an Indigenous Earth Mindfulness practice; artist Claire Mosley, who will lead nature journaling workshops and acclaimed First Nations poet Jeanine Leane, who will deliver *Tree Songs* - a family-friendly poetry workshop inspired by the Gardens' trees.

For those who prefer to enjoy the Gardens at their own pace, visitors can choose their own adventure, with a series of rich self-guided activities, including experiencing Melbourne Gardens as a gallery for the inaugural PHOTO 2021 International Festival of Photography with our exhibition **Garden Variety: Photography, Politics and the Picturesque**.

Garden Gathering Vol 1 is to be held at Melbourne Gardens. It will be located around the Arid and Drylands Precinct, Gate D on Saturday, 27 March, 10am-3pm. Bring a picnic and have a day with the family. Those who are not able to attend the event on the day still can download some activities online, for later enjoyment.



VISIT:
[rbg.vic.gov.au/
garden-gathering-
vol.-1](http://rbg.vic.gov.au/garden-gathering-vol-1)

Registrations for the
FREE walks, talks and
workshops are essential,
and places are limited.



From top: The Arid and Dryland Precinct. Aboriginal Heritage Walk.

Cranbourne Friends events 2021

Due to uncertainty about possible COVID-19 restrictions affecting the Gardens, the Friends Events committee is not yet able to plan very far ahead for 2021. All events, plant sales or other activities will be notified through Quicklink, our [website](#) and social media.



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.

Sicily Tour April-May 2022

The Cranbourne Friends conducted two excellent tours of Sicily in 2018 and 2019. A third tour has been scheduled for the 2022 spring. The tour is being organised on behalf of the Cranbourne Friends by one of our members, Alf Reina, who grew up in Sicily. The tour will be led by Alf and his cousin Alfie Orlando, who was born in Australia but now lives in Sicily, and has been conducting tours for over 25 years.

Highlights of the tour include: amazing archaeology in Agrigento, Selinunte and Segesta, fantastic architecture (including the famous Sicilian Baroque), unique art including the floor mosaics in the Roman Villa del Casale near Piazza Armerina and the gold-leaf mosaics in Monreale Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel in the Norman royal palace in Palermo, beautiful and interesting private and public gardens, picturesque countryside with a profusion of wildflowers (at the best time of the year), marvellous views of the mountains and the coastline, nature reserves and the largest beech forest in Europe, the stunning Flower Festival in Noto (Infiorata) where the streets are decorated with flowers, a coastal tour, and of course the volcano of myths and legends, Mount Etna which overlooks most of the East coast. The fresh food markets are a delight, the people are warm and welcoming, and the food is indescribably good.

Sicily has been described as 'the island at the crossroads of history' because of its strategic location in the centre of the Mediterranean. The many civilisations that occupied the island over the centuries all left their mark, particularly on the people and their culture, but probably none more than the Greeks, the Arabs and the Normans. It is a particularly interesting place to visit, especially with two people who know it so well.

The exact cost of the tour for 21 nights/22 days will depend on the Euro exchange rate, but is expected to be under \$7,000 per person twin share, with a 10% supplement for those requiring a single room. This covers all accommodation, daily breakfast, two or three dinners and two or three lunches, bus and driver hire, entry fees at archaeological sites, private gardens, national parks and reserves, a half-day coastal cruise and the hire of accredited English speaking local guides where necessary. Airfares are not included.

A deposit will be required in about June 2021 and the final payment early in 2022. As this is a fundraising activity, a levy of \$300 is to be paid to the Cranbourne Friends on registration.

We are aiming for a maximum of 20 people. We already have over a dozen firm bookings but a few vacancies remain. If you would like to be part of this wonderful adventure, please get in touch with Alf Reina (email preferred) for more information and a copy of the itinerary:

Email: reina@iinet.net.au

Tel: 03 9769 7881 Mobile: 0410 169 210



Top: Cloister at Monreale Cathedral. Delightful lunch at Etna winery.
2nd row: Wild spring flowers everywhere. Tempio della Concordia, Agrigento.
Below: Segesta Temple among the vineyards.
Photos: Alf Reina





Dear members

Welcome to our Autumn edition of *Naturelink*. I am finding my way in this role and, being a relatively new member of the committee, look forward to meeting many of you once our COVID-normal lives allow. As I write, 2021 promises to be full of uncertainty, so opportunities for us to plan and attend events and share our passion for our wonderful gardens are proving tenuous.

The committee meets via Zoom regularly to keep across the work of the organisation, and our Events team are planning some virtual events using the same platform. The Melbourne Friends have kindly included us in their virtual talks and I recommend them to you. We will build on these with some offerings of our own; Sicily and Costa Rica past participants may tackle the technology and show us their adventures. There does seem to be interest in hearing about the travels of members – vicarious touring may be the best we can manage for domestic and international destinations for some time.

Behind the scenes there are members undertaking a plethora of activities to bring you our publications, *Naturelink* and *Quicklink*, manage the website, the membership, the monies and the responsibilities of our organisation to the RBGV. Our committee has skilled and capable people but would benefit from more interested members who could bring their skills and helping hands to the cause. If you have time and energy, please consider if you could take up a committee role or even volunteer for a time-limited particular activity. Perhaps you have a story or article to contribute to this publication? Particular ongoing roles in need of filling are a Grants Officer and a Publicity Officer. Please just drop me a line and we can chat about your skills and interests and where you might fit.

In recent times we have started to implement the RBGV Child Safe Program with members of our groups that regularly attend on site. This program is designed to raise awareness of the importance of safeguarding and protecting children and young people under 18 years of age at the Botanic Gardens sites, from abuse, neglect or harm. We are proud to assist in the implementation of the RBGV's program as it engenders a culture of care and awareness of the treatment of all children and vulnerable people who visit our gardens; this is a privilege and a responsibility.

We were pleased to be able to provide additional workspaces for the RBGC staff in the Elliot Centre and the Friends Nursery during the periods when very limited numbers could be accommodated in their office spaces. As RBGC's work restrictions have now eased, the Growing Friends have gradually resumed use of the nursery and we are now also developing COVID-Safe Work Plans to allow us controlled access to the Elliot Centre.

As 2021 is the 175 year anniversary of the RBGV there will be many celebrations, in whatever creative form is necessary. I am thrilled that we have very positive progress on publishing a history of the Cranbourne Friends by our Friend, Carolyn Landon. The launch of this creative literary and pictorial record of our 30 years of existence and support of the Cranbourne Gardens will be a milestone event in September. Surely this will be a time we can all come together to celebrate face to face, COVID and vaccinations willing.



Marjanne Rook, at Heyfield, with the Friends' donation of 550 plants for a fire recovery project in East Gippsland. A Lakes Entrance contact took the plants on the rest of their journey. A wonderful initiative.



Cultivating Conservation

Conservation and Horticulture are two words that have been brought together at the RBGV and Cranbourne Gardens to articulate a vital and emerging function of our operations. The term 'conservation horticulture' relates to the range of approaches in our horticultural 'toolkit' that contribute to plant conservation outcomes. These include involvement in plant recovery programs, establishment of in situ conservation collections, displays of rare and threatened plants, conservation seedbanks, seed orchards, research into plant propagation and production. Unlike many botanic gardens, our site also encompasses the Conservation Zone allowing our conservation efforts to extend beyond the garden to a broader biodiversity conservation agenda and ex situ management of our precious local flora and fauna.

There are several drivers for an increased focus on conservation horticulture at the Gardens. The 2016 - 2026 Masterplan specifically references placing an emphasis on the 'utilisation, conservation and display of Australian plants with a focus on south-eastern mainland Australian flora'. There are also direct references to climate change in our collections planning and management and increasing the number of threatened Victorian flora in the living collection.

The devastating 20/21 bushfire season has also placed a sharp focus on bushfire recovery. To this end the RBGV received funding from DELWP to actively participate in bushfire recovery works, securing many 'at risk' taxa in long term seed storage or in living collections.

Cranbourne Gardens horticulturists have joined forces with the RBGV Plant Sciences team in undertaking an ambitious program of field trips to high biodiversity 'fire scar' sites in East Gippsland and the Victorian Alps. A total of eight field trips have been programmed for the 20/21 Summer/Spring period to locations such as the Upper Genoa River, Howe Range, Burrowa/Pine Mountain, Nunniong Plateau, Omeo, Tulloch Ard Gorge (Snowy River), Snowy Range, Mt Buffalo, and the Bogong High Plains.

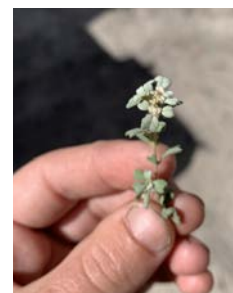
The main aims of these trips are to: collect seed for the Victorian Conservation Seedbank, vegetative propagating material for the living



From top: Blackened trunks, East Gippsland, in 2020/21 bushfire season. *Ficus coronata* Howe Range. Photo Owen Janusauskas.

Snowy River rafting. Photo Bec Miller. Below: Preparation of cuttings from Pine Mountain. Photo Mathew Henderson. *Spyridium cinereum*, Upper Genoa River. Photo Caitlin Gray.

Grevillea jephcottii regeneration, Pine Mountain. Photo Mathew Henderson.



collections at both Cranbourne and Melbourne Gardens (and other regional botanic gardens in Victoria) and to monitor the recovery of fire affected threatened species. Much of the propagation work is being undertaken at the Cranbourne Gardens Nursery.

All species targeted for collecting on these field trips are of conservation significance in the Victorian Flora, and include a range of species of *Acacia*, *Banksia*, *Boronia*, *Brachyscome*, *Callistemon*, *Commersonia*, *Correa*, *Dampiera*, *Dendrobium*, *Dodonaea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Ficus*, *Gompholobium*, *Goodenia*, *Grevillea*, *Hibbertia*, *Leptospermum*, *Lobelia*, *Olearia*, *Ozothamnus*, *Phebalium*, *Pomaderris*, *Pultenaea*, *Viola*, *Westringia* and *Zieria*.

Many of the horticulture team will participate in one or more of these field trips and to date have found them challenging, inspirational and incredibly valuable as professional development for botanic gardens horticulturists. Maja Zweck, whose collection trip involved a five-day rafting adventure down the Snowy River from the Little River to Buchan Junction, says the trip was totally adventurous. 'The rafting was our means of transport in this otherwise inaccessible terrain. Neville and Andre (Walsh & Messina) would direct the rafts to stop at key locations so the team could explore for the target plant species. What a purposeful adventure, what an amazing team, what beautiful plants – what a gift'.

Closer to home we had some terrific news from our Natural Areas team: very keen-eyed Team Leader Tricia Stewart spied an unusual looking *Dianella* in the southern grasslands. Tricia was keen to find out what this plant was and contacted Neville Walsh, Conservation Botanist RBGV. This chance find turned out to be very significant. Tricia had found an unknown population of *Dianella amoena*, an endangered species never recorded on our site before!

The Care for the Rare project achieved a significant milestone with the dispatch of the first instalment of plants to the Colac Botanic Gardens, Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens and Australian Botanic Garden Shepparton. The Care for the Rare project is driven by the RBGV, which aims to support regional botanic gardens in conserving and displaying Victorian rare and threatened plants. To date 2500 plants, encompassing 190 taxa, have been propagated and produced at the Cranbourne Gardens Nursery for distribution to regional botanic gardens. Well done team! The terrific work in the nursery has been greatly enhanced through the generous support of the Friends who funded the development of the possum proof cage, recently commissioned. Thank you to the Friends for keeping our precious plants protected from the local wildlife!

And lastly another acknowledgement to the Friends in supporting the RBGV in providing the free shuttle bus service to the Gardens. The bus was commissioned in January and is running three times a day between Cranbourne Station and Cranbourne Gardens. We have employed one additional staff member and have three Explorer Guides to fulfil the rostering requirements. Feedback from patrons has been most positive; the service is fulfilling a long-desired goal to enhance accessibility to the Gardens.



Top: *Dianella amoena*, and Tricia Stewart with her discovery. Photos: Ollie Sherlock.
Possum-proofing of the Gardens Nursery.
Gardens Nursery Staff, Maja Zweck and Mandy Thomson, preparing Care for the Rare stock for dispatch to regional botanic gardens.

Friend Quiz 3 – | Charles Young

Australian plants have sustained indigenous cultures for millennia, and many of us continue to savour the 'taste of the bush.' Perhaps you've enjoyed some delicious Australian foods and flavours over summer – now try this 'bush tucker' quiz!

Feel free to explore the answers! (see answers on [page 16](#))

1. Plants from this genus, commonly referred to as myrtles, are used to flavour cuisine, desserts and drinks. They come in lemon, cinnamon and curry 'flavours.' Which 'flavour' (species) is this one and why are they called myrtles?



2. These are the flowers of a 'southern' plant in the Lamiaceae family with leaves that have a fresh spearmint aroma and flavour. What is the name of this plant and what chemical, widely used to relieve minor aches and pains, takes its name from the genus?



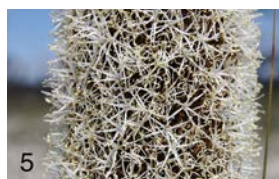
3. The biggest producer of these delicious Australian macadamia nuts was once Hawaii but is now South Africa! Who established the genus *Macadamia* and who is it named after? (Both lived in Melbourne.)



4. These are the seeds of Burrawang or *Macrozamia communis*, edible only after the careful removal of plant toxins. The plant is dioecious, meaning that there are individual male and female plants. What pollinators transfer pollen from the male cones to the female cones?



5. This is the flower spike (scape) of a *Xanthorrhoea* or grass tree. Indigenous people ate the soft leaf bases, made a sweet drink from the flowers, fashioned spears and fire starters from the scape and used the resin as an adhesive and varnish. Which of these uses is reflected in the name *Xanthorrhoea*?



6. This plant, known in Koori languages as Murnong, Garnggeg or Nyamin, was an important food plant for the indigenous people of SE Australia. Its genus name, *Microseris*, means small (*micro*) chicory (*seris*). What part of the plant is eaten and how is it prepared?



7. This is the tiny flower of *Tetragonia tetragonoides*, Warrigal greens or New Zealand spinach, Australia's first 'food export' (on the *Endeavour*). Like spinach, rhubarb leaves and oxalis, it contains a poisonous acid. What is the name of the acid and how is it removed prior to consumption?



8. These are the flower and edible fruit of a climbing plant in a genus named after the French biologist Jacques Houton de Labillardière, naturalist on Bruni d'Entrecasteaux's expedition to Oceania. What are the common and scientific names of this plant and what does the fruit taste like?



Membership report - Alex Stalder

New Members

This quarter we are pleased to welcome 12 new members: Elisabeth Taylor, Emma Hyett, Steve Overdyk, Stephen Teale, Heather Winch, Tom Allsop, Lucas McGann, Michelle McGann, Tanya Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Wendy Herauville and Adrian Hall. We hope you are enjoying your membership and all that it has to offer.

TidyHQ Membership Management

It was formally decided at a recent meeting of the Cranbourne Friends Committee to adopt the TidyHQ software platform for our membership management. An upgrade to management of membership records and transactions has been needed for some time. Using this system will make it easier for prospective and current members to join or renew their membership online and update their contact details. It is also hoped the streamlining of these processes will relieve some of the administrative burden on our volunteer committee.

2021/22 Membership Renewals

Members would normally receive notices for membership renewal for 2021/22 with the Winter (next) edition of *Naturelink*. However, due to the adoption of the TidyHQ platform, the process will be a little different this year. Members will instead receive an email with information on how to renew. There may also be information each month in *Quicklink*, our monthly e-news, so please keep an eye out for this in your inboxes. We hope that this new system will make it quicker and easier for members to renew - no printing and filling out forms for a start!

However, please be assured, for those members who prefer to pay by cheque or money transfer - these options will still be available. As well, members without email addresses will be posted paper membership renewal forms as normal.

In the meantime, if you have any Membership queries, please contact Alexandra Stalder:

- **membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au**
- **telephone: 0431 025 733**

Australian Garden History Society (AGHS)

Charles Moore and Joseph Maiden - Outreach and Impact - Online talk by Colleen Morris

Date: Wednesday 17th March 2021

Time: 5:45 for 6pm start

Price: \$10 members and Friends RBG, \$15 non-members



The band lawn in the lower garden and Sydney Botanic Garden 1895

To find out more and book, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/BOGYN>

This talk will discuss the influence of two directors of the Sydney Botanic Garden: Charles Moore whose directorship spanned from 1848 to 1896 and then the Joseph Maiden era from 1896 to 1924; periods of continuous direction of 48 and 28 years respectively. As to record-keeping, the two men were the antitheses of each other. On Moore's death the assiduous Maiden, who left voluminous records, wrote that Moore 'wrote but little'. However Moore's talent as a designer had an impression on a young William Guilfoyle who undoubtedly drew on his knowledge of the Sydney garden when he designed Melbourne Botanic Garden. Both Moore and Maiden were influential in shaping attitudes to botany, horticulture, forestry and science in NSW and Australia at a critical time and this presentation will broadly discuss their legacy.

Good news

The good news is that Cranbourne Friends members are once again welcome to visit our nursery from 10am – 2pm on Thursdays. After a cool and wetter summer than usual, this coming Autumn will be a wonderful season for filling those empty spaces in your garden with plants purchased from the Growing Friends nursery. Please put a facemask in your pocket or bag in case you are required to wear it.



*Eremophila
hygrophana*
Photo: Deb Abbs

Further good news is that we are planning to hold a plant sale on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May, in the Gardens from 10am – 4pm on both days. How the sale will be conducted will be subject to the then COVID situation and restrictions. It is therefore recommended that if you are in doubt, check the Cranbourne Friends website closer to the sale for any possible changes or a cancellation. rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

At past plant sales some over-eager customers have arrived and tried to start shopping before the advertised opening time of 10am, while we were still setting up for the day. This puts unfair pressure on the volunteers who are busy with setting-up, so we kindly ask those early-birds to come at the advertised time of 10am, rather than at 9am.

Special Orders

As always, if you have any 'plant' wishes, perhaps a plant you have seen in the Gardens or multiple plants for a large area, then contact the Growing Friends with your request via email:

growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

and we shall endeavour to grow them or may even have them in stock.

Friends in the Gardens - Christine Kenyon

At last, after 10 months, in February the group once again ventured into the Australian Garden under the watchful eye of Trent Loane and other Horticulture staff who are keen to have us back. Due to COVID regulations we met with the staff at the coffee caravan rather than in the Administration building. Then it was off to the Bloodwood Garden to rake leaves and twigs, then to the Forest Garden to rake the paths. By the end of the morning the paths and area under the bloodwoods were clear of leaves and we had filled several trays on the staff trucks. It is always nice to have people complement us on our work.

The year away from the Gardens has seen a few changes for the group, especially the loss of members due to beginning other activities, health concerns or work commitments. We start 2021 with five members. At the request of the staff, the group has a new meeting day, the first Tuesday morning of each month, same time and same place.

Remember the new meeting day: the first Tuesday of each month, meeting at 9.45 am and finishing with lunch and a chat about 12.30 pm. So, if you have Tuesdays free and would like to help out and learn more about the Gardens we will welcome you with open arms. Contact Christine Kenyon

- Email: figs@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au
- Mobile: 0438 345 589



February 2021. Bill Jones raking leaves in the Bloodwood Garden.
Photo: Christine Kenyon

ACRA, PBR and the pros and cons of Cultivar Registration | Marjanne Rook

A plant variety or cultivar may be registered under one of two systems:

- the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority, as are *Alyogyne huegelii* 'West Coast Gem' and *Callistemon citrinus* 'White Anzac'
- OR registered under the Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) system through Intellectual Property (IP) Australia. Examples include *Grevillea* 'Peaches and Cream' and *Acacia* 'Limelight'.

The Growing Friends are not able to propagate or sell PBR plants. This article discusses the reasons for this, and seeks to explain the two registration systems.



Alyogyne huegelii 'West Coast Gem' is registered under the ACRA system

Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA)

ACRA is a committee formed by representatives of major regional (State) botanic gardens and plant groups. The office is maintained at the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) and Australian National Herbarium in Canberra. ACRA was incorporated as an association in the ACT in 1989. Most of the clerical, record-keeping side of cultivar registration and mounting of herbarium specimens is done by volunteers.

ACRA's role is to register, in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP), names of cultivars of Australian native plants; to record the names of all cultivars of Australian native plants and hybrids between Australian and exotic plants (excluding *Rhododendron* and *Orchidaceae*); and to encourage the horticultural development of the Australian flora.

ACRA also registers all Australian varieties accepted by the Australian Plant Breeders Rights Office (see below). There are also some species that belong to genera that are not predominantly Australian and for which ACRA has accepted registrations.

Getting a cultivar registered

Applicants for registration with ACRA submit a form which contains all the information necessary to develop a profile for each variety/cultivar for registration, including details of the origin, if known, of the cultivar, and the proposed genus, species and cultivar names.

For the description, the following details are required:

- comparators (so the cultivar can be compared to known varieties)
- uniformity (if maintained by seed)
- cultivation details
- photographs.



The Growing Friends nursery

Fresh samples to create a herbarium specimen at the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, are also submitted.

ACRA registration

The ACRA Board assesses the application and ensures the name has not been applied to a different cultivar, and if it meets ICNCP requirements, registers the cultivar. After getting a registration number, the cultivar's name and description are added to the ACRA database, which is online, public and searchable. ACRA registration does not provide any

legal rights over ownership of plant material and does not prevent third parties from propagating or selling the cultivar. At present, ACRA is the only low or no-cost method of registering cultivars, and provides the only public database available.

Australian Plant Names Index (APNI)

ACRA ensures that new cultivars registered by ACRA are listed on the Australian Plant Name Index (APNI). The APNI is the standard dataset for names for all Australian plants and includes, but is not limited to, cultivar names. APNI is recognised by Australian herbaria as the primary reference for published plant names.

Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR)

To gain financial benefit, plant breeders must apply to Intellectual Property (IP) Australia to gain exclusive control over the propagating material (including seed, cuttings, divisions, tissue culture) and harvested material (cut flowers, fruit, foliage) of a new plant variety under the Plant Breeders' Rights (PBR) scheme. All new plant varieties (whether native or not) are eligible for registration under PBR, providing they maintain stable characteristics when they are bred. The registration process is extremely expensive.

Registration

Once PBR registration has been awarded, it lasts for up to 25 years for trees or vines and 20 years for other species. Plants registered under PBR are recorded in a separate database managed by IP Australia but are not included in the ACRA cultivar list. Applications must use a 'qualified person' (QP), who is an expert in a particular plant group and accredited by IP Australia, to certify applications.

A PBR application can be submitted by either the original breeder (may also be discoverer) of the new variety, the owner of that variety or the agent of one or both of these. Hence, commercial nurseries can license new varieties from those who have bred them, and then apply for PBR of that variety. A grace period applies, permitting a breeder or licensee to sell a plant for up to a year to test popularity before applying for PBR rights.

The scale of operations required to recoup the various fees charged for PBR, or to protect against illegal use, usually means that a commercial nursery needs to be involved - hence the inclusion of commercial growers in the PBR applications.

Growers often place the letters "pbr" after the name of a PBR registered variety to indicate their ownership or control over of the original material. Plant labels can be confusing.

Alternatives to PBR and ACRA

When working outside both PBR and ACRA there is no need to prove that the new variety is any different from other varieties or the 'type' plant. This can lead to the same plant being sold in successive years under different names, resulting in confusion amongst the general public (and for Growing Friends). A good example of this is *Eremophila alternifolia* x *Eremophila maculata* which is sold as *Eremophila* Wild Berry, *Eremophila* Magenta Dream and *Eremophila* Blue Thunder, by different nurseries. These nurseries often put the quotes around the new name, as ACRA does for a registered cultivar, further adding to confusion about the status of the name.



Grevillea Jelly Baby (*Grevillea lanigera* x *Grevillea lavandulacea*) is registered under PBR system.

Resources:

[Australian Cultivar Registration Authority](#)

[Plant Breeders' Rights](#)

[Clarification of Plant Breeding Issues Under the Plant Breeder's Rights Act 1994](#)

Inverawe Native Garden, Tasmania | Rosemary Miller

Inverawe, about 15 minutes south of Hobart at Margate, is designed to showcase the beauty of Australian native plants. Open to the public, the garden is designed to have plants in bloom all year round, and to be sustainable, water-wise and low maintenance.

Rare Tasmanian plants are conserved, in pots and/or in a protected area where necessary, such as the Creeping Strawberry Pine (*Microcachrys tetragona*) shown at right.

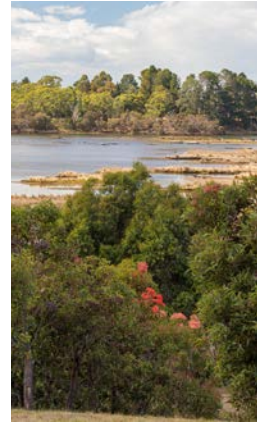
A peaceful and beautiful place, the garden overlooks North West Bay, an off-shoot of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. A salt marsh area at water's edge is preserved and highlighted.

Inverawe shows what can be done to encourage wildlife in a garden, with over 100 species of birds recorded as visiting, as is a range of native animals.

Workshops have proved popular for local gardeners wanting to grow Australian plants and encourage wildlife to visit their gardens.

Find out more at: inverawe.com.au

From top: Inverawe Native Garden. Creeping Strawberry Pine (*Microcachrys tetragona*). *Corymbia ficifolia* in flower. Salt marsh at the water's edge. Photos Peter Miller



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA



Eremophila hygrophana
Photo credit: Deb Abbs

Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9
May 2021

10am to 4pm

Australian Garden - Cranbourne
Near the kiosk

Come along and select from a range of plants, many of which you will find in the Australian Garden.

Available: grasses, strap-leaved plants, climbers, groundcovers, indigenous plants, small & large bushes and trees.

EFTPOS available

Plant-list available one week
before sale at
rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

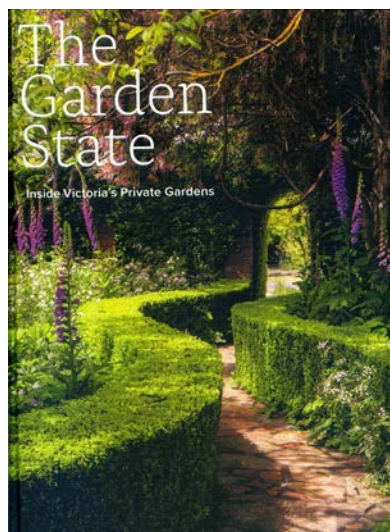
In these uncertain times, please check our website before attending to ensure that the sale is going ahead.

W rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

f [rbgfriendscanbourne](https://www.facebook.com/rbgfriendscanbourne)

The Garden State: Inside Victoria's Private Gardens

| Review by Helen Page



The Garden State: Inside Victoria's Private Gardens takes us into 24 different gardens across Victoria. These gardens represent a wide range of climates and soil types and are presented in five groups: Grand Rural Estates, Hill Stations, Coastal Retreats, Old Curiosities and Climate Conscious Gardens. There is something to interest everyone in this well-illustrated book, written by Richard Allen with photography by Kimbal Baker. Many will have seen their earlier collaborations: *Australia's Remarkable Trees*, *Great Properties of Country Victoria* and *More Great Properties of Country Victoria*.

Richard Allen, photography by Kimbal Baker 2020 *The Garden State: Inside Victoria's Private Gardens* Thames and Hudson Group Port Melbourne hardback 275 pp.

A brief history of each garden is given. Many were designed by leading designers including William Guilfoyle, Edna Walling and Phillip Johnson. I was

surprised how many of the gardens contain sculptures, many created by leading contemporary Australian sculptors; these settings are ideal for displaying these works to advantage.

Of particular interest for friends of Cranbourne are the three gardens planted with Australian plants. Lubra Bend, which the Friends visited in March 2010, fits into the Climate Conscious Gardens group for its water-wise management. We saw the garden when it was quite young and the pictures in this book confirm how well it has matured into the vision of its owner Rosemary Simpson; it is a magnificent garden.



Kimbal Baker's stunning photography of the Lubra Bend property

The native garden at Dunkeld, one of the Grand Rural Estates and the garden of Allan and Maria Myers, shows off a range of Australian plants in this magnificent setting with Mount Sturgeon as the backdrop.

Hinterland House at Bellbrae, another in the Climate Conscious Group is 'an intimate garden brimming with indigenous plants and grasses, showcasing the diverse vegetation of this precious strip of remnant Otways hinterland.'

The book's only Melbourne garden, and included in the Old Curiosities Group, is the 2.5 acre Toorak garden of the Myer Family, Cranlana. This grand garden celebrated its centenary in 2020; it has magnificent trees, a fine sunken garden and was designed by the Melbourne architect at the forefront of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Australia, Harold Desbrowe-Anneer.

Here is a book for Victorians to enjoy and appreciate gardens we have at our doorsteps. Many are open on occasions, so you will be well informed to visit them at a later date.

What's up in the Bushland: Wallabies | Mary Thackeray

Mary Thackeray was a Customer Service Ranger at Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Cranbourne for nine years and later also Volunteer Coordinator. She is a long term member of the Cranbourne Friends. Article reprinted from Naturelink vol 22 (4) — Summer 2015.

The wallabies on site at the RBGV in Cranbourne are swamp or black wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*), the 'bicolor' referring to the strong difference in colour between the back, feet and tail fur, which is dark brown to black (rather than grey), and the belly and chest fur which is yellow to reddish orange.

They usually have a light stripe on the cheek and often a white tip on tail. The swamp wallaby conservation status is listed as "of Least Concern" and they are relatively common along the east coast and around south-western Victoria. However, populations in or near urban areas are often threatened by high levels of habitat loss and fragmentation, introduced predators and collisions with vehicles.



Swamp wallaby at Cranbourne. Photo Amy E. Akers

Swamp wallaby biology

Swamp wallabies are the sole remaining member of the genus *Wallabia*. They are quite distinct from other macropods (the 'kangaroo and wallaby' family) in a number of crucial respects:

- They have fewer chromosomes.
- Males and females have different numbers of chromosomes.
- They move differently from other wallabies, carrying their head low and the tail straight out.
- They can breed continuously throughout the year (i.e. breeding is not seasonal) so they have a potentially high reproduction rate.

The shape of the molar teeth also differs from other wallabies and kangaroos, reflecting a generalist diet consisting of a wide range of food types — a mix of forbs, ferns, shrubs, grasses, sedges, rushes and fungi (including the underground truffle fungi) — in roughly similar proportions. They often use their reduced forelimbs to manipulate their food.

You can sometimes see the wallabies holding a branch as they munch. Their common name suggests that these wallabies are restricted to swampy areas, but while they are often associated with moist patches of vegetation, they are not specific in their habitat preference as long as there is some dense cover to shelter in.

At home at Cranbourne, swamp wallabies are typically solitary so are usually seen alone or with young at foot, though they do have overlapping home ranges and will often be seen in groups when feeding. Here at Cranbourne they typically shelter in the densely vegetated areas during the day and emerge in the late afternoon to feed on the grasslands along Wylies Creek Track. You are most likely to see them either first thing in the morning or late afternoon, especially during winter. They also appear to be more active on dull, rainy days when they can often be seen out during the day. I'm not sure whether this is because the rain keeps the walkers away and they are not disturbed or they actually like the rain!

There are few predators on site and a low risk of being struck by a car, so some of the Cranbourne wallabies are probably quite old — they can live as long as 15 years in the wild. And like us, they become greyer with age. We have had reports in the past of an albino wallaby and also, after a prescribed burn, of a wallaby covered in ash. This turned out to be one of our elderly (grey) wallabies.

While normally fairly shy in nature, some of the wallabies on site have become more used to people and don't hop off until you get quite close. Some have become used to the way things work at the Gardens and have become opportunistic illegal visitors to the Depot area and into the Australian Garden where they have at times performed some unauthorised pruning! Increasingly elaborate methods have been developed to deter them — for example, a new, taller automatic exit gate at the Visitor Centre, as they were simply hopping over the previous one in the late afternoon.

Wallaby tracks in sand are quite distinctive. I once had a visitor insist that we had emus on site after having seen wallaby hind footprints in the sand. Wallaby scats have also been mistaken for wombat scats. Like wombats, they are usually in groups of 4-8 pellets but are more rounded than the typical cube-shaped wombat scat that is also often on an elevated spot. If you break it open, a wombat scat is also of finer texture (being mainly a grass eater) than the wallaby scat, which is likely to include coarse material as well as grass.

Increasing population

The wallaby population at the RBGV Cranbourne has been monitored since 2001 using a range of survey techniques. Back then only a handful of animals lived on site and the species was rarely seen by staff or visitors. We estimate the population here has increased more than twenty-fold since 2001 and is now commonly encountered across the site. The growth in the population over the past decade is likely due to a combination of factors including a reduction in predation by foxes, reduced emigration due to the predator fence surrounding the site and increased survival resulting from the breaking of the millennium drought in 2010. Similar increases in wallaby numbers have been seen at many other sites across Australia, but in many ways the Cranbourne Gardens is now a 'perfect' site for the species.

While wildlife populations naturally fluctuate over time, the potential impact of an increase in wallaby browsing on vegetation in parts of the RBGV Cranbourne Conservation Zone is of concern. Over-browsing can lead to changes in habitat structure and species composition and may pose a threat to other important species. Browsing impacts are being closely monitored by staff and actions taken to mitigate the increase in wallaby numbers.

However, it must be acknowledged that herbivore browsing and grazing are natural ecological processes that could be necessary for the long-term health of our bushland. We have already seen that the increase in wallaby numbers may have had some positive effects, such as the control of some shrubs and exotic pest species.



Adult female Swamp Wallaby. Photo: E Beaton

Non-Cranbourne photo from *The Complete Book of Australian Mammals*, ed Ronald Strahan, The Australian Museum, 1983, p263

Answers to Friend Quiz 3 on [page 7](#)

Thank you Charles Young, for another lovely quiz, and making us hungry.

A1: This is *Backhousia myrtifolia*, 'myrtle-leaved Backhousia' or cinnamon myrtle, distinguished by its white, star-shaped flowers and cinnamon-scented leaves. Myrtle is used because of the close resemblance and botanical relationship of Backhousias to common myrtle, *Myrtus communis*, a plant important in taxonomy and familiar to botanists.

A2: The plant is *Mentha australis*, river mint or Australian mint (*australis* 'southern' often alludes to Australian species). The chemical is menthol, 'the alcohol from *Mentha*' because it was first obtained from *M. arvensis* (the name replaced the less scientific 'mint camphor').

A3: The genus was established by Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, Victorian Government Botanist and Director of the RBG. He named it in honour of his friend John Macadam, Scottish-Australian chemist, teacher, politician and honorary secretary of the Burke and Wills expedition. Macadam died when he was only 38 after a shipboard accident.

A4: Most gymnosperms are wind-pollinated but not cycads; in the case of *Macrozamia communis*, host-specific thrips and weevils share the task. It appears that temperature differentials in the cones induce mass migration of pollen-covered insects from the male to the female plants.

A5: *Xanthorrhoea* alludes to the sticky, yellow resin of many species, the name being derived from the Greek words *xanthos* 'yellow' and *rhoia* 'a flow, flux' (the latter also appears in diarrhoea!). The plants were known as yellow gum trees to Australia's early settlers.

A6: This is *Microseris walteri*, one of three *Microseris* species endemic to Australia (Walsh, *Muelleria*, 2016, 34, 63). The plump, sweet tasting, annually replaced tubers are eaten, either raw after washing or after roasting in fibre baskets

A7: *Tetragonia tetragonoides* contains oxalic acid, which takes its name from *Oxalis* (from Greek *oxys* 'sour or acidic'; 'sorrel or sourgrass'), the original source of the acid. The plant should be blanched (briefly treated with boiling water) to remove the soluble acid before it is eaten.

A8: This is apple-berry or *Billardiera mutabilis* (syn. *B. scandens* var. *scandens*, this epithet means 'climbing'). The fleshy fruit may be eaten raw when ripe or roasted when unripe. It has a sweet, astringent taste similar to stewed apples or kiwifruit.

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