

NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

VOLUME 26 : 1 | AUTUMN 2019



Find out the latest developments at Cranbourne Gardens, see Page 2. Photographer, Judith V. Cooke



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

**Visit Moonlit
Sanctuary at night**

Page 2

**South Gippsland
Discovery tour**

Page 6

**Attend a new
member's brunch**

Page 2

**Annual Friends
Luncheon**

Page 16

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Inc no. A0025281B, ABN 43 551 008 609 Web address: www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Discovery Evening: Moonlit Sanctuary

An exciting lantern-lit night tour has been arranged at Moonlit Sanctuary, Pearcedale, to allow us to see Australian native animals not seen during the day. Some are endangered species. The sanctuary comes alive with owls, other night birds, and gliders flying and swooping, and animals like quolls, pademelons, wallabies and bettongs foraging for food.

The Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park is situated on ten hectares of bushland, with over 10,000 native Australian trees and plants, a two-acre wetland and 30 animal enclosures. The park has won many awards for ecotourism and conservation.

During the tour the leader will explain the park and breeding programs, and you will have a special opportunity to get up close and personal to nocturnal wildlife. Come and join this event and try something different with your family.



Tawny Frogmouth: One of the many species of birds at the Moonlit Sanctuary.

Saturday 13th
April 2019
7pm- 9:30pm

Members: \$28
Non-members:
\$35
Children: \$23

Enquiries:
Barbara Jeffrey
0408 564 379
or bajeffrey@westnet.com.au

Cranbourne Friends New Year Brunch

Sunday March 17, 2019
10am to 12pm

Australian Garden, Forest of Figs (pictured below) opposite the Greening Cities Garden.

All, especially new, Friends are welcome to join us for Sunday brunch, to find out more about the Cranbourne Friends and to meet our new President. Bring a plate to share or just grab a take-away coffee from the Boon Wurrung Café or nearby Kiosk.

Later, join Rodger Elliot AM, Australian native plant person, for a tour of the Weird and Wonderful Garden, or wander down to the Growing Friends Plant Sale, which will be held the same weekend.



Walk and Gawk in Cranbourne Gardens



'Walk and Gawk' in the Cranbourne Gardens, 2018.

This 'Walk and Gawk' in the Cranbourne Gardens follows a similar event to last year, where John Arnott, Horticulture Manager at RBGV Cranbourne, gave us an insight into the Master Plan and future developments.

Some of these plans are already being put into place. John will update us on new plantings for the Australian Garden, any changes to curatorial management plans and design/development processes in the Ian Potter Lakeside Precinct, Stringybark Garden and the Arid Garden.

John will also outline an RBGV initiative to support regional Botanic Gardens across Victoria, to establish collections of regionally significant, rare and threatened plant species, under the 'Care for the Rare' initiative.

Walk and
Gawk in the
Cranbourne
Gardens -
update on
development

Monday, 13th
May 2019
9:30 am

Members: \$15
Non-members:
\$20
Students \$10

Enquiries:
Barbara Jeffrey
0408 564 379

or bajeffrey@westnet.com.au

Book for either
Discovery
Evening or
'Walk and
Gawk' event
using the
Booking form.



John Arnott.
Photo: Amy Akers

Over the past months a number of things have happened at the Gardens that have instilled in me a real sense of pride in being associated with this great organisation. In response to the funding package made to Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria (RBGV) by the Victorian Government in 2018, we have been actively recruiting new staff across all operational areas and are getting stuck into a diverse range of projects and initiatives, ranging from the complete renovation of the red sand garden, to implementing new plantings across many areas of the Australian Garden, automating and replacing major gates, resurfacing Philip Moors Drive and activating the Ian Potter Lakeside Precinct with 'pop up' picnic facilities, to name a few. The organisation is importantly 'taking the lead' through a number of landmark botanic garden sector capacity-building projects, such as facilitating an international *Botanic Gardens Climate Change Summit* and making some real progress with the *Care for the Rare* project.

Climate Change Summit

From 3 - 6 December 2018, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria organised and hosted the inaugural Botanic Gardens Climate Change Summit. Ten botanical organisations from around the world, alongside three peak botanic gardens bodies, were in attendance: Beijing Botanic Garden, China; Botanic Garden Conservation International; Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand; Buenos Aires Botanic Garden, Argentina; Eden Project International, England; Jerusalem Botanic Garden; Morton Arboretum, USA; Nanshan Botanic Garden, China; Royal Botanic Gardens CSIC Madrid, Spain; Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria; South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), South Africa; University of California Arboretum, USA.

The outcome of the Summit was the formation of the Botanic Gardens Climate Change Alliance. The Alliance aims to use global collaboration to tackle the climate change threats facing plant species. The co-creators of this Alliance signed a declaration 'to safeguard life by protecting landscapes' and agreed that 'the time for action is now.'

The last day of the summit was held in Cranbourne with Chris Russell, Ricardo Simao, Warren Worboys and myself leading technical tours exploring various elements and challenges associated with the long term sustainable management of the Cranbourne Gardens. The delegates were suitably impressed with our site and the tours generated lots of discussion.



Climate Change Summit delegates visit the Cranbourne Gardens.

Care for the Rare

The *Care for the Rare* project was given a huge boost with the recent announcement of three years of grant funding from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. *Care for the Rare* is a project that aims to establish a multi-site conservation collection of Victorian rare and threatened species at a

number of regional botanic gardens across the State.

While we have a large network of botanic gardens, many struggle with the skills and resources necessary to manage curated collections of plants, particularly

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.

rare and threatened species. RBGV offered support to Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Victoria to develop a project that would build the capacity of regional botanic gardens in the development of conservation collections. The generous funding to the RBGV from Helen Macpherson Smith Trust will allow us to run a pilot program for an initial six gardens, involving garden visits, the development of conservation collection management plans, completion of planting lists/schedules and of course the propagation, production and distribution of plant material to each participating garden. The funding also supports broader professional development opportunities.

This year, with the support of the Friends, we will be constructing an animal-proof cage in the rear bays of the nursery and protecting significant stands of the Cranbourne Bushland by installing ecological fencing in key areas of the site. This fencing will essentially 'exclude' wallabies and allow natural regeneration to occur. Our Natural Areas team has reported about 50 pink Hyacinth Orchids, *Dipodium roseum*, flourishing and about to flower, in an existing small 50m² exclusion plot on site. Outside the fenced plot there are none to be seen. It's very encouraging to think that with the Friends' support we will see more such fencing!

2019 promises to be an exciting and rewarding year! All the Cranbourne Gardens staff really appreciate the ongoing commitment, passion and support of the Cranbourne Friends and we look forward to working with you.

Membership update

Welcome to New Members

This quarter we are pleased to welcome 12 new members: Donna Aitken, Rod Clark, Ineke Clark, Jeanette Kaindel, Pam O'Keefe, Ken O'Keefe, Kate O'Keefe, John Leahy, Kathy Leahy, Carmel Foley, Martin Svikis and Rachel Lee. We hope you are all enjoying your new membership and all that it has to offer.

Membership Survey

Along with Autumn *Naturelink*, you will also have received a paper version or an electronic link to our 2019 Membership Survey. We are conducting this survey, to hear from you, to ensure that Friends members are getting the most out of their membership and to help with the planning of future Friends' activities and events. The survey includes questions about your experience as a member of the Friends, whether you are involved in any of our special interest groups or have attended events, as well as what you would like to see us doing as an organisation in the future. We encourage you to fill out this survey, so that the Friends committee, Events Subcommittee and Special Interest Groups can ensure that what we offer members remains relevant and enjoyable. If you have any questions about the survey or any membership matters, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Friends member recognised

Congratulations to Cranbourne Friends member Jillian Harrison, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) on Australia Day 2019, for community service. A volunteer fundraiser, donor and long-term supporter of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Jill is the wife of Ken Harrison, RBGV Board Chair, and an enthusiastic purchaser of the plants from the Cranbourne Friends nursery.

*Jill Harrison with husband Ken at the Chelsea Flower Show with the Australian Garden in May 2011.
Photo: Gwen Elliot*

CARE
FOR THE
RARE



*The Care for the Rare logo, and Olearia pannosa, a rare plant to be protected.
Photo: Kaishan Qu*

**Alexandra
Stalder**

Email:
membership
@rbgfriends
cranbourne.
org.au

Mobile:
0431 025 733





Hello Friends,

I hope the summer is being kind to you, and your garden isn't suffering from the extreme weather, which seems to be occurring more often nowadays. Here at Mount Martha the sandy soil becomes hydrophobic and it's a struggle to keep even native plants alive in the heat.

This is my first article for 2019 as your new President and I want to begin by acknowledging the fantastic job our immediate Past President has done over the last three years. Indra Kurzeme (a horticulturalist who happens to be my very nice neighbour too!) combined her very thorough knowledge of the RBG and the Friends to lead the Committee with incredible energy and a commitment second to none. I only hope I can go some way in filling her very big shoes. Thankfully she's not going away anywhere soon, and I know we can all count on her continuing support as well as that from other long-standing committee members. I speak here for the other new Committee members as much as for myself. We have a well-balanced Committee ready for the work and fun to come.

This leads me to some upcoming necessary changes to the way we do work as a group. Over time, the Friends have evolved into numerous diverse groups, and in recent times it has become evident that as a body working for the RBGV, we would be more efficient, more productive and more unified, if we explored ways to reorganise ourselves. Over time, while each group has worked well within itself, the overall operation has become a little, let's say, 'haphazard'. Additionally, there are statutory requirements and expectations from the RBGV, which we must observe. We operate on RBGV property in a Centre and Nursery specially designed and allocated to us, and we're required to put in place structures and processes to support our arrangements with RBGV and to ensure that all group members understand that we are responsible and accountable to the Gardens, and to each other.

The Committee is currently in the process of introducing a Code of Conduct while our Friends groups are formalising their leadership structures. This can be difficult where groups have evolved in a very informal way and are involved in a variety of activities, and it is fair to say that this process has so far not been smooth. However, let's not focus simply on the regulations. Yes, this is an important and necessary task, but if at the same time we can also look at those things that bind the groups together, think how much better and happier our organisation will be. Let's emphasise the normal, friendly, everyday interactions that form the backbone of the groups, no matter how diverse their activities. I, for one, look forward to a continued era of friendship and growth and a future full of exciting possibilities. And here are two exciting points of interest to get us started for the new year!

The first is a letter from Jill Burness, Landscape Planner at the RBGV Cranbourne Gardens, in which she includes a copy of the original Visitors Book for the Maud Gibson Trust Inaugural Picnic. The picnic, organised by Judy and Marshall Baillieu, was held on 10th October 1990 and it was here that the Cranbourne Friends came into being. The book has been held in trust by Judy Baillieu until this year when it was shown to Carolyn Landon on her visit to the family property as part of her research into the history of the Cranbourne Friends. The book records 78 names, including those



Historic Visitors Book used at the 1990 event leading to the establishment of the Cranbourne Friends.

who initiated the acquisition of the land for the Cranbourne Gardens. Now, more than 28 years later, the number of Friends is closer to 700, and – setting aside the many diverse activities the Friends groups engage in – the amount of money raised for the gardens in 2018 was over \$100,000. An amazing achievement! Pats on the back all round!

The second letter I received, from Alex Smart, included postcards with his photographs of *Caleana major*, the Flying Duck Orchid (at right). You may have seen these most popular photographs on the Friends' Facebook pages. They came with an interesting back story of how 'the Bushland Friends were formed to work with the Cranbourne Environmental Systems Group, to assist with projects in the conservation area'. This work supported that by Dawn Neylan: 'they erected a wallaby proof fence around a small sensitive area where wallabies and rabbits had continually eaten the flowers... and this year when leaves of *Caleana major* emerged the Bushland Friends put rabbit-proof cages around the small colony'. This led to the obvious success as shown in Alex's photograph. Isn't it beautiful!



I'm sure there's more to discover yet, as even as I struggle with my parched sandy soils in Mount Martha, I know I can draw inspiration from the Gardens and support and wisdom from the Friends as we work together to achieve our goals.

South Gippsland landscapes

This wonderful weekend Discovery Tour program offers so much to enjoy, as we will visit natural areas, revegetation projects, Australian plant gardens, and the sustainable Cape Paterson Eco Village. There will be short, guided walks (maximum 1-2 km on smooth gravel surface) and time to explore Meeniyah and Inverloch.



Above: People walking the Great Southern Rail Trail. Photo: Carolyn Landon

This tour will be limited to 22 participants.

Inverloch is our base and we are arranging a block accommodation booking for Friday 24 and Saturday 25 May, as on Saturday there is an early morning start. A minibus will leave Inverloch at 9.30 am sharp for Koonwarra Recreation Reserve. After you register for the Tour we will email you an itinerary and information about booking your accommodation, which is not included in Tour cost.

Expert presenters will inform your observations of South Gippsland landscapes and birdlife as well as telling us about realignment of a highway through the important Black Spur Creek Wetlands and much more, including about some excellent local food! On Saturday evening at dinner at the Captains Lounge Restaurant, our pre-dinner speaker Dallas Wyatt's subject is 'Birdlife: Bass Coast Birds in South Gippsland Landscapes Present Past and Future'. The post-dinner speaker, Professor Ros Gleadow, School of Biological Sciences, Monash University and Eucalypt Australia Board member, will discuss 'Gippsland Eucalypt Forests, Sweet Pittosporum, & Climate Change'.

To find out more visit the Friends website. You can also visit the Nerrena Tarwin Valley Landcare Group webpage www.nerrenatarwinvalleylc.org.au, under Revegetation tab, where an aerial photograph of South Gippsland shows the fragmented nature of the remnant vegetation.

South Gippsland Discovery Tour

Friday 24 –
Sunday 26
May 2019

Members
\$160
Non-
members
\$190

Enquiries:

Kate Walsh
0409 418
223

katewa20@gmail.com

Place the dates in your diaries now

This calendar may be subject to change. There have been some changes to what was listed in the Summer *Naturelink*. Open House Events are for Friends Members only.

MARCH

Thursday 14 March:

Open House, Elliot Centre - Paul Birch, Maranoa Gardens

Saturday/Sunday 16 - 17 March:

Growing Friends Plant Sale, Friends Brunch & New Members Day in Fig Forest

APRIL

Thursday 11 April:

Open House, Elliot Centre Deb Abbs - Cyclones

Saturday 13 April:

Moonlit Sanctuary - evening Discovery Tour

Sunday 28 April

Afternoon Talk - Geoff Carr, 'Australian Plants as Weeds'

MAY

Saturday 4 May:

Annual Lunch in Tarnuk Room, Australian Garden. Guest speaker - Dean Stewart

Thursday 9 May:

Open House, Elliot Centre John Arnott presentation - 'Cranbourne Leading Projects with Regional Botanic Gardens'

Monday 13 May

Walk & Gawk in Cranbourne Gardens with John Arnott - 'Cranbourne Gardens - Update on Development Plans'

Friday/Sunday 24-26 May

South Gippsland Discovery Tour

Growing Friends Plant Sale Autumn 2019

Saturday, Sunday 16&17 March, 10am to 4pm

Plant list available one week prior to sale -

www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au



New Committee for Friends



(L-R) Mick Robertson, Barbara Jeffrey, Helen Kennedy, Chris Russell (at rear, Gardens Director), Rosemary Miller, Alexandra Stalder, Karen Russell, Roger Watt (President), Indra Kurzeme, Richard Clarke, Helen Morrow.



The Cranbourne Friends Annual Lunch on Saturday 4 May will be held in a room overlooking the Red Sand Garden, seen here prior to the current renovation activity. Look out for the opportunity to take part in a mass planting activity at the Gardens, on Sunday March 3.

At the Annual General Meeting on 11 November, 2018, the 2019 Cranbourne Friends Committee was elected.

Executive

- **President** - Roger Watts
- **Vice President** - Helen Morrow
- **Vice President** - Rosemary Miller
- **Secretary** - Helen Kennedy
- **Treasurer** - Karen Russell
- **Immediate Past President** - Indra Kurzeme

Ordinary Committee Members

- Richard Clarke
- Barbara Jeffrey - **Coordinator Events Subcommittee**
- Christine Kenyon - **Coordinator Friends in the Gardens and Archivist**
- Mick Robertson
- Alexandra Stalder - **Membership Secretary**
- Janette Wilson - **Quicklink Editor**

Rosemary Miller is also **Naturelink Editor**

Regular monthly activities

If you are interested in joining in one of the group activities, please contact the person listed. You don't need specific skills and you will be made most welcome!

GROUP ACTIVITIES



Pterostylis concinna (syn. *Diplodium concinnum*), in flower. Far right, complete sample as collected.

Below, *Clematis microphylla*, in flower.
Photos: Ivan Margitta



Herbarium Collectors

I apologise for the lack of Herbarium Collectors news in the last *Naturelink*; I was still overseas at the copy submission date.

We have added 12 new acquisitions to the collection since then, including three species of *Pterostylis* and completed buds, fruit and flowers of *Clematis microphylla*.

There is a push from some in the group to concentrate on mounting, but with the urgency of collecting, this would add extra meeting days. Despite the number already collected, there are still missing plants. With climate change increasing rapidly, we are in a race. The wetlands are drying, plants are disappearing. So I believe the focus should still remain strongly on collecting.

I have always been sure to have at least two photographers out with us on collecting days, but since Warren Worboys was needed for the development of the Australian Garden, we now have only one plant finder. I am anxious to add another if possible.

First Monday of the month, 9am to 2pm.

Elliot Centre

Contact
Nola Foster
95835731



Friends in the Gardens (FiGs)

Since the last *Naturelink* the group has been busy. Marj Seaton kindly coordinated the August activity, and September was 'clean and tidy the Backyard Garden' time. In October we helped Mandy Thompson pot up some of the 3,500 *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* for planting in the Red Sand Garden North-South line. In November, we planted *Acacia binervia* in the gaps on Gibson Hill. We do these jobs with the wonderful Horticulture Staff, including Russell Larke and Matt Henderson, who look after us and teach us a lot.

This friendly and enthusiastic group needs new members so please come along and try us out. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday morning of each month at 9.45 am to learn of the day's activity. Then we are in the Australian Garden from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm.

On Sunday March 3, there will be a mass planting activity for the 3,500 *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* in the Red Sand Garden. Contact Christine Kenyon for information.

Third Tuesday of the month, 9.45am

Contact:
Christine Kenyon

cekenyon@bigpond.com

or
0438 345 589



Above: FiGs members: Kathy, Christine and Edie with Kai and Matt planting *Acacia binervia* on Gibson Hill.

Photo: Ralph Henger



At left, Ralph Henger and Christine in the Backyard Garden
Photo: Judith Cooke

Botanical Illustrators



Sketching in the Gardens - 17 October, 2018

An enthusiastic group of illustrators, from Casey and FRBGVC, enjoyed a fine spring day out in the Australian Garden sketching the flora on display.

Group outing to view The Art Of Botanical Illustration Exhibition - 24 October, 2018

Several illustrators enjoyed another fine exhibition of botanical art at Domain House, gaining inspiration from works on show.



Nature Prints with Ann Cunningham - 7 November 2018

Ann Cunningham shared her considerable experience of printing with plants in a most informative talk and demonstration. She has immersed herself in making plant prints over many years of study and practice, including the creation of a fern record for the RBG Melbourne Herbarium Library in 2017. Ann enriched her presentation with an overview of the historical evolution of this type of printing and offered useful advice about materials and technique.

*Top: Sketching in the Gardens.
Below: Ann Cunningham demonstrating nature printing.*

There are fewer activities during the summer period as we pause for the festive and vacation seasons. We are currently hatching plans for 2019, including a calligraphy demonstration and short workshop and a Lilly Pilly painting workshop.

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

Contact:
Margaret
Kitchen
0413 664
295

illustrators@
rgbfriends
cranbourne.
org.au



*Dianella leaves
are often used in
basketry.*

Botanical Basketmakers

The Basketry Group enjoy meeting at the Elliot Centre on the third Saturday of the month. We use native plant materials that we have gathered to make items using various basketry techniques. Working on our own projects, we chat about materials and methods whilst enjoying a cuppa. Would you like to join us and see if basketry is for you? If you are a beginner we can advise on materials, harvesting, books to read and workshops. We meet from 10am to 2pm, BYO lunch and basketry project if you have one.

3rd Saturday
of the
month,
10am-2pm

Contact:
Lynn Lochrie
0437 759
610



Botanical Fabricators

Welcome to a new year of activities at Cranbourne, including the Botanical Fabricators - for all who have an interest in fabrics and fabric crafts. We meet at 10am on the second Tuesday of each month. Visitors and new members to the group will be warmly welcomed, just give us a call first to obtain further details.

We are currently looking forward to a very special BOTANICAL BAG EXHIBITION being organised by Leesa Chandler of Chandlers Cottage. This will be held in the Visitor Centre at Cranbourne from May 7th to 12th. There will be over 200 beautiful handmade bags on display and demonstrations

Carol Scholes recently completed a lovely table or bed runner featuring Australian Hibiscus and Coral Pea fabric (at left), which may be a prize or auction item at the Annual Lunch on Saturday May 4th (see page 16), so get your lunch bookings in quickly.

2nd Tuesday
of the
month,
10.00am in
the Elliot
Centre

Contact:
Gwen Elliot

8774 2483

For our October meeting we changed the meeting time to 9:30 am, with the commencement of Daylight Saving. The prolific flowering of red and white Waratahs as well as the *Doryanthes excelsa* provided excellent opportunities for photography.

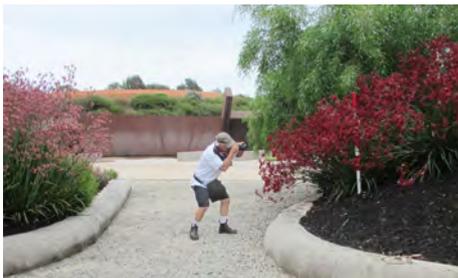
We had a good attendance at our November meeting, where through Show and Tell we saw what other members had been doing in 2018.

At our final meeting we discussed successful posts to social media before a short walk in the Australian Garden, where the energetic interactions of a pair of Eastern Spinebills in the Kangaroo Paws at once attracted our attention.

We look forward to another exciting and productive year in 2019, creating images in the Australian Garden. If you are a keen photographer, why not join our group on one of our rambles.



A female Eastern Spinebill busy seeking nectar in the Kangaroo Paws.
Photo: Judith Cooke



Anigozanthos 'Big Red' providing a profusion of flowers for photography.
Photo: Judith Cooke

2nd Saturday of the month, Elliot Centre

Times:
9.30am
October to March (Daylight Saving time)

2pm
April to September (Eastern Standard time)

Growing Friends

At the last plant sale we sold out of many plants - the *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'Dargan Hill Monarch' and 'Lemon Monarch' were snapped up, but we will be selling them again at the Autumn plant sale, along with *Xerochrysum bracteatum* 'White Pearl'. These are strong plants which flower over many months but need regular water, some food and light pruning to create bushiness.

The following plants look absolutely marvellous right now. Don't forget, young plants will need watering even in Autumn!

Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha - Fuchsia Gum. Small mallee/tree with smooth bark and distinctive pendent red fruits. H 1-3m x W 3-5m. Yellow flowers from Jan. - May. Full sun. All soils.

Hakea bucculenta - Red Pokers. Large shrub with erect spikes of red flowers on older wood in winter/spring. H 2.5-4m x W 2-3m. Grows in very well drained sandy/loam soils and prefers full sun. Withstands dry periods. Bird attracting.



Distinctive red fruits of the Fuchsia Gum, *Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha*.



Ranunculus amphitrichus, a pond plant.

These plants are suitable for near a pond or water feature:

- The big *Crinum pedunculatum* - Swamp Lily. Large feature plant with upright leaves and white, perfumed flowers. Nov- Mar. H 2 or rarely 3 m x W 2-3m. Sun/ part shade. Poorly drained and moist soils. Excellent around water feature.
- Or there is the small *Ranunculus amphitrichus* - Small River Buttercup. Water-loving groundcover H 30cm x W 20-50cm. with small, bright yellow flowers in spring. Needs shade and moist soils all year round.

Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 16
Sunday 17
March
10am - 4pm

Growing Friends Working Day
Thursdays
9.30am - 2pm

Contact:
growing.friends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

or Marjanne
0431 607796

Nursery open for members to buy plants:
Thursdays
10am - 3.30pm

Cranbourne Friends Library | Ann Miller, Honorary Librarian

The Botanical Illustrators group and others may be interested in items on botanical art, at 'Sa' in the Cranbourne Friends Library. Here is a selection:

- *Sydney Parkinson: Artist of Cook's Endeavour voyage*, by D.J. Carr.
- *The florilegium: Cook, Banks, Parkinson*, by Hank Ebes.
- *Australia: 300 years of botanical illustration*, by Helen Hewson.
- *An Exquisite eye: the Australian flora & fauna drawings 1801 - 1820 of Ferdinand Bauer*, by Peter Watts and others.
- *The bush in bloom; a wildflower artist's year in paintings and words*, by Kathleen McArthur.
- *The bushland plants of Kings Park, Western Australia*, by Eleanor Bennett (artist Patricia Dundas).
- *Banksia lady: Celia Rosser botanical artist*, by Carolyn Landon.
- *Rosa Fiveash's Australian orchids*, by Noel Lothian.
- *Napoleon, the Empress & the artist; the story of Napoleon, Josephine's garden at Malmaison, Redouté & the Australian plants*, by Jill, Duchess of Hamilton.
- *Ellis Rowan: the flower hunter*, by Patricia Fullerton.

Note: When the Elliot Centre was created to be the home of the Cranbourne Friends, a room was set aside for the Friends Library and Ann Miller offered to be our Honorary Librarian. There was a great deal of initial work for her: donated shelving had to be set up; the books all had to be sorted, to find duplicates and outdated items. Ensuring the safety of some very valuable books was very important. Cataloguing, labelling - and making decisions about the dispersal of un-needed books - took up many hours. Approximately 800 books are now available for members to use.

We thank Ann most sincerely for everything she has done to establish this rich and wonderful resource for the Friends - *Helen Kennedy, Secretary*

Climate change and the future of Botanic Gardens

As part of the Botanic Gardens Climate Change Summit in December 2018, public talks were presented at the Melbourne Gardens, and are now available in video format on the RGBV website at www.rbg.vic.gov.au/plants-and-landscapes/landscape-succession-strategy/climate-change-alliance-inaugural-summit

Dr Paul Smith (formerly Head of the Millenium Seed Bank, now Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International) discusses how Botanic Gardens are essential for Humanity's survival.

Gardens around the world promote the value of plants to human life and are active in preserving rare and threatened species. Because of their strength in scientific taxonomy, and their comprehensive and historic collections of plant species, Gardens will be able to provide genetic samples and information about rare and neglected plant species, for critical research projects like developing new strains of food staples for warmer conditions.

The second speaker, David Harland, Chief Executive of the Eden Project International, describes how and why the Eden Project was built in 2001. A degraded and depressed mining area in Cornwall was transformed and has since been visited by over 18 million visitors. The project aims to achieve a sense of wonder and delight in its visitors, and to promote sustainability, but in a non-didactic way. The International arm is now hoping to transform degraded sites in other countries to create more Eden projects, in conjunction with local people.



*Eden Project,
Cornwall, United
Kingdom,
rainforest growing
inside dome.*

Open House at the Elliot Centre

The 2018 season of Open House came to a close with two diverse and interesting talks.

Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Values of Cranbourne

In November, our subject 'Protecting and Enhancing the Natural Values of Cranbourne' was presented by Ricardo Simao - Manager, Land Management & Infrastructure at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Ricardo manages teams at both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens. His talk concentrated on the bushland area at Cranbourne. The Cranbourne Conservation Zone has State significance for flora and fauna and is part of the Gippsland bio region.

The area includes the Southern grassland, several vegetation classes of natural value, mammals, frogs, turtles, short fin eels and a greater concentration of birds than in surrounding areas. Of concern are the areas of endangered scrub and other rare and vulnerable species. Ricardo and his team are using a management style of 'control and keep.' When Nature is upset it gets out of balance.

Threats are increasing, as is run off from surrounding areas, as the site becomes an island. Rabbits and foxes require control, feral cats are trapped and now there is a new threat of deer. Road trauma is an ongoing problem. Climate change will bring the next challenge. Wallabies are increasing, so with fences keeping the feral animals out, gates are being designed and trialled to allow their movement. These problems require constant management by the dedicated team at the Gardens.

Thank you Ricardo for reminding us about this important area. In our enthusiasm for the Australian Garden we sometimes overlook this valuable asset.

Two Aussies in Prague

December in Victoria is holiday time and Gwen and Rodger Elliot took us on a quick trip to Praha (Prague), capital of the Czech Republic. They were there in late Spring, so plenty of flowers to see.

They started their visit with a walking tour of the city. It is a city with lots of parks, canals and lilac trees in full flower. The gardens are well cared for, and they saw Australian species used as bedding plants and in tubs.

Following a stream of local people into a fenced area, they found themselves at a sale of rock garden plants and a display of rock gardens. Next, was a visit to the Botanic Gardens at Charles University where many of the indigenous plants are being grown in large rock gardens. There were also scree gardens in large pots.

The Botanic Gardens has a Geology Park, with displays of rocks clearly named and maps to show where the rocks are from. Fossil displays are featured here, as well as Glass art, which is a century-old tradition.

We finished the afternoon with mince tarts and little Christmas puddings. Thank you Gwen and Rodger, it is always great to see a new place and to maybe visit one day.

Open House will continue throughout the year at the Elliot Centre. Future topics will be advertised in *Naturelink* and *Quicklink*.



A little Aussie, Leucophyta brownii, in a window planter outside a café in North Prague.

The Elliot Centre is open from 1pm - 4 pm on the second Thursday of each month.

Members are invited to come along to this free event, no booking is required, and afternoon tea is provided.

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

Contact
Helen
Morrow
9850 9125
for further
details

Future Topics

February 24
Landscape Architecture,
with Barrie Gallacher
(Sunday-1.30 for 2pm).

March Thursday 14
Maranoa Gardens, Balwyn
- Paul Birch.

April Thursday 11
Cyclones -
Deb Abbs.

2018 Grampians Discovery Tour | Rodger Elliot with Liz McDonald

It was definitely ‘Spring in the Grampians!’ as we explored many parts of the truly astounding ‘Gramps’ during this tour in October 2018.

On the road down from Mt William, we stopped at an amazing display of *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Grevillea aquifolium*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Boronia pilosa*, *Hibbertia fasciculata* subsp. *prostrata* and many other treasures. Some bright spark commented, ‘This is as good as you see in Western Australia’, to which a brighter spark responded, ‘It is better!’.



Holly Grevillea, *Grevillea aquifolium*.

We visited the Brambuk Cultural Centre for insights into the Park’s Aboriginal culture and environment, followed by a trip to the small volunteer-run Halls Gap Botanic Garden which contains many Grampians plants. Long ago, the Friends were involved in a working bee at this garden.

We had a ‘glorious’ morning in the mist at Mirranatwa Gap, where the brilliant red flowers of *Grevillea dimorpha* ‘broad leaf’ were glistening, as were droplets of water on the foliage of the endemic *Allocasuarina grampiana*. On the Mt William Road the views were very beautiful. The flowers of *Epacris impressa* were beacons in the mist to many honeyeaters. Alex Smart led us on a compulsory merry dance to observe Sweet Bursaria, *Bursaria spinosa*, beside Fyans Creek.

The Cat’s Claw Grevillea, *G. alpina*, was performing well in many areas as were many of the numerous pea flowers, as the Grampians is renowned as a ‘pea hotspot’. Delightful Pink Bells, *Tetradlea ciliata*, was the most prevalent plant, as it followed us everywhere for all of the five days. In the western Billywing region, we observed the brilliance of the pinkish red-flowered *Grevillea lavandulacea*. There were also excellent examples of Victorian Smokebush, *Conospermum mitchellii*, Swamp Heath, *Sprengelia incarnata*, and Tinsel Lily, *Calectasia intermedia*.



Avid Friends emerging from wet scrub after viewing Swamp Heath, *Sprengelia incarnata*.

A highlight for many people was the visit to a garden created with much love and dedication by Wayne Farey. It is an Australian plant collector’s heaven.

We could have spent another week or more exploring this magnificent region and now we have been there we must not wait for too long before we head back.

2019 Hotham Wildflowers Adventure

Look forward to a report on the recent January Discovery tour in the next issue of *Naturelink*.



Friends at the summit of Mt Hotham.
Photos: Alexandra Stalder



Bulbine bulbosa, one of the many sub-alpine flowers in bloom.



A hardy group hiking towards Mt Feathertop.

Australian plants as weeds



Coast wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*), indigenous in coastal south-eastern Australia, invading the Grampians.

Do Australian species planted in our gardens ever 'jump the fence' and become 'garden thugs' or environmental weeds, in the bush?

Geoff Carr, botanical consultant, has an extensive knowledge of Australian species that have become weedy or caused hybridization problems for local species. Of several hundred Australian plant species naturalised outside their natural range, the most catastrophically invasive of weed species

include Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia* subsp. *sophorae*), Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Bluebell Creeper (*Billardiera fusiformis*).

Find out more at this informative afternoon talk.

Afternoon talk by Geoff Carr

Sunday 28
April 2019
Auditorium

1.30 for 2pm,
Gold coin donation

Please book, via booking form.

Proposed Cranbourne Friends tours - update

1. North-west Victoria & Eastern South Australia, August - September 2019:

This will be 8 day tour travelling by bus to this fascinating area. Places we will be visiting include Bendigo, Swan Hill, Pink Lakes, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Mildura, Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Trust for Nature's magnificent *Ned's Corner*, Millewa Pioneer Park, Wyperfeld National Park and some private gardens.

This will be a wonderful tour and many members have been keen to visit Ned's Corner again. Please register your Expression of Interest via the Booking Form ASAP so that we can continue to finalise this tour. Limit of 40 participants.

2. **Sicily Tour, May 2020:** Alf Reina is interested in hosting another Sicilian Tour during May 2020 and we are seeking expressions of interest. If you have missed out on being a participant in previous tours, 2020 may be your last chance.

3. **Far North-east Queensland, May or June 2020:** See page 15.

4. **Tasmanian Tour, January 2021:** Cranbourne Friends Patron Angus Stewart is currently working on an itinerary, including high country as well as coastal areas.

5. **Lord Howe Island, October 2021:** Especially for people with an interest in birds, it will be taking place when many of the migratory birds will be present and breeding on the island. There are plenty of other fascinating aspects of Lord Howe Island such as the plants, coral and fish as well as the astounding beaches and landscapes. The tour will be limited to 14 participants but our leader Ian Hutton is happy to do back-to-back tours if we can get 28 people to register.

6. **New Caledonia, possibly 2022:** Very early in the planning procedure.

7. **USA National Parks, possibly May 2022:** Initial work has begun with planning and we are working with a registered travel agent in California.

8. **New Zealand, possibly 2023:** Very early in the planning procedure.

- People must be members of the Cranbourne or Melbourne Friends to be able to participate in these tours.
- **To be listed as interested in any tour, place your name in the allocated space on the Booking Form and send it to Booking Officer Ros Shepherd.**
- Many tours organised by the Friends have been very popular and successful. Tour participants make a donation levy for each tour with the funds benefiting projects at Cranbourne Gardens.



Cushion plants and *Richea scoparia* on Ben Lomond in north-eastern Tasmania.

For further information

Contact
Rodger Elliot:

rgelliot@optusnet.com.au

or
0448 013 892

A booking form is sent with each issue of Naturelink.

Special Discovery Tour – Far North Queensland in early June 2020 | Alex Smart

Cranbourne Friends are advancing plans for an eight or nine day tour in Far North Queensland with a particular interest in marking the 250th Anniversary of the visit of Cook, Banks and Solander to the east coast during which European science was introduced to the study of Australian plants.

Enthusiastic members of Australian Plants Queensland: Cairns Branch are helping refine an itinerary which will include the following:

- Cairns region, regular tourist highlights such as Cairns Botanic Gardens and Kuranda by Skyrail.
- Atherton Tablelands (home of the Ulysses butterfly),
- Daintree Region (including a cruise to observe the crocodiles along the Daintree River)
- Cooktown Botanic Gardens.
- Botanical hot-spots for plants in the wet tropics
- Private and public gardens.
- Ancient Split Rock Aboriginal art site near Laura (rated by UNESCO as one of the top ten rock art sites in the world).

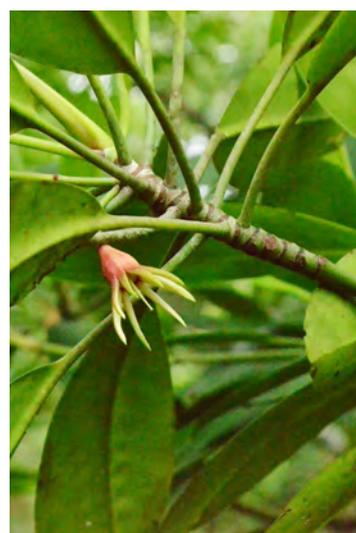
A major highlight is that **Stuart Worboys**, younger brother of Warren, will be our botanical guide subject to him obtaining leave from his position as Laboratory and Technical Support Officer at the Australian Tropical Herbarium at James Cook University.

We are requesting members of Cranbourne and Melbourne Friends immediately place their names as an expression of interest in the appropriate space on the **Booking Form** and send it to the Booking Officer. You will then receive a **Tour Registration and Levy Payment Form** which when returned will secure your spot on the Tour. The levy payment will be refunded if the tour does not proceed or if you decide to withdraw. We organise these tours as fundraising events and the levy payment goes towards projects within the Cranbourne Gardens.

In order to obtain transport, accommodation and costs with **Coach Tours of Australia** we urgently need a fair idea of how many people will be participating in the Tour.

While the Endeavour was being repaired for five weeks at Cooktown from mid-June 1770 Joseph Banks and the botanist Daniel Solander used their time to study and collect more than 200 local plants.

The Cook Shire Botanic Gardens, located in Cooktown, was established in 1868 and now features a display of Plants of the Cape York Peninsula, including a special living 'Solander Collection' displaying many of the plants collected by Banks and Solander while they were there.



Photos from top: Cooktown Orchid, Jabiru at Cape Oasis, Mangrove flower

2020 Far North Queensland tour

Express interest in this tour via the Booking Form as soon as possible

Annual Friends Lunch

Have you marked Saturday 4th May 2019 in your diary? Come and join us for this annual social event.

The Annual Lunch is a major event on the calendar for Cranbourne Friends, bringing together old friends and creating new friendships of like-minded people who have a love of the Cranbourne Gardens.



The lunch is held in the Tarnuk room overlooking the stunning Red Sand Garden. A three course lunch - with a native twist- will be served by Sorrento Catering.

Our guest speaker is Dean Stewart, a proud and passionate Wemba-Wergaia Aboriginal man of Victoria who was the very first specific Aboriginal Liaison officer with the Royal Botanic Gardens. He created and operated the Aboriginal Heritage Walk at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Dean provided cultural consultancy for the Australian Garden at Cranbourne.

In his earlier life, Dean was a professional revegetation and conservation project coordinator and he continues his deep connection of caring for country and our shared custodial and stewardship of and with the land. From this past experience he is able to weave this knowledge into his cultural tours and programs as founder and operator of a successful Victorian Aboriginal business -Aboriginal Tours and Education Melbourne- 'A-TAEM'.

Dean loves sharing his culture with Melburnians to help them better understand their own backyard. Dean likes to plant an Indigenous seed of knowledge and connection with everyone in the place that we all call home.

The annual lunch would not be complete without the Silent Auction, the Raffle or the Lucky Seat prizes. If any member would like to donate an item to these fundraising activities, please contact Barbara Jeffreys (0408 564 379 or bajeffrey@westnet.com.au).

Booking can be made online at **Eventbrite** or on the **online booking form** (see form for details of how to pay). Bookings close on **Wednesday 24th April 2019**.



Saturday May
4th 2019
11:30am

Tarnuk Room
RBGV
Cranbourne
Gardens

\$70 per head

Enquiries:
Richard Clarke
0418 148 792

or
[richard@
theclarkes.biz](mailto:richard@theclarkes.biz)

Please note
special food
requirements
when booking.

Bookings close
on **Wednesday
24th April 2019**.

Cranbourne Friends Committee

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Vice President: Helen Morrow 9850 9125

Vice President: Rosemary Miller 0422 8937 45

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Membership Secretary: Alexandra Stalder 0458 550 509

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Social Media Convenor:

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