

NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.
VOL 31:3 SPRING 2024



The Dry River Bed after renovation and removal of plants affected by *Armillaria* root rot. Trent Loane took the great photo. Read more about this project, partly funded by the Friends, on page 5.



CRANBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS
VICTORIA

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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.

Invitation to a Friends' farewell for Wendy and Alex Smart

You are invited to a Friends' farewell to Wendy and Alex Smart at **2pm on Thursday 12 September, 2024**, at the Elliot Centre. Invitees include Chris Russell, Kevin Alexander and John Arnott. Bookings are not needed for this event. If convenient please bring a plate.

The Growing Friends group are organising their own separate farewell for the couple on 19 September 2024.

Alex and Wendy, Life Members of the Cranbourne Friends, have advised that they have sold their house and are moving to Geelong.

Wendy Smart was the coordinator of the Fabricators Group until just recently, with Jenny Rollason (email: rickrollason1@bigpond.com) graciously now taking over running that group, assisted by Bev Williamson (email: be vies.iphone@gmail.com).

Alex Smart is a Past President of the Friends who has applied his organisational and practical skills in many ways. His enthusiasm and knowledge of native plants and photography have been major assets to Friends in Focus and Cranbourne Friends events and tours for many years.



Top: The Smarts with Alex's OAM. Far left: In 2005 Alex organised the transport and installation of this temporary building (Eucalyptus Room) which was then used by both Friends and Staff. Here he is being congratulated by Chris Russell. Photos: R & G Elliot
Left: Alex later set up the Growing Friends Nursery including the shed, now 'Alex's Shed'. The Growing Friends toast his efforts.

An edited extract from *Naturelink*, Autumn 2017:

Smart Friend Receives Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia, by Indra Kurzeme (President)

Alex Smart has received a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to conservation and the environment, partly in recognition of his enormous contribution to the Australian Garden at RBGV Cranbourne Gardens.

Alex has been an active member of the Cranbourne Friends since becoming a member in 2001. He joined the Committee soon after and was President from 2004 to 2006.

Alex has gained the respect of all teams involved in the Australian Garden by acting as the Friends' representative, working closely on many occasions with the volunteers and management of the Gardens. Two projects in particular owe much to the time, energy and vision of Alex: the building of the new Growing Friends Nursery and the Elliot Centre. Alex brought his communication and organisation skills to these two major projects, with a clear plan and dedication to the completion of both projects and the Friends have benefited enormously.

Alex also has a great sense of fun and is known for his wonderful sense of humour. He is a very generous man with both his time and thoughtfulness for others.



Volunteering and involvement in our Gardens

Love the Gardens? Passionate about the bushland? Use your enthusiasm and skills to get involved in your Gardens and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts.

The Cranbourne Friends group works in support of the RBGV, fostering appreciation for Australian native flora. The funds raised through our efforts contribute to essential projects aimed at enhancing offerings within the RBGV Cranbourne Gardens and surrounding bushland.

Joining us as an active volunteer could provide you with a new sense of purpose and numerous opportunities for sharing, growth, and learning.

For example, getting involved with a committee allows you to offer your ideas and participate, and to contribute your leadership, writing, graphic design and/or technical skills. If you live locally your involvement also helps to ensure local people are represented.

If you are interested in committee work please contact President Erin Cosgriff by email: president@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

You could also make new friends by attending weekend workshops and talks, or taking up one of our group activities:

- Nurturing plants in the Growing Friends nursery
- Joining the gardening team in the Australian Garden (FIGS)
- Participating in a special interest group that focusses on an activity like photography, botanic illustration or fabric craft. For example, our new revitalised Weaving group meets on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Find out more about our special interest groups in this magazine.



Red Sand Garden swirls.
Photo: Amy Akers

Upcoming events for your diary

Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 October 2024

10am to 4pm, at the Australian Garden.

Plant lists are available one week before the sale, on our website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Events Planning Day for 2025

Sunday 20 October 2024, in the Auditorium at Cranbourne. Do you have ideas about activities, trips or workshops that the Cranbourne Friends could offer in 2025? Are you interested in getting involved in organising an activity or tour?



Preparing for the plant sale, October 2023.
Photo: Miriam Ford

Talk on Botanic Illustrator Ellis Rowan - proposed statue

Saturday 26 October in the Auditorium at Cranbourne - to be confirmed.

Annual General Meeting 2024

Sunday 10 November 1.30pm, in the Auditorium at Cranbourne.

Papers will be sent out by email.

Visit our Events Page, to find out more:

<https://cranbournefriends.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events>



Dear members

I'm looking out on this glorious sunny day as I prepare this note. Such clean crisp nights and frosty mornings are getting us all moving with thoughts of Springtime. Acacia gold is everywhere here in celebration of our Olympic gold athletes and Paralympians in Paris.

If you're contemplating some new planting or even filling in those gaps that tell your 'experimental' side that you may not have got that one right, never fear. The Friends Spring plant sale will come to the rescue on 12 and 13 October, pop it in your diary right now. It's a great opportunity to meet other members, get advice from the plant gurus, show off your photos, have a coffee and chat to old and new friends. It's such a festive and embracing event in the best place. Bring new friends along for the experience.

I'm reflecting on the amazing work that everyone contributes to keep our organisational wheels turning. A positive aspect of this is that we have some great experiences where good will and refreshed spirits flow on to us in the process.

Our recent talk by Leon Costermans was a case in point – many hands to organise but what a great bumper audience to hear this amazing 90-year-old tutor us on the relationship between geology and landscapes. His body of work is superlative and so many of the crowd bought his latest encyclopaedic tome to inform their understanding of our southern Australian landscapes. His book is a testament to how plants adapt and colonise those areas where the soil and climate conditions suit them. All of us also took home the secret of eternal youth, as Leon was curious and engaged and endlessly passionate. A bravura performance.

A new Botanic Weaving group has coalesced around our weaving champion Tess, and her helpers. Several Indigenous weaving workshops over the last months have teased out the interest of participants who wish to get together regularly to develop their skills – and enjoy the warm friendly atmosphere. Another example of the power of those who show up and make good things happen.

On a related note, we will also farewell Alex and Wendy Smart, who will depart for the Geelong area. Here we have two stalwart members who have contributed with great passion and done most roles on the committee or special interest groups for decades. True believers who I'm sure would tell you that the benefits to themselves, the Friends, the Gardens and our natural world are all in perfect balance. We salute them and wish them new horizons on the Bellarine Peninsula. There will be other institutions and Friends to find – Geelong Botanic Garden should be warned!

You will be hearing even more of the generous, talented and collaborative Friends in our Annual Report, but here is a sneaky preview of the great contribution of one particular Friend. Amanda Loudon has recently retired and offered a wonderful sale discount to our members and a commission to the Friends. Her first botanic art glass sale last week was a roaring success – many happy customers enjoyed coffee and scones, encouragement to spoil themselves and an insight into the hard production work of such delicate pieces and a glimpse of Amanda's lovely garden.

Rekindle your passion for good things like gardening, nature and the creative arts, and throw yourself into it!

Using plant-based solutions to manage an *Armillaria* spp. infested landscape in the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne | Trent Loane

Armillaria

Armillaria root rot is a native pathogenic fungi that colonises the woody tissue of roots and lower trunks of woody species resulting in the breakdown of a plant's internal systems. *Armillaria* spp. can also survive as saprophytes, persisting in old stumps and root material for long periods.

Armillaria is spread primarily through root to root contact so healthy roots that contact infected material (dead or living tissue) may be inoculated, making control difficult.

Extensive sampling and testing in 2018-19, found *A. luteobubalina* throughout the Australian Garden's living collection, with significant plant deaths concentrated on Howson Hill, Ficus Fingers, The Serpentine Path and Arid and Dry River Bed precincts.

Infected sites are managed using a range of different techniques, including soil amelioration works (air spading, excavation and soil removal, addition of organic matter, and increasing soil pH), removal of old stumps and root material, isolation of infected areas using root barriers, installation of sub-surface irrigation, application of phosphonic acid, implementation of a plant nutrition program and improved hygiene measures.

The Dry River Bed

A review of the precinct in 2018 found the landscape in sub-optimal condition with presentation, aesthetic and horticultural objectives not meeting curatorial aspirations.

Many issues contributed to the poor plant and landscape performance including the Delatite river-pebble mulch, plastic garden bed edging, drainage, soil compaction and pH issues, inefficient irrigation systems and maintenance challenges posed by the original species selections.

All of these problems were compounded by the presence of *Armillaria* and this contributed to an increasing amount of plant death across the precinct with little to no chance of re-establishment with the original planting pallet.

The Project

Original Australian Garden landscape designers TCL were engaged to redesign the bed shapes and on-ground work commenced in 2021-22. This saw bed and path replacement, installation of a root barrier along the north/south length of the precinct, redesign and replacement of the irrigation system with a drip system, mulch and new steel edging and finally, the replanting of beds with a new suite of species that focus on Australia's beautiful ornamental grasses, herbaceous species and petaloid monocots, (strappy, grass-like flowering plants). Woody species and trees are deliberately omitted due to the remaining presence of *Armillaria*.

The Cranbourne Friends generous donation of \$92,000 allowed for the design and installation of a fully overhauled underground drip irrigation system and plant purchases across the entire precinct, with over 3,100 plants planted out as of July 2024.

RBGV resident landscape architect, Andrew Laidlaw, with assistance from



Armillaria burning.
Photo: T Loane



Drip irrigation.
Photo: S Chong

Continued from page 5

Horticulturist Sam Chong, designed a spectacular planting plan, with plants placed and planted with help from the Cranbourne Friends Volunteers in Spring 2023 and Autumn 2024, with further plantings planned for later in 2024 and early 2025.

The finished landscape will afford the visitor an immersive experience, to stroll amongst a striking display of the best of Australia's herbaceous floral diversity, flanked by a backdrop of breezy grasses and delightful displays of colour and form.

References:

1. Case study: *Using plant-based solutions to manage an Armillaria spp. infested landscape in the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (Victoria, Australia).*

Abstract. S. Chong, T. Loane

2. *Armillaria Response Plan - RBGV Cranbourne*

J. Arnott, R. Larke, W. Worboys

Friends volunteers and staff planting the Dry River Bed.

Photo Bill Jones

Anigozanthus blooming in the Dry River Bed 2024.

Photo: T. Loane



John Arnott farewell

On 21 June the Friends were invited to attend the RBGV farewell function for Manager, Horticulture, John Arnott. Among many gifts was a beautiful Amanda Louden art glass vase, featuring a *Eucalyptus* design, which was presented as a joint gift from staff and the Friends. Rodger Elliot spoke on behalf of the Friends with aplomb.

Congratulations and thank you to John on his many years of service, his major role in the development of the Australian Garden, and his always friendly and positive dealings with the Cranbourne Friends. We wish him all the best for the future.



(R) John Arnott and Erin Cosgriff with the *Eucalyptus* vase.

Photo: Judith Cooke

(L) Mandy Thomson and Trent Loane perform a musical number- an essential, as it is frequently John who creates a musical item at a staff farewell.



Friend Quiz 17 Charles Young

Spring is a great time to visit the Grampians/Gariwerd and the Pomonal Native Flower Show. There are so many beautiful plants to enjoy there – like those featured in this quiz! Look for them on your next trip out west.

Q1. *Burchardia umbellata* is a bulbous, perennial plant with honey-scented flowers. What is the common name of this plant?



1

Q2. The common and scientific names of this leguminous plant allude to its very short or non-existent leaves. What are the plant's names?



2

Q3. This is a flower of *Isopogon ceratophyllus*. What does the name *Isopogon* ('even beard') refer to and what are some common names for *Isopogon* species?



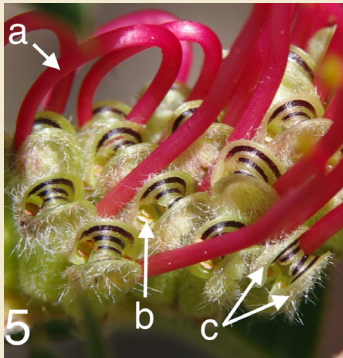
3

Q4. This widespread eastern Australian orchid, of variable pink colour, is distinguished by the presence of red and white stripes at the back of the column. What are the names of this plant?



4

Q5. This is a close-up of the flowers of the *Grevillea aquifolium*, Holly Grevillea – I love those mesmerizing spirals! What are the flower structures shown in a, b and c (common to all *Proteaceae*)?



5

Q6. This is *Calectasia intermedia* or Blue Tinsel Lily. What distinguishes this species from all the others in the genus and what does it lie between (L. *intermedius* 'intermediate')?



6

Q7. This delightful yellow flower is a *Hibbertia*. What is the connection between *Hibbertia* and the 17-19th century, British gold coin known as the guinea?



7

Q8. Am I the only one that still thinks this plant is an *Astroloma*? (that's not the question!) What are the names of this plant and to what family does it belong?



8

Photos by Charles Young.

Check your answers on page 16.

Renovation of *Lomandra confertifolia* |

Mathieu Lascostes (Horticulture) and FIGs members

The group takes on special projects within the Australian Garden. Generally, these are in the Red Sand Garden, along the Serpentine Path, or other areas that lack a curator. Sweeping, raking and weeding are always optional jobs associated with these projects.

Job description:

Prune, weed and fill gaps in the six rows of *Lomandra confertifolia* 'Little Con' that border the Bloodwood Garden and rejuvenate the soil.

Time taken:

This depends on the number of FIGs members each day. **New members are always welcome.** This task is ongoing for as long as needed between other beautifying needs in the Australian Garden.

Equipment:

Secateurs, trowel, (FIGS have our own box of tools), pick, spades, soil, new plants, rakes, buckets, wheelbarrow, trailer to remove stones, plus morning tea – we always stop for a drink and something delicious to eat.

Method:

- Take 'before the job' photos.
- Prune *Lomandra* and weed the beds.
- Order new plants to fill gaps.
- Replace soil – soil:sand ratio should be 3:1 at pH 6-7.
New soil is often too acidic and is mixed with sand to raise the pH to 6-7.
- Remove original stone mulch.
The question 'why use stone mulch?' is often asked. The stones bury themselves and prevent healthy growth in the *Lomandra*; the stones also harbour jumping jack ants (*Myrmecia pilosula*).
- When the new plants arrive, plant evenly in gaps across the six rows of *Lomandra*; water new plants.
Use string lines to keep rows straight.
- Compost the beds to prevent weed growth.
- Unwanted extra stones are taken to 'works area'.
Fill the trailer for Mathieu to take to the works area. Some stones can be used to rejuvenate the stone walls at the end of the adjacent swales.
- Clean up – rake and sweep swales and define garden edges.



Right: Spreading new soil on *Lomandra* garden.

Far right: Cleaning up at the end of the day and watering in the new plants.

Unless otherwise stated, photos: by Christine Kenyon

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@rbgfriendedscranbourne.org.au
Mobile: 0438 345 589



Planning the rejuvenation (Mathieu and Christine). Photo: Linda Jones

Below: Barrie Gallacher, Wendy Herauville, Bill Jones removing original stone mulch.



Continued from page 8

- Admire your handiwork and take 'end of job' photos.
- Enjoy a cuppa and chat whilst booking a massage!

Results:

Seven pairs of willing hands made light work of that deceptively large pile of rocks.

Next time you walk past the *Lomandra* borders please stop and admire. *Lomandra confertifolia* 'Little Con' (mat rush) appears grass-like but it is a perennial herb in the *Asparagaceae* family.

Etymology: Greek *loma*, margin; *aner*, andros, a male: alluding to the circular margin of the anthers in some species. Latin *confertus* = crowded; *folia* = refers to the leaves. There are 50 Australian *Lomandra* species, one of which occurs in East Gippsland, Victoria, and has been introduced into Melbourne suburban gardens. The foliage is narrow and bright green and they grow well in wet or dry, sunny or shaded positions and are hardy.



Pruned and weeded *Lomandra confertifolia* border.
Photo: Linda Jones.

Botanical Weaving activities |

Tess Holderness

A special 'Thank You' to Boon Wurrung creative, Bianca Easton, for guiding participants in the traditional practice of making a woven Dilly Bag, at our last Weaving Workshop. Feedback was positive, with attendees enjoying the 'crafternoon' experience, and the opportunity to develop some new weaving skills. Some unique hand-woven pieces came to life during the session, and participants walked away with a better insight into the cultural and contemporary practices of working with plant-based fibres. Jute (which is produced from *Corchorus olitorus*) provided an accessible and pliable material to work with – ideal for getting the hang of a new technique.

There is now an interest in experimenting with a range of styles and native plant materials – something that will be explored further in the newly revived Special Interest Group (SIG) for 'Botanical Weaving'. A number of participants from earlier workshops expressed an interest in creating an ongoing 'weaving circle', and the first informal session took place at the Elliot Centre in July. This new group has decided to gather monthly, on the '4th Sunday' of the month, from September onwards. New participants are welcome, and no experience is necessary – just a willingness to explore the mindful practice of weaving.

Participation involves a \$5 donation for morning or afternoon tea, in either of the two small group sessions available. Group members are encouraged to bring their own materials, although some shared resources will also be provided.

Future workshops will occasionally be held to explore different weaving styles and provide some more formal learning opportunities. For information about the **Botanical Weaving group** or activities, please contact **Tess Holderness** on **0412 195 283** or email **tessholderness@gmail.com**.



Top, Weaving workshop participants learn how to make a Dilly Bag.
Below, A little bag, woven by Annie, in a Botanical Weaving group.
Photos: Tess Holderness

Friends in Focus

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

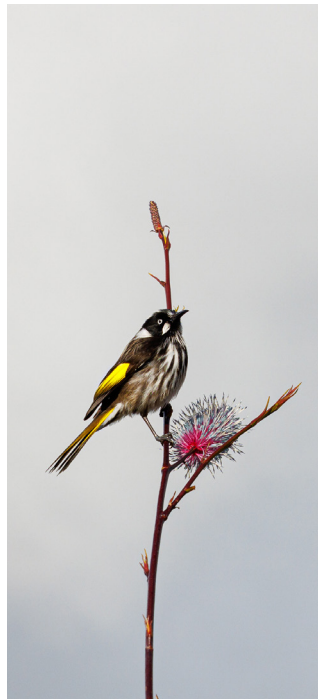
2pm, April to September (9.30am
October to March). Come along!



From top: *Hibiscus heterophyllus*; *Hibbertia scandens*. Both in Water Saving Garden.
Photos: Amy Akers.



Top, Weeping Pittosporum (*Pittosporum angustifolium*); *Banksia paludosa*, both in Dry River Bed.
Photos: Judith Cooke



Top row, *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty'; *Diplolaena grandiflora* (Wild Rose). Centre row, New Holland Honeyeater feeding from a grevillea; Bottle tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) in the Weird and Wonderful Garden. Bottom row, Reflections
Photos: Peter Williamson

Herbarium Collectors | Carolyn Landon

By 2001, more than 23 years ago, when the Cranbourne Gardens were still young, a wonderful group of Friends had come together with an expanding vision of scientific enquiry, education and discovery that was genuinely exciting.

Some of those Friends were encouraged to form an Interest Group to help collect listed flora from the 900 acres of natural, never-cleared bushland surrounding the Australian Garden, that was still being created. This group would be called the Herbarium Collectors. Members of the new group would learn the techniques of naming, drying, and properly mounting specimens so they were fit for the National Herbarium collection situated in Melbourne. Unusually, however, the Cranbourne Friends wanted to control their own collection, the only friends' group in any Australian public garden that would do so. Although the National Herbarium in Melbourne would be encouraged to oversee the activity, they would not own the specimens. The Cranbourne group would establish a separate Cranbourne Herbarium dedicated to Australian flora only from Cranbourne.

Nola Foster, who had studied architecture and landscape horticulture and had worked in gardens overseas, led the group and still keeps it going. She learned specimen collection, pressing, and mounting for a formal collection at Melbourne, and has maintained her interest in the Cranbourne project throughout the years. Members of the group have grown and waned but Nola, and Dawn Neylan, have remained dedicated.

The Cranbourne Herbarium exists in the back room of the Elliot Centre. There are about 780 specimens collected, named, pressed, dried and carefully stacked in botanical order. There is also a comprehensive list of specimens, with descriptions and photographs of each. Many of the specimens have been 'signed-off' by specialist horticulturalists.

But there is still much work to be done: ultimately it is hoped that volunteers will be trained to mount the best of the collected specimens, but first there are still more plants to be collected in the field, collated, listed, named and catalogued. It is a slow process, and more volunteers are welcome.

The Herbarium Collectors meet the first Monday of each month in the Elliot Centre between 9:00 & 9:30 and, depending on the season, begin the day by going out into the field to collect plants already identified by Dawn, then returning to the Herbarium Room to continue the steps that it takes to create the Cranbourne Herbarium, a genuine and valuable asset for the Friends and the Gardens.

Printing and posting of *Naturelink*

The committee has been reviewing costs in all areas of the work of the Friends to ensure efficient use of the funds we raise for the Gardens. In the last issue of *Naturelink* (Winter 2024), members were advised to let us know if their preference was for print for this and future issues. If you requested the print rather than the electronic magazine, you have also been invited to make a contribution towards printing and postage costs.

If you have not yet expressed your preference or have any queries about this process please contact Rosemary Miller, the editor, via email:
editor@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au.



Growing Friends | Marjanne Rook

SPRING - what a delight! And of course, we will be having a Spring Plant Sale. It will be on 12 and 13 October from 10 am to 4 pm at our new venue around the kiosk, where you can stop for a cup of coffee.

Plant Sale

This time, there will be 7-8 different species of *Epacris*, one of which is *Epacris impressa* 'Cranbourne Bells'. It deserves a special mention. The Australian Cultivar Registration Authority website informed me of its origin, as follows:

Epacris 'Cranbourne Bells' is a selection from a wild population of Epacris impressa growing outside the northern boundary of the Cranbourne Annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria and was made by Mr. Ian Graham in 1984. The cultivar was first received by the Authority in September 1986 and registration applied for by WR and GM Elliot of Montrose, Victoria.

It occurred naturally near and around the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in Victoria, but its habitat has since been cleared.

Rodger and Gwen Elliot recollect that when the Keilor Plains Australian Plant Society made an excursion to the region of what is now the Cranbourne Gardens bushland area adjacent to the racecourse, the discovery was made by Ian Graham – a member of this group. Rodger and Gwen visited the site and subsequently applied for its registration in 1986. In 1988 it was registered as *Epacris impressa* 'Cranbourne Bells'.

The *Epacris impressa* 'Cranbourne Bells' can be found in the Cranbourne Gardens and is always in the garden of Gwen and Rodger Elliot.

Growing Friends labels describe it as an 'Upright plant with white, double tubular flowers W-Sp. H30-1m x W40-70cm. Prefers sun or part-shade and is best suited to loam and sandy soils. Pruning beneficial as it promotes bushier growth.'

Epacris impressa - Floral emblem of Victoria

In 1951, at a meeting of representatives of government and other bodies, it was agreed that the pink form of the common heath, the 'pink heath', be adopted as the official floral emblem for the state of Victoria. Victoria was the first Australian state to adopt a floral emblem. The proclamation, made on 11 November 1958, by the Governor, Dallas Brooks, was as follows:

I, the Governor of the State of Victoria, in the Commonwealth of Australia, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said State, do by this my Proclamation declare that the Pink Form of the Common Heath, *Epacris impressa* Labill., be adopted as the Floral Emblem for the State of Victoria".

Nursery Open.

As always, the Growing Friends nursery is open to Members every Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm, except the Thursday before a Plant Sale which for the Spring Plant Sale is 10 October 2024.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Growing Friends

Meet Thursdays at the Growing Friends Nursery

Contact: Marjanne Rook via email:

growing.friends@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au



Epacris impressa 'Cranbourne Bells'

Photo: Rodger Elliot



Epacris impressa

Photo: Geoff Lay

Vic Flora

CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

Visit two inspirational Bass Coast native gardens in September with Open Gardens

The Open Gardens Victoria spring season kicks off with two beautiful native gardens in Bass Coast Shire, opening on the weekend of 28–29 September 2024.

Nestled in Woolamai’s rolling Bass Hills, **Eden Rise** has stunning views out to Western Port Bay, French Island, and Phillip Island. Originally a horse agistment property with little more than sheds and a handful of trees, owners Daphne and Joe Proietto have spent the past 13 years transforming grassy paddocks into a stunning five-acre garden.

Daphne and Joe’s eldest daughter Claire, who has both a degree in botany and a diploma in horticulture, was responsible for selecting most of the plants in the garden, including a multitude of flowering Australian natives such as kangaroo paws, banksias, bottlebrushes, and the tufted perennial grass *Themeda trianda*, all of which attract a variety of wildlife, especially beautiful birds. An interesting sculpture garden adds another dimension, along with a walled vegetable garden and a chicken coop with a large run. Visitors will discover a garden in springtime bloom with natives, succulents, and fruit trees in flower, as well as a spectacular children’s play area.

Just 20 minutes south, **Binchy’s Garden** in seaside Dalyston is a grevillea lover’s dream, with a collection of nearly 200 hand-grafted rare and endangered species gathered over two decades by garden owner and horticulturalist David Binch.

‘If you are obsessed with grevilleas and Australian gardens created for habitat, you should enjoy this garden,’ said David.

The majority of grevilleas in David’s collection are from Western Australia, species that struggle to grow in southern Victoria. Grafting them on to more tolerant and strong rootstock is the best solution he has found. ‘I’m also growing grevilleas from all over Australia, two from New Caledonia as well as the odd hybrid, and two grevilleas extinct in the wild,’ said David.

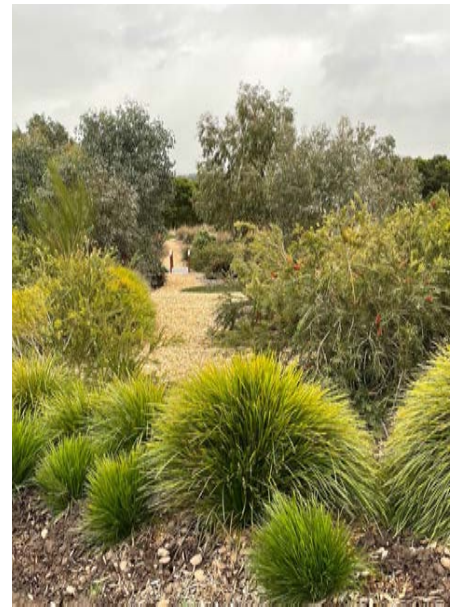
Visiting the properties, 28-29 September 2024

Eden Rise is located at 42 Clematis Road, Woolamai VIC 3995
More information plus tickets via Trybooking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1256524>

Binchy’s Garden, 6 Barrier Avenue, Dalyston Vic 3992
More information plus tickets via Trybooking:
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1256621>

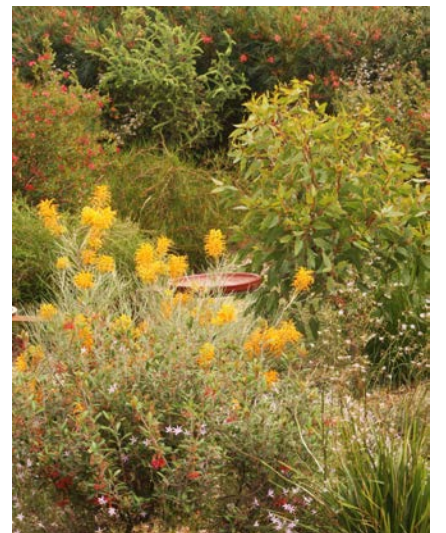
Gardens open 10 am - 4.30 pm

TICKETS: Adults \$10, Students \$6, under 18 free (each garden)
Tickets will also be available at the gate.



Above: **Eden Rise** features views out to Western Port Bay, French and Phillip Islands.

Below: Rare and endangered grevilleas are the stand out attraction at **Binchy’s Garden**, and grafted grevilleas are for sale.



Botanical Fabricators | Jenny Rollason

Now that Wendy is relocating, Bev Williamson and I will be sharing the coordinating of the Fabricators. We will miss Wendy's calm, dependable and knowledgeable leadership. Luckily, we will have Gwen Elliot with us, to call on, with her vast experience.

We've been working on a variety of items, including those featuring banksias and heath, for future events. Our supplies for the spring plant sale are mounting up, some with Christmas in mind.

We meet in the Elliot Centre, at 10 am, every second Tuesday of the month, and enjoy an informal, friendly format, producing craft while we share coffee, cake and conversation.

Even if sewing is not your strong point, there are many other tasks that contribute greatly, for example, cutting felt items, knitting scarves, ready for a native emblem to be added, or threading beads. You will be very welcome.

Photo: Jenny Rollason (at right) with Margaret Kitchen on the Fabricators and Illustrators stall at the Autumn Plant Sale.
Photo: Wendy Smart



Botanical Fabricators

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

Contact: Jenny Rollason, Ph 5998
2457

fabricators@
rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Cranbourne's Indigenous bush play group celebrates ten years

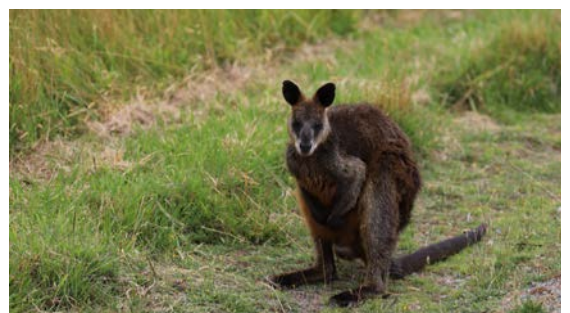
Balee Koolin Bubup Bush Playgroup has been running now for ten years, a great achievement. The group meets weekly at the Stringybark Play Area.

The aim of the group is to provide a culturally-safe early learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. At the Cranbourne Gardens, children can Connect to Country and gather with other families while having fun playing in nature and learning about bush foods, plants and creatures. Learning the Boon Wurrung language is important, and it is taught orally through stories, songs and dances, in the traditional way.

Because many children are in mixed families, their carers and family members are encouraged to come along and learn the songs and language, to help reinforce this cultural knowledge.

In the group's name, 'Balee' refers to the Cherry Ballart tree (*Exocarpos cupressiformis*) which is found at Stringybark; this tree needs another suitable plant nearby to grow properly. It is a metaphor for the idea that preservation of Indigenous culture and language needs cross-cultural support.

The group operates under the cultural guidance of Boon Wurrung Elder Aunty Fay Stewart and is facilitated by staff member Janine (Jaffa) Richardson.



The Art of Botanical Illustration (TABI)

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is proud to present the 17th biennial exhibition of **The Art of Botanical Illustration (TABI)** from 27 September to 12 October 2024.

Visit: www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/friends-art-program/tabi-2024/

TABI, Australia's premier botanical art exhibition, is held biennially and in 2024 will be a hybrid exhibition. Over 160 works will be selected to form the physical exhibition at Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne, and even more included on a virtual platform of all artworks, including those submitted internationally.

The Art of Botanical Illustration attracts established and emerging botanical artists from all over Australia and around the world. This exhibition is a selected exhibition which means artists submitting work have it professionally assessed and curate. All works selected are botanically accurate and beautifully executed in exquisite detail using a variety of mediums but primarily watercolour, graphite or coloured pencil.

Exhibition at a glance:

Dates: 27 September - 12 October 2024

Venue: Domain House & Gallery, Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne.

Times: 10 am - 4 pm daily. Free entry or gold coin donation.



Dendrobium anosmum, Hono-Hono Orchid.

Artwork by John Pastoriza Piñol



Pink Gum Blossom.

Artwork by Vicki Philipson

Membership

Welcome to our new Members

This quarter, we warmly welcome our new members. We're excited to have you with us and encourage you to make the most of your Friends membership benefits. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

24/25 Membership cards

A special thank you to Friends member Sharon Start for the beautiful photograph of *Banksia marginata*, taken in the Bushland at the Cranbourne Gardens. This stunning image, chosen by members, is featured on our 24/25 membership cards.

Membership renewals.

A big thank you as well to all our members who continue to renew and support the Friends and the Gardens at Cranbourne. As a reminder, membership renewals are now based on the anniversary of your joining date. While many members have a renewal date of July 1, renewal dates are now spread throughout the year. We kindly ask that you renew your membership on or before your expiry date to help streamline our administrative process. Please also remember to update any changes to your contact information and provide your details when paying by bank transfer or cheque to ensure your payment is processed correctly. If you don't receive your membership card or need a replacement, please let us know.

Just a gentle reminder: our Membership Secretary is generally unavailable for calls during weekday business hours, so whenever possible, please get in touch via **text message** or **email**.



2024/25 Membership card, featuring Sharon Start's photo of *Banksia marginata*

Membership Secretary

Contact: Alexandra Stalder

Email: membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

Text: 0431 025 733

Answers to Friend Quiz 17 on page 7

A1. The common name is Milkmaids, an allusion to the milky white flowers (and possibly the nectaries at the base of the petals).

A2. This is *Daviesia brevifolia* (from L. *brevis* 'short' + *folium* 'leaf', meaning short-leaved) or Leafless Bitter Pea. Leaves are rarely observed on this plant, so the branches and stems perform photosynthesis.

A3. *Isopogon* refers to the hairs on the fruit being nearly all the same length. Common names include Conesticks, Coneflowers and Drumsticks.

A4. This is *Caladenia carnea* ((from L. *carneus* 'flesh-coloured') variously called Pink Fingers or Lady Fingers. The latter is a name shared with the similar-looking *C. catenata* (which has a whitish-green column).

A5. (a) the style (of an unopened flower) bearing the pollen presenter and stigma (not shown), (b) the pollen producing anthers, which lie on the inside surfaces of the tepals (sepals and petals) and (c) the tepals, as seen at the top of the floral tubes.

A6. This is the only member of the genus found outside W.A. – in Victoria and S.A., hence, the other common name Eastern Tinsel Lily. In appearance it lies between *Calectasia cyanea* and *C. grandiflora* (the two species known at the time it was named).

A7. *Hibbertia* are often called Guinea Flowers, due to the fancied resemblance of the flower to a guinea. The coin gets its name from the gold source, the Guinea Coast of Africa. A guinea was worth around £1 and contained 7.7 g of gold, worth around £450 (\$870) today.

A8. This is *Stenantha conostephioides* or Flame Heath, a member of the *Ericaceae* family (it was once in the genus *Astroloma* and the family *Epacridaceae*, now subfamily *Epacridoideae*).

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