

Dovyalis

Friends of Bendigo Botanic
Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Issue 10, Spring 2019



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*Entrance to the WA Botanic Gardens,
Kings Park*

This newsletter is named after *Dovyalis caffra*, the South African Kei Apple Tree which is a heritage listed tree in the Bendigo Botanic Gardens



WA willflowers on display for Garden Guides Conference - Frasers Function Centre



Frasers Function Centre, Kings Park



Judy and Jane at the Function Centre.

16th Australasian Garden Guides Conference Perth - September 2019

A Trip to Perth for the 16th Australasian Botanic Guides Conference -

Judy Milner – FBBG member and BBG assistant guide

On the 13th October Jane Cleary and I set off to attend the Australasian Botanic Gardens Guides Conference held for 5 days and based in Kings Park Perth..

Being the peak of the season some wildflower trips were offered prior to and after the conference. We chose to go on a day's Spring Wildflower Bus Tour on the Saturday preceding the conference.

It was a great opportunity to fulfil my long held wish to see wildflowers of WA in Spring. The Spring display lived up to expectations and we were impressed with the abundant and beautiful flora.

The Casey tour took us on a circuit north east of Perth reaching almost to New Norcia. Our enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable guide Ann Newman had us venturing into various wildflower spots along the way - a key one being at Blackboy Ridge in Chittering Shire. The Marri or Red Gum (*Corymbia calophylla*), Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), Powderbark Wandoo (*Eucalyptus accedens*), and two types of Grass tree, (*Xanthorrhoea preissii* and *Xanthorrhoea acanthostachya*) were the taller plants with a kaleidoscope of wildflowers spreading below. These included orchids, Kangaroo Paws, Grevilleas, Kennedia sp, Hibbertia, Banksia, Conostylis, Sundews, Lilies, Lechenaultias, Tetratheca sp and many others.

Another stop close to Bindoon on a sandy track delighted us with a display of the Cats Paw, (*Anigozanthus humilis*) and some natural hybrids between these and *A. manglesii*.



Cats Paw *Anigozanthos humilis*

The Sunday gave us the opportunity to visit a special art exhibition 'The Botanical; Beauty Rich and Rare' at the WA Art Gallery. This was held in conjunction with the Kings Park Festival. Included were works from the Janet Holmes à Court Collection



*Blackwood Song 2011 by artist Brendon Darby
Janet Holmes à Court Collection*

A Trip to Perth for the 16th Australasian Botanic Guides Conference

continued

The 'Beauty Rich and Rare' Guides Conference itself commenced on the Monday at Eliza House in the park with registration, orientation tours and a welcome reception.

Tuesday morning's introductory sessions at Fraser's Function Centre (upstairs overlooking the Park) were followed by three one hour activities interspersed with morning teas and lunches. Jane and I had made our own selections from all those offered.

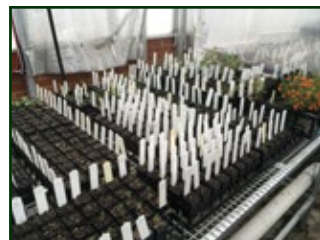
Each guided walk or activity in the park had a theme and was led by the very professional Perth BG guides. Topics included Don't Forget Fungi, the Boab Story, Bush Regeneration After Fire, Nursery Visit, Tree Management, Nature in Art, Bizarre Botanicals, Gondwana Adventure, Walking with Technology, Banksia Bonanza, Aboriginal Bush Tucker and Culture and many more.



Plant cultivar breeding and selection trials in the Kings Park Bio-diversity Centre



Kangaroo Paw cultivars



Propagation from seed

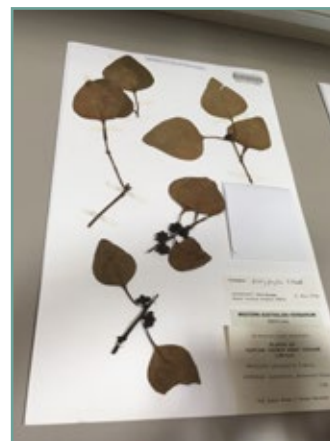
There were over 150 delegates to cater for so there were many groups involved in each session usually reconvening in-between at Eliza House.

Wednesday was excursion day and I chose to go on 'The Bold Views Tour' featuring botanical highlights and views of Perth and the Indian Ocean from the Reabold Hill boardwalk in Bold Park.



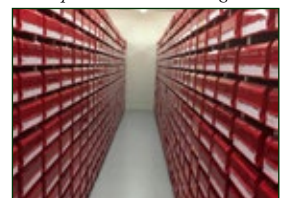
Boardwalk at Reabold Hill

On the return trip we visited the WA Herbarium - home to 750,000 plant specimens. Collection, curation, identification, seed banking and conservation are part of their role and we were privileged to see original specimens collected at Botany Bay NSW and Endeavour River Qld, by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Cooks voyage of discovery in 1770. Wow!



Historic specimens of Hakea gibbosa and Eucalyptus platyphylla from Cooks Voyage 1770 on display

Atmospheric controlled storage area



Jane chose 'The Darling Scarp Discovery Tour' travelling to Banyowla Regional Park and on through Jarrah and Marri woodland to Dwellingup. An aboriginal guided tour was included on this trip.

A Trip to Perth for the 16th Australasian Botanic Guides Conference -

Continued

Thursday morning's initial session included a presentation by guides from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Victoria (Melbourne and Cranbourne) who will be the hosts for the 2021 Guides Conference. Aerial views of the two sites and a short movie were an impressive glimpse for what is planned. A little closer to home for us!

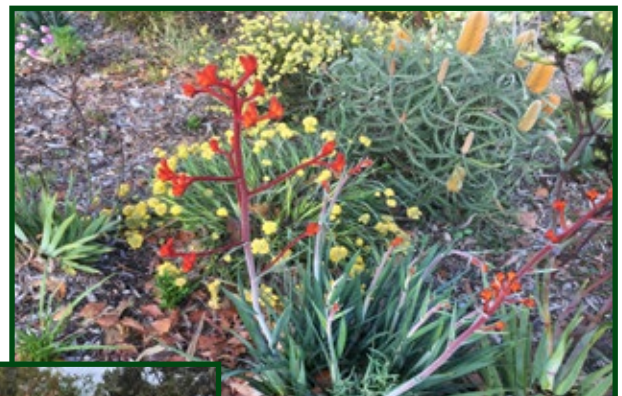
Following this were three more of the activity choices and an optional evening soiree, which we declined.

Friday morning activity choices were followed by a farewell lunch which rounded off an amazing if somewhat exhausting conference.

'Hats off to the Kings Park Guides who did an amazing job of organising such a worthwhile event'.



Banksia ashbyi



Diuris corymbosa Donkey Orchid



Anigozanthos manglesii



Xanthorrhoea preissii



Isopogon divergens

Our New Garden Guides in training

Members of the Friends taking on an extra role with Jane Cleary.

Four of the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens are currently undergoing training with Jane Cleary to fill the positions of official guides for the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. This important role involves being able to introduce, present and promote the gardens to visitors in a positive manner.



The gardens now cover an extensive area with the Garden for the Future added to the original site. Knowledge of the plants and the stories that go with them, the design rationale and the history of the gardens are all aspects of an enjoyable and informative guided tour. A good guide needs to cater to different age groups, be sensitive to physical needs and be able to hold people's interest.

Guides have the pleasure of meeting with local, interstate and overseas visitors while telling many interesting stories about the gardens and its history.

A Botanic Tour Guide can:

- Generate enthusiasm for gardens, plants and nature especially in the younger generation and also hopefully generate excitement about the next stage of our masterplan.
- Include personal perspectives, including favourite features, plants and moments.
- Discuss the garden from different perspectives such as a gardener, event organiser, designer, school teacher, young child, a tourist or an historian
- Take on board feedback and answer questions
- Ask questions along the way to get engagement and conversation. e.g. their interests, favourite plants, garden styles, etc,
- Be flexible with the presentation and prepared to say 'I don't know' if necessary.

(from notes prepared by Brad Creme - past BBG curator)



*Kings Park Guides tag-teaming during a 'Gondwana Adventure' Guided Tour in the park.
Note the corporate outfits and shoulder kit-bag*



In August the Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens visited Bendigo BG as part of their bus tour through Northern Victoria.

Landscape Award for Garden for the Future

Aaron Lindsay - Coordinator Public Space Design - City of Greater Bendigo.

The Garden for the Future won an Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Victoria state award for the Garden category. The Judges were impressed by the designers' experiments with rare and curious plants, saying they tested notions of what a botanic gardens could be. The Garden for the Future was designed by TCL with the planting design undertaken by Paul Thompson.

AILA Victorian Chapter president Adrian Gray said that "Landscape architects ensure the complex relationship between people and nature is embedded through the many places that shape the way we live on this planet. These awards recognise that great design supports human well-being in our political, academic, health, urban and rural environments. Landscape architects create quality places where people and nature coexist."

The Garden for the Future features over 30,000 trees and shrubs, 4,700 square metres of lawn and a large shelter/stage building complete with toilet facilities.

There are over 40 small picnic lawns and a large fun and fantasy lawn which doubles as an event space.

The garden also features a grassed amphitheatre for outdoor performances and a number of semi-intimate gathering spaces for functions, as well as a promenade that can be used for markets and other events.

Feature Plant from GFTF

Kirstie Paterson - Staff Team Leader, Bendigo BG

***Crataegus mexicana* (Mexican Hawthorn)**

This spectacular small tree (8-10m) can be found in the Fruit section of the 'Around the World' garden in the GFTF site. It has lovely white flowers in the spring, and the large crab-apple like fruit ripen to a vibrant yellow in late winter, giving this tree a point of interest all year round. This tree can bite as it does have thorns, though not as many as most *crataegus* species. For this tree to thrive in your garden, all you need to do is plant it in a well drained soil and it will cope in all weather conditions once established. (That's right; everything Bendigo's climate can throw at it, it will cope with!)

In its native regions of Mexico and Guatemala this tree is very important, the fruit is consumed cooked or raw and is used to make a traditional Mexican fruit drink called ponche. The root of the tree is used in traditional medicine, and the wood is used to manufacture tools.

I think this is a beautiful little tree that has spectacular fruit in late winter, giving colour to the garden when most plants are in their winter dormancy.

Note: You will need to monitor this tree for fruit fly.



Marjoram - *Origanum vulgare*

Kevin Shanahan - FBBG member

Marjoram is known variously as Wild Marjoram, Mountain Mint, Winter Marjoram, Marjolaine, Winter Sweet or Oregano.

It originates from Middle Eastern countries and is indigenous to Cypress and Southern Turkey. As Marjoram is synonymous with Oregano, names like Sweet Marjoram are used to distinguish it from other plants of the genus.

To the Greeks and Romans it was a symbol of happiness. (The name derives from Old French *majorane*, Medieval Latin *majorana*).

Gold Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare Aureum*)

This hardy form is a perennial which has a height and spread of approximately 45cm. It has golden, aromatic and slightly hairy leaves which form a mat in winter. Clusters of tiny tubular mauve/pink flowers occur in the summer.

The leaves have a warm aromatic flavour and combine well with vegetables when used in cooking.

Medicinal uses:

Due to its high thymol content it has antiseptic qualities.

A marjoram tea may be used to ease bad colds, for tranquilising nerves or to relieve upset stomachs. It may also be used as a temporary relief for toothache.

A few drops of essential oil on the pillow may help with sleep.

Pests and diseases

Marjorams being aromatic are mostly pest free.

They are cold sensitive perennial herbs.

Culinary uses:

Marjoram is used for seasoning in soups, stews, dressings, sauces, and for herbal tea.

Growing Marjoram

This herb is quite easily grown in everybody's garden at home and in restaurants and cafes everywhere.

There is a wonderful specimen in our Botanic Gardens here in Bendigo. You can find it in the cottage garden near the childrens playground and adjacent to the grape arbour.



John Arnott - Speaker for August AGM

Care for the rare: a project to involve regional botanic gardens in the conservation of Victorian Flora

Anne Bridley - FBBG President

At the 2019 Friends AGM, John Arnott, Manager Horticulture Cranbourne, talked to us about the BGANZ Vic initiative, Care for the Rare (CR). As some 34% of Victoria's flora is of conservation significance (rare or threatened), including 43 plants extinct in Vic, such a project is very much needed. This is particularly important with climate change, as some plants are much more adaptable than others.



John Arnott speaking at the FBBG Annual General Meeting 27th August at the Samuel Gadd Centre BBG

Historically, our regional botanic gardens grew out of the 19th cent. "pleasure parks". Their emphasis has been on providing pleasant recreation spaces rather than on being botanic gardens - gardens whose emphasis is on the collection of plants. In the 20th cent., many of our gardens fell into various stages of disrepair, some even being used for caravan parks. None the less, valuable specimens of rare flora did survive, mostly being cultivated non local or overseas plants.

In the last 20 years there has been resurgence of interest in our botanic gardens, helped by active friends groups. Master plans have been made, funding secured, and new gardens developed. The Bendigo garden is a good example.

When the CR project was conceived, a survey was done of Victorian botanic gardens to find out what they thought of growing local rare plants. Various obstacles were identified, such as heritage constraints, difficulties in sourcing plant material, and lack of knowledge. As a result, BGANZ and the RBGV are working together to provide plant material and support for the project.

Once funding was secured, expressions of interest were sought. Over half the regional botanic gardens responded, including Bendigo, out of which 6 were selected for a pilot project. The CR team worked with the gardens to develop a plant list and site specific plan for each. The plant lists were selected using criteria such as ease of cultivation and propagation, and suitability as a garden plant.

There is an exciting variety in the projects of the 6 gardens involved in Care for the Rare. Colac BG CR project features plants from the Otways and plains bioregions, habitat gardens and a number of rare or threatened species. The Wilson Botanic Park at Berwick is on basalt, Ballarat BG concentrates on species within a 50km radius, Shepparton's has been developed in front of a west facing wall and features xerophytic plants, the Dandenong Ranges BG has started a collection of alpine plants and species from the Wellington Shire feature at Sale BG.

At some stage there will be another round of funding. We have our own goldfields flora surrounding Bendigo which contain a number of threatened species. Some are well worth growing as garden plants. Already the Northern Victorian Garden contains Ausfeld's Wattle *Acacia ausfeldii*, Whirrakee Wattle *Acacia williamsonii*, Kamarooka Mallee *Eucalyptus froggattii* and Blue Mallee *Eucalyptus polybractea*. All rare or threatened.

The Friends will be able to support any future expressions of interest by the Bendigo Botanic Gardens in the CR project.

Spring Display of Wattles in the Gardens

Acacias - Northern Victorian Garden and lagoon area September 2019 - Photographs Judy Milner



Acacia acinacea Gold Dust Wattle



Acacia rhetinocarpa Neat Wattle



Acacia verniciflua Varnish Wattle



Acacia paradoxa Hedge Wattle



Acacia ausfeldii Ausfelds Wattle



Acacia williamsonii Whirrakee Wattle



Acacia denticulosa Sandpaper Wattle



Acacia aphylla Leafless Rock Wattle

Botanical Illustrators Workshop

Drawing with coloured pencils with Audrey Baillie

Annie Clark - FBBG member and illustrator.

On the 8th of June the Illustrators enjoyed our 2nd in-house coloured pencil workshop, this time with Audrey Baillie as our tutor. Whereas Pam Sheean's method in our previous bird illustration workshop concentrated on pencil strokes, Audrey's method is very different. She showed us how she builds up areas of colour with many layers, achieving vivid and striking effects. We chose to illustrate fruit and vegetables as the topic this time, providing us with flatter surfaces to achieve the desired effects. Lots of information was shared as to suitable papers, types of pencils and use of colours and burnishing. Some excellent results were achieved. Many thanks to Audrey.



Roma tomatoes Annie Clark



Truss tomatoes

Jan Orr

Growing Friends share our own Gardens

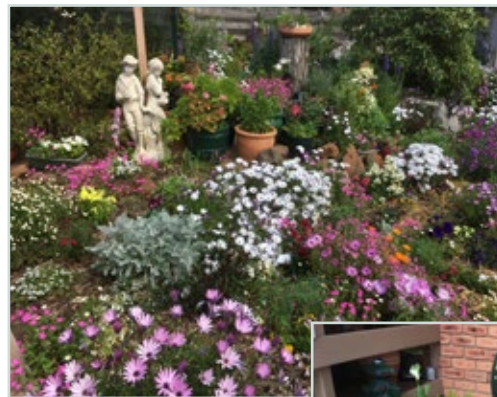
Judy Milner - Growing Friends Nursery co-ordinator

The Growing Friends have been having the occasional visit to our own members gardens following our Tuesday working bees. Some lovely treasures in home gardens have been enjoyed.

Thanks to those willing to share.



Jan Bobin's beautiful Tree Peony originated from her grandmother's garden and has travelled with her through many house shifts.



Anna Bennet's delightful garden shows a passion for plants and gardening. She has added all sorts of interesting sculptural bric-a-brac to enhance the display.

Hedging and edging with Australian Natives

Samples of Australian natives used as successful hedges and edges in the Bendigo Botanic Gardens.



Correa reflexa

Correa reflexa and Correa glabra



Allocasuarina muelleriana



Correa glabra



Dianella admixta



Eremophila nivea x drummondii

What's On -

The Friends' Monthly Committee Meetings - members are welcome to attend as observers.

Held at Bendigo Botanic Gardens Samuel Gadd Centre - 9.30am on 3rd Tuesday of the month (except January).
Office bearers are elected for two year terms and the Annual General Meeting is held in August.

Growing Friends

Growing Friends meet at the FBBG nursery (behind the Samuel Gadd Centre) each Tuesday from 9.30am - 11.30am. Activities include propagating plants for the gardens and for sale, maintaining the plant nursery, as well as assisting the BBG staff in the gardens. New members are always welcome.
Plants are available for sale during Growing Friends times and there are two major Saturday sales each year - one in Spring and one in Autumn.

Botanical Illustration Group

Meet Saturdays 9:30am - 4.00pm & Wednesdays 9:30am - 12 noon at the BBG Samuel Gadd Centre. New members welcome.

Date	What	Details
Saturday 2nd November	FBBG Spring Plant Sale	Friends Nursery at rear of Samuel Gadd Centre. 9am-2pm Enter via Napoleon Cres.
Tuesday 19th November	FBBG Committee Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 9.30 - 10.30am
Tuesday 3rd December	Christmas Break-up Western Adventures - the recent travels of Jane Cleary, Judy Milner and Rod & Jan Orr	Samuel Gadd Centre 2.30pm. Shared afternoon tea and slide show.
Tuesday 15th February 2020	FBBG Committee Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG. 9.30am - 10.30am
Tuesday 17th March 2020	FBBG Committee Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG. 9.30am - 10.30am
Tuesday 21st April 2020	FBBG Committee Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG. 9.30am - 10.30am
Saturday 9th May 2020	FBBG Autumn Plant Sale	Friends Nursery at rear of Samuel Gadd Centre. 9am-2pm Enter via Napoleon Cres.
Tuesday 19th May 2020	FBBG Committee Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG. 9.30am - 10.30am
May 22nd -24th 2020	AAFBG Biennial Conference	Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-Tha http://fbbgsa.org.au events@fbbgsa.org.au



Tulips in the gardens - October 2019

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Secretary: Pam Sheean **Treasurer:** Annie Clark
Committee Members: Jan Bobin, Jane Cleary, Lyn Hamilton, Judy Milner, Jan Orr, Kevin Shanahan and Eric Wilkinson.

Newsletter Committee: Delene Commerford, Judy Milner and Jan Orr.

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