

Dovyalis

Friends of Bendigo Botanic
Gardens Inc. Newsletter

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Launch of first *Dovyalis* newsletter by Mayor Peter Cox at the Samuel Gadd Centre on 4th June 2015



Jane Cleary receiving Lifetime Membership award and gift. Presented by Rosemary Davies at launch of *Dovyalis* Newsletter.

From the President - Jan Orr

At the Friends 2015 Annual meeting, held on the 11th of August, we were fortunate to hear Stephen Ryan speak about the horticultural and social importance of botanic gardens and garden clubs to the community. I was particularly interested to hear what he had to say about plant collections and the importance of keeping plant species and cultivars safe from the vagaries of gardening fashions.

Old plant catalogues had become sad reading for Stephen, as many of the plants listed are no longer available. The old plant varieties that were once common have been gradually replaced by new garden hybrids that fit in with current gardening trends.

Fortunately there are gardeners who are immune to fashion and they build their gardens around the plants that fascinate them.

Sometimes they will single out a plant for its diversity of colour, form and growth habit, not just its beauty alone (although all plant collections will contain plants of astonishing beauty) and grow as many of these species and cultivars as garden space will allow. The gardener becomes a 'plant collector'.

Plant collectors often have little interest in current gardening fashion. It is their intense interest in a particular species that drives their collection.

These collections are very valuable for saving rare and unusual plant species and cultivars from possible extinction. Once the plant is lost then its genetic code is also lost.

What happens to the collection when the collector is no longer able to maintain the plants? Stephen spoke of how collectors can protect their collection from loss through neglect and dispersal by involving community gardening groups and Botanic Gardens in the care and maintenance of their collection.

We have an example of this in our Botanic Gardens.

When Rosemary Holmes decided to close 'Yuulong', her Lavender nursery, she donated her lavender collection to the Royal Melbourne Botanic Gardens. However the RMBG was reluctant to add another collection to their very large collections list and the collection was offered to Bendigo Botanic Gardens where it now resides in the circular bed in the entrance garden.

The BBG have taken over the responsibility of keeping the lavender collection for posterity.

The Lavender Collection is not the BBG's only plant collection. The BBG has held the Australian *Canna* collection for many years. Details about the history of this collection and how it came to Bendigo are sketchy; however the fact that many varieties have 'Cole' in their names could be a clue.

In the "Gardeners Guide to Growing Cannas" by Ian Cooke, published 2001, on p.19 there is a short chapter on a *Canna* breeder from Albury by the name of Cole. The article states that while there are some intriguing stories about Cole he remains a mystery ".....even to the extent of not knowing his first name." There is a copy in the FBBG library.

Stephen is a passionate horticulturist who obviously delights in the beauty and diversity of plants. The current fashions in garden design with their stringent selection of spiky-strappy- leaf plant selection was dismissed as 'monocotmonotony'.

How long will it be before we once more start to see some of the 'dicots' return. An antidote to this 'modernism' can be found in the BBG's wonderful heritage cottage garden.

Memorial Arch - Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Research and article by Helen Hickey (FBBG)

"Many a poor Mother was heartbroken through the loss in the war and those nearest and dear to her, and to them sincere sympathy and condolences were extended".



It is these words, spoken by Mr J Sternberg, MLC in 1925 at the unveiling of the White Hills' Memorial arch, that sum up best what this beautiful monument meant to the community of White Hills.

The names on the Arch signify what it was the locals lost just six years before; young men, sons, brothers, husbands and lovers – their deaths and cruel experience of war are cemented here in the massive rusticated voussoirs and simple wreaths of the arch.

The White Hills Arch stands proudly in White Hills on the Midland Highway where it forms the entry to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. It is of historical and architectural significance as a rare example of this building type in Victoria. The only other such Arches, all First World War memorials and of different designs, occur at Ballarat (1920), Murtoa (1921) and Mansfield (1923).

A Memorial Committee was formed as early as 1920 with the purpose to raise money for a memorial to commemorate those fallen and returned soldiers from White Hills.

Money was raised by holding memorial concerts as well as raising funds through public subscription.

Residents could also purchase a clay brick that was stamped with 'White Hills' on one side and 'Memorial Arch' on the other.



After five years of tireless dedication, fund raising and numerous meetings, the Arch was finally built. It is Mannerist in design with massive voussoirs (wedge shaped elements typically of stone, used in building an arch or vault) and decorated with wreaths.



The Arch incorporates a list of servicemen on two metal plates. In the middle of the concrete rendered structure are two wrought iron gates leading into the gardens. These gates were originally at the View St. entrance of Rosalind Park. The sixty-five names of the White Hills men who served are listed on either side of the central arch, with those who died marked with a cross.

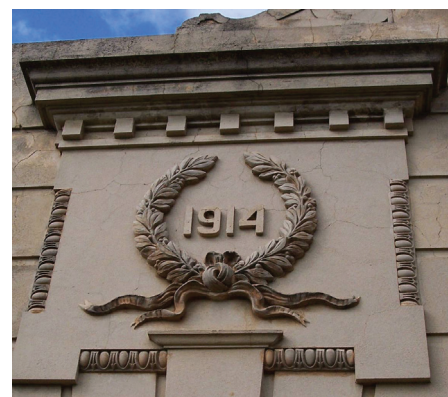
All those who were involved with the project were engraved on the panel above the men's names.

'Erected by residents of White Hills & District. President F.H. Benson, Treasurer Mrs C Stuckenschmidt, Honorary Secretary W.H Hewston.'

The architect was Mr G.D.Garvin, and the designer was Mr C. M. Daw.

The unveiling took place on Saturday afternoon the 23rd of May 1925.

The majority of White Hills residents attended, as well as Bendigo citizens, Returned Soldiers and Sailors of the Imperialist League of Australia, the Soldiers and Sailors Fathers Association, District Parliamentarians and Members of the Bendigo City Council. The children of the White Hills State School were also present. What an event it must have been! One can only imagine the excitement of the young children, the sorrow mingled with pride and the sense of achievement that must have resounded on the day.



Memorial Arch continued:

Mr. F. Benson, Chairman of the White Hills Memorial Association, extended thanks to the people of White Hills and formally committed the arch to the care of the Bendigo City Council.

The Mayor of Bendigo E.M. Vains, accepted the arch on behalf of the council and commented

"..that it was a thing of beauty, and a thing of beauty was a joy forever".

Further comments were from Mr Keck supporting the Mayor on complimenting the committee, "coming from so small a community as White Hills".

The ceremony ended with Dean Percival saying prayers and giving benediction. To wind up the celebrations, a concert was held that evening in the Reading Room in White Hills.

Restoration

The Arch Of Triumph is at present under restoration. The project is funded by the Greater City of Bendigo and the Victorian State Government through the restoration of community War Memorials.

Next time you happen to drive past the Arch, or walk through its cool arc, it would be pertinent to remember the good people of White Hills, who in grief and heartbroken; built a monument in honour of those local men who served.



Plant Review

By Marilyn Tulloch. Member of the Friends who has a horticultural background and is an avid food gardener

Botanical Name: *Feijoa sellowiana* syn. *Acca sellowiana*

Family: Myrtaceae

Common Name: Pineapple Guava

The Pineapple guava has late spring flowers with prominent yellow stamens and red, pink, white, fleshy petals that can be eaten in salads or used in drinks.

The small dull green egg-shaped fruit fall in winter when ripe. They smell and taste of strawberry, pineapple, passionfruit and guava (hence the common name Pineapple Guava). The tiny edible seeds are embedded in a jelly-like centre.



To consume, cut the fruit in half, spoon out the pulp. Discard the skin as it is too gritty to be enjoyable raw, but skins can be used in jams.

The feijoa can be grown as one trunk, or turned into an excellent hedging plant. It responds well to trimming as the fruit forms on new growth.

The plant is native to the mountainous regions of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. It does prefer cold winters and mild summers, but can survive a sunny spot with protection in temperate to tropical areas by choosing a sunny spot with wind protection. The plant can survive frosts, but flower production will be reduced by spring frosts, as it flowers in late spring. The shrub is drought resistant, once established, but water shortage may cause the fruit to drop before maturity. Feijoa will grow in a variety of soils, but for food production it will respond well to manure and nitrogenous fertiliser.

Feijoas grow from seed and from summer cuttings, yielding fruit in 3-4 years. With seed there is always variability, so if you are seeking 50kg of fruit from your mature shrub, choose a named cultivar such as Nazematze, Large Oval, Triumph, Mammoth or Duffy.



The Lavender Garden - a maturing collection

Article by Brad Creme, Curator Bendigo Botanic Gardens



Origins

The Lavender Garden at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens (BBG) was established in the autumn of 2013 and is now over 2 years old. Our understanding of the maintenance requirements of this collection and the performance of each cultivar on this site has continued to improve.

This collection was originally held by Yuulong Lavender Estate being managed by Rosemary Holmes. Original stock plants were provided to the Royal Botanic Gardens who then engaged BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand) to help find a permanent home for the collection. After reviewing a range of potential collections and regional gardens, Bendigo was deemed most suitable for the lavender collection due to its climate and the 'fit' with the existing garden themes.

The BBG is known for its 19th century horticulture, strong focus on promoting heritage values and the relatively new dry climate beds in the 'Cottage Garden Plants of the Victorian Goldfields' garden. We also had some spaces that were in need of further development. The empty roundabout between the Cottage Garden and the Arch of Triumph was eventually chosen as the location for the lavenders. This is fitting because many lavender cultivars suit the 'Cottage garden' collection as they were available in the late 1800's in Victorian nurseries, and lavenders also have a strong connection with WW1. Lavender oil was used as a medical treatment for wounds and infections and continues to be widely regarded as a medicinal plant.

We currently hold 81 cultivars representing 11 species of *Lavandula*. There are about 39 lavender species worldwide, and our collection focuses on the ones of significance to Australian gardens while avoiding those that are considered environmental weeds such as the *Lavandula stoechas* group which unfortunately is the most common species you'll see in nurseries.

Cultivation

Cultivation requirements also vary and usually reflect their country of origin. Plants from more tropical countries tend to be frost sensitive in Bendigo and need some protection during winter. This includes species from India, Somalia, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen. Those from coastal areas of southern Europe such as Portugal, Spain, France and the Canary islands tend to be tougher and more robust in Bendigo.

Frosts can severely affect the 'Fern Leaf Lavenders'. Cultivars such as *Lavandula aristobracteata*, *L. multifida*, *L. pinnata* and *L. canariensis* often experience dieback after a few nights of minus temperatures and some rain. These can be treated as annuals and replaced every spring, but we've been able to nurse them through winter by providing shade and protection for stock plants in the nursery. Some left in the garden will reshoot in spring so you may see a seemingly sick plant in the garden during winter which we're hoping will reshoot when it warms up again.

Fortunately, our hot summers suit this collection quite well. Cultivars in the *Lavandula x intermedia* and *Lavandula angustifolia* groups particularly enjoy the hot weather. We have the option of putting the sprinklers back in the ground over summer if required which has helped during the establishment of the plants. These two species also seem to cope quite well with the winter showing no signs of frost damage.

Other reliable performers include *L. dentata*, *L. viridis*, *L. lanata*, *L. latifolia*, *L. x chaytorae*, *L. x heterophylla* and *L. allardii*. These ones perform quite well in our local conditions and bounce back after sulking their way through winter a little bit.

A propagation program is conducted with the help of the Friends of the BBG to conserve the 81 cultivars we have in our collection.

'Conservation through Propagation' is the best way to keep rare and unusual species in circulation. Selling excess stock to the public every month can help to turn a rare cultivar into a more common garden plant and helps to preserve the unique characteristics of some plants beyond the fence line of the gardens. It also gives home gardeners more landscaping choices beyond the typical weedy varieties found in some stores.

Lavender leaf shapes





Photo: Long flowering times and 'hedgibility' characteristics.
Lavandula dentata var. *candicans*

This 'Grey French Lavender' (*Lavandula dentata* var. *candicans*) originates from North Africa, extending from Morocco and Algeria in the west, all the way to Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia in the east. It was introduced to Australia for its cut flowers, its ability to form 1.5 metre tall hedges and its long flowering time of about eight months including winter flowering.



Two of the best - *Lavandula viridis* (Lemon Lavender - left)
Lavandula lanata (Woolly Lavender - right)

The Lemon lavender (*Lavandula viridis*) originates from Southern Spain and Portugal and is known for its unique white flowers, sticky foliage and lemony scent which help with moth pollination at night. It is thought to be indigenous (but was perhaps introduced) to the island of Madeira. Sir Joseph Banks sent someone there by boat to collect it and he then introduced it into cultivation himself in 1777 at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

The Woolly Lavender (*Lavandula lanata*) next to it is an equally tough plant which originates exclusively from Southern Spain at altitudes over 1km. It forms silver domes of foliage which allows it to be used in various ways in the contemporary garden. It was first named by Linnaeus in 1780 but he called it 'L. spica var. *tomentosa*' in reference to its hairy white foliage. It dislikes

wet winters and would tolerate growing under a tree very well. These are my 2 favourite lavenders because of their versatility in garden design, and their robust growth. The new growth has a clean and dense look when it grows back after pruning.

Landscaping and design

Our collection includes a diverse range of foliage colour, flower colour and form. Foliage varies from whitish grey through to deep green. Flowers come in purple, blue, pink, white and green, and flowering time also varies throughout the year. The natural form of these plants can also vary from small untidy sprawling plants, to others that can form large dense shrubs. Pruning can create dramatic dome shapes, flat topped hedges or more organic shapes for the creative pruner. The annual prune allows gardeners to refine the shape and look of their lavenders each year and allows garden designers to incorporate different techniques to achieve a certain look.

Our lavender garden design tries to display all the cultivars in a small space, so there's no room for mass planting here. The smaller frost tender cultivars are planted in the centre of the bed offering more protection and a more stable microclimate, while the larger more reliable cultivars are planted around the outer edge of the garden. This design also encourages visitors to 'walk in' to see the full collection. As the larger ones grow, the microclimate in the middle will become more stable.

You can be creative in your backyard by using a mass planting of a single variety rather than have a 'postage stamp collection' of various cultivars. Sometimes 'less is more' when creating a significant visual impact with mass planting. You could try a hedge of *L. viridis* or fill a bare area with many domes of *L. lanata*. Underplant a tree with a mass planting of *L. allardii* or *L. latifolia*. A range of interesting pots can be used to great effect by growing fern leaf lavenders and bringing them under cover in winter. Traditionally lavenders are grown in rows with pathways in between for ease of harvesting, but in the garden situation, a bit of artistic creativity can create a unique look and feel to your backyard.



Lavenders continued:

Education and Promotion

Consult the lavender bible for more detailed information: 'The Genus Lavandula' by Tim Upson & Susyn Andrews, Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. Copyright held by the Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew 2004

Find out who's growing lavender and where by consulting the recently published '20th Anniversary of TALGA' book which was released by 'The Australian Lavender Growers Association' Inc. We were lucky enough to get a signed copy from one of TALGA's founding members Rosemary Holmes who has continued to provide staff with assistance in developing and managing the collection.



Photo: The Entry Promenade being used as an event space - The Lavender garden and surrounding lawns are sometimes used for wedding parties and bridal photos. This photo shows a unique wedding ceremony with the lavender garden at the centre of the event.

We hope to eventually sell a range of lavender products in the future Botanic Gardens Shop and the future Botanic Gardens Cafe, but before that happens, we'll be building and nurturing the new plants in the 'Garden for the Future'. I wouldn't be surprised if a few lavenders found their way into the new garden at some stage.

Happy gardening!



Botanical Illustrators - January 2015 Watercolour Washes Workshop

Tutor: Annie Clark

Report: Dianne Davies

On Saturday 31st January 2015, 12 keen botanical illustrators were ready to go with Annie in her workshop on the basic technique of 'washes'. The aim of this workshop was to execute washes for an even tone, freshness and transparency to our work.

Annie demonstrated the four basic wash techniques of Flat Wash, Graded Wash, Blended Wash and Overlaid Wash. We then applied her instruction on Arches 300gsm watercolour paper with varying degrees of success. After a cuppa, we then traced a sweet pea flower onto Arches paper and proceeded to use this technique to paint each petal with layers of washes, gradually building up colour and contrast to give depth.

Critical to this technique is the wetness of the paper before applying a wash, as adding a wash also adds more water. Once a wash is applied it is also critical to leave it to dry rather than puddle around in it. A highlight can be made by carefully lifting out some paint with a damp brush before the wash has dried.

As we all know, practice makes perfect. A good exercise is to paint some works without the pressure of a finished painting. Some of us left at midday and others continued on our sweet pea throughout the afternoon. Back to basics was a very good idea.

Thanks Annie.



Botanical Illustrators - October 2015 Pen and Ink Workshop.

Tutor: Christine Rockley
Report: Annie Clark

A second workshop has been held this year with an artist from New South Wales.

On Saturday the 10th of October, 13 of the illustrators participated in a drawing workshop with Christine Rockley. Chris works from a studio in Newcastle and after academic work is now concentrating her teaching in the community sector working with groups like ours. Her artwork reflects the desire to investigate subjects in intricate detail often with the aid of a microscope. Her subjects range from botanical specimens to insects and marine life.

During this session, the first of two, specimens of leaves and flowers were chosen from the Gardens and firstly carefully drawn in pencil, taking care with shape, form and light and shade. Chris moved among us giving individual help and advice in a friendly, non intrusive way. Chris then demonstrated varied techniques with fine pens to use with our finished, transferred drawings.

These skills will be further explained and explored in the follow - up session.



Workshop in progress.

Fine pen detailed work from nature demonstrated by Christine

Bendigo Botanic Gardens - Development update Seven Sculptures for the Fun and Fantasy Garden

Report: Gemma Fennell, Bendigo Botanic Gardens
Development Officer

Seven large sculptures are being designed for the Fun and Fantasy Garden. Designs are being developed by multi-award winning sculptor Matthew Harding.

Matthew's career spans over three decades and he has been the recipient of a suite of sculpture awards including - most recently - the prestigious McClelland Award for sculpture, 2014.

Matthew's sculptures for the Fun and Fantasy Garden are to be crafted from stainless steel rods. The dramatic, organic forms of Matthew's sculptures will complement the flair of the Fun and Fantasy Garden and create an immersive and engaging experience. The sculptures are planned to incorporate the beautiful trailing vine Wisteria which will give a sensational seasonal display and sense of romance.

The Fun and Fantasy Garden will form the heart of Garden for the Future which is the new two hectare contemporary garden that will open to the public, at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, in 2017. The City of Greater Bendigo is seeking funding partners to help commission this exciting artwork for the Bendigo community. If you're interested in sponsoring the sculptures you can call Gemma on 03 5434 6285.

Matthew Harding is based in Trentham, Victoria and his work pushes the boundaries of materials and process. Whether he is carving delicate fine art pieces or creating large-scale public sculpture, Matthew creates objects that feed the spirit.

To see more of Matthew's work go to: <http://matthewharding.com.au/>



One of the proposed sculptures

What's On -

The Friends' Monthly General Meetings - open to all members .

Held at Bendigo Botanic Gardens **Samuel Gadd Centre** - 2.30pm on 3rd Tuesday of the month (except December). Office bearers are elected for 2 year terms and the annual meeting is held in August.

Growing Friends:

Propagate plants for the gardens and for sale as well as assist the BBG park staff in the gardens.

They meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays as well as the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (9:30am - 11:30am) at the BBG nursery (behind the Samuel Gadd Centre). Plants are available for sale during Growing Friends on the 4th Tuesday of the month. There is also a Spring and Autumn plant sale held on a Saturday. **New memers are always welcome.**

Botanical Illustration Group:

Meet Saturdays 9:30am – 4.00pm & Wednesdays 9:30 am – 12.00pm at the BBG Samuel Gadd Centre. **New members welcome.**

When	What	Where and when
November 5th	Curator Walk and Talk	Meet at Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens 11am-12pm
November 7th	Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale	Bendigo Botanic Gardens. Napoleon Crescent entrance 9am-2pm
November 13-15th	Ballarat Gardens in Spring	\$5 per garden or \$30 guided tour on the 15th see fbbg.org.au or ph 1800 446 633
November 14-15th	Flint Hill open garden	Romsey Road Woodend. \$10 web opengardensvictoria.org.au
November 22nd	Eaglehawk Open garden (Margaret Ashman) \$2 entry. Proceeds for Cancer research and Uniting Church Children's Program	77 Jobs Gully Road, Eaglehawk. 10am-4.00pm
December 1st	FBBG Christmas Break-up with speaker Rosemary Holmes (Yuulong Lavender Farm.)	Samuel Gadd Centre, Bendigo Botanic Gardens, White Hills 2pm
January 10th, 2016	Lavender Harvest Festival - \$10 entry	Lavandula Swiss/Italian farm - Daylesford area web: lavandula.com.au 54764393
March 12th-14th, 2016	Ballarat Begonia Festival	Ballarat Botanic Gardens: ph 1800 446 633 web ballaratbegoniafestival.com



Preparation for plant sale.

Dovyalis is published by the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Inc.
71 Napoleon Crescent, Bendigo. 3550

Email: friends.bgbotanicgardens@gmail.com

Website: www.bendigobotanicgarden.com.au

Bendigo Botanic Gardens Office: (03)54484321

President: Jan Orr **Vice President:** Delene Commerford

Secretary: Judy Milner **Treasurer:** Annie Clark

Committee Members: Bill Baker, Jane Cleary, Lyn Hamilton, Helen Hickey, Hilary Tovey, Marilyn Tulloch and Eric wilkinson.

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