

Dovyalis

Friends of Bendigo Botanic
Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Issue 6, Spring 2017



In this issue:

1. Contents and Organisational Structure.
2. FBBG - update on Garden for the Future Progress.
3. Fungi - Illustrators' workshop.
4. Plant of the Month 'Mexican Grass Tree' *Dasyliirion longissimum*.
5. Memorial Arch Restoration.
6. Monty Don on Gardens. Bendigo Bot. Gardens - a top garden to visit.
7. Illustrating Fish. Herbs - Lavender.
8. What's On.



Grape Arbour old and new



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



Fungi from the gardens - Illustrators' workshop see P 3



Leratiomyces ceres [Woodchip Fungi] - Illustration Pam Sheean

Bendigo Botanic Gardens – Changes to Organisational Structures

Brad Creme - City Parks Curator, City of Greater Bendigo

As part of the City of Greater Bendigo organisational restructure, the management of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens now operates within the 'Parks and Open Space' unit within the 'Presentation and Assets' directorate. The role of City Parks Curator has also been created under this structure. This role has been developed to provide support and expertise across all of Bendigo's significant heritage gardens. The role includes IT and record keeping duties, including development of an asset management register and informational archive for our parks. It includes promoting our parks through tourism and events while protecting our horticultural assets and providing tours, seminars and educational programs.

Garden for the Future- Development Update

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

Work on the Garden for the Future is progressing well. All major earthworks and drainage works have been completed and construction of the Outreach Shelter is well underway with the frame erected and roofing installed.

The Outreach Shelter will be the social hub of the new garden and will cater for a range of events from musical and theatrical performances, through to wedding ceremonies and moonlight cinema. It will provide shelter from the elements while the gardens establish and will be used as an outdoor classroom space for learning about horticulture and sustainability. The shelter will also incorporate a toilet block and basic audio visual equipment.



Outreach Shelter under construction

Most of the retaining walls around the edge of the Fun and Fantasy Garden have now been constructed and works will soon start on constructing the concrete edging that will surround the promenade path.

Work is currently underway on the installation of 6400m³ (640 truck loads) of imported topsoil for the construction of the garden beds. The installation of the irrigation system and steel edging to the garden beds is also in progress.



Ramp to Fun and Fantasy Garden

Project Facts:

- 6400m³ of imported topsoil
- 10,000m³ of soil shaped
- 3000 tonne of crushed rock
- 1400 tonne of decorative gravel
- 1100 tonne of rock screenings
- 500m of concrete
- 3km of steel garden edging
- 3km of agricultural drains
- 200 linear metres of 750 diameter concrete pipe



Drainage Installation

Fungi Workshop - 8th July 2017

Ann Clark - FBBG Illustrator

On Saturday the 8th of July the Botanical Illustration Group held an in-house workshop on Fungi. This was organized and run by member Rod Orr and was well attended. Rod started with a slide presentation and distributed printed material, giving an overview of the structural features of Fungi. This featured some wonderful photos of these fascinating organisms.



Trametes coccineus [Red Bracket]

Group members brought along examples of fungi and more were found in the Botanic Gardens, mainly in the mulch around the aviary area. We also had access to many reference books and photos. A microscope was also used to examine the fungi in detail.



Parasola plicatilis [Ink Caps]

Fungi are neither animals nor plants but have their own Fungi Kingdom. They are found everywhere in all types of environments but we see only 20 percent of these, the macro-fungi. 80 percent of fungi are the micro-fungi such as yeasts, rusts and moulds. Fungi produce spores in several ways for example from gills, pores and spines. They occur in many shapes and sizes - as well as the more familiar mushrooms or toadstools there are many strange and unusual specimens including Coral Fungi, Cup Fungi, Brackets and Puffballs. It is estimated that Australia alone has 96,000 species of Fungi and worldwide there are 1,500,000 species.



Trametes versicolor [Turkey Tail]

Members of the group then chose an example to illustrate either by drawing or painting.



Geastrum triplex [Earth Star]
Illustration - Jan Orr

Our plant of the month is *Dasyilirion longissimum* (Mexican Grass Tree).

Kirstie Patterson - Leading Hand, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

The *Dasyilirion longissimum* is quite a stunning plant! We have two located in the stone garden by the play space. They make quite a statement as you walk out from the grape arbour. It can grow up to 3m wide, so place it carefully in the garden where it has room to spread. It forms a blue-green fountain of leaves.



This plant is *dioecious*, meaning there is a separate male and female form. Both male & female plants have very tall (3-5m) flower stalks. Female flowers will turn a lovely russet colour as they mature. The *Dasyilirion* is a summer flowering plant.

The *Dasyilirion* is considered an “heirloom” plant as it can take many years to form the trunk or tree like habit. Great for gardeners in fire prone areas as it is considered fire-retardant. It is both drought and frost tolerant, and not hard to grow as long as you provide good drainage. This plant is native to Mexico.

We planted our pair of *Dasyilirions* in the gardens in 2010, and they wowed us with their spectacular flowers for the first time last summer. The larger plant started to show its flower late December the other mid January, and we were all extremely excited. Unfortunately both plants look to be male. So there will be no seeds for us.



Memorial Arch Restoration

Helen Hickey - FBBG member



The City of Greater Bendigo and the Victorian State Government, through the Restoration of Community War Memorials, provided funds to assist in the restoration of the memorial arch.

Work began in May 2015. Water had been sitting on top of the arch due to the flat roof design of 1925, resulting in damage on the surface. The render was removed to see how deep the cracks went into the structure. It was necessary to design a new shaped roof in order to assist with run-off.

In August 2016, after initial inspections it was found that the whole arch needed stabilizing. The footings were rebuilt using steel screw piles which go deep underground, attached to a metal mesh network covered in concrete. This was done to improve the structural integrity of the arch. The concrete had to be allowed to cure before more works could be completed.

By June 2017, the holes and cracks were patched and sealed. A lime wash render was used over the surface, being matched as close as possible to the original colour. This will fade as the treatment dries and ages.

The curved structure stands more steady now and although the weight it bears in grief and stone is no less heavy, the White Hills Arch continues to serve as a poignant reminder of the human cost of war.

What is a garden to you?

Monty Don on Gardens.
[UK writer, gardener and TV personality.]

“There is no doubt that after a certain age one puts into the garden the hopes and aspirations that youth put into the wider world”

“Modesty is an underrated virtue, and in your garden you can be both modest and ambitious without one compromising the other. I love the intimacy that one has with a garden, the way that each plant as it grows is utterly familiar, in every cast of light and change of weather.

It is a personal space that no one else’s garden could ever bethe subjective relationship of the self with something beyond and bigger than you.”



*Extract from Monty Don’s book, ‘The Irvington Diaries’
published in The Daily Mail on line 2009*

Bendigo Botanic Gardens included in three Best Places to visit in Bendigo!

Congratulations to Garden Staff

A review team from ‘Top 3 Places to visit’, listed Central Deborah Gold Mine, The Golden Dragon Museum and Bendigo Botanic Gardens as the top three places to visit in Bendigo.

Congratulations to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens Staff for the well deserved recognition of all their work.



About Three Best Rated-

www.threebestrated.com.au

Three Best Rated® was created with a simple goal to find you the top 3 local businesses, professionals, restaurants and health care providers in any city. Our employees handpick the top 3 local businesses. We check businesses reviews, history, complaints, ratings, satisfaction, trust, cost, general excellence and reputation using our 50-Point Inspection. We display only businesses that are verified by our employees.

Fish Illustration Workshop

Annie Clark - FBBG Illustrator

A group of nine illustrators took part in a 2 day workshop with Natural History artist Chris Rockley.

The subject for the weekend was "Fish". Chris arrived with a haul of fresh fish from which we chose a subject. Everyone got a different variety. These were carefully laid out on a bed of ice and fins and tails were spread and pinned down. The first day was devoted to careful measurement and drawing of a detailed first pencil draft. On the second day these were copied onto the drawing paper and the "colouring in" began. Coloured pencils were the required medium. Great attention was paid to the illustration of the fish scales.



Chris is a wonderful tutor with a warm and friendly manner, giving lots of individual instruction and encouragement to everyone.



We are all still diligently working on our fish (and will be for some time) even though the specimens have long been disposed of!

Herbs - *Lavandula* - (common name Lavender)

Kevin Shanahan - FBBG member

Lavender belongs to the Family Lamiaceae. The word is derived from the Latin, lava, 'to wash'. Lavenders are native to the Mediterranean region, the Canary Isles and India.

Long before the world made deodorants and bath salts, the Romans used lavender in bath water; it was the Romans who introduced this plant to Britain and from then on monks cultivated it in their monastic gardens. In Tudor times people noted its fragrance and a peculiar power to ease stiff joints and relieve tiredness.

Culinary use

Culinary Lavender is usually English lavender, the most commonly used species in cooking (*L. angustiflora* Munstead). As an aromatic, it has a sweet fragrance with a taste of lemon or citrus notes. It is used as a spice or condiment in pastas, salads, dressings and desserts. Their buds and greens are used in teas and their flowers are visited by bees.

Cultivation

Lavenders flourish best in dry, well drained, sandy or gravelly soils in full sun. Lavender is one of the most popular plants in today's herb garden and is particularly useful in borders, edges, as internal hedges and on top of dry walls.

Harvesting

Gather the flowers just as they open, and dry them on open trays or by hanging them in small bunches. Pick the leaves anytime for use fresh or before flowering if drying.

Medicinal

Throughout history lavender has been used medicinally to soothe, sedate, and suppress. The essential oil is in great demand for its beneficial effects and was traditionally inhaled to treat vertigo and fainting. It has been used as a remedy for burns and stings plus its strong antibacterial action helps to heal cuts.

Other uses

Rub fresh flowers onto skin or pin a sprig on clothes to discourage flies. Use flowers in potpourri, herb pillows and linen sachets where they make a good moth repellent.



References:

JEKKA'S Complete Herb Book. Royal Horticultural Society by Jekka McVicar.
Wikipedia-Lavender
POTTER'S Herbal Cyclopaedia By Elizabeth M. Williamson BSc., PhD,
MRPharmS., FLS

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 January).
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.

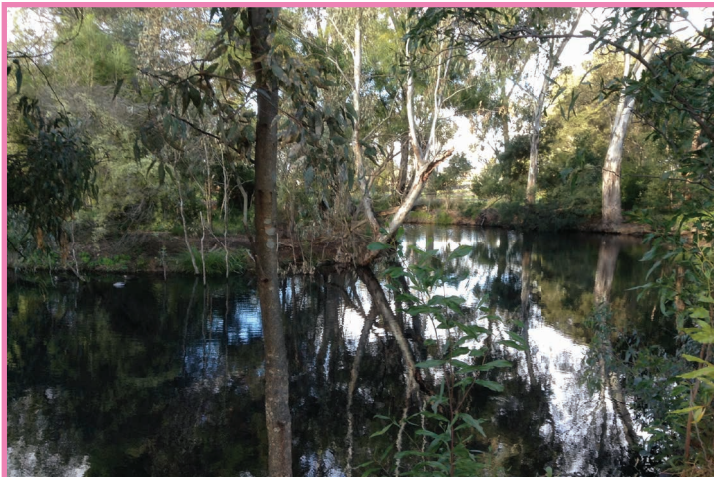
They meet: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays and 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month (9:30am - 11:30am) at FBBG nursery (behind the Samuel Gadd Centre).

Plants are available for sale during Growing Friends on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Two major sales are held each year in Spring and Autumn.

Botanical Illustration Group

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

Wednesday 1st November	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Saturday 4th November	Spring Plant sale	Friends Nursery Samuel Gadd Centre, 9am - 2pm Enter via Napoleon Cres.
Tuesday 7th November	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Wednesday 15th November	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday 21st November	FBBG General Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 2.30pm
Tuesday 28th November	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday 5th December	Christmas Break-up	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 3pm
Wednesday 6th December	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday 12 December	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11,30am
Tuesday 19th December	FBBG General Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 2.30pm
Wednesday 20th December	Growing Friends	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am



The Lagoon, Bendigo Botanic Gardens

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

Email: friends.bgbotanicgardens@gmail.com
Website: www.bendigobotanicgardens.com.au
Bendigo Botanic Gardens Office: (03)5448 4321

President: Jan Orr **Vice President:** Delene Commerford
Secretary: Judy Milner **Treasurer:** Annie Clark
Committee Members: Anne Bridley, Jane Cleary, Lyn Hamilton, Helen Hickey, Hilary Tovey, Kevin Shanahan and Eric Wilkinson.

Newsletter Committee: Delene Commerford, Helen Hickey, Judy Milner, Jan Orr, Hilary Tovey.

Supported by

