

# Dorvalis

Friends of Bendigo Botanic  
Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Issue No 8 - Spring 2018



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Growing Friends in the Nursery

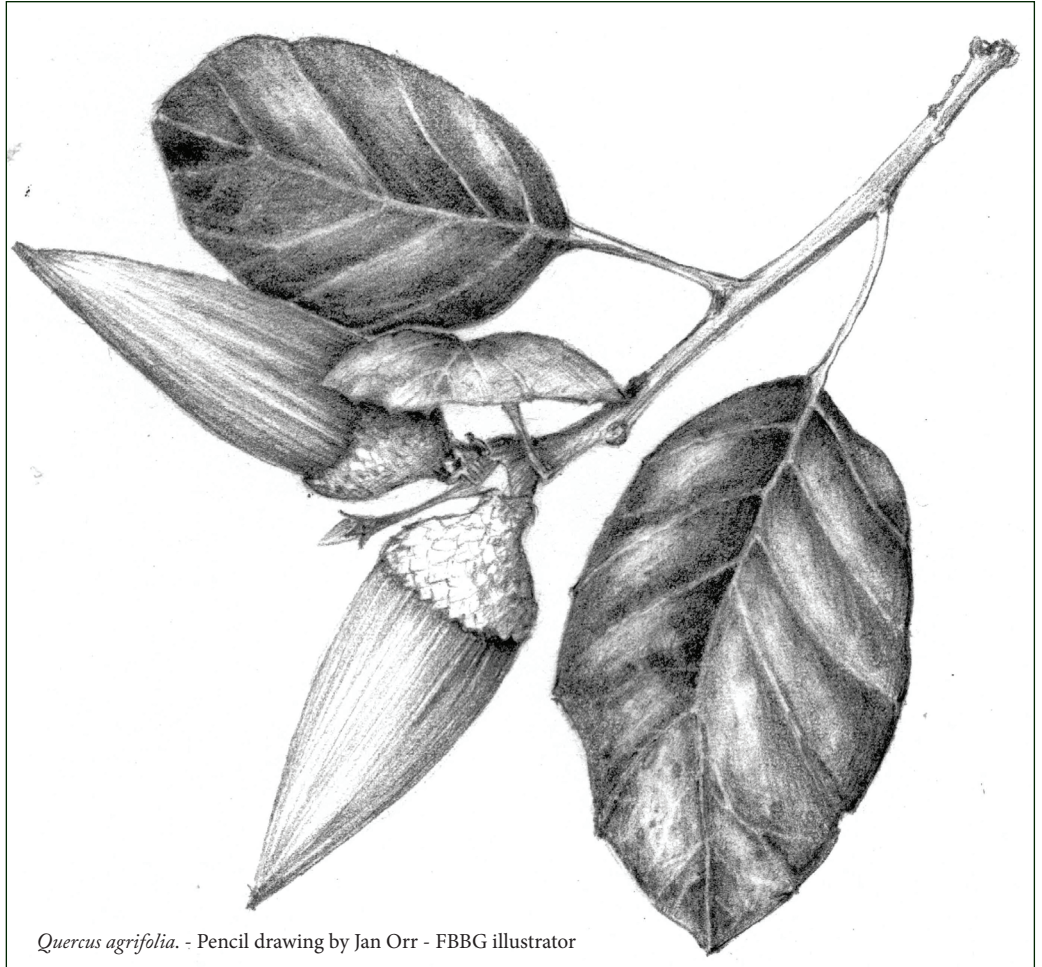


*Doryanthes palmeri* Spear Lily  
Flowering in the gardens - October

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



Californian Live Oak - article on oaks see page 4 & 5



*Quercus agrifolia*. - Pencil drawing by Jan Orr - FBBG illustrator



Water Week Activities

See page 7

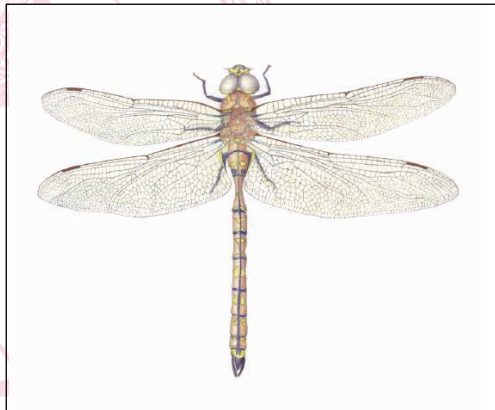
Held on Oct 24th in the  
'Gardens For the Future'



## Images of Nature - 2018 Bendigo Botanical Illustrators' exhibition -

Article - Di Davies

Photos from Pam, Audrey, Dianne, Joan.



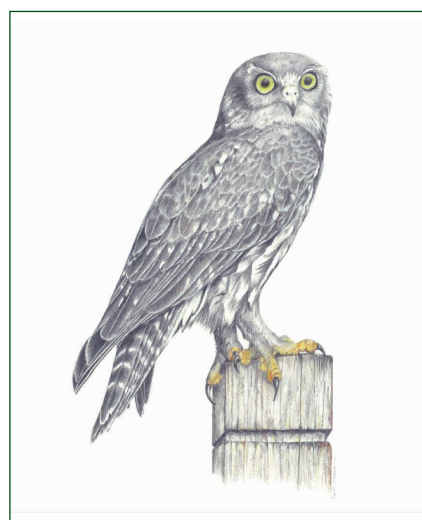
A beautiful sunny weekend was a brilliant start to the Botanical Illustrators' August 2018 week-long exhibition at Dudley House, View Street, Bendigo. A well attended opening on Friday evening 17th August saw Don Leversha, one of the exhibiting artists, as master of ceremony. Bendigo mayor, Margaret O'Rourke, officially opened the exhibition with generous comments on a very professional exhibition with works of such a high standard.

A number of sales occurred that evening as guests meandered through two rooms of watercolour paintings, pencil drawings and photographs of a variety of nature images - plants, vegetables, insects, birds, fish and fungi.

Exhibiting artists included Joyce Pike, Joan Sullivan, Joy Clusker, Pam Sheean, Carol Thompson, Audrey Baillie, Alison Sherwood, Rod and Jan Orr, Annie Clark, Catherine Hayman, Don Leversha, Judie O'Donnell, Dianne Davies and Pam McDermid. A workshop led by Chris Rockley in 2017 culminated in some beautiful coloured pencil work of fish. Chris will be conducting another workshop for our group in October, focusing on insects on plants.



Cheese, delicious dips and fresh fruit went down well with a red or white wine.



One group member, Pam Sheean, is undertaking a series of paintings of the pines growing in the Bendigo botanic gardens.

Pam also produced a number of detailed bird drawings including the Barking Owl seen in the photo at left

Joan Sullivan sold two paintings, her first sales ever. Congratulations Joan.

Carol completed two paintings and entered them in her first exhibition. Congratulations Carol.

## Images of Nature continued

Rod completed a meticulously drawn and painted dragonfly (see beginning of article).



Audrey's beautifully drawn and brightly coloured pieces drew the attention of all who visited the exhibition.

'Echeveria' in coloured pencil is a great example. See photo.



A few artists had converted their images into cards which sold like hot cakes.

Also on sale was a recently published book by Joy Clusker and Ray Wallace on local fungi. Book sales were brisk with the first print running out in 4 weeks. Joy and Ray are currently waiting for a second print run.

Thanks to Rod Orr for his expertise and time in organising this exhibition. And thanks also to the small team who assisted beforehand and completed roster duty for the 10 days. Rod successfully completed a grants submission to council for the use of Dudley House. And thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo for providing the venue, beautiful and strategically located Dudley-House in View Street, the arts precinct of the city.

## Garden for the Future - Flying Visitors

Observations by Anne Bridley

On a frosty morning in June the new lawns at the GFTF were visited by some birds looking for food. Welcome Swallows hawked for insects, low over the central lawn.

A group of Yellow-rumped Thornbills and a party of Superb Fairy-wrens hopped around looking for invertebrates among the grass. These birds are typical of open areas, and would have been in the area before. As the plants grow up, more birds will come in to use this new habitat. Already Silvereyes have been perching in the Cherry Surprise Lilly Pillies. Nectar feeders will come to the eucalypts and banksias, and the native grasses and wattles will provide seeds that could be used by Bronzewing Pigeons, Red-rumped Parrots and even Red-browed Finches.

It will be worth checking out the flowers on the aristache and nepeta plantings for native bees and other insects this spring and summer.



*Superb Fairy Wrens*



*Yellow Rumped Thornbill*

## OAKS - Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Family Fagaceae; Genus *Quercus* (Q.) Article by Jane Cleary

Oaks are found on all northern hemisphere continents – Europe, Asia and N. America. One species is found in the southern hemisphere, in S.E. Asia. Some believe this to be the original oak.

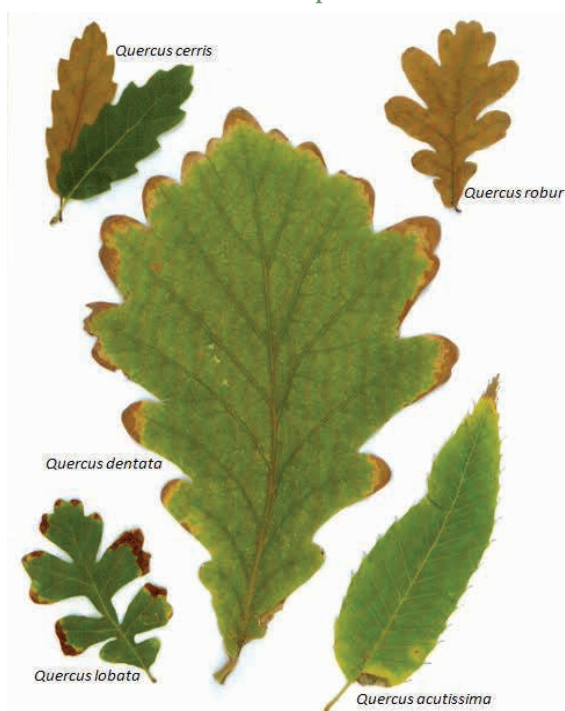
The trees can be either evergreen (retaining leaves all year) or deciduous (losing leaves in winter). They are dicotyledons, producing male and female flowers on the same tree. The male flower is a catkin which produces pollen distributed by wind to the small female flowers which are from 5mm long, with a diameter of 2mm and a 1mm spiky red stigma.

The fruit is an acorn contained in a cup. The largest acorn in the gardens is on the Burr Oak (*Q. macrocarpa*). The smallest is on the Douglas Oak (*Q. douglasii*) in the gardens' nursery. The cup may be either scaly or spiny.

Leaves also vary considerably. Some being entire e.g. Willow Oak (*Q. phellos*), some with a toothed margin e.g. Saw Tooth Oak (*Q. acutissima*), others have rounded lobes e.g. English Oak (*Q. robur*) or lobes with bristly tips e.g. Pin Oak (*Q. palustris*).

In our gardens the deciduous Daimyo Oak (*Q. dentata*) carries the largest leaves which are lobed and from 25cm long and 15cm wide. The smallest leaved oaks are the Cork Oak (*Q. suber*) and Holm Oak (*Q. ilex*) which are evergreen with tough, leathery, bristly leaves.

Leaf size comparison



### Where can I see them?

(D = deciduous; E = evergreen)

#### Main Lawn:

Valonia Oak	<i>Q. macrolepis</i>	E	Italy, Balkins, Turkey
Red Oak	<i>Q. rubra</i>	D	Eastern North America
Sawtooth Oak	<i>Q. acutissima</i>	D	China, Korea, Japan.
Valley Oak	<i>Q. lobata</i>	D	California

#### Picnic Lawns

Holm Oak	<i>Q. ilex</i>	E	E. Mediterranean
Scrub Oak	<i>Q. gambellii</i>	D	West N America
English Oak	<i>Q. robur</i>	D	Western Europe

#### Central Lawns

Cork Oak	<i>Q. suber</i>	E	Mediterranean
Algerian Oak	<i>Q. canariensis</i> ( <i>hybrid</i> )	D	Western Mediterranean
Daimyo Oak	<i>Q. dentata</i>	D	Korea, China, Japan.
Valley Oak	<i>Q. lobata</i>	D	California

#### Conifer Walk

Pin Oak 'Green Pillar'	<i>Q. palustris</i>	D	Eastern N America
Algerian Oak	<i>Q. canariensis</i>	D	Western Mediterranean
English Oak	<i>Q. robur</i>	D	Western Europe
Burr Oak	<i>Q. macrocarpa</i>	D	North America
Upright English Oak	<i>Q. robur</i> ' <i>fastigiata</i> '	D	Western Europe
Coast Live Oak	<i>Q. agrifolia</i>	D	Central E.N. America & Mexico
Willow Oak	<i>Q. phellos</i>	D	Central & Eastern N America
Chestnut Oak	<i>Q. prinus</i>	D	N. America (Montana)

#### Play Space

Scarlet Oak	<i>Q. coccinia</i>	D	Eastern N America
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## OAKS - Bendigo Botanic Gardens continued

It is estimated there are over 600 species of Oak. (J. Hawker).

Oak trees have been an important source of timber, in ship building, for large buildings (particularly roof beams), as pit props in mines and also for fuel. Cork was harvested from the trunks of Cork Oaks for bottle corks, flooring and now in the production of souvenirs (Portugal).

Today dendrologists can read 'time' back to the Holocene era (almost 10 thousand years ago) from the rings in ancient excavated oak timbers. (This form of study is called 'dendrochronology')

At the Botanic Gardens, oak trees provide excellent shade in summer with their long hanging branches, particularly those that reach the ground. Being deciduous the underplanted spring bulbs brighten the gardens. All oak trees carry leaves that photosynthesize, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and replacing it with oxygen essential for our survival.

Can you spot the other tree in the gardens in the same family?

It is the Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*).



Burr Oak  
*Q. macrocarpa*



Cork Oak  
*Quercus suber*



Valonia Oak  
*Quercus macrolepis*

“Three hundred years growing, three hundred years living, three hundred years dying.”

(John Dryden)

Oak Drawings by Jan Orr (FBBG Illustrator)

## The Bird Aviary at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

Helen Hickey

If you ever told me that an aviary contained not only cockatoos, but monkeys as well, I'd be likely to call you a jackass. And rightly so! However, if you happened to hail from the Bendigo Botanical Gardens at White Hills, rather than take offence, you'd most likely nod in solemnity.

Why? Because an aviary in this part of the world once did actually hold a group of laughing jackasses, also monkeys and then cockatoos.

In an 1872 report, the zoological department of the gardens listed these creatures and more, as just some of the many attractions in the Bendigo Botanical Gardens.



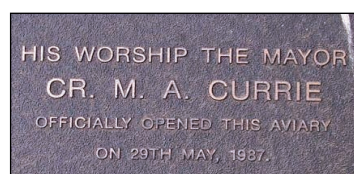
*A monkey cage which became a cocky cage.*

The Bendigo Botanical Gardens has more recently said goodbye to the monkeys, cockies and jackasses and instead welcomed a variety of exotic birds which roam freely through the newer flight aviary, a large design constructed in 1987. In this new facility, a rustic bridge traverses a stream bed that runs through the enclosure. Nesting boxes are provided, while some ground feeding birds such as the exotic pheasants and parrots roam freely within the confines of the aviary itself.

Current birds in the aviary are King Parrot, Regent Parrot, Princess Parrot x 4, Superb Parrot, Elegant Parrot, a pair of Hooded Parrots, Scarlet Chested Parrot, Red Capped Parrot, Bourke Parrots, a Blue Bonnet Parrot and four Cockatiels. A Golden Pheasant, a Lady Amherst Pheasant and a Ring-neck Pheasant seek shelter and food on the ground.

The Bendigo Branch of the Australian Aviculture Society who supports its members in the breeding and conservation of aviary held birds, were able to assist in the selection of birds.

The information sign outside assists in identifying the different species of the birds. It is open 8am to 4pm weekdays, closed weekends and public holidays.



*Plaque: The aviary was officially opened by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. M. Currie on the 29th May 1987.*

Kirstie Paterson (Team Leader, Bendigo Botanic Gardens) hopes to expand the variety and number of parrots in the aviary soon.

Only true species of parrots are kept. Other than the Hooded Parrots only males are held because of their colour. While this may seem sexist to those of us who are female, and consider ourselves rather more than beige – it may be some consolation that the fairer sex (in personality, not shade) get occasional visiting rights and access to a health care card.



*Flight Aviary built 1987*



*Superb Parrot*



*Cockatiels*

## The Bird Aviary continued

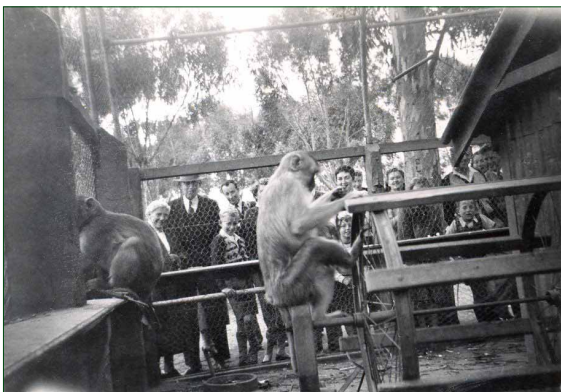
Helen Hickey cont'd

The birds are fed and watered every day, receiving a mixture of fruits and vegetables (corn, apples, sweet potatoes, pears etc) as well as seed mixture. They are also provided with various grasses and milk thistles, and when in season, callistemon flowers are a treat.

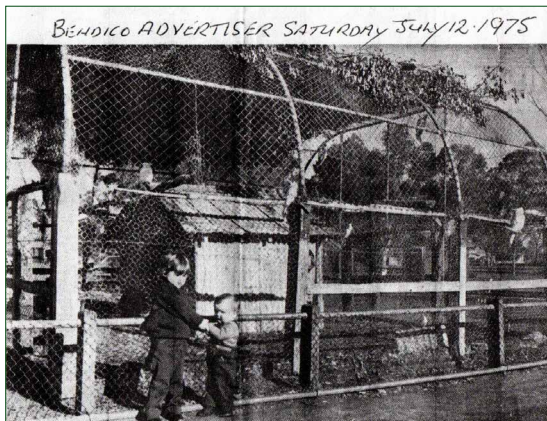
The health of the birds is checked every morning. The perches in the aviary are refreshed with branches from the garden.

The aviary fence rails, perches, water containers and hut are disinfected every week with a specific aviary cleaning product. This is to reduce the risk of parasites and disease.

To hold the birds for display at the gardens, staff are required to have a Wildlife licence. This means they are required to document all occurrences with the birds, (Injuries, sickness, deaths, new birds purchased, newly bred birds), anything that affects their welfare (excluding birds who hold private health cover or who have an existing heart condition!).



*Monkeys in an early cage 1950s*



*Cockatoos in the early cage 1970s*

## Water Week Activities

Kirstie Patterson - Team Leader - Bendigo Botanic Gardens



On Tuesday 24th October it was bright smiles, water activities galore and mascot madness when more than 80 primary school students from across our region came together to celebrate Australian Water Association National Water Week. The Garden of the Future at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens was the perfect setting for a 'Water Heroes Convention' with students learning about the value of water, culture, community and the environment. Students from Malmsbury Primary School, St Liborius Primary School, Kangaroo Flat Primary School and Chewton Primary School took part in hands-on activities and educational experiences hosted by Coliban Water, City of Greater Bendigo, North Central CMA and Dja Dja Wurrung. The day included special guest appearances for the inaugural Water Hero Challenge Cup with Tap from Choose Tap, Billy the Blood Drop from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Goldie the Wonder Dog and Ausca the Sugar Glider from City of Greater Bendigo, Kooka the Kookaburra from the The Bendigo Advertiser and Toothy from Bendigo Oral Health and Dentistry Society (BOHDS).



## 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: each Tuesday (9:30am - 11:30am) at the FBBG nursery (behind the Samuel Gadd Centre). Plants are available for sale during Growing Friends. 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.

Tuesday November 6th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday November 13th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday November 20th	FBBG General Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 2.30pm
Tuesday November 20th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
<b>Tuesday December 4th</b>	<b>Christmas break-up and speaker - Karoline Klein (Landscape Architect for COGB)</b>	<b>Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 3pm</b>
Tuesday December 11th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday December 18th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11,30am
Tuesday December 18th	FBBG General Meeting	Samuel Gadd Centre BBG, 2.30pm
Tuesday January 8th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday January 15th	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am
Tuesday January 22nd	Growing Friends and plant sales	Friends Nursery SGC, 9.30am-11.30am



#### Vale: Rosemary Holmes

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Rosemary Holmes. She and her friend Edythe established the Yuulong Lavender farm at Mt Edgerton in the 1980s.

When the property was sold in 2013, she arranged for the National Collection of lavenders, which she held, to be transferred to Bendigo Botanic Gardens. With her support and advice this collection has now been established in the circular lavender bed at the end of the Archway entrance path.

*Dovyalis* is published by the Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Inc.  
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**Newsletter Committee:** Delene Commerford, Helen Hickey, Judy Milner,  
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