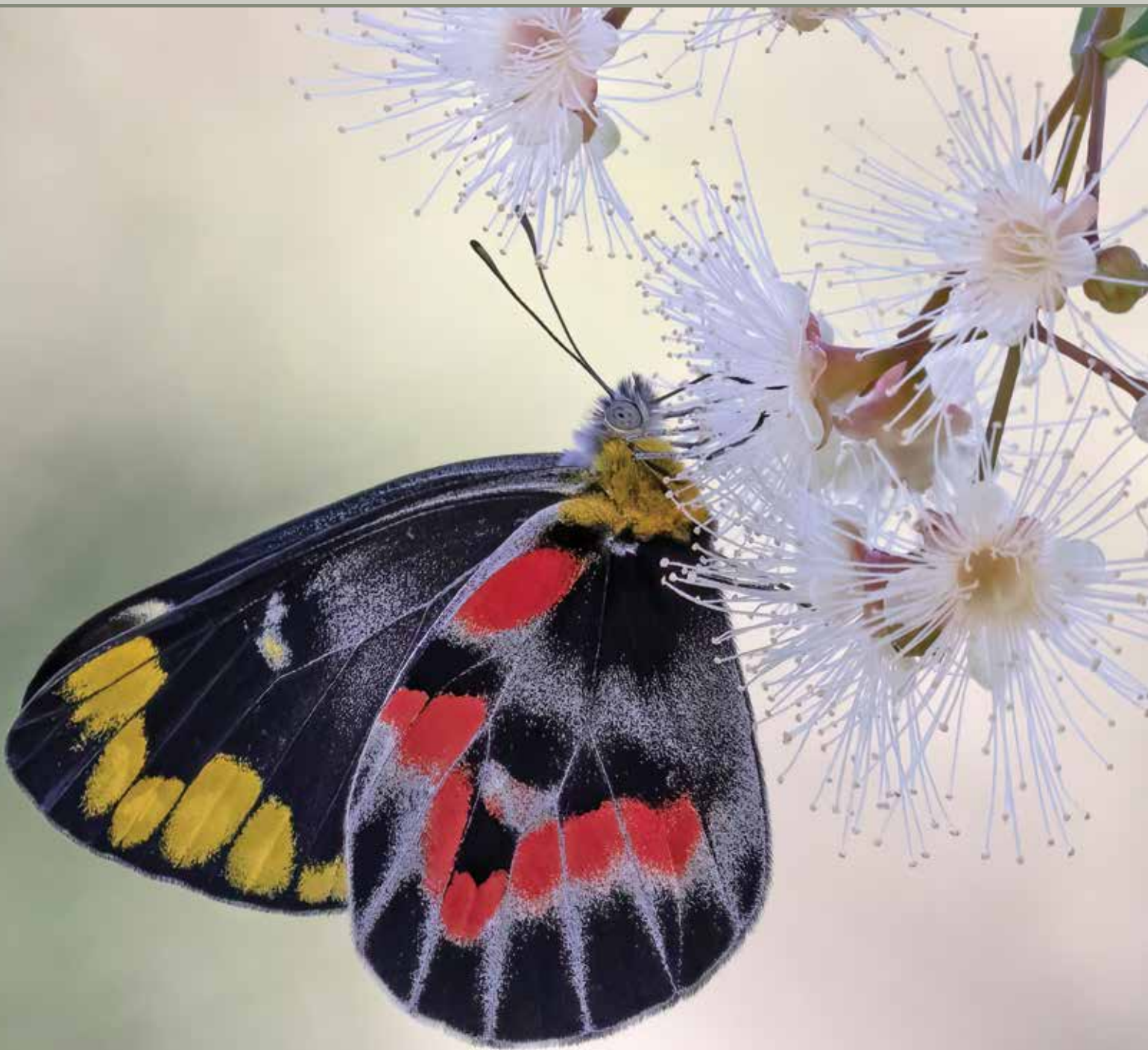


# *Fronds*

*Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Number 97 April 2021*





# Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

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Dave Bassett

Imperial Jezebel, *Delias harpalyce* (female) upperside

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Cover: Imperial Jezebel (female) - underside. Photo by Dave Bassett  
Imperial Jezebels (*Delias harpalyce*) display a lovely, leisurely flight usually around the canopy of trees but people on Suzi Bond's butterfly walk in February were lucky enough to see one attracted to *Syzygium* flowers, much closer to the ground. They breed on the mistletoes in eucalypts, and their caterpillars are gregarious.

# Homework – John Wrigley’s photos

## Murray Fagg

In the last week of March 2020, working-from-home-arrangements were introduced by the Gardens as part of the Australian Government’s lockdown procedures for staff in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an associate I was fortunate to be given permission to bring home a large 35mm slide scanner and its controlling computer to continue digitising my photos for the Australian Plant Image Index (APII), a task I had been working on at the Gardens for several years. In June 2020 I completed scanning and databasing my own botanical slides, almost 40 years of photography.

My next working-from-home task was to tackle the collection of 35mm slides taken by my colleague and friend John Wrigley, with whom I started working in March 1971. John was Curator of the then Canberra Botanic Gardens and I was the Education Display Officer. After John’s death at Coffs Harbour on 17 July 2014, I helped his family sort out his botanical estate. His wife Marcia suggested I bring his photos to Canberra to be incorporated into APII and made available online to the public.

His 35mm slides had been in storage in the Photograph Collection office at the



© M. Fagg

John Wrigley in Coffs Harbour in 2009 photographed during the editing of the Wrigley & Fagg book: *Eucalypts – a celebration*.

Gardens since 2014 and staff delivered them to my home. Some were in a case, others were stored in an unusual way – in recycled Kodak boxes glued onto sheets of wood. Each slide had a unique number linked to an Excel database as well as having information written on the slide-mount. The number sequence started in the 1960s.



© Wrigley, J.W. a-39404

The native orchid, *Rhinerrhiza divitiflora*, photographed in John’s private glasshouse behind the Curator’s Cottage (now Seedbank, ANBG) in 1969.



© M. Fagg

Part of John’s 35mm slide collection, in a 1960s commercial slide case (left) and his home-made storage system of Kodak boxes glued to wooden boards (right).



© Wrigley, J.W. a-40524

John’s photo of *Karrabina biagiana* showing the coloured young leaves, growing in his garden at Coffs Harbour in 1990. He was interested in foliage, not just flowers.

## Homework – John Wrigley’s photos (contd.)

John Wrigley AM was born in 1934 in Lindfield, a suburb of Sydney, walking distance from Lane Cove National Park. On walks here with his father John was introduced to Australian wildflowers. His parents were keen gardeners, but did not use native plants, because, his father assured him, “these could not be grown in the garden”.

At Sydney University he majored in organic chemistry, and his first jobs were with Shell and the food company Unilever. After completing a cadetship with Unilever he was soon in a management position as ‘Edible Fats Manager’ with a staff of 30 men producing Stork margarine.

John’s hobby and recreation activity at the time eventually shaped his life. He joined the Sydney branch of the newly established Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) in 1959; he had been married to Marcia for two years and they were establishing a garden for their new home. The following year he was elected to the SGAP Committee as ‘Scientific Officer’. By

1962 he was editor of the State newsletter *Native Plants for NSW*.

In the early 1960s John was involved with the establishment of the Ku-Ring-Gai Wildflower Garden at St Ives. He first visited the developing Botanic Gardens in Canberra as a delegate of the SGAP conference held in 1962. It was these various elements of his passion for Australian plants that saw him appointed as the Curator of the then Canberra Botanic Gardens in May 1967, working to prepare for the official opening in 1970.

John held the position of Curator until 1981 when he moved to Coffs Harbour where he spent the rest of his life.

From 1967, all the photos John took as part of his Gardens work and field trips went into the nascent Gardens’ Photograph Collection, which became one of my responsibilities when I took on the educational role. But John had built himself a small glasshouse in the backyard of the Curator’s Cottage (now the ANBG’s Seed Bank) where he pursued his hobby of growing native and exotic orchids. Photos he took of these

plants were included in his private collection, as were photos taken on family holidays etc.

In December 1976, John and I signed an agreement with William Collins Publishers to produce *Australian Native Plants* (ANP), a book with six editions over the next 37 years. We got clearance from the then Public Service Board to undertake private publishing and maintain private photo collections for such purposes.

In 1977 we travelled extensively on our annual leave, visiting gardens throughout south-eastern Australia in preparation for the book. I concentrated on close-up flower photographs while John took notes of what was being grown, and photos to help him write descriptions of plants in cultivation.

With John’s move to Coffs Harbour in 1981 our collaboration continued, with later editions of ANP, as well as major books on Australian Proteaceae in 1989 and Myrtaceae in 1993. In each of these cases we did a fieldtrip over several weeks to Western Australia with me taking photos, Rosemary Purdie



John’s photo of the fern *Platyzoma microphyllum* in NT in 1988. He didn’t only photograph pretty plants of high ornamental value.



A close-up photo of *Banksia carlinoides*, known as *Dryandra carlinoides* in 1983, on a WA field-trip for the Proteaceae book. Voucher: Purdie, R.W. 5079

collecting voucher herbarium specimens and John taking notes and supplementary photos to assist him with writing plant descriptions.

John's home, named *Bongil Bongil*, at Korora Basin just outside Coffs Harbour, became a haven for both exotic and native plants, many unusual or rare, and for several years it was part of the *Open Garden Scheme* giving the public access on certain days. It was a great source of tropical plant photos.

John did a lot of botanical consultancy work and was largely responsible for the establishment of the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens developed in Coffs Harbour in the early 1980s. This, too, provided a source for a wide range of native plant photos.

John later became involved with the cut-flower trade, especially plantation-grown foliage of native species, some rarely seen before in the florist industry. He sent these by plane to the Sydney markets and overseas to Europe.

John and Marcia did extensive holiday trips, sometimes in a campervan, and he took many plant photos. Trips included Tasmania in 1992, Western Australia in 1994 and 2003, and one when John led members of the International Dendrology Society from the Kimberley across northern Australia to the Daintree River in Queensland in 1999.

John's photos were accurately named, often by other experts, and he kept his taxonomy up to date from the available floras and scientific journals, and later from web resources like the Australian Plant Census (APC).

John and Marcia moved from their hillside *Bongil Bongil* house with its extensive terrace gardens to a small block in Coffs Harbour in 2004, and he stopped taking 35mm photographs in 2006.

One driving force for John's plant photography, other than publications,

was his generosity in giving talks to clubs and societies. He continued to take photos on a digital camera for use as Powerpoint lecture images after 2006, but these were not high-resolution photos suitable for APII.

Over the course of 2020, I scanned and databased a selection of about 2,800 of John's photos and loaded them into APII. They are now accessible via APII on the internet.

One unexpected result of the project was that John had carefully recorded on the slide-mounts Rosemary Purdie's collecting numbers for herbarium specimens from the Western Australian

trips in 1983 and 1990. In loading these images into APII over 500 photos were linked to their herbarium voucher specimens, often updating the identification in line with taxonomic changes over the last 30 years.

I would like to thank Marcia Wrigley and the Wrigley family for their generosity in contributing John's photos to the Australian Plant Image Index. This donation reinforces the strong connection John had with the Australian National Botanic Gardens over almost 60 years.

Thanks also to Murray Fagg & Cheryl Backhouse for sharing images from the APIIs "Fifty Years Ago, from the Gardens' Image collection..." published in the December *FronDS*.



John's close-up photo of *Eremaea violacea* subsp. *raphiophylla* on the 1990 Myrtaceae field-trip to WA. This taxon had not been named at the time. (photo is cropped). Voucher: Purdie, R.W. 3777

© Wrigley, J.W. a-40833



John's habit photo of *Melaleuca scabra* on a WA field-trip in 1983. As a horticulturalist he was interested in the whole plant's appearance. Voucher: Purdie, R.W. 5195

© Wrigley, J.W. a-39899

# William Baxter – ‘so excellent a collector’ of the ‘curious and rare’

## Boronia Halstead

From mid-summer to autumn, visitors to the Banksia Garden will be greeted by the bright lemon-yellow torches of *Banksia baxteri* flower-heads, above distinctive rosettes of triangular lobed leaves. The name-sake for this spectacular plant is William Baxter. His remarkable skills as a collector in the early 1800s in the new colony were recognised in Britain by William Hooker (Director of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens), and by Charles Fraser (Colonial Botanist at the Sydney Botanic Garden). But thereby hangs a tale.

Baxter made one of the earliest privately funded, commercially oriented plant-collecting trips to New Holland, arriving at Port Jackson on the *Royal George* in November 1821. His sponsors were nurserymen, Francis Henschman and John Bain Mackay of Clapton Nursery in

London. This was a significant departure from previous expeditions funded by the Royal Kew Gardens as part of their colonial/scientific project. The trip coincided with the peak of interest in the cultivation of Australian plants in Britain and beyond between 1795 and 1835.

On his first trip to the southern coast (1822/23), Baxter visited Kangaroo Island and King George’s Sound (KGS). Robert Brown of the British Museum must have asked Baxter for specific specimens, having himself visited the southern coast on his voyage with Matthew Flinders. However, Baxter was disappointed to find few plants in flower when he arrived at KGS, and was only able to spend four weeks there due to bad weather. Nevertheless, he did send Brown specimens of *Kingia australis* and some banksias and dryandras.

Baxter’s second trip to KGS was made in the first half of 1824. After this trip, Baxter wrote to Robert Brown that:

*I have been as far as Lucky Bay and even as far as the Sound . . . , but could not get into it owing to a gale of wind coming when we were between Mount Gardner and Bald head. I left the vessel at point Malcolm [now in the Cape Arid National Park] and walked along the coast to Thistles Cove [now in Cape Le Grand NP] with no one with me excepting a dog.*

Picture Baxter walking at least 200 kms through unknown rough virgin scrub, alone with his dog, collecting plant material for propagation on the other side of the planet. Among the specimens he collected for Brown on this trip were hakeas and grevilleas, as well as *Banksia media*.



*Banksia baxteri* with distinctive rosettes of triangular lobed leaves, Banksia Garden, ANBG, February 2021



*Kingia australis*, Gull-Rock NP near Albany, January 2013

© Thiele K.R., 2013 (April dig. 53077)

At this point, juggling the competing demands of his commercial nursery sponsors in Britain and arrangements he had with others became precarious. Baxter understood the need to preserve the novelty value of his plants and control their distribution. He wrote to Hooker from Sydney seeking an undertaking that 'two specimens of undescribed Banksia's with a fruit attached to each' that Baxter had collected for Fraser for supply to Hooker not be permitted to be grown in the [presumably Glasgow] Garden, saying:

*I am engaged with a House [presumably a commercial nursery] I am very unwilling to injure.'*

Baxter was also 'much mortified' to learn that part of the collection supplied to Fraser for Hooker had been given to the 'Botanist' of the French warship Thetis.

At the beginning of 1826, Baxter wrote to Robert Brown of his intention to travel to KGS once more and to remain there for 12 months, 'for the purpose of examining the whole of the coast as

far as Lucky Bay and also to visit the mountains of the Land.

He left on this attempted third trip on 4 April 1826. Having sent cases of plant material to Henschman at the end of 1825 and expecting his credit with him to be sound, Baxter bought the cutter, the *Brisbane*, for the expedition. However, soon after departure the vessel was forced to return to port to repair damage. It set off again in May 1826. In Tasmanian waters in the spring of 1826, Baxter encountered another vessel apparently in distress and took on some of the crew (having already collected plants at Wilsons Promontory and islands in Bass Strait). However, in port in Launceston, Baxter's vessel and its cargo were seized when proof of ownership of the *Brisbane* was not accepted by authorities. Henschman had returned Baxter's Bill of Exchange, dishonoured. Baxter took passage back to Sydney but was arrested there and thrown into prison for 'a paltry debt of Thirty pounds' for his fare.

With his engagement with Henschman over, Baxter sought to restore his financial situation by again offering assistance to William Hooker. Meantime in January 1827, he had married Mary Jones, a convict, who received her Certificate of Freedom on the date of their marriage. She had been the beneficiary of the will of a wealthy baker and publican who had died just weeks before the wedding. In May 1827, Baxter purchased 25 acres of land at Petersham in Sydney with a promissory note to pay within two years. He intended the land 'for a Botanical Garden' where he could propagate plants for export to collectors in Britain. However, the marriage was short-lived, with each party posting notices at the end of 1828 that they would not honour the debts of the other. The land at Petersham was sold in August 1829 when Baxter was again found to be insolvent while away collecting on his third and last, but most successful, trip to KGS.



*Kunzea baxteri*, this photo was taken for front cover of Wrigley & Fagg 'Australian Native Plants' (ANP) 3rd edition, June 1987, ANBG, ACT

## William Baxter – contd

Prior to his departure to KGS, Baxter had made an arrangement with Fraser (as described in Fraser's note to the Colonial Secretary) to

... make a general collection of seeds and plants ... the Colonial Government retaining one half ... and the remaining half to be transmitted to his [Baxter's] constituents in England: the Government furnishing him with a regular ration and the necessary equipments ...

The Colonial Secretary wrote to Fraser requiring him to ensure that the whole of Baxter's collection was sent in the first instance to the Botanic Gardens before being divided.

Baxter arrived in KGS on March 1829 to find the settlers nearly starving. His rations were not enough to support 'long journeys and carrying such loads as I do'. Nevertheless, he went to the Stirling Ranges and Porongurups (a round-trip of about 160 kms) and collected plant material, including *Banksia solandri*, *B. baxteri*, *B. goodii*, *B. baueri* and *B. brownii*. He started sending material back to Fraser soon after his arrival. But Baxter himself did not get back to Sydney until September 1829, accompanying 18 packages of plants and seeds. Fraser applied for an Order for the whole collection to be landed at the Botanic Gardens. Baxter, however, had made orders for two sacks of banksia cones to be delivered to no-one but himself. Fraser reported that Baxter abused the Boarding Officer summoned to ensure delivery, threatening to knock him down and attempting to throw some of the most valuable plants overboard. Constables were called, and Baxter left the vessel when they approached. He returned a couple of days later to fetch his share. Soon after, he booked his passage back to Britain, accompanying his packages of plants, including 4 cases for Robert Brown. He wrote to Brown during another stint in prison prior to departure:

*I have sent you Eight new Dryandras and Six new Banksias[.] [T]here is one of the latter with a leaf like grandis and a globe flower the discovery of which you will perhaps think should in some way kept in remembrance of me.*

Brown obliged, giving the plant the name *Banksia baxteri*. Brown also named a *Dryandra baxteri*, but this plant has now been renamed *Banksia biterex*.

After his return home, Baxter sold his collection to a very wealthy horticulturist, Joseph Knight, for 1,500 Pounds. The last we know of him is from a legal notice about alleged debts he owed to a brothel keeper.

While Baxter's precarious financial situation led him into some dubious circumstances, his great diligence and skills as a plant collector were recognised by Robert Brown and William Hooker. In WA alone, he is credited with collecting around 370 species (including 44 banksias), 135 new to science.<sup>1</sup> He is commemorated in the genus *Baxteria* (related to *Lomandra*), and in species names, including *Acacia baxteri*, *Hakea baxteri*, *Grevillea baxteri*, *Eucalyptus baxteri*, *Chrysocephalum baxteri*, *Kunzea baxteri* and *Prostanthera baxteri*.

1 Lesley & Mike Brooker: *Flowers and gatherers of the Albany to Eucla coastline* <https://lesmikebrooker.com.au/flowers-and-gatherers.php>

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Maiden, J.H. 1909, William Baxter [in Records of Western Australian botanists], *Journal of the West Australian Natural History Society* 6: 6-10.



Pam Rooney

*Banksia media*, first collected by William Baxter on his second trip to King George's Sound .

### The ANBG Library is now open, with an online borrowing system available

Last year a new library computer system was installed which allows you to keep track of your loans and renew items online. In line with social distancing guidelines, physical visits to the ANBG Library will not be resuming at present. The new service has been introduced to enable borrowing safely and easily via the Visitor Centre. Normal reference and research assistance from the Librarian will continue for Friends, via email or phone.

Details on how to use the new service may be found on the Friends website ([www.friendsanbg.org.au](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au)) on the Home Page, under LATEST NEWS: Library borrowing for the Friends – new system.

For assistance contact the library via email at [ANBG.library@awe.gov.au](mailto:ANBG.library@awe.gov.au) or phone 6250 9480, 9.30am – 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.



# Discovering Butterflies

On a summer morning in February, a group of Friends members experienced a delightful morning discovering butterflies in the Gardens. The group's leader was butterfly expert, Dr Suzi Bond, who guided us up the western side of the rainforest gully, across and through the rainforest, up the other side, and into the rock garden. Along the way she urged us to look out for butterflies of any type which might be found in the grasses and lower plants, in the middle height trees and shrubs, or in the higher canopy. We were lucky enough to find 14 species of butterfly, ranging from a tiny Barred Skipper to the larger and stunning Imperial Jezebel (front cover), as well as a fluttering flock of Macleay's Swallowtails.

We thank Suzi for sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge and providing the captions for the photos, the photographers among us for their photos, and the organisers of this event. (Suzi's book, *Field Guide to the Butterflies of the Australian Capital Territory*, is available at the Botanical Bookshop.)

**Barbara Podger**

**Captions for photos supplied by Suzi Bond**

## Barred Skipper (*Dispar compacta*) (at right)

The ANBG is a fantastic place to find this little skipper. They can be found from midsummer to early autumn on daisy flowers; they breed on grasses and mat-rushes, and the males and females are dimorphic.

Bill Hall



Bill Hall

**Spotted Brown (*Heteronympha paradelpha*)**  
This is a special butterfly of the ANBG, regularly found flying during February at the top of the rainforest gully where they breed on soft grasses such as Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*). Be careful to look for them amongst the far more plentiful Common Browns (*Heteronympha merope*).



Dave Bassett

**Dainty Swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*)**  
Dainty Swallowtails are well-known to those with citrus growing in their yard, as these are the plants this elegant species breeds on. They have a distinctive gliding flight, and the males are strong hilltoppers around the suburban peaks of Canberra Nature Park such as the summits of Black Mountain and Red Hill.



Richard Arculus

**Australian Painted Lady (*Vanessa kershawi*)**  
This is one of the most common and widespread of our butterflies. They love to feed on the flowering plants at the ANBG, and breed on plants such as Everlasting Daisies (*Helichrysum* and *Chrysocephalum*) and Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*).



Fanny Karouta

**Macleay's Swallowtail (*Graphium macleayanum*)**  
This is surely one of the most delightful butterflies to grace the Gardens. This butterfly, unusually, has bright green legs, but also has green eggs, caterpillars, pupae and of course the adults have the lovely green wings. Males are strong hilltoppers and they are easily attracted to flowers, making for perfect photo opportunities. In the ANBG Macleay's Swallowtails breed on plants like Three-veined Cryptocarya (*Cryptocarya triplinervis*), Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*) and Southern Sassafras (*Atherospermum moschatum*), while in the Brindabella Ranges they breed on Mountain Pepper (*Tasmannia lanceolata*).

# Redevelopment of the East Core Precinct

Tony Kelly and Craig Cosgrove

Visitors to the Gardens will have noticed over the last few weeks that preliminary work is starting on the redevelopment of the East Core Precinct (café and lawn area).

The redevelopment of the East Core Precinct landscape is part of the ANBG Master Plan program.

This project will enhance the visitor's experience of the Gardens, provide increased outdoor dining space for Pollen Café and add a quality entry way to key attractions such as the Ian Potter National Conservatory.

The development will contribute to the ongoing efforts to enhance the Gardens through meaningful and high-quality landscape design.

Capital funding has been secured for Stage 1 of the works which consists of extending the Pollen Café decking area,

new terraced steps, improved entry to Pollen Café and visitor orientation, modified main path and new rock retaining walls. Stage 1 works will include acknowledgement to the Friends of the Gardens by way of engraving 'Friends Lawn' into the concrete terraces.

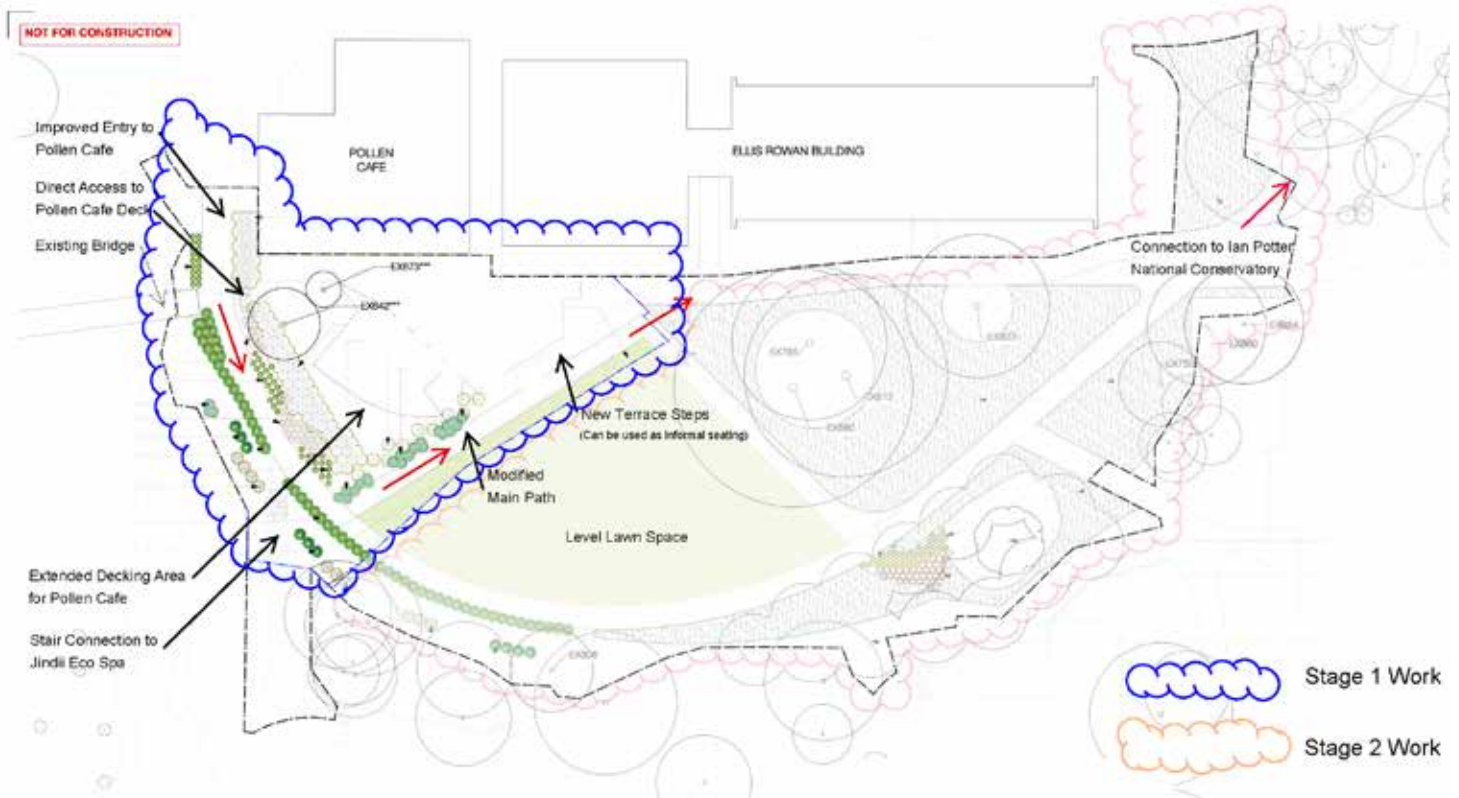
The successful contractor will work closely with ANBG staff to reduce disruption to the gardens and Pollen Café during the construction works.

Construction is planned to start 10 May 2021 with an expected completion date in August 2021.

Stage 2 works will start once funding is available. This work will consist of a new level lawn, the inclusion of some durable Tasmanian plant species on the Gully side of the new works, as well as showcasing some visually appealing and ANBG unique species around the café

areas. The wonderful ferns and other wet forest plants in the build footprint have been relocated to other areas in the ANBG. Once canopy plants have matured there will be an opportunity to include other interesting and more delicate Tasmanian plant species. Fog will be added to provide more suitable microclimate conditions for the rainforest plants.

A new sweeping path, consistent with the existing main path surface type, will connect to the Ian Potter National Conservatory. The new path will include path lighting to match that planned for the Conservatory path to cater for night-time events and safe access through the precinct at night. There will be a space for quiet contemplation which includes a Ceremony Garden. A generous donation has already been pledged to contribute to the construction of this part of the garden.



Concept site plan defining stages 1 and 2

# Report from the Friends' President

## Neville Page

Here we are in April, 2021 already: half way into the Friends' Year. How time flies! At this time last year we were coming to terms with COVID-19 and what it meant to our day-to-day lives. Much has happened in the meantime, and things are looking better going forward. We still have quite a long way to go though, before we're back to normal.

I'm pleased to say that the Friends membership has held up very well during these difficult times. In January we had 2,685 members. This compares with 2,572 at the same time last year. The fact that we have been able to maintain our membership numbers, and in fact increase them slightly is a great tribute to our Membership Team, comprising Lesley Harland and Pam Cooke. At their February meeting, the Friends Council resolved that I should write to Lesley and Pam, expressing our appreciation for the great work they do.

It is exciting to see Thursday Talks back, after an extended break due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thursday Talks are one of the most important of the Friends' many activities. These weekly talks do perhaps more than anything else to foster communication

between members. The Thursday Talks Committee has changed. After a great contribution, Jan Finley, Doug Laing and Rita Maclachlan have decided to hand over the reins. Their considerable contribution is much appreciated by everyone. At their meeting in February, the Friends Council expressed appreciation for their efforts. We have a new Thursday Talks Committee, comprising Liz Truswell (Chair), Linda Beveridge, Anthony Whelan and Barbara Hamburger. We thank them for stepping up, and we wish them all the very best in attracting interesting speakers.

Growing Friends have been very active under difficult conditions with COVID-19 restrictions, but have managed to achieve the successful sale of many plants, despite not being able to mount a public plant sale. Other Friends special interest groups including the Botanic Art Group and Photographic Group have continued to operate, including holding exhibitions in spite of the difficulties. Flowers, Fruit and Foliage (previously In Flower This Week) remains a popular Friends attraction with visitors to the Gardens. The Plant Science Group is currently on hold pending appointment of a new convenor.

The ANBG Management have called for tenders to construct the new Conservatory. When completed, the Conservatory will be unlike anything else in Australia, and will be a major new attraction for the Gardens. Tenders have also been called to undertake works on the grounds in the vicinity of the Pollen Café, lawn and main path. This is the so-called East Core Precinct Development. It is a major exercise and will take quite some time to complete. The project will be undertaken in three stages with a total cost in excess of \$1 million.

Gardens Management is currently in the process of preparing a new ten year Management Plan. Submissions from stakeholders, including the Friends, with suggestions of what should go into the plan were called for, with a closing date in March. The Friends submission was wide-ranging, and included topics such as visitation rate, indigenous culture, health and safety, risk management, volunteer programs and quite a few other topics. We look forward to the stakeholder consultation and feedback processes.

Best wishes to everyone.



Friends Council Members November 2020: (from left) Alan Henderson, Linda Beveridge (Vice President), Helen Elliot (Treasurer), Lynden Ayliffe (Secretary), Neville Page (President), Wendy Antoniak, Lesley King, Wanda Filsell, David More (insert).

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# Banksia Garden - pruning banksias

Jane Keogh

Almost a year has passed since the cancellation of the official opening of the Banksia Garden (later held in October), due to the pandemic. In that time, much has been learnt, the banksias have another year's growth on them and species which would not have been flowering in April 2020, now have their first flowers.

The *Banksia* genus is one of the best known genera of Australian plants. There are about 80 species of banksia, most of which are from the south west

of Western Australia (WA). Sixty of the species are in the Banksia Garden, including one from the Northern Territory (*B. dentata*) and several which are critically endangered (*B. vincentia*) or endangered (*B. brownii* and *B. cuneata* or Matchstick Banksia).

You will notice as you walk into the Banksia Garden that WA species are

planted on the large mounds on your left. WA banksias are notoriously difficult to grow outside their natural habitat. Trial beds were established in Section 335 (on the Main Path) a few years ago where hardier WA species were planted in sandstone rubble. Most of those plants survived a severe hailstorm and then an exceptionally wet summer; the extra



Images: Pam Rooney

A grafted specimen of *B. dentata* from northern Australia is growing in a mobile container which will be moved undercover when frost (or hail) is forecast



Volunteer guides were fortunate enough to watch a pruning demonstration



David Taylor pruning *B. serrata* to reveal the characteristic stems and trunk

year's experience, courtesy the pandemic, gave the horticultural staff confidence in the suitability of the soil mix.

Visitors may also notice that the name tags on some of the plants have red tape on them. These are species which have been grafted, usually on to *B. integrifolia* (Coast Banksia), an eastern species. This overcomes the problems associated with drainage and watering. Grafting banksias is both difficult and slow. ANBG horticultural staff have had several years developing grafting skills and it is hoped that, with time, all species which are difficult to grow in Canberra, will be grafted on to compatible eastern species.

Some banksias have lignotubers and/or epicormic shoots which will allow them to recover after fires and those species can be pruned very heavily. Those species that do not have a lignotuber and depend on seed for recovery should not be cut back too severely. Many plants in the Banksia Garden have been, and will continue to be, pruned regularly.

Ten volunteer guides were fortunate enough to watch a pruning demonstration by David Taylor and Geoff West. *B. serrata* (Old Man Banksia) has a very attractive 'wrinkled' trunk. The leaves and branches along the trunk can be removed while the plant is young,



Geoff West pruning *B. occidentalis*

allowing the wrinkled trunk to be visible as the tree matures.

There are three different forms of *B. marginata* (Silver Banksia), the only species native to the ACT, in the Banksia Garden. Branches growing upwards on the low-growing form were removed to maintain the appearance of a ground cover. Geoff West also demonstrated pruning the small branches which obscured the flowers on *B. sphaerocarpa* and *B. occidentalis*.

During construction drainage was installed to direct moisture to the lower north-eastern corner of the Garden. The banksia with large purple leaves growing there is a form of *B. robur* (Swamp Banksia) which has been growing at the ANBG for about thirty years. It has been named *Banksia robur* 'Purple Paramour' and is currently in the process of being commercialised.



*B. sphaerocarpa*

Horticultural staff have identified new forms of other banksias which have the potential for commercialisation. With the grafting experience of ANBG staff, the day may come when it will be possible to plant an avenue of the WA species *B. menziesii* (Firewood Banksia) and *B. coccinea* (Scarlet Banksia) which will rival the waratahs of New South Wales.

The Friends would like to thank David Taylor for his generous support, his enthusiasm, and knowledge shared with the Guides and the Friends over many years. We have heard that he intends to retire from the ANBG in April, but we are sure he won't be able to keep away from the place, and we will continue to see him around!



*B. occidentalis*



There are a number of specimens of *B. robur* 'Purple Paramour'



# Friendly Chatter

## Botanic Art Groups

The Botanic Art Groups are pleased to have resumed their regular meetings on the second Thursday, second Saturday and fourth Wednesday of each month in the beautiful, refurbished Banksia Centre at the Gardens. At the suggestion of members, a class for beginners has been included. Maria Boreham generously offered to take the class in March. It was so popular that two were held.

This year we will hold our 14th Annual Botanic Art Exhibition, *From the Desert to the Sea* from 3 April to 2 May in the Visitor Centre Gallery. There will be a special feature on plants from arid

regions. **All Friends are invited to a preview of the exhibition on Friday 2 April from 2pm to 4pm when paintings will be for sale before the exhibition is open to the public.** This is an opportunity to have first choice of the many outstanding works.

Botanical art takes many hours of careful attention to detail, so members have been working for some months now. All artworks are judged by a team of botanists from the Gardens to ensure accuracy, and by two artists, Sharon Field and Margaret Saul, to ascertain artistic merit, before being hung in the exhibition. Each artist may also enter one other

painting not subject to formal judging, the Artist's Choice. Though this painting does have to be botanically recognisable.

Commissions from sales raise funds for the Friends who support the Gardens in so many ways. Please visit the exhibition. A complimentary bookmark is included in this edition showing a few of the beautiful works.

We are always pleased to welcome new members so please contact us at [botanicart@friendsanbg.org.au](mailto:botanicart@friendsanbg.org.au) if you want more information.

**Kate Ramsey**



Pink Wildflowers, Vivien Pinder



*Gossypium stuartianum*, Nilavan Adams



*Swainsona formosa*, Jann Ollerenshaw



*Telopea speciosissima*, Jacqui Gilleand

## Growing Friends

Happily, Growing Friends can now host a full complement of members at their Tuesday working group – a welcome change after the restrictions due to COVID-19.

Following generous rain in Canberra in December and January, many of the new plants in small pots are quickly developing good roots and small established plants are becoming so large they are being re-potted into larger pots. The igloo is abuzz with 'friendly chatter' and is returning to its old lively atmosphere.

Seed beds are a hive of activity, with members experimenting with seeds never trialled before as well as seeds with different needs and pre-treatments. One member planted new seeds after heat treatment at 90 degrees for an hour and a half. We shall be interested to see how they grow.

Our February meeting had an extensive demonstration of all the databases used for plant identification. Old and new members garnered information about APRAAL (the list of plants that are approved for propagation); IBIS (ANBG's living collection database); Find-a-Plant and; and the Growing Friends database. The Growing Friends database contains all the information about the Growing Friends' propagation sessions going back to 1993; with the more recent entries containing the success rates for each plant. The databases form an integral part in the group's preparation for each monthly propagation session.

Often our propagation sessions have a theme. This could be a plant type such as Banksias, or smaller species suited to the pocket size urban gardens of today. Plants could be chosen for bee attracting qualities (usually by beekeepers in the group!).

Plants specific for the needs of birds are the current theme. Plants in the Gardens support many bird species with habitat such as sleep trees for Tawny Frogmouths,

and other plants providing food. Growing Friends working in the igloo shade area were recently delighted to host visitations from an Eastern Spinebill that was making itself at home amongst the larger pots inside the igloo. What a pleasure to see birds and plants together.



Of course, there is always the local Eastern Water Dragon population often seen in the Gardens. The group hopes to identify specific plants that attract the insects that are in the dragons' diet. These plants will then be included in propagation sessions.



Plants grown by Growing Friends are offered for sale twice yearly and make attractive additions to urban gardens, particularly those with a bit more space for the likes of Banksias and smaller gums.

New members are welcome. More experienced Growing Friends are most happy to help new members with answers and solutions to plant propagation. Talk to one of the Growing Friends today.

For more information, please email [growingfriends@friendsanbg.org.au](mailto:growingfriends@friendsanbg.org.au)

**Donna Growcock**

## Photographic Group

2020 was a very different year for the Photographic Group but we worked around all the obstacles thrown our way. We even held our Annual Exhibition 'Reflections' and raised \$2,162.60 for the Friends. This year will still challenge us but we have planned a calendar of presentations and outings, some outside the Gardens - refer to the Calendar on the Friends website.

Our exhibition this year 'Recovery', will include an Awards section. The Awards inclusion is to acknowledge photographers who can support and raise awareness of the aims and values of the Australian National Botanic Gardens through their photographs.

Awards and associated financial rewards will be for categories of Plant Portrait, Wildlife in the Gardens, the Banksia in recognition of Joseph Banks who visited Australia 250 years ago last year, and rare and threatened species. The Exhibition and Awards challenge will showcase our photographers and their skill in capturing the Garden's wide-ranging diversity of flora and fauna through the medium of pictures.

Terms and conditions for the Exhibition/Awards will be available soon.

Exhibition and Awards will be open to all members of the Photographic Group which you can join for free as a Friend of the ANBG. Please join us and participate in our activities, you never know who you may meet and what you can share. To join look on the Friends of the ANBG website, search for 'get involved' and send us an email at [photo@friendsanbg.org.au](mailto:photo@friendsanbg.org.au)

Alternatively, you can collect a Photographic Group brochure from the foyer of the Visitor Centre, fill it out and place it in the Friends mailbox located on the counter of the reception desk.

Hoping that 2021 is good for all of us.

**Helen Dawes**

## Friendly Chatter (contd.)

### Volunteer Guides

Don't be surprised if you hear squeals of delight, or a buzz of excited voices around the Gardens during future school holidays – guides are offering a new 'Secrets of the Australian Bush' tour for families.

This 'Family Flora Explorer Bus Tour' takes advantage of features of the Gardens that children enjoy the most, such as riding the bus itself, walking in the rainforest and past the Thorny Devil in the Red Centre Garden. The tour finishes just near the Tree house and children's trail.

The tour was developed by four guides, in consultation and rigorously tested with a group of primary aged children. Offered at multiple times over two days in the January school holidays, the tours were fully booked and very much enjoyed by the 53 passengers who joined. The children also liked the brochure with pictures and a check list of what they might see. These tours are offered during the Easter school holidays; and we anticipate they will be a regular feature of school holidays, exciting families and the next generation about the wonderful world of Australian plants.



Alison Turner

Meanwhile, guides have been learning about the amazing array of Banksias blossoming in the new Banksia Garden, and preparing to offer a range of themed walks throughout the coming year. Themes are designed to be seasonally relevant: we ran Eucalypt walks during March, and Tree walks will

mark Canberra Tree Week, 1-9 May. Themed walks are likely to be of particular interest to regular ANBG visitors and Friends, as they showcase specific areas and provide a more specialised focus. Details of walks are available on the ANBG website and social media. All free guided walks are at 11am daily.

**Alison Turner**  
**Lesley King, Convenor**

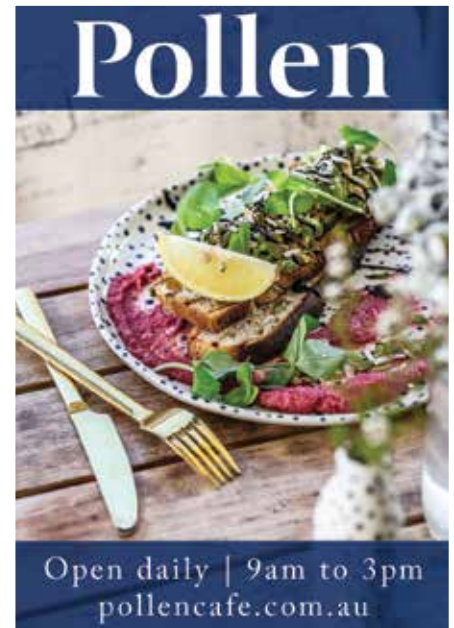
### Plant Science Group

As stated in the President's Report (p12), the Plant Science Group is currently on hold pending appointment of a new convenor. The Group was originally established in 2013 as an umbrella for volunteer activities of a technical, scientific and research nature. Emerging from plant identification talks to Botanic Resource Centre facilitators, the main, regular activity became monthly technical talks and the occasional fascinating excursion to other Gardens such as Mt Annan and botanical institutions such as herbaria and the National Insect Collection (CSIRO).

Group members have also had the opportunity to assist with the ANBG's stocktake of its living collection and to be involved in research projects such as an Acacia pollination project; an ANU, ANBG and ANBG Friends Australian Research Council grant addressing alpine seed and seedling ecology; and the implementation of an ANBG conservation project dealing with the long-term survival of two populations of Fan Grevillea (*Grevillea ramosissima*) on ANBG land led by Dr Rosemary Purdie (a Plant Science Group Member).

COVID-19 restrictions have forced a hiatus in the group's activities and key organising members have been drawn elsewhere. Friends Council is currently looking at the way ahead for the Plant Science Group.

**Lesley Harland**



### Orchid Conservation Symposium

The Australian Network for Plant Conservation (ANPC) will be working with project partners to organise an orchid conservation symposium in 2021. This symposium to be held over two days will provide an online forum to increase awareness of the ecology and conservation of orchids amongst practitioners. It will also provide an opportunity to share the project's results and promote networking among the orchid conservation community. The symposium is scheduled for 22 & 23 June 2021.



For more information on the project please head to the ANPC website.

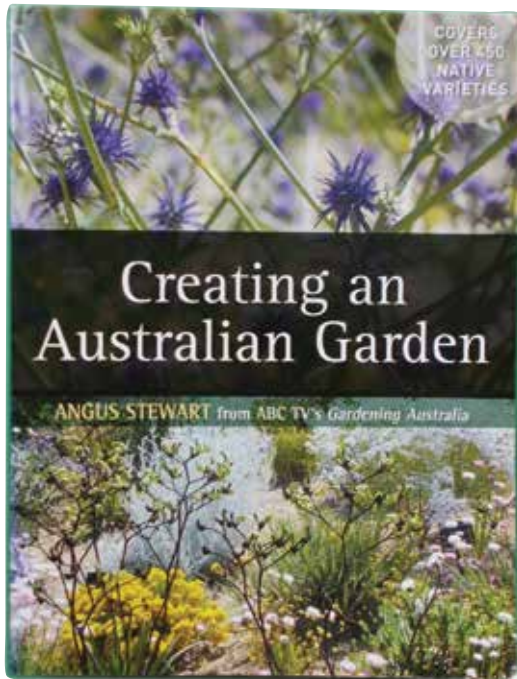
Funding for this project was provided by the Australian Government's Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program.



**Creating an Australian Garden, 2010, Angus Stewart, Soft cover, 256 pages, Colour photographs, \$35.00**

A great book to get you started on building your dream Australian garden! It contains everything you need to know on planning the garden including consideration of soil, rainfall, climate, paths, water, and garden art. There is a large section of beautiful native plant

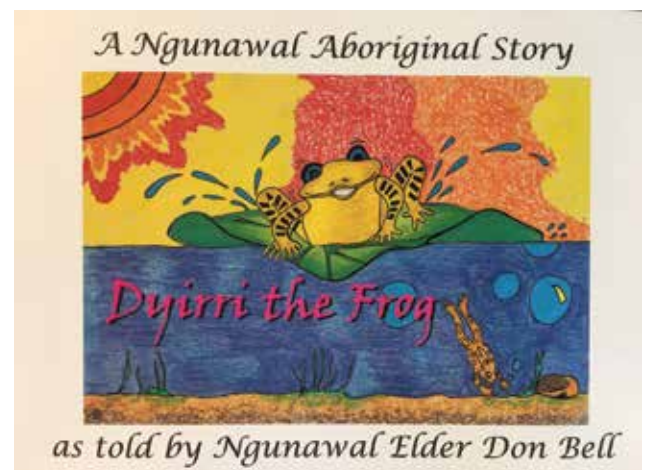
cultivars, plus tips on growing and maintenance. Author, Angus Stewart looks at some examples of different established native gardens that he has visited to provide inspiration and ideas, including a peek at our lovely Australian National Botanic Gardens here in Canberra! An excellent guide to creating a stunning native garden, wherever you live.



house, with helpful advice and tips on everything from choices of building materials and setup of solar systems through to landscaping, food production and composting. Packed with colour photographs and useful site plans, this book is inspiring and instructive.

**Dyirri the Frog, 2003, Don Bell, Soft cover, 29 pages, Colour illustrations, \$25.00**

*Dyirri the Frog* - A Ngunawal Aboriginal Story as told by Ngunawal Elder Don Bell and illustrated by Holly Herring tells the story of a little frog who, along with the help of the bad spirit Gudba, became mischievous and naughty to the other frogs and animals at the billabong. Lessons are learnt, and Dyirri is given a second chance and a new transformation. A gorgeous book for children, and extra special that it is a local story by a local author!



Always welcomes Friends!

with a 10% discount on purchases over \$10, including the purchase of gift vouchers, on production of the customer's membership card for the person whose name is on this card.

No discount on redemption of gift vouchers.

[www.botanicalbookshop.com.au](http://www.botanicalbookshop.com.au)

more information on our Facebook page at 'Botanical Bookshop'

**The Sustainable House Handbook, 2020, Josh Byrne, Soft cover, 192 pages, Colour photographs, illustrations, \$40.00**

*The Sustainable House Handbook* is a comprehensive guide to planning and building an affordable, energy-efficient and waterwise home for the future. Author Josh Byrne takes you through the process that he went through whilst building his own 10-star energy rated

# Gardens Shorts

## From the Executive Director

It is proving to be a busy and productive year at the Gardens so far.

We have been recording record visitation over spring and summer in comparison with the same periods over the last 5-10 years. With travel restrictions and milder weather, visitors have been keen to be outdoors in the Gardens setting.

The Gardens is in the process of developing a new Management Plan that will set the direction for the future of the Gardens and guide its management from 2022–2032. Now that the *Have Your Say* period is complete, a draft plan is being developed and will be made available for public comment in November 2021. The final Management Plan will be in place in 2022.

An audit of the current Management Plan was positive, with 93% of the policies and 82% of the actions implemented.

We are excited to be moving forward with plans for the new National Seed Bank. The design will be unveiled next month while we will simultaneously be launching a fundraising campaign for donations for critical equipment for the facility.

The construction of the Ian Potter National Conservatory will start within the next couple of months, so you will see lots of activity once that begins. We will also begin expanding the Café deck and redevelop the surrounding area to improve the visitor experience.

**Judy West**

## Working to save Australia's rarest Macadamia

Commonly known as Bulburin Nut, *Macadamia janseni* is the rarest of four threatened macadamia species native to Australia. It is known from only one small population in Queensland.

Sabrina Sonntag



Interpretive signage in the Rainforest Gully highlights the conservation plantings of *Macadamia janseni*.

The Gardens is now growing over 40 plants of this species in the Rainforest Gully. The plantings form one of four living conservation collections that can be used to help restore trees in their natural habitat if needed. The original collection of trees was propagated at Tondoon Botanic Gardens from cuttings taken under strict licence conditions from 43 wild trees. Additional collections are held at Brisbane Botanic Gardens and the Maroochy Research Facility.

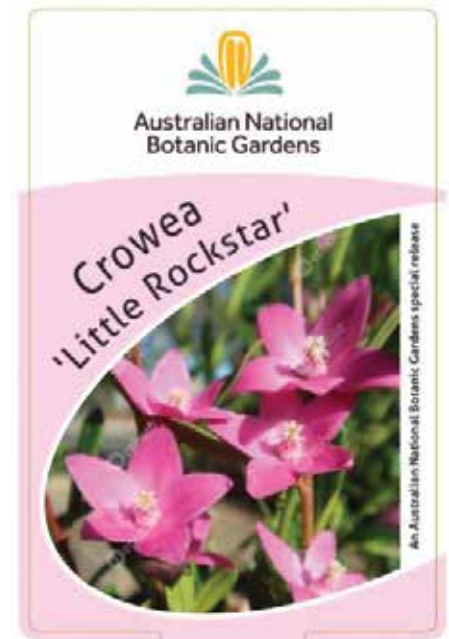
Traditional Owners of *Macadamia janseni*'s threatened rainforest habitat are involved in its management through the Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust and the Gidarjil Development Corporation. Although *Macadamia janseni* is related to commercially cultivated macadamia species, its fruit has a bitter taste and is not edible.

## Crowea 'Rockstar'

Be on the lookout for a special new release of *Crowea* 'Little Rockstar' to local nurseries under the Australian National Botanic Gardens label this autumn!

This plant has been cultivated from a seedling variant that appeared in the Gardens with a distinctly compact form. Our horticulturalists reproduced it to plant out in a trial last year to see how it would grow.

We're now planting them in a few more locations to test growing conditions in soils ranging from sandy and thin, to deep well-draining soils with



Look for *Crowea* 'Little Rockstar' under the Australian National Botanic Gardens label.

a range of moisture levels from well-watered through to dry conditions. In its common name 'Little Rockstar'. *Little* refers to its compact growing habit, reaching 60 – 80 cm depending on how much direct sun it receives. *Star* is a typical common name often used for *Croweas*.

## Going virtual - adapting to a COVID world

### ASBP Australasian Seed Science Conference

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership is pleased to advise that the Australasian Seed Science Conference, regrettably postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19, will proceed via a new online forum on the 6-10 September 2021.

The conference will focus on the importance of seed science for the future of plant conservation and food security with keynote presentations from



Australian and International experts. We encourage everyone interested in seed biology, seed sourcing, seed banking, and the role of seeds in culture and society to log on come September. To learn more visit [seedscience2021.com.au/](https://seedscience2021.com.au/)

### 2021 Volunteer Botanical Training Program goes virtual

Twelve enthusiastic participants from across four states joined Australian National Herbarium botanists for their first ever online version of the annual Botanical Training Program.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the usual 6-7 week in-person program was run as a three-week online program of virtual workshops and presentations covering botanical collections and research projects at the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research along with online projects directly related to real-life work in the Herbarium.

### Conserving *Syzygium paniculatum*, Magenta Lilly Pilly

*Syzygium paniculatum* is a rainforest tree from the New South Wales (NSW) coast listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

The Gardens is partnering with Booderee Botanic Gardens, Wollongong Botanic Gardens, Local Land Services and the NSW government to secure ex-situ collections of this species.



Sabrina Sonntag

Gardens Plant Records Officer, Tamera Beath, assesses seed set and development time of a Magenta Lilly Pilly at Booderee National Park in order to inform seed collecting planning.

A genomic study is underway that will confirm the presence or absence of hybrids and assess genetic diversity across sub-populations. The outcomes of the genomic study will help inform project design and collecting work. Plants

propagated through the project will be shared across botanic gardens within NSW and the ACT.

### Bushfire recovery boost to alpine seed collecting

This past summer season, the National Seed Bank (NSB) gave a boost to its long-time alpine collecting program with extra support provided through projects aimed at bushfire recovery. The NSB team collected a range of bushfire-impacted alpine and subalpine species where it was sustainable to do so. They specifically targeted geographic areas with poor representation in ex situ collections, such as Mt Jagungal, Bogong Peaks and Namadgi National Park. Their efforts also involved collecting species from a greater number of populations to try and increase the genetic diversity currently held in the NSB.

Additional collecting and staff support was made possible by Australian Government funding through Project Phoenix coordinated by Greening Australia, and the Office of Threatened Species Commissioner Tranche 2 Bushfire Recovery, both delivered through the Australian Seed Bank Partnership.



Bronwyn Collins from the Australian National Herbarium (upper left), presents to Botanical Training participants with a virtual background 'out in the field'.



Dave Albrecht

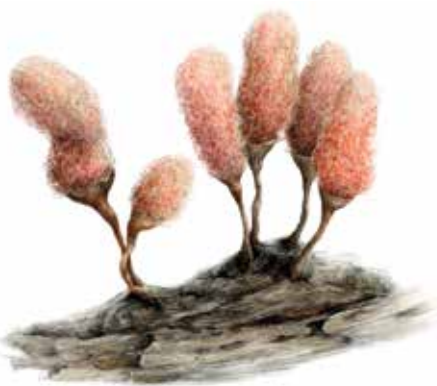
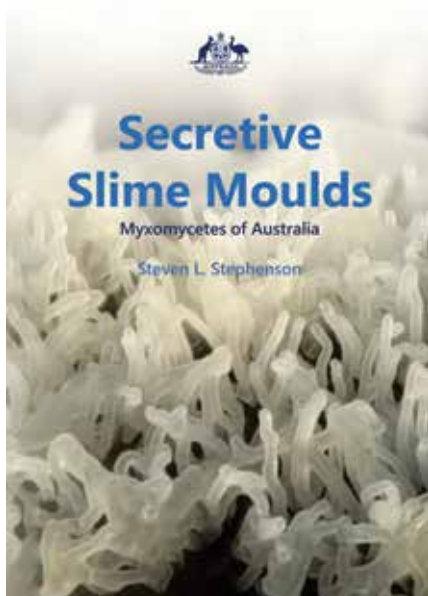
Tom North, Curator National Seed Bank, collecting in Clarke Gorge, Kosciuszko National Park for Project Phoenix.



### Secretive Slime Moulds – new book launched

A new comprehensive description of Australia's 330 known species of Myxomycetes, *Secretive Slime Moulds* features numerous fascinating illustrations where nature rivals Dr Seuss creations. Neither plants, nor animals, nor fungi, the Myxomycetes are a surprisingly diverse and fascinating group of organisms.

This new book by Steven Stephenson and edited by Tony Orchard was published by the Australian Biological Resources Study with CSIRO publishing and released in March this year.



*Arcyria denudata*, a secretive slime mould

### A bequest to protect Australian plants

You can help shape the future of the Gardens through a gift in your Will.

Inspired by Australian Everlasting Daisies, the Gardens Everlasting Circle offers a secure, long-term impact for your gift, with bequeathed funds held in a special Everlasting Fund. Only investment income in the fund is spent on Gardens projects – so the Gardens benefit from your generosity in perpetuity.

The work of the Gardens is more important than ever as together we seek to protect our native plants for future generations. The brochure included in this magazine provides further information on the Gardens Everlasting Circle should this be of interest to you.

### National Seed Bank building design plans and Seed the Future online auction - coming soon

We are excited to report that the design plans for the new National Seed Bank will be released in May.

To coincide with the Gardens releasing the building plans, the Seed the Future online auction will be launched by the National Parks Conservation Trust.

The online auction will engage the community on the important work undertaken at the National Seed Bank to protect Australian plants. Funds raised will help to: purchase specialist equipment for the National Seed Bank; support scientific research to uncover nature's secrets on how to bank, germinate and grow species to enable rewilding; and enable the Gardens to give back to volunteers through enhanced learning and development opportunities.

Stay tuned for further details in the upcoming eBulletin and how to get involved – every donation makes a real difference.

### The Friends 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party: Bubbles, Birthdays and Banksias

The Friends finally held our birthday party, *Bubbles, Birthdays and Banksias* on a balmy spring afternoon in November 2020. The party was postponed from April, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

More than 80 Friends' members gathered on the Education Lawn, which was decorated with balloons, fresh flowers and foliage, and a display of historical photos and documents hung on clotheslines around the lawn.

Guests enjoyed sparkling wine and individual boxes of delicious nibbles. Anne Joyce, a driving force behind the establishment of the Friends, unveiled the birthday cake, a tower of individual birthday cupcakes.



Anne Joyce unveiling the birthday cake

Jim Gould



Christianna Cobold, a member of 30th Anniversary sub-committee, with the birthday cake tower

Helen Dawes

Special guests included 15 Friends Foundation members, 10 Life Members, Dr Judy West, Peter Byron, and David Taylor.

The Friends immediate past President, Max Bourke, and Dr West spoke at the event, and David Taylor gave an interesting introductory talk about the new Banksia Garden.

Guests had the opportunity to explore the newly opened Banksia Garden where David Taylor, along with six Volunteer Guides, helped interpret aspects of the garden.

Friends' member Don Beer agreed to sign his recently released book on the history of the ANBG *Miracle on Black Mountain*.

Elaine Staples, a member of the Friends and an owner of Kerralee Wines, sponsored the event by generously donating the wine. We are most grateful to Elaine for the donation.

The 30th Anniversary sub-committee, who organised this celebration, would like to thank everyone who contributed to its success: those who assisted in the lead-up to the event, those who helped out on the day with set-up and management, our guest speakers, the Volunteer Guides, the photographers, Kerralee Wines, and the Gardens staff. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the help of David More with invitations and IT support and also, Helen Elliot for her help with bookings and banking.

We would also like to thank Council for supporting and underwriting the event and, of course, we thank the Gardens for the wonderful location.

**Barbara Podger, Chair,  
30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sub-committee**

*Members of the Friends Photographic Group, Helen Dawes and Jim Gould, took these and many other photos*



Jim Gould

**Foundation members of the Friends of the ANBG (joined in 1990) at the 30th Anniversary Party with current Friends President, Neville Page:**  
Back row (L to R): Rosemary Purdie, Don Fletcher, Anthony Nicholls, Julia Nicholls, Murray Fagg, (Neville Page), John FitzGerald, Kerry Moir  
Front row (L to R): Kath Holtzapffel, Jenny Hadlow, Barry Hadlow, Anne Joyce, Barbara Duus, Lesley Harland



Jim Gould

**Life Members of the Friends of the ANBG at the 30th Anniversary Party, with current Friends President, Neville Page:**  
Back row (L to R): Kath Holtzapffel, John Connolly, Barbara Podger, (Neville Page)  
Front row (L to R): Marion Jones, Maureen Connolly, Anne Joyce, Warwick Wright, Pat Wright



Helen Dawes

A beautiful evening, celebrating our 30th anniversary with Friends

## What's on at the Gardens - April to August 2021

Details of events are correct at the time of printing. For changes and updates please check the Friends website at [www.friendsanbg.org.au](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au) or the Gardens site at: [www.anbg.gov.au](http://www.anbg.gov.au)  
Event bookings should be made on the Gardens website

### **Secrets of the Australian Bush - A Family Adventure**

**12, 13 & 16 Apr, times vary.** Suitable for 4-10 years with accompanying guardian. \$8 adult, \$5 child, bookings essential

Discover the secrets of plants that live in the Australian bush on this family-friendly bus tour. Travel on the Flora Explorer, walk through the Rainforest Gully, visit the Red Centre Garden and finish at the Paperbark Treehouse.

### **Removing Woody Weeds from Black Mountain and/or within ANBG**

Check Friends website for meeting place for each weeding work party and email your name and phone number to [friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com) or phone Linda (0437 298 711) or Libby (02 6296 1936) so there is enough delicious morning tea.

Saturday 3 April 2021, 8.30 to 11.30am

Saturday 1 May 2021, 9.00am to 12.00

Saturday 5 June 2021, 9.00am to 12.00

Saturday 3 July 2021, 9.00am to 12.00

Saturday 7 Aug 2021, 9.00am to 12.00

### **Heritage Festival - Indigenous Plant Use Walk**

**8 - 23 Apr, days and times vary,** \$5 per person, bookings essential

Enjoy a ranger-guided walk along the Aboriginal Plant Use Trail and learn about the importance of plants to Aboriginal peoples. Discover how they used plants for food, medicine and more. Step back in time and see how the Gardens have transformed over the last 50 years.

### **Magic Garden - Concert as part of the Canberra International Music Festival**

**30 Apr, 11.30 am - 1.00 pm**

\$55 general admission, \$50

Concession, bookings essential

Discover the magic of the Gardens with performances from some of Australia's renowned musicians. As part of the Canberra International Music Festival, this concert leads you through the Gardens' Rainforest Gully, Rock Garden and the new Banksia Garden with musicians at every corner. For more information visit [www.cimf.org.au](http://www.cimf.org.au)

### **Canberra Tree Week - Diversity in Natives**

**1 - 9 May, 11.00 am - 12.00 pm, Free**

Join a guided walk for Canberra Tree Week to see and learn about the diversity of Australian trees.

### **Canberra Tree Week - Haiku Walk**

**5 May, 12.30 pm - 2.00 pm**

\$5 per person, bookings essential

Wander through the Eucalypts and write haiku with local poet, Sarah St Vincent Welch, on a mid-week creative break during Tree Week. Bring along papers, pen or pencils and something to lean on.

### **Canberra Tree Week - Talking with Trees, Artist Walk**

**8 May, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm**

\$5 per person, bookings essential

In conjunction with the Talking with Trees exhibition, join Canberra

interdisciplinary artist Dr Tracey Benson on a 'walkshop' around the Gardens, focusing on walking and connecting to the trees.

### **MEGAfauna - once there were giants!**

**26 Jun - 25 Jul, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm**

Free

Embark on an adventure trail filled with nature, science and history. Come face to face with Australia's prehistoric past by immersing yourself in the Gardens newest Megafauna trail - the first of its kind in Australia.



## Exhibitions

**Visitor Centre Gallery, Open Daily 9.30 am - 4.30 pm, FREE**

***Please confirm dates on either the ANBG or Friends website***

### **3 April - 2 May, From the Desert to the Sea: Botanic Art Groups Exhibition**

The 14th annual Friends' Botanic Art Group exhibition celebrating Australian native flora, including plants from arid areas using watercolours, coloured pencil, graphite, pastels and acrylic paints.

### **5 - 30 May, Talking with Trees**

Artist Tracey Benson seeks to evoke the emotions of reverence, hope and empowerment using photography, video and augmented reality. As part of Canberra Tree Week, the exhibition features historic and contemporary images showing the evolution of our Gardens to a site of understanding of our native flora, as well as a place of reflection, discovery and species protection.

### **2 - 20 June, Into the Wild**

A collection of floral designs created by students in the Floristry Certificate 3 at Canberra Institute of Technology, dedicated to the diversity and range of Australian native wildflowers and foliage.

### **28 July - 15 August, Fruit, Flowers, Feathers & Fur**

An exhibition of botanical and wildlife treasures by four local artists - Wendy Antoniak, Maria Boreham, Cornelia Buchen-Osmond and Vivien Pinder.

## Thursday Talks - April to August 2021

Lunchtime talks are held at 12.30 pm every Thursday from February to November in the Gardens' Theatrette. Talks last for 1 hour. Admission is by gold coin/s donation.

The talks are held in line with COVID-19 guidelines which can change rapidly. Bookings are essential, and the booking link for each talk is on the [www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar) entry for the talk. Bookings can be made from the Friday before the talk until the Wednesday night before the talk.

The Friends of the ANBG thank the speakers who volunteer their time and talents to further the knowledge of all attending events in the Gardens. The Friends use the donations received at each activity to support Gardens programs and development and thank all those who have donated. Please note: unless otherwise indicated, talks are in the ANBG Theatrette. Some summaries or PowerPoint presentations of Thursday talks are available to Friends from the ANBG library. A donation to the Friends for the use of this material will be gratefully accepted. Please direct queries about the talks to the Thursday Talks Team: email [talks@friendsanbg.org.au](mailto:talks@friendsanbg.org.au)

### APRIL

#### Thursday 1 April

##### Dr Heidi Zimmer 'The iconic Wollemi Pine'

Heidi, from the Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research, will talk about her thesis which began with the question: why are there so few medium-sized *Wollemia nobilis* individuals between the seedling and canopy tree size classes (i.e. between 2-20 m in height)?

#### Thursday 8 April

##### Dr Francisco Sanchez-Bayo 'The decline of the entomofauna and its drivers'

Francisco, from the University of Sydney, will talk about the ecological implications of world-wide decline in the biodiversity of insects and the priority actions needed to stem the decline

#### Thursday 15 April

##### Professor Adrienne Nicotra & Dr Veronica Briceno 'Living on the Edge: How do Plants of Threatened Ecological Communities Cope with Extreme Temperature?'

Adrienne, from the Research School of Biology, ANU, will talk on a research partnership between the ANU, ANBG and Friends, the University of Technology Sydney, the Sydney Botanical Gardens, and Save the Species Program, which seeks to provide critical data on the physiological tolerances of Australian native species from alpine, desert and threatened ecological communities.

#### Thursday 22 April

##### David Coutts & David Maxwell 'Ginninderry Conservation Park'

The talk will cover the background to the Park and the plans that are



David Coutts

Murrumbidgee River

currently being put into place by the Trust to preserve and restore the natural environment and cultural values as far as possible in the context of nearby major urban development.

#### Thursday 29 April

##### David Taylor 'Banksia Garden'

David will talk about some of the challenges, thinking, planning and collaboration that has gone into bringing this garden to reality, and why all the effort is worth it.

### MAY

#### Thursday 6 May

##### Dr Chris Cargill 'The 3 R's: Riccia, Riella and Research'

Chris, curator of the cryptogam collections at the Australian National Herbarium, will talk about her latest research on the fascinating and beautiful thalloid liverwort *Riccia*, and her collaborative projects with colleagues from Victoria to Valencia.

#### Thursday 13 May

##### Dr Anna Howe 'Planting Democracy: Plantings, Places and People in the Parliamentary Triangle'

Anna, with a keen interest in urban geography, will ask how the landscape of the Parliamentary Triangle, that expresses our democracy and changing national identity, will evolve when facing increasing and diverse demands.

#### Thursday 20 May

##### Dr Alicia Grealey 'Eggshell Collection Genomics: Approaches and Applications to the Study of Australian Birds'

From her experience as a post-doctoral fellow at ANU, Alicia will talk about developing techniques that offer opportunities to examine how diversity has changed across time. As a post-doctoral fellow at ANU she found that the study of museum eggshells is an untapped resource of genomic information for thousands of avian species including rare and extinct taxa.

#### Thursday 27 May

##### Doug Laing 'Fall of the Warbler'

Doug, a retired diplomat, will talk about the long migration of the sparrow-size wood warblers, many of which make a brief pit-stop to refuel in New York's Central Park before continuing north. In May 2018 Doug was witness to this truly great spectacle. He will describe the experience, wonder at the drivers behind this migration, and look at some of the technology that is helping science better understand it.

## JUNE

Thursday 3 June

### Dr Natasha Robinson 'Reintroducing Bandicoots and Quolls to Booderee National Park'

Natasha is a Research Fellow with the National Environmental Science Program, Threatened Species Recovery Hub. Natasha will talk about mammal species that have been reintroduced to Booderee National Park and what has been learnt so far regarding their ecology and threats to their survival.

Thursday 10 June

### Dr Alexander Schmidt-Lebuhn 'How phylogenies inform biocontrol research'

Alexander, from CSIRO, will talk about evolutionary relationships between native flora and invasive weed species to ensure the safety of biological control measures, particularly of daisies, and an unexpected outcome.

Thursday 17 June

### Member of Orchid Society. 'Australia's Amazing Orchids'

The talk will be about what makes orchids so exceptional, our local orchids and growing orchids in Canberra.

Thursday 24 June

### Leanne Wilkinson 'Watery Goals and Our Way of Life'

Leanne from the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will discuss how the UN Sustainable development goals affect us and why the protection of wetlands is essential to our continued well-being.

## JULY

Thursday 1 July

### Dr Bob Godfree 'How Great Historical Droughts have Shaped Australia'

Bob, a Senior Research Scientist at CSIRO, will talk about his research on the impact of great droughts on Australian people

and landscapes, particularly the 1895-1903 Federation Drought. Lessons learnt give key insights into the likely future of the Australian landscapes and society in coming decades of climate change.

Thursday 8 July

### Peter Taylor 'A re-examination of the 1872 Cape York Expedition'

Peter's presentation will describe William Hann's Northern Expedition that set out to determine the mineral and agricultural potential of Cape York Peninsula and the critical role played by the indigenous guide.

Thursday 15 July

### Dr Liz Truswell 'One small tract of bushland in southwest WA and the fight for its preservation'

In this talk Liz will outline something of the flora she saw in the region of a Karri forest in 2018-2019, and describe the Augusta community's ongoing attempts to preserve a tract of near-pristine bushland.

Thursday 22 July

Check [www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar](http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/calendar) for details

Thursday 29 July

### Linda Groom 'Threatened alpine species: an update on the campaign to save them from feral horses'

Linda, a volunteer with Invasive Species Council's Reclaim Kosci campaign, will talk about some of the Australian alpine plants threatened by feral horses and how those plants function as natural water managers. She will also provide an update on recent developments in the 'Reclaim Kosci' campaign.

## AUGUST

Thursday 5 August

### Professor Andrew Cockburn 'Love Life of Blue Wrens'

Andrew, is an Emeritus Professor at ANU where his research centres on

the evolution of mating systems in birds. DNA fingerprinting of fairy wrens debunked the myth that these birds lived in faithful monogamous pairs. But why are the birds in declining numbers?



Horse-threatened *Ranunculus anemoneus* - Anemone buttercup.

### Friends Benefits

As a Friend you are entitled to:

Three issues of *Fronds* a year

Three hour free parking pass

Discount at:

Botanical Bookshop (most items)

Pollen

Jindii Eco Spa

Cool Country Natives in Pialligo

Australian Choice, Canberra.

Centre

You also receive:

Advance details of lectures

Advance bookings for some events

Discounts on some events

ANBG library membership - borrow

books, serials, videos, DVDs plus use

of computers and interactive CD

ROMs

Function facilities - special rates for

functions at ANBG

And opportunities to:

Join Botanical Art Groups

Growing Friends

Photographic Group

Plant Science Group

Assist with Gardens' research projects

Become a Guide

Relax in the Friends Lounge, Ellis

Rowan Building, open to members

9.30 am to 4.30 pm. and with tea & coffee and lots of interesting reading.



North Ramshead