

Growing Matters

Volume 21 Spring 2019

In the heart of a Kangaroo paw



Friends of Gold Coast
Regional Botanic Gardens Inc.

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Cover Photo:



Early morning dew on Kangaroo Paw. Tiny hairs in the flower hold water in their naturally dry climate. They also deter pests but are soft enough for pollinators. Kate

Image: Darina Nolc

DATE CLAIMERS

- 14th September Australian Plants visit to Griffith Uni. Details P. 10
- 18th September - City of GC Little Nature Lovers for toddlers. Book online www.cityofgoldcoast.com.au/naturallygc
- 27th September 2019
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers
- 15th October Queensland Schools Arbor Day
- 12th October City of Gold Coast Naturally GC Free workshop—Robina. Designing with native plants, understanding plant characteristics and creating a nature inspired garden with Kate Heffernan. Book online. www.cityofgoldcoast.com.au/naturallygc

Is this YOU?

Friends are seeking an enthusiastic volunteer to learn about an interactive software program called Intuiface and to trial it on a dedicated touchscreen computer. The program has the capability via the touchscreen for visitors to swipe and drill down through layers of information to follow their interest in a particular subject. A volunteer with either existing communications or IT skills, or someone who loves to learn, would be ideal to take on this exciting new task on behalf of the Friends.

Contact:
communications@friendsgcrbg.org.au



From the President -

Alex Jakimoff



Have you asked yourself why you are a member and volunteer for Friends ? As a totally voluntary organisation it is vital to keep you fresh, motivated and enjoying your membership.

Well here are 5 good reasons why we choose to volunteer for Friends:

- 1. Volunteers live longer and are healthier !** Yes its true, volunteers are happier and healthier than non-volunteers. In fact, during later life volunteering is even more beneficial for one's health than exercising and eating well.
- 2. Volunteering establishes strong relationships.** While online connections are useful for maintaining existing relationships, they are not very helpful in establishing lasting, new ones.
- 3. Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose.** Although it is not well-understood why volunteering provides such a profound health benefit, a key factor is believed to be that it serves to express and facilitate opportunities to carry out one's sense of purpose.
- 4. Volunteering is good for society.** Mission driven organisations are committed to doing good things for society. They pick up the pieces where government programs leave off, and by volunteering for these organizations, you participate in meeting the needs of people from all walks of life.
- 5. Volunteering is good for your career.** Building relationships that are outside of one's close-knit social network provide access to new information and opportunities. Volunteering has long been viewed as a way to create new connections that lead to career opportunities.

So there you are, you are among the 5.8 million people (over 30% of adults) in Australia participating in voluntary work. And we love you for it !

The Friends are recognized as being a vital contributor to the Gold Coast community. Two of our political representatives have recently been on site in recognition of that. On 4th June the Mayor Tom Tate unveiled new signage outlining the Friends role and the Garden's site history. And on 16th August our local Federal Member of Parliament Angie Bell was hosted by the Friends on a tour of the Gardens.

We were so pleased that on National Tree Day in July over 70 local people participated in our community planting day and installed, mulched and watered over 300 new plants... what a wonderful community event.

Then there are other groups wanting to be involved too. A generous local family donated a series of beautiful butterfly signs for our Butterfly Garden which has greatly enhanced its educational value. And in August the philanthropic gift from a bromeliad plant grower has resulted in an outstanding display of many colourful bromeliad plants in the Lotus Garden.

Our communications team are regularly reaching out to the public, with articles published in our local newspapers and magazines. Local ABC radio station 91.7FM also features interviews with Friend Kate Heffernan .

Every day our enthusiastic Friends Centre volunteers assist visitors with information. Every day visitors enjoy coffees on our verandah, maybe relax on a walk or perhaps learn something new on a guided Friends tour.

The Friends volunteers **are** making a difference to the Gardens and its visitors, our local community, and to ourselves ... so you can be very proud of being a Friends volunteer !

As John F Kennedy famously said in 1961 "*Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country*".



Gardening - Alex Jakimoff

Winter gardening is such a joy in the subtropics with the cool crisp mornings and magnificent mild sunny days. On some “crisp” mornings it’s been so very warming to shovel and wheelbarrow the mulch to garden beds, the steam rising out of the mulch pile as well as our perspiring bodies!

We prepared the Myrtaceae garden for the Community Planting Day in July and were very pleased to welcome over 70 participants, it was exciting to see the National Tree Day event so popular. With over 300 plants put in, mulched and watered this area has been greatly enhanced.

A Bromeliad planting was something different for us with an amazing variety of plant colours and shapes in the Lotus Garden. With some very prickly (and beautiful) specimens among them we really can say that blood, sweat and tears literally went into this planting !

The dry season is here again but our wonderful flowering native plants such as wattles, emu bush, purple pea bush and grevilleas are displaying their blooms. Grass tree flowers are attracting our native bees and other insects, with birds also enjoying the plentiful nectar. Now that the Mangroves to Mountains pathway renovations are complete we can once again move in and maintain the gardens there.

Every week our gardener/photographer Leanne snaps flowers and any wildlife seen, so we’ll miss that during her coming holiday leave !

Also a call out to a few Friends gardeners reporting in unwell - our best wishes and get well soon.

The Gardening group at work before enjoying refreshment on the verandah of the Friends Centre. No, Dick is not feeding the birds no matter how much noise they make. Get well soon all those who have reported in ill health.



Looking for a name Kate Heffernan

Five zones of the **Mangroves to Mountains Transect** have reopened after a brief time with blocked access while path edges were repaired. These five zones are Montane Rockery, Dry Rainforest, Tall-Open Eucalyptus Woodland, Freshwater Wetlands and Open Eucalyptus Woodland. Although there are minor new plantings planned soon to reintroduce some of the shorter lived flowering pea plants in particular, it remains a favourite walk to many Friends and visitors. The area is often inadvertently described as being the Mangroves to Mountains, but is only a small part of the much larger Plant Collection Precinct of that name.

On a recent walk with Gardens Officers it was suggested that as this part of the Gardens is a distinct loop, a specific name which can identify it and which could be incorporated into Interpretation signage would be beneficial. The name needs to reflect the five plant collections. Ideas are welcome, but be quick as the Horticulture Reference Group are already considering a few. Please email to communications@friendsgcrbg.org.au.

A further twelve Zones belonging to the **Mangroves to Mountains Transect**, more commonly called **M to M Trail**, stretch from the Closed Forest Gorge near the Ashmore Road entry to the Gum Tree Corridor. The M to M Trail wanders along wide primary paths and various smaller secondary tracks which allow a closer look at plants and associated signage, especially through the Butterfly Garden, Story of our Country, and also endangered plants which are located throughout the whole Plant Collections. .

These twelve Zones include the **Closed Forest Gorge** and **Gum Tree Corridor**, and also - -

- **Banksia Woodland** (the Wallum is planted, but Wet Heathland is proposed for a later planting)
- **Gold Coast Regional Arboretum** (a collection of mostly rare or special local rainforest trees)
- **Lilli Pilli Walk** (an avenue of various Syzygium species)
- **She Oak Grove** (inspiring part of the M to M Trail where the light and the sound are extra special)
- **Melaleuca Wetland** (features a number of Melaleuca species, from small shrubs to huge trees, all suited to occasional inundation)



Gum Tree Corridor -with summer around the corner what better walk than under the shade of our regions beautiful gum trees. They are displayed by bark type or by the natural ecosystems where they may be found growing.





Butterfly Garden, planted with the support of Gold Coast Bushwalkers and now with colourful butterfly interpretation.



- **Butterfly Garden** (food and nectar plants for butterflies and their larvae)
- **Tristaniopsis Grove** (closely planted to grow into one large canopy)
- **Cultivar Garden** (newly cultivated forms of some of the regions native plants)
- **Acacias** (small representative collection of the regions many wattles)
- **Blackbutt Forest** (a plant community of species which can be found growing in the regions endangered Blackbutt forests and providing an understorey to one of the Botanic Gardens giant gum trees).

A couple of yet to be named Zones including mangrove species will be planted in the future, adding to an exceptional regional collection which isn't duplicated at any other botanic garden.

A number of other key Plant Collections aren't currently included in the M to M Trail, but have a distinctive regional theme and were also mostly planted by Friends, the community and school children. These include the **Regional Tree Families** which line the paths in the Off Leash Dog area, the **Defence Force Grove** featuring local trees which will become giants of the future, **Regional Bushfoods**, **Story of our Country**, **Car Park Gardens** and the **Central Buffer Zone**.

It is rewarding to see the regional collections at our Botanic Gardens rapidly developing into an important Plant Collection which is unique among all other botanic gardens.



Brad's family, seen with Kate and Shelly. Danielle, Bill and Maureen helped install the signs.

Visitors to the **Butterfly Garden** are treated to some fascinating butterfly and caterpillar facts on a series of trail marking signs generously sponsored to honour Brad, Danielle's son, and grandson to Bill and Maureen.

The signs bring a new dimension to the lovely walk past butterfly food and nectar plants.

Brad loved Caper White butterflies which arrive along the coast after migrating from the Great Dividing Range, in search of native Caper plants which are the food plant for larvae. It's fascinating to ponder how these delightful butterflies travel so far and are able to locate specific plants! Hope to locate a local Capparis to plant at the Gardens.





Friends Communication Coordinator Noreen, with daughters Sonya and Elaine planting a lovely advanced Crepe Myrtle. It's next to the seat they donated looking out across the Gardens through the Roses. The seat honours husband and father Tony Swan.



Bec Trevor and Greg Aizlewood in the Lotus Garden. Greg & Narelle Aizlewood are passionate about plants from the family BROMELIACEAE, and generously donated plants to finally complete the understorey of the Lotus Garden. Planned and planted over a year ago, Bec's layout of the Broms put the finishing touches to the garden this month. Bec, from Olive Branch Nursery, is well known for designing Brom gardens at Roma Street Parkland and Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens.



The Lotus Garden design complements the meaning and cultural significance of the Lotus plant, symbolised in the nearby sculpture. Palms were selected which will harden to the semi sun position. Most are uncommon. A wide space was left with only the understorey to maintain views across the lake.

The principal flower theme is red and white. Red for the heart and love, and white for rebirth and purity. The foliage of the Bromeliads brings colour and adds a new focus on the background trees. The Gardens security cameras help protect plants.





Friends have been busy with two major events since the last Growing Matters newsletter. Botanical Bazaar was the most recent event, and is covered in Rana's column. While I was nervous being the curtain raiser for Costa's presentation—good friend Amy McDonald (ABC) relaxed me with her wonderful good humour. Amy has been an active media supporter of the GCRBG for years. And my topic Bushfoods for Gardens was made easier by a suite of images taken at the Bushfoods garden at the GCRBG. This amazing *Syzygium alliiligneum* from the Atherton Tablelands put on a show with its bright red large fruit for a few months. The images inspired interest from the several hundred strong crowd.



Botanic Gardens Day was held in June at the Gardens. It was a crystal clear, bright winter's day and the crowds came in droves to enjoy workshops, displays, presentations, plants and of course Friends famous sausage sizzle ably organised by Santo, seen here with Leanne.

Thanks to Paul Cockbain for picking up the management after only being in the Acting Curators role for a few days.



Flowers by Friends

.. Claudia Knapman

The Botanical Bazaar was the perfect venue to showcase Australian natives and the big event for Flowers by Friends (FbyF) in August. We were delighted with the positive responses of the crowd, many of whom wanted to know more about the flora they bought or saw. Others decided to plant natives on their own properties, after talking to us about which plants provide good cut flora and do well in the Gold Coast and hinterland. Arrangements were sold out just after lunchtime and nuts, vines and palm husks that were part of the display sold also!

FbyF's next big event is the Inaugural Main Beach Spring Flower Festival in Tedder Avenue over two days: the 7th and 8th of September. FbyF will be representing the Friends and, as this article is being written, we are planning our display and sale items with the usual aims of promoting Australian natives and encouraging people to visit the Botanic Gardens.

Our range of items now includes more fresh bunches and has been expanded with dried bunches and decorated, dried wreaths. The various arrangements of stunning flora for table or shelf remain the most popular. Fresh wreaths can be ordered for Christmas.

Dates flowers will be available at the Friends Centre:

Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October

Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd November



Please check the sign at the Friends Centre or ask about flower sale dates in November and December.

Christmas items by order will be available in the week prior to Christmas Day.

**For beautiful Australian flowers, phone us on 0429412968 or 0407580899,
email flowersbyfriends@friendsgcrbg.org.au
or contact us through the Friends' Centre.**

...your passion about the native plants is indeed contagious and you have certainly inspired both of us.

We would certainly like to grow some... (S., August)

I just wanted to send through a message to thank you for the flowers. They're absolutely beautiful and I love them. You've all done an incredible job - thank you so much! (K., June)



Flowers by Friends - Claudia Knapman (cont..)

..... A few of our arrangements at the Botanical Bazaar - all sold !!



For beautiful Australian flowers,
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or contact us through the Friends' Centre.





The Australian Plants group invites all Friends to their September outing:

Prof Catherine Pickering, a botanist and ecologist in the School of Environment and Science at Griffith University, has been showcasing the amazing range of local native plants in cultivation suitable for gardens and landscaping.

She will do a guided walk for us there on Saturday the 14th of September.

We will meet at 2pm by the front entrance to G34 building on campus which is just across the road from the Tram stop by the Hospital.

The walk is nearly all flat and on wide paths, so is easily accessible. There are 250 native plants on campus including more than 20 that are threatened with extinction in the wild. The 'Rare and Threatened Plant Walk' starts from just outside G40, and people doing the short walk can see critically endangered Bottle Trees, the largest terrestrial orchid in Australia, and a native olive that is down to just 17 plants in the wild.

We could then see the new aquatic garden plantings on the way back to the tram stop. By each plant is a sign with a QR code linking to videos about the plants and how we can help protect them in the wild. (There are also good coffee shops etc just by the tram stop that Friends could try out before or after the walk.)

[In addition, Griffith has developed and released a free app with Natura Pacific to help people select the best native plants to use in their gardens. The groNATIVE. app for phones and tablets allows people to find out which of 400 native plants in cultivation to use and grow where they live or select plants by features such as low water use, are hardy, or chose among 16 different styles of gardens to find the plant that will work best with them. Both the gardens and the app were recently featured on Gardening Australia.]

Prof Pickering has over 250 publications including more than 120 published papers on ecology, management of national parks, and more recently on the use of social media and big data to better understand how people use and value nature.



It is 50 years since Essie and John Rosser gifted a large portion of their land to the city for environmental purposes. It was a pleasure for Friends to witness their daughter Gene Rosser, Friends Patron, and long time member of Australian Plants as well as a staunch advocate for the Botanic Gardens unveil the sign, 'A window into the past' with C of GC Mayor Tom Tate. If you haven't read the long and interesting history of the Botanic Gardens site it would be worth a walk to the sign which is adjacent to the north side of the lake near the old boardwalk. Thank you Friends for sponsoring this sign.



FRIENDS NURSERY A VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE Kate Heffernan

I drop by the nursery from time to time – mostly for morning tea or to collect plants or answer a few questions. This allows me the opportunity to observe this industrious group of volunteers on a regular basis.

Their record of producing plants and developing a customer base is growing by the month. A couple of recent sales demonstrate their capacity to fulfil the needs of other organisations. Nine hundred Birdwing Butterfly vines supplied to council to be planted around the city to provide food and habitat for the endangered butterfly. Hundreds of local paper daisies which Natural Areas Management provided to locals, and orders for Griffith University are also commonplace.

Monthly plant sales attract new and regular customers and gradually that customer base is expanding as gardeners recognise that Friends Community Nursery has local species as well as a small range of old fashioned cottage style plants and herbs—small, healthy plants at prices they can afford. Event sales are always excellent—with the recent Botanical Bazaar an outstanding result. Preparing for off site events is monumental to say the least. This year I was with the Nursery volunteers sorting and labelling tray after tray of plants and helping transport to Nerang. Fortunately good sales meant the return trip was easier. The group were grateful the marquee was set up and additional help from Rotary who loaned a utility and Alex, Greg and Rana who helped us shift plants and gear. Jenny, Marion, Leah and Lyn also transported plants. A job shared and well done!

The nursery also sources or grows plants for the Botanic Gardens Plant Collection, and are always on the lookout for the rare and difficult to source plants. While the main volunteer day is Friday, someone from the nursery calls in almost daily to check on watering and more recently to check for plant damage from hungry possums! Emergency wire covers had to be installed over some benches recently. And the layout is being assessed and altered to improve the process of propagation, through hardening off, to semi sun and then full sun. Yes, literally every plant gets moved, moved again and then again.

Kerrii, Alan and Paul are regular checkers, while Jenny does the same when not travelling. It's a full-on job I can appreciate along with Friends President Alex, from our years in nurseries!

The nursery site is in an awkward location for access for Friends volunteers and even more so for customers. And it's also on a slope which drains excess irrigation to its access gate. But it still works well because of the commitment of the volunteers. I know they are all very grateful for the Gardening teams recent efforts to improve the movement of water, and their safety by installing additional drainage.



Left : Alan and Leah setting out the plant display for Botanical Bazaar.

Below : Socialising and feasting at Leah's after a morning at the Nursery. We enjoyed a tour of Leah's garden and were introduced to some useful and novel garden ideas.



FRIENDS NURSERY A VIEW FROM THE OUTSIDE continued

The Nursery volunteers are, like other Friends, great travellers. Coordinator Kerrii and husband Mike will be on their way to Budapest and the United Kingdom about the time GM arrives in your inbox. Jenny and husband Lawrie travel the length and breadth of Australia and also spend time at their north coast NSW holiday home. Nothing stops Jenny, and also Alan from their constant search for seeds of local species, and along with Kerrii they also propagate and grow plants at home. Evelyn and husband Bob are off to Spain. Poul has just returned from Denmark. This means the load is shared across all members, and the newer members are equally active and committed.

Alan and I made two visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and the Friends Nursery last week. Their set up is excellent, and their propagation routines work well. One of their volunteers showed us around.



Friends of RBG Sydney retail nursery area

Left : plants are all identified for browsing customers. Above : the bench is just for potting on occasionally, or when customers need to be shown the technique. A more dedicated propagation area is located in another part of the Gardens

The GCRBG Friends nursery has had a bit of a face lift today, with benches moved and a seed propagation bench built from recycled materials. From my view the Nursery does a great job !!

Communications

We hope members appreciated the eNews which was emailed out earlier in August. Thanks to Chris Brun for her patient work on this first issue. Its important for Friends members to learn about opportunities to attend events and learn important news as its current. The objective of eNews is to briefly outline what's about to happen. The first issue was packed more than expected as there was so much happening. Keep an eye on your inbox.

We also have just completed our very first Travelogue. It features the travels of the Reillys, Leanne Ware and the many travels of Kate in 2018.

We hope you enjoy reading these productions and adding some of your own words and photos to both in the future.

The eNews is called



and the travelogue is:

Friends botanic travels. Around Australia and the world

Noreen Swan

Communications Coordinator



Education matters Rana Baguley

The winter holiday program was another success for Friends, even though we did have one activity cancelled because of rainy weather! Our bird discovery walk is always popular and led by experts in their field.

Botanica Quest... Dare to Discover is also a popular activity with lots of kids and their carers exploring the Gardens to solve their quests!

For the upcoming spring holidays, there will be another three fun activities giving children 5 - 12 years the opportunity to explore the natural world. Please see the poster for these events.

Little Nature Lovers is a free activity for 3 - 5 year olds and continues on 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10:00 - 11:00am. Bookings can be made on the following site:

www.eventbrite.com.au/naturallygc

The Grevillea display in the Friends Centre was well viewed! 'Wattles in the Gardens' is now displaying to coincide with National Wattle Day on 1 September. Thanks to the Herbarium group who supplied much of the display along with the pressed sprigs of wattle for visitors to the Friends Centre. This will be a short display and will be replaced by 'Endangered Plant Species in the Gardens' in early September as Endangered Species week is observed. Visitors will have the opportunity to observe the display and to go on a self-guided walk of the Endangered Plant Interpretive Trail in the Gardens.

Botanical Bazaar ... Gardening and Sustainability Festival

As Friends Coordinator of the Botanical Bazaar, it was very rewarding to see the success of the three exhibits that Friends provided and the presentations. This was only possible because of the huge commitment of Friends in the preparation leading up to event, the day itself with around 20 Friends volunteers being rostered on with the Plant Nursery and Gardens promotion, Flowers by Friends and Native Bee Display.

The Nursery marquee was one of the busiest marquees at the Festival, where the public could, not only buy plants at very reasonable prices, but also be given advice about our regional native plants and find out more about what Friends offer.

There appears to be a renaissance for native plants knowing how sustainable and beautiful they are!

Flowers by Friends created a stunning display of arrangements and bunches of Australian native plants which sold out! Claudia Knapman also presented a workshop on using native flowers for arranging. There was always a crowd at the Native Bee Display as people were inquisitive to find out more about these stingless bees.

Kate Heffernan's presentation on the main stage about 'Growing Bush Foods in your own Garden' was very well attended and very topical given that our Bush Food Garden is thriving.

Friends were very happy to partner with the Rotary Club of Gold Coast and Stacey Panozzo, as organisers of this event, to promote the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, Friends, gardening and sustainability. The whole festival had a great vibe and the thousands of people who attended had a wonderful day out!

Rana Baguley





Volunteer Garden Guides with Shelly Kelly

There have been many highlights during our last 3 months of guiding at the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. We have experienced record numbers attending the guided walks, particularly those walks connected with our indigenous use plants and Yugambah stories. However, a guided walk in the Rotary Sensory Garden recently was the most rewarding.

Three visually impaired students and their wonderful carers from Labrador State School excitedly arrived at the Sensory Garden shelter where the beautiful “Quilt of Diversity” ceramic mosaic artwork is positioned. The leading artist Midge Johansen and the multicultural group of emerging artists who created this artwork would have been delighted at the sight of the children’s searching hands feeling the intricate design of their much admired work. (The Quilt of Diversity is a mosaic depicting the 5 senses that form the design elements of the Sensory Gardens).

The happy threesome of Kaylah, Sunny and Aston loved every minute of their discoveries. Their smell, sound, taste and touch senses were working overtime as was their imagination. It was wonderful to see our young visitors enjoying nature in the safe and tactile environment of the gardens with the sounds of the local wildlife adding to their experience.

Our “Indigenous Use of Bush Foods and Flora” guide Sally-Anne has now added the Display, Rose and Sensory Gardens into her new specialised walk. Sally-Anne is in our volunteer gardening group where she oversees the Rose Garden. I am very grateful to her for all the updates on information and plantings in these gardens.

Gerard’s “Yugambah - the Story of our Country” walk in July attracted 37 walkers and Kate’s and Sally-Anne’s recent walks to and in the Bush Foods Garden were also large numbers.

We are looking forward to the visit on 5th September of 30-40 guides from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens. A bush tucker morning tea is planned before guided walks to the Story of our Country and Bush Foods gardens.

Thank you to our wonderful group of dedicated guides who have put so much time into research for their guided walks - this is what makes us a top team. The comments left in the Visitors’ Book in the Friends’ Centre after a guided walk attest to this.

To find out more about the rewarding world of guiding or if you have any enquiries or wish to book a group walk, please ring 0449 561 674 or email info@friendsgcrbg.org.au



Gerard guiding a group of Brisbane visitors



Visually impaired schoolchildren with their carers



THE ROTARY SENSORY GARDEN

The Sensory Garden was a joint project between the Gold Coast City Council and Rotary International and celebrates the Centenary of Rotary. Clubs in District 9640, which encompasses Glen Innes to Goondiwindi to Gold Coast, raised funds for the project. The “first sod” was turned in February 2005 and the finished Sensory Garden was opened on June 20th 2006. It was Stage 1 of the Master Plan’s Horticultural Display Gardens.

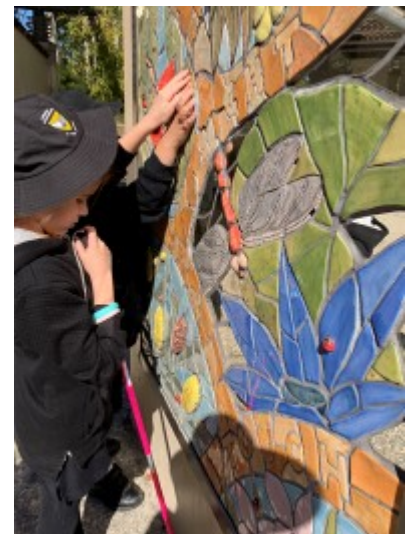
The garden looks at how we use our senses when we visit a garden. Designed for easy navigation by people with disabilities, the raised beds are surrounded by wide sandstone walkways.

There are 5 trails that start outside the shelter - laid out like the petals of a flower or the fingers of a hand.

Each trail explores one of the 5 senses -

TOUCH, TASTE, SIGHT, SMELL and SOUND.

At the suggestion of the Royal Blind Society, Rotary commissioned five “feel-able” statues to complement the sensory plants. A splendid pelican stands at the midpoint of the “Sound” trail indicative of the many water birds that visit the gardens. A smaller platypus lies on the sandstone fringe of another garden, closer to the water. The koala, kangaroo and wombat were the final sculptures unveiled. After all these animals once inhabited our gardens and sight impaired people derive much pleasure from tracing their surfaces.



‘IN THE COMPANY OF TREES’

The U.S. poet Mary Oliver (1935-2019) wrote a poem titled, “In the Company of Trees”.

I would like to quote a section of her poem here:

**Around me the trees stir in their leaves
And call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.**

**And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light and to shine.”**

Recently I have added in a walk to the collection of Guided walks offered at the Gardens. This walk is titled, “In the Company of Trees”. The description associated with this walk reads: *experience inner peace in the company of trees by slowly walking a spiral pattern in the area in the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens known as the Honeyeater Green (in front of the Friends Centre). Learn about spiral patterns in nature and the cosmos, and about some of the trees around us in the walk.* While the walk certainly informs participants about the botanical aspects of the trees in the walk, and related biodiversity aspects, it also draws on poetry and the experience of peaceful walking in nature.

For many years I have loved spiral patterns, a pattern originally found carved on rocks and stones in ancient cultures including Celtic, Scandinavian and our own Indigenous cultures. Complex mathematical equations can explain the spiral pattern but a spiral is essentially a curving line emanating from a fixed point, the wider the curve, the further away from the fixed point. You might like to think of the spiral pattern to be found in a nautilus shell.

Walking a spiral set amongst trees in the Botanic Gardens is an apt thing to do as the pattern is found extensively in nature, in plants, animals, the earth, and the spiral curling galaxies of outer space. There are sunflower seed spirals, vine tendril spirals, spiral shells, the spiral pattern of a pine cone. The tiny creamy bee and bird attracting flowers of the spear of the grass tree blossom in a spiral pattern, as do the unfurling petals of many other flowering plants. The screw pine spirals forth as its leaves reach for the sun. Spirogyra algae found in freshwater environments are named for their beautiful spiral filaments, and the double helix of the DNA molecule spirals. Vincent Van Gogh’s stars and suns and moons shimmer in spiral patterns in his paintings. One of the amazing Australian native sugar bag bee species, the tetragonula carbonaria builds its hive upwards in a unique spiral pattern. The Tweed Caldera geological formation arcs in a sweeping series of mountain ranges, from Byron Bay in the South, to Currumbin on the Gold Coast. The Caldera has a series of inner rings which have been described as spiralling to the central peak of Wollumbin, Mt Warning. Personally I have walked in the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens and delighted in the sight of bark peeling in curling spirals from the swamp tea trees along the Tristaniopsis Grove.



(Continued on page 18)



(Continued from page 17)

Slow walking amongst trees is recognised by many as a very healthy practice, lowering our heart rates, inviting us to breathe deeply. Who does not feel the joy and benefit of this, mentally, physically and spiritually as we bask in the peace in the presence of trees? Mary Oliver's imaginative poetic observation that trees call out to us - "Stay awhile" is a lovely way to express this.

Currently I set up the spiral walk directly in front of the cluster of the brush box trees located on the NW side of the Honeyeater Green. I use cloths that I carry around in a tote bag, so my spiral is a 'temporary' one; I gather up the cloths at the end of the walk. I tell the story of the trees and other plants in the vicinity of the walk, including the casuarina trees, the swamp banksias, the sugar bag bee hives.

The walk is also located within the curvature of the melaleuca paperbarks on the Northern side of the Honeyeater Green. These trees are distinctive for their white, beige, grey papery bark, their eucalyptus scented leaves. In late summer when these paperbarks are in bloom they will be filled with birds.

Across the Green from the walk there are the Grevillea trees in the garden beds below the Friends Centre. So too is the pink bloodwood tree located here with its large leaves and drooping branches, its deep pink blossoms when in bloom.

Above the Friends Centre, the broader vista of some of the tallest trees in the Gardens including the blackbutt tree make a lovely view as one walks the spiral and for a brief time faces South across the Green.

Mary Oliver's insight that we have come into the world to delight in the company of trees has taken on new meaning for me in my association with the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. It is my hope that the opportunity to bring this walk into the Gardens will inspire others to fall in love with trees and to spend more time in their presence. Thank you to Shelley, Kate and Noreen who have supported me in developing the walk and in finding a suitable title and description for it.

Judith Keller
Guide GCRBG.



Carpenter Bee appreciates its home in a tree hollow



Hollows make good homes

The possum photo was taken here at the gardens. A possum had moved into a broken old bird habitat box in the Myrtaceae area as the lid had fallen off.

Habitec made a new more suitable possum home out of a hollow log and placed it near by. The Possum liked the new home and moved in, a good news story.

Wendy Lamp
Senior horticulturist

Photos provided by Habitec



How *Hakea plurinervia* F.Muell. ex Benth.

became *Hakea benthamii* I.M Turner

Recently the Herbarium group were remounting an old specimen and to get the name and author correct we looked up the Queensland Herbarium Plant Name Census 2018 version. To our surprise the name previously used *Hakea plurinervia* was not listed.

We knew this was a local Queensland plant, so where had it gone?

The red covered copy of *Mangroves to Mountains* had it listed, but the latest black covered copy showed it as *Hakea benthamii* previously *Hakea plurinervia*.

So, what happened to cause the change? A Google search turned up the answer.

It seems that taxonomists have difficulty checking that their proposed new name has not been used before. All the names of existing plants are pretty well listed and published on a number of websites - easy to search. But there are also paleobotanists busily naming fossils; and their lists are not as well documented and published. They're advancing quickly, and a number of organisations are getting them up on to the web.

Here's where Mr I M Turner has been working, and he did a search in 2014 and came up with quite a list of names that had been reused. If the paleo naming occurred before the extant naming, the paleo took precedence, and he gave the extant plant a new name. *Hakea plurinervia* had been used before, so he called it *Hakea benthamii*.

In his 2014 work there were 24 Australian plants in the list, including the following -

Acacia exilis Maslin has been replaced by *Acacia exigua* I.M.Turner

Acacia gracillima Tindale replaced by *Acacia minniritchi* I.M.Turner

Acacia brachycarpa Pedley replaced by *Acacia neobrachycarpa* I.M.Turner

Acacia rigida Maslin replaced by *Acacia neorigida* I.M.Turner

Grevillea coriacea McGill. replaced by *Grevillea mcgillivrayi* I.M.Turner

Grevillea dissecta (McGill.) Olde & Marriott replaced by *Grevillea neodissecta* I.M.Turner

Grevillea rigida Olde & Marriott replaced by *Grevillea neorigida* I.M.Turner

Grevillea rigida ssp. *distans* Olde & Marriott replaced by *Grevillea neorigida*

ssp. *distans* (Olde & Marriott) I.M.Turner

Hakea plurinervia F.Muell. ex Benth. replaced by *Hakea benthamii* I.M.Turner

Hakea spathulata (Benth.) R.M.Barker replaced by *Hakea neospathulata* I.M.Turner

Ref: Australian Systematic Botany Society Newsletter No 164, September 2015 pp16

Peter Reilly

Herbarium Group

27 July 2019



'once called *Hakea plurinervia* now *H. benthamii*'



Birds of the Gardens 19 - Jenny Rosewell

Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

A very interesting foreign visitor, the Latham's snipe, also known as the Japanese snipe, migrates to Australia from Japan for the southern summer. We are privileged to have some of these unusual birds choose our Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens for their stop over.

Latham's snipe is the largest of the three snipe (also Pintailed and Swinhoe's) found in Australia. With boldly patterned black, brown and white plumage, it is easily recognisable with its long, straight, tapering bill and large eyes set well back on the head. The wings project well past the tail giving it a pointed look, a distinguishing feature from other snipes. Both sexes are similar, with the female being slightly larger. Unlike most migratory waders, Latham's snipe do not show a lot of seasonal colour variation.



Found seasonally in eastern Australia as far south as Tasmania, they pass through the north in passage. They inhabit soft, wet ground and shallow water of freshwater wetlands such as rivers, lakes and swamps as well as brackish and saline areas. They are usually found singly or in small groups. Here in the Gardens the Latham's snipe can be found in the quieter lagoon areas during the warmer months. It is easier to spot during drier weather when it ventures further out on to the muddy flats to feed. Feeding on seeds and other plant material as well as invertebrates including earthworms, beetles, spiders and molluscs, snipe feed by thrusting their long beak up and down into the mudflats or shallow water in search of food.

They normally feed at dawn and dusk and often into the night, roosting during the day.

Hiding in the grass and waterside weeds, the Latham's snipe is remarkably difficult to see. It is well camouflaged, more often found by flushing it from the undergrowth while walking along waterways. Snipe are very shy and wary and burst from cover when disturbed, with a very fast zig-zagging flight, dropping quickly back to cover.

Latham's snipe breed in Japan and the eastern Asian mainland during the northern summer. The males have spectacular display flights, rising in the air and then diving to the ground, also drumming in courtship. The female makes a nest by lining a small depression in the ground with grasses and leaves. She incubates a clutch of four eggs that are then raised by the male.

Every August and September thousands of Latham's snipe migrate approx 8000km from Hokkaido in northern Japan to Australia, taking approx two days. They summer here, feeding in shallow wetlands along the eastern seaboard building strength. In March and April they begin leaving to go back to Japan for breeding. They leave in ones and twos rather than forming large flocks. We suspect the Latham's snipe here in the Gardens is an all year visitor.

In Australia it used to be hunted as a game bird, but is now completely protected.

Drainage and flood mitigation may have caused a decline in numbers in recent years. Latham's snipe are listed as threatened due to their staging locations (the places that they refuel on their migration) dwindling due to land reclamation or being developed for industrial development along the Asian coast. Also with rising sea levels these low-lying wetlands are being inundated. Since these staging areas have been threatened, birds have been arriving at their breeding grounds exhausted, with some dying, so making breeding limited. Sadly this is the same result for their journey back to Australia.

A new member of our bird group, Geraldine, has been involved in the Latham's Snipe Project in Victoria and has now registered the GCRBG as a site for collection of data. She will be completing surveys on numbers in Sept, Nov and Jan to help gain valuable knowledge of overall migration patterns for these unusual birds.



ROSE GARDEN

Sally-Anne Simankowicz

The end of July heralded the time for the annual winter prune of the Rose Garden.

This year we were accompanied by Grace and Robert Warren, President and Secretary of the Gold Coast Rose Society. We were delighted they accepted our invitation and thoroughly enjoyed their company and knowledgeable assistance.

Discussion with Council on ways to further improve the soil was held after tests showed it to be still heavy and with low oxygen levels. Friends and Council put in a lot of hard work over the next two week period.

- ◆ Firstly Organic Link fertiliser and a layer of sand was spread as the Bed was dug over and then left to aerate for the next week.
- ◆ The bushes were sprayed with Lime Sulphur for pest control.
- ◆ As the Bed was dug over again a layer of Gypsum powder/granules and compost was spread.
- ◆ Finally a good layer of Sugarcane Mulch was added.

The roses are already responding beautifully with lush new foliage helped by the warm August weather we've been having. We're looking forward to a bountiful display of flowers in time for the free and booked groups Spring Guided Walks in September.



Image taken by Harbhajan Singh on Sally-Anne's mobile



Costa the garden gnome. Image: taken at Botanical Bazaar by Claire Baguley

Sulphur crested cockatoos are clever birds and deal with urbanisation to satisfy their needs.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/offtrack/clever-cookies->





Friends Centre Paula Wu Friends Centre Coordinator

We are open from 10am to 2pm everyday

The Friends Centre is the garden's information hub
and should be your first port of call.
Come and see our Friends Centre Volunteers to help you find your way



Information you will find at the Friends Centre:

- Map of the Gardens
- Brochures on Friends Guided walks, climate watch projects, NaturePlay passport quest,
- Kaialgumm Games and other children's activities
- Flyers on upcoming events and activities
- Fact sheets on the plants and wildlife in our gardens
- Friends information brochure and membership forms
- Display - All about Wattle is the current display

Friends Centre activities:

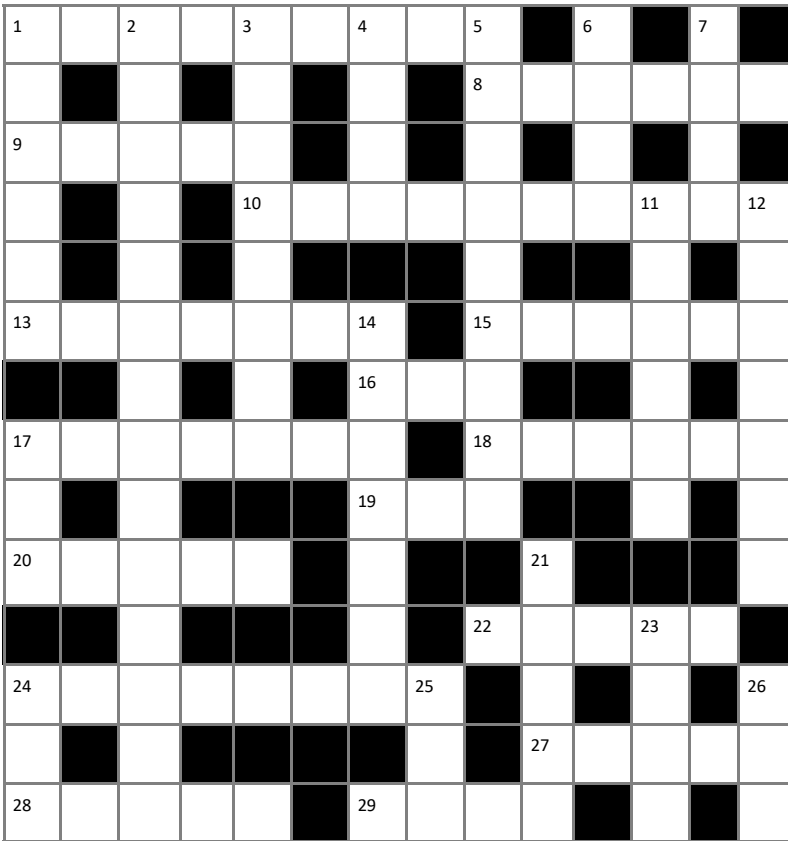
- A regular meeting place for all Friends Activity Group
- A base for events and activities in the Gardens
- A venue for small workshops

Merchandise: what's for sale at the Friends Centre?

- ◇ BellArt Designs: Floral Emblems Gift tag wallet, Aroma BLOQ infusers, Botanic coasters
- ◇ Beeswax candles & Local Honey
- ◇ Books: bees, birds, bushwalks, butterflies, frogs, plants local species and identification
- ◇ Botanical bookmarks and paintings
- ◇ Enviro vegie bags & craft items by Margaret Morley
- ◇ Fine china mugs, Grevillea by Myall Park Botanic Garden
 - (Catalogue available to order extended range)
- ◇ Gift cards including photos taken by our members in the Gardens
- ◇ Native spices & seasonings, jams & flower extracts & organic teas
- ◇ Plants: variety of pot sizes, from the Friends Nursery volunteers
- ◇ Pottery based on leaves of plants in our Gardens by Helen Parer



Dick's Challenge #17



Across

1. French explorer who arrived at Botany Bay 1788
2 words)
8. Edible herb related to shallots (plural)
9. A white barked gum prevalent in the outback
10. To move or transfer a plant
13. Brown Snake common on the Gold Coast
15. Cacti defence
16. Fire dangerous insect from South America
17. Don reforming South Australian premier of the 60's and 70's
18. Texan city on Mexican border (2 words)
19. A branch or inlet of an estuary or river
20. An earthy pigment
22. A food flavouring
24. A richly coloured timber and a Bremer Valley town
27. .A sweet edible fruit
28. A desert water source
29. Lucky leaved clover

Down

1. A group of food plants including beans and lentils
2. The process by which a plant harnesses energy from sunlight
3. Island west of Perth, home to the Quokka
4. A fertiliser and stock food supplement
5. A community of organisms living in a particular area
6. An annual herb of the celery family
7. A plant that reproduces via spores
11. A plant which completes its life cycle in one growing season
12. A grass which grows in a clump or tuft
14. A town of the South Burnett close to Kingaroy
17. Humpty ... town south of Darwin
21. Lily, Doryanthes of the montane
23. Grim. Extreme NW of Tasmania
24. Grande, river on which 9 across is situated
25. Batman and Robin, the dynamic
26. Colour of Anzac poppy

Solution on back page



Archives

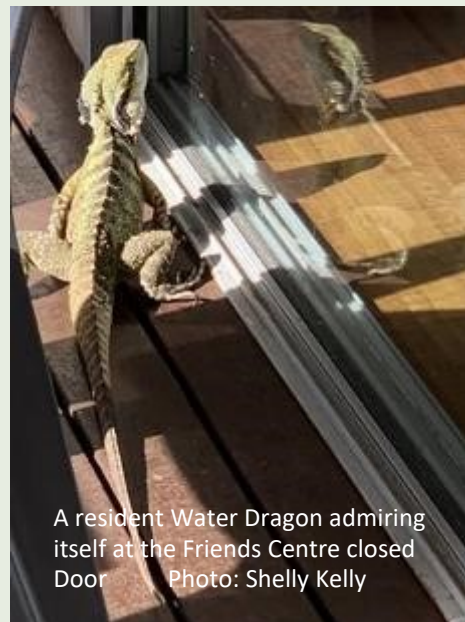


The Friends archives constitute a collection of materials in all forms to preserve a record of our Association and its vital contribution to the City of Gold Coast. Our archivist, Helena Kelso, and several Friends members also belong to the Garden History Society and understand the importance of well documented and stored garden records. Helena asks if all members could contribute any news clippings, photos (digital or otherwise), video clips, pod casts or any other material that should be archived.

This material is being kept safely in anticipation of a permanent home at the Biodiversity Centre in years to come and is also supplied to the John Oxley Libraries historical records.

Helena Kelso, archivist

Please keep this archive collection growing.....
information contact: info@friendsgcrbg.org.au



A resident Water Dragon admiring itself at the Friends Centre closed Door Photo: Shelly Kelly

Dick's Challenge # 17

Solution

Across 1. La Perouse 8. Chives 9. Ghost 10. Transplant
13. Eastern 15. Spines 16. Ant 17. Dunstan 18. El Paso
19. Arm 20. Ochre 22. Spice 24. Rosewood 27. Apple
28. Oasis 29. Four **Down** 1. Legume 2. Photosynthesis
3. Rottnest 4. Urea 5. Ecosystem 6. Dill 7. Fern
11. Annual 12. Tussock 14. Nanango 17. Doo 21. Spear
23. Cape 24. Rio 25. Duo 26. Red

REFRESHMENTS, ICECREAMS. HIGH TEAS

Visit Jason and Samantha at Coffee at the Gardens to partake of their delightful cuisine.

Open from 9.00am on the verandah of the Friends Centre.

Bookings for groups can be made or just pop by for an enjoyable break.

Coffee at the Gardens

Proudly supported by

CITY OF
GOLDCOAST.

Our thanks to Gold Coast City Council for their continued assistance with this Newsletter.

