

# NATURELINK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA INC.

VOLUME 27 : 1 | AUTUMN 2020



*Hakea francisiana*, Mabel Brouwer's garden, Horsham, Vic. Photo: Alexandra Stalder



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Inc no. A0025281B, ABN 43 551 008 609 Web address: [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)  
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# Afternoon Talk - 'Rooftop Gardens' with Associate Professor Nicholas Williams

## EVENTS

As our population increases and the buildings in our cities become denser, where are we going to put the wonderful gardens and landscapes that are so important for many reasons? One answer is on the roof.

We have one of Australia's leading protagonists for rooftop gardens coming to Cranbourne to provide us with the latest information on gardens for your roof. Nick Williams is from School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne, and is based at its Burnley Campus. Nick and his research team have developed excellent knowledge of the best techniques, plant species, soils and substrates to use when creating a garden on a roof.

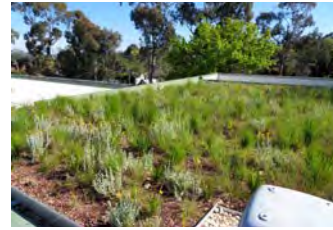
The University of Melbourne is a leader in researching and implementing green roofs, which are set to become part of Melbourne's booming skyline. The number of green roofs built in Australia remains low compared to similar countries in Europe and North America. Recently the University of Melbourne partnered with the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and the City of Melbourne on a research project to retrofit the building that houses the office of the Victorian Premier, with a green roof (see picture).

The Green Roof project at 1 Treasury Place promotes green infrastructure for greening and cooling, and assists in making Melbourne more comfortable in heat events as well as helping to bring nature into the city. A portion of the green roof will be devoted to research and will be designed by researchers at the University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the project architects, Aspect.

Green roofs can use storm water and reduce building energy use by saving on heating and cooling costs. Currently the City of Melbourne is looking into practical aspects of encouraging the planting of more roof gardens in high-density urban areas. Collectively roof gardens can cool the surrounding landscape, reduce the air-conditioning needs of other buildings, and foster biodiversity.

Nick has an important link to RBGV in that he was one of the first appointments to the ARCUE (Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology) that was established in 1998 as a division of RBGV.

Make sure that you do not miss this special Cranbourne Friends event. Book now!



Green roof, Child care centre, Minifie Park (North Balwyn).



Roof at Burnley campus, University of Melbourne. Photos: City of Melbourne



Bottom, Green Roof project at 1 Treasury Place. Photo: Helen Page

**Sun 19  
April  
1.30pm for  
2pm start**

Auditorium

Members  
\$20  
Non-  
members  
\$25  
Students \$10

**Contact:**  
Rodger Elliot  
[rgelliot@  
optusnet.  
com.au](mailto:rgelliot@optusnet.com.au)  
or  
8774 2483

Please book  
via the  
booking form

**We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians  
of the land on which we work and learn,  
the peoples of the Kulin (Koolin) Nation,  
and pay our respects to their Elders past,  
present and future.**

## Place the dates in your diaries now

NB: This calendar may be subject to change.  
Open House events are for Friends Members only.

## MARCH

**Sunday 1 March:**

Workshop: Bonsai with  
Australian native plants

**Thursday 12 March:**

Open House, Elliot Centre

**Sat/Sun 14 & 15 March:**

Autumn Plant Sale

**Tuesday 24 March:**

Friends visit to *Australian  
Plants Revealed* exhibition, at  
Maroondah Federation Estate,  
Ringwood.

## APRIL

**Thursday 9 April:**

Open House, Elliot Centre

**Sunday 19 April:**

Afternoon Talk: Rooftop  
Gardens - Dr Nick Williams

**Tuesday 28 April:**

Discovery Day: Bushland Flora  
and Kurunga Nursery

**28 April - 19 May**

Sicily tour

## MAY

**Sunday 3 May:**

Annual Lunch - Speaker Millie  
Ross

**Thursday 14 May:**

Open House, Elliot Centre

**22-25 May 2020 AAFBG**  
Biennial Conference Celebrating  
250 years of Botanical friends  
in Brisbane

**30 May - 9 June:**

North Queensland Tour

## Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Cranbourne Friends was held on Sunday 17 November 2019 in the RBGV Auditorium.

After the presentation of the President and the Treasurer reports for the year, an election was held, where two new committee members were elected: Erin Cosgriff and Jennifer Potten. Welcome!

The contribution was noted of long-serving Committee members who retired at the AGM: Karen Russell, Helen Morrow, Christine Kenyon and Indra Kurzeme.

An Honorary Life Membership of the Cranbourne Friends was awarded to former treasurer Karen Russell. Helen Morrow outlined the service Karen has given to the Friends over the years. Karen first assisted with the Friends' finances in 2003, and then took over the role of Treasurer in 2005. A retired Accountant and Auditor, she has used her considerable expertise over the years to reorganise the Friends finances to today's professional standard; she also brought her expertise to the massive job of redrafting the Friends *Rules* to be compliant with a new Act and Regulations covering Incorporated groups like the Friends.

An overview of 2019 at the Cranbourne Gardens, provided by Executive Director, Chris Russell, was followed by a fascinating talk by guest speaker AB Bishop, on 'The Incredible Story of the Bullock Butterfly'. AB is a well-known horticulturalist, conservationist and habitat consultant, who 'lives in the bush' - an environmental living zone which protects native flora and wildlife - and is a published author.



New Friends Committee members Jenny Potten and Erin Cosgriff.



Karen Russell receives the Life Membership award.

## Australian Plants Revealed

April 2020 will mark the 250th Anniversary of Lieutenant James Cook and crew reaching the east coast of Australia in *HMS Endeavour*. Plants collected during the voyage up the east coast by naturalist Joseph Banks and botanist Daniel Solander were taken to London for classification and scientific study.

The **Australian Plants Society - Victoria** has organised three significant events:

- 17th February to 17th April 2020 - ***Australian Plants Revealed: 65,000 years of traditional plant use and 250 years of science.*** Maroondah Federation Gallery, 32 Greenwood Ave. Ringwood, Vic.  
Open weekdays, 9am to 5pm. Saturdays, noon to 4pm.
- 18th February to 18th April 2020 - ***Australian Plants Revealed: highlighting Banksias and Unique Australian Flora.*** Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden and Nursery, 1190 Mount Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama, Vic.  
Open Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. Saturday and Sunday, 1pm to 4pm.
- Saturday 28th March 2020 - ***Ringwood Keynote Lectures: Indigenous Plant Uses- About Banks and Solander.*** Maroondah Federation Gallery, 32 Greenwood Ave. Ringwood, Vic. 1.45 pm for 2.00 pm prompt start-Booking essential.

At the Keynote lectures, two speakers will feature:

- **Bruce Pascoe**, an Aboriginal man of Bunurong/Tasmanian heritage, author of the landmark book *Dark Emu* on Aboriginal land management and agriculture, will speak on how the First Nations' peoples used and farmed plants.
- **Professor Tim Entwisle**, Director and Chief Executive, RBGV, will speak about Joseph Banks who financed and participated in the 1770 collections.

All events are free. Bookings for the lectures are essential and will open mid-February. To find out more or book, visit: [apsvic.org.au/banks-solander-events](https://apsvic.org.au/banks-solander-events).

*The Cranbourne Friends has organised a group visit to the Australian Plants Revealed exhibition and picnic on Tuesday 24 March. See the previous issue of Naturelink for further information.*



*Banksia serrata*, by Sydney Parkinson, 1745-1771.



## Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday March 14 and Sunday March 15, 2020.

Come along and select from a range of plants, many of which you will find in the Australian Garden at Cranbourne.

Available: grasses, rushes, strappy plants, climbers, groundcovers, indigenous plants, bushfood, small and large bushes and trees.

The plant list will be available one week before the sale at [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

Red-capped gum (*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*)..  
Photo: Warren Worboys.

An interesting Discovery Day is being planned involving a visit to Bushland Flora Nursery and also Kuranga Native Nursery, both situated in Mount Evelyn.

Bushland Flora was established in 1989, originally as a wholesale nursery but is now a major supplier of indigenous and general native plants. Bushland Flora supplies plants for all types of revegetation works including council reserves, and golf courses. They have also supplied plants for projects such as City Link, Western Ring Road, Eastern Freeway, Melbourne Docklands, and Melbourne Zoo. Bushland Flora is a significant supplier to the retail sector.

The day will commence at 9.30am in the carpark of Bushland Flora for a bring-your-own cuppa (eats will be supplied). There will then be a tour of Bushland Flora commencing at 10am.

Following the tour we will make our way down the mountain to Kuranga Native Nursery which claims to have the largest range of Australian native plants anywhere. Here you can wander through this very impressive nursery and of course the enticing gift shop. We will have a lunch booking at the Paperbark Café. Lunch will be at your own expense.

For further information please contact Lyn Blackburne, email: [lynb1950@gmail.com](mailto:lynb1950@gmail.com) or phone: 0419583076.



Top: Bushland Flora Nursery.  
Bottom: Kuranga Native Plant Nursery.



### Discovery Day - native plant nurseries

**Tuesday 28th April 2020**

9.30am,  
Bushland Flora  
110 Clegg Rd,  
Mount Evelyn

Members \$20  
Non-members \$25  
Students \$10

Please book via the booking form

## Proposed tours 2020-2023 - Update

1. Far Northeast Queensland – May 2020
2. Great Ocean Road and Otways Tour (self-drive) - September 2020
3. Tasmania – January 2021
4. Lord Howe Island- October 2021
5. New Caledonia - possibly 2022
6. USA National Parks – May 2022
7. New Zealand – possibly 2023 (coordinator required)

The proposed tours listed above are progressing well, with their coordinators organising itineraries, accommodation and speakers.

If you have not registered your expression of interest for a tour, please complete the booking form attached. You only need to register your EOI once per tour.



Hopetoun Falls, Otway ranges.  
Photo: ©Visit Victoria

### For further information

Rodger Elliot  
[rgelliot@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rgelliot@optusnet.com.au)

or

Barbara Jeffrey  
[bajeffrey@westnet.com.au](mailto:bajeffrey@westnet.com.au)

## Annual Lunch, with Millie Ross

Now is the time to make plans for the Annual Cranbourne Friends Lunch. Catch up with old friends; make new friends and meet others who have a passion for the Cranbourne Gardens. This is the biggest social event on the Cranbourne Friends calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Lunch on **Sunday 3rd May 2020**.



Millie Ross with her best friend 'Squid'.

Our Guest Speaker is the well-known professional horticulturist, garden designer, writer and broadcaster, **Millie Ross**. She is seen regularly on the TV program, *Gardening Australia*. Initially Millie worked behind the scenes as a researcher and writer and now, for the past six years, has been the program's senior researcher.

Millie's topic will be the **Great Aussie Garden**. Millie will look at great ideas for and approaches to the Aussie garden, both big and small. Millie will endeavour to open our eyes to value everyone else, and open our eyes a little wider to spot what we have not seen before. All gardens are great!

A delicious and appetising three course lunch will be served by Sorrento Catering in the Tarnuk Room overlooking the Red Sand Garden, which is looking magnificent after recent replantings.

The day would not be complete without the Silent Auction, Raffle and Lucky Seat prizes. If any Friends member would like to donate towards these fundraising activities, please contact the Events Subcommittee organiser.

Booking begin in February, through the [website](#).

**Sunday 3rd  
May 2020**

11:30am  
Tarnuk Room  
Australian Garden  
RBGV Cranbourne  
Gardens

Cost: \$70 per  
head

**Enquiries:**

Barbara Jeffrey  
0408 564 379

[bajeffrey@  
westnet.com.au](mailto:bajeffrey@westnet.com.au)

### Scenes from the Annual Lunch, 2019



Photos: Judith  
Cooke.

## Order of Australia awards, 2020

Congratulations to Gillian Hund (at right), who is a Cranbourne Friend as well as the Chair of the RBGV Foundation Board. Gillian was awarded a Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia, 'For service to charitable organisations' in the 2020 Order of Australia awards.

Dr Graeme Worboys, who spoke at our Cranbourne Friends Lunch in May 2013, was appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, 'For significant service to conservation and the environment and the community.'



The collaboration between Cranbourne Gardens staff, Cranbourne Friends and other volunteers at the Gardens never ceases to amaze me. It is not my intention here to capture all of the wonderful, creative and productive partnerships that enable the Gardens to function so well (I would likely forget and offend someone in the process!). Recent Executive Director's and President's reports have touched on some of those collaborations, like the donation from the Friends towards a shuttle bus to assist people without cars to visit us.

What follows is a sample of some recent developments on collaborative projects that have been in the planning and delivery stage over the last twelve months or so.

**Keeping our critters safe**

A major boost to managing wildlife losses due to collisions with vehicles on our main visitor road, has come in the form of a successful grant bid by the Friends. Twenty thousand dollars has been secured through the Federal Government's Communities Environment Program to complement existing funds and resources that will keep some of our most-at-risk animals away from the road, whilst still allowing for connectivity between the sought-after habitats on either side. In addition to the installation of a fauna diversion fence, purpose-built under-road fauna passes will feature as part of the overall design. Footage of wildlife using existing drainage pipes at Cranbourne Gardens can be viewed online (see <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AojfHu0sAjXzgY12tnDgQT6xQFZsfw?e=xFWbB4>).



Example of fauna diversion fencing soon to be installed on Phillip Moors Drive

This initial phase of the project will cover about 750 metres of Philip Moors Drive on both sides and once installed it will be monitored to evaluate its effectiveness. This information will then contribute to fine tuning of the design when rolling out similar treatment in subsequent stages.

Although it won't protect all wildlife (wallabies will jump straight over it), it will be effective in saving our jacky lizards, blue tongues, snakes, turtles, frogs, echidnas, and wombats as well as the smaller mammals like bandicoots and swamp rats.

**Keeping our plants safe**

If you have been out to Trig Point Lookout recently you would have seen a new fence close to the track. John Arnott reported on its impending construction and purpose this time last year in this very column; now I can report that roughly 70% of this wallaby exclusion fence has been erected, with a portion left unbuilt to allow for an autumn 2020 ecological burn in part of the area. The fence will be 'closed off' after the burn and the wallabies allowed to filter out of the enclosed 35 hectare area at their own pace through strategically placed gates. As with the fauna diversion fence, monitoring will be undertaken



Wallaby near exclusion fence.

to check on its effectiveness and to guide future direction. Again, a big thank you to the Friends for their financial assistance with this project.

Our nursery has also been the recipient of some Friends' love with the financial support provided enabling further possum-proofing of the fragile seedlings being produced in the nursery. The new cage will essentially be a replication of the current cage design and will be located on the western side of the nursery. You should be seeing the beginnings of this construction by the time you read this.

### **Spreading the word (safely and efficiently)**

There is always a lot of 'behind the scenes' work involved in ensuring that our programs and projects are delivered in a consistent and safe manner. Apart from designing and planning, ongoing training is an important aspect and volunteers at the Gardens participated in various kinds of training over 2019.



A close inspection of the Red Sand Garden with Gardens staff and Garden Ambassadors.  
Photo: Melanie Mantel.

Many volunteers from across different branches have recently attended Workplace Behaviours, Snake Awareness and Emergency Procedures training, and our Garden Ambassadors participated in extra training to help them deliver their tours and programs, ranging from learning about the plants in the Weird and Wonderful garden, bush foods and edible plants and even a closer 'behind the rope' investigation of the Red Sand Garden.

Wishing you all peace, health and contentment in 2020!

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **President's report** | Roger Watts

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a safe holiday despite the traumas of our horrendous bushfire season.

Before we get to the year ahead, I'm looking back first to our Christmas 2019 celebrations. It seems like such a long time ago now, but what an enjoyable gathering of Friends it was, in the Elliot Centre – good food, a glass of wine, spirited conversation; a chance to reflect on all of our achievements that year and to farewell with much appreciation long-standing committee members Karen Russell, Helen Morrow and Christine Kenyon, and to welcome new members Jenny Potten and Erin Cosgrove who come to us with much experience.

Jill Burness, Cranbourne Gardens' Landscape Planner, stood in for Chris Russell at the last Committee meeting and, on this occasion, paid tribute to the work of the Friends. She thanked us for the hundreds of hours of volunteer work given to run a busy program, a program which offered a wide range of activities and events including our big plant sales, all of which, taken together, enabled the group to make a significant contribution to the Gardens last year. Of course the highlight was our \$76,000 contribution to the purchase of the shuttle bus. What a thrill it is to know the bus is on site awaiting its decorative skin before it begins work in 2020 to improve public access to the Gardens. Well done, everyone. You never cease to amaze me, the way you all pull together to reap these rewards.





These activities are not the only source of funds, however. Over the course of the year the Friends make numerous applications for grants on behalf of the Gardens. Some are successful, others are not, but without the efforts of Christine Kenyon and Helen Kennedy we wouldn't even be in with a chance. Here are the results:

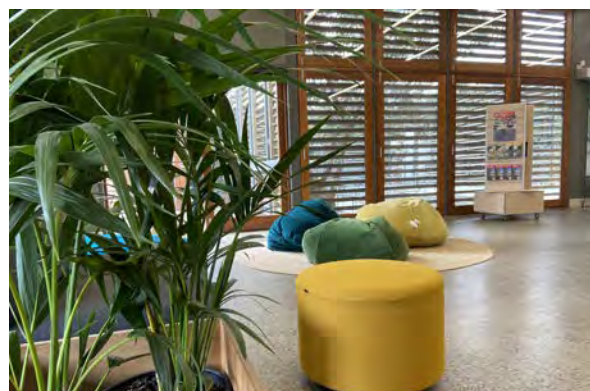
- \$20,000 from the Holt Communities Environment Program to Improve Habitat Connectivity (ever more important!) along Philip Moors Drive.
- \$500 from DELWP as a start-up grant for our Orchid Program. (Not the \$20,000 we were hoping for but a step in the right direction.) This has been forwarded to the Gardens.



The new bus, before it received its special skin.

We recently approved payments to the RBGV Library, sited at the Melbourne Gardens, for the purchase of frames for the Cranbourne Collection. This Collection originated in 2001 when various botanical artists who paint together and are members of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, devised a project to paint all the plants growing in the bushland and donate the paintings to the RBG. While the paintings are to be for the benefit of Cranbourne, to be used in ways to support our programs, they are housed in the RBGV Library as part of the State Botanical Collection and it is for each artist to decide whether to participate in this project, and when and what they would paint.

Recent visitors to the Cranbourne Gardens will have noticed the attractive upgrade to the Visitors Centre Gallery (at right) being implemented by the RBG's Visitor Access and Experience Team; it is hoped that the frames will enable works from the Collection to be displayed in this area. This outcome is the result of the hard work we have done to synchronise our activities with the RBGV. The Visitor Access and Experience Team and the Programming and Audience Experience Team will participate more closely with our own Events Planning Team and in the year ahead we hope to work cooperatively with them on the amazing program of events for visitors which the RBGV have to offer, like NAIDOC Week and Bandicoot Activity Day and the Branch Out Program run in conjunction with Regis.



The Visitors Centre Gallery has been fitted with airconditioning, redecorated and provided with new furniture. Photo: Melanie Mantel.

These Gardens activities will give our members and volunteers the opportunity to participate, to develop new skills, and to have fun. So as we open the door to 2020, we can see there is much to look forward to.

Our closer relationship with RBGV means we can promote our group more effectively within the local community, enabling us to increase our active membership base, which as you know, badly needs to increase if we are to maintain our current programs. There are challenges to face, but isn't it the challenges that make our work more interesting and worthwhile?

At the forefront of these is the attempt to streamline the administrative processes of our organisation. We are hoping to use online software to improve and better coordinate financial, membership, and events information. Initially, Richard Clarke has transferred our financial records to a program called *Reckon*, and Rosemary Miller and Alex Stalder are exploring new online membership systems, which will complement this. Whilst our current structures will remain, members can expect gradual change. For example, look out for more events to be available for booking through an online booking system. The new year – indeed the new decade – lies enticingly before us. We hope you'll share the journey.

## Regular monthly activities

If interested in joining in one of the group activities, please contact the person listed. You don't need specific skills and you will be made most welcome!

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Friends in Focus

October 2019

Nine members attended our October meeting, including one new member, which is something of a record. The gale force winds of the previous day had abated and, although cool to start with, we enjoyed excellent conditions for photography. One of the highlights was the wonderful display of red and white Waratahs (top). The Research Garden, Howson Hill, the Arbour Garden, and the Gondwana Garden provided lots of interesting subjects for our cameras.



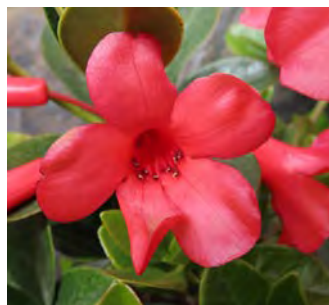
November 2019

For the 'Show and Tell' presentation at our November meeting, members provided an excellent selection of images for inclusion in our display book for the Banks and Solander exhibition to be held in 2020, intended to promote the Australian Garden, Cranbourne Friends and Friends in Focus. There were also images of birds at Cranbourne and views from the recent Friends Tour of NW Victoria. Afterwards, some members set off for the Australian Garden and photographed the spectacular flowers of the Gymea Lily (*Doryanthes excelsa*) (middle photo), while others went into the Bushland hoping for bird and orchid sightings.



December 2019

At our final meeting for the year, members completed their contributions to the group's display book for the Banks and Solander exhibition in 2020. Then we walked through the Australian Garden finding plenty of plant and wildlife subjects to photograph. A highlight was the flowers of *Rhododendron lochiaie* (bottom) which was considered to be an ideal subject for Christmas cards. We concluded with refreshments in the cafe.



2nd Saturday  
of the month,  
Elliot Centre

Times:  
9.30am  
October  
to March  
(Daylight  
Saving time)

New members  
are most  
welcome;  
all levels of  
experience are  
catered for.

Contact:  
[membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

All photos:  
Judith Cooke

### Friends in the Gardens (FiGs)

There are now eleven members in the FiGs group. We had four new members join in November and Jean Wallis will join us in 2020. We may lose Ralph Henger due to other commitments next year. Nine of us lined up for a morning in the Garden in November and spent the morning weeding the swales between the display gardens. Six of us finished the morning in the cafe for lunch. They are a wonderful group who are happy to spend their time in the Garden beavering away, talking, laughing and learning from Jess and the other Hort. staff who often came along and spend time with us as well.

If our numbers continue to grow, Russell Larke and John Arnott have indicated they will give us our very own project or patch to look after - that will be fantastic.



November 2019 crew left to right: Karen Pogni, John Arnott (came for a visit), Donghwa Jang, Rosemary Breyley, Jill Dawson, Sue Gilbert, Margaret Di Nuzzo, Edie Paterson (back) and Bill Jones.

Fourth  
Wednesday  
of the month,  
9.45am

Contact:  
Christine  
Kenyon  
0438 345589

Contact:  
[figs@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:figs@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

## Growing Friends



*Banksia burdettii*. Photo: Judith Cooke.

This is the year to think of Banksias, and the Growing Friends are currently growing numerous species: *Banksia baxteri*, *B. burdettii*, *B. ericifolia* 'Giant Candles', *B. ericifolia* 'Little Eric', *B. fraseri*, *B. grandis*, *B. integrifolia* Prostrate, *B. lemanniana*, *B. marginata*, *B. menziesii*, *B. undata*, *B. serrata*, *B. spinulosa* and *B. victoriae*. Information regarding these plants can be found on [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au).

Banksias, named after Joseph Banks who collected the first specimens in 1770, are among the best-known Australian wildflowers. This year, 2020, is the 250th anniversary of the year when the naturalists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, accompanied by the botanical artist Sydney Parkinson, set foot on the land of the Dharawal people. Captain James Cook named the place Botany Bay. Banks and Solander found four species of the genus *Banksia*, of which *Banksia serrata* was one. What must they have thought when first sighting these most unusual plants with their gnarled lumpy bark? This was a plant with intricately formed buds, gorgeous yellow/green flower spikes with silky hairs, hairy cones of large woody seed pods closed or open – all of this on the same bush.

I doubt that they thought what I did, when I first sighted a living banksia in a garden: it was a messy-looking plant that needed a good tidy-up, with its spent flowers, buds and open flowers all mixed together. Perceptions change and, having seen the wonderful old banksias at Wilsons Promontory, I have been converted.

Botanical artists and illustrators spend many hours drawing or painting beautiful *Banksia* species. Think of Celia Rosser, Australia's most famous botanical artist; she devoted some twenty-five years to painting what was then the entire genus of 76 *Banksia*. These must be the most beautiful paintings of banksias of all! Soon after completion, another *Banksia* was discovered – it is named in her honour, *Banksia rosserae*.

Recently I was most interested to learn that there are many fossils of *Banksia*. The oldest of these are fossil pollen grains between 65 and 59 million years old. Fossil leaves between 59 and 56 million years old have been found in southern New South Wales. A most remarkable find was the extinct species *Banksia archaeocarpa*, known from a fossil Banksia cone (48-38 million years old) found on the top of the Kennedy Range in the Gascoyne region, WA. Described in 1983 by Ken McNamara, the fossil closely resembles *Banksia attenuata*.

I have seen banksias promoted as a tourist attraction in 2017, when, on the Friends Western Australia Wildflower tour, we spotted gigantic banksias on three 25 metre silos featuring the six different flora stages of the *Banksia baxteri*, painted in a stylised form by Amok Island in 2015. Don't they look great! What a wonderful way to make silos look interesting. Of course, we had to stop to take numerous photos.

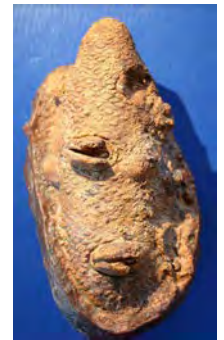
The Banks and Solander anniversary has inspired the Growing Friends to expand their range of *Banksia* species ready for the Autumn plant sale on March 14 and 15, where the above-mentioned species will be for sale.

Growing Friends  
Thursdays  
9.30am - 2.30pm  
At our Nursery

Contact:  
[growingfriends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:growingfriends@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

Marjanne  
0431607796

Nursery open to members every Thursday  
10am - 2pm



*Banksia archaeocarpa*.  
Image: Wikipedia



Painted silos - Six different stages of the *Banksia baxteri*. Artist: Amok Island. Photos: John Thompson

## Looking for a new interest for 2020?



Come along to one of the Friends' special interest groups to see what it is about. You can read about the *Growing Friends*, *Friends in the Gardens*, and *Friends in Focus* groups in the preceding pages.

The following four groups meet at the Elliot Centre:

- **Botanical Basketmakers:** 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am to 3pm  
**NOTE we now meet twice a month!**  
Contact Maree Hart by email to find out more:  
[basketry@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:basketry@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au).
- **Botanical Fabricators:** 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 10 am.  
Contact: Wendy Smart- 9707 05275  
(or email: [fabricators@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:fabricators@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)).
- **Herbarium Collectors:** 1st Monday of the month, 9am to 2pm  
Contact Nola Foster – 9583 85731
- **Botanical Illustrators:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10 am to 3pm  
Contact Margaret Kitchen – 0413 664 295  
(or email: [illustrators@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:illustrators@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)).



In 2018, a Friends' Expo was held in the Visitor's Centre at the Australian Garden, to demonstrate the work of the special interest groups.

Such activity has continued with a stall held at the Spring Plant Sale in October and external stalls and/or displays at Wilson Park, Berwick and Karwarra Botanic Gardens being conducted.



## Friends Open House report

Open House is held in the Elliot Centre on the second Thursday of each month, except in January.

Members are invited to come along to this free event, no booking needed. The Growing Friends Nursery is also open to members every Thursday 10am - 2pm.

At the November Open House, long term Friends Edward and Hazel Brentnall told us about their extensive travels in Australia, since their arrival in the country in 1965.

At the December Open House, photos were shared as part of developing a list for possible use in a history of the Friends.

### Upcoming Open House topics:

- **March,** Australian Bush Tucker
- **April,** Broome expeditions, with Prue Wright
- **May,** Tropical Mountain Plant Science in Queensland, with Warren Worboys

### Friends Open House

Second Thursday of the month, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Elliot Centre

**Contact:**  
Helen Morrow  
[helen@themorrows.net.au](mailto:helen@themorrows.net.au)

or  
9850 9125  
Photo: Hazel and Edward Brentnall telling us about their travels, at the Elliot Centre. Photo: Judith Cooke

## Recent Friends events

### Westgate Park Discovery Morning - 20 October 2019

On a fresh Sunday morning in October, a group of Cranbourne Friends met at the barbecue area of Westgate Park, Fishermans Bend. We were warmly welcomed by Tony Flude, the secretary of *Westgate Biodiversity: Bili Nursery and Landcare*. Our tour guides for the morning were Lecki Ord and Lyn Allison who informed us of the Park's history, many successes and challenges and plans for the future.

We visited their nursery and volunteers' rooms. No luxuries but certainly this was an indication of how resourceful they are. Being spring, many of the indigenous plants were in flower and there was an abundance of birds including swans. We visited the one remaining area of very precious remnant native vegetation in the Park, remembering that the area had been extensively cleared in the past.

Lots of camera clicking took place. One of our group was very busy collecting any litter that we came across. Litter is an ongoing problem as it flies off vehicles travelling over on the Westgate. Another member of the group asked very probing questions, especially in relation to funding and the many difficulties encountered.

Westgate Park is bordered by the Yarra River and various industrial enterprises, adding to the uniqueness of the site. We met volunteers, including a family with young children, who were undertaking a planting project with *15 Trees*, an interesting social enterprise organisation.



Lecki Ord talks to our group. Below: The park with the bridge in the background. Photos: Lyn Blackburne.



### Pollination and Pollinators, with Max Campbell - 23 November 2019

With audience numbers steadily increasing, we settled down on this sunny Saturday to be amazed by the complexities of pollination, as explained to us by Max Campbell, President of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria.

After an outline of the historical context of pollination, including how the development of pollination biology was delayed by prevailing attitudes and beliefs, we discovered how varied pollinators and the means of pollination are.

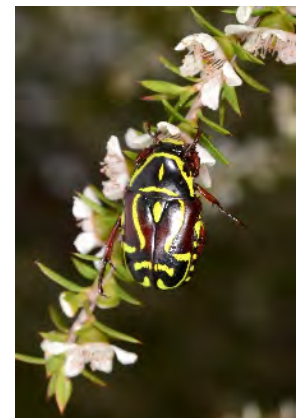
Examples abounded, such as the relationship between the yucca and the yucca moth. The female yucca moth is the sole pollinator of the yucca and the yucca is the only host plant for the yucca caterpillar. The amazing mechanism used by the trigger plant to ensure that its pollen is correctly deposited on the visiting insect, was another example. The presentation was supported by extremely detailed photos.

Pollination occurs in so many ways involving wasps, moths, butterflies, beetles, bees, bugs or ants in a vital role. It is now thought that flies undertake at least 85% of insect pollination.

Max concluded his presentation with an outline of the Nature Stewards program, in which he plays an advisory role. Funded by Outdoors Victoria and others, the program provides basic training about Victorian and local environments and assists participants to connect with and get active in nature, especially through local environmental volunteering opportunities.



Max Campbell above, and one of his great pollinator photos below.



This over-subscribed workshop, enthusiastically received by attendees, demonstrated the great interest in this 'Iconic' genus.

Recently there has been much and often highly-charged discussion as to the merit of enlarging the *Banksia* genus, from its original 80 or so species, to around 170 *Banksia* species through the absorption of *Dryandra* species. Dr Mike Bayly from Melbourne University clarified the resulting confusion via the topic; 'What is *Banksia*? And why did the big bad *Banksia* men dispatch *Dryandra*?', but more of that later.



*Banksia spinulosa* subsp. *spinulosa* 'Golden Candles' is a highly desirable plant for cultivation whose flowers are nectar-rich. Photo: Trevor Blake.

Prof David Cantrill, RBG Victoria's Chief Botanist & Director Plant Sciences and Diversity, and world-renowned for his study of fossils of the Antarctic vegetation, led us through the fascinating prehistory of *Banksia* and *Banksia*-like fossils. We saw images of fruits such as a) *B. kingii* from the Pleistocene (1.8 - 2.6 million years ago [mya]) and b) *B. longicarpa* from the Miocene (~13.8 mya) plus c) *B. archeocarpa* from the Eocene (~40 mya). Pollen fossil records of Proteaceae including *Banksia* extend from the Paleocene (~60 mya) to the Pleistocene and the *Banksia* pollen fossils can be distinguished as they are distinctly cylindrical.

Mike Bayly had the unenviable task of bringing us up to date with the current status of *Banksia*. Using the 'Tree of Life' structure, biological evolution and diversity can be traced and plants can be classified by examining morphological (form and structure) features as well as now DNA sequences. Biology is an evolving science. This has led, after extensive studies, to *Banksia*, *Dryandra*, *Musgravea* and *Austromuelleria* being placed together as closely allied in the Proteaceae tree. The latter two genera are quite distinct, but *Banksia* and *Dryandra* are less so. Within *Banksia*, there are three distinct groups, and within one of these groups, *Dryandra* is now considered a distinct sub-group. This relationship needed to be reflected accurately in the taxonomy. There were three solutions a) unite *Dryandra* with *Banksia*; b) retain *Dryandra* and split *Banksia* into three; c) have a new genus (*B. spinulosa* group) and include *Dryandra* with two *Banksia* groups.

Option a) was chosen:

- *Dryandra* was retained as a separate series in *Banksia*
- All species, subspecies and varieties of *Dryandra* were given names in *Banksia*
- Most retained the same final epithet (e.g., *Banksia formosa* = *Dryandra formosa*)
- 18 needed new epithets, because of existing names in *Banksia* (e.g., *Dryandra glauca* is now *Banksia glaucifolia*; because of existing *B. glauca*).

Trevor Blake, a long-time Leader of the Australian Plant Society's *Banksia* Study Group, showed us striking *Banksias* for our gardens. Trevor, who has been growing Australian plants for nearly 60 years, recommended as reliable: *Banksia spinulosa*, with its large range of varieties from dwarf to tall such as 'Birthday Candles' and 'Golden Candles'; *B. blechnifolia*; *B. praemorsa* with various flower colours; pendent-flowered *B. caleyi* and *B. laevigata* var. *fuscolutea* with its astonishing ball-like flowerheads. Rodger Elliot's following presentation concerning selection, design and cultivation of *Banksia* species, considered drainage and soil pH among other considerations, and demonstrated how pleasing landscapes can also provide valuable wildlife habitat.



Fossilised fruit of the extinct *Banksia kingii* found in Late Pleistocene sediment from Melaleuca Inlet, Tasmania which was named and described in 1991. Photo: Wikipedia



Typical *Banksia* pollen, which is elongated and somewhat cylindrical, and differs from other Proteaceae members, where pollen is triangular in outline.

Warren Worboys, Curator, Horticulture at Cranbourne Gardens, covered the subject of '*Banksia: Pests, Diseases and Nutrition*'. Phosphorus sensitivity can be a major problem for many members of the Proteacea family and Warren provided good information on this subject:

### Why:

Most Australian soils are ancient and much phosphorous has been leached out, and our native plants have adapted to these conditions.

### Symptoms:

- Lack of growth, leaf distortion, apparent iron deficiency (chlorosis between veins) red colouring on old leaves, tip necrosis, interveinal chlorosis on young foliage, weakened plants become susceptible to root rot fungi like *Phytophthora*, Cinnamon Fungus
- Increased calcium can free up the phosphorus and cause toxicity
- Very high levels of nitrogen can worsen the problem.

Sensitivity can be reduced by improved availability of iron, eg sulphate of iron. Known phosphorous sensitive plants include: *Banksia aemula*, *B. ericifolia*, *B. oblongifolia*, and *B. robur*.

John Thompson covered discovery, cultivation, Indigenous uses and arts and crafts. We learned about Joseph Banks, banksia cultivation as early as 1788 in England, and early collectors, especially Robert Brown, William Baxter, James Drummond, and the later Charles Gardner who spent time in Western Australia. Then we saw beautiful examples of arts and craft inspired by *Banksia* including fabrics designed by Jenny Jones and Ink & Spindle, the façade of South Yarra Post Office and the stunning design of the Ravensthorpe Grain Silos in WA (see page 7). There were even some lovely tattoos, as well as ceramics and some glorious glassware designed and created by John's partner and Cranbourne Friend, Amanda Loudon.

Carolyn Landon, author of *The Banksia Lady*, a celebrated publication on artist Celia Rosser, led us through the history of botanical illustration starting with ancient Egyptian limestone carvings from 1450 BC, through manuscripts illustrating medicinal herbs, a Leonardo lily, Dürer watercolours, a Brueghel oil of tulips and Ehret roses, to John Frederick Miller's rendition of Sydney Parkinson's unfinished *Banksia serrata*. After showing *Banksias* by artists such as Philippa Nikulinsky, Margaret Pieroni and Sandra Sanger, Carolyn finished with an image of *Banksia robur* painted by Celia Rosser in 1973.

Celia is regarded as one of the world's best botanical artists and Carolyn compared her work with that of the legendary Ferdinand Bauer, specifically using *B. coccinea*. Rosser's attention to detail on the leaf undersurface, in the flowerheads and the fruits, surpassed that of Bauer. People like the renowned William Blunt, author of *The Art of Botanical Illustration*, have compared the work of Celia with 'the greats' like Ferdinand Bauer and Pierre-Joseph Redoute, while the botanical doyen William Stearn said nobody had painted like Celia for over 200 years!

As a 'first' for a Cranbourne Friends Workshop, attendees were offered digital copies of the presentations; many accepted and the material was sent via WeTransfer.



Banksia Gall Midge, *Dasineura banksiae* larva of a species of fly that lays eggs on the leaves between late October and early December. The larvae feed until January to March. Although not harmful to the plant, they disfigure the foliage. Photo: courtesy CSIRO.



Banksia Jewel Beetle, *Cyrioides imperialis* also known as Banksia Borer. Female beetles lay their eggs in the bark of a tree, and the hatched larvae tunnel into the wood. *Banksia integrifolia*, *B. marginata*, *B. serrata* and *B. spinulosa* are susceptible. Photo: courtesy CSIRO.



*Banksia coccinea*, a hand coloured copper engraving by Ferdinand Bauer completed in 1813, published in *Illustrationes Flora Novae Hollandiae*

## Travelling North - NW Victoria tour | John Thompson

Departing from a cool, clear-skied Melbourne, forty intrepid members of the Friends headed north to seek both warmth and floral delights. The first stop was the garden of Marilyn Sprague at Mandurang. Marilyn, a nurserywoman of note with forty years of experience in growing Australian plants, welcomed us into her 3.64 hectare property. She now grows plants to cater for the cut flower trade so the garden was a delight, filled with colour from the beautiful clear blues of the *Lechenaultia*, the yellow of the indigenous wattles to the pinky-green hues of the marvellous Qualup Bell (*Pimelea physodes*).

At the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, members of the Friends group and staff greeted us before we began a tour that encompassed both the older parts of the garden and the new 'Garden for the Future' established in 2018. The Garden for the Future, designed by Taylor, Cullity & Lethlean (sound familiar?) with input from Paul Thompson, incorporated plants from both overseas and Australia, that could cope with extremes of temperature, along with areas of turf for recreation and a stage for community events.

The next day our destination was Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, via Manangatang and its Mallee Garden with its many flowering *Eremophilas*. Lunch was at Lake Mournpall where juvenile River Red Gums lined the shore and a flock of Yellow-billed Spoonbills was visible in the distance. Further from the shoreline were small bushes covered in white flowers (*Olearia pimeleoides*), low herbaceous plants with spikes of tubular purple flowers (*Ajuga australis*) and tiny members of the daisy family, Flannel Cudweed (*Actinobole uliginosum*) and Ground-heads (*Chthonocephalus pseudevax*).

Lake Hattah was our next and last stop for the day before heading to Mildura, our base for the next few days. Along with the ubiquitous River Red Gums there were the pendulous forms of the River Myall (*Acacia stenophylla*) and an understory dotted with *Wahlenbergia*, Blue Burr Daisy (*Calotis cunefolia*) and Velvet Tobacco (*Nicotiana velutina*).

It was a chilly start to the morning as we left Mildura to cross the border to Buronga and the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens. Greeted by members of the Friends of AIBG we climbed aboard a tractor train for a tour. The gardens are extensive (152 hectares) and contain not only some remnant vegetation, but also many and varied species of both Australian and exotic flora. A guided wander through the nature trail, a section of original mallee woodland which had been planted with species indigenous to an area within a 200 km radius, yielded many delights including a glimpse of some Variegated Fairy-Wrens.

After lunch, near the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers, we headed back to Irymple to view the extraordinary garden of Ross Lake and Helen Vivian. Combinations of native plants and sculpture had been woven together by landscape designer Tom Fagan to create a natural appearance which sat comfortably with the rectilinear studio and gallery.

The following day we headed out to Neds Corner Station, the jewel in the crown of the Trust for Natures' reserves. At 30 000 hectares it is the largest freehold property in Victoria. Station managers Peter and Colleen Barnes



*Pimelea* sp. - Marilyn Sprague's Garden.

All photos taken by John Thompson or Amanda Loudon, except where indicated.



River Red Gums - Lake Hattah.



*Olearia pimeleoides* - Lake Mournpall.



Sturt's Desert Pea (*Swainsona formosa*) - Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.



explained the progress being made since the property was purchased in 2002, including the removal of livestock; rabbit, fox and cat eradication measures; and the planting of thousands of trees and shrubs. These measures have seen the recovery of both the indigenous flora and fauna.

On our last morning in Mildura we headed to Peter and Marion Lang's garden, which they formerly ran as a native nursery. We saw many wonderful examples of native flora like *Eremophilas*, *Grevilleas* and *Acacias*.

After lunch, it was on to Yarrarra State Forest where we encountered the splendidly named Bush Banana (*Marsdenia australis*), a widespread plant of the arid, inland areas and an important food source for the indigenous peoples. Another highlight was sighting a Satin Azure butterfly, whose colouring of iridescent blue rivalled any tropical species and stood out amongst the grey-green colours of the surrounding bush.

Next morning we left Mildura and headed south with our first stop the Pink Lakes in the Murray-Sunset National Park. The lakes, which particularly in late summer have a distinctive pink hue, were not at their best but the surrounding samphire vegetation (*Tecticornia halocnemoides*) imbued the landscape with a pink tinge whilst Yellow Everlastings (*Rhodanthe polygalifolia*) carpeted the gently undulating hills.



Saved! John Deere Tractor

After a quick stop at Walpeup to visit the Dryland Gardens and at Patchewollock to see 'Silo Art', we headed to Wyperfeld National Park. Our first stop yielded many interesting finds including the first orchid sighted on tour, *Caladenia verrucosa*. Our next stop led to a sinking feeling, quite literally. The coach became bogged in soft sand on the side of the road. Despite several attempts to dig it out, there it remained. A series of phone calls led to our eventual rescue. Two local farmers, one providing the towing strap, the other the muscle with her imposing six wheel John Deere tractor, had us out in seconds. The sun was rapidly fading as we headed, behind schedule, to Horsham.

On the Friday Darryl Argall AM joined us for the morning to show us some of the works of Project Hindmarsh. Darryl, a former local farmer, councillor and mayor and current board member of the Hindmarsh Landcare Network, has devoted much of the past twenty years to Project Hindmarsh, whose goal is to create habitat corridors by restoring roadside vegetation and planting on private land. Volunteers from Melbourne regularly make an annual pilgrimage to the planting days that have reconnected the Little and Big Deserts.

The Little Desert National Park was our next stop for both lunch and a meander around the Keith Hateley Nature Walk. The paucity of orchids in the past few days was more than compensated for by the floral treasure trove at our feet. The contrasting colour of the Blue Fairy Orchid (*Pheladenia deformis*) was immediately noticeable but there were other treasures to be found such as the Bow-lipped Spider Orchid (*Caladenia toxochila*), Pink Fingers Orchid (*Caladenia carnea*) and the Larger Striped Greenhood (*Pterostylis robusta*).

It was now across to Mt. Arapiles-Tooan State Park to scale the mountain, a task made considerably easier by the facility to drive almost to the summit and walk up a few, albeit steep, steps. The vista was impressive,



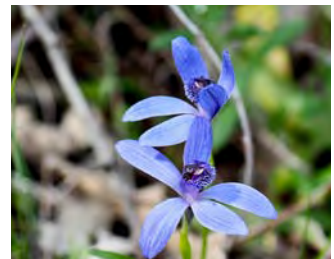
Revegetation Site - Neds Corner.



*Marsdenia australis* - Bush Banana.



Pink Lakes, *Tecticornia* sp.  
Photo: Alex Stalder.



*Pheladenia deformis* - Keith Hateley Nature Walk.



*Diuris pardina* (Leopard Orchid) - Mt. Arapiles.



*Epacris impressa* - Mt. Arapiles.

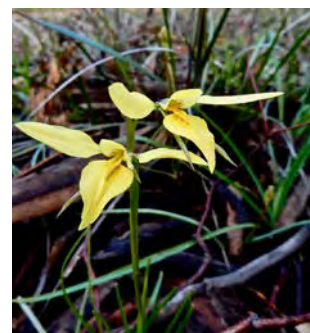
looking out to the lakes and farmland beyond and glimpsing the rugged cliff faces that make this a popular spot for rock climbers. More orchids, this time the Leopard Orchid (*Diuris pardina*) was prevalent and there was a lovely display of Pink Heath (*Epacris impressa*) nestled into the crevices between the rocks. A visit to the garden of Mabel Brouwer in Horsham rounded off the day's activities.

The final day dawned and we headed back in the direction of Melbourne but with still plenty of things to see. Our first stop was the Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve, the western outpost of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands which once covered a vast area. The trees were largely ignored as all eyes focused downwards on the abundance of orchids, mainly Golden Moth Orchids (*Diuris chryseopsis*), Blue Fingers (*Cyanicula caerulea*) and the Wax-lip Orchid (*Glossodia major*). Other beauties included *Grevillea alpina*, Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*), Scented Sundew (*Drosera aberrans*), Leafless Bitter-pea (*Daviesia brevifolia*), Rosy Baeckea (*Euryomyrtus ramosissima*) and Prickly Guinea-flower (*Hibbertia exutiacies*).

Our last main stop of the day was at the garden of Neil & Wendy Marriott, Panrock Ridge. This eighty-hectare property has been rabbit-proofed and includes a smaller area (16 hectares) that has been bounded by a vermin-proof fence that also excludes kangaroos to allow for the regeneration of indigenous species. A 2005 fire devastated their garden and destroyed a large part of Neil's famed *Grevillea* collection. Over time they have rebuilt the garden and we saw a large collection of rare and unusual grevilleas from *Grevillea murex* with its dark, chocolate buds and its creamy yellow spider-like flowers to the red toothbrush flowers of the silvery leaved *Grevillea cagiana*. Many other plants were on show including eremophilas, verticordias, banksias, hakeas, acacias, pimeleas and thomasias. A truly remarkable garden!

A quick stop at the Ballarat Botanic Gardens before returning to Melbourne rounded the day off nicely.

Many thanks to Marjanne Rook and Rodger Elliot for organising the trip and to Rodger for knowing many plant names and having a guess at a number of others. A wonderful time was had by all.



*Diuris chryseopsis* (Common Golden Moth Orchid), Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve.



*Grevillea cagiana* - Neil & Wendy Marriott's Garden.

## Paradise Lost - Daniel Solander's Legacy by H E Ambassador Pär Ahlberger

The Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander was one of the foremost botanists onboard the *Endeavour* during its voyage in 1768 - 1771. He represents the first encounter between the Nordic Region and the Pacific Region based on botany, linguistic, culture and astronomy. The Polynesian scholar Tupaia and Solander formed an important bond during the *Endeavour* voyage. It was the first exchange between the Swedish culture and the Polynesian, Maori and Aboriginal cultures. It is a partly forgotten story which needs to be told again.

Daniel Solander was born in 1733, in a town only 100 km from the Arctic Circle. He was described as short and stout. His eyes were small, his face jovial with a fair complexion. He was a careless dresser and liked bright waistcoats. He was a person well liked, combining humility, charm, absent-mindedness and social skills. He studied medicine and natural history in Uppsala as the favourite student of Carl Linnaeus, the founder of modern systematic biology. In 1760, at the invitation of British naturalists, Solander

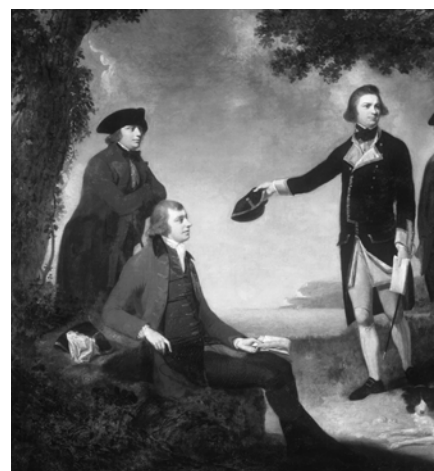
## NEWS



*Banksia Solandri*, named for Solander.

travelled to London to give instructions in the Linnean methods. He never returned to Sweden, much to the disappointment of Linnaeus.

In 1763 Solander was appointed assistant keeper at the British Museum. He formed a strong friendship with Joseph Banks and joined the scientific staff of the *Endeavour* expedition. This deciding moment was later described by Banks in a letter to a friend in Sweden: *'Of this (the Endeavour voyage) I promptly informed Doctor Solander, who received the news with much pleasure and immediately promised to provide me with complete information on all aspects of natural history which could probably be met with during such an extensive and unprecedented voyage. But some days afterwards, when we were together at Lady Monson's table and spoke about the unique opportunities I should get, Solander got remarkably fired, sprang up a short time later from his chair and asked with intent eyes: Would you like to have a travelling companion? I replied: Such a person as you would be of infinite advantage and pleasure to me! If so, he said, I want to go with you, and from that moment everything was settled and decided.'*



Daniel Solander (at left standing)  
Joseph Banks (seated) and Captain  
James Cook, detail from a 1771 group  
portrait by John H. Mortimer, 1740-1779.  
Courtesy: National Library of Australia,  
nla.obj-135646842-m.

During the voyage Solander and Banks collected around 17 000 plant specimens. The specimens from Australia included around 900 species and in New Zealand 349 species. Solander was the author of the first individual floras of Australia and New Zealand. These were major but unpublished botanical works. His pioneering descriptions have been described as scientifically comprehensible, yet elegant and poetic. He also recorded important ethno-botanical information, including many Maori names. Tupaia played a crucial role in this.

In a letter to Sweden, Banks later described the intensive work onboard the *Endeavour*: *'During this voyage, which lasted three years, I can say of him (Solander) that he combined an incomparable diligence and an acumen that left nothing unsettled, with an unbelievable equanimity. During all that time we did not once have any altercation which for a moment became heated. We had a reasonably good supply of books with us for Indian natural history and seldom was a gale so strong that it interrupted our usual time of study, which lasted from approximately 8 o'clock in the morning until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and from 4 or 5 o'clock, when the smell of cooking had vanished, we sat together until it got dark at a big table in the cabin with our draughtsman directly opposite us and showed him the manner in which the drawing should be done and also hastily made descriptions of all the natural history subjects while they were still fresh.'* Solander and Banks used large quantities of John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* to press the specimens during the voyage.

After returning to London, Solander resumed his post at the British Museum. He continued to work with Banks and they made several smaller expeditions, among them to the Isle of Wight, Scotland and Iceland. The plan was to document the botanical results of the *Endeavour* expedition. However, Solander passed away in a stroke in 1782, which left Banks devastated. In 1784 he wrote to a friend in Sweden: *'The botanical work, with which I am now occupied, is drawing near to an end. Solander's name will appear on the title page beside mine, since everything was written through our combined labour. While he was alive, hardly a single sentence while we were not together.'* This was not to happen.

The Embassy of Sweden and the Solander Gallery in Wellington have launched a unique art collaboration; *Paradise Lost - Daniel Solander's Legacy*. Ten New Zealand

artists have been invited to respond creatively to the legacy of Daniel Solander, with works including painting, watercolours, limited edition prints, artist books and three-dimensional objects. The research by Dr Edward Duyker has been important in this project. I would like to recommend his book *Nature's Argonaut: Daniel Solander 1733-1782*.

The art exhibition opened at the Solander Gallery in Wellington in February 2019 and is touring New Zealand. It will visit Australia this year and will hopefully be displayed at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra and elsewhere. In August 2020 it will be displayed at the Australian Maritime Museum, Sydney.

*This article is reproduced from **FronDS Magazine** (Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens) - December 2018, with the approval of the author.*

## Welcome to New Members

This quarter we are pleased to welcome 34 new members:

Kim Johnson, Helen Corcoran, Sarah Sneddon, Brodie Hearnden, Suzy Connard, Andrew Connard, John Theodoridis, Kay McCauley, Judith Heale, Keith Heale, Sally Bachman, Gail Stiffe, Michael Stiffe, Janice Hooker, Mandy Batey, Steph Tout, Nathan Croft, Arabella Croftout, Jeff Wilson, Jan Wilson, Barbara Bulleen, Allan Bulleen, Agnes Brosz, Richard Brosz, Linda Jones, Karen Crook, Darren O'Shanassy, Horst Blaich, Alan Hogan, Chandos Ford, Amelia Evans, Sally Evans, Barbara Lloyd and Lee Tan.

If you have any Membership queries, please contact Alexandra Stalder via:

- [membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](mailto:membership@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)
- telephone 0431 025 733.



New members may like to attend the upcoming Autumn Plant Sale, on 14 and 15 March.

Find out more on our [website](#).

### Cranbourne Friends Committee

<b>President:</b> Roger Watts	0409 857 664	<b>Booking Officer</b>	Ros Shepherd bookings@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	5932 5611
<b>Secretary:</b> Helen Kennedy	0419 125 800	<b>Events Sub Committee</b>	Barbara Jeffrey Ian Chisholm Mick Robertson Ros Shepherd	Lyn Blackburne Rodger Elliot Marjanne Rook Alex Smart
<b>Vice President:</b> Rosemary Miller	0422 893 745	<b>Naturelink Editor:</b>	Rosemary Miller naturelink@rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au	0422 893 745
<b>Treasurer:</b> Richard Clarke	5974 1750	<b>Quicklink Editor:</b>	Janette Wilson	0477 711 569
<b>Membership Secretary:</b> Alexandra Stalder	0431 025 733	<b>Social Media Convenor:</b>	Amy Akers	0423 513 281
<b>RBGV Representative:</b> Chris Russell	5990 2200			
<b>General Committee:</b>				
Erin Cosgriff	0419 518 621			
Barbara Jeffrey	5998 5410			
Jennifer Potten	0409 436 181			
Alexandra Stalder	0458 550 509			
Janette Wilson	0477 711 569			

The General Committee meets at the Gardens on the second Thursday of the month (except January) at 5.30pm.