

# BOTANIC

Winter 2022

NEWS



MELBOURNE FRIENDS  
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

- Lightscape coming
- The 'Acacia Project' Exhibition
- Reflections on 40 years of Plant Craft Cottage



**SAVE THE DATE**

# The Acacia Project

**An exhibition illustrating the RBGM's Rare, Endangered and Unusual Acacias**  
Visitor Centre, RBGV Melbourne

Thursday 1 September – Sunday 11 September

9am to 5pm daily

Entry free

Commonly known as Wattle, Acacia is the largest genus of vascular plants in Australia with almost all the known 1070 species occurring naturally on our continent. Our RBGM Botanical Illustrators, the Whirlies established *The Acacia Project* in 2019 to document and depict some of the rare, endangered and unusual wattle trees or shrubs to be found in the RBGV Melbourne.

Twenty-four artworks have now been produced by these talented artists and specimens collected to be donated to the National Herbarium of Victoria.

A book of the artworks has also been produced and will be on sale with all proceeds supporting Acacia research at the Herbarium.

An artist will be in residence during the Exhibition to greet visitors and discuss the works on display.  
9am to 4pm daily



Image:  
Audrey Baillie



# WINTER 2022 IN THIS ISSUE

4	From the President
5	Volunteers
6	From the Gardens
8	Growing Friends
9	Trust Fund - Apeal
10	Plant Craft Cottage 40 Years
12	Events
22	Lightning Oak
23	PCC Report
24	Lightscape
26	John Dallachy's Trees
28	Illustrators
30	Photo Group
32	Friends' Calendar



PAGE 24



PAGE 26

# BOTANIC NEWS

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. was formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and the National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and learn and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

## Friends' Office

Jill Scown  
Karlene Taylor  
Georgina Ponce de  
Leon Huerta

## Botanic News

ISSN 08170-650

## Editor

Beth Quinn  
E: editor.botnews@  
frbgmelb.org.au

## Graphic Designer

Meg Miller

## eNEWS

## Editors

Marg Thomas  
Jill Scown  
E: friends@frbgmelb.org.au

## Advertising

Full and half page inside  
front and back covers  
are available. Single DL  
inserts also accepted.

Printed on  
100 per cent Australian  
recycled paper  
Print Post Approved  
PP 345842/10025  
A12827T

Gate Lodge,  
100 Birdwood Avenue,  
Melbourne Vic 3004  
T: (03) 9650 6398  
ABN 43 438 335 33!

E: friends@frbgmelb.org.au  
W: rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

f: @friendsrbgmelb

ig: @friendsroyalbotanicgardensmelb

## Patron

The Honourable  
Linda Dessau AC  
Governor of Victoria

## President

Lynsey Poore

## Vice-President

## Secretary

Philip Trinca

## Treasurer

## Council

Sue Broadbent  
Prof. Tim Entwisle  
Sue Foran  
Will Jones  
Meg Miller  
Lisa Steven  
Catherine Trinca

## Conveners

## Botanical Illustrators

Sue Foran

## Events

Lisa Steven

## Growing Friends

Michael Hare

## Membership/Marketing

## Photo Group

Jane Bennett

## Plant Craft Cottage

Catherine Trinca

## Volunteers

## Friends' Trust Fund

William Jones  
Mark Calder  
Jeremy Gibson  
Catherine Trinca  
Mary Ward

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. complies with the Australian Privacy Principles for the collection and use of personal information.





A very warm welcome to the winter edition of Botanic News.

I am honoured to serve as the Friends' president during this very special year as it is our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I am always amazed when I reflect on what this group has accomplished over the years. Despite challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteers have been able to persevere and adapt in order to support the Gardens.

The anniversary celebrations started off with a morning tea on the Hopetoun Lawn on February 20. We welcomed Past Presidents, Council members and group Conveners, as well as one of our founding members, Sylvia Churchill.

To commemorate the anniversary, we planted the rare Wollemi Pine on the eastern side of the Central Lawn near the Fern Gully. The adjacent plaque near it states, "Planted by the Melbourne Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens in recognition of 40 years of outstanding service".

On February 25, we welcomed our 29 newest members, with a morning tea held at Plant Craft Cottage. Thank you to our group Conveners, who spoke about our various activities and volunteer opportunities.

The Growing Friends' Autumn Plant Sale, which was held on April 30 to May 1, was a resounding success, with \$26,500 raised and 24 new members. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who put in a huge amount of work to make it a success.

Something to look forward to is the 16th TABI Exhibition which will be held from 17 September to 2 October at Domain House and online. A selection of high quality botanical illustrations will be exhibited. The Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition is linked to the cultural program of the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress to be held in Melbourne from 25 to 29 September.

The Australian Tourism Industry Council selected our Botanic Gardens for their 2021 Gold Award which is a marvellous achievement. Kudos and thanks to all the staff and others who put in so much effort to maintain our world class gardens. The Friends congratulates the Gardens for winning this award for the first time.

Four of our long-standing Council members have resigned. I and the remaining Council members would like to pay tribute to them for their outstanding service to the Friends over many years. They were all very skilled at governance and finance, and carried out their duties with due diligence and efficiency. We appreciate their contributions.

I also want to give many thanks to Corinne Yee for her services to Botanic News for two years and to Diana Barrie for being the Volunteer Convener for some time.

Lastly, thank you all for being a member of the Friends as we really appreciate your support.

**Lynsey Poore**  
President

**1 and 2. 40th Anniversary Morning Tea.** Beth Quinn

**3 and 4. Wollemi Pine Planting.** Jane Bennett

**5. New Members' Welcome.** Beth Quinn

**Cover Image:**  
Karen Pyke





## Janet Thomson, OAM, President, Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, 2006-2010

I had the pleasure of meeting Janet Thomson for the first time on a lovely sunny afternoon. Though I learnt quite a bit about her amazing volunteering career, I was most struck by her warmth and enthusiasm for people. This is reflected in the variety of roles that she has undertaken over the years in the Friends, and other organisations in which she has been such a stalwart, including the Voluntary Guides for 18 years and the Malvern Citizen Advice Bureau for 20 years.

In 1989, Janet began her connection with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne when she became a Volunteer Guide. She talks with great respect and fondness for her fellow Guides, and with gratitude for the education she received preparing for new walks.

Janet joined the Friends in 1991 when she started volunteering at Growing Friends plant sales. While serving as President of the Guides in 1995-96, she represented them at Friends' Council meetings. She was then invited to join the Council and was elected in November 1996. Being on the Council provided a wonderful learning environment in understanding how boards operate, and making sure you have done your homework if wanting to present new ideas or directions.

Over the years, Janet became involved in many ways with the FRBGM, from Convenor of Volunteers and the publications sub-committee to convening the Futures Directions ad hoc committee. In all these roles, Janet worked as an integral part of a team with the purpose of fostering and improving the role of the Friends in supporting the Gardens.

Another organisation, in which Janet became involved, was the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, now the Australian AFBG, the umbrella organisation for Friends groups. Her involvement as a committee member for 12 years, starting in 2001, and President for one year gave her great pleasure. It also offered the opportunity to meet dedicated Friends from all over Australia.

The 1990s was a time of great change within the Gardens itself, with a proposal to separate the Gardens and the Herbarium. The Friends campaigned to ensure the two entities remained together and the Royal Botanic Gardens became a statutory authority in 1992,

In the 2000s, the Gardens management and the Friends were heavily involved in the issue of the flying foxes damaging the Fern Gully. Janet vividly recalls when she and many other volunteers went to the Gardens in the evenings or the early mornings to make a great deal of noise in the hope that flying foxes would be disturbed sufficiently and choose to take up residence in the



new home that had been organised for them at Yarra Bend! This successful campaign resulted in a revitalised Fern Gully and the recovery of many previously damaged trees.

Janet served as President of the Friends from 2006 to 2010 and retired from the Council in 2014. During those eight years, she and other Friends' Executive and Council members, continued to develop a close working relationship with the Director of the Gardens and the Gardens staff, build connections with the Friends of the Cranbourne Gardens, and strengthen ties to the Melbourne community.

In 2010, Janet was appointed a Trustee of the Friends' Trust Fund and remained a member until 2020. In 2001, the Friends made Janet an Honorary Life Member. In 2016, Janet was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her years of service to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

For the final words, I quote Janet as saying, "It was indeed a great honour, but I have always felt that it was all about teamwork. I certainly couldn't have done what I did without the support, advice, hard work and friendship of many others. I was richly rewarded in so many ways apart from the OAM."

She is truly a wonderful volunteer!

**Diana Barrie**  
Volunteer Convener

Photos courtesy of Janet Thomson







*Robin Penty, Executive Director, Engagement and Impact, and Chris Trotman, Board Chairperson, with the trophy at the ceremony for Australia's major Tourism Attraction at the Sunshine Coast Convention Centre, Queensland.*

## Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria receives State Budget funding

I'm thrilled to share wonderful funding news for the Gardens, as announced in the Victorian Government budget recently.

We have received **\$4.8 million across three years** to provide further building protections for the vulnerable and irreplaceable **State Botanical Collection** and **Victorian Conservation Seedbank**. The funds

also allow for further development of our already strong business case for a long-term home and long-overdue interpretation and access for this incredible Collection.

Combined with \$5 million we received in 2019 for a major feasibility study and place planning for this project, the new grant will put the Gardens in the best possible position to secure funds for a new National Herbarium of Victoria, new plant science research capability for the state, and much-needed increased

community engagement with this critical work of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

Essential building works will commence shortly to reduce significant water ingress and pest incursions, and to store the expanding collection more appropriately within the National Herbarium of Victoria.

## QANTAS Australian Tourism Awards

In other great news, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria has been crowned Australia's Major Tourism Attraction for 2021! This is an exciting and impressive achievement, and a win for all our staff, volunteers, associates and supporters.

This national crown was in addition to winning gold in the Major Tourist Attraction at the Victorian Tourism Awards for the second time in a row.

These awards recognise the enormous value of both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens to Victoria and as a major attractor of visitors to the state. The award was not only in recognition of the beauty of our gardens but also our achievements in science, education, programs, events and our capacity to attract the public to both our gardens.

## Infrastructure Projects

Several infrastructure projects are in full swing at Melbourne Gardens with significant heritage planning and permitting work undertaken for the restoration and replacement of our entry gates and around 70% of the





perimeter fence. The fence will stand 1.7m tall and provide a much-improved entry experience and security for our treasured gardens.

Interestingly, a section of fence between Gate C and Gate A along Anderson Street dates to 1859-1861 and will require restoring, not replacing. This fence was installed by Enoch Hughes - an English-born ironmaster and pioneer of the iron industry in both Australia and New Zealand. Restoration of the gates commenced at Gate F in early April. Fence works are planned for late autumn through winter.

Funded by Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund and several generous donors, the restoration of the Temple of the Winds has progressed well over the past few months. Substantial reinforcements and a new podium and steps have been constructed along with a beautiful bluestone compass. The Temple has also received a new coat of paint. Lighting, landscaping and a new bitumen surface will complete the project.

### Cranbourne Recycled Irrigation Water

Cranbourne Gardens recently launched a new Recycled Water Treatment Plant. This significant project means Cranbourne can now provide 100% of its irrigation needs from recycled water. This will save 14 Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of drinking water per year.

Thanks to \$3.25 million in funding by the Victorian

Government, water now flows from Melbourne's Eastern Treatment Plant via a 1km pipeline to the Gardens, which will further clean the water of salts and nutrients to make it suitable for irrigation of the Australian Garden.

Melbourne Gardens currently offsets 40% of drinking water used for irrigation through the Working Wetlands system and has longer-term ambitions to also use 100% recycled water for irrigation.

### 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress

After a long and bumpy road due to impacts of the pandemic, I'm pleased to confirm that the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress will finally go ahead and be hosted by RBGV from 25 to 29 September 2022. The international event is an opportunity for the botanic gardens professional community to come together, collaborate and share initiatives and challenges. For more information visit: [www.7gbgc.org](http://www.7gbgc.org)

### Lightscape

*Lightscape* is only a few weeks away. For six weeks, starting late June, Melbourne Gardens will be beautifully illuminated and on spectacular display during the winter months. [LIGHTSCAPE - Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne \(melbournelightscape.com.au\)](http://LIGHTSCAPE - Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (melbournelightscape.com.au))

**Chris Cole**  
Executive Director Melbourne Gardens

*Below: The newly-refurbished Temple of the Winds, left, and a sample of the precious Herbarium State Botanical Collection, right.*  
Images courtesy of RBGV





## Winter in the Nursery

In preparation for the Autumn Plant Sale, the Growing Friends were at last fully back in operation after over two years of disruptions due to COVID-19. During that time, the trees on the Glasshouse Lawn, where the plant sales are located, had grown substantially so a revised plant layout was necessary. The new layout provided more open space for people to mingle and mix while enjoying the party atmosphere of the first full plant sale since Spring 2019.

The weather was near perfect; the sun shone early in the mornings but clouds came over around lunch time so the temperature on both days didn't get above the low 20s and, contrary to the predictions, there was no rain. For the customers, it was also a return to something near normal with some commenting, "It's good to see you back." The event was a great success, raising \$26,500 from plant sales and inducing 24 people to join the Melbourne Friends. The photos show some aspects of the sale.

The other important aspect of the Growing Friends returning to normality is that the Nursery is open for visitors each Friday from 9:00 am until noon. If you missed the Autumn Plant Sale, there is still the opportunity for you to get the plants required for your gardening project or to simply replace any plants lost during the lockdowns. When visiting the Nursery, you don't have to buy plants; you can simply come to look and see what plants are being grown. Entry is now through the new RBGV Nursery Gate which is just north of the large works entry gate.

The Growing Friends Nursery is a propagating nursery, meaning we grow plants from seed or cuttings so many of the plants we stock are not available from a normal retail nursery. Also, the Growing Friends, like all experienced, knowledgeable and enthusiastic plant people, welcome queries about plants.

We look forward to seeing you in the Nursery on a Friday morning soon.

**Michael Hare**  
Convener



Packing up for the Sale. Photo: Michael Hare



Setting up the site. Photo: Michael Hare



Happy shoppers. Photo: Jill Scown



## 2022 Trust Fund Appeal

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Trust Fund was established in 1986 at the instigation of The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Inc. Whilst the Trust is a separate legal entity, our objectives, as stated in the Trust Deed are “for the purpose of conserving, protecting and fostering the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens (RBG) Melbourne as a museum of living plants and for the purposes of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria generally” and are closely aligned with the objectives and interests of the Friends.

Over its life, the Trust has made a financial contribution in excess of \$3 million in support of the RBG Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria. The Trust has historically supported major RBG projects, such as the recently completed Sensory Garden (the Trust contributed \$200,000 to fund this project), the restoration of Fern Gully boardwalks (\$300,000), the restoration of Guilfoyle’s Volcano (\$70,000) and multi-year contributions to Working Wetlands (\$210,00) and Water Works, Water Wise (\$450,000). It also provides annual general purpose, scholarship and research grants to the RBG, along with biennial funding for a travel bursary and the acquisition of botanical art for the State Botanical Collection, which is housed in the National Herbarium of Victoria. At a time when there is significant pressure on funding for entities, such as the RBG, it’s important that the Trust attracts new funds via donations and bequests.

The Trustees, who are appointed by the Friends at their annual general meeting, represent a mix of appropriate experience and qualifications to ensure that they have the necessary financial skills and familiarity with the operation of both the Friends and the RBG. Currently, there are two ex-Presidents of the Friends, Cathy Trinca and Mary Ward, acting as Trustees, with the remaining Trustees, Mark Calder, Jeremy Gibson and myself having extensive financial markets experience.

The Trust is a Public Ancillary Fund (PAF). Under PAF rules, the Trust is required to distribute four percent of the value of the corpus as of 30th June in the next financial year. On the 30th June 2021, the Trust’s corpus stood at \$4,452,122, thereby requiring a minimum distribution of \$178,085 in the 2021-2022 financial year. Along with grants for scholarships and research, the Trust in the current year has agreed to provide \$70,000 towards “Changing Places”, a project that will provide suitable facilities for people who can’t use standard facilities; additional drinking fountains; and a new Ambassador Pod for use by the RBGV Guides. The projects funded are agreed by a Grants Committee that includes the Trustees, members of the Friends Council and the Director of the RBGV.

PAF rules also require the Trust to conduct an annual appeal to members and the public, thus this article assists to ensure the Trust complies with this obligation. Despite the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns on

public engagement with both the RBG and the Friends over the last financial year, the 2021 Trust Annual Appeal raised a record sum and it is hoped this year’s appeal will again set a new record.

The Trustees encourage your support.

**Will Jones**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**The Friends of the Royal Botanic**  
**Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund**

Enquiries in relation to the Appeal can be made by going to the Friends’ website, [www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org](http://www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org), and following the links. For telephone donations, kindly ring the Friends’ office on 9650 6398. All donations of two dollars and over to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust Fund are tax deductible.



Garden Explorer donated by the Friends. Photo: Jill Scown





## The Plant Craft Cottage's Storied History

Nestled in a quiet corner of the Gardens, a small charming cottage belies its history as a central point of the Gardens and the birthplace of the Friends.

The Plant Craft Cottage was built in 1850-51 as an Under Gardener's Cottage to the design of Henry Ginn, the Colonial Architect of the time, who was responsible for the earliest layout of the Gardens on the east, near Anderson Street.

Although the main facade of the Cottage is rendered, the original warm-coloured handmade bricks are exposed under the verandah. These bricks are smaller than present day machine-made bricks and are laid in English Bond as a solid nine-inch wall without a cavity. It was built as a symmetrical brick building of three rooms, a central day room flanked by bedrooms to the north and south. Two of these rooms remain and are used today as the kitchen and part of the craft room. There is a drop in the floor level as you move into the old part of the building.

While certainly very appealing in appearance, it was also very small, being only a three-roomed symmetrical brick cottage. Study of the plan reveals no provision for a water supply, no washing or separate cooking facilities. Although there are many decorative brick recesses on the external walls, very few of these actually housed windows. Only two small leadlight windows were provided in each bedroom, and two slightly larger ones in the day room. The light would have been barely adequate. The bluestone foundation can be seen at the base of the walls against the brick paving. The steeply pitched slate roof, ornate chimneys, brick recesses, leadlight windows and decorative barge boards are typical of a style of domestic architecture popular in England at the time. Other examples can be seen in the Melbourne suburbs of South Yarra and Hawthorn, but they are quite rare.

In the early 1900s the weatherboard

extension, with its typical bull-nosed verandah and attractive botanically inspired cast-iron lace work, was added; and this extension now forms the entrance to the cottage. It was also at this time that the original northern bedroom wing was removed.

Until this time, the cottage was perched high on the riverbank. The evidence of this is still with us in the steep drop between the cottage and the path below, and the exposed rock face immediately behind the building.

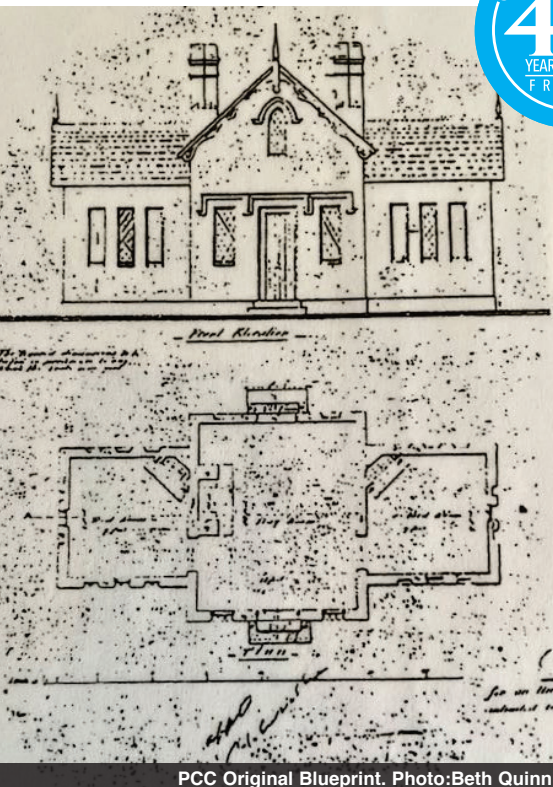
In 1898, the course of the Yarra River was altered, straightening out the original horseshoe bend and allowing the formation of Alexandra Avenue and a wide riverbank. This work took the river much further away from the Gardens. The old riverbank was incorporated into the re-landscaped Ornamental Lake by William Guilfoyle, the second Director.

The first recorded occupant in 1853 is a gardener named Young; at that time Ferdinand von Mueller is referred to as a lodger, presumably because of his frequent absences on plant gathering expeditions. It is believed that between the years 1853 and 1856, Mueller lived there with his sisters.

On January 6, 1853, Dr. Ferdinand Mueller was appointed Victoria's first Government Botanist and it is believed that he and his sisters occupied the cottage over the next four years. In 1857 Dr. Mueller succeeded John Dallachy as Director of the Gardens at which time he moved into the Director's residence, currently known as Gardens House. Among the many honours awarded in acknowledgment of his achievements in botany, science and exploration, was a hereditary baronetcy, conferred by the King of Wurttemberg in 1871. When he became Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

Christian Gottlieb Schneider, who worked closely with Mueller, lived there with his family between 1862 and 1883. A descendent remembered family picnics under a double-flowered horse chestnut near A Gate and Alexandra Avenue – as her grandfather's tree!

In 1887, it became home to Bridget and James Slattery and their eleven



PCC Original Blueprint. Photo: Beth Quinn



Historic window. Photo: Roy Port



The Cottage as it is now. Photo: Cathy Trinca



children. Governor La Trobe frequently visited the gardens, coming down past Jolimont from the Government House and crossing by a boat which he used to hail, landing near Slattery's house. One of the legends in the Slattery family is the story of a little girl called Nellie Mitchell who fell into the Yarra and was rescued by Bridget Slattery – she survived to become Dame Nellie Melba!

The Cronin family came in 1891 with their four children, followed by John White and his family, who arrive in 1912. His granddaughter remembered fishing in the lake after the gardens were closed and her grandfather walking to all the gates at night to check that they were locked.

Throughout the 1900s, the cottage was known as H Gate Lodge. From around 1912 to 1928, the cottage was home to the family of Alexander Shaw, a Scotsman from Inverness, who trained at Kew Gardens. His descendants spoke of their isolation. Once the Garden gates were locked at sunset, they were on their own, and while it was possible to lock the undesirables out, there was also the danger of locking them in! An outing which lasted until after dark meant a long and scary walk across the unlit Domain and through the Gardens to the cottage.

The Williams, Perkins, Greig, and Ralston families lived in the cottage between the years 1928 and 1957 when William Honey and his family moved in. His daughter, Helen, remembered that there was a wood stove and oven until, with the advent of bottled gas, a new gas stove was installed; there was a chip heater in the bathroom and the telephone number was connected to the central exchange which was operated manually – the number was Central 1032.

As was common of housing of the area, living conditions in the cottage changed with the seasons. Since it was surrounded by trees it was cold and damp in winter, but cool and shady in warm weather. The last gardener, Terry Davies, moved out in 1977. Unfortunately, the cottage fell into disrepair in the years that followed.

Through the determination of a group of very interested people, the Lands Department was persuaded to save the building from demolition, and to allow it to be repaired and used as a plant craft study centre. The Lands Department, Royal Botanic Gardens and volunteers restored the cottage to its present state, the surrounding garden was landscaped by the Gardens' staff and the Plant Craft Cottage opened in November 1981. It is the oldest public building in continuous use in Victoria. The old brick rooms of the cottage now have National Trust classification.

Many of the volunteers who worked to save the cottage became the founding members of the Friends. Today, the cottage is staffed by rostered volunteers who work to keep plant crafts alive and to maintain the historic building and surrounding gardens. The cottage currently houses the following Friends groups: Natural Dye; Basketry; and Cottage Gardening. It is home to the Botanic Residency Program which was established to engage Melbourne-based artists and makers who work with natural materials. Over the years, the craft groups have conducted scores of successful workshops for both adults and children.

The Friends have contributed over the years to the upkeep and repair of the cottage. The more recent internal updating of the shop and craft rooms, plus the installation of a new kitchen was also funded by the Friends. There is an enthusiastic volunteer gardening group that maintains the wonderful cottage garden surrounding it, providing a lovely environment for visitors.

This article was compiled from a number of previous articles written by Phyl Knaggs, a previous Convener of the Plant Craft Cottage, who also drew heavily on Janet Walsh's unpublished recollection, *The Plant Craft Cottage* and the *History of the Friends* by Beth Quinn.

**Cathy Trinca**  
Convener



Historic latticework on Cottage.  
Photo: Adnan Mansour



Exploring steps in the PCC. Photo: Jane Bennett

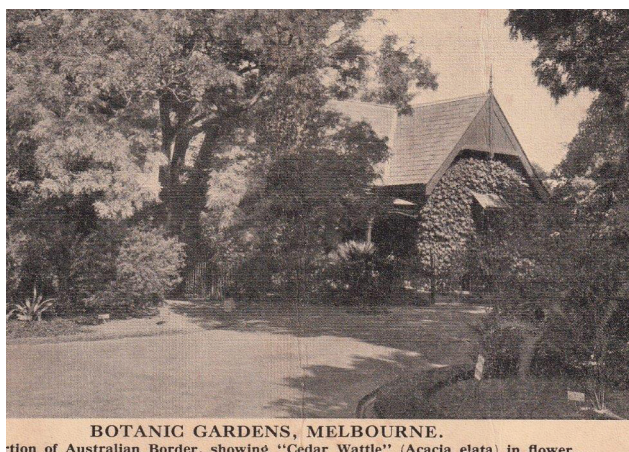


Volunteer gardener Rosemary Laurens.  
Photo: Beth Quinn



Vintage Watercolour of PCC. Photo: Beth Quinn





## Insiders' Walk with Jenny Happell *A Postcard Walk*

**Tuesday 7 June at 10.30am**

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Refreshments from 10.15am

Friends only \$20

Bookings essential. Limit 20

Our RBGM guide, Jenny Happell, is a keen collector of old postcards depicting the Melbourne Gardens. The cards capture the various views of the Gardens from the late 1880s onwards and provide an intimate glimpse of the social fabric of Melbournians over the decades. Postcards became a craze around the world from the 1890s at a time when mail was collected three times a day.



## Insiders' Walk with Mali Wilson *Celebrating the Queen's Jubilee*

**Wednesday 15 June at 10am**

Meet at Observatory Gate Lodge

Friends only \$20

Refreshments offered from 9.45am

Bookings essential. Limit 20

Year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations will be held throughout this year as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign of 70 years on the throne. We'll mark our own celebration with a Royal walk guided by Mali Wilson, RBGM Guide, that will take in all the Gardens trees planted by the UK royals and other royal patronages.

Whilst we have only one tree planted by the Queen herself, it's noted that Queen Elizabeth II has planted 1500 trees throughout her reign and throughout the world.



## Talking online with Cathy Trinca *Historic Buildings of the Gardens*

**Thursday 16 June at 2pm**

Online only. Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential.

Since Charles La Trobe in 1846 set aside the natural amphitheatre where our famous Royal Botanic Gardens now sit, the Gardens include many man-made structures and buildings as well as magnificent plantings. From Mueller's aviaries and formal structures and gardens to Guilfoyle's Victorian follies, rockeries and gazebos, many of these historic and treasured structures survive.



## Beginners Basketry Workshop with Jodie Goldring - *Coiled Baskets*

**Saturday 18 June at 10am to 3pm**

Plant Craft Cottage (enter via Gate H)

Morning tea and coffee provided. BYO lunch.

Friends \$85 Non-Members \$100

Bookings essential. Limit 10

In this workshop a variety of recycled patterned fabrics will be offered so that participants can make complex and unique colouration when stitching coiled baskets. The fabric will be wrapped around a paper rope core, and you will be guided to coil using a mariposa stitch. String used for stitching the basket will be waxed and hand painted to create more interesting colour variation to the baskets. Coiling is a time-consuming technique so this basket will not be completed in the day workshop. All tools and materials will be provided, but please bring an apron and scissors. No experience needed. Suitable for both adults and teenagers.





Photo: RBGV Archives

## Photography Walk with Cathy Trinca *Historic Buildings of the Gardens*

**Tuesday 21 June at 10am**

Meet at Observatory Gate Lodge

Refreshments from 9.45am

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential. Limit 20

Situated throughout the Gardens are many ornamental structures, some of considerable age, an integral part of the Gardens' creation and important to its nineteenth century character. These include many of the gate lodges.

You'll enjoy the history and stories of selected buildings and have time to photograph the architectural features and surrounds at each.



Photo: David Plant

## Talking at Mueller Hall with David Plant *Autumn in Japan*

**Wednesday 22 June at 2pm**

Mueller Hall (Entry via Gate F) Refreshments from 1.45pm

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential.

Beautifully tended formal gardens, colourful ancient temples and traditional festivals are just some of the highlights of this fascinating country of a winter travel talk to be presented by David Plant.

David visited four cities, Tokyo, the ancient city of Kyoto, the culture of Kanazawa and the fascinating festival of Takayama. Whilst there, David attended the atelier of a famous sword-smith family and experienced a typhoon.



Photo: Cathy Trinca

## Talking Online with Cathy Trinca *Northern Ireland Private Gardens*

**Friday 24 June at 10am**

Online only. Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential.

Where the Gulf Stream finds Europe, there is a verdant island, bursting with the most incredible collection of gardens. Cathy was fortunate to visit and stay in some of the very best private Northern Irish houses and gardens, as part of a UK garden tour pre-pandemic.

As most of these gardens belonged to the landed gentry of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, these gardens have been developed, nurtured and loved by generations of owners, and are all still in private hands. These gardens include walled kitchen and flower gardens, pheasantries and acres of pleasure gardens.



## Workshop with Craig Castree *Soil Health and Care*

**Saturday 25 June - 10.30am to 12pm**

Growing Friends Nursery (entry via E Gate)

Friends \$40 Non-Members \$45 Morning Tea from 10.15am

Bookings essential. Limit 12

Healthy soil is the foundation of productive, sustainable gardening. Managing for soil health allows us all to garden working with the land – not against – to reduce erosion, maximize water infiltration, improve nutrient cycling, save money on inputs, and ultimately improve the resiliency of their garden. Craig will cover mulching, using pesticides and ways to improve the productivity of your vegetable gardens and flowering plants.

Craig is a qualified Horticulturist and a staunch advocate of sustainability – he grows all his own food and authored *The Edible Garden* to demonstrate how we can all do this.





Photo: Louise Seymour

## **Cottage Craft** **Botanical Crafts**

**Thursday 30 June and Friday 8 July**  
**10am to 11.30am**

Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Gold coin donation to get crafty

Bring your grand/kids along to enjoy some fun and fabulous botanical-themed craft activities for you to enjoy together at our revitalised Plant Craft Cottage. Drop-ins welcome for the morning and we'll have tea/coffee/cordial on tap to enjoy.

## **Workshop with Anne Douglas** **Macrame**

**Saturday 2 July 10am to 12noon**

Plant Craft Cottage RBGM (entry via Gate H)

Morning Tea provided from 9.45am

Friends \$40 Non-Members \$50

Bookings essential. Limit 12

Rediscover this timeless textile craft. This workshop, by facilitator Anne Douglas, will teach you how to make your own macrame pot plant holder using several knotting techniques. All materials are supplied.



Photo: Anne Douglas



Photo: Stephen Bywater

## **Insiders' Walk with Mali Wilson** **Celebrating the Separation Tree**

**Friday 1 July at 10am**

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Refreshments from 9.45am

Friends only \$20

Bookings essential. Limit 20

Found on the Tennyson Lawn, the Separation tree, a heritage listed *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* or red river gum, was one of two original river red gums that were along the banks of the swampy billabong which makes up part of the Ornamental Lake of the Gardens. It is best known as the site where the citizens of the newly fledged Melbourne congregated on 15 November 1850 to celebrate when the news that Victoria was to separate from the colony of New South Wales.

With this walk, Mali celebrates the placing of the plaque on the Separation tree some 171 years ago by exploring the first five acres and the consequential actions taken by the Gardens team in both 2010 and again in 2013 when the 400-year-old tree was damaged by vandals.





## Talking at Mueller with Professor Tim Entwisle *Ex algis omnia* (everything from algae)

**Monday 4 July at 6pm**

Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F) Refreshments from 5.45pm  
Friends \$20 Non-members \$30 Bookings essential.

Professor Tim Entwisle, RBGV Director and Chief Executive, has, since an early age, been interested in how the world works and the science behind every living thing. Tim is recognised worldwide as an expert in freshwater algae, maintaining an active interest whilst managing our beloved Gardens. In 2014, an 'order' of algae, *Entwisleales*, was named in tribute to him. Tim will talk to us about the vast and varied world of algae that exist not only to be helpful to us but are critical to our existence.



## Talking Online with Cathy Trinca *Surprising Singapore*

**Thursday 7 July at 2pm**

Online only. Friends \$10 Non-members \$15  
Bookings essential.

Singapore is increasingly gaining recognition for its green initiatives. David Attenborough's 2016 hit series Planet Earth 11, singled it out as one of the world's cities leading the environmentally friendly charge.

In 2018, a group of Friends travelled to Singapore to enjoy this fascinating country where beautifully tended formal gardens, extensive botanic gardens, community food production, gardens on reclaimed land, and extraordinary green spaces were enjoyed and explored. Cathy Trinca presents some of highlights of this fabulous tour to us.



## Basketry Workshop with Vicki Fowler *Colourful Coiling*

**Saturday 9 July 10am to 3pm**

Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)  
Refreshments from 9.45am. BYO lunch  
Friends \$50 Non-members \$65  
Bookings essential. Limit 10

Coiling is one of the most ancient basketry methods in the world and you'll learn the basic basket making techniques including how to make a slip knot and then stitch around it to form the centre of a circle, how to use texture, thickness and tension to achieve different results and how to finish off your basket.

All materials will be provided for your use. The workshop is suitable for all skill levels.



## Talking Online with Lynsey Poore *Hampton Court Palace and Gardens*

**Tuesday 12 July at 2pm**

Online only. Friends \$10 Non-members \$15  
Bookings essential.

Hampton Court Palace gardeners enjoy one of the best 'offices' in the world, tending to the 60 acres of spectacular formal gardens and 750 acres (304 hectares) of parkland, the oldest puzzle maze, a record-breaking grapevine, three National Plant Collections, Britain's longest herbaceous border and a huge variety of wildlife, including the descendants of Henry VIII's deer herd. All this, within a loop of the River Thames.

Come join us for this armchair travel talk and enjoy the magnificence of this palace that Henry VIII and family called home.



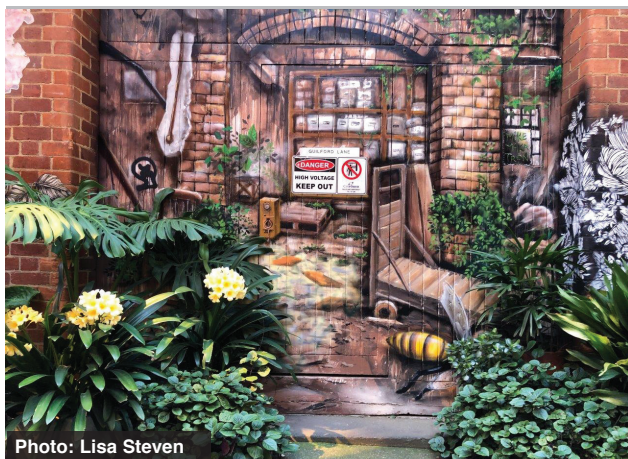


Photo: Lisa Steven

## A Friendly Ramble Around our city of Melbourne

Friday 15 July at 10am

Meet outside Southern Cross Station

Morning tea at own cost.

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential. Limit 15

From growing vertical gardens, planting of trees to creating sky parks floating above the streets, our beloved Melbourne is slowly 'greening up'. On this ramble, we'll visit the first of six new parks in the cityscape, an open-air greenspace that allows visitors to enjoy the outdoors and take in the city's skyline in a protected environment. Along the way, we'll explore a green precinct, a few laneways, some fabulous artwork and find a coffee for a morning tea break.



Photo: Karen Pyke

## Talking at Mueller with Dr. Greg Moore OAM Trees and a Sustainable, Liveable City

Thursday 21 July at 11am

Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)

Refreshments from 10.45am

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential.

Trees are critical elements of urban infrastructure. They are essential to the sustainability of our cities as climate changes, but in most Australian cities we are losing trees and canopy cover just when we most need it. Dr. Moore is a senior research associate at University of Melbourne, Burnley campus and a member of the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees since 1988 (and Chair since 1996). He has been on the Board of Greening Australia (Victoria) since 1989 and has chaired Treenet since 2005.



Photo: Lucy Wilk

## Kids & Grandparents Workshop with Lucy Wilk and Rebecca Garfield Gel Printing with Botanicals

Sunday 17 July 10am to 11.30am

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Refreshments provided

Friends \$35 Non-Members \$40

Bookings essential. Limit 12 (or 6 pairs)

Local creative Lucy Wilk and local artist Rebecca Garfield will share their joy of gel printing with you and your grandchild, exploring the printing of pressed flowers and plants to create wonderful artworks for you to take home. Colour, pattern, positive/negative spaces will be explored in this hands-on workshop.

Gel printing is a form of mono-printing which only allows for a single impression, resulting in a one-of-a-kind piece of art. It's a wonderful way to celebrate nature and spend the morning with your grandchild.

All materials included. Please bring an apron/smock or wear suitable clothes for working with paint.

## Workshop with Lucy Wilk and Rebecca Garfield

### Gel Printing with Botanicals

Sunday 17 July 1.30pm to 3.30pm

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Refreshments provided

Friends \$45 Non-Members \$55

Bookings essential. Limit 10

Please bring an apron/smock or wear suitable clothes for working with paint.





Painting by Ellis Rowan



Photo: Anne Douglas

## Workshop with Anne Douglas *Kokedama*

**Saturday 16 July 10am to 11.30am**

Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Morning Tea provided from 9.45am

Friends \$35 Non-Members \$45

Bookings essential. Limit 12

Kokedama is Japanese for “moss ball”. Our facilitator Anne Douglas will show you how to use a combination of soil and moss to create a ball around the roots of a plant. The ball is then wrapped in twine or string. Your kokedama can be hung or simply placed in a saucer, either indoors or outdoors. This workshop will take you through the simple process of making your own kokedama to take home and enjoy. All materials supplied.

## Talking at Mueller with Sara Maroske *Eve’s garden: scoping and documenting women’s contributions to Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBGM) and Melbourne Observatory (MO), 1846–1999*

**Wednesday 27 July at 2pm**

Meet at Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)

Refreshments from 1.45pm

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential.

At the end of 2021, Engagement and Impacted contracted Dr Maroske to prepare an annotated bibliography that scoped and documented women’s contributions to RBGM and MO, 1846–1999. Dr. Maroske argues that in history women are always there, and in today’s presentation outlines the expected, and unexpected, results of her research. The Friends, as the leading group of volunteers at RBGM, play an important role in this story. Join us for this talk and find out the name of the first female volunteer at RBGM.

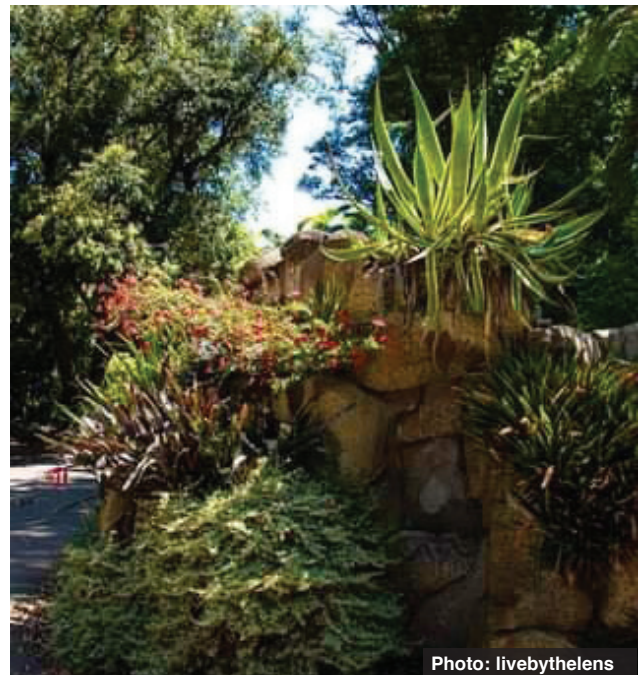


Photo: livebythelens

## Insiders’ Walk with Mali Wilson *Rockeries and Ruins*

**Sunday 31 July at 10am**

Meet at Guilfoyle’s Volcano

Refreshments from 9.45am

Friends only \$20

Bookings essential.

The many historic rockeries are important picturesque focal points of the Gardens. Mali Wilson, RBGM Guide, takes us on a tour of these various forms, including Guilfoyle’s Volcano, many more of Guilfoyle’s follies, the work of Charles Robinette, a craftsman who might not now be a household name but was once the go-to man for rustic rock formations with picturesque ideals. We will also look at the rockery designed and installed by Ellis Stones in 1967, the William Tell Rest House rockery and the Touchwood ruin.





## Talking at Mueller with Finn Taylor *Celebrating 160 Years of the Melbourne Zoo*

**Friday 29 July at 11am**

Meet at Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)

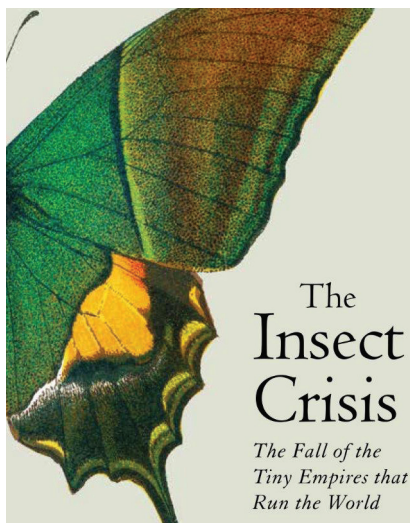
Refreshments from 10.30am

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential.

Melbourne Zoo was the first zoo established in Australia and one of the world's oldest with its Royal Park site celebrating its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October this year. The Zoo enjoys strong connections with our own Melbourne Gardens through Ferdinand von Mueller, who convened a meeting with the Zoological Society of Victoria to discuss the establishment of a Zoo in Melbourne in 1858. Until it was ready to receive animals, the Zoo's first collection was housed within the Botanic Gardens under the dedicated care of von Mueller. It's an interesting legacy (and subsequent history) for both the Zoo and our Gardens. The connection continues over the years with Melbourne Zoo recently becoming member of the RBGM's International Climate Change Alliance of Botanic Gardens.

Come hear Finn Taylor, Melbourne Zoo Horticulturalist, talk about the gardens, the stories behind them and the good work the team does to support Parks Victoria projects as needed from time to time.



## Talking Online with Oliver Milman

### *The Insect Crisis*

**Tuesday 2 August at 10am**

Online only.

Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential.

Insects are everywhere. Three out of every four known animal species are insects. Acclaimed journalist Oliver Milman talks to us about the torrent of recent evidence that suggests this kaleidoscopic group of creatures is suffering the greatest existential crisis in its remarkable 400-million-year history. Part warning, part celebration, Oliver will explore the critical role that insects play in our world today.



## Garden Tour *Gardens of the Melbourne Zoo*

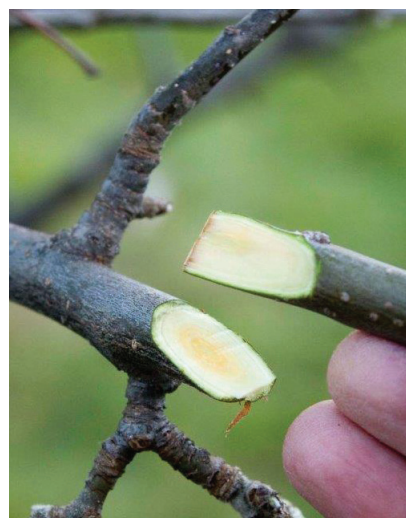
**Thursday 4 August at 10am**

Meet at Melbourne Zoo entrance

Friends \$50 Non-members \$60

Bookings essential. Limit 25

The Royal Park site of Melbourne Zoo celebrates its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October this year. Join us to explore the gardens of the Zoo with a Horticultural Guide. We'll then enjoy an early boxed lunch together in the beautiful surrounds. You'll have time to further explore the gardens and animals at leisure afterwards.



## Workshop with Craig Castree *Winter Grafting*

**Saturday 6 August 10.30am to 12pm**

Growing Friends Nursery (entry via E Gate)

Friends \$40 Non-Members \$45

Morning Tea from 10.15am

Bookings essential. Limit 12

Attention to pruning fruit trees in late winter while they're dormant and before the buds open is ideal. Craig will cover the essentials to ensuring your trees will survive the winter months and thrive in the spring. Craig will bring along a fruit tree to demonstrate pruning techniques.





Photo: Cathy Trinca

## Talking Online with Cathy Trinca

### Gardens of the Italian Lakes

Thursday 11 August at 2pm

Online only.

Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential.

Lake Como is surrounded by some of Italy's most beautiful gardens. Ever since the ancient Romans escaped the summer heat in villas overlooking Lake Como, travellers have loved this scenic Italian lake.

Cathy Trinca takes us on her own tour of the Italian Lakes, taking in Lake Como and surrounds and includes numerous lakeside villas and their impressive gardens as well as an island completely taken up by villa and garden.

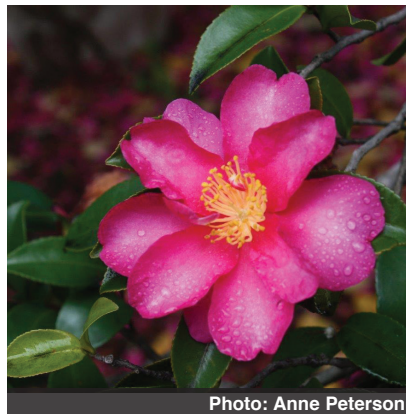


Photo: Anne Peterson

## Insiders' Walk with Jenny Happell, Donna Osbourne and Mali Wilson Tea and Camellias

Tuesday 9 August at 10am

Meet at Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)

Refreshments from 9.45am

Friends only \$20

Bookings essential. Limited 24

Take a tour of the Royal Botanic Garden's world class camellia collection which includes a range of early and modern cultivars and wild-collected species some of which are fragrant. There are over 900 varieties of Camellia in the Garden's collection which is recognised by the Australian Camellia Society. Camellias begin to flower in early winter and flower until the end of summer depending on the species.

Come and see what might look spectacular in your garden, and see some of the rarest and most spectacular varieties. This walk starts with a refreshing tea – leaves coming from *Camellia sinensis*.



Photo: Anne Douglas

## Workshop with Anne Douglas Beeswax Wraps

Saturday 13 August 10am to

11.30am

Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Morning Tea provided from 9.45am

Friends \$35 Non-Members \$45

Bookings essential. Limit 12

Beeswax wraps are a sustainable alternative to clingwrap and can be used for covering dishes, wrapping sandwiches and just about everything else that you might use cling wrap for. In this workshop run by facilitator Annie Douglas, you'll make several beeswax wraps using a very easy technique. All materials are supplied.

## Talking at Mueller with Adelaide Bragg Bringing the Outside In

Wednesday 10 August at 5pm

Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)

Refreshments from 4.30pm

Friends \$20 Non-members \$30

Bookings essential.

Our homes are the heartbeat of everything – it's where we share ourselves with family and friends. Our gardens equally so. When designing interiors, the connection between the garden and home is essential to creating a welcoming and relaxed space. Establishing her own Interior Design and Decoration business in 1989, Adelaide Bragg is known for her timeless and classic interiors. For every project, Adelaide draws on her love of the outdoors and garden as "every room needs a touch of green. It earths them and brings the outside in". Adelaide will discuss how she approaches her design work and ensures that each beautiful interior she creates draw the outside in.



Photo: Lisa Cohen



## GEORGIANA MOLLOY

the mind that shines

A biography of one  
of Australia's first  
female botanical  
collectors



Photo: Lynsey Poore



Photo: Oz Demirhan

### Talking Online with Bernice Barry Georgiana Molloy - celebrating one of Australia's first female botanists

**Wednesday 17 August at 5pm**

Online only.

Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential.

This talk tells the extraordinary story of Georgiana Molloy, one of Australia's first internationally successful female botanists. Our presenter, Bernice Barry, lives on WA's southwest coast near the place where Georgiana arrived. Bernice has researched Georgiana's own writings and notes and will share the stories of this wonderful botanist..

Bernice's meticulously researched book, *Georgiana Molloy: The Mind That Shines* is available to order from her publisher.

### Talking Online with Lynsey Poore Western Australia Wildflowers Part 2

**Thursday 25 August at 10am**

Online only.

Friends \$10 Non-members \$15

Bookings essential

Lynsey offers another fascinating talk on Western Australia Wildflowers, following on from her fabulous talk Winter 2021. This time, she takes us on a journey through the south-west cape, taking in Le Grande National Park, with its sweeping heathlands, rugged coastal peaks and white sandy beaches. Massive granite and gneiss peaks rise from the coastal plain and the rolling heathlands are home to pygmy possums, western grey kangaroos and a diversity of colourful wildflowers including dense thickets of showy banksia. It's a tour of the 'wild side' and one not to be missed!

### Workshop with Lennon+me Flower Wall Hanging

**Saturday 20 August at 2pm**

Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)

Afternoon Tea provided

Friends \$60 Non-Members \$75

Bookings essential. Limit 14

Come weave, wrap and macrame a bold statement flower with host Oz Demirhan, owner of craft business Lennon+me, at this afternoon workshop, suitable for beg. You'll learn about different ropes, yarns and threads that can be used as the internal structures as well as the colour decorative wrapping and macrame techniques involved. You'll have time to produce one beautiful macrame flower that will be made from eco-friendly materials. This workshop is perfect for beginners with all materials included.



Photo: Jane Bennett

### Insiders' Walk with David Forbes Breakfast with the Birds

**Saturday 27 August at 8am**

Meet at the Visitors Centre, Observatory Gate

Breakfast at Plant Craft Cottage to follow

Friends only \$20

Bookings essential. Limited to 20

Our knowledgeable guide David Forbes has been observing the birds in the Melbourne Gardens for many years. Take a quiet, leisurely morning stroll with David around our glorious Gardens to see and hear the colourful, noisy, small and large birds that inhabit the landscape. Bring your binoculars to help find the birds and their discreet hideaways. We'll make our way to Plant Craft Cottage and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast together.





Photo: Cathy Trinca

### Insiders' Walk with Cathy Trinca *Historic Buildings of the Gardens*

**Tuesday 30 August at 2pm**

Meet at Observatory Gate Lodge  
Refreshments from 1:45pm  
Friends only \$20  
Bookings essential. Limit 20

Join Cathy on a walking tour of the Gardens. Learn about who lived in the various buildings, where the museum of economic botany was kept and where they stabled the horses that pulled the lawn mowers. You'll even stand on the site where von Mueller housed Melbourne's first Zoo!

The Fern Gully, William Tell, Separation Tree and Tecoma Rest Houses have been recently restored, complementing the earlier restoration of the Rose Pavilion and Temple of the Winds. Cathy will relate their history.



Artwork by Pam Habersberger

### Talking at Mueller Hall with Daniel Murphy *Wonderful Wattles*

**Thursday 1 September at 2pm**

Mueller Hall (entry via Gate F)  
Refreshments at 1.30pm  
Friends \$20 Non-members \$30  
Bookings essential.

Join Daniel Murphy, RBGVM Senior Research Scientist in Molecular Systematics, to hear about the wonderful wattle ahead of National Wattle Day. He has a particular interest in the evolutionary history of our national flower and its connections to other Flora world-wide.

Dan will provide an overview of the amazing diversity of the species and their resiliency, how they reproduce and survive fire and other interesting facts about their ecology. This talk will be a welcome adjunct to the Exhibition *The Acacia Project*.

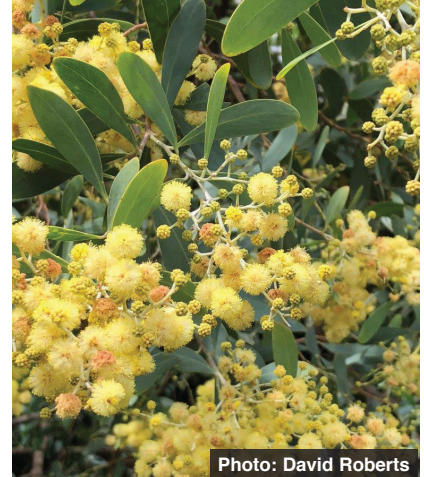


Photo: David Roberts

### Insiders' Walk with Mali Wilson *The Gardens' Rare and Endangered Wattles*

**Sunday 4 September and  
Thursday 8 September at 10am**

Meet at Observatory Gate Lodge  
Refreshments from 9.45am  
Friends \$20  
Bookings essential. Limit 20

Explore the Gardens to seek out the rare and endangered acacia that have been beautifully illustrated by our botanical illustrators, the Whirlybirds, currently on show at the Visitor's Centre. We'll wander through the Exhibition first and enjoy a meet-and-greet with one of the artists at the Visitors Centre before we set off to find the wattles. Mali Wilson, our RBGV Guide, will talk to us about the symbolism and history of the wattle on this one-hour walk, which celebrates our national floral emblem.



Photo: Judy Hajdu

### Ramble with Judy Hajdu - *The Carnegie Skyrail*

**Friday 26 August at 10am**

Meet at *Tailored Café*, Carnegie  
Friends only \$20  
Bookings essential. Limit 20p

The Skyrail overpass at Carnegie Station was met with relief by many locals, removing the endless wait at boom gates for trains to pass. The developed landscape surrounding the station is the first part of Melbourne's south-east Skyrail, a project that saw nine level crossings removed and opened up eleven MCGs worth of new open space. The expert advisory panel, chaired by Professor Tim Entwisle, oversaw the planting of nearly 30,000 plantings across the corridor, including more than 4,000 trees lining the 17-kilometre cycling and walking trail from Monash University's Caulfield campus to Eastlink.

Whether you arrive by train or by car, let's meet at Tailored Cafe on the corner of Koornang Rd and Egan St. We'll enjoy morning tea at our own expense before we begin our ramble. We will wander under the Skyrail admiring the green areas that now grace the pathway. We will then explore the popular playgrounds, returning to Koornang Road, passing the variety of shops and restaurants.





## Lightning Oak Cables

One of the most majestic trees at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is affectionately known as the Lightning Oak (*Quercus* hybrid) at the northern end of Oak Lawn. A lightning strike struck the tree on a stormy Melbourne Cup Day in 1972, the wounds of which can still be seen if you look closely. Although its taxonomy is unknown, this does not diminish its standing as one of the largest and most beautiful trees at Melbourne Gardens. It is well known and loved by those who visit, and you can often find school groups and RBGV staff gathering beneath its broad canopy. What you may not know is the tree holds many mysteries that only add to its beauty and complexity and that the arboricultural community is particularly interested in its on-going management.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has approximately 6500 trees of which 80% have been classified as mature to over-mature. This means they are at a stage of their lives where the care and management are complex in terms of facilitating their retention in the landscape. For several decades steel cable bracing systems was a preferred method for stabilising tree canopies and branch structures and something that would become a legacy for RBGV to manage.

Current best practice tree management now includes materials and methods that may not have been available only a few decades ago. We now only use steel cables or props when it is appropriate to do so, and consider the future management required of the installed system and its relationship to the tree's structure. Dynamic cabling systems are favoured as they allow the tree to move and maintain vitality and flexibility, not over-relying on the support system for its structural integrity. Cabling a tree limb with a steel cable can be loosely compared to having one's leg in a cast for 20 years, it can be assumed the limbs strength is reduced. At Melbourne Gardens, there are currently 50 large trees with cable support systems. Like all gardens infrastructure, a level of maintenance is required to ensure the

systems are safe and fit for purpose.

The Lightning Oak is an example of arboricultural management to a scale seldom seen. The tree contains over 25 steel cables, rings, and rods, some of which are approaching 30 years old. The tree's unique architecture may be attributed to its structural adaptation and subsequent reliance on these cables which means they have become more-or-less a permanent fixture. The complexity of this system means that seemingly minor works such as pruning, can be complicated. For example, if too much weight reduction pruning is carried out, the network of cables may start to put a heavier load or pressure on the tree's limbs on the opposite side of the canopy.

Given the age of the tree's cable system it must be regularly inspected, tagged, and scrutinized every few years to ensure the system is structurally sound. Given the tree's structure has adapted over time to incorporate this support system, the cables are almost as important to maintain as the tree itself. This means our arboriculture team must work closely with structural engineers (ones not afraid of heights) to monitor and test and basically unravel the cabled mystery that this tree holds in its crown. Over the past few years, our arborists have been executing a ten-year management plan that includes crown management, cable inspection and removal/replacement.

If you find yourself underneath this magnificent specimen, take the time to look up and see the system for yourself. It is a learning experience for engineers and arborists alike and a truly unique tree, which is very much at home at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

**Charlie Carroll**  
Manager Arboriculture RBGV

1. Large NW stem extending nearly 20m with major cable support.
2. Looking down at the tree's major bifurcation shows two halves being held together by cables.
3. Arboriculture and structural engineers inspecting the tree's stability.

Images supplied by the author.



**The Plant Craft Cottage** has been open to the public for the last few months and has been receiving plenty of visitors ever since. It is open Thursday to Saturday, from 10am to 3pm. On one particular Saturday, we counted more than 140 visitors to the cottage. Visitors are coming from all around Australia, as well as overseas. They love visiting our wonderful cottage and its pretty cottage garden.

The Craft Groups are also up and running, and have been meeting for the past few months.

The Natural Dye Group has been experimenting with cochineal dyeing and the merits of using the cochineal bugs, either whole or crushed. They have also been getting wool ready to dye and have ordered more handkerchief stock to indigo dye. These will be soon be available in the Cottage shop for sale.

The Basketry Group has been making cord and string out of red-hot poker leaves. They also picked cleaned and hung the "pokers" to dry. They have been supplying the cottage shop with some wonderful basket work which has been selling well.

Both groups have welcomed new members. We encourage anyone, who is interested in joining a craft group to come on the meeting day.

Great news, the Pot Pourri Group has been meeting and making more wonderful supplies for the Cottage shop. They are preparing moist pot pourri starter kits, as well as freshly bagged bay leaves, lemon verbena

and moth repellent.

The Plant Card Group, whose members have been working from home for the last two years, will now be meeting in person for the first time in May, hoping to get this group up and running again. They provide the wonderful, pressed flower cards that are very popular with visitors to the cottage and shop.

Craft Groups are meeting each month as follows:

**Garden Group** – 10am-1pm, most Tuesdays

**Natural Dye Group** – 10am-1pm on the first Wednesday of the month

**Plant Card Group** – 10am-1pm on the second Wednesday of the month  
**Pot Pourri Group** – 10am-1pm on the second Friday of the month  
**Basketry Group** – 10am-1pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. We would love to start a Fibre Craft/Knitting/Crochet Group and highly encourage any interested members to contact the Friends' office on 9650 6398.

**Cathy Trinca**  
**Convener**



Photo: Susan Bennett

## Of Friends and Gardens: A History of the Cranbourne Friends

commemorates the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a determined group of nature lovers who helped transform a spent sand mine into the award-winning Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. The Cranbourne Friends wanted to celebrate and preserve Australia's native flora, and were right behind the plan to create a landscaped garden featuring incredible and beautiful Australian plants.

Written by Cranbourne Friend and author Carolyn Landon, the book provides a comprehensive history of the Friends as they grew with The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

Books available from the RBGV shops @ \$50 each.

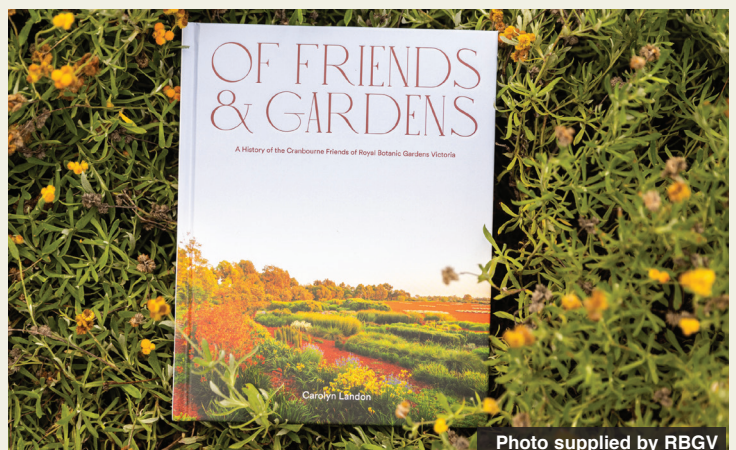


Photo supplied by RBGV





## Lightscape

### Transforming the Gardens into a Spectacle of Light and Sound

Just as the winter solstice falls upon us, the Gardens will be transformed into a nocturnal wonderland with the opening of *Lightscape* on Thursday, 23 June. During the three week-long festivity, visitors will be treated to a 1.8km journey of light and sound along some of the Garden's walkways and vistas.

Initially scheduled to debut here in 2020, but delayed due to COVID-19, the RBGM will be the first garden in Australia to host *Lightscape*, which has been created in partnership with Sony Music Entertainment.

Ever since the original *Lightscape* was developed nine years ago at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the UK, it has been a tremendously popular event. More than two million people experienced *Lightscape* at various venues last season. Since its inception, it has been showcased at botanic gardens, National Trust and UNESCO World Heritage sites across the UK and US to great acclaim.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne was selected based on the strength of its reputation as one of the world's most beautiful botanic garden landscapes and for its proven track record in hosting major events, such as the Fire Gardens. Sony initially reached out to RBGV Director and Chief Executive Tim Entwisle, who serendipitously had worked previously at Kew Gardens.

*Lightscape* is produced and delivered by UK outdoor event specialist, Culture Creative Limited, who worked in close collaboration with the RBGV team to realise the project. The *Lightscape* trail designers were appointed on the strength of their experience working in environmentally sensitive ways within heritage and landscape settings.

The RBGV also worked with Heritage Victoria on the development of the route and the installation of the project to ensure it is respectful of and in keeping with the Gardens' heritage values. Culture Creative's lead designer spent countless hours learning about the Gardens in order to compose a trail that showcases its natural and unique environment.

Culture Creative's programming staff collaborated with the RBGV team to ensure the safety of the Gardens' plant collections and tree specimen. Organizers worked closely with an ecology consultant along with the Gardens' ecology and horticulture staff to ensure the impact on local fauna is mitigated.

Whilst much care was taken in the design process to protect the Gardens' environs, some considerations for the trail displays were also very practical. The path needed to be circular so spectators could easily follow the route. Particular views and trees were required to accommodate certain installations. Some featured installations necessitated being on a relatively flat path, such as the Winter Cathedral which is a massive tunnel of light. The placement of power lines and the laying of cables were a



huge part of the design of the project. Care was also taken to ensure that local neighbours will not be negatively impacted. For these reasons, the route is focused on the central parts of the Gardens, with the entrance and exit on Birdwood Avenue, away from our residential boundaries.

While visitors to the Gardens will see many of the *Lightscape* installations that are popular worldwide, there will be aspects of the exhibition that are unique to Melbourne and the Gardens. The RBGV has commissioned three local artists to create installations to not only reflect the natural beauty but the scientific and horticultural significance of the Gardens.

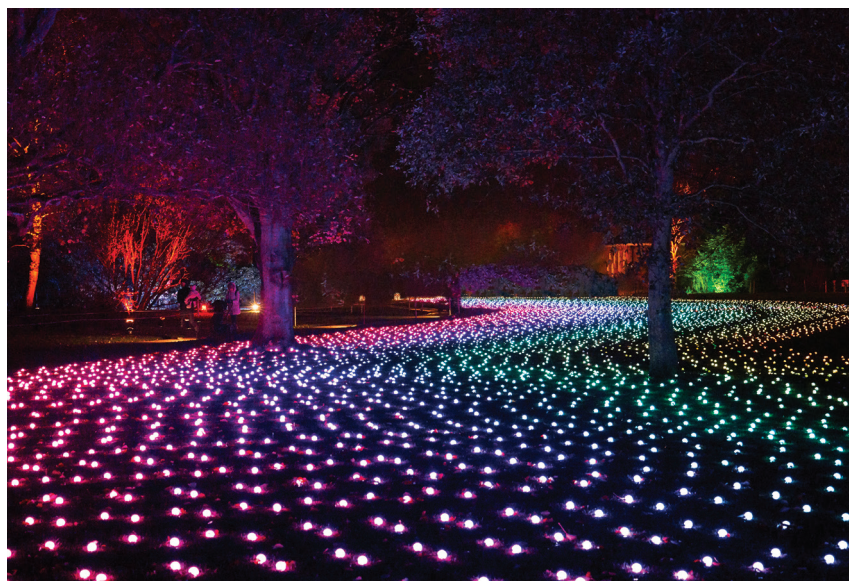
There will be a soundscape for the majority of the trail. Some artwork comes with a pre-programmed soundtrack that syncs with the lighting design. The RBGV is in discussions with a local composer to create a soundtrack for a portion of the trail.

Amongst the displays unique to the Garden will be Euphemia, a 13-ft wooden boat, which will be lit up and moored on Ornamental Lake. It was named after Miss Euphemia Henderson, a one-time fiancé of Ferdinand Von Mueller, the Gardens' first director. Blunt's Boat Builders of Williamstown used traditional methods and salvaged timber to construct the vessel.

*Lightscape* is designed to appeal to both adults and children, making it a great family outing. There's an abundance of colour and variety of sounds across the trail. Children from around the world appear to particularly enjoy the Liquid Sky, Sea of Light, River of Fire, Neon String and Winter Cathedral displays throughout *Lightscape*. It is recommended that visitors allot approximately 90 minutes to explore the trail.

*Lightscape* runs from Thursday, 23 June to Sunday, 7 August, on Wednesday through Sunday evenings. For more information, visit <https://www.melbournelightscape.com.au>

**Beth Quinn**  
Editor



All photos supplied courtesy of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.





Dallachy Island and trees.

## John Dallachy, Plant Hunter and Collector

In June 1821, a field in Chiswick near the Thames in London was earmarked by the Horticultural Society of London, forerunner of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), as a suitable site to establish a permanent garden where aspiring young gardeners could improve their knowledge and skills. The field was owned by the Duke of Devonshire, and a handy gate connecting the Duke's Chiswick House to the Society's Garden resulted in a fortuitous meeting between a 20-year-old Joseph Paxton and the then 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire. Paxton went on to become one of Britain's best known garden architects and held the position of Head Gardener at Chatsworth from 1826 until 1858.

Paxton's path to fame had begun in November 1823, when he applied to join the Society's new Chiswick Garden. Three years later, another young aspirant to write out his credentials for Chiswick was a Scot by the name of John Dallachy. He was admitted on 21 June 1826, on the recommendation of the Earl of Aberdeen. All would-be gardeners had to write their own applications, which helped to prove they were literate, and it is these notes from the *Handwriting Book* that inspired the writing of *The Hidden Horticulturalists, The Untold Story of the Men who Shaped Britain's Gardens*, London, Atlantic Books, 2019, by Fiona Davison, Head of Libraries and Exhibitions for the RHS.

Dallachy was born in 1804 in the former county of Banffshire, in the northeast of Scotland. His Chiswick application details his route from farm work to apprentice gardener, and to Haddo House, the estate of the Earl of Aberdeen, in May 1824. Dallachy is believed to have worked at Kew Gardens after he left Chiswick in August 1829, but he had returned to Haddo House by 1836 to work as head gardener. He would have been involved in the Earl's ambitious new horticultural developments, living on the estate with his wife and four children.

Dallachy's interest in a career in botanical collecting however, seems



John Dallachy's trees.



to have been piqued during his time at Chiswick, where he would have experienced the thrill of new plants and seeds arriving from plant collectors around the world to be propagated and trialled. There was a high demand in Europe for Australian flora and, no doubt furthering Dallachy's interest, the Earl of Aberdeen was an early collector, with new finds being sent to him by William Hooker at Kew. Whether in search of adventure or of making his own new botanical discoveries, in 1847 Dallachy left Haddo House for Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

After a year in Ceylon, where coffee plantations were being set up by hopeful fortune hunters, the Dallachy family arrived in Melbourne on 10 December 1848. Just one month later, on 8 January 1849, the first Curator of the new Botanic Garden in Melbourne, John Arthur, died after drinking the Yarra River's polluted water.

There were two applicants for the vacancy created by Arthur's death, John Dallachy, and Daniel Bunce, who went on to become the first Curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens in 1858. Dallachy found the first 5 acres of land had been fenced and trees and shrubs planted, but there was plenty to occupy him as he worked to convert what was still a swampy site with few basic facilities, into a formal lake and garden. He would have found life very different from managing the well-appointed grounds he had left behind in Scotland, but successfully used bedding plants in neatly laid-out beds to create a garden that proved popular with the early settlers in Melbourne.

By 1851 the Botanic Garden was reported to contain some 5,000 varieties of exotic plants and 1,000 indigenous species and Dallachy was promoted to Superintendent in 1852. He had two gardeners, two under-gardeners and eight labourers working under him and he lived on site with his family in the gardener's cottage. He made time to pursue his interest in collecting, and he undertook lengthy trips into then uncharted territory. The best specimens went to Hooker at Kew, with duplicates kept in Melbourne and for interchange with other gardens.



Dallachy Island looking west.

Change was in the wind though, with Ferdinand Mueller being appointed to the new role of Government Botanist in 1852 and then as Director of the Gardens in 1857. Dallachy continued with his work in the Gardens, though under Mueller, and made regular collecting trips around Victoria and into NSW. He accompanied Mueller on at least one expedition. In 1853 they collected in the Ovens valley and Mt Buffalo and Mueller named the Catkin Wattle, *Acacia dallachiana*, after him. You can see a delightful depiction of this wattle by Malcolm Hobday in *The Acacia Project*, rare, endangered, and unusual acacias, recently compiled by the Whirlies.

In 1861 Dallachy was told his services in the Gardens were no longer required and, to compensate him financially, Mueller arranged for Dallachy to be employed as an official collector and to be paid for each day he spent collecting specimens.

He was 60 years old when Mueller asked him to join an expedition to North Queensland led by the explorer George Dalrymple in 1864. The aim was to form a settlement at Rockingham Bay, which became Cardwell, and Dallachy's task was to collect plants. He was fascinated by the flora of the wet tropics and travelled and collected prolifically throughout the area, making a living by sending specimens back to Mueller in Melbourne. Many of them

were rare and unknown outside the tropical rainforest area.

He is credited with sending over 3500 specimens to Mueller and twenty Australian plant species were named for him, including *A. dallachiana* and *Austromyrtus dallachiana* (also *Gossia dallachiana*, *Eugenia dallachiana*, collected by Dallachy 1865). Mueller named the monotypic genus *Dallachya* (now *Rhamnella*) in his honour in 1875. He is also remembered in the common name of *Banksia plagiocarpa*, Dallachy's Banksia, or Blue Banksia. It was first collected by Dallachy in the Cardwell Ranges in 1867 and not described until 1981.

Dallachy died in Cardwell on the 4 June 1871. Twenty years earlier in Melbourne, in June 1851, Dallachy planted a Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) by the Gardens' works yard near the lake, now the site of The Terrace. It is flanked by two other trees dating from much the same time and presumed to have been Dallachy plantings – a Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*) and a Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*). Known as Dallachy's trees, they are still standing tall 170 years later and, along with Dallachy Island in the Ornamental Lake, continue to remind us of a man who enthusiastically followed his passion to become a plant hunter and collector.

**Mary Ward**

Images supplied by author.



## Botanical Art Program

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne offer a very comprehensive botanical art program which is presented by local and internationally recognised tutors. Our art program caters for students of all skill levels, ranging from beginners to advanced students, enabling students to develop a wide range of skills and opportunities to progress to advanced levels. Classes are held throughout the week during the school term, and include evening and weekend classes, providing a suitable time for everyone to participate.

The Friends Botanical Art Program also has a group of accomplished artists, the Whirlies, who have met weekly, over many years, to share ideas and support each other's interest in botanical art. This group have collaborated to create a substantial body of botanical artworks for collective exhibitions and publications.

## Botanical Art Classes and Workshops

We were delighted to have been able to reintroduce a hybrid botanic art program in Term 2. We will continue this model throughout the remainder of 2022 to ensure all students, local and remote, can enjoy our classes.

Dianne Emery has returned from sabbatical to teach face-to-face classes to intermediate and advanced students on Wednesday and Friday mornings at Domain House. Face-to-face classes are also offered for beginner and intermediate students on Thursday mornings and afternoons by Craig Lidgerwood.

An online beginner's workshop is also being presented by Kate Nolan on Monday nights. Kate also offers online classes for intermediate/advanced students on Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings. David Reynolds holds online classes on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings for intermediate students and Craig Lidgerwood offers an online class for intermediate / beginners' students on Sunday afternoons.

## Specialist Art Workshops

We are also planning a variety of online and face to face specialist workshops for each of the upcoming holidays. Information will be available on the Friends' website and weekly eNews in the near future.

## The Whirlies

The Whirlies have recently returned to meet and share their interest in botanical illustration at Domain House on Tuesday mornings.

Many of you will be aware, from their publication *'The Acacia Project'* published in 2021, of their project depicting rare and endangered acacias found in our Royal Botanic Gardens. Unfortunately, the

accompanying art exhibition, had to be postponed on two occasions due to COVID-19 restrictions. We are delighted to announce that the Acacia Exhibition will be held between 1 September and 11 September 2022 at the RBGM Visitor Centre. This corresponds with National Wattle Day which is celebrated on 1 September each year. When the Exhibition closes all works will be donated to the State Botanical Collection to be held as a permanent record. This body of work is particularly important as climate change and bushfires in recent years have rendered some of the Acacias even more endangered.



*Acacia argyrophilic* by Audrey Baillie



## The 16<sup>th</sup> Art of Botanical Illustration, TABI 2022

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne will be hosting the sixteenth biennial 'The Art of Botanical Illustration' (TABI) Exhibition between Saturday 17 September and Sunday 2 October 2022. TABI 2022 will be held as a hybrid exhibition with artworks displayed at Domain House, adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, as well as a virtual exhibition. All exhibited artworks are for sale and profits are used to support the Gardens and the National Herbarium of Victoria. The hero image chosen by the TABI Committee for the promotion of TABI 2022 is a delicate *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, painted by Lioudmila Volodina, a student of our botanic art program since 2015.

TABI 2022 will be a very special celebration. It will be one of the highlights of the Friends 40th Anniversary Program and it coincides with 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, being hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, 26th – 30th September 2022. We are delighted to have been invited by the Congress committee to host an exhibition of artworks from international botanical artists associated with some of the botanic gardens represented at the Congress. These artworks will be exhibited as part of our virtual TABI exhibition. In addition, we have been invited to form part of the cultural program for the Congress. Our association with the Congress acknowledges our valued relationship with the RBGM.

For prospective TABI 2022 entrants, applications are now open. TABI is a selected exhibition and details of the selection criteria, application forms and information for artists is available on the TABI 2022 website (<https://www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/friends-art-program/tabi-2022/>). The closing date for submissions is 1 August 2022.

**Sue Foran**  
Convener



Above: *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* by Lioudmila Volodina  
Below: *Acacia pycnantha* by Pam Habersberger





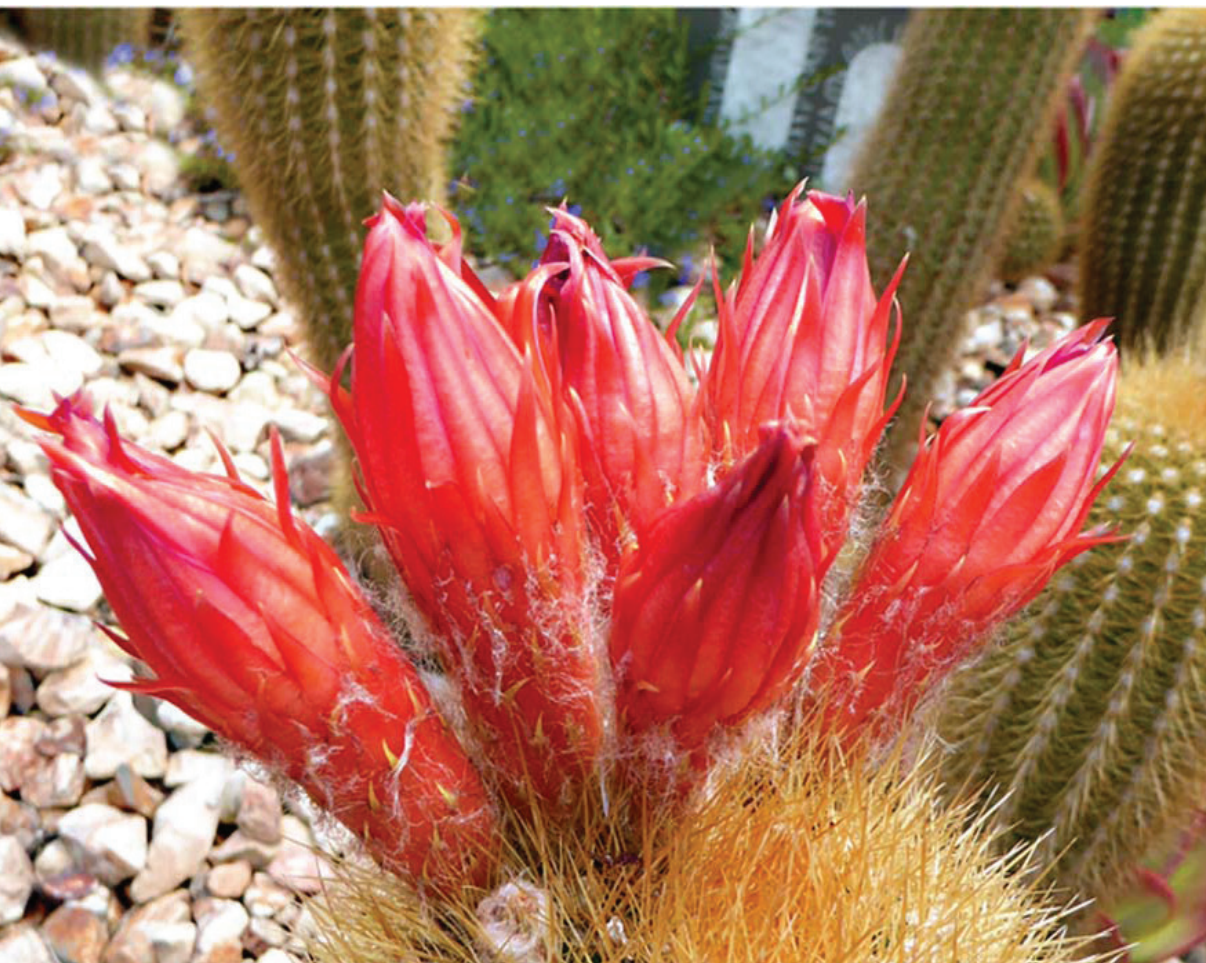


Photo: Sue Martin



Photo: Coula Panagis



Fungi

Photo: Chris Stott

As you read this winter edition of Botanic News, we hope you enjoyed the splendid colours of autumn. In January, the Photography Group concentrated on the vibrant colours of summer. Our February theme was significant trees. We looked closely at seeds, cones, berries and fungi during our March meeting. You can see all our monthly themes for 2022 by using the link to our annual program in the Photography Group section on the Friends website.

The group also has a new Flickr site. If you would like to view more photos on these themes go to: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/14816701@N23/>.

**Jane Bennett**  
Convener



Photo: Tim Barker



Photo: Karen Pyke





Photo: John Beetham



Photo: Jane Bennett



## June

7	Insiders' Walk: A Postcard Walk	p12
15	Insiders' Walk: The Queen's Jubilee	p12
16	Talking Online: Historic Buildings	p12
18	Beginners' Coiled Basketry Workshop	p12
21	Photography Walk: Historic Buildings	p13
22	Talking at Mueller: Travels in Japan	p13
24	Talking Online: Northern Ireland's Gardens	p13
25	Soil Health and Care Workshop	p13
30	Kids' Drop-in Botanical Crafts Workshop	p14

## July

1	Insiders' Walk: Celebrating the Separation Tree	p14
2	Macrame Workshop	p14
4	Talking at Mueller: Everything from Algae	p15
7	Talking Online: Singapore Gardens	p15
8	Kids' Drop-in Botanical Crafts Workshop	p14
9	Coiling Basketry Workshop	p15
12	Talking Online: Hampton Court Palace and Gardens	p15
15	Ramble: Around Our City of Melbourne	p16
16	Kokedama (Moss Balls) Workshop	p17
17	Gel Painting Workshops: Kids at 10am/ Adults at 1.30pm	p16
21	Talking Online: Trees and a Sustainable, Liveable City	p16
27	Talking at Mueller: Eve's Garden: Women of the Gardens	p17
29	Talking at Mueller: Celebrating 160 Years of the Melbourne Zoo	p18
31	Insiders' Walk: Rockeries and Ruins	p17

## August

2	Talking Online: The Insect Crisis	p18
4	Garden Tour: The Melbourne Zoo Gardens	p18
6	Winter Pruning and Grafting Workshop	p18
9	Insiders Walk: Tea and Camellias	p19
10	Talking at Mueller: Bringing the Outside In	p19
11	Talking Online: Gardens of the Italian Lakes	p19
13	Beeswax Wraps Workshop	p19
17	Talking Online: The Work of Georgina Molloy, the Botanist	p20
20	Macrame Flower Wall Hanging Workshop	p20
25	Talking Online: Western Australia Wildflowers, Part 2	p20
26	Ramble: The Carnegie Sky Rail	p21
27	Insiders' Walk: Breakfast with the Birds	p20
30	Insiders' Walk: Historic Buildings of the Gardens	p21

## September

1	Opening of Acacia Exhibiton: Visitor Centre	p2
1	Talking at Mueller: Wonderful Wattles	p21
4	Insiders' Walk: The Garden's Rare and Endangered Wattles	p21
8	Insiders' Walk: The Garden's Rare and Endangered Wattles	p21
16	TABI Opening	p27

## Pre-Loved Garden Book Sale



**Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 October**

**Mueller Hall RBGM**

Cleaning out your cupboards over winter?

We welcome your donations of in-good-condition gardening books for our Spring Sale

Contact [events@frbgmelb.org.au](mailto:events@frbgmelb.org.au)