

Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter

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FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



OUR PERENNIAL BORDER

This border is one of the most photographed areas of our Geelong Botanic Gardens and marks the division between the original Botanic Gardens or nursery area and the 1959 Gardens extension. The inspiration came after a talk to the Friends in 1994 about a similar border at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne, by the then curator, Donna Sommerville.

Our Friends, under the guidance of nurserywoman Judy Bailey and the support of GBG Director Ian Rogers and his staff, completely reworked the beds on either side of the central pathway. This partnership between the Friends and the GBG gardens staff continues to this day, nearly thirty years later.

A further refurbishment was undertaken in 2000 when the south border was increased in size by a third. Plants were

sourced from Wirruna Nursery, other selected nurseries, private gardens and the GBG.

Our gardeners are looking for impact, both in colour and form. Plants are grouped for different effect and include a diversity and colour of foliage as well as the flowers.

The border is intended to showcase plants that do well in the Geelong region with a minimum of water, but the recent addition of irrigation to the gardens has made a difference. It is an absolute picture for many months over Spring, Summer and Autumn.

The border team of Friends' Gardeners meet every Wednesday morning and work solidly planting, weeding, cutting back and dividing plants.

Any excess is potted up by the Growing Friends for sale in the nursery.

A number of our volunteers have been gardening in the border for many years, namely Jimmie Morrison, Heather Boyd, Susie McIntyre and Pauline Lynch. They have been joined by others, who have contributed their knowledge and experience over the years.

For the Friends' 25th Anniversary the group produced the now beautiful Silver Border on either side of the path from the original Hansen Gates down toward the rose beds adjacent to the conservatory.

Luanne Thornton

CRUISE SHIPS in GEELONG

Cruise travel is growing fast globally, but Australian participation is growing twice as much as in any other country. Ships visiting Geelong usually provide luxury cruises with passengers paying high prices. They are given high-level service on board ship and expect it in the quality of shore excursions.

Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine volunteers meet and greet the passengers as they disembark the ship, providing an information sheet on points of interest, possible activities, visitor guides and maps. A shuttle bus runs every half-hour around Geelong central (The Gardens, Gallery and National Wool Museum) from 10 am-3 pm with a volunteer guide on the bus informing passengers on opportunities at each stop.

Over the last three years the Friends' Guides have worked with *Tourism Greater Geelong and The Bellarine* to welcome passengers to the gardens. We have provided familiarisation walks for the volunteers as well as a script for use on the bus tour. Our guides wait at the front gates to welcome passengers who arrive on the bus or walk up from the waterfront. Visitors are offered Garden Highlights information sheets and maps and many groups appreciate guided walks, or simply the opportunity to chat with a local.

Without exception, these independent visitors are delighted with the gardens and with the welcome they receive, and our volunteer guides enjoy interesting conversations with people from so many different countries and states.

Each cruise ship also organises themed tours which are pre-booked before arrival to various locations around the Geelong

and Bellarine region. The GBG tour is a formal guided walk and usually quite brief as it follows a visit to The Heights; visitors always wish that they had more time to spend at the gardens!

This summer, we are welcoming passengers from the following ships, all carrying 600 plus passengers:

- December 16 Regatta
- January 19 Seabourn Encore
- January 23 Norwegian Jewel
- February 17 Seven Seas Navigator
- February 20 Seabourn Encore

Liz Bennetto



Guide Sarah King facilitating a guided walk



Cruise Ship visitors to the Geelong Botanic Gardens from California, Texas, Mexico, Ohio, Germany and Philippines

INTRODUCING COMMITTEE MEMBER JUDY LAVERY

My love of gardens and gardening began as a child, as I remember enjoying helping my father in the garden, and I even loved pushing the hand lawn mower on many an occasion, no doubt for much needed pocket money.

My retirement in 2005 from my job as a Lecturer in Psychology, at Deakin University, gave me the opportunity to expand my interests in plants and gardens. Initially, I undertook botanical art at the Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens which opened up a whole new world for me. Not only was I learning about the structure and intricate nature of plants, but I was also learning to paint - something I hadn't done since leaving school many decades before. A couple of years later I discovered that we had our own botanical art classes at the Geelong Botanical Gardens, so in 2008 I enrolled with John Pastoriza-Pinol and have been a student of his ever since. It continues to be a most important part of my life. My appreciation of our beautiful Geelong Botanic Gardens has grown since that time. In gaining so much pleasure from them, I wanted to give something back, so in 2009 I became a volunteer gardener in the Perennial Border. I love

working in such a stunning part of our Gardens and I continue to be inspired by the knowledge and expertise of my fellow gardeners, and live in the hope that someday I may be able to remember even a small proportion of the names of the plants there! This is my goal for 2018.



In 2015 I became a member of the Friends' Committee and continue in that role today. It is a privilege to be a part of such a worthwhile organisation.

Judy Lavery

AUSTRALIA DAY 2018 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

It was with great pleasure that I attended the Australia Day 2018 Community Achievement Awards ceremony at the Willows Historical Park in Melton.

At this event, John Bentley was announced as the winner of the Melton Citizen of the Year. His citation was very impressive, as the Mayor outlined John's participation in numerous community projects and education programs throughout the 41 years that he and his wife Jill have lived in Melton.



Allison Martland and John Bentley

John and Jill are members of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

John has been the driving force behind the formation of the Melton Botanic Gardens. John was an inaugural member of the Friends Committee in 2003 and became President in 2004; and John has been President ever since. Final plans and signage for the Gardens were approved in 2009 – so essentially the Gardens only began in 2009 - and the Friends became an incorporated body in that year.

John's drive and ability to harness the man-power and skills of a huge variety of community groups, including the unemployed, refugees and ethnic groups, would, for this alone, make him a worthy winner. In a relatively short time these gardens have achieved wide acclaim. The sole use of Australian plants and plants from other dry countries showcases how dry climate plants can be used to create stunning and sustainable public spaces. Drawing the community together to build them is even more impressive.

In recognising John's drive, vision and inclusiveness, this award and honour are well deserved. Congratulations John from the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Allison Martland

GIFT FUND

The Gift Fund currently has \$144,404.76 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of past support are on our website.

Our continuing thanks for all donations: recent donations have been received from Ann Galway, Kylie Whyte and Vicki Doran.

20TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION NEW YORK 2017

As a botanical artist there are many opportunities to enter exhibitions throughout Australia and overseas. One of these exhibitions is the Annual International presented by the American Society of Botanical Artists in conjunction with the Horticultural Society of New York. This is a juried exhibition, which means there is a panel of judges that select the works to be hung from hundreds of applicants both from the US and internationally. Forty-six paintings were selected and last year I was fortunate to be chosen again for this prestigious exhibition.

Entry to an international exhibition requires a very high resolution scan to be made of your painting and I always get this done in Melbourne. This is then sent by email to the curator of the exhibition. The jury for the 20th Annual International was from The New York Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and a Botanical Artist. On selection, my painting was framed and then well packed and sent by airmail to New York. This is always a nerve racking time until you hear that the painting has arrived safely.

My painting for this exhibition was a watercolour of two Queen Garnet plums. This artwork began as a class exercise in the Saturday Advanced class at the Geelong School of Botanical Art, at the Geelong Botanic Gardens with John Pastoriza-Piñol.

Continuing on at home I added my own stamp to the painting, intensifying the colour and the character of each fat plum. My paintings always begin with translucent washes layered over each other to create a base of colour. Following the washes, dry brushwork is applied (small brushstrokes of nearly dry paint) This method can take hours and hours but the work gains a luminescent quality, well worth the time involved. Finally, to

capture the bloom on the fruit, a wash of white gouache is painted over some areas of the near finished painting. Small brushstrokes of very dark colour are added to the fruit to complete the final effects.



The Annual International is a wonderful exhibition that showcases some of the best botanical artwork from emerging and well-known artists around the world. The 20th Annual International was held at the New York Design Centre and included artists from the US, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Slovenia and the UK.

The 21st Annual International, will be held at Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural centre overlooking the Hudson River, in New York. The dates for this exhibition are September to December, if anyone is in New York at this time. Perhaps there will be some Geelong artists represented again.

Deb Chirside

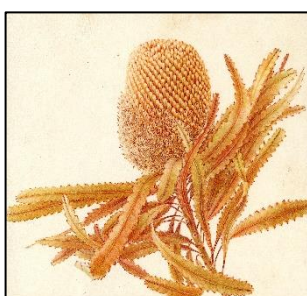
Flora of Australia - A Botanical Art Worldwide Exhibition

Linking people with plants through botanical art.

Presented by **BOTANICAL ART SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.**



Banksia serrata
Deb Chirside



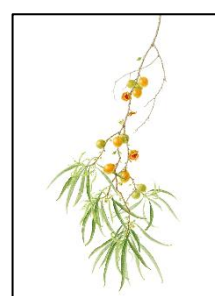
Banksia prionotes
John Pastoriza-Piñol



Brachychiton discolor
Amanda Ahmed



Santalum acuminatum
Corinna May



Pittosporum angustifolium
Rosemary Donnelly

For the first time the botanical art societies worldwide will hold a joint, synchronised exhibition linking people to plants through contemporary botanical art. The Worldwide Day of Botanical Art will open around the world on 18 May 2018 with events held for 24 hours, following the sun from venue to venue. Australia will be participating along with 23 other countries on six continents.

BASA is organising the Australian exhibition to be held in Canberra. There will be up to 140 paintings on display by some of this country's most respected botanical artists. Five artists from the Geelong School of Botanical Art have had their artworks selected to participate in this exciting event – John Pastoriza-Piñol, Deb Chirside, Rosemary Donnelly, Corinna May and Amanda Ahmed – which will showcase a broad range of plant species unique to this country. This special event will bring together artists and the public to highlight the role contemporary botanical artists play in calling attention to the need to preserve our botanical diversity.

Where: Ainslie Arts Centre, 30 Elouera Street, Braddon ACT. When: 18 -27 May 10am-4pm daily.

Amanda Ahmed

BGANZ Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand 8th Congress

Adelaide Botanic Garden 22-25 October 2017

My first BGANZ experience was the inaugural Congress hosted by the Geelong Botanic Gardens at Deakin University Waterfront Campus 24-28 October 2003. The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens (FGBG) played a significant role in this prestigious event, and I was invited to present a paper to acknowledge the importance of Friends Groups in Botanic Gardens.

The BGANZ Congress presents a wonderful opportunity for delegates to hear about the work by Botanic Gardens around the world.

This year's Congress was held in Adelaide in the National Wine Centre, a magnificent building which overlooks the Botanic Gardens. The main hall accommodated all keynote addresses while three adjoining lecture rooms were used for following concurrent sessions. It was extremely hard to choose which lectures to attend with many themes on offer: 'Connections to Collections', 'Simply Science', 'With a Little Help From our Friends' and 'Role and Identity Interpretation'. All in all there were 42 presentations, Field Trips, Social Events and Networking Functions and Tours of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens.

Keynote speaker **Professor David Mabberly** challenged Botanic Gardens to take action against the fastest mass extinction on this planet with the Western World engaged in "anti intellectual populism and blind economic rationalism that grasps the price of everything and the value of nothing". Strong words, but food for thought and action.

Other interesting presentations were by:

Peter Boyce, from Sarawak, on the multiple roles of botanic gardens and the importance of living collections that are rigorously documented and well curated. He gave us insight into Bridging Research, Conservation and Aesthetics taking place in collaboration between Botanic Institutions.

Michael Lovage from the Papua New Guinea Forest Research Institute on the Advancement programme for the National Botanic Gardens in Lae.

Paul Tracey, Wollongong Botanic Gardens on conservation success in south west NSW. The research group seeks greater knowledge of rare and significant flora in this bio-region.

John Arnott, RBGV, Cranbourne, on the feasibility of establishing a multi-site conservation collection, 'Care for the Rare', in Victoria incorporating Regional Botanic Gardens.

James Shugg of RBGV, Melbourne on botanical ageism – large old trees and botanic gardens.

Robert Hatcher of BGSA, Crafrers. Rediscovering our own Rhododendron (with a little help from our Friends)

Michael Connor, Wollongong Botanic Gardens, on the outdoor classroom. An outdoor learning space will establish a life-long connection with plants.

John Zwar OAM, President, Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Port Augusta and **Cherie Gerlach**, City of Port Augusta, on the challenges when dedicated Friends interact with bureaucrats. Fostering the relationship between, management, Friends and paid employees has ensured that the AALBG is able to develop and improve beyond what would be possible on a modest budget. New relationships with professional bodies enable the Garden to fulfil its charter in a changing financial and political climate.

Jacqui Kennedy, Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, Perth, spoke on Interpretation and Community Engagement.

Mandy Thomson, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Cranbourne is team leader at the Gardens nursery. This state of the art nursery produces plants for a range of innovative outreach programmes taking the nursery well beyond the garden gates to the community.

Botanic Gardens Day 2018, Sunday 27 May was strongly promoted by the BGANZ Council. The day provides an opportunity for the 170 Botanic Gardens in Australia and New Zealand to come together to showcase to the broader community the work they do. They particularly wish to educate the wider audience about the unique and critical role Botanic Gardens have in conserving plants and why that is so important to them. It is exciting news that Geelong Botanic Gardens has registered to be part of this important event. More details will be available on the website.

Attending this excellent Congress reinvigorated my passion for Botanic Gardens; it emphasised what an important role they play in today's world particularly in conservation and education. The need to communicate on all levels and to work with Friends Groups and Volunteers to achieve positive outcomes is very important. www.bganz.org.au

Jayne Salmon OAM



Murdoch Avenue
Photo: Adelaide Botanic Gardens

U3A AT THE GARDENS

During February and March, we welcomed a new group from U3A to take the course we have developed and facilitated for two years. This course has been fully booked and we look forward to another keen group in the future.

'Geelong Botanic Gardens – A Local Treasure' is a 7-session course on Monday mornings from 5 February to 26 March.

The sessions are taken by eight of our Volunteer Guides and each session includes a guided walk in the Gardens to focus on the topic of the class:

Orientation
History of the Gardens
21st Century Garden
Plants and Climate
Botany and Evolution
Special Collections – salvias and pelargoniums
Storm Water Harvesting and Irrigation
Trees - including the heritage trees
Eastern Park

Gwen Anderson provides delicious cakes for each morning tea. We look forward to another enjoyable program as we prepare to share our knowledge and passion for our beautiful, interesting Gardens.

Jenny Dean

To enquire and register for future courses please visit:
www.u3ageelong.org.au/joinus



Guide, Anthea Williams taking the U3A group through the Fern Glade

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Friends are a vibrant and progressive organisation which continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our members and volunteers, the Gardens and the public. The Friends' Committee, sub-committees and working groups are currently working on several projects which further advance the Friends organisation and contributions to the Geelong Botanic Gardens:

The Friends Committee: administers the Friends organisation to ensure that it is operating with maximum efficiency and is compliant as a volunteer not-for profit organisation.

Events: always researching and looking for new events and activities to offer to members and the public. Some of these include new and interesting gardens for Through the Garden Gates, Guest Speakers and new venues for major events such as the Winter Luncheon (major fundraiser) and events at the gardens. Also, the Events group intends to develop the Christmas Fair each year and new ideas for workshops, film nights and celebrations.

The Geelong School of Botanical Art: currently working towards the creation of the Schools' own logo. This will involve the submission of original artwork from students which may be used for the logo. Also developing botanic art workshops and the next 'Inspired by Nature 6' Exhibition which will be at the Deakin University in 2019.

Library: very involved with the placement of books donated by the family of the late George Jones; a wonderful gift and there are many books to be considered.

Publishing and Marketing: new DL flyers which promote the Friends and our activities and work in the Gardens have been created and distributed widely. Also developing new promotion and advertising opportunities to increase patronage to the Gardens, in particular the Guided Walks and other Guiding activities that are available to the public.

History: currently working on a Friends' History Book, which involves research, managing and scanning old photos, writing and editing, publishing and advertising. This is a mammoth job to undertake and will provide much satisfaction and interest when completed.

Development Projects with Volunteer Groups – Gardeners, Growers and Guides: continue to expand activities whenever possible. Current project in the Friends' Nursery to replace the 'Igloo' with an expanded facility to include a Green House.

Office Staff: a vital part of our organisation to ensure that every aspect continues to tick efficiently. Sincere thanks to Tracey and Sally for their continued support and professional attitude to all of their work.

PLANT IN FOCUS - *Quillaja saponaria*

Quillaja saponaria

Common name: Soap Bark Tree

Origin: Central Chile

Meaning of name: from the Mapuche word, Araucania region of Chile, *quillean*, to wash. The species name is pronounced 'Killaya'.



A bee gathering pollen and nectar from a male flower of *Quillaja saponaria*. Bees are attracted by the prominent, glossy, lemon-coloured nectar disc.

Quillaja saponaria is a large evergreen tree, which can grow to 20 m in height. The tree has thick, dark bark, smooth, leathery, shiny, oval evergreen leaves 3–5 cm long, white flowers 15 mm diameter borne in dense corymbs, and a dry fruit with five follicles each containing 10–20 seeds. Flowers at the ends of twigs are bisexual, whereas those growing along the twig are male. The species is drought resistant.

The inner bark of *Quillaja saponaria* can be reduced to powder and employed as a substitute for soap, as it forms a lather with water.

Traditional Uses:

Soap bark tree has a long history of medicinal use with the Andean people who used it as a treatment for chest problems. Quillaja has been used in traditional medicine to relieve cough and bronchitis, and topically to relieve scalp itchiness and dandruff. The bark has also been used by South Americans to aid in washing clothes.

Current Commercial Uses:

- a foaming agent in some carbonated beverages and cocktail mixes.
- an ingredient in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and fire-fighting foam.
- an additive for photographic films.
- a medicine to stimulate the production of a more fluid mucus in the airways, removing congestion. **However, it can be toxic and is not safe for amateur medicinal use.**
- as an adjuvant to vaccine solutions, to modify the immune response and increase effectiveness
- the wood is used in cabinetry, and scents derived from the tree are used in perfumes and cosmetics.

Conservation:

Chile's forestry ministry CONAF has a monitoring program which enables harvesting of Quillaja saponins for industrial use, but also ensures the trees' sustainability.

Our Soap Bark tree is located on a pathway intersection on the north side of the C19 Garden. It is one of our heritage trees, classified as significant by the National Trust. It provides a home for bees! The tree seems to have benefited from the new irrigation system and has flowered abundantly in recent seasons.

Liz Bennetto



Quillaja Bees arriving home, some fully loaded.



Quillaja Plant

FGBG activities @GBG and beyond

Refer to www.friendsgbg.org.au for further details



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the Winter Edition are due by Tuesday 1 May 2018.

All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office via email or USB.

MARCH 2018

CRANBOURNE TRIP (Fully Booked)

Monday 19 March

Meet at 8.30 am in the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal for a 9.00 am departure and arrive back at Queenscliff at approximately 5.45 pm.

\$65 members or \$75 non-members

Join the Friends for an adventure across water and land, catching the Ferry from Queenscliff to Sorrento and a Chartered Bus to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, returning in the same way. The day includes 'Snapshots of Australia' walking tour, Growing Friends nursery tour and 'Plants for Your Place' walking tour. Price will include ferry and coach travel for the day, entry and tours of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, morning and afternoon tea nibbles. Bring or purchase own tea or coffee. BYO lunch.

Payment by Wednesday 7 March 2018.

If car-pooling from the Gardens please do not park in the rear carpark as gates will close at 4.15 pm.

MARCH THEMED GUIDED WALK 'SILVER AND GOLD'

Sunday 11 March, 2.00 pm

The Silver Border and Perennial Border are at their best in autumn, and among their collections we can find stunning choices for home garden design. Meet your Guide at the front gates. Gold coin donation.

WINTER WEEKEND PLANT SALE

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 March, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Featuring a wide selection of Australian plants, colourful perennials, hardy shrubs, pelargoniums and salvias, sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends' Nursery and Carpark is located at the rear of the Gardens. **Please note: the gates of the rear carpark near the Nursery will close at 4.05 pm sharp.**

APRIL 2018

EASTER - FRIENDS OFFICE CLOSURE

Closed Good Friday 30 March and Easter Monday 2 April

Open for business as usual on Tuesday 3 April

GUEST SPEAKER LYNDI GARNETT from the SALVIA STUDY GROUP

Wednesday 18 April, 1.30 pm - Light Lunch at 12.45 pm

Join the Friends to hear Lyndi Garnett from the Salvia Study Group give an illustrated talk on the variety and diversity of Salvias. There is a Salvia to suit every niche in a garden, whether it's in the sun or a dappled shady position. With a bit of planning, it is possible to have a salvia in flower in the garden all year round. The Meeting Room \$5 members or \$10 non-members. Plants will be available for sale.

APRIL THEMED GUIDED WALK 'SEEDS: CAPSULES OF LIFE'

Sunday 8 April, 2.00 pm

Life itself is concentrated in a seed. Explore the world of seeds with our Volunteer Guide and discover some of the fascinating methods that plants use to disperse their seeds. Meet your Guide at the front gates. Gold coin donation.

MAY 2018

MAY THEMED GUIDED WALK 'THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS: WATHAURONG COUNTRY'

Sunday 13 May, 2.00 pm

What happened when Europeans arrived in Wathaurong country? Find out how our first peoples lived, see the plants they used and hear how white immigration affected their lives and culture. Meet your Guide at the front gates. Gold coin donation.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKERS SHIRLEY AND DAVID JOHNSON

Wednesday 23 May, 12.30 pm

Friends Volunteers are invited to join us for a special luncheon in appreciation of our wonderful volunteers. Special guests Shirley and David Johnson will present an illustrated talk on 'Guerrilla Gardening' and 'Chelsea Flower Garden'.

Lunch at 12.30 and Presentation at 1.00-2.00 pm in the meeting room.

BOTANIC GARDENS DAY 2018

Sunday 27 May

Geelong Botanic Gardens will be celebrating this day.

REGULAR FRIENDS ACTIVITIES:

GUIDED WALKS

FREE DISCOVERY WALKS Every Wednesday at 11.00 am, Saturday and Sunday at 2.00 pm.

THEMED WALKS Second Sunday of every month at 2.00 pm. Meet your guide at the front steps. Gold coin Donation.

Check the Friends' website for theme and date. For more information, or to make a booking, contact the Friends' office.

DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens

First and Third Sunday of Every Month, 1.00 – 3.00 pm

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change.

WEEKLY PLANT SALES

The Friends' Plant Nursery is **open every Wednesday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm** showcasing a wide selection of plants sourced from the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Located at the rear of the GBG.

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FGBG Committee: Allison Martland (President), Anthea Williams, Judy Lavery, Helen Rodd, Ro Richards, Gwelda Owen, Lucy Pope, Kate Kirkhope, Lawrie Baker, Libby Hogg.

Editorial Team: Luanne Thornton, Helen Rodd, Tracey Tilbury, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Allison Martland, Sally-Ann Bird, Meralyn Roberts

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