

# Jubaea



**Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc Newsletter**  
**Volume 17 Issue 1 January / February / March 2017**

## *Have you noticed us recently?*



## *New signage for the Gardens*

The Friends Committee submitted a proposal to Councils' Community Concepts process in 2014. The proposal was to update the gardens interpretive signs and enhance the plant label program. This was successful with \$35,000 allocated to the Capital Program.

The new signs create a clear sense of arrival at the gardens. The 'gbg' brand and colours are now firmly established at the gardens' entrance. As visitors explore the garden they receive information at different points with our 'you are here' maps. A-frames promote the many opportunities for

the community to engage with the garden.

Plant Labelling has been improved with the purchase of a 'sticky label' printer to label nursery stock and display stock. Programming has connected this new machine and our existing engraver to the plant database. Plant labelling is a slow process as we are auditing our garden beds and updating our database for accuracy before new labels are printed.

Director, Annette Zealley, appreciates the Friends support of this project and is thrilled with the gardens' eye-catching interpretive signs.



## Through the Garden Gate - around Inverleigh

Our self drive garden tour Through the Garden Gate this year was based on four private gardens in the Golden Plains Shire including properties at Teesdale and Inverleigh.

The connecting thread that stitched up such a wonderfully diverse range of gardens was the passion of the people whose creativity and plain hard slog had made these spaces so special.

At Ian Nash's "Briar Hill" in Teesdale we found ourselves in a front garden filled with an eclectic mix of tall gums, rockeries, dry stone walls, succulents, clipped and shaped natives and quirky "found objects" along with bird baths and a pond. Behind the house, a different feeling again- green lawn and shady nooks. Bright flowers and useful, but highly decorative vegetables came together in a potager garden which was also full of surprises. Along with all his work in the garden, Ian has another passion- his prize winning rare breeds of poultry and his three adorable Jack Russell dogs. We all wondered where he gets his energy from.

"ArtRocks" on the Teesdale-Inverleigh Road is a Studio/gallery, sculpture garden and workshop area with a B and B attached. Owned and developed by artist Ade Loe and environmentalist Bronte Payne, this garden is also one that reflects the owners' passion for the natural environment and their artistic interpretation in the form of sculpture, rockeries and "painting" with plants. We encountered a wonderful vista at the rear of the property where we looked out at a vista overlooking the valley of the Leigh River.

Lunch time showers meant that our planned tour of the "Garden Gate of Inverleigh" Nursery was a little damp but those who took advantage of the umbrellas on loan there saw the wonderful range of hardy plants for sale. We were inspired to see Christine and Keith Windle's own newly planted private garden on the block adjoining the nursery.

Maxine and Duncan Campbell's property "Barwonleigh", near the junction of these rivers, provided a great contrast to the first newer gardens.



Here there was a definite sense of place, of being grounded. The classical, elegant, old world charm of a bluestone homestead set in a parklike garden which had been a carefully planned restoration and rejuvenation of the historic site. The owners have created new vistas to take in the historic features of the landscape. Maxine's talk under the cover of the wonderful, sweeping verandah of the homestead gave us a potted history of the property and pointed out some of the landmarks and was timed perfectly to end just as the passing showers did, leaving us free



to explore the grounds and enjoy the features we had been introduced to.

At "Lullote" on Common Road Inverleigh, John and Luanne Thornton live in the newly renovated historic redbrick stables built originally in 1856 before the unusual Lullote Homestead was even constructed. Here our magnificent Friends of GBG afternoon tea was served in great style and lusciousness! In the courtyard of the Stables the Friends Plant sale tables were groaning with well developed potted specimens and many bargains were snapped up by our invited "tourists". Here again we encountered a great sense of history and the rejuvenation of an old site to make a special garden that links the buildings occupied by the Thornton's extended family.



# Farewell George



## George having received the Golden Laurel award

George Jones : died 7 October age 97

George was unique, a gentleman of the old school, a remarkable man and an extraordinary volunteer

Inaugural President of Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens 1985 - 1989 he remained a member of the Committee of Management attending meetings until 2010, where he continued to support and mentor others. George held that the Friends should always set the bar high, in the best interests of the community, the Gardens and the Friends. A founding principle followed assiduously by the second President Jayne Salmon.

George was an absolute institution in horticultural circles. It was fortunate for Geelong that he transferred here from Melbourne over 50 years ago in his work as an insurance assessor.

As Secretary of the RHS Vic he was able to bring his expertise to many plant groups in Geelong, including the Geelong Garden Club as the inaugural President. George Vafiopulous, former Superintendent of the GBG and RHSV member was a particular friend.

Once George discovered the GBG he became the greatest advocate for this magnificent garden and the rich cultural heritage of Geelong and the western region.

His passion for plants and history led to the writing of his meticulously researched book "Growing Together, the gardening history of Geelong, -Colac and Camperdown", which with its two supplements provided a significant historical document and a real understanding of the importance of Botanic Gardens to the region.

This work informed the development of the Eastern Park Botanic Gardens Conservation Management Plan (1995)

For Friends Volunteer Guides, 'Growing Together' is an important reference document and effectively required reading. We all became admirers of Daniel Bunce the first Curator

I am ashamed to say that until very recently I had not realized George had published this book in 1984, prior to the formation of the Friends.

How lucky were we/the Friends and the Gardens to have such an inaugural President.

George was a marvelous Guide and constantly endeavored to inspire us with new botanical stories. One of the original guides from the mid 1980's, George continued well into his late 80's or early 90's, rarely missing the monthly meeting- without a prior phone call.



# Farewell George

At one Guide Meeting, having had no phone call, George seemed to be 'missing', so Jayne Salmon and I went to investigate his known haunts, but to no avail. However it became apparent that George's reliable 1970's orange car had developed a flat battery- so George, at around 90 walked the 6.5 kms to Botanic Gardens! Quite unfazed.

The Bunce Bollards, installed in the Gardens near the Hansen Gates in November 2000, and launched by Jane Edmanson, recognized both George's 80th birthday and his tireless work in promoting understanding of Daniel Bunce the first Curator and the Botanic Gardens.

In 2007, and to George's delight, the Friends produced a facsimile of Daniel Bunce 1838, 'Manual Of Practical Gardening'. We still have copies for sale.!

Highly regarded throughout the horticultural world, both nationally and internationally, George was awarded a Gold Medal by the RHS in 1987.

Already an Honorary Life Member of Friends, in late 2001 George became the first Honorary Life Member of the Horticultural Media Association. More recently in 2010, he received the Golden Laurel, the most prestigious award in Australian Horticulture Media.

The award was presented by Gail Thomas, HCA member and celebrated with his friends Judy Horton from Yates Sydney and Colin Campbell from Queensland (Gardening Australia) with a picnic under the Ginkgo.

At that presentation Gail Thomas recalled this story- "George's horticultural knowledge and expertise were recognised with a medal for the Geelong Community Australia Day Awards in 1996.

The presentation ceremony proved to be a most memorable occasion. A local MP together with a State Government minister presented the awards to a number of very worthy recipients from the Geelong community. The medals came in attractive satin-lined blue velvet boxes. However, one medal was in a green box so the Minister obviously assuming the green horticultural link presented it to George.

After the ceremony George very diplomatically mentioned that it was inscribed for 'services to sport'. A replacement with the correct inscription was duly forthcoming."

George was a regular contributor to Jubaea, the Friends Newsletter, (and many other significant publications) and his encyclopedic knowledge of horticulture and life long research, ensured meticulous notes and articles that were read and enjoyed by so many.

All produced on his indispensable Remington type writer.

In his late 80's I think, I tried to tempt George with a little trip to the Belmont library to try a computer keyboard- but this was not to be.

George's generosity in sharing his knowledge and experience with others, constantly provided the

Friends Volunteer Guides, Gardens visitors, Gardens staff, other community groups and the general public with new and interesting insights into matters botanic.

George had had his hand in every aspect of the Friends, beginning in 1985 through to the years to the Master Plan and beyond. He had seen enormous changes at the GBG, during his long association and embraced the contrasting 21 century garden practices with enthusiasm.

Much more could be said. We were fortunate to have had his wise counsel for so long.

In a final legacy, George has graciously gifted his considerable botanical collection of books and papers to the Friends' Library.

George always had the answer, or another fascinating story, which we trust he may now be exchanging with Daniel Bunce.

As a revered member of the Friends, George will be greatly missed.

**Annie McGeachy, Hon Life Member**



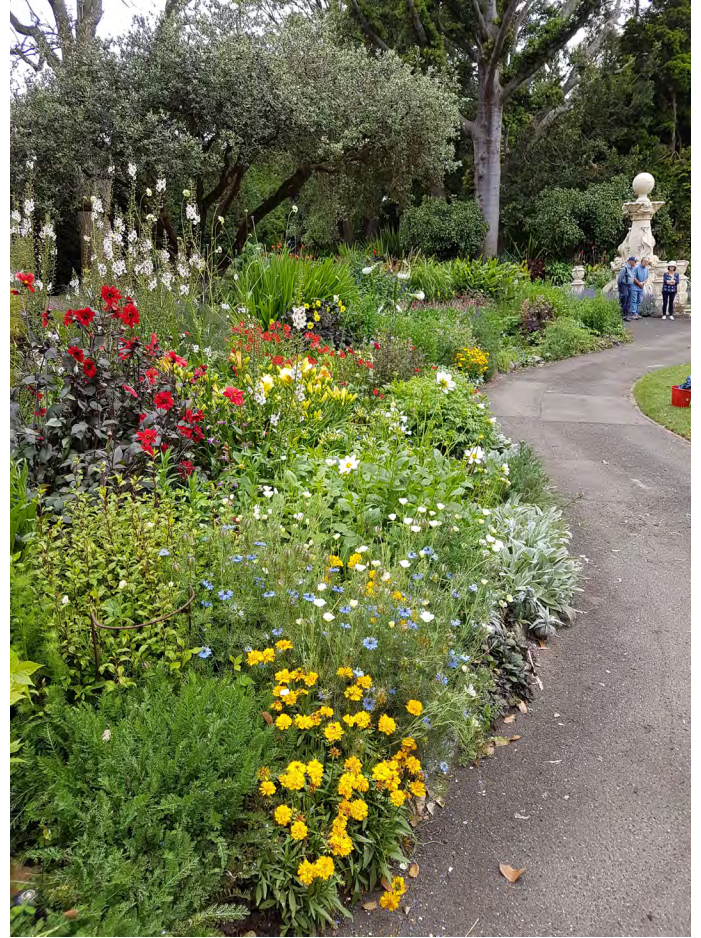
*George with Jayne Salmon celebrating the presentation of her OAM*



# ***Our perennial border continues to delight?***



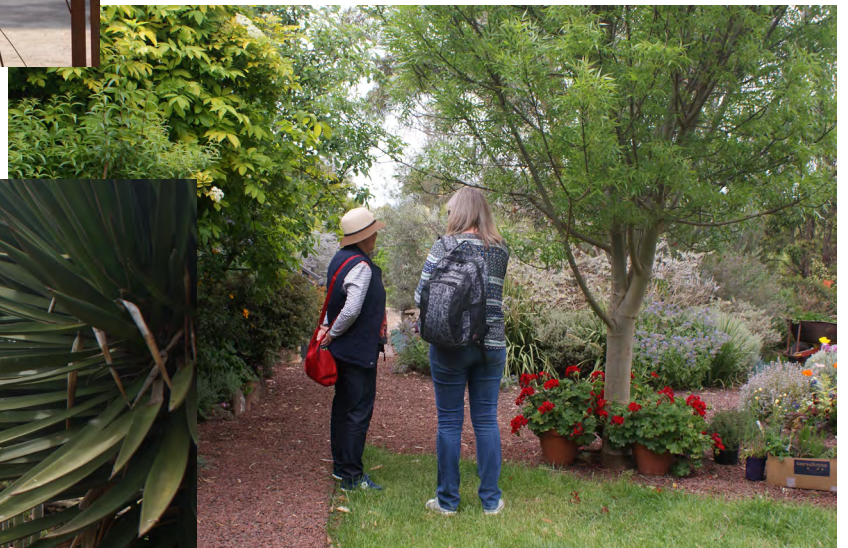
## ***Through the Garden Gate cont'd***



Each year our perennial border volunteers produce an eyecatching display for visitors to the gardens. The small team are supported by gardens staff.

The positive comments provide enough satisfaction for those who work here each week.

Congratulations to them all.





## Lucy Pope - FGBG Committee

I retired from teaching two years ago and have always wanted to work in a plant nursery. Here I am now at the wonderful Geelong Botanic Gardens Friends' nursery after my ex-boss suggested I join. I am passionate about gardening and particularly learning about plants etc. At the beginning of 2016 I participated in the Garden Treasures U3A course run by the GBG guides and that only whet my appetite even more. Subsequently, I became a guide at the gardens but prefer working in the nursery and interacting with likeminded people. My own garden is huge and I should be at home pottering around but the interesting interactions with people and plants draws me back regularly.

Visiting gardens around the world has reinforced my idea that we are so lucky to have a superb asset such as the GBG right at our doorstep. It's incredible how tough our plants need to be to survive our hot summers. Other countries have more rain and therefore the need for mulching is not so great, particularly in New Zealand.

### My Garden

A poem by Kelly Deschler (2013)

My garden is such a colourful sight,  
With pretty roses and scented sweet peas.  
An abundance of blooms, what pure delight!

Beautiful butterflies gently alight  
On flowers dancing on the summer breeze.  
My garden is such a colourful sight

Sweet night scented stocks abloom at midnight  
Their aroma is always sure to please.  
An abundance of blooms, what pure delight!

Carnations in purple, scarlet and white  
Are visited by busy bumble bees.  
My garden is such a colourful sight

A haven for birds I watch them in flight  
They alight on peach blossom from the trees.  
An abundance of blooms, what pure delight!

Pretty pansies smile in clay pots so bright  
I love beautiful flowers such as these  
My garden is such a colourful sight  
An abundance of blooms, what pure delight.

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens wish you a happy Christmas all the best for 2017. We look forward to your ongoing membership and enthusiasm for our planned activities.

## Shirley Johnson - Guerrilla Gardener



Shirley Johnson, Friend and keen gardener, also the wife of guide David recently won the award for the ABC Gardener of the Year 2016 in the Community Garden category for her street gardening in North Fitzroy.

About 10 years ago the Council introduced chicanes to slow traffic flow and Shirley saw an opportunity to improve the streetscape for her family and now for the local community.

Having retired Shirley now spends many hours head down and bottom up transforming the environment with a wide range of hardy but colourful plantings.

Her hope is that passers by enjoy the result as much as she does

## ***Guiding at the GBG***

Guides are on duty in the gardens on Wednesday mornings and Sunday afternoons, taking guided walks or chatting to visitors.

They meet once a month for sharing, learning and developing new programs.

They are all volunteers in this rewarding role and only require an interest in the Gardens and a willingness to learn.

During the second half of 2017 they will be running a new guide training course. If you are interested in participating please let the office know your contact details.

In addition the Guides will once more be running a U3A course early in 2017. They first ran the course last year and had a full compliment of students, who found it enhanced their understanding and appreciation of the Geelong Botanic Gardens

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### **2016 / 2017 Friends' Committee**

**President:** Allison Martland

**Vice Presidents:**

Susanna Keith

Anthea Williams

**Secretary:** Helen Rodd

**Treasurer:** Judy Fyfe

**Committee Members:**

Lucy Pope

Gwelda Owen

Lawrie Baker

Judy Lavery

## ***Friends' History***

The Friends celebrated thirty years in 2015 and a small group has got together to write and publish its history.

Bet Moore will edit the contributions and we welcome input from Friends old and new.

If you have a story or anecdote to share please send it to the Friends' Office, either by email or written down and posted. The addresses are on the back page of Jubaea.

We look forward to any contributions you may have to give us.

## ***What's on January, February & March***

### ***JANUARY***

#### **WEEKLY PLANT SALES – OPEN OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

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.

#### **4 DAY INTENSIVE WORKSHOP - 'ENLARGED FLOWER PORTRAITS' WITH JOHN PASTORIZA-PINOL**

**#1 - Friday 13 January to Monday 16 January  
2017, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm**

**#2 - Thursday 19 January to Sunday 22  
January 2017, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm**

The structure of the class involves a 4 day painting project, where the demonstrator assists each student with composition, painting techniques and colour theory which will be offered in class and assigned for homework.

#### **WEEKLY GUIDED WALKS**

**Wednesdays 11.00 am and Sunday 2.00 pm,  
Gold Coin Donation.**

Meet your volunteer guide at the entrance of the GBG.

### ***FEBRUARY***

#### **FILM NIGHT AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH 'A LITTLE CHAOS'**

**Monday 20 February 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm**  
Bookings essential.

#### **DISCOVERY WALK – 'CABBAGE AND JELLY: A GARDEN RICH IN PALMS'**

**Sunday 12 February, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin  
Donation.**

Palms capture the essence of the warm lands discovered by Europeans in the 19th Century, coinciding with the establishment of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Explore the stories of palms here in the Gardens with your Guide. Meet your volunteer guide at the front gates.

# *What's on*

## *January, February & March*

### **FEBRUARY cont'd**

#### **DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens**

**Sunday 19 February, 1.00 – 3.00 pm**

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change. Copies of the Self-guided Walks and information sheets are available at the Discovery Table and the Teahouse.

### **MARCH**

#### **DISCOVERY WALK – 'TREASURES OF THE COLLECTIONS'**

**Sunday 12 March, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.**

Geelong Botanic Gardens hold special collections of plants. Come with your Guide to explore the Silver Border, Perennial Border and the Salvias. Meet your volunteer guide at the front gates.

#### **DISCOVERY TABLE in the Gardens**

**Sunday 19 March, 1.00 – 3.00 pm**

Meet the Friends' Guides for interesting information and direction to key plants and seasonal change. Copies of the Self-guided Walks and information sheets are available at the Discovery Table and the Teahouse.

#### **AUTUMN WEEKEND PLANT SALE**

**Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 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 car park is located at the rear of the Gardens.

#### **BIG PLAY DAY**

**@ GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS**

**Wednesday 29 March**

Stay tuned for more details.

### **APRIL**

#### **DISCOVERY WALK – 'VITAL VEGGIES – HEALTHY HERBS'**

**Sunday 9 April, 2.00 pm. Gold Coin Donation.**

How can we grow our own food? Join this group tour of the vegetable and herb gardens for a discussion of plant selection and sustainable gardening techniques. Meet your volunteer guide at the front gates.

#### **BUS TRIP TO SHEPPARTON**

**Thursday 6 April**

A bus trip to visit the Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton and their new wonderful sculptural water wise garden, established on the site of an old tip beside the Goulburn River, is being planned for Thursday 6 April. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Keep your eye open for

#### **HERITAGE ACTIVITIES FOR LADIES KIOSK**

Date to be confirmed.

### **CHRISTMAS BREAK**

**Friends' Office closed from Monday 19 December to Monday 2 January  
Open for Business again  
Tuesday 3 January 2017 10 am**

Jubaea is published by the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens, Inc. Eastern Park, Geelong. PO Box 235, GEELONG 3220 Email: [info@friendsgbg.org.au](mailto:info@friendsgbg.org.au) Website: [www.friendsgbg.org.au](http://www.friendsgbg.org.au)

Friends' Office hours: 10 am - 1.00 pm weekdays Friends' phone: (03) 5222 6053

Geelong Botanic Gardens Office: (03) 5272 4379

President: Allison Martland

Secretary: Helen Rodd

Treasurer: Judy Fyfe

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Editorial Team: Luanne Thornton, Helen Rodd, Liz Bennetto, Meralyn Roberts.