

Jubaea



Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. Newsletter

Volume 21 Issue 1

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FRIENDS OF
GEELONG
BOTANIC
GARDENS



UooUoo Taking Pride of Place in the 21st Century Garden, helping to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital

NEW COORDINATOR, FRESH APPROACH

What a pleasure it has become to write these articles! It provides the opportunity to reflect more deeply on recent progress in Geelong Botanic Gardens and to share interesting thoughts and observations with likeminded people.

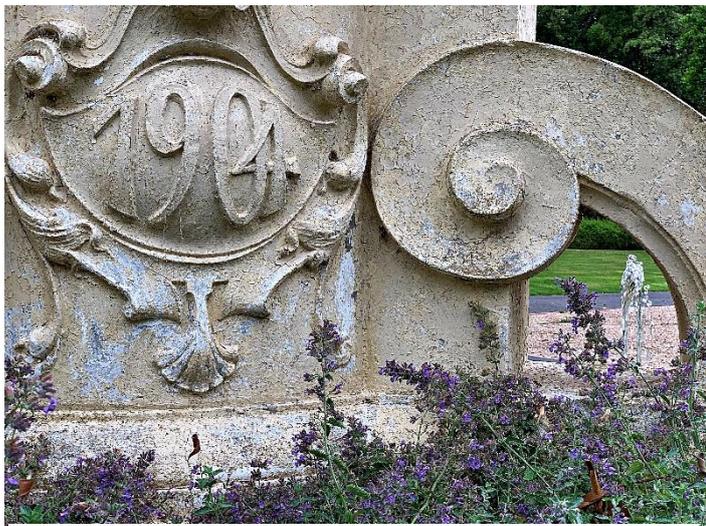
This time I have the sincere and humble pleasure of writing to you for the first time as the Coordinator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens. I can't help but reflect on the journey it has been. For those who know me, you know this is not the first time I have been fortunate enough to be employed at the GBG. In the early 2000's Director John Arnott had the foresight to start an apprenticeship program. As I had an intense passion for plants,

this program gave me the perfect opportunity to start a career in public gardens. One could not have predicted the opportunities that would come across my path from that time onwards.

What a debt I owe to the education and mentorship I received in my early years. It is this debt that drives me to be particularly passionate about education for the young minds of the future. The GBG education program is the perfect platform to inspire and cultivate a love of horticulture within our community. We will be looking to redevelop this program soon. Once completed our program will mirror the Victorian education curriculum making it

relevant and engaging for a diverse student cohort. We look forward to updating you more throughout the year.

In terms of projects already underway, the Hitchcock fountain restoration is coming along well. Each layer of paint and plaster painstakingly removed has revealed the life of the fountain over the decades. The conservator has uncovered many beautiful attributes long lost, including the original brass plaque bearing Hitchcock's name and the year it was donated to the city. Unfortunately, as is often the case with old assets, the damage to the fountain is greater than expected. Yet the conservator has taken all this in her stride and will even be using the same micro silica paint used in 1906. The Friends' commitment to this project could not have come at a better time and has certainly saved this historic fountain, making the restoration project a significant legacy.



The Hitchcock fountain close up before restoration

Alongside the Hitchcock fountain restoration, Geelong Botanic Gardens has been experiencing excellent media coverage. Councillor Aitken, Councillor Moloney and Friends Peggy Muntz, Jan Cheyne and Denise Feldman featured in media releases for the Visitor Facility and Pacific Rim Garden.



Councillors and Friends at the new Visitor Facility

Councillor Aitken continues to show great interest in the gardens and returned to inspect our work on the split *Brachychiton rupestris*, originally installed in 2001 in the 21st Century Garden.

The tree split through the centre of the upper trunk during strong winds in December last year. After much consideration it was decided that we would attempt to save the tree rather than remove it.



Councillor Aitken at the Bottle Tree

The steel pin clamp holding the *Brachychiton* together was constructed by Bertus Van Lieth, who took great care in customising a perfect fit. Burt has been one of our silent heroes over the last few decades – he also designed the clamps supporting the *Dracaena draco*. The pin clamp on the *Brachychiton* will be tightened weekly, encouraging the tree to rejuvenate and prevent any further splitting. Arborists have also uplifted the canopy to reduce the stress load on the tree. Our appreciation is due to the arborists in the Tree Unit for their expertise and assistance, particularly Marty Jackson whose depth of experience was invaluable. So far, the tree is in good health and showing promising signs of recovery.

Those of you who have visited us recently will have noticed the colourful creature greeting guests in the 21st Century Garden.



The creature is part of 'Me and UooUoo: The Royal Children's Hospital 150 Anniversary Art Trail' and is one of a hundred UooUoo sculptures placed around Geelong and Melbourne. We are privileged to be a chosen location and I encourage you to visit the website at www.uoouoo.org.au

The beginning of our journey together in Geelong Botanic Gardens has been a prosperous and significant one – together we are on a trajectory of great accomplishment.

Ashley Filipovski, Coordinator of Geelong Botanic Gardens

Stop Press! Sadly, the UooUoo has been removed from the 21st Century Garden. All of the UooUoos in Geelong have been moved to Federation Mills because of vandalism. (31 Jan 2021).

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

With a great deal of excitement, the Friends celebrated a number of “firsts” on the lawn in front of the new Visitor Facility on Friday 11 December 2020. The annual catered Friends Christmas Drinks was replaced with a BYO picnic for members and their partners. This was the first event held at the new community space and it was the perfect place for such a gathering.



Undercover in the Visitor Facility

Due to COVID restrictions numbers were capped and no food or drinks served, other than tea and coffee provided from the compact kitchenette. Fold-up chairs and picnic rugs were the order of the day and as this was the first social face-to-face Friends' event since March, the sight and sound of members enjoying each other's company after such a long break was wonderful.

It was also the first time in many years that live music has been played at a Friends' event. Noah Vernon, a contemporary singer, and harpist Chris Middleton provided delightful entertainment. Noah had modified his repertoire to include songs perfectly pitched at the Friends and they were enthusiastically received. The gorgeous music, played so sensitively by Chris, beautifully complemented the sun setting over the gardens in this lovely space.



Picnic on the Camellia Lawn



Noah Vernon and Chris Middleton

Another first for the Friends was a silent plant auction, where a diverse array of donated plants created a lot of interest and saw keen bidding to raise funds for the Friends. It was great fun and, with a raffle of beautiful, generously donated prizes, helped create an evening that will be remembered as the first of many wonderful events at this most impressive addition to Geelong Botanic Gardens.



Ashley Filipovski, Coordinator GBG



A happy surprise to cap off the evening was the brief appearance of Ashley Filipovski and his family, with Ashley announcing that he had been offered the position of Coordinator of Geelong Botanic Gardens. The Friends extended their heartfelt congratulations, looking forward to working with and supporting Ashley and his team. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.
Allison Martland, FGBG President

GEELONG SCHOOL OF BOTANICAL ART

The Geelong School of Botanical Art has resumed face-to-face teaching in 2021, beginning with Amanda Ahmed's Beginners' Botanical Drawing Workshop in early January, which was fully booked. Similarly, John Pastoriza-Piñol's workshop on Regal and Zonal Pelargonium Flower Portraits proved popular and was enjoyed by the advanced students who attended. The success of these two workshops represent a promising start to our teaching year.

We hope to continue normal class teaching into the future, unless Covid restrictions dictate otherwise. However, the alternative Zoom classes which were implemented during our period of lockdown during Terms 3 and 4 last year were very well received by students, and so we are now in a good position to resume these should the need arise. We are also exploring the option of night classes in 2021.

The retirements of Dolores Skowronski-Malloni and Deb Chirnside last year necessitated the appointments of two new tutors.

We are very pleased to introduce Amanda Blake Sutterby and Craig Lidgerwood as very welcome additions to the School. Both are highly accomplished botanical artists who have exhibited widely, and I'm sure their students will really appreciate learning from them.

INTRODUCING AMANDA BLAKE SUTTERBY



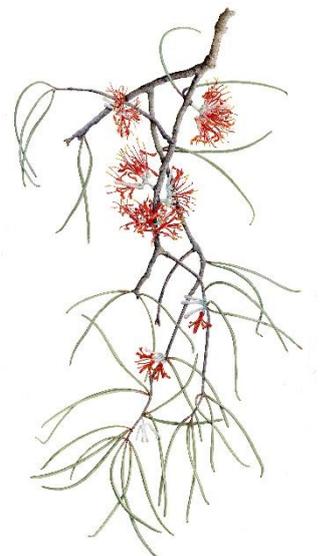
'I have always felt an instinctive desire to paint. There has never been a time in my life when I have not practised art or thought deeply about it. I cannot imagine my life without the opportunity to create. I am essentially self-taught, but it was my mother who

helped to focus my attention on detail. She gave me an awareness of beauty in the little things that surround us everywhere. A very deep appreciation of nature was passed onto me from both parents and extended family. I am so grateful to have had that influence as a child. From bush walking and boating in local lakes, to picking mushrooms and saving tadpoles from fast evaporating ponds, it was all a very big part of my life in and around the Grampians National Park. I spent hours staring at the wings of dragonflies and the intricacies of the smallest wild flowers, marvelling at how clever Mother Nature was! From those early times, I have felt compelled to enhance what I see and create an everlasting memory of it. My own experiences with the environment and nature are depicted in a pleasant way.



Banksia integrifolia by Amanda Blake Sutterby

I want to celebrate beauty in its most simplistic form. Uncomplicated and clean. I like to think that there is a clarity to my work that addresses order and randomness, both which co-exist in nature perfectly. I am drawn to some of the lesser known native flora species, especially those from the Grampians region in Victoria. It gives me immense pleasure to provide for these exquisite plants a platform of their own. I consider a well-crafted botanical painting to be a wonderful form of visual education. Educating and increasing people's awareness of the beauty in the natural world is a mission of mine. Through increased awareness comes increased appreciation and ultimately conservation. This, I hope will help to ensure that all children of tomorrow can have the opportunities I had as a child.'



Buloke mistletoe by Amanda Blake Sutterby

INTRODUCING CRAIG LIDGERWOOD



‘The intricate study of plants and the illustrations botanists have used over the centuries to identify different genera and species has fascinated me since I was a child when I remember copying drawings from my mother’s gardening books. As a young adult I began collecting old hand coloured lithographs and was fascinated by the detail and accuracy of colour, form and texture the artists employed. At this time my personal life threw me into a world full of rare and unusual plants as my partner was a plantsperson and nursery owner with considerable knowledge and a seemingly endless supply of subject matter. In 1989 I began working in the travel industry and this gave me the opportunity to travel extensively often trekking into remote areas for weeks at a time to record, photograph and draw plants in their natural habitat. Since my formal study of botanic art with renowned artist Anita Barley, this art form has become my over-riding passion, interest and obsession’.



Diospyros kaki by Craig Lidgerwood

In 2010 Craig illustrated Stephen Ryan’s *Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual* and began exhibiting at the Melbourne Botanic Garden’s exhibitions, *The Art of Botanical Illustration & Reframing Nature* and at Sydney Botanic Garden’s *Botanica*. In 2012 he exhibited at the Ballarat Art Gallery for a major retrospective: *Capturing Flora: 300 years of Australian botanical art*. Internationally he began exhibiting for the *Societe Francaise d’Illustration Botanique* at the 17th World Rose Conference at the Jardin Botanique, Lyon, 2015, and for *Les Journes des Plantes - ‘Jardin gourmand’*, Domaine de Chantilly, Paris in 2016 and 2017. In 2019 Craig’s painting of *Trillium chloropetalum* was included in the 16th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, USA.



Tulipa ‘Paul Scherer’ by Craig Lidgerwood

Solo exhibitions include *An Inquisitive Eye: the botanical art of Craig Lidgerwood*, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne 2012, *Small Wonders – Woodend Winter Arts Festival 2015*, Black Anther Gallery, Woodend, *Natural Obsession: botanic art of Craig Lidgerwood*, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne 2016-2017.

Media has included ABC TV’s *Art Nation*, ‘*Craig Lidgerwood: My Secret Art Life*’, 2010, and *Gardening Australia’s 30th Anniversary* programme, 2019.

Judy Lavery, Convenor GSBA

Geelong School of Botanical Art

Class and workshop details can be found at

www.friendsqbq.org.au

Or contact the Friends’ Office (03) 5222 6053

info@friendsqbq.org.au



PLANT IN FOCUS - *Olearia astroloba*

Olearia astroloba

Family: Asteraceae (Daisy family)

Species: *Olearia astroloba*

Common name: Marble Daisy-bush

Conservation Status: Threatened – Vulnerable



Olearia astroloba RBG Melbourne. Photo: Louisa Billeter, Flickr CC
By-NC-SA 2.0

The Marble Daisy-bush, *Olearia astroloba*, is a small shrub which grows to approximately 0.5 m in height. The stems are erect, smooth and pale green when young, turning brown when mature. The distinctive grey green leaves are crowded alternate and sessile, with dentate margins towards the apex. The inflorescence is a solitary terminal capitulum, 15-32 mm in diameter. The inner disc florets are purple and bisexual, while the outer ray florets are female, violet and have three minute lobes at the apex (Lander & Walsh 1989). Flowering occurs continuously from approximately June through to March: the peak flowering period appears to be June – July.

Distribution: The Marble Daisy-bush is endemic to Victoria. The only known population occurs at Marble Gully Nature Conservation Reserve, near Bindi in the Tambo Valley north of Swifts Creek, East Gippsland. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 individuals exist, dispersed over about 40 ha. Persistence of the sole population at Marble Gully is critical to the survival of the species.

Habitat: Marble Daisy-bush occurs in Silurian Limestone Pomaderris shrubland on a steep north facing site, approximately 500 m above sea level. Soils are skeletal and derived from Silurian limestone/marble. The common name Marble Daisy Bush reflects this association.

Life History and Ecology: This perennial plant flowers annually and appears to produce substantial quantities of viable seed. The pollination method is not known. Monitoring after the 2003 fires indicates that this species can regenerate both by re-sprouting and by seed regeneration.

Conservation status: listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 and threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Act 1988.

Decline and Threats:

- Inappropriate fire regimes
- Weeds: The relatively high pH and fertility of the limestone derived soil means that competition from Blackberry and Horehound is a problem. A research program into the biological control of horehound is in progress.
- Rabbits may affect seeding success.



Image from Gardenology.org

Existing Conservation measures: The site is reserved as Marble Gully Nature Conservation Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria. Monitoring of Marble Daisy bush commenced in 1989 and has continued on an annual basis. Cuttings of Marble Daisy-bush were collected for propagation at RBG Melbourne and seed has been propagated by the Australian Daisy Study Group. The Marble Daisy-bush is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its very high botanical significance. Weed management and detailed monitoring continues.

Location in Geelong Botanic Gardens: Near the path in the Native Border, behind the conservatory.

Reference: Victorian Government, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Action Statement No. 98 'Marble Daisy-bush (*Olearia astroloba*) and Silurian Limestone Pomaderris Shrubland', 2009 [https:// www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/32639/Marble_Daisybush.pdf](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/32639/Marble_Daisybush.pdf)

Jayne Salmon, Volunteer Guide

SUMMER SNAPSHOT IN THE GARDENS



FGBG Guides having a Professional Development session and a good ol' laugh!



The Hitchcock Fountain restoration begins



The vibrant Parterre Garden and *Jubaea chilensis*



The Friends' Nursery is open again after a long covid closure



The Friends' Volunteers admire the restored Furphy Tank in the New Pacific Rim Garden



From the Parterre Garden to the Perennial Border

FGBG activities @GBG and beyond



JUBAEA SUBMISSIONS for the next Edition are due by 3 May 2021.
All articles including high resolution photos (jpeg files) can be sent to the FGBG Office

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY THEMED GUIDED WALK 'COLOUR AND SILVER'

Sunday 14 February, 2.00 pm

Geelong Botanic Gardens has a colourful and much admired display of perennial plants and silver plants in its borders. Learn about the value of these plants which not only offer a beautiful display, but help to conserve water in our gardens. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

GUEST SPEAKERS, ALISTAIR WATT and ASHLEY FILIPOVSKI 'THE NEW PACIFIC RIM GARDEN'

Monday 22 February, 5.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Join Alistair Watt and Ashley Filipovski to learn about the new Pacific Rim Garden, the planning rationale and plantings which include Alistair's rare and valuable collection of specimens now homed at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. BYO Picnic if you would like to stay on until closing at 7.00 pm. Remember to bring mosquito repellent. Tea and Coffee provided. Meet at the new Visitor Facility behind the Fernery. \$10 members and \$15 non-members.

MARCH

MARCH THEMED GUIDED WALK 'THE PACIFIC RIM – ANCIENT PLANTS FOR A NEW GARDEN'

Sunday 14 March, 2.00 pm

Explore the newest area in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Ancient gymnosperms are a key feature of this beautifully landscaped section of our Gardens. Tree-lined avenues intersect with paths, seating areas allow contemplation and rocks invite children to enjoy this place. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

GEELONG DESIGN WEEK GUIDED WALKS:

GBG STORMWATER HARVESTING DAM – Sunday 21 March, 1.00 pm

The Stormwater Harvesting Dam uses new technology to reinvent Bunce's Billabong from the original curator's era, controlled by a computerised system that directs water according to individual plant needs. This initiative is securing the irrigation needs for the GBG and Eastern Park for the foreseeable future.

THE 21ST CENTURY GARDEN'S DESIGN – Sunday 21 March, 2.00 pm and Wednesday 24 March, 11.00 am

The 21st Century Garden's design, materials and plant selection challenge the traditional notion of what a Botanic Garden looks like.

Designed and created in a period of prolonged drought, this garden is well suited to address the challenges of climate change.

SELF-DRIVE TOUR AND PICNIC in the WINCHELSEA AREA

'COUNTRY DAHLIAS, DROL KAR BUDDHIST TEMPLE AND GARDENS, COTTAGE FARM NURSERY'

Monday 29 March, 10.00 am start at Country Dahlias.

Country Dahlias is set on 2.5 acres with over 20,000 Dahlias and 2,000 different varieties. Spend time exploring and enjoying morning tea before visiting the Drol Kar Buddhist Temple with its serenity and beautiful garden. Finish off the day with afternoon tea at the Cottage Farm Nursery with an opportunity to buy unusual and hard to find plants.

Cost: \$35 Members and \$45 Non-members. Bookings essential by Wednesday 24 March.

APRIL

APRIL THEMED GUIDED WALK 'ANZAC'

Sunday 11 April, 2.00 pm

Why are the plants of Turkey (and elsewhere) important to us, in peace and in war? Learn about the plants and their environment in times of war and afterwards. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

BASKET WEAVING

April – To Be Confirmed.

MAY

MAY THEMED GUIDED WALK 'MAJESTIC HERITAGE TREES'

Sunday 9 May, 2.00 pm

Geelong Botanic Gardens holds a splendid collection of historic trees many of which are classified by the National Trust. Join your guide for a pleasant walk complete with the stories of these magnificent trees. Meet your Guide at the front steps of the GBG. Gold coin donation.

SELF-DRIVE TOUR AND PICNIC

'LAMBLEY NURSERY AND BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS'

Thursday 13 May, 10.30 am start at Lambley Nursery

Join us at the world renowned gardens at Lambley Nursery, considered to be among the most beautiful in Australia. Includes an introduction by David Glenn. A picnic lunch at Ballarat Botanical Gardens, followed by a walk through the four distinct zones of the gardens. \$15 members and \$20 non-members. Bookings essential by Friday 7 May.

The Gift Fund currently has \$433,036.78 and we look forward to continuing support for projects in the Geelong Botanic Gardens with these funds. Details of our past support are on the Friends' website. Our continuing thanks for all donations.

FGBG Patron: Dr Philip Moors

FGBG Committee: Allison Martland - President, Judy Lavery – Vice President, Denise Feldman – Vice President, Jane Laidlaw - Treasurer, Kate Kirkhope – Secretary, Tilly Brunton, Jan Cheyne, Peggy Muntz, Barrie Satchell.

Editorial Team: Luanne Thornton, Liz Bennetto, Judy Fyfe, Tracey Tilbury, Allison Martland, Peggy Muntz, Margaret Gork.

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