

THE BOTANIC GARDEN

A Newsletter for the Botanic Gardens of Australia
and New Zealand www.bganz.org.au



Issue 20 - March 2008

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JUST DO IT!

Since the formal launch of BGANZ in Hobart just over two years ago, members and Council have worked hard to support the trans-Tasman botanic gardens community – our activities have included another highly successful congress, this time in New Zealand, meetings by regional networks, several professional development workshops, continued expansion of The Botanic Garden newsletter, the launch of the BGANZ website, travel grants to attend the congress, invited participation in the 2007 World Botanic Gardens Congress in China, and developing collaboration with Botanic Gardens Conservation International to support Asian and Pacific gardens.

Our main focus, though, continues to be assisting New Zealand and Australian gardens. A new initiative is collaboration with the University of South Australia to offer an annual program of visitor satisfaction surveys suitable for both large and small gardens. The surveys will use a consistent suite of questions and analyses, enabling benchmarking across the participating gardens and giving individual gardens a year-by-year measure of their performance. An attractive benefit of BGANZ membership will be a discounted fee to participate in the surveys.

Climate change and its impacts are front of mind as we seek to manage our landscapes for an uncertain future. Botanic gardens small and large have a vital role in raising community awareness and changing behaviours, in delivering informative education programs, and in being demonstration sites for sustainable environmental practices. BGANZ is supporting initiatives to consolidate these climate change roles nationally in Australia and to ensure Australian governments recognise the power of botanic gardens to influence an enormous number of visitors.

BGANZ's credibility with the community and governments and its ability to deliver beneficial outcomes from our various initiatives centrally depend on the strength of our membership. BGANZ can do only as much as its members empower it to do. The more members we have, and the greater the range of gardens they represent, the more we can do to enhance our gardens and our common causes.

BGANZ is an organisation for all botanic gardens, and I strongly believe that small and regional gardens have much to gain from joining. Wherever your garden is located, we share many common opportunities and challenges, and we can deliver so much more through co-operation and mutual support. Indeed, this is the core reason for establishing BGANZ in the first place! So, if your garden is not a member of BGANZ at the moment, join it up now!

Convince whoever holds the budget in your organisation that membership is a positive investment in your garden's future with real benefits to be gained through networking, professional development and mutual support. And while you're at it, join BGANZ yourself as an individual member and participate directly in our activities.

Membership forms and subscriptions are available on the website - www.bganz.org.au.

Philip Moors
BGANZ President

Climate change – what is the role of botanic gardens?

Climate change is coming..... how often do we hear that these days? Anyone who has been to China recently and seen (or not seen) the city skyline of Shanghai will clearly understand that it is real and that as global citizens we need to do what we can.



'Shanghai skyline'

Like everything else there is a climate change jargon... for example climate change mitigation versus climate change adaptation. Mitigation means minimising the effects now by reducing our CO₂ emissions whereas adaptation means helping our society to adapt in the future, accepting that some effects are irreversible. Much of the public focus has been on mitigation (carbon trading schemes and emission reduction), but for management of biodiversity into the future the second is more significant.

What are the effects of climate change likely to be on plants? They are the basis of our landscapes and ecosystems so it would be good if we could predict effects with some certainty and manage biodiversity proactively as a result. We know the effects broadly – that there will be increased temperatures, changed rainfall patterns and more frequent severe weather events, but we don't know what this means in local and regional contexts or in relation to individual plant species. However, where some information is available modelling has indicated that effects could be dire for some groups;

for example an increase in temperature of 2 degrees plus a decline in rainfall in south west WA, may result in many of the Proteaceae being no longer able to grow in the wild. This is almost an unthinkable scenario and one which should galvanise botanic gardens and other botanical institutions to action. There is much work to do.

So what can we botanic gardens contribute?

Firstly botanic gardens form part of integrated conservation efforts.

If biodiversity conservation is thought of as a spectrum then in-situ conservation in reserves is at one end, off reserve or landscape conservation is in the middle and ex-situ conservation (outside reserves) is at the other end. The living collections, seed banks, gene banks and tissue banks of Australian botanic gardens are what constitute Australia's ex-situ conservation effort. If adaptation is to be possible then not only is the insurance of ex-situ conservation necessary but the knowledge about how to propagate and grow species of plants so that we can actively manage species and populations in the wild. Australia's botanic gardens currently have about 24,000 species represented in their living collections and 3800 species in seed banks.

Secondly botanic gardens are places with knowledge about how to grow and propagate plants to re-introduce species and restore ecosystems. Botanic gardens all over Australia are currently involved in over 130 threatened species recovery projects and many larger gardens are involved actively in restoration and re-introductions, using material from ex-situ collections.

Thirdly botanic gardens (and associated herbaria) are places where botanical and horticultural science is undertaken. Taxonomy, systematics and the cataloguing of plant diversity are essential to support in-situ conservation, a fact often forgotten by public policy makers.

Fourthly and perhaps most importantly all botanic gardens are places where our largely urban populations can connect with the natural world, learn about climate change and what they can do to make our world sustainable. There are 13.4 million visits to botanic gardens and there are over 150 botanic gardens, city and regional – this means there is amazing potential to make a difference by increasing awareness of the importance of biodiversity and sustainable living by people all over Australia, not just major cities. Gardens all over Australia are of course already doing their bit – there are water wise gardens, sustainability and biodiversity education programs for schools and the community in many botanic gardens already.

The Council of Heads of Australia's Botanic Gardens (CHABG) is currently developing a strategy for climate change adaptation. Its purpose is to demonstrate the relevance of the work of all botanic gardens to governments and identify ways in which botanic gardens can achieve more by working together in relation to all of the above areas. The draft strategy was prepared at a workshop by the members of the Councils of the Heads of Australia's Botanic Gardens and Herbaria. It is intended to seek endorsement of the strategy by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council this year. However even

without that it is encouraging that momentum is gathering already - the capital city botanic gardens have already started to discuss collaboration in relation to climate change education and it is hoped to also involve regional gardens as this develops, through BGANZ.

Anne Duncan

Director, Australian National Botanic Gardens

Council Member, BGANZ

BGANZ WEBSITE www.bganz.org.au

At the Hamilton BGANZ Congress last October, BGANZ President Phil Moors launched the new BGANZ website. The possibilities for this new facility are far reaching.

There are pages available for:

Regional networks

BGANZ NZ

Resources and links

Membership

BGANZ Congress

Constitution

Newsletter

Current news

more can be added if required.

The website manager is also currently working on an interactive forum which, if successful, could be adapted to other suitable inter-garden networks.

It would be wonderful if all members of the botanic gardens community came to reference this website in the first instance for news and information. In order for this to happen, we need items to put up on the relevant pages.

From now on **The Botanic Garden** newsletter will only be accessible from the BGANZ website. While you are downloading the newsletter, take the opportunity to become familiar with the website, take note of its potential, and contribute to its success.

Any information you would like to be included can be sent to me:

virginia.berger@environment.gov.au

It will then be forwarded to Siobhan Duffy the site manager.

Virginia Berger

Executive Officer, BGANZ

PEOPLE

New position for Paul Janssens

The last issue of The Botanic Garden introduced Paul Janssens, Curator Living Collections, Australian National Botanic Gardens, ACT, a position he has held for the last five years.

This issue gives notice that Paul has now accepted a position as Assistant Director, Landscape Services at Parliament House, Canberra and will be commencing there mid March. It will be a return to familiar territory for Paul, who was employed at Parliament House for almost 16 years as a horticulturist from 1986-2002. During this time he moved into a management position, responsible for the turf and green keeping staff.

Paul is keen to maintain a connection with BGANZ and contacts he has made during his time at ANBG.

Northern Territory BGANZ representative

Due to some broadening of his role, Jim Grant, currently Director – BioParks, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment in the Northern Territory, will no longer be the NT representative on BGANZ.

Gary Fry, Manager of Alice Springs Desert Park, will now represent the NT. The Desert Park is a premier and innovative Botanic Gardens that integrates landscape, culture and wildlife.

The BGANZ Council thanks Jim Grant for the contributions he has made to BGANZ during his involvement with the organisation and wish him well for the future.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Network of Regional Botanic Gardens (NRBG)

Tropical and Subtropical Zone - Congress

16 – 19 July, 2008

Radisson Resort Gold Coast

Palm Meadows Drive, Carrara, QLD

Two days of interesting presentations and workshops covering a wide range of issues relevant to Botanic Gardens, a bus tour, inspection of the new Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, welcome function and Conference Dinner, this conference will provide a unique opportunity to listen to excellent speakers and to network. A special event at the Gold Coast RBG will be held on Saturday morning, followed by a picnic lunch and guided tour at Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens.

For more information:

Lawrie Smith, Conference Convenor

lawries@landplanstudio.com.au

2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress, Delft 29 June – 4 July, 2008

The congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology.

With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging programme we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.

A short introductory film, called “**Growing Solutions**” has been produced for the congress and can be viewed on the congress website.

The event will be held in Delft, The Netherlands from 29th June - 4th July 2008.
More information: <http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl>

We are looking forward to meeting you in **Delft!**

Drs Bob Ursem (initiator)

Dr Sara Oldfield

Scientific Director

Secretary General BGCI

Botanic Garden

Botanic Gardens Conservation

Delft University of Technology

Australian Network for Plant Conservation Inc (ANPC)

7th National Conference

21-24 April 2008, Mulgoa NSW (near Penrith, western Sydney)

Bob Makinson and Cathy Offord – Co-organisers

The conference will bring together plant conservation practitioners from around Australia and New Zealand, and will focus on threatening processes and the responses we can effectively make.

The registration, accommodation and abstract form and important information are found at: <http://www.anpc.asn.au/conferences>

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

April 4th-6th 2008

Orange Botanic Gardens, NSW

Theme: Botanic Gardens; ‘Where Passions Bear Fruit’

More information: jarmott@netconnect.com.au

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Flood at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

The Botanic Gardens community was distressed to learn of the recent severe flooding in Mackay, resulting in more than 2000 homes being flooded. Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, built on a branch of the Pioneer River also experienced major flooding. A total of 1.4 metres of rain fell in seven days – including 650 mm in one morning. This total is almost the annual yearly average rainfall!

Staff at the Botanic Gardens are working hard to clean up and repair the damage and debris, which included a large fuel tank washed downstream. Although many areas of the Gardens were badly hit, there were also, thankfully, many areas which sustained remarkably little damage, due to clever plant selection and design for flora suited to the drought and flood periods experienced in Brigalow creeks.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to Helen Paulsen, Dale Arvidsson and all the team at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Weed Risk Assessment Software Now Available

In 2004 the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens supported the development of common policies, procedures and a weed risk assessment methodology for Australian Botanic Gardens. A network of organisational representatives was formed to achieve these objectives. This became the Australian Botanic Gardens Weed Network (ABGWN) which is now over 70 organisations strong and includes several zoos. A collectively agreed Weed Policy was endorsed at the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Conference in Hobart in October 2005. This computer program is another outcome of the 2004 initiative.

WRAPM is a software package developed by the ABGWN in consultation with the Australian Weed Management Cooperative Research Centre: it scores weed risk for a particular plant growing in a specific locality. The software also summarises the work done by the ABGWN between 2005 and 2008.

WRAPM is public domain software made possible by a \$5000 grant from the Victorian Department of Primary Industry. It can be downloaded from the BGANZ web site www.bganz.org.au/links.html as a blank executable file (14MB) which unzips to a blank database to which you add your assessments. The more assessments you do, the fewer will have to be done in future.

The software has been specially compiled so that it easily converted to a web-based package in the future should this be required.

The weed risk assessment process is adapted from original information developed by Dr John Virtue (Animal and Plant Control Commission, South Australia) and Dr Sarah Reichard (University of Washington, USA).

The program has been designed to make the assessment process as user-friendly as possible by minimising the effort needed to search literature and the web. Much of the necessary information is now inbuilt and updatable – this makes the program a very efficient weed management package.

The scientific basis and robustness of the risk assessment will be discussed in an upcoming paper in the Plant Protection Quarterly.

Features of the program

By right clicking on the spreadsheets it is possible to export them to EXCEL, PDF, WORD, HTML, XML EMAIL etc. as they appear on the screen

- The actual questions and their weightings cannot be altered. However, if there are concerns that the methodology needs improving then this situation can be reviewed (say once a year) and changes made universally.
- You can re-consider and modify the scores for any given plant
- The “setting” part of the menu allows you to change the scoring levels for “low”, “medium” and “high” risk
- You can read the endorsed ABGWN Weed Policy
- inbuilt combined database of plants appearing on Australia’s major weed lists (WONS, CALEW and noxious weeds declared in all States)
- a list of over 3000 plants known to be naturalised in Australia (courtesy of John Hosking)
- a list of plants with known health risks (courtesy Warren Worboys)
- a suite of web sites that can be used within the program to assist in building up the weed risk score
- a compendium of native plants that are known to hybridise (to assist in assessing the likelihood of gene pool pollution of local native plants) (courtesy Warren Worboys)
- a suggested strategy for individual weed management based on the weed risk score obtained (courtesy of Weed CRC)
- a voluntary organisational weed management strategy

The assistance of the following people is acknowledged: Kate Blood (Weed Alert Rapid Response Team (Department of Primary Industries, Victoria), John Weiss (Research Officer, Pest Plant Assessment, DPI, Victoria), Craig Walton (Queensland), David Cooke (SA) and Rod Randall (WA) and members of the Australian Botanic Gardens Weed Network. Also thanks to DPI Frankston c/o John Weiss for providing the financial support necessary to produce this software package.

There has also been input from botanists at the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (John Reid, Roger Spencer, Val Stajsic and Neville Walsh), David Robbins, Nursery Coordinator, Horticultural Coordinators Therese Turner and Neil Perkins and the Weed Working Group at Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Warren Worboys provided the summary table for plant toxicity/health and also the compilation of information on plant hybridisation.

We thank John Hosking for permission to use his database of plants naturalised in Australia that he has compiled from his own work and records held by Australian herbaria.

The software was developed by the firm Alex McCullie Consulting.

Dr Roger Spencer

Facilitator, Australian Botanic Gardens Weed Network

One-third of NSW flora banked for our future

Most of the capital city botanic gardens in Australia have a seedbank program linked to the Millennium Seedbank in the UK. This is a recent media release from Sydney promoting their role in this exciting worldwide partnership.

In what might be the best investment for our future, a third of the State's flora is now stored in seedbanks in New South Wales and the UK as insurance against climate change.



Executive Director of the Botanic Gardens Trust, Dr Tim Entwisle said the 1000th seed sample has been sent to the UK, representing a significant achievement for the conservation of NSW plants.

"We now have a third of the State's flora in our seedbank," Dr Entwisle said. "The 1000th collection is from the rare *Acacia pubescens*, known as Downy Wattle or Hairy-stemmed Wattle, listed as a vulnerable species.

"We've duplicated 1000 of our collections to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank in an effort to contribute to the global effort to conserve 10 per cent of the world's flora by 2010.

"Our next big challenge is to focus on rainforest seeds. Nearly 2000 Australian rainforest species have seeds that are sensitive to drying out and can't be stored easily in our seedbank. Rainforest plants have evolved odd ways to distribute and germinate their seed, such as the fruit travelling through the gut of Cassowaries, but the seed just doesn't last.

"We'll be able to collect a variety of rainforest species and test cryostorage and other techniques thanks to funding from Allianz Insurance and an anonymous donor," he said.

The seed collection is undertaken by SeedQuest NSW, an international partnership for plant conservation between the NSW Seedbank, part of the Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney and the Millennium Seed Bank of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK.

Leader of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project Dr Paul Smith, in Australia this week said with future climate change scenarios and the ever-increasing impact of human activities, Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project is already looking towards the next 10 years.

"By 2010, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project and its partners in over 50 countries around the world will have collected and conserved seeds from 10 per cent of the world's wild flowering plant species," Dr Smith said.

From left to right

- **Dr Tim Entwisle, Exctve Director,** Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney
- **Leawyn Seed, Mount Annan** Botanic Garden
- **Dr Paul Smith,** Leader of the Millennium Seed Bank Project, Kew Gardens

Photo: **Simone Cottrell,** Botanic Gardens Trust

“Between 2010 and 2020, we aim to significantly increase collecting targets and associated conservation programmes with partners around the world. To help us achieve our ambitious vision and targets for the next ten years to 2020 we must attract funding.

“The species for collection and conservation are prioritised by Kew’s partners and include the rarest, most threatened and most useful species known to man. These seed collections are actively used in scientific research and the potential benefits of the chosen species range from food, medicine and building materials for rural communities to disease-resistant crops for agriculture,” he said.

Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank Project is the largest ex situ conservation project ever conceived. Its Seed Bank is the largest seed bank in the world for the conservation of seed from wild species and has the capacity to store up to half of the world’s wild flowering plant species.

Australia’s native biodiversity is of global significance, making its contribution to the project of immense importance. It’s home to 14 per cent of globally threatened plant species and is one of only 12 ‘mega diverse’ countries. The estimated 20,000 flowering plant species found in Australia make up 6.5 per cent of the world’s total.

Karla Davies

Public Relations Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens report

Membership of the Association (AFBG) has increased by ten in the last 18 months, to 47 making the target of 50 members, set a little over 2 years ago now seeming achievable.

Our most recent members reflect the varying styles of Botanic Gardens, but the same passion from their supporting Friends: the Friends of Maroochy Bushland Gardens in Buderim Queensland and a revived Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens group who are endeavouring to reinvigorate the garden established in 1996. We are delighted to have members in all states and now one from across the Tasman, with Friends Hamilton Botanic Gardens. We welcome them to the network.

The President Alex Smart and I had the pleasure of visiting an energetic community group in Victor Harbour, South Australia, who are endeavouring to put together a proposal for a Botanic Garden to be developed, having gathered considerable community support for the concept. We also visited the rather interesting site they are proposing for the garden. We wish them well.

The Association has been working on a proposal to combine the Association of Friends and the National Guides Conferences, due to the strong similarities in content and attendance and to reduce the number Friends/Guides related conferences to one, held in alternate years.

There was limited support for the proposal at the National Guides Conference held in September in Adelaide, possibly due to the varying arrangements of the major guides groups. . The proposal was subsequently circulated to all

AFBG/Guide members for consideration and opinion. At the February meeting of the AFBG Committee it was decided to continue with existing Conference arrangements.

The AFBG Conference is April 4th-6th at Orange Botanic Gardens, NSW with a theme Botanic Gardens; 'Where Passions Bears Fruit'.

Email: jarnott@netconnect.com.au

In October I had the pleasure of representing the AFBG at the excellent BGANZ Congress in Hamilton New Zealand and the opportunity to meet and compare notes with Friends from some of New Zealand's major gardens. There was a brief discussion regarding the possible formation of a New Zealand network or the New Zealand Friends of Botanic Gardens joining the AFBG - as seen above.

The Association continues to encourage members to participate in the BGANZ Vic & BGANZ NSW Regional meetings which seem to be very well supported and productive. The November BGANZ Vic day at Colac was excellent

Some recent Friends news, reveals that years of support for Botanic Gardens, dogged effort and determination, has finally been rewarded-either with the development of, or commitment to a master plan, completion of a project or the appointment of a desperately needed curator.

Without such Friends many Botanic Gardens would no longer exist- and more recently - many more would never begin!

*Annie McGeachy, Secretary
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens*

Opening of Amazon Waterlily Pavilion

South Australian Premier Mike Rann officially opened the \$4.3 million Amazon Waterlily Pavilion on 7 November 2007. The Pavilion, the third of Adelaide Botanic Garden's glasshouses, is an exquisite glass-palace setting for a jewel of the natural world and indeed the Adelaide Botanic Garden's – Victoria amazonica. 'The completion of this impressive architectural inclusion to the heart of the Adelaide Botanic Garden marks a stunning job by South Australian designers and builders, which will help grow the Garden's 1.3 million visitor a year', Mr Mike Rann said.



South Australian Premier Mike Rann, speaking at the official launch

On January 1 2008, the waterlily blossomed, producing a spectacular flower, creating excitement around such a stunning feature of this world.

Originating from the backwaters of South America, this charismatic beauty is now iconic to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Victoria amazonica was first grown in the Garden in 1840 after the Gardens second director Dr Richard Schomburgk went on an expedition to Guyana, South America.



top The Amazon Waterlily Pavilion
left The Amazon Waterlily in bloom

A prestigious glasshouse, Victoria House was then built to accommodate this rare flower but was demolished in 2006 to make way for the new Amazon Waterlily Pavilion, which was constructed as part of the Gardens 150th Anniversary. Other projects completed as part of the Gardens 150th Anniversary included the Schomburgk Pavillion and the SA Water Mediterranean Garden.

An interpretive gallery within the Pavillion elaborates on the unique form of the waterlily, interprets its remarkable biology and sex life and explores its cultural and symbolic significance and influence on art and architect.

Victoria Lewis
Marketing & Communications Coordinator
Science & Conservation Directorate
Department for Environment and Heritage
Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

ARTICLES

Visitor Service Quality Study

The number of adults who visit botanical gardens is considerable. In Australia, 34 per cent of the adult population have visited botanic gardens at least once in the past year. This level of attendance is very similar to that for the number of people who visit libraries, zoos, and aquarium/marine parks. It is well in excess of attendance at cultural venues such as art galleries, museums, theatres, and pop concerts (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2007). Although the number of visitors is considerable there is no internationally consistent means of collecting and comparing data on visits and visitors to botanic gardens. Furthermore, it has been suggested by Connell (2003), and Connell and Meyer (2004) that visiting gardens, including botanical gardens, is a major leisure and tourism phenomena that remains poorly understood.

Models of leisure behaviour and studies of visitors to botanical gardens are not well represented in the mainstream leisure and tourism literature. This lack of literature is surprising because botanical gardens demand considerable financial commitments from governments or their community to provide the roles of conserving and displaying biological specimens, and providing public education and recreation opportunities. Much of the literature on service quality that exists for example, has been established and driven from a base of commercial transactions. Few empirical studies are available that deal with visitor behaviour in the public leisure domain at venues such as botanical gardens.



Since 2003, senior staff at Adelaide Botanic Gardens (ABG) has addressed issues to better understanding their visitor management. This annual program involved a partnership between staff from the gardens and University of South Australia (UniSA). Indirectly, one of the outcomes from the relationship between ABG and researchers from the UniSA's Centre for Tourism & Leisure Management was the 2007 study that involved visitors to gardens in six of Australia's capital cities.

above left RBG Sydney pilot
above BGA survey



top Aust. National Botanic
Gardens cafe
left BGA fringe

Briefly, the 2007 study was to verify attributes of visitor service quality (referred to as VSQ) previously identified in pilot studies at Adelaide and Dunedin. Also, it was to measure the levels of satisfaction with site visits, and test the relationship between VSQ and the intended, future behaviour of these visitors.

A major finding of the study that involved almost 2,000 visitors and survey administration by a dedicated team of garden staff and Friends of the Gardens, was the dominate role of a cluster of service quality attributes termed 'Education and Learning' as a predictor, not only of the visitor's overall satisfaction but also, of the level their benefits desired from their visit was attained, and their level of recommendation they were to make of the gardens.

The full report of the study is available to BGANZ members and a professional paper with a more academic exploration is to be published in the journal, *Annals of Leisure Research* in 2008. More details can be sought from the Author, Gary.crilley@unisa.edu.au.

*Dr Gary Crilley
Centre for Tourism & Leisure Management
University of South Australia*

If there was ever any doubt that older members of the community can provide experience, dedication and a reliable source of manpower, read on.

Staff at Kings Park have every reason to assure this splendid group of dedicated volunteers their support, assistance and gratitude.

KINGS PARK MASTER GARDENERS

There's probably not a new staff member, nor more particularly a young Science graduate, who hasn't wondered, *Who are these oldies who wander in wearing badges which seem to indicate delusions of grandeur?*

We are in fact the Kings Park Master Gardeners, a group of volunteers which in late November, celebrated its 10th birthday with a splendid morning tea and kind words and congratulations from the Chairman of the Board of Management of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, and its Chief Executive Officer, Mark Webb. But, at the committee's request, the CEO gave precedence on this occasion to the Director of Science, Dr Kingsley Dixon.

It was Kingsley Dixon who, on learning of Master Gardeners' programs in the United States, decided that trained volunteers might provide home gardeners with a telephone advisory service which would both encourage the growing of native plants and free staff of an increasing number of queries. On the successful completion of a comprehensive course and examination devised by Bob Dixon, Manager of Biodiversity and Extension, we were 'itching' to start work. There was just one little problem which Kingsley was quick to admit. Lack of funds and facilities meant there was no phone available for us!

Undaunted, we found countless simple ways to assist the staff and the many post graduate students working in the cramped old Science building where we shared a desk with the Bushland Management team. There were forays into the bushland to cross pollinate Spider Orchids, seeds to be cleaned and counted for germination trials, specimens collected on field trips to be mounted, codes to be hammered into metal plant tags and even a 'uniform' to be made for Bella ... the park's dog!

Over the years we have not only acquired a phone but also our own desk in the new Biodiversity and Conservation Centre, a comprehensive reference collection and internet access to relevant websites such as the invaluable FloraBase. The move to the large, new building has also engendered a closer relationship with staff of both the Horticulture and Conservation and the Visitor Services divisions, presenting both further support and new possibilities for us.

While some members now help with work related to the Millenium Seed Bank project, others are involved in plant breeding activities aimed at the development of attractive, reliable plants for pots and gardens. This work is of special relevance to us as we endeavour to convince the public to make greater use of Australian plants. The education staff have also sought our assistance and as well as offering our usual advice to home gardeners we performed for groups of school children and assisted children to plant seeds as part of special events during the month long Wildflower Festival in 2007.

During construction of the Biodiversity and Conservation Centre we were offered a small triangle of very degraded land between its access road and that leading to the nursery. We seized the chance to practice what we preach by developing a bush garden. To maintain genetic integrity, only plants we have raised from seeds and cuttings taken from within the park's bushland have been used. Apart from an initial watering-in on our annual planting days, no water or fertiliser is used, and maintenance work has been minimal since the garden's establishment in 2004. It is a clear demonstration to gardeners of the value of growing local species. We'd like to claim that the Prime Minister made a special visit to inspect the results last year but, in all honesty, we suspect that Mr Rudd was just 'ducking through' one of its paths to avoid the press posse!

Just as we enjoy working together on planting days in the Bush Garden, we also relish a similar group activity offered to us each year by the Authority's Bushland Management team. Having once had to clamber over their abseiling gear to reach our shared desk it seems fitting that our morning's session for the past three years has been on the riverside escarpment - albeit a less steep section - where restoration work is aimed at minimising soil slippage and rockfalls. On one occasion, to the surprise and delight of the youthful staff who had seriously underestimated our skills honed by years of home gardening, a further 2000 plants had to be delivered at morning tea time.

Involvement in the programs to return rare and endangered species to their natural habitat has become a major aspect of our work. Members have worked on the preparation of translocation sites, raising plants and preparing labels, planting out, watering, monitoring and data entry, as well as collection and cleaning of seed. This work entails long days working on country sites and sometimes necessitates an overnight stay.

For a small donation to the Authority, members also speak to interested groups in order to increase public knowledge of the beauty and diversity of our native flora, the importance of conservation and the work being done by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority. We are happy to distribute our flyers and Native Plant Notes at any appropriate event and contribute articles featuring attractive garden plants, to the Friends of Kings Park's quarterly publication, *For People and Plants*.

While we still frequently turn to our mentor, Bob Dixon, and have in recent times gained valuable assistance from the Authority's Events and Volunteers Coordinator, we have over the years become relatively self-sufficient. Our monthly newsletter helps to keep members informed of activities, current botanical and horticultural issues and developments within the park. Hard-working committee members roster 'MGs' for tasks, coordinate training programs and further education activities, facilitate visits and arrange speakers for our regular meetings.

While the free Gardening Advisory Service (the acronym, GAS, was accidental but is appropriate!) remains our 'core business' and we take our work seriously, we are still willing to tackle the less conventional requests. Our 10th Anniversary celebration was therefore enlivened with humour and wonderful anecdotes.

Our experience and backgrounds are varied but we all agree that it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to be a volunteer in Kings Park and to assist the very dedicated and professional staff in any small way. We are always assured of their support, assistance and gratitude.

*E. Lucas, President
Kings Park Master Gardeners (Inc)*



Key to photos (photos by Kings Park Master Gardeners):

From top left to right

1. Assisting with the 'first harvest' of a 50 year seed burial trial of the Critically Endangered Corrigin Grevillea *Grevillea scapigera*.
2. Harvesting pollen for the Botanic Garden and Parks Authority Plant Breeding Program.
3. The bush garden one year after planting, no additional watering or fertiliser and a survival rate of over 90% in the first year.
4. Further education staff member Keran Keys demonstrating the use of modern pots for the culture of rare native plants. Rare plants are often available to the general public through the Friends of Kings Park plant sales.
5. Operating the Gardening Advisory Service.



FEATURE GARDEN

The Gardens featured in this issue are unique. Rather than being an exhibition piece, Burnley Gardens are 'an outdoor plant laboratory', and for well over a hundred years have provided practical horticultural experience to students.



General view of the Gardens
from the Administration Building

Burnley Gardens: A Hidden Treasure of Melbourne

Introduction:

The history and tradition associated with Burnley Gardens make them unique. Located within 4k of the GPO of Melbourne, they are intimately entwined with the personalities, economics, triumphs, disasters and folly that have shaped the development of the city as a whole. For most of their history they have been a public garden and remain so today(Photograph 1).

Their association with local and State governments illustrates the vulnerability of public open space to meddling by various levels of government, often with a loss of space and the public amenity that such space was intended to provide. Governments at all levels and of all political persuasions have shown for over a century that they do not value the public open space reserved by previous generations. Public open space is seen as useable and expendable, and the history of Burnley Gardens provides an interesting case study of such abuse from the 1880s to the present. Similar histories could be written for many intended and extant Australian parks and gardens.

However, it is their association with horticultural education and students that makes Burnley Gardens unique. While trials, exhibitions and shows have been conducted at the site from 1850, students have had access to the gardens since 1891. They have helped with design and construction, maintained them, pruned plants and learned the basics of horticulture and horticultural science. They also had fun in the gardens, cursed them, had parties, swam in the Yarra River and made mistakes. The gardens were not seen as pristine exhibition pieces, but rather practical gardens where things could be trialled, errors could be made in the interests of education and science, and lessons learned. They were, and remain in every sense, an outdoor plant laboratory. This has made all the difference!

A Brief History:

Originally the Richmond Survey Paddock and bounded to the east by the Yarra river, the site was made available to the Victorian Horticultural Society (VHS) in 1848. The society contained many influential people in Victorian Society of the time, including John Pascoe Fawkner, Baron von Mueller, Henry Moor and Redmond Barry among others and by 1850 work on creating the gardens had commenced. Land was also made available for horticultural shows. The gold rush appears to have slowed progress and subsequently saw a re-organization of the society as the Horticultural Society of Victoria (HSV).

In 1860 the society was seeking a more permanent home and an extension was made to the land provided in 1850. The first formal plans of the site date from this time and describe the Experimental Gardens. Further submissions to the Government and council saw the gardens occupying a total of 35 acres by 1863 (Winzenreid, 1991). By 1873 the HSV land, including the Experimental gardens were located within a larger parcel of land called Richmond Park, bounded to the East by the Yarra River. This was to be a great park to Melbourne's east, balancing those to the north and south. However, the 1873 plans show the area at its greatest extent for, as so often happens with public open space, the carve up and alienation of the land were soon to commence.

The first development that limited the site was the re-alignment of Swan Street in 1880 due to the construction of the bridge opened in 1881. This saw some loss of land and the creation of the northern boundary of the gardens that exists today. In 1888-9 Richmond Park was bisected by the Glen Waverley railway line, which then set the western boundary of the gardens. The integrity of Richmond Park, like so many other major parks in Australian cities was thus compromised, almost from the start. Today few Melbournians would know of the large and significant park that was once envisioned for this part of Melbourne. Burnley Gardens, Golf Course and Paddock with the land running along the Yarra and Boulevard are reminders of what might have been.

The HSV, having been given royal assent, became the RHSV and seems to have managed the site successfully until the recession, or was it depression, of the 1880s. Through this decade the society was financially troubled and finally declared bankruptcy in 1890. The land then came under the control of the Department of Agriculture from the beginning of 1891, as the School of Horticulture, and remained under departmental control until March 1983.

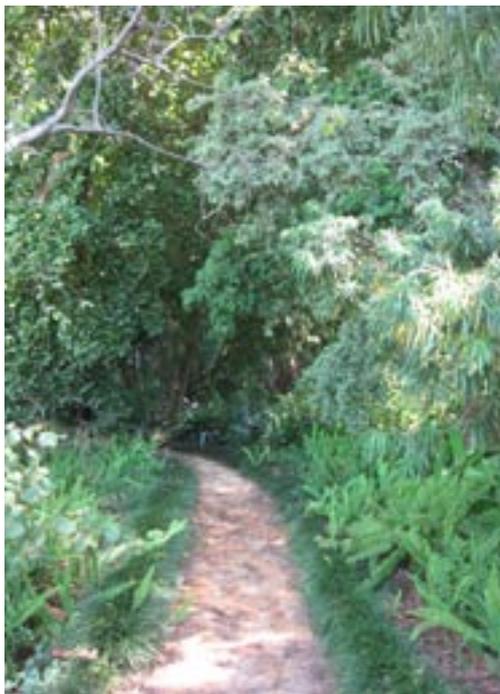
Through its history the site has included a number of smaller building and greenhouses, but the first major building was constructed on the site by the Department of Agriculture in the 1890's. The large weatherboard building with a tan bark floor was used for teaching and displays. Its design and large door were reminiscent of zoo buildings of this era, and hence the not entirely affectionate name given to the building – the Elephant House. The building served the needs of the college until the construction of a major brick building which was opened in 1949, and which still serves as the major building on site. Fortunately, most of the buildings have been placed on the periphery of the gardens, which have largely maintained their integrity to this day.

In 1929 the then Principal, Alex Jessop, invited the plant research section of the Department of Agriculture to locate to Burnley. He thought there were obvious synergies from such a move, but they never materialized. The re-location effectively reduced the area of the site under the Principal's control. It was a decision that he was still rueing in 1990, and which had profound effects on the site as a whole in the era of the Kennett government.

Thus, the effective area of the Burnley Gardens by 1929 was about 25 acres, some 10 acres of which was for trials and exhibitions. This part of the site subsequently became the orchard for the trialling and teaching of food production horticulture. It fulfilled this function for about 80 years until food production was removed from the Burnley curriculum and transferred to Dookie. This area is now the Burnley research station, where staff and postgraduate students research; in spirit a use remarkably close to the original intent of the land in the nineteenth century. The other half of the site, about 13 acres, became the formal public gardens that exist today. The area of the garden remained much the same despite some minor additions in the era of Tom Kneen's principalship and again in the 1990s. However, the land occupied by the Plant Research Institute was sold off by the Kennett Government in 1996, continuing the tradition of alienation that began a century earlier. This sale not only saw the integrity of the gardens significantly threatened, but the subsequent approval by the Bracks government saw high rise development out of all proportion to the site and its historic garden.

A Tour of the Gardens:

The oldest trees in the gardens date to the 1860s, and some were part of the trials conducted by the RHSV. The *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, several *Pinus canariensis* and some of the older *Araucaria* specimens date from this period. George Neilson designed parts of the gardens and added to the plantings during his term as Curator from 1872 until 1897.

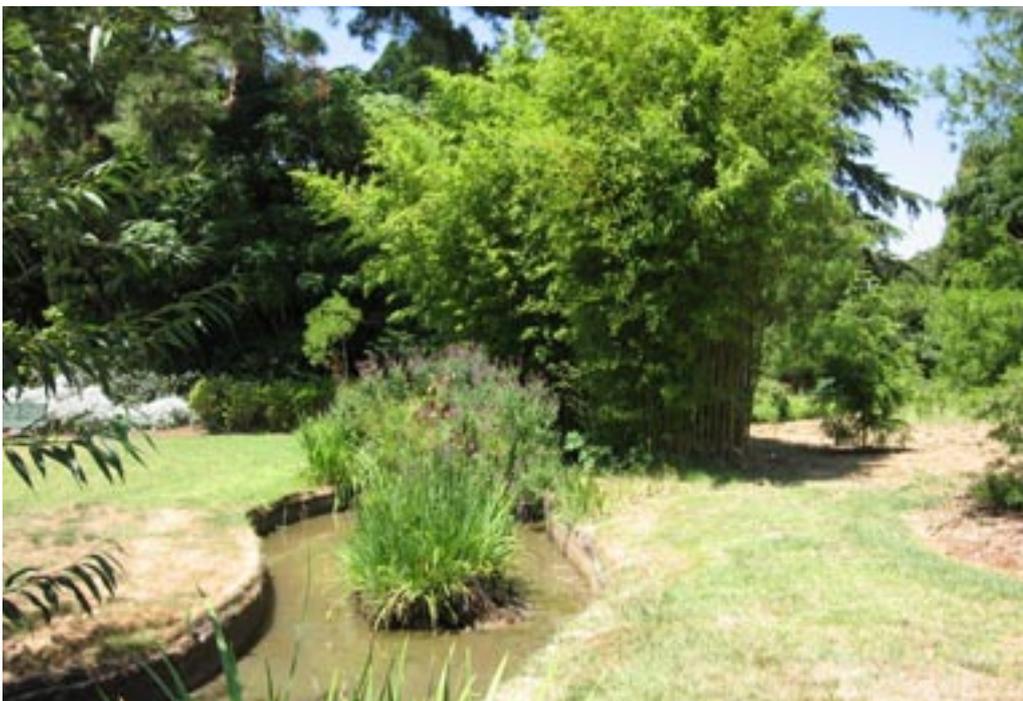


far left The intimacy of other parts of the garden
left Coniferous overstorey and dense shrub planting

However, the first know design of the current garden was by Charles Bogue Luffman, Principal from 1897-1907. The garden of this period, some of which still exists, forms the Victorian era garden. The curved paths, sweeping

lawns, summer and winter gardens and the many deciduous and coniferous trees remain as testament to his vision. The similarity to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne (RBGM) is not coincidental. Apart from the fact that both were re-developed at about same time, there is evidence that Luffman was in correspondence with Guilfoyle who was re-designing the RBGM. The curves, garden rooms and vistas at Burnley are like those of the RBGM, but cleverly designed on a smaller scale to accommodate a smaller site. The gardens are magnificent when seen from the Yarra Boulevard, but are best experienced and appreciated from within.

Luffman did not like garden beds and so the trees and shrubbery gave way to wide borders. Native and exotic trees were inter-planted, the soil level was altered to conceal and enhance views, and in openings in the canopy flowers and groundcovers were planted. It is still one of the great joys of Burnley Gardens that you can wander a few paces and look into one garden room with enticing curves leading to left and right, and should you move to either left or right you see an entirely different view due to the density of the now mature vegetation.



top View of mixed tree canopy
left Lily ponds

The lily ponds also date from Luffman's era and their shape is evocative of the English Landscape Movement's informality. While the old weeping willow that stood sentinel over the ponds for over a century has recently been removed, its young replacement and the papyrus, *Cyperus papyrus*, are still reminiscent of an English landscape.

The Sunken Garden was constructed in the early 1980s. It occupies the site of the principal's residence which dated from Neilson's time as Curator, was modified by later Principals and demolished in 1980. Tom Kneen, principal from 1946 to 1967, and his wife Dorothy occupied the house for the longest period. The Sunken Garden was designed by Geoff Olive, constructed by staff, students, and former students and the planting was subsequently modified by James Hitchmough (Photograph 7). The Japanese wisteria, *Wisteria floribunda*, and giant honeysuckle, *Lonicera hildebrandiana*, are spring flowering highlights and it is a splendidly cool and shady spot on a hot summer afternoon.



The sunken garden, site of Principal's residence

At much the same time the nearby herb garden was established. Many of the plants were donated by members of the local herb Society, and while small in size the variety of plants would do justice to the best of kitchens. This garden shielded from the lawns contains many plants that were grown in European monasteries, and to some extent the ambience of a walled garden persists

A short walk from the lily ponds, the lawns are dominated by the impressive English oak, *Quercus robur*. A favourite climbing tree for arboriculture students, the tree shows considerable epicormic shoot growth as a result of the many student feet that have passed along its trunk and branches. Just behind the oak are the bog garden with its dappled light, ferns and turf lily, *Liriope muscari*, and the azalea garden with its sweeping curved borders, turf and mature tree canopy.

The high costs of labour and changes in garden fashion have seen many of the annual plantings and herbaceous borders in public gardens disappear over the past thirty years. The herbaceous border at Burnley Gardens is still maintained in the traditional English style, although its extent may be smaller than in the past. With a backdrop of evergreen shrubs and climbing plants, the colours of the flowers in late spring and over summer are brilliantly highlighted.

The Native Garden was constructed in 1990-1 as part of the Burnley Horticultural College Centenary celebration in 1991. The centenary celebrated four aspects of the college. There were the usual dinners and re-unions for staff, students and alumni. Two new buildings, the first major constructions on the site in nearly a quarter of a century, were opened. From an educational perspective, the first postgraduate research student intake occurred and a new section of the gardens was created.



The site of the native garden had once been a derelict part of the grounds where the septic tank, compost bins and incinerator had been located. In the mid 1980s planting of part of the site had commenced under the direction of Kath Deery using native plants, most collected from Western and inland Australia by the Australian Plant Study Group, but work had come to a halt in 1987. In 1989, there was a move to construct new laboratories on the remaining part of the site, which would have resulted in its loss as part of the garden.

top left **The herbaceous border and sweeping lawns**
top **The edge of the Kath Deery created part of the native garden**

In 1989, as Principal I was able to ask Rob Boyle, a former Burnley student, to construct a large and impressive water feature. This feature, still the highlight of the native garden, blocked any thought of future building work and secured the area as part of the gardens. Subsequently James Hitchmough and Geoff Olive designed the pathways and plantings that now characterize the garden. All plants in this section of the native garden are from the Melbourne region and the grasses and forbs are a highlight of the grounds in spring and autumn. Kangaroo grass, Themeda triandra, and tussocky poas provide the grassy sward under the canopy of a river red gum, Eucalyptus camaldulensis, which predates European presence at the site by well over a century. While small in size, the native garden is a marvellous native plant retreat so close to the city and its construction anticipated the much broader use of locally indigenous plants that is now in vogue. The native garden showcased what could be done with native grasses, forbs and shrubs – others followed the example!



far left Part of the Rob Boyle designed water feature in the garden

left The native garden designed by an ancient river red *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

A Conclusion:

For their size, Burnley Gardens have an impressive diversity of plants. This reflects the garden's role in the teaching of plant identification and botany to students for nearly one hundred and twenty years. There is also a diversity of landscape styles and a harmonious blending of native and exotic plants. The gardens have suffered from various development activities over their history and the last decade or two have been no exception, with the sale of a significant part of the site, and an extensive and inappropriately large scale development.

The gardens are now under the control of the University of Melbourne as a result of the processes involving consolidation of universities and colleges that commenced under Federal Minister for Education, John Dawkins, in the era of the Hawke government, and concluded in full amalgamation in 1996. The University has its own long history of managing public open space, gardens and grounds, much of which has significance for the residents of Melbourne and the citizens of Victoria. It is to be hoped that this will bode well for the future of Burnley Gardens.

Burnley Gardens are unique because of their location and age, landscape style and plantings, easy public access and the long-term involvement of students in their design, maintenance and management. If any of these ingredients are removed then the gardens will inevitably change. It is to be hoped that in an era of contracting out of services, of near obsessive dominance by liability insurance companies and of the user pays that Burnley Gardens can continue to be the unique gardens that they are: a genuine living treasure of Melbourne!

References:

Winzenried A P (1991) *Green Grows Our Garden*, Hyland House, Melbourne.

Photo Captions:

G M Moore

Former Principal of Burnley

Associate of the School of Resource Management and Geography

School of Resource Management

University of Melbourne

PROFILES

The last issue of The Botanic Garden profiled the BGANZ President, Dr Philip Moors. In this issue, the two BGANZ Vice-Presidents outline their roles, interests and visions.

Alan Matchett - Team Leader Dunedin Botanic Garden BGANZ Vice-President (New Zealand)

Employed by the Dunedin City Council, the local administrating authority since 1980, this is my 28th year. My position title is Team Leader, Botanic Garden - a position held since 2001 and prior to this depending on the political flavour of the time, other titles have included Botanic Garden Manager and Collections Manager.



Despite any confusion arising from my title(s) the key roles of this and previous positions have all had the same outcome requirements, the management and development of the Dunedin Botanic Garden. This includes all living and non-living assets, financial management, staff development, education, promotion and strategic planning requirements.

I firmly believe the focus for the Dunedin Botanic Garden is based around its ornamental plantings, the plant collections and the unique landscapes, without which there would be little purpose or focus for the garden. Furthermore these unique features need to be supported and promoted through the availability of staff expertise, interpretation, marketing and a range of other engagement activities and infrastructure to complete the visitor and learning experiences available in our Garden.

A significant achievement in the development of the plant collections has been the introduction of the plant records database 'BG-base' in 1993, focusing staff resources specifically at the curation of the living plant collections. This has seen growth and enhancement of the recorded DBG's plant collections with plant records growing from 3587 in 1994 to just over 39,000 today.

Dunedin has a particularly challenging environment both politically and climatically. Over the years it has been a particular challenge for me to take these variables and applying the accumulated knowledge and experience of staff and advisors, develop and establish plant collections from climatic zones around the globe - alpine regions to the seashore, both in the open ground and under glass.

More recently the Southern African Garden was developed and opened in 2002 and today tenders are being assessed for the construction of the Mediterranean Garden and its associated plant collection.

My immediate challenge is to take the elements described in the Botanic Garden Strategic Development Plan, which includes the realignment of a section of public road and replacement of the propagation and nursery facilities section, through a public consultation process to the city fathers for their tick off for the expenditure of \$6million (NZ) between 2008 and 2011.

Other areas I shall be focussing my efforts on over the next 3 to five year period will be

- to encourage and develop new opportunities for partnerships to explore joint education and interpretation initiatives;
- to engage voluntary groups, organisations and individuals to assist in a wide range of activities in the Botanic Garden and
- to develop and integrate GIS capable software into or to run beside BG-base to provide a more integrated approach to plant collection management for the BG.

My overseas experiences include time in both Australia and China. In 1992 I was invited to join the International Dendrology Society to collect seed in China. Hosted by the Kunming Botanical Garden we travelled through Yunnan province from Kunming to Dali, Lijiang, Zhong Dian and Chaojen, from the tropical Mekong river valleys to 4,000m on the tail of the Himalayas.

Typically of most New Zealanders I have at various times visited the capital city gardens of Hobart, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, at all of which I have been warmly greeted with lots of information sharing.

In NZ in 1998 I also visited New Zealand's fourth main Island group, the Chatham Islands, which are situated off New Zealand's east coast and are rich in flora and have many endemics.

In April 2007 I attended and delivered a paper at the BGCi World Congress in Wuhan, China.

Alan Matchett
Team Leader
Dunedin Botanic Garden

Helen Paulsen – Manager, Parks and Environment, Mackay Regional Council.

BGANZ Vice-President (Australia)

People come to their positions via a variety of life adventures. In 2003 I was appointed to the position of Curator Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. This position had been one of many that I was undertaking in my previous role of Parks Development Officer with Mackay City Council.



I grew up in Brisbane, influenced by my family to pursue a career in Architecture. The Queensland Institute of Technology class of '77 had 92 students, seven of which were females. The odds in our favour were very good, however the quality of the students was high and therefore we needed to really work hard to make our mark in the course and to our peers. By the end of our Bachelor studies three years later I realised that I could not design an interesting building, but I could hide it behind a great landscape design. Consequently I changed my studies to enrol in the Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

Townsville was my next place of residence as the Landscape Officer for the local authority. It was while working here that I met Brendan Mohr (Tondoon Botanic Gardens Curator) and encouraged him to expand his career into horticultural studies. His pursuit of study and subsequent work in the Botanic Gardens field is one of my personal achievements. As Landscape Officer for the council I was delegated to assist Robert Tucker with the design and development of the Townsville Palmetum. When we commenced this project we were assigned a parcel of land on the edge of the urban area on which to build the palm collection. This is now surrounded with housing and connected to the Ross River Recreation System. It houses the third largest palm collection in the world and as a result of my involvement with this project I received a Bicentennial Medal of Excellence for Environmental Design, an achievement that I am enormously proud of to this day.

As with most careers, there comes a time when family responsibilities put careers on hold and I spent six great years raising two wonderful children in a small country town west of Charters Towers. Not satisfied to be a housewife, I learned to build dams, drive dozers, service windmills and construct stockyards on surrounding properties, all while my children were small. When the time came for the youngest to start school, I looked about for re-establishing my career in Local Government again. After enduring winters with minus nine temperatures and summers over forty five degrees, I was ready for a sea change and move to a more inviting climate. Mackay seemed like a good choice with mild winters and not extreme summers, so this is where I looked.

The Australia Day long weekend in 1998 saw my move to Mackay and on the following Tuesday morning I commenced working with Mackay City Council. My role included Park Development, Capital Works supervision, establishing the preliminary paperwork associated with the future Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, relieving the Manager of Parks when he was on holidays and Parks Technical Officer duties. When appointed to the Curators position, the new Manager of Parks advertised another three positions to take up my previous workload. I must have been doing some work.

The establishment of a new Botanic Gardens in a unique environment has been a challenge and at time frustrating due to its location so far away from major suppliers and resources, however perseverance has paid off and next month will see the five year anniversary of the official opening of the gardens. The pride of the city and the staff is reflected in all of the work and presentation of the gardens. There have been times when we have struggled as a fledgling garden, with low staff numbers and vast amounts of new plantings and acres of grass to keep down, but it has been worth it as the residents have embraced the gardens as their own. All of the staff can walk through the gardens and remember when they planted trees and shrubs in the many garden displays. The transformation of the site from a tree dotted ex cane paddock to a botanic garden has been remarkable. Planting mainly tube stock has resulted in the trees and shrubs acclimatising to their new environments very well, and now they tower over the visitors to the gardens. It is only by looking at photographs taken at the opening that it is possible to appreciate the vast growth of the plants in such a short period of time. These plants have been positioned so that they will hopefully be there in 200 years time, storm and tempest permitting.

When I first commenced with the gardens I was very new to operational issues associated with running a Botanic Gardens however through the BGANZ network I have been fortunate to meet and contact a wonderful group of people. The dedication that they all have for botanic gardens and their work is without doubt a credit to them and their staff. Through this association I have gained an immense knowledge and contact network that will be a highlight of my career.

As with all exciting careers I have moved on from the gardens curatorial position to now oversee the gardens from my newly appointed position of Manager Parks and Environment for the Mackay Regional Council. The amalgamation of three local government areas to one is an exciting time. New staff to meet, a variety of operational challenges and greater budget responsibilities come with this position, however I am very pleased to say that the 16 new staff from our two adjacent shires are very committed to their work and take pride in the region. Most of them have been involved with the development of the botanic gardens through sourcing of regional species from their areas of responsibility, including Eungella and the Sarina Range region. It is this desire to be involved across the region that has seen the growth and acceptance of this project to the community and the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens is putting Mackay on the map for residents and visitors alike.

Helen Paulsen

Manager, Parks and Environment, Mackay Regional Council