

THE BOTANIC GARDEN

A Newsletter for the Botanic Gardens of Australia
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The Next Decade of Plant Conservation

Philip Moors

Last October national representatives of the signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity met in Nagoya, Japan, to review progress and map out actions for the future. This was the tenth Conference of the Parties (COP), and an especially significant one for plant conservation because it marked the conclusion of the first decade of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC). The strategy and its 16 targets were developed by BGCI, and since 2001 BGCI has driven delivery of the strategy in partnership with government and NGO conservation agencies around the world, including many botanic gardens. Indeed, a number of BGANZ gardens have contributed to delivering aspects of GSPC programs.

COP10 provided the opportunity to review the progress made against the 16 targets and to lay out a set of revised targets for the decade 2011-2020. While real progress has been made, it's fair to say that globally, as well as in Australia and New Zealand, it has been patchy across the targets. But we are clearly much better off with GSPC than without it – it supplies real targets against which to measure our efforts, it provides a framework for national and regional planning for plant conservation, it has been especially useful in focussing attention on plant conservation and capacity-building in developing countries, and it reminds us of the scale of the tasks ahead.

During the 11 days of meetings, COP10 reached agreement on 47 decisions (see www.cbd.int/cop10/doc/). For botanic gardens the most significant decision was to accept the revised GSPC for 2011-2020. It retains the same 16 targets, but raises the bar for many of them: for example, by 2020 Target 8 seeks to have “at least 75 per cent [up from 60%] of threatened plant species in *ex situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes.” Other targets also retain their relevance to the activities of botanic gardens – in education, in training, partnerships and capacity-building, in developing regional floras and making them widely accessible, and in stopping the spread of invasive species, to name several.

GSPC 2011-2020 is an important document for the futures of all our gardens, irrespective of size, resources and collections. I recommend having a look at it and other information on the COP website noted above and of course on BGCI's own website for additional information. Each of our gardens can contribute in some way to delivering the GSPC's goals through existing or new activities – the old cliché certainly continues to apply: “think globally, act locally”.

Contributing to plant conservation is one of the many ways in which our gardens can stay valuable to our communities – and *Staying valuable and viable* is the theme for the BGANZ Congress

in Albury in October. Information about the conference and a call for papers are under 'Conferences and Events' on page 19 of this issue, so note the dates in your diary and get your paper proposal in to the organisers. Paul Scannell and his local committee are preparing an informative and enjoyable program, with 'master-class' workshops, keynote speakers, fieldtrips and a conference dinner. BGANZ Council will again be offering a limited number of grants to assist conference attendance, and the call for applications will be emailed to members in due course.

The extent of the natural disasters over the past couple of months has shocked us all, and our concern has been for the flood- and cyclone-affected communities and gardens in Queensland and parts of New South Wales and Victoria, and for Christchurch in the wake of its terrible earthquake in February. Damage assessments are still being made, but thankfully information received to date by BGANZ indicates that many Australian gardens have escaped the worst devastation and their staff and families are safe. Prolonged inundation is expected to be a significant problem for plant survival in flooded gardens, and water-logged ground is also leaving trees and shrubs vulnerable to wind-throw. Many gardens have suffered local damage to plant collections, wash-outs of paths, and heavy coverings of debris.

Christchurch Botanic Gardens and surrounding parklands have suffered mainly from the effects of liquefaction, with many significant trees uprooted from the unstable soil and lawns smothered in erupted silt. However, as described by Alan Matchett elsewhere in this issue, the Gardens have come through the latest earthquake in better condition than might be expected. Garden staff and families are safe, but some have had their homes severely damaged.

The clean-up and recovery, both for the gardens themselves and for their surrounding communities, will take many months. I know from enquiries received from members that the BGANZ community stands ready to assist damaged gardens, so please let BGANZ Councillors or Brigitta Wimmer know if your garden needs help.

Finally, I'd like to warmly thank Tim Entwisle for his many contributions to BGANZ and our Council, especially in recent years when he has been the Vice-President, Australia. Tim has always been an enthusiastic and influential advocate for public gardens, a role he'll be continuing on a wider stage when he takes up his appointment in April as Director of Conservation, Living Collections and Estates at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We wish Tim great success in this next stage of his career and look forward to maintaining links with him, Kew and BGANZ into the future.

Tim moves on

Tim Entwisle

After seven years as Executive Director of Sydney's Botanic Gardens, and 20 years working in Australian botanic gardens, I'm leaving for greener and cooler pastures.

As you may have read in the last newsletter, I am taking up the new position of Director Conservation, Living Collections and Estates at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Reporting to fellow (Western) Australian, Professor Steve Hopper, I'll have responsibility for 400 staff (plus volunteers), around 30,000 living plant species (plus about the same number in the Millennium Seed Bank), international and local conservation programs, and quite a few old and venerable buildings.

Given the economic situation in the UK and state of those old and venerable buildings, there will be plenty to keep me occupied. At its heart, though, the job will be like many others around the world. Whether its a regional botanic garden with one full-time employee leading a battalion of enthusiastic volunteers, or a capital city garden with staff devoted to (among other things) education, fund-raising and promotion, running a botanic garden is diverse and diverting.

I love the diverting bits – spruiking my favourite plants on radio or speaking to a group of plant enthusiasts about the world's greatest botanic garden. By the way, the glib answer to the 'greatest' is Melbourne, Sydney and now Kew, depending on where I'm

based... The serious answer is that each botanic garden should play to its strengths and respond to local needs (whether they be floristic, recreational, scientific or conservation-based). For the subtleties, you'll have to come to one of my talks, in London.

In between promulgating plants we propagate them. But that's just the start. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for visitors to see our plants and beautiful landscapes. We tell them why plants are important, interesting and fun. We balance budgets and community expectations, repair glasshouses, stop pests from eating our living and dried plant collections, save species and natural habitats, respond to natural disasters, and so on. Even running the smallest garden is like being mayor of a town.

Over the last 20 or so years I've enjoyed being a horticultural assistant, a scientist, a manager of scientists and a director. It's hard to imagine a better place to work than a botanic garden, and a better place for a botanic garden than Australia. Well, with the possible exception of a 250 year-old garden beside the River Thames, just west of London.

Thanks for your support and friendship, and do take care of your plants, people and properties.

The theme of the July 2011 issue of *The Botanic Garden* will be 'Children's Gardens'. The deadline for contributions will be Thursday, 30 June 2011. Please contact the Secretariat if you are intending to submit an article.

NEWS FROM BGCI

BGCI working to preserve biodiversity

Andrew Wood

BGCI has produced a number of new publications: A REDD+ Manual for Botanic Gardens about Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, a United Nations initiative to help combat climate change; Conserving North America's Threatened Plants which showed that only 39% of North America's endangered plant species were in collections; and a Global Survey of *ex situ* Zelkova Collections. All are available from the www.bgci.org website.

We continue to work on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and had 345 responses to our survey for the GSPC toolkit - contact

us if you'd like to contribute to it, and thank-you if you've already contributed. In January, BGCI joined its partners at the inaugural meeting of INQUIRE, a newly funded European Union project which aims to reinvigorate inquiry-based science education (IBSE) in formal and informal education systems (specifically Learning Outside the Classroom sites) throughout Europe. For more information see <http://www.bgci.org/education/INQUIRE>

Finally, over a thousand people have now 'friended' the Facebook page of the Global Trees Campaign You can too! See: www.facebook.com/globaltrees

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Gardens of Hope

Sara Oldfield

2011 is the International Year of the Forests, designated by the UN to celebrate the importance of forests for people. Keeping forests in the news will help to remind us all of the need for botanic gardens to be involved in forest conservation and restoration. Recently I was privileged to visit the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a country which has six percent of the world's remaining tropical forest. The main purpose of my visit was to participate in a project to produce a Red List of exploitable trees for the country. BGCi is actively involved in tree Red Listing, more usually focusing on temperate groups, and is a partner in the IUCN Red List Programme. The invitation to the DRC Red List workshop in Kinshasa also gave me an opportunity to visit two of DRC's botanic gardens – a truly remarkable experience.

With 145 million hectares of tropical forest representing over two thirds of the remaining forest in the Congo basin, the results of the IUCN Red List timber assessments will be used as a tool to guide decision-making and planning of long term, sustainable management of forest resources. This is urgently needed in DRC where much of the timber trade is informal and unregulated but where there is great potential to produce well-managed valuable hardwoods for the global market. The selection of species to be targeted by the project was carried out by 26 participants representing government forestry and conservation departments, botanic gardens, NGOs, the private sector, the scientific community and development partners.

Two hours drive from the urban sprawl of the capital Kinshasa, is the recently restored Botanic Garden at Kisantu - one of the most beautiful gardens I have ever visited. I was taken there by Francesca Lanata, DRC Coordinator for the National Botanic Garden of Belgium, who spoke about the rehabilitation of the Kisantu Botanic Garden at the 3rd Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Wuhan in 2007. We have been corresponding recently about the role of African botanic gardens in growing endangered trees for forest restoration. Francesca has done a superb job in supporting DRC's botanic gardens in this country of great turmoil. The Director of Kisantu Botanic Garden, Leopold Nsimundele, sets very high standards for the garden which has an area of 225 ha and around 3,000 species in cultivation. Included in the grounds of Kisantu is an arboretum with around 200 native tree species together with collections of medicinal, fruit and other useful plants and beautiful ornamental features. Leopold is about to retire and is very keen for international support in training young people in horticultural, botanical and management skills.



Botanic Garden at Kisantu



Françoise Situ guiding at Kinsantu Botanic Garden



Kinsantu Arboretum



Kinshasa Botanic Garden

The Botanic Garden in Kinshasa has also been undergoing restoration. Surrounded by extreme urban poverty and degradation, the Garden provides a safe and peaceful environment for reflection and calm. Young people who live on the roofs of adjacent slums are paid to help to clear rubbish from the Garden that has until recently been used as an urban dump. Officially re-opened by the president on 28 June 2010 there are now plans to develop an environmental education centre in Kinshasa Botanic Garden. DRC's botanic gardens are symbols of hope in a war-torn and poverty-stricken country. The international collaboration between the National Botanic Garden of Belgium and the gardens of DRC, highlights yet again the importance of botanic gardens working together globally for conservation, education and sustainable development.

CHABG UPDATE

The National Strategy and Action Plan for the Role of Australia's Botanic Gardens in Adapting to Climate Change

Danielle Stocks

Climate change is a major challenge for botanic gardens, as it is for many other communities and institutions around Australia. Early signs suggest climate change is having a significant effect on biodiversity and plants; the survival of many species will depend on their ability to adapt to change.

Australia's botanic gardens have an important role to play in responding to climate change: as centres for botanical and horticultural research, providing knowledge and educating the community, and as important sites for *ex situ* conservation. The *National Strategy and Action Plan for the Role of Australia's Botanic Gardens in Adapting to Climate Change* (2008) provides a framework for Australia's botanic gardens to respond to the challenge of climate change.

In 2010, the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens reviewed its progress against the goals and actions of the Strategy and Action Plan. The eight capital city botanic gardens were surveyed against four goals from the Action Plan. The results are summarised below.

1. Coordinate a national safety net for Australia's plant species through *ex situ* conservation

Although all of the botanic gardens that responded have policies for living and seed collections, most of these don't align with

climate change priorities. Priorities for *ex situ* conservation are generally dictated by existing external policies such as government legislation and directives related to listed threatened species, National Parks and 'Priorities Statements'. Policies also tend to reflect broader global targets and directions such as those in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the Millennium Seed Bank project.

Seed bank research priorities are fairly consistent across the national botanic gardens network, most conducting specific research programs that relate to seed germination, dormancy, viability and longevity. All of the capital city botanic gardens are members of the Australian Seed Bank Partnership (formerly AuSCaR).

2. Deliver integrated and easily accessible information about Australian plant species

All respondents expressed an interest in pursuing phenology studies, although many are yet to become involved in ClimateWatch, of which BGANZ is a delivery partner. The program collects and records community observations of flowering times, breeding cycles, migration movements and other phenological changes, which will be used to understand the effects climate change is having on our earth's natural processes.

3. Establish a long-term monitoring program of plant responses to environmental change

In working towards delivering integrated and easily accessible information about Australian plant species, the majority of capital city botanic gardens are involved with the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), Australia's Virtual Herbarium (AVH) and Botanic Gardens Informatics Working Group (BGIWG) projects.

4. Increase national community awareness of climate change and facilitate effective response

One outcome of the Action Plan was to develop three key climate change messages for botanic gardens to use in school and community education programs. The messages are:

- Plants are central to cycles of the planet
- People and plants will determine the future of climate change. Plants do, and people can, reduce the impact and adapt to climate change
- Botanic gardens are special places with an essential role in research, education and conservation. They provide a forum for communicating about the impacts of climate change on plants and biodiversity

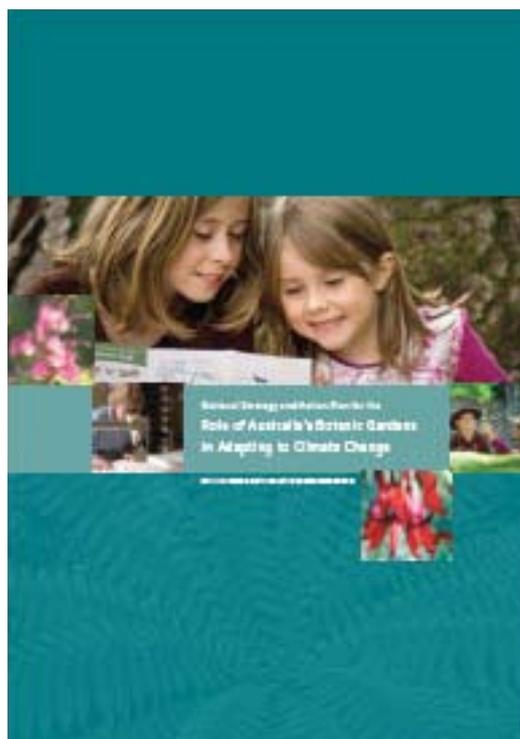
All three messages are being used for a variety of education programs across the country.

The next phase of this review is to prepare a revised set of priorities and timelines, and to prepare a revised Action Plan suitable for key advisory and decision-making groups such as the newly formed Climate Commission. To assist in this review the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens has formed a national working

group, charged with the task of preparing a revised document by June 2011.

Botanic gardens have much to offer in understanding and mitigating the effects of climate change. The future of our plants and planet may depend on swift and coordinated action.

The *National Strategy and Action Plan for the Role of Australia's Botanic Gardens in Adapting to Climate Change* is available at www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/botclimate/index.html



A national approach to seed banking

Lucy Sutherland

The Australian Seed Bank Partnership (ASBP) has the ambitious vision of safeguarding Australia's flora and plant communities against any further loss by enhancing our understanding of seed biology to improve the conservation and restoration of the nation's diverse landscapes.

The ASBP, formerly known as *Australian Seed Conservation and Research network* (AuSCaR), builds on the successes of seed conservation and research activities undertaken by Australian agencies as part of the Millennium Seed Bank Project; an international initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The Partnership is governed by the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG) and draws its expertise from

Australia's leading research botanic gardens, herbaria, state environment agencies and academic institutions, as well as non-government organisations.



In recent months, the Partnership has developed a 10 year program for collecting and researching seeds and sharing knowledge about Australia's flora. In the next 3 years the priorities are:

1000 Species Project

The first phase of this project aims to collect and store seed to safeguard 1000 of Australia's plant species. These plants will be significant at a national and/or state level and linked to their endemic, endangered or economic value. They will not yet have been collected or secured in Australia's conservation seed banks, or in the Millennium Seed Bank. The second phase (planned for 2015-2017) will improve the genetic representation of species collected and banked during Phase 1 and overcome remaining dormancy challenges identified during the first phase. This phase will include on-ground trials to inform approaches to restoration ecology and assist practitioners.

Iconic landscapes and connectivity

The Integrated Restoration of Understorey Species (IRUS) project aims to integrate research disciplines (incl. seed science, soil invertebrates, soil microbes, seed storage and germination) to develop more holistic approaches to understorey restoration. Integrating research to restore the understorey of ecosystems will have significant implications for connectivity conservation, building ecosystem resilience and restoring degraded landscapes.

Alpine and Montane Project (AMP)

Mountain floras are identified as one of the most extinction-prone groups of plants in a warming climate scenario. The Alpine and Montane project (AMP) aims to draw on the ASBP's diverse research expertise within Australian alpine and montane communities to secure vulnerable species in these extreme environments.

ASBP Knowledge Hub

Australia's conservation seed banks have captured large quantities of data on phenology, ecology, seed morphology, germination/dormancy requirements and storage characteristics. This program of activities initially involves creating national standards for recording data on wild species collections and enhancing accessibility to, and the sharing of, biological data to support research and restoration. Based on the Australia's Virtual Herbarium model, the Partnership will build a portal and link the databases from Australia's conservation seed banks to create an accessible online resource that provides information on the nation's seed bank collections and associated germination data.

For more information contact:

National Coordinator - Australian Seed Bank Partnership
 Australian National Botanic Gardens, GPO Box 1777,
 Canberra ACT 2601
 Ph: +61 (0) 2 6250 9473
 Email: Lucy.Sutherland@environment.gov.au

BGANZ MEMBERS NEWS

HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING OF BECOMING A BGANZ MEMBER? Now is the perfect time.

BGANZ has a special deal for new members. If you take out membership between now and the end of June your membership will not only be valid until the end of this financial year but will carry through to 30 June 2012.

Amongst the many benefits are newsletters, networking, training and development opportunities, conferences, news updates and access to professional networks. For more details please check out the BGANZ website at www.bganz.org.au/membership that also includes the relevant applications forms. Or, if you prefer, contact the BGANZ Secretariat.

Introducing BGEN Australia and New Zealand

Sharon Willoughby

BGEN (The Botanic Gardens Education Network Australia and New Zealand) is a new special interest group that has been created under the BGANZ umbrella. The purpose of BGEN is to create a professional development network for Botanic Gardens staff and volunteers who work in the following areas:

- Schools and community education
- Interpretation
- Public / visitor programs
- Community development
- Customer / Visitor / Information services
- Adult learning
- Outreach
- Or any area that relates to engaging our visitors with the role of botanic gardens.



BGEN is a fledgling network currently facilitated by an interim steering committee of Education and Public Programs Managers from around Australia: Marcus Ragus and Brett Richardson, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Katrina Nitschke, Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, Margot MacManus, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt. Coot-tha, Stephen Speer, Australian National Botanic Gardens, Janelle Hatherly, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney, Dale Alford, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and Sharon Willoughby, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. The interim committee's aim is to establish the network, network website and then hand over to an elected committee from existing members in 2012.

The main networking tool for BGEN will be the BGEN website: www.bgen.com.au

Why not join us now and help BGEN meet the needs of its members right from the start!

The website will provide us with an online forum where we can ask each other questions, share our experiences, solve problems together and swap resources. To join, just send an email to bgenhere@gmail.com

We will then provide you with log in details. It is envisaged that at future BGANZ conferences BGEN will host a range of workshops / meetings to connect like-minded individuals face to face and encourage opportunities for professional development.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact any of the managers listed above – there's one in almost every State. In the meantime please join us!

BGANZ Communications Toolkit Project

Anne Duncan

Botanic gardens are much visited and yet their multi-faceted role as tourism attractions, places for recreation, centres of botanical and horticultural studies and environment and sustainability education, and as a focus for local culture and heritage, is often not recognised. The key contributions that they make to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our communities often "fly under the radar".

In the modern world this lack of understanding and recognition makes obtaining funds increasingly difficult, whether from corporate sponsorships or through internal support for budget within government contexts. Effective communication about the sector, in particular its contributions to society, is key in increasing success when seeking both support and funds in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Both the issue and the need to build capacity of gardens in this area were identified as a priority as a result of the 2009 BGANZ member survey.

As a result Council decided to fund the development of a communications toolkit which will aim to assist BGANZ members in increasing their profile and undertaking effective communications and marketing. A consultant has been engaged to develop the toolkit including a professional power-point

presentation and communications templates which will assist gardens to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental values of botanic gardens in a professional way. The toolkit will be launched at the 2011 Congress in Albury in October.

Fundraising – some tips from a professional

Anne Duncan

This comes from a talk at the BGCI 2010 Dublin Congress by John Regan, which I attended. John Regan is a professional fundraiser, largely for zoos in UK and Europe. His website has a library with some fundraising resources (some slightly out of date, but still relevant). <http://www.johnreganassociates.com/library>

7 major principles

1. *Get out more* – become part of the landscape of influence. 90% of success is building relationships with the people who create policy.
2. *Do it or don't* – no half measures.
3. Adopt “*maximum developmental plasticity*” – don't be too tied to the plan.
4. Go where the money is – find out where the big money is and *don't sweat the small stuff* (easier to get a lot from 1 source than a little from a lot of sources).

5. *Make yourself relevant*. If you aren't winning re-shape your strategy in terms of other major agendas – e.g. renewable energy- get paid to tell the renewable story; links to emergent super-economies (India, China etc); the contemporary built environment; economic development (jobs etc); advocacy for science; shop window for local/regional/national/international.
6. *Utilise contacts* – you don't have to do it all yourself.
7. *Tell your story so it sticks*: What will make it stick.....
 - Concrete
 - Unexpected
 - Simple
 - Credible
 - Emotional
 - A real story

Ability to raise funds was identified as a key issue for members in the 2009 membership survey. The communication toolkit which is now being developed will be designed to help members with the story-telling part.

REPORTS ON THE EFFECT OF RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS ON BOTANIC GARDENS AND 'GARDENS AND TOURISM'

The Christchurch Earthquake

Alan Matchett

Canterbury's September 7.1 magnitude earthquake centered 30km to the west of Christchurch, caused considerable physical damage to buildings in city and rural areas, even offsetting large tracts of land eastwards by several metres, but miraculously no deaths. However residents have been on edge ever since, having

being exposed to a non-stop occurrence of aftershocks. Any ongoing unease was well founded when on Tuesday, 22 February, Christchurch City was battered by the largest aftershock of them all, bringing City life to a dramatic and disastrous halt.

At 6.3 this aftershock was centered only a few kilometers from downtown Christchurch and even though smaller in magnitude, the nature of the ground movement, the previously weakened buildings and a city full of people going about their business, the result was quite different.

The rescue efforts are now officially over and the priorities are of recovery and to repair the severely damaged infrastructure. This too is very much the case now for staff at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. It was good news when an email from Jeremy Hawker, Operations Manager, immediately after this last aftershock advised that staff and their immediate family were all safe.

Jeremy later reported that....."For most of the staff they were going back to business as usual from Monday (7th). Public access is limited to certain areas within the Gardens, Priorities are for tree assessments many of which have been identified with problems, due to liquefaction and movement of the ground.

Public toilets are not functioning but facilities in staff areas up and going, due to most of the breaks in water occurred outside of nursery office area.

Staff have been making the area safe and a few of us have also been working shifts at Civil Defence headquarters or with civil defence urban rescue team."

And finally he added....."Given the last earthquake in September the advice was to get into normal routine as quickly as practical, but there is certainly a different feel this time amongst staff with many of their homes damaged some still without power and water, others relocated to family and friends."

While the Botanic Garden is in the area most affected by the earthquake, the effects across the city vary widely, some areas have sustained little or no apparent physical damage but in other areas it was in a state of chaos. However the whole city is still suffering severe disruption to the underground network services. Furthermore it has been reported in districts of severe liquefaction as many as ten thousand damaged homes will be demolished and the land deemed not suitable to be built on again.

We all wish the team at Christchurch Botanic Gardens well in getting back to some form of normality with their families and the undertaking they face to bring the Garden back to a standard to allow full access and use of all the facilities with an eventual return to business as usual routines that were so profoundly interrupted.

Floods, Cyclones, Tourism and Queensland Botanic Gardens

Kate Heffernan

With the state of Queensland ravaged by a season of floods and cyclones, it is a challenge to pen a report on the state of tourism in the regional botanic gardens of Queensland. For months most of the gardens of Queensland have been concentrating on surviving incredible weather events, assessing and then repairing varying degrees of damage. Overall it has been a trying year for Botanic and Public Gardens across most of the state, just as it has for many other parts of Australia and New Zealand.

It has been especially tough for Emerald Botanic Gardens who experienced their second major flood in just over 2 years. This time the water levels rose higher than previously, and remained longer. The damage is devastating for staff faced with the overwhelming task of cleaning up and rebuilding. Assistance from a working party of 'prisoners' (official term is 'correctional service workers') kickstarted the process, and bobcats and heavy machinery have been on site for weeks. Heath Parker from Emerald was stoic as he described the damage during a short phone call, but explained that at least one of his staff is not able to face the task again.

Towns like Emerald are on the grey nomads trail, and I remember hearing stories of many vans and motor homes pulled up close to the gardens in the recent past. Hopefully as the town recovers, the word will travel through the caravan parks and road side campsites of Australia and visitors will call by and acknowledge the incredible accomplishment of rebuilding and replanting Emerald Botanic Gardens.

Losing giant trees is always a tragedy and the damage is amplified when they fall across whole garden beds and structures, destroying everything underneath. A mature Bunya, possibly a century old, was amongst the many tree losses in Queens Park, Townsville. Curator Julie Roach explained that the huge tree appeared to have been sucked out of the ground, lifted and then dropped across a series of garden areas causing significant destruction. Losses of other mature trees in Queens Park and Anderson Park and palms snapped off at the crown or blown out of the ground in the Townsville Palmetum have seriously stung the three Townsville Botanic Gardens and a long recovery period faces the staff.

Further north in Cairns, the damage across the gardens closed them for a period, with the Rainforest Gully closed for a month after a Cigar Box Cedar flattened much of the gully plant collection. A massive *Terminalia* split and was likely to be lost as well. Louisa Grandy, Horticulture Supervisor, summed up the aftermath of Cyclone Yasi - "once we get past the devastation we can grow excited about the renewal". Louise also commented that the clean up and future planning was "a team building event." The fact that this was the fourth cyclone in Louisa's 14 years of service to the gardens, makes these remarks typical of the strength that evolves from adversity.

Hearing about the human tragedy from the floods around Toowoomba has been humbling, and it was a great relief to learn that the Highfield's Botanic Gardens north of the City did not suffer significant damage despite rainfall figures that defy normal credibility. Historic Queens Park in the City of Toowoomba also escaped major damage. Robert Campbell from Highfield Botanic Gardens spoke of extensive damage to vegetation on the escarpments and ranges of the region, but the gardens location was largely unaffected. It was a relief to learn that the commitment and work that Robert and offside Steve Plant put into the embryonic Highfield Botanic Gardens was not jeopardized.

Closer to home, the historic Sherwood Arboretum in Brisbane sustained damage to its recently installed interpretation signs, lost some plants and the playground, but overall the resilience of plants inundated for over a week was amazing. Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic gardens have pledged a small donation to support the Friends of Sherwood Arboretum in their rebuilding phase.

Whilst not damaged from the high rainfall, Redcliffe Botanic Gardens are addressing the challenge of flying foxes and flocks of ibis. Much of the garden is closed as the management plan is devised and activated. Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens escaped lightly, despite extreme rainfall over the January period. In one year the rainfall has risen from half the annual average to double the annual average, with losses to some plant collections, especially plants from the Pea group. Mackay was another garden to escape Yasi and the floods, and this must have been a relief for a garden affected several times over the past few years. Botanic Gardens Consultant and Secretary of BGANZ Qld, Lawrie Smith has extensive gardens at his own property north of Brisbane and was fortunate the floodwaters stopped just short of his home. His gardens were inundated when the North Pine River and Lake Samsonvale flooded 18 metres above their usual level. Many native trees and fruit trees were decimated and Lawrie and family were facing a huge clean up.

A change of staff at Rockhampton Botanic Gardens meant I was unable to reach a botanic gardens officer who could advise on the consequences of the extensive periods of inundation. Early in



Queens Gardens after Cyclone Yasi

January Dale Arvidsson contacted Rockhampton Gardens and reported that due to the extensive period many plants were under water and there were likely to be significant losses.

One of the real challenges of a network is maintaining a register of contact details, and in challenging times when a word or two of acknowledgement or encouragement can make a moment, a day or a week easier, this is something we need to address urgently. A very real reason to build membership of BGANZ! There are gardens where damage and devastation may be very serious, but it has been difficult to phone constantly and ask for information when it's entirely possible that gardens staff may be confronting personal calamities. We empathise with all those who have lost trees, structures, garden beds and personal items through the summer of 2011.

There are real concerns of a perception of damage extending throughout all of the state which led Queensland Tourism Minister, Mr. Peter Lawlor to state. "Now Queensland is on the road to recovery, it's time to fight back and turn that perception around." Tourism and Transport Forum chief John Lee said it would take a targeted campaign to combat newsreel images of flood and cyclone damage saturating both overseas and domestic markets. Opportunities may have arisen from the Government's push to mitigate the effects of floods and cyclones on Queensland Tourism for possible assistance with our long awaited Queensland Trails brochure. Possibly we should wait until the summer weather is gone and then start a push to promote our wonderful resilient gardens.

Cyclones, floods and an earthquake and much devastation. Gardens in the state of Queensland are not alone in experiencing extreme events, and send their best wishes to gardens and gardens officers around the entire BGANZ family.

From tourist attraction to tragedy – adapting to changes with tourism marketing in the face of adversity

Dale Arvidsson

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens is a vibrant young garden that opened to the public in May 2003. Since September that year – a Visitors Services program has operated and been the public face of a fledgling garden still being constructed in phased development.

In the face of acres of mulch, a background of cranes and ongoing construction and no established botanic landscape to ‘wow’ visitors, a series of well planned monthly events and visitor programs was scheduled from Easter to the end of school holidays in October to avoid the worst of North Queensland’s summer heat. Monthly events and a focus on well-placed marketing campaigns, combined with the launch of our destination café/gallery saw a peak in visitation in winter 2006 with over 100 visitors a day recorded coming into the administration office – with many more choosing to walk and experience the Gardens and Cafe on their own. The visitors program to entice locals and tourists to the Gardens worked via external marketing, billboard advertising and high profile displays at the main city visitor information centre captured the influx of ‘grey nomads’ retreating north from a series of cold southern winters and Queensland’s balmy, stable, albeit dry, climate (I later began to realise this was a ‘drought’ and not typical of the Central Queensland Coast bioregion). Stage 2 of the Gardens development opened with much fanfare, with well patronised events in July and September and it seemed visitor numbers would continue to rise as the Gardens grew and matured.



Tourism. Photo: Alastair Waghorn

How la Niña changed everything

After three years of stable and predictably dry and sunny weather from our opening days in 2003 and 2006, summer rains became more frequent and began to extend further into autumn than what had been seen over more than 10 years of untypical drought conditions for Mackay. Many locals commented on recognisable patterns perhaps again emerging as heavy rain began to fall throughout summer; followed by a dry, mild winter and spring.

Everything changed for our visitor program in February 2008 when after a particularly wet summer, Mackay experienced a deluge that commenced as solid rain in the evening and throughout the night, into the early hours. The next morning from 4am until 8am – in shades of the recent Toowoomba floods - more than 700mm of rain fell – with almost 400mm in just one hour, breaking all records. Mackay was awash and the Gardens went underwater in spectacular fashion.



Flood 2008. Photo: Dale Arvidsson

After the flood waters subsided and the cleanup of the badly eroded garden beds was completed – we noticed the lagoons water level did not retreat to the previous low level we were used to. The underground aquifers were full for the first time since the Gardens had opened (and a long time prior) and garden beds and infrastructural highlights – like the Eulamere Wetland boardwalk, buried under tonnes of water weed during the flood, now regularly went underwater when any heavy downpours fell.

Cyclone Ului in March 2010 and the consequent devastation caused to the living collection with more than 400 trees and specimens destroyed, saw much of the site’s large shade trees wiped away and a six month clean-up that had many beds revert to slowly drowning specimens and an abundance of weeds as the staff spent their days using chainsaws rather than standard horticultural maintenance. Our clay loam soils have stayed saturated since and some event lawns popular with a range of activities still cannot be used today. Events began to be cancelled, then weddings booked dropped by half as brides planning their big day chose ‘more reliable’ indoor options. 2010 saw rain every week until August, when 3 entire weeks passed with less than 10 mms falling.



Cyclone Ului – Palm Walk. Photo: Dale Arvidsson

North Queensland’s tourism industry was suffering as the wet conditions and severe weather events saw our traditional tourism markets begin to dwindle due to the uncertainty of the weather patterns. When events were held at the Gardens, numbers were down compared to those experienced in the early years, due to the uncertainty of the weather on any given day. This uncertainty has continued with widespread worldwide media coverage of the devastating Queensland floods (fortunately Mackay missed experiencing that event), two tropical Cyclones with the unprecedented coverage of Category 5 Cyclone Yasi this year alone.

Visitors are still coming to the Gardens, but the profile of those visiting has changed considerably from our typical ‘seniors’ market towards more adventurous international travellers who were a minority in earlier statistics. Add the GFC into the mix and potential visitors from south-east Queensland and the southern states were now holidaying closer to home and for shorter periods. It’s often the case that a large proportion of marketing dollars are spent attracting the smallest percentage of your visitor market. The external tourism market to Mackay is often expensive to access due to distance and now more than ever, potential visitors of all ages are planning their holidays via the web, rather than relying on expensive glossy travel magazines. Holidays are almost never planned to coincide with key events being held at the Gardens and most visitors plan an unstructured visit, with a minority booking in for a free guided tour.

Time for a Change

Many botanic gardens experience high visitation from their local community. In light of the above – this now sits at about 85% in Mackay. The visitation from our local community is in many ways more vital to the Gardens long term development – as it proves to our “funding bodies” that this is not an exclusive site with just a handful of visitors interested in plants using the facility.

We have benefitted from early public consultation and design planning to allow the Gardens to be easily accessible by a broad section of the local community with extensive walking tracks, a 10,000 step program route and cycle paths that extend through the site and now link in with Mackay’s new Bluewater Trail via a three million dollar federal government funded link.



Cyclist in MRBG. Photo: Dale Arvidsson

Allowing bicycles, rollerblades and even dogs on leads throughout our site may cause botanic gardens purists to cringe – and has caused some headaches for staff – but has made a real difference in how many visitors actually use the Gardens. The Bluewater Trail in particular creates a loop around the city and links the Botanic Gardens to the city centre, riverside parkland and the beach and has seen a huge increase in cyclists visiting and commuting through the Gardens. Having no fences around our site – a bane for the security of our living collection – has had the bonus of allowing visitation to the site early in the morning and long into the evening. Now that the fencing of the site is planned to commence in 2011 – we can design this to close off important areas whilst leaving user-friendly spaces and routes open, something that would not have occurred had the site been fenced off completely from the beginning.

A different market

On any given afternoon – 300-400 pedestrians exercise throughout the site. Educating this local visitor market is very different from educating tourist visitors – as many are return visitors using the site daily for recreation. A sign read once doesn't need reading again and we have now re-thought much of our current and planned 'permanent' interpretative signage – an often expensive exercise, to become a more fluid and changeable format, allowing signs to regularly appear and disappear as the seasons, flora and natural features also come and go.

Rather than the expense and lead up of regular large events – only to have them cancelled due to weather, we have decided to forgo these for a series of smaller events - not so focused on the 'marquee and stall' or 'performance' concept, but using ideas and 'key world/environmental dates' to entice those interested and tapping into wider marketing options. Rather than just visitors 'using' the site as would be attracted to a jazz event or festival, we are tapping into specific themes and ideas that attract fewer visitors to each event – but ones that are more engaged with the topic.

We have also deliberately chosen to focus more strongly on our education program 'Plant-ed'. Schools and the hundreds of children, teachers and parents they bring along boost visitor numbers, are highly visible and inevitably lead to return visitation as the children bring their family through again at a later date to show them all the wonders they've seen and learned about.

It's all about viewing in a different light what tourism means for your botanic garden and the benefits of widening your terms of reference.



School Visit. Photo: Teresa Grant/Jo Stark

Be brave to make a change

A clear decision to re-focus our tourism marketing in the face of such overwhelming and uncontrollable events such as the current weather pattern is the smart way to adapt our visitor program. As a young garden we are fortunate that no long-term marketing habits prevent us from reacting to how our visitor market changes. How well we manage this latest change will be apparent in coming months and we see if the traditional 'winter' tourism season again emerges in North Queensland. We will be prepared either way!

Economic Impact Assessments for Public Gardens

Geoff Doube

It's clear that a public garden makes a huge contribution to the quality of life of its visitors. But sometimes that contribution needs to be demonstrated in cold, hard dollar terms, and this is where an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) becomes useful.

An EIA studies the effect of a defined activity or facility on the economic activity of a given area. The resulting information can be helpful in a variety of applications. In the case of non-commercial organisations it can give stakeholders a sense of their 'return on investment'. For public gardens, in particular, it can show how the garden is situated in relation to the city or regional strategy.

Hamilton City Council has commissioned EIAs over the last decade to measure the impact of its events and facilities, including Hamilton Gardens. Hamilton Gardens is a public garden in Hamilton, New Zealand, and is the most popular visitor attraction in the greater Waikato region: previous studies have suggested that the total number of visitors to Hamilton Gardens can be conservatively estimated at over one million per year, and that approximately one-third of these visitors come from outside Hamilton City. While Hamilton Gardens itself is free to visit, many of its visitors will spend money on other goods and services while in Hamilton. By effectively attracting outside money to be

spent in Hamilton, Hamilton Gardens has a positive effect on the local economy.

EIAs evaluate the size of this positive effect. Over 800 survey respondents from outside the city were asked two main questions: how much they spent while in Hamilton, and how important their visit to Hamilton Gardens was in relation to their decision to visit the city. The more important Hamilton Gardens is in a person's decision to visit Hamilton, the more of their spending can be attributed to Hamilton Gardens. Thus for a person who spends \$50 in Hamilton, and for whom visiting Hamilton Gardens was "the only reason" to visit the city, all of their \$50 spend can be attributed to Hamilton Gardens. On the other end of the scale, if Hamilton Gardens was irrelevant to that person's decision to visit the city, then none of their spending can be attributed to Hamilton Gardens. In this way a 'weighted average spend' attributable to Hamilton Gardens is obtained, and can be combined with the visitor number data to give overall economic impact outputs.

There are two such outputs: 'Total Output', which refers to the overall economic activity generated, and 'Total Value Added', which refers to only the fraction of overall economic activity that is 'new' spending. An item which retails for \$10 may add only \$2 to the 'Total Value Added' column if the cost of the item for the retailer is \$8. 'Total Value Added' for a given activity or facility can therefore be defined loosely as its contribution to the local GDP.



Te Parapara Maori Garden, Hamilton Gardens. Photo: Geoff Doube

The most recent EIA for Hamilton Gardens was published in 2008 and concluded that from a Total Output of approximately \$22m, the Total Value Added to the Hamilton City economy by Hamilton Gardens was \$8.9m. This has been a heartening conclusion, given that the annual cost of Hamilton Gardens at the time of the last survey was approximately only \$2m. For every \$2 invested in Hamilton Gardens, about \$8.90 has been added to the city's economy. This return makes a strong argument for the earning potential of public gardens providing free access.

REPORTS FROM BOTANIC GARDENS

Volunteer Visitors - Botanic Gardens of Adelaide (BGA)

John Sandham

Over many years the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide (BGA) has provided the opportunity for visiting volunteer horticulturists to partake in horticultural activities and in doing so develop an understanding of what and how botanic gardens operate. While we have supplied self contained accommodation within the Adelaide Botanic Garden we have given the volunteer visitor an opportunity to work with our staff and experience the Mount Lofty and Wittunga Botanic Gardens which collectively with the Adelaide Botanic Garden form the BGA..

The visitor not only gains through various experiences but through horticultural osmosis with our staff. Many of our own horticulturalists also gain from this mutually beneficial relationship

by exposing them to the incoming knowledge the volunteer brings from their own garden. The awareness of many differing climates and exotic collections are revealed, as is the transfer of different horticultural skills, dexterities and techniques undertaken in the other parts of the world. Some of the tasks carried out are:

- General horticultural maintenance
- Plant record audits
- Ground preparation
- Irrigation installation
- Potting
- Nursery duties including propagation.

The experiences are not only based within the Botanic Gardens and attempts are made to give the visitor a wider appreciation of the South Australian experience with visits to: The Waite Arboretum, The Eucalypt Arboretum at Currency Creek, The Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta, The Flinders Ranges and its many habitats and last but not least the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

It should also be noted that the placement gives the visiting horticulturist the opportunity to seek out other botanical and horticultural institutions in other states to extend their Australian experiences.

Some of our past visitors have included Yolanda Vasconcellos the Curator of the Georgetown Botanic Garden, Guyana, in June and July 2005 and Verena Geya from the University of Applied Science, Horticultural Faculty, Weihenstephan, Freising, Germany from October 2006 - February 2007.

Our last visitor was Alison Cundy a Trials Officer from the Royal Horticultural Societies Garden, at Wisley, Surrey in the UK from the 15 November till 10 December. She undertook a varied program which exposed her to all the different aspects of the ABG. Her attitude to work not only impressed us all but she also imparted her strong enthusiasm for the art of horticulture and her passion to work and glorify our gardens. She really fell in love with the Mount Lofty Garden and its people, a great advertisement for such a program.

In March 2011 we again host a volunteer visitor, this time Céline Paillart a second year student in Landscape Architecture at the National School of Higher Studies in Blois, France. Céline will stay with us until the end of May 2011.

We hope we can continue to welcome and inspire these wonderful visitors and in return get their view of our gardens, operations and our organisation spread throughout the Botanic Garden communities of the world.

My View - Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney

Keith Hunter

Keith has been successful in obtaining temporary employment in Australian gardens more than once via the BGANZ network.

I left England in late winter, for an adventure on the other side of the world. I was heading to Australia, and I was very lucky to have a job waiting me once I arrived, at the RBG Sydney, as a 'temp Hort'! This was exciting, new, challenging, and I knew I would be learning a lot during my three months.

The time spent working with the Lower Gardens team at Sydney was an all round great experience. I got to work with an amazing selection of plants, most of them I had never seen before and some that I had only seen growing in the large greenhouses at Kew Gardens, and what a joy to see them growing happily outside.

As a Hort with ten years experience I felt that I should be able to settle into my new team fairly well, that I did. I also knew that I

would have to take a step back, as a lot of the plants and the way that I would be required to work would be different to what I was used to.

I feel that I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from my relatively short time at RBG Sydney, and this was down to my thirst for learning as many of these new plants as possible, and most importantly, the great team that I was lucky enough to find myself working with. I gave 100% effort every day and felt that I had to repay my supervisor for the trust and gamble that he took in employing somebody from overseas that he had never meet before.

Working as a temporary Hort has been one of the highlights during my working holiday. I would strongly suggest to anybody with a passion in horticulture, to try and secure temporary work at a botanical garden in Australia.

And more Partnerships

Toby Golson

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG) is primarily concerned with the research, interpretation and display of the flora of the surrounding region. Its primary focus is on the native plants of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion. This region incorporates Mackay and environs and is centered on the high-rainfall coastal lowlands but extends west to Eungella and the Clarke-Connors Range, north to Gloucester Island (north of Proserpine and Airlie Beach) and south to Clairview. Two disjunct, southern outlier sections of the bioregion include coastal areas north of Yeppoon, centered on Byfield and Shoalwater Bay.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was formed in 1957 for the purpose of studying and developing the horticultural potential of Australian native plants and preserving them through cultivation. With over 8,000 members throughout Australia, it is one of the largest horticultural societies in the country. The Society has made a significant contribution to the knowledge of the Australian flora, its cultivation and introduction into nurseries and home gardens. The Mackay Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants Queensland Region (SGAPMB) was formed in 1978, and has actively pursued the aims of the Society by promoting the potential of the local flora ever since. The Mackay Branch also played a significant and influential role in the establishment of the MRBG and has maintained a close relationship with the Gardens.

The Australian National Botanic Gardens' (ANBG) mission is 'to grow, study and promote Australian plants'

As part of the 2009 Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Congress in Mackay, the Curator of MRBG, Dale Arvidsson, kindly showed Toby Golson, Senior Horticulturist, ANBG, around the gardens. During discussions, Dale outlined the difficulty of growing high-altitude rainforest taxa on the coastal plain. This issue was raised within the context of a changing climate posing an increasing threat to these plants that cannot retreat higher (altitudinally) as is the case in the Australian Alps.

At the conclusion of the congress, Toby attended a field trip to Eungella National Park hosted by the SGAPMB. SGAPMB members also reinforced Dale's thoughts and discussed the possibility of the role the ANBG might be able to play in helping conserve these and other rare and endangered plants. Indeed, the SGAPMB Honorary Secretary, Irene Champion, personally

donated material of a number of rare and endangered taxa from the Mackay region to the ANBG in the early 90s, some of which are doing well in the ANBG's living collection.

MRBG holds significant collections of threatened species listed under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) and Queensland Nature Conservation Act, flora from EPBC listed endangered Brigalow, Semi-evergreen Vine Thicket and Littoral Rainforest ecological communities, as well as from the potentially climate-change threatened refugium of Eungella. Many of these species were initially collected by SGAPMR members whose activities provided much of the initial momentum for the subsequent establishment of the botanic gardens. Given the difficulty of obtaining scientific collecting permits in Queensland, this constitutes an incredible resource for the ANBG (which is currently revamping its conservation focus).

As is the case with Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Garden with whom the ANBG recently joined in a conservation partnership (as reported in an article in the November BGANZ newsletter), to supplement wild collection trips, the ANBG is actively developing mutually beneficial partnerships with locally based on ground practitioners in pursuit of a dispersed 'national collection' (particularly now through the development of the national seed banking initiative). To this end, letters have been exchanged between the three partners to share genetic material, which in reality will mean MRBG/SGAPMB providing the ANBG with wild collected, vouchered material from the rich flora of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion. This material will be utilised for propagation and or seed storage and onward distribution to other interested botanic gardens/plant conservation bodies and ideally back to the Mackay region for recovery planning/revegetation activities.

Again, as outlined in the Tondoon partnership, while such relationships can further conservation objectives through spreading risk by making this material available through a national seed bank to other like-minded organisations, it is important that the benefits both ways not just one direction (especially from the smaller institution to the national one). To this end, the ANBG is investigating the possibility of offering professional development opportunities to staff or members of potential partner organisations perhaps in its areas of strength such as bioinformatics.

A snapshot of some of Gary Crilley's most recent work

Emily Moskwa

BGANZ recently circulated news on the death of Dr Gary Crilley, Senior Lecturer in Sport and Recreation Management at the University of South Australia, and the foundation Director of the Centre for Tourism & Leisure Management.

Gary was passionate about his research with botanic gardens. While his initial work was based on understanding service quality at capital city botanic gardens, it soon also included studies of visitor satisfaction at regional gardens, and a study on the benefits of volunteering with botanic gardens for the individual volunteers, the gardens and their staff, and the wider community.

Regional Botanic Gardens

A considerable amount of literature on service quality in tourism and leisure is set in, and driven by, conceptual frameworks based on commercial transactions. Little research deals with service quality in popular, public recreation settings such as botanic gardens or museums. One of Gary's recent projects was a study of visitors' perceptions of service quality at four regional botanic gardens in Australia. This was a replication study of a similar exploration of service quality in botanic gardens of six Australian capital cities.

With more than 1000 adult visitors to regional botanic gardens surveyed, data analysis identified three underlying dimensions of service quality: (1) 'engagement and learning opportunities', (2) 'aesthetics', and (3) 'staffing'. Although all were important factors, the 'aesthetics' dimension was critical in explaining changes in visitor satisfaction, intentions to revisit, and advocate for the gardens in the future. The results of the study included a call for further studies to understand the meaning of service quality for visitors to regional public institutions where tourism and leisure experiences are clear outcomes for visitors.

A quandong by any other name

Janet O'Hehir

The president of one of our regional botanic gardens friends groups was recently holidaying in WA and was excited to visit a park where she saw quandongs growing for the first time. Crawling beneath the trees she hunted for some kernels to take home as a souvenir.

Volunteering at Botanic Gardens

Gary also headed a study on the benefits of volunteering (with a focus on individuals aged 50 years and over) demonstrating how volunteering at botanic gardens presents itself as one way to enable people to successfully engage with the natural environment. The study complemented other studies of volunteering in describing how engagement with voluntary organisations can enable seniors to gain personal benefits such as meeting others, feeling valued, and keeping an active mind. It explored these benefits within the context of volunteering for botanic gardens, with the well-being benefits of contact with nature considered fundamental due to the importance placed on the setting of the volunteering. Accordingly, it proposed the use of volunteering in botanic gardens as one way to 'look outside' for solutions to some of the global health issues of today by demonstrating the wide range of interrelated benefits that can contribute to successful ageing.

Results showed that benefits of volunteering at botanic gardens contribute to senior volunteers' mental health and well-being as well as their social well-being (the physical health benefits such as walking and gardening can't be overlooked either). Many volunteers referred to personal benefits in relation to active and healthy ageing, with one focus group participant expressing how it enabled them to retire *to* something, not retire *from* something. Botanic gardens therefore appear to be model settings for promoting a socio-ecological approach to health and well-being based on human contact with nature through volunteering participation as a contribution to active ageing, as well as through flow-on contributions to the wider community.

For further information, please contact Dr Emily Moskwa, a partner investigator for both of these studies, working at the Centre for Regional Engagement, University of South Australia.

Email: Emily.moskwa@unisa.edu.au Phone: (08) 7220 3238

A small boy approached her and asked what she was doing. Being a retired primary school educator, my friend was delighted to encourage his botanical interest. She showed him the kernel, told him some interesting facts about the plant and explained how to say the word 'quandong'.

He raced back to his parents: 'Hey Mum, that lady just gave me a condom.' The family hurriedly moved away.

BGANZ Congress 2011

2011 BGANZ Congress – “Staying Valuable and Viable”

Paul Scannell

The 2011 BGANZ Congress, “Staying Valuable and Viable”, will be held in Albury, NSW from Thursday, 20 October, to Sunday, 23 October.

The aim is to investigate the role and contributions of Botanic Gardens from a variety of different angles to provide us with a stimulating opportunity to discuss the challenges and piece together options for the future.

This is our first call for abstracts.

We hope that you will consider submitting abstracts for both oral and/or poster presentations (on or off theme) for this Congress.

The deadline for abstracts is June 30th this year.

Please send your abstracts to pscannell@alburycity.nsw.gov.au along with your contact details.

Come and join us in Albury, as we all work together to keep ourselves “Valuable and Viable”.



Draft Program:

Thursday, 20 October

1.00pm to 4.00pm Master Classes and/or meetings of specialist discussion groups. We would appreciate your feedback on topics that you would like covered. Options include:

- Horticulture
- Marketing
- Education
- Communication
- Fund raising
- Collections management

These are just for starters. Feel free to e-mail Paul on pscannell@alburycity.nsw.gov.au with your suggestions.

We hope to cater for trainees and apprentices, right through to our most experienced staff members, so let us know.

6.00pm to 9.00pm Welcome Reception

Friday, 21 October

8.30am to 12.30pm Official opening and keynote address
Presentations

12.30pm – 1.30pm Lunch

1.30pm – 3.00pm Workshops

3.00pm – 3.30pm Afternoon tea

3.30pm – 5.00pm Workshops

Saturday, 22 October

- 9.00am to 1.00pm Presentations
 1.00pm – 2.00pm Lunch
 2.00pm – 3.00pm Workshops
 3.00pm – 3.30pm Afternoon tea
 3.30pm – 4.30pm Workshops
 6.30pm – 11.00pm Congress Dinner

Sunday, 23 October

- 9.00am – 4.30pm Post Congress Day Tours of the Region



Australian Inland Botanic Gardens ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The Magenta Artists will be hosting an Art & Photography Show from the 22 to 25 April 2011.

Entries close on the 23 March 2011.

Entry forms are available on the Magenta Artists website at Magentaartists.org or by phoning 0449677702.

Entry fees will be \$15 for the first artwork and \$10 for each piece thereafter (including GST). All entry fees are non-refundable, all exhibits must be for sale and there will be a 20% commission to Magenta Artists.

The Art & Photography Show will be held in the old Magenta Wool Shed which is a feature of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens at Buronga. The shed was moved to the Gardens in 1997 and is used for seminars, meetings, weddings and birthdays etc. The Magenta Artists are pleased to have this delightful setting to paint in every Wednesday and Saturday. Anyone wishing to join the Magenta Artists can find us there on those days between 10am and 3pm. We are a group of friendly, happy artists who welcome new members and who will be only too happy to help anyone who has no or very little experience. We have a variety of art genre, working in oils, acrylics, pencils, water colour etc.



We are expecting entries from interstate as well as from within the local district and around Victoria, and have received substantial donations of prize money from many generous sponsors.

Categories for the art prizes will be for Best in Show (acquisitive prize), Landscape, Oils, Acrylics, Watercolour, Pencil/Pen and Ink, and Pastels and Encouragement in Art & Photography.

The Photographic Section has the following categories Best in Show, Landscape, Portrait, Black and White, and Encouragement. First prize for Art as well as for Photography will be \$1000. The first prize in each category in each section will be \$500 and Encouragement awards are both \$100.

There will also be a Primary and Secondary Schools Sculpture Show run at the same time which will include opportunities for individual and group works. Entries for this must be received by the 6 of April 2011. For more information go to <http://www.aibg.org.au>.

BGANZ 5th Biennial Congress 2011

21 to 23 October 2011
Albury, NSW

BGANZ Vic – Collections Planning Workshop

18 May 2011
Melbourne University

To assist Botanic Gardens staff in the development and implementation of Plant Collection Plans and to officially launch the BGANZ Vic Collection Planning Toolkit. Information on registrations and workshop program will be circulated via email and posted on the BGANZ website.

BGANZ 6th Biennial Congress 2013

Dunedin, New Zealand
In conjunction with the triennial BGCi Global Botanic Garden Congress.

Explore, Experience, Educate 6th World Environmental Education Congress

19-23 July 2011, Brisbane
<http://www.weec2011.org>

XVIII International Botanical Congress

23-30 July 2011, Melbourne Vic
<http://www.abc2011.com>

Australian Garden History Society 32nd Annual National Conference

19-21 August 2011, Maryborough Qld
http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/conferences_tours

23rd Asian Pacific Weed Science Society Conference

25-30 September 2011, Cairns Qld
<http://apwss2011.com/>

The Garden Clubs of Australia Inc – 2011 Biennial National Convention *Crossing the Mountains*

9 to 13 October 2011, Katoomba NSW
www.gardenclubs.org.au

Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) – 2011 National Biennial Conference *Australian Plants in a Wondrous Web*

2-7 October 2011, Marion, South Australia, 5062
To be placed on the conference mailing list, [email](mailto:leemarg@tpg.com.au) your contact details to leemarg@tpg.com.au or post them to: Conference 2011, PO Box 304, Unley, SA, 5061

Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference

7-10 November in Sydney, Australia
Ecotourism Australia, with the support of NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is currently organising the organisation's nineteenth annual conference.
<http://www.globaleco.com.au>

National Conference on Volunteering 2011

9-11 November 2011, Brisbane
<http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/conference>

7th International Association for Lichenology Symposium

9-13 January 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
<http://www.ru.ac.th/lichen/IAL7>

BGCi – 8th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens *Education and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*

22-28 October 2012, Mexico
www.bcgi.org/education/congress

Organic Matter Management & Compost Use in Horticulture

4-7 April 2011
University of Adelaide
<http://www.compost-for-horticulture.com>

Back to the Future International Plant Propagators' Society Australian Region 39th Annual Conference

26-29 May 2011
Grace Hotel Sydney
<http://www.ipps.org.au/confer.html>

American Public Gardens Association Conference *The Revolutionary Conference*

21 to 25 June 2011, Philadelphia
www.aabga.org

Fungimap VI

14-19 July 2011
Denmark, Western Australia
<http://www.rbgi.vic.gov.au/fungimap/fungimap-vi-conference>

16th NSW Weeds Conference *Making a Difference – from coast to coast*

18-21 July 2011, Pacific Bay Conference Centre, Coffs Harbour
<http://2011weeds.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/weeds.htm>



www.bganz.org.au