

THE BOTANIC GARDEN

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A Gunya shelter within the
Indigenous-Experience Garden,
Wollongong Botanic Gardens.

The theme of the July 2012 issue of
The Botanic Garden will be 'Mature
Tree Management'. The deadline
for contributions will be Thursday,
31 May 2012. Please contact the
Secretariat if you are intending to
submit an article.

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Anne Duncan

I hope you all had a happy and safe festive season (it seems so long ago) and that 2012 will be a good one, for you and your gardens. For BGANZ Council there are many possible activities to consider as a focus for this year, with the challenge being to focus on something achievable and then delivering – options include to further develop the web-based networking facilities, to support initiatives relating to professional development, the Smart Gardener Program, gardens tourism, and as well to further develop important relationships such as with the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens.

BGANZ Council has been invited to attend the AFBG conference in August, which will form a wonderful opportunity to formalise such a partnership. For the regional groups it will also be a very busy year – with regional meetings planned on all fronts. Hopefully as many members as possible will support BGANZ by attending those.

On a sad note, we will be saying farewell to our Executive Officer, Brigitta Wimmer, who has decided to really retire this time. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Brigitta, who has been a “rock” of persistence and patience behind the scenes. I know that those of you who have met and/or talked to Brigitta over the last few years will join me in thanking her sincerely for her efforts.

The theme of this issue is ‘indigenous gardens’, a timely and important theme, not just in Australia but globally. Indigenous people all over the world are in danger of losing culture, traditions and language. This has sparked a movement for “bio-cultural diversity conservation” where language, tradition and culture are recognised as inextricably linked with ecosystems and the physical environment. The Convention of Biological Diversity recognises the importance of this link and has actions and targets in its strategic plan relating to protection of traditional knowledge and culture.

Gardens don't have to go very far afield to take action on this - after all we are about people and plants. Despite having their origins in a more European tradition, we have a wonderful opportunity to use gardens in local communities to ensure that

traditional indigenous culture, knowledge, language and stories are acknowledged, presented and celebrated. Many gardens in both Australia and New Zealand are already active in this space, as you will find if you “google” ‘indigenous botanic garden’, but there is always room for more, and there is much to be learned from trying.

I have a particular interest in this topic, born out of an ‘aha’ moment I experienced on returning from a visit to the lovely green gardens of Philadelphia in the US. During my visit I found myself appreciating the general “greenness” of the US, but feeling peculiarly “blind”, being unable to easily identify plants and plant communities and understand their habitats and succession patterns. My ecological knowledge being primarily Australian, and in fact mostly Tasmanian in focus, was useless, and I felt disconnected from the lovely green environment. When I returned to Canberra, it was with some relief that I viewed the vista west from Canberra to the Brindabellas, where I could comfortably identify many of the plants and communities, knew the weeds, and could see evidence of fire succession and European impacts and understand the ecological processes that were in train. I reflected on the contrast to the “blindness” I felt in Philadelphia, and wondered what it must be like for an Indigenous person to look over the same landscape. If a few years of book learning and botanical field work could do this for me, what would I see if my culture had been intimately connected to this landscape for 50,000 years? It was as if the clouds parted and a ray of light appeared just for a split second – my ‘aha’ moment. Although the gap in the clouds closed over I was left with a tangible appreciation of how much Europeans didn't (and couldn't) know and perhaps what we could learn. While always having an intellectual appreciation of the importance of traditional knowledge, a personal experience made it real for me. While gardens can't provide ‘aha moments’ to order for everybody, they are places with plants, and even better, sometimes people, who can tell stories and provide experiences which might leave some tangible appreciation of the bush and its connection and importance to language, traditions and culture.

Farewell Dr Philip Moors

Colleagues

Dr Philip Moors, our recent past President, has announced his intention to retire from the RBG Melbourne in November this year, having led that august institution for 20 years. That is a “good innings” in any team and cannot go unacknowledged!

His leadership has ensured that RBG has become a sustainable, future-focused organisation which contributes at many levels. Within Victoria, it has played a significant role in the life of Melbourne city, but it has also generously and consistently supported Victorian regional gardens, most recently through the BGANZ regional network. Within Australia Phil was there at the start of BGANZ and has remained a stalwart supporter of BGANZ aims, steering BGANZ surely and consistently as

President. And at the global level Phil has personally contributed to BGCI and garden sector development and also succeeded in putting the RBG Melbourne on the map as one of the world’s significant garden institutions. He will probably best be remembered for Cranbourne, the Australian Garden, which has become an inspiration to us all about what can be done to create a unique and beautiful Australian garden landscape.

Our sincere thanks must go to Phil for all he has done for BGANZ and the cause of gardens generally in Australia and NZ. And of course our very best wishes for a well-deserved and happy retirement.

Anne Duncan
President

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Brigitta Wimmer

Yes, I know I will definitely miss my work when I leave BGANZ. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know a lot more about botanic gardens and the various issues that are common to most. I would like to thank the many contacts I have made and who have helped me over the past years to further promote and advance BGANZ - and the role of the Secretariat as a coordinating centre for its members and other stakeholders. BGANZ has come a long way and has developed numerous resources to increasingly support botanic gardens: conferences, networks, newsletters, the continuing improvements on the website and frequent email updates. I hope that a new level can be achieved over the next few years.

I am quite sure that Eamonn Flanagan who will take over from me as Executive Officer will bring new enthusiasm, skills and knowledge to the position. Please give him all the support you can - remember that the success of BGANZ will continue to be based on its members remaining actively involved.

All the best for your future.

Important: Change to BGANZ Secretariat contact details

BGANZ welcomes our new Executive Officer, Eamonn Flanagan. Please note a change to our email contact.

New Secretariat email address is: secretariat@bganz.org.au

Meet our new Executive Officer Eamonn Flanagan

Hello BGANZ. Thanks to all for their best wishes and welcomes. I've had many. I'm quickly learning about BGANZ, its operations, aspirations and people.

Thank you to Brigitta who has made my start so much easier with her detailed and professional updates.

But who is he I hear you cry!

I was born over in the UK many years ago. We didn't have garden! But I knew some who did. Fled to warmer climes I worked as a Teacher of Economics, Business, Accounting, Law and Football for 15 years in the High Schools and Colleges of Canberra. Retired at the grand old age of 43 through an undiagnosed virus, I used my decreased mobility to engage in the world through the internet.

Podcasts, radio shows, social media, journalism, website management, web creation, newsletter production and a host of volunteer opportunities quickly arose. It's amazing what you can

do and learn from your own front room these days!

The BGANZ role has given me an opportunity to connect to the workforce again, use some of my varied skills and get out and about a little more. I'm excited!

I look forward to working with you all and feel free to correct me, gently, and point me in the right direction on any topic you feel the urge.

Eamonn Flanagan



THE BOTANIC GARDENS EDUCATION NETWORK AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND (BGEN) - UPDATE

Stephen Speer

After a stalled start in hosting the first telephone hook-up of the Botanic Gardens Education Network – Australia and New Zealand (BGEN) Committee, our first meeting is scheduled for early March.

The BGEN Committee elected at the BGANZ Congress in Albury are Stephen Speer (Australian National Botanic Gardens), Maya Harrison (Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens), Michael Connor (Wollongong Botanic Gardens), Bec Levy (Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne), Mitch Newton (Auckland Botanic Gardens) and Sharon Willoughby (Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne) until July 2012. Jackie Chambers (Auckland) joined the committee in place of Mitch Newton, but has since withdrawn from the committee. Mitch has returned to BGEN committee until an Auckland replacement is selected.

The main item for discussion at the upcoming telephone hook-up is a communication platform (community website) to engage with education and visitor services staff across botanic gardens. The BGEN Steering Committee trialled a Moodle site but we are now looking for an alternative platform that is easy to administer and access. Alternative platforms being considered are NING and Google Groups.

The development of a suitable online communication platform will allow members to share resources and ideas. The sharing of resources across botanic gardens, both learning programs and administrative documents has been identified as an important goal of BGEN.

When is a botanic garden collection 'indigenous'?

Mark Richardson, www.planningforplants.com.au

In a country where non-Australian garden plantings were the norm for more than 150 years after the first arrival of Europeans, it was a major change to propose only Australian plantings for a botanic garden.

During the earlier times of that increased interest, it was common for the collections grown to be referred to as 'natives', and any garden growing Australian plants was called a 'native garden' – and they often still are.

However, just because a plant collection comes from somewhere within the continent of Australia does not automatically mean it can be called 'indigenous'. One definition of the word 'indigenous' is 'originating naturally in a region – not introduced' and this immediately raises the question of 'How big is a region?'

For gardens such as the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra, the Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and the recently renamed Australian Botanic Garden at Mt Annan, it is immediately evident they are displaying the flora of Australia. However, for a garden representing a smaller region it is not as straightforward.

When the Alice Springs Desert Park was being developed in the 1990s it was very much seen as an 'indigenous botanic garden' and was planted to reflect the natural habitats of central Australia. However, when we started collecting seed for the plantings and doing the planting lists for the habitats, the question arose – how far from Alice Springs should we represent? Looking at something like the sand country habitat, there are areas of sand dunes that extend across a huge part of inner Australia. By considering the flora within about 30 kms of Alice Springs it was felt we could draw a circle of 500km radius from Alice Springs. And given the nature of central Australia that distance didn't seem too far at all! But even then, a lot of what we grew was not Alice Springs' indigenous flora.

Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden on the south coast of NSW refers to its display as showing the flora from within their "collecting region". This means that the plants grown in the Gardens are "principally from the Shire of Eurobodalla, but also includes parts of the Shoalhaven, Palerang and Bega Valley Shires". Even though the collecting region is much smaller than

that of the Desert Park it still encompasses a wide "range of plant communities, from high altitude sub-alpine to coastal dune and sea strand".

As such, both the Alice Springs Desert Park and the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden (along with the 'Australian' gardens) could be considered to be collections of the indigenous flora in the regions they have chosen to represent. However, a second question arising from the above definition is 'When is a planting an introduction?'

While it is possible to make a region whatever size we wish, the issue of moving plants within that region still has to be considered. Although most people are aware of the dangers that can arise from introducing plants from totally different continents, the term "native" or "indigenous" can give the impression that growing Australian plants is not the same. The Cootamundra wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) is a good example of how that thinking has been proven wrong. Growing naturally just 120km from Canberra in similar woodland, it has now become a significant weed in the ACT. Likewise there are numerous Australian plant species that have displayed weediness when grown outside their natural habitat, including *Melaleuca hypericifolia*, *Pittosporum undulatum* and *Billardiera heterophylla*.

While the issue of weediness will not necessarily determine the region that a garden represents, it still means that it is important for a garden to appreciate that the area they have called their 'region' could still be a potential source of introduced weeds in the place the garden is located.

From the definition, it appears it would be necessary to grow what naturally occurs on the site of the garden to achieve a truly 'indigenous garden'. However, that does not necessarily mean only growing those plants and a good example is the new National Arboretum Canberra. While it is primarily a mix of tree species from around Australia and the world, it includes one section which is dedicated to those tree species that are truly indigenous to the site. Like the woodland habitat at the Desert Park and the coastal forest of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, it is providing an excellent opportunity to highlight the species that are truly local.

An Indigenous-Experience Garden at the Wollongong Botanic Garden

Paul Tracey

In early 2011 the Wollongong Botanic Garden commenced construction of an indigenous-experience garden located centrally within the Gardens native plant collections.

The key objective during the planning of this garden was to create a purpose-built space where students and the general public could learn about traditional plant uses for food, medicine and shelter, and to also interact with the plants by walking within the garden, and picking the plants – something unique to our botanic garden where all other collections are generally viewing only.



The Indigenous-Experience Garden has an outdoor learning space where small groups can sit in the garden and learn about bush tucker and bush medicines.

This photograph, taken 12 months after the project commenced, shows the site plantings establishing extremely well.

The Indigenous-Experience Garden is centrally positioned between the garden's Australian Dryland Collection and the Illawarra Rainforest Collection, and has been designed and planted so that both types of plantings blend into the indigenous garden, with dryland plants established within the eastern part of the garden and rainforest plants to the west.

The exciting aspect of this garden is that the plants used are all local Illawarra natives ranging from plant communities found on the Sandstone Heath on top of the Illawarra Escarpment, right down to the coastal edge. It is this variation of plant material that provides our education staff the opportunity to interpret and educate people about traditional plant use within a truly unique site.

A few of the main species planted within the garden include advanced Cabbage Tree Palms *Livistona australis*, Sandpaper Figs *Ficus coronata*, Blue Flax Lilies *Dianella caerulea*, Black Apples *Planchonella australis*, Bamboo Grass *Austrostipa ramosissima*, Grass Trees *Xanthorrea johnsonii*, and Gynea Lilies *Doryanthes excelsa*.

Staff have also sourced 17 different local Eucalypts found in the Illawarra that are currently growing-on in our Nursery for planting within the Indigenous-Experience Garden in late 2012. Some of these specimens include *Eucalyptus pilularis*, *Eucalyptus eugenoides*, *Eucalyptus sieberi*, *Eucalyptus quadrangulata*, and *Eucalyptus stricta*.

The Wollongong Botanic Garden currently educates 15,000 students per annum, and cultural diversity programs are extremely popular with primary schools right through to new University of Wollongong students who all participate in a similar program.

The Botanic Garden's Education Officer Michael Connor is convinced that the best way to teach people about plants is to interpret their uses, and has developed a program where students learn how Indigenous Australians in their everyday life used plants for food, medicine and shelter.

As part of the program, students then put this learning to use by participating in traditional Gunya shelter construction, preparing bush tucker recipes and building ephemeral sculptures in spaces provided within the garden itself.



The Wollongong Botanic Gardens cultural diversity programs are extremely popular with schools due mainly to the interactive and practical learning outcomes provided. Pictured is a Gunya shelter constructed by local school students within the Indigenous-Experience Garden.

The construction of the garden itself was done in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, who hosted a Green Jobs Corps Programs at the site. This was a very rewarding exercise for staff at the Botanic Garden as they were able to teach local young people vital career development skills in a project that had a visible result for participants from start to finish. In a 6-month period the site went from an empty garden bed and grassed area to a fully constructed landscape.

The Green Jobs Corp Team worked daily with the Botanic Garden's specialist staff and as such were able to develop a wide range of skills including the collection of local native seed, propagation, planting into the site, landscape construction skills including rockwork, fencing, path construction, and working with Education Staff in developing the programs to match the site.

Another very important partnership in the development of the garden is the support of the local Indigenous community and the partnership established between the Wollongong Botanic Garden and the University of Wollongong's Woolyungah Indigenous Centre (conveniently located across the road from the Botanic Garden).

The staff at the Woolyungah Centre provide guidance and support in the development of the project, consult with the local Indigenous community to ensure that the language and interpretation on

signage is accurate, and will generally use the space as a support space for Indigenous students studying at University.

Whilst the project is not yet finished some key benefits are already being realised with the site providing valuable habitat for a number of animal species including Blue Tongue Lizards, Eastern Water Dragons, Echidnas, and birds including Kookaburra and Buff-banded Rails, as well as the commencement of education programs for schools and universities.

To complete the Indigenous-Experience Garden project, a number of key actions will be addressed in 2012 including giving the site a Dharawal name, a full suite of interpretive signage, the installation of further plantings, and the completion of a purpose-built centre located within the centre of the garden.

The completion of the project will ensure a multi-purpose space that can host education programs in all weather conditions, detailed information for general visitors about traditional plant use, a purpose-built centre for educational community use, and after-hours twilight programs, and most importantly a key local botanic collection.

I encourage you to visit the garden in 2012 and welcome your feedback.

Recording Garlembila 'Old Camp' Story for the Future

S. McEntyre

This area at the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden has been established on land that was in recent times both the home sites for a large number of Gumbaynggirr people and a waste repository for a small rural village.

Some 40 families called this area the 'Old Camp'. In reality it was a 'no man's land' that held little value to European settlers because it was on the flood plain of Coffs Creek.

The 'Old Camp' was established on the opposite bank to the waste site. Over the past two years the Botanic Garden has been engaging with Elders to create a record of this past land use so that it could be understood by visitors to the Garden. One of the Elders was engaged to create an artwork that recorded his heritage of this area.

This collaboration has allowed the Elders and the Botanic Garden to

- add to the recorded history of the Gumbaynggirr people,

- develop new interpretive panels that use Gumbaynggirr, common and botanical plant names,
- enable indigenous children to create clay path-tiles that depict local flora and fauna with Gumbaynggirr names,
- introduce visitors to the Gumbaynggirr language, bush tucker and medicinal plants,
- introduce visitors and Indigenous youth to the Gumbaynggirr place stories from this site,
- increase community appreciation for the early history of Coffs Harbour, and
- deliver innovative Indigenous culture programs to local schools.

This is a new direction for a traditional garden that has concentrated on the display of exotic plants.

To expand on the final outcome of the project, that is the delivery of innovative Indigenous culture programs to local schools, the Coffs Harbour Children's Art and Culture Festival was created.

The 200 primary students who attended had studied local Indigenous culture and plants prior to prepare for the day. They each painted a mook-mook (local tradition of a friendly spirit face painting on a disk), aided by local Indigenous artists. These disks were displayed on the day.

Students from two local high schools were trained over the year to guide the primary students through the native plant walk, speak the Gumbaynggirr language for these plants and talk about the plants' traditional uses. Educators for this program were Gumbaynggirr Elders, Garden guides, Garden staff, botanists and Gumbaynggirr language specialists.

On the festival day primary students attended three programs in the morning:

- the native plants guided tour by high school students,
- place story by Gumbaynggirr Elder Tony Hart describing his painting of the precinct,
- and a tour of the Regional Gallery exhibition.

The afternoon sessions involved children in playing indigenous games and performing as a school group a prepared item based on local plants, people or place stories.

Schools have committed to the festival again in 2012. They found it relevant to their students and an enjoyable occasion. It also was effective in connecting students with their community Elders and the schools they will advance to the following year.

The Garden now aims for this to become an annual event.



Top: Uncle Tony Hart explains the significance of the precinct to the Aboriginal people who lived there by describing his painting. This painting was commissioned by the Garden.
Bottom: Ben Ferguson tells stories and plays the didgeridoo to the students.
Photos: NCRBG

Top: Student guide explains the local plants to students during the festival.
Middle: Student bush tucker guides wearing their painted mook-mooks.
Bottom: Student tile of the magpie, ngaambul pronounced 'ngaahm-bool'.
Photos: NCRBG

Past, Present, Future: an Indigenous Garden Getting in Touch with its Roots

Sandra Hodge



Flooding of the Yarra River at Richmond, 1863. Reproduced with permission of archives, Royal Botanic gardens Melbourne

As you walk through the indigenous landscape called Long Island in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBGM) you can imagine what it might have looked and felt like before European arrival. This area has a long history of use by the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, particularly the clans of Woiwurrung and Boonwurrung. This connection still continues today and is an important part of the past, present and future stories we share with our visitors. The landscape also has a long history with the story of water that is essential to us all. Long Island is located on the site of the remnant south bank of the Yarra River which was realigned to its present course, due to seasonal flooding, between 1897 and 1900.



Formation of Long Island's Wetland and Grassy Woodlands 2001. Photo: David Cash

As a horticulturist passionate about indigenous flora it was a dream come true to become curator of such a collection of plants and ecosystems in a botanic garden.

In 1998, a year before I joined the Gardens, Long Island was identified in the RBGM master plan as a two-stage project to extend the Lower Yarra River habitat collection into this site. Through funding and support from the Parks Victoria grants program and generous work contributions made by the Green Corps team through Conservation Volunteers Australia and RBG staff, the vision started to become a reality.



The Green Corp team hard at work on Baker Island 2001. Photo: David Cash

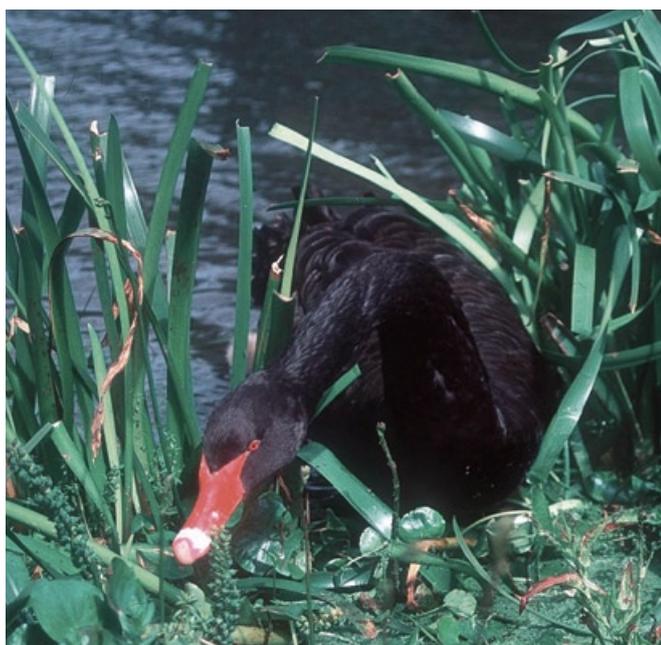
The first time we invited the community to become involved was for the planting of the cleared site in May 2001. This was a great success with 200 school children and 70 local people attending over the weekend. The occasion helped cement lifelong connections with this place - only recently a woman and her grandson visited the tree and grasses they planted at that time.



Planting of aquatic and terrestrial species in Long Island's Wetland and Grassy Woodlands 2001. Photo: David Cash

As an ecological collection, Long Island was designed to display and conserve indigenous plants from five plant communities found locally in the Lower Yarra River region. These are Riparian, Swamp Paperbark, Grassy Woodland, Wetland, and Escarpment Shrubland.

The wetland was created by separating a section of the Ornamental Lake and the planting of many species of rush, sedge and aquatic plants. The planting has not only proven to be a rich source of food and habitat for our indigenous fauna but an excellent example of the important role, function and value of macrophytes in the improvement of water quality. This early experiment has resulted in the absence of blue green algal blooms occurring in the enclosed wetland and has also provided supportive evidence for the potential success of the latest RBGM project – ‘Working Wetlands’ - which has resulted in the construction of other wetlands in the rest of the lake system.



Black Swan feasting on *Triglochin procera* in Long Island. Photo: Sandra Hodge

Another strong health indicator of Long Island's wetland has been an increase in numbers and diversity of macroinvertebrates and frog species. With only one frog species - the Southern Brown Tree Frog (*Litoria ewingi*) previously recorded, we have welcomed an increase to three species with good populations now of the Striped Marsh Frog *Limnodynastes peroni* and the Common Eastern Froglet *Crinia signifera*.

The Swamp Paperbark community featuring *Melaleuca ericifolia* with their beautiful white papery bark grows on Baker Island adjacent to Long Island and on either side of the wetland.

These trees with their food, medicinal and tool uses are also a notable design feature forming an atmospheric tunnel to walk through to access a viewing platform, or to continue on to enter the Grassy Woodlands.

The Grassy Woodland community is one of the most threatened ecosystems with only 0.5% remaining in Victoria: hence it was an essential inclusion in the Long Island landscape. Forming a large open expanse in the heart of the collection, it is a rich environment with great diversity of grasses, herbs and forbs forming the understorey with several *Banksia marginata* and a pair of *Eucalyptus melliodora* to complete the picture.

Many small plants are grouped together to form drifts and are abundantly floriferous in spring with displays of *Arthropodium strictum*, *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Microseris lanceolata*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Pelargonium australe* and *Dianella laevis*. These plants with their lively hues contrast beautifully with the soft and graceful forms of the many indigenous grass species including the beautifully ornamental *Austrostipa scabra* subsp. *falcata*. This area now supports good populations of lizards, insects, butterflies, frogs and birds including the return of Red-Rumped Parrots *Psephotus haematonotus* after a 50-year absence. The parrots are now seen regularly feeding on the grasses and breeding in the hollows of eucalypts in the collection.

Intensive management involving controlling weeds and dominant species in the Grassy Woodland area is crucial to maintaining the diversity of species and biological values. Cutting back and removing the biomass of many grass species in autumn ensures the herbs and forbs are protected from being smothered and shaded out whilst also allowing for natural regeneration from the seedbank to occur which produces strong new plants. Many of these Grassy Woodland species have shown their ability to survive hot dry summers with physical characteristics of fleshy tuberous rootstock and dormant buds that allow for a re-emergence in autumn.

Grasses and herbs also appear along the banks that wrap around the Grassy Woodland and provide a connective transition from one plant community to another. Further planting of shrubs and trees from the Escarpment Shrubland and Riparian plant communities have re-established important ecosystem services of filtering sediment, processing nutrients and erosion control. The planting of many species of rushes, sedges and aquatic plants also continues along the water's edge with the addition of logs and branches to provide perfect roosting locations for Pied Cormorants *Phalacrocorax varius*, Darters *Anhinga melanogaster* and Nankeen Night Herons *Nycticorax caledonicus*, whilst providing protection for fish, turtles and eels from the hunting habits of these eager birds.

In 2002, Stage 2 sought to complete the vision with construction of a central main path between the two bridges that provide access to Long Island. While the concrete was not yet set, footprints of Indigenous people and animals were imprinted permanently in the path. Stories of use of the land for food, medicine, shelter, tools and ceremony were 'walked' into the path by traditional custodians whilst assistance was given by staff at Museum Victoria to create animal footprints.

Construction continued further along to build a smaller path that leads down into a sunken circular area that was designed as a 'Bora' or meeting place. The plants selected

for the Bora are from all the plant communities with a focus on their ethnobotanical uses. The Bora location by the water's edge facilitates a ponding area and creates an exciting classroom for schoolchildren to participate in the many environmental programs provided by our Public Program Branch.

Indigenous gardens and collections in public gardens are a valuable educational resource to share the practical examples of 'how to' and provide opportunities to promote a better understanding of our natural ecosystems and why we need them. To the local home gardener they can provide an awareness of the beauty and diversity of their local species that could be the inspiration to create a new indigenous garden or compliment an existing garden with new



Left: Spring in Long Island's Grassy Woodlands 2009. Right: Summer in Long Island's Grassy Woodland's 2010.
Photos: Sandra Hodge

plants. The water conservation benefits of the collection which received the Save Water Award for 'design and construction' in 2004, provide the confirmation that these plants are well adapted to our environment and can deliver a practical solution to reducing the demands on water use. For local residents without gardens, Long Island is an essential escape into a natural environment, while the experience of international visitors can be enriched with discoveries of unique flora and fauna that have returned home. So the next time you visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne make sure you wander down to Long Island and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the re-established plant communities of the Lower Yarra River.

The Red Centre Garden at the Australian National Botanic Gardens

Craig Cosgrove

A major new development at the ANBG due for completion in mid-2013 is the Red Centre Garden depicting the iconic landscapes and flora of the Red Centre region of central Australia. This multimillion dollar new garden is being developed on a 3,800 m² site in the centre of the ANBG.

The Red Centre Garden will provide a range of educational, scientific and tourism opportunities through the development of landscape themes such as: sand plain/dune complexes, rocky escarpment and outcrops, Casuarina shrublands, and desert rivers typical of central Australia.

The selection of plants represent the dominant flora from central Australia, including Mulga, Desert Oaks and Ghost Gums, together with those remnants from past ages, the desert *Livistona* palms and cycads.

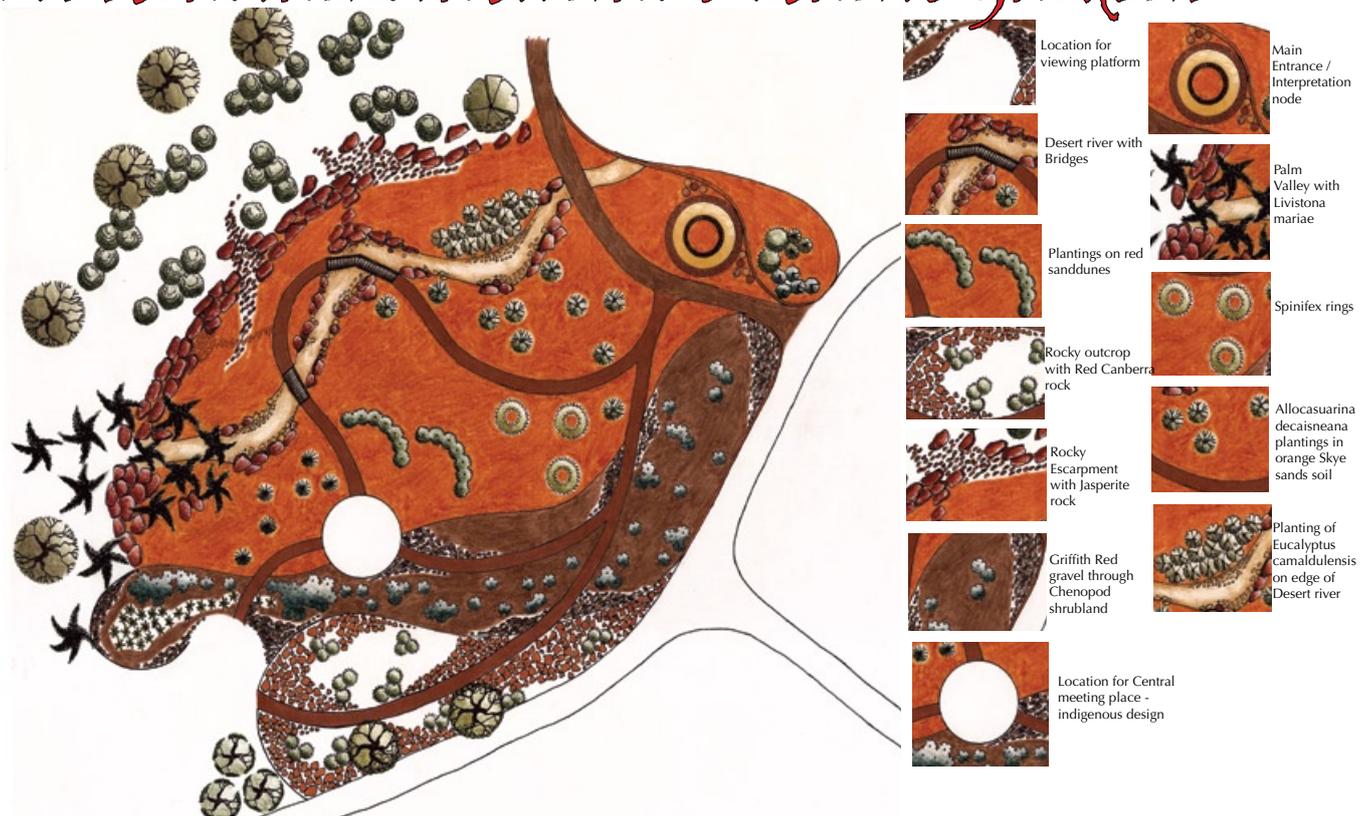
A viewing platform at the southern end of the site will be built this year giving visitors an elevated view of the site developments. The Red Centre Garden will be opened late 2013.

The interpretation concept for the Red Centre Garden is based on the notion of 'Boom and Bust'. The concept invites people to take a closer look at what makes things tick in low rainfall environments.

The landscape design is still to unveil the detail for the central meeting place, viewing platform and interpretation hub. The design for the central meeting place will be developed

by engaging Indigenous artists from central Australia; this design will reflect their culture and values for the Red Centre Garden.

Red Centre Garden Concept Australian National Botanic Gardens



Red Centre Garden design showing path network, landscapes and plantings and spaces for the central meeting place, viewing platform and main entrance interpretation hub.

The Alice Springs Desert Park 1996 to 2012

Scott Pullyblank

First-time visitors to the Alice Springs Desert Park are surprised by the stunningly spectacular landscape. The MacDonnell Ranges cradle the park with their craggy ridges and red cliffs so closely that they are actually within the greater site of the Desert Park. These ranges hold deep spiritual significance for the Central Arrernte people. Even people who are not of this place cannot help but be touched by its spiritual nature.

This is the sixteenth year of the Alice Springs Desert Park and from its very beginning there has been a relationship based on trust between the Central Arrernte amereke-artweye and

kwertengerle, the senior people who belong to, speak for and look after Mparntwe, (the traditional Country on which Alice Springs is built) and Desert Park staff.

Central Arrernte amereke-artweye, kwertengerle and the original project team selected a 54-hectare site on which to build the Desert Park back in 1992. This area avoided any damage to sacred sites, and ensured that those within the boundaries were protected to the guardians' satisfaction. The site enables stories to be told of the inextricably linked lives of desert plants, animals, people and landscapes.

Nestled in the foothills of the MacDonnell Ranges, under the protection of Akngwelye (a creation spirit ancestor) we invite our visitors to see the desert through new eyes as we share the stories of the plants, animals, people and landscapes of desert Australia.

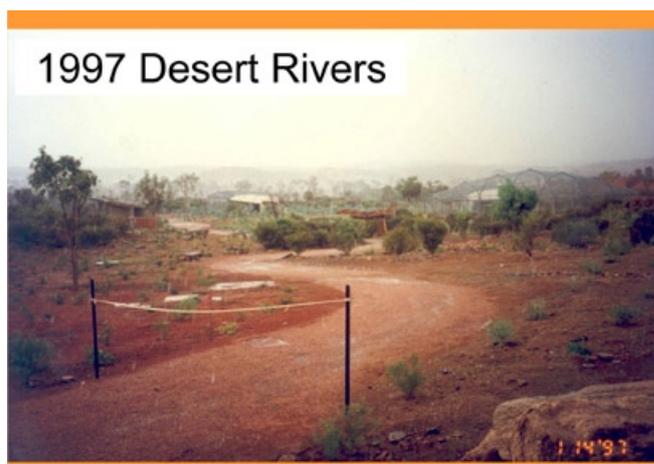
Visitors experiencing the park today would be very surprised to discover that the habitats that make up the park are all created from what was a highly degraded site largely void of vegetation other than a dominant weed.

The Alice Springs Desert Park is in fact a biopark: a place where the botanical estate, the zoological collection and Arrernte culture (the people of this place) have equal standing and are totally integrated. The animal collection adheres to the Desert Park's habitat philosophy just as closely as the botanical collection does. Professional guides offer a range of nature- and culture-based experiences to our visitors. Many of the guides are local Aboriginal people who interpret the cultural landscape with an authentic voice.

In the early days of the Park there was a sense of urgency about creating intimate experiences using vegetation, within the habitat context, to reduce the fields of view so that people could immerse themselves within each habitat and not see infrastructure in the distance or look out over all of the habitats rather than experiencing them from within.

After sixteen years the focus has altered in some respects. So well did we create the immersive habitats that, with up to sixteen years of plant growth, the visitor experience was becoming too 'closed'. We are now opening out selected vistas so that visitors can experience the open structure so often found in the arid zone. Of course none of this happens by chance. Right from the beginning the different habitats have been modelled on existing reference sites selected from habitats and sub-habitats across the southern Northern Territory. These sites were selected for their intact and representative ecosystems. The detail goes right down to sub-habitats so that within the 'Sand Country' habitat there are specific areas reflecting various deserts across the region. The genetic populations, the demographics and structure of these habitats are all factors in our planning and planting. Visitors are not conscious of this level of detail. The paradox is that all this effort and detail masks the role that people have played in creating the Desert Park. Visitors are often stunned if this fact is revealed.

In the 'Desert Rivers' habitat we are planning for 'the great flood'. Every decade or so Alice Springs experiences a couple of very wet years in which there is a threat of flooding. In truly exceptional years major floods occur. These wet years are the ones when the River Red Gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* seedlings come up like grass in lines along the high water mark. One can see the result



Top: Looking over Desert Rivers 1997.
The year Alice Springs Desert Park opened.
Bottom: 2012 One of the Desert Park's guides, Renate Johnny, walking through Desert Rivers

of these 'lines' when looking at the pattern of mature trees in some areas. On flood plains the pattern can be less obvious. The Desert Park 'Desert Rivers' is based upon a flood plain which was inundated during major rains that came inland from Cyclone Tracy back in 1974 resulting in extensive River Red Gum recruitment. Naturally this reference site is changing over time and we are attempting to emulate that change by altering the spacing between our trees.

Paradoxically the floods also bring down some existing trees. Enter the 'Great Flood' at the Desert Park. Staff will be organising a flood event - not by releasing a wall of water but by observing the effects, patterns and look of our reference area after flooding and then replicating the accumulation of debris, sand, logs etc. just as in nature. Better still, this will be a festive event with members of the community being invited to join in the fun in helping to create the flooded look using mud, branches and leaves. Some existing trees will be 'pushed over' to form log jams in our water courses; still others will be 'pushed over' but go on living in a prone position to mimic such trees in nature.

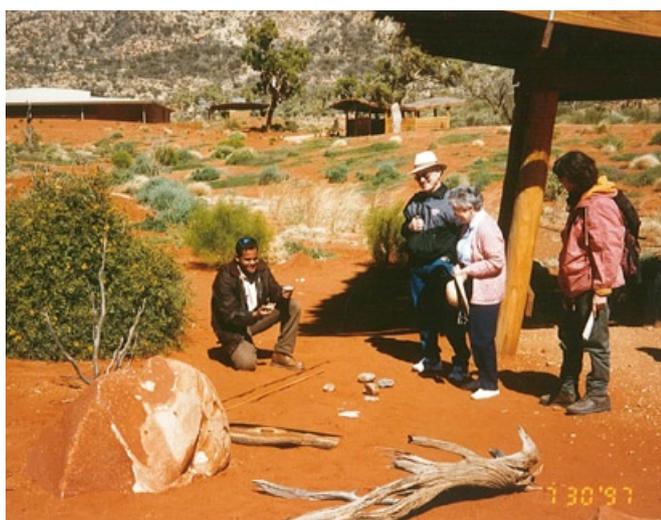
Needless to say that provenance is all important when working within the Desert Park model. We adhere very strictly to provenance within each habitat. The major exception occurs when a species already exists within Alice Springs. In this case we will assess the likelihood of genetic contamination of the local population. If we believe there is a chance of genetically compromising the local population, then either local provenance is used or the species is not included.

One of the major tools we use is GPS mapping. This assists in all areas of our operation. It is also invaluable for collecting data to help us maintain genetic and demographic integrity. We use GPS in combination with our living collections database to ensure that we know where all of the perennial plantings are located and the source of the original propagation material. This technology, combined with earlier aerial photographs and Google Earth, can also be used to give us a snap-shot of just how the Park has changed over the years.

The Mulga Woodland habitat is our latest 'natural' habitat and mirrors the habitat that would naturally be found on that site. Although this habitat was planted in the late 1990s, it was not opened until 2008. This is a total experience as the whole area is a free range exhibit - 'Mulga Walk'. Within this magical place nocturnal walks are conducted where people see, and occasionally have to be careful not to step on, some very rare Territorians. Some of the species such as Mala *Lagorchestes hirsutus*, Brush-tailed Bettong *Bettongia penicillata* and Burrowing Bettong *Bettongia lesueur* (all small members of the kangaroo family), are no longer found in the wild within the Northern Territory.

The last major element to be added to the Desert Park began in 2009 and is a dramatic departure from the other habitats. This is the Desert Farm in which we are endeavouring to grow all of the food plants necessary to feed our animal collection and provide visitors with a taste of traditional native foods. This will reduce the Desert Park's food miles dramatically and provide enrichment for both visitors and the animals in our collection. The Desert Farm is a major undertaking for the Park and considerable resources are being put into its development. An article about the Desert Farm appeared in the BGANZ Nov 2010 newsletter and another appears in the 2011 BGANZ conference proceedings at www.bganz.org.au/bganzevents/congress11.

The Alice Springs Desert Park opened in March 1997. People who were present at the time have stated that you could see the whole site from a vantage point near the entrance to the Park with all the buildings and exhibits evident in the 'new' landscape. Today, upon entry to the Park, a River Red Gum forest engulfs the visitor in the Desert Rivers habitat and one discovers exhibits nestled amongst the desert vegetation. The red desert dunes of Sand Country are covered in an extensive array of shrubs, trees and wildflowers and vistas now are being 'opened up' in the Woodland habitat to embrace the feeling of distance and to enhance views of the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges. The Alice Springs Desert Park has come a long way in sixteen years. Wouldn't it be great to not only see it now, but to see it in, say, another sixteen - or even fifty - years?



Looking south from 'The Claypan Shelter' 1997. Desert Park guide Garth Forrester presenting a cultural experience to visitors.



2012 South from 'The Claypan Shelter' with a young 'explorer'.
Photo: Scott Pullyblank

The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta, South Australia

Geraldine Davies

The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) is situated 1.5km north of Port Augusta on the Stuart Highway and covers an area of more than 200 hectares.

Located on the shores of Upper Spencer Gulf with spectacular views to the ancient Flinders Ranges, the Garden showcases a diverse collection of arid zone habitats.

You can wander the many marked walks through the Rare Plants, Great Victoria Desert, Gawler Ranges and Flinders Ranges areas and be amazed at the beauty, diversity and resilience of Australia's arid plants.

The Eremophila Garden, which was planted in 1996 by the Friends of the Garden, showcases nearly 200 species of this wonderful genus and you will also see many birds attracted to the garden by these plants.

The Visitor Centre has information, a café, gift shop, tours and conference facilities. There are guided tours every weekday morning at 10am which, weather permitting take in the AridSmart demonstration gardens, some rare plants and bush tucker plants as well.

And don't forget that we are very pleased to have the Biennial Conference of The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc 'Mangroves, Myalls and More' here at the Garden on 18 and 19 August 2012 (see under 'Calendar of Events' in this newsletter).

The Waddy Wood *Acacia peuce* is a very rare wattle from the eastern Simpson Desert and is now flowering for the first time at the AALBG.



Waddy Wood, *Acacia peuce*



Eucalyptus formanii towering over an *Acacia oswaldii* and a *Senna* sp at AALBG

Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton - 'a new-generation botanical experience'

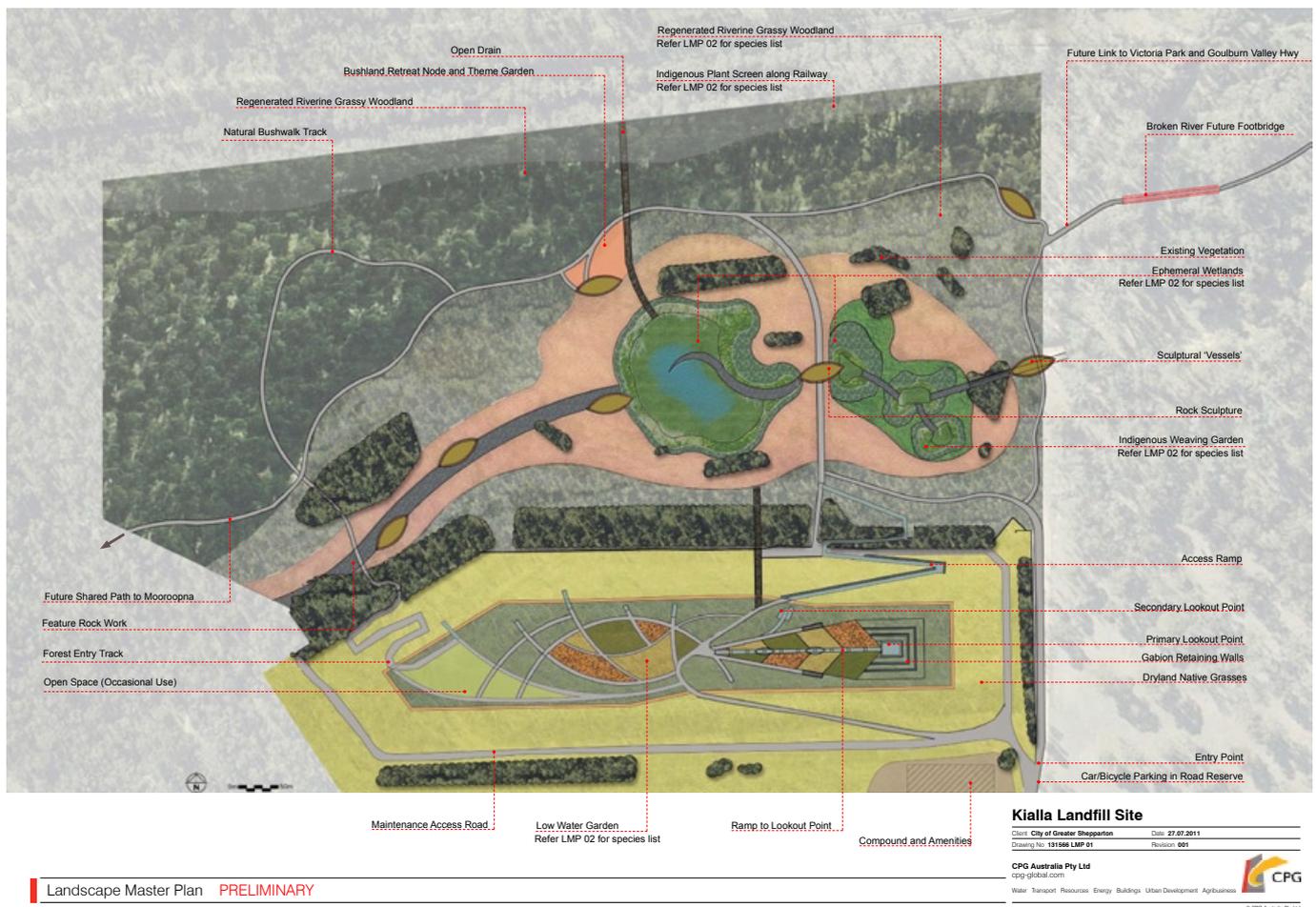
Jenny Houlihan

Being invited to present our overall concept plan for new botanic gardens in Shepparton at the 2011 Albury BGANZ conference, joining BGANZ and then becoming part of the BGANZ network has been incredibly valuable to us - the community committee appointed in May 2011 by Greater Shepparton City Council to develop Shepparton's first botanic gardens.

Recently named Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, these gardens are being developed on a former landfill site on the outskirts of Shepparton. The 22.6 hectare site has been reshaped and rehabilitated in a \$1.5 million makeover.

There are three discrete areas within the site which have been linked as one in the Master Plan:

- the bushland which adjoins the Broken River, with the Goulburn River nearby,
- the wetlands shaped from the former borrow pit, and
- the mound - a 500-metre long hill which has been created by constructing a clay cap over the rubbish. It has a lookout area on the highest point.



Landscape Master Plan PRELIMINARY

This plan has been endorsed by the community and Council. With a relatively small budget and a significant commitment from the local community, a staged design and planting program has now commenced.

The gardens are being designed to represent and reflect the environmental, social and cultural characteristics of our region. As a result designers must adhere to a number of specific guiding principles and themes, such as community involvement, environmental sustainability, showcasing indigenous and other Australian plants, encouraging active and passive recreation, maximising accessibility, incorporating local and recycled materials wherever possible, presenting opportunities to improve physical, intellectual and mental health, establishing economic benefit, ensuring cost effectiveness, encouraging access to and appreciation of our local rivers, increasing the use of indigenous plants in home gardens, incorporating public art, and developing tourism.

In addition, four themes have been included in the committee's Development and Management Plan, to be used in the planting designs and for other artistic design features, such as murals and sculptures. These themes cover biodiversity (local flora and fauna), food and irrigation (the lifeblood of the Greater

Shepparton region), home of many cultures (Indigenous and migrant communities form a significant proportion of the local population), and the history of the site.

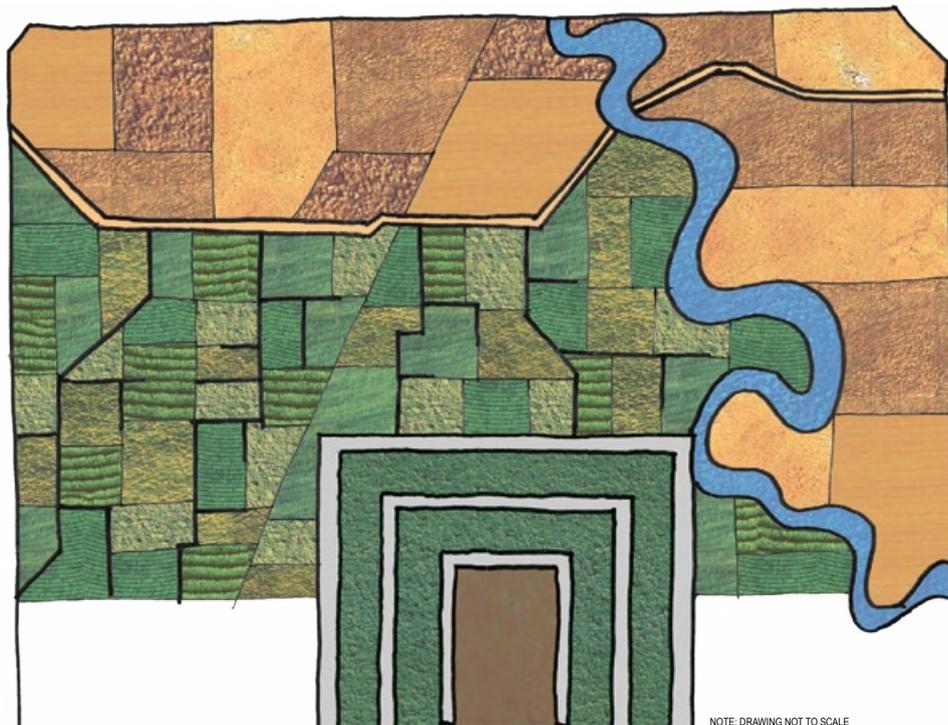
We now have a concept design for our first major garden, 'The Terraces Rooftop Garden', to be constructed at one end of the mound. It is a large terraced area designed to be viewed from the lookout above. It demonstrates the way in which the designers, CPG Global, have incorporated a selection of the designated principles and themes.

The Goulburn Valley is referred to as the 'Food Bowl of Australia' with both irrigated land fed by the East Goulburn Main Channel and significant areas of dry land farming as well. This juxtaposition of the land-use has inspired the layout, texture and colour used in this rooftop garden. The food theme is also evident in the selection of plants and mulches. Each 'patchwork' section features a specific combination of an edible plant used by Indigenous Australians for food and a mulch sourced locally. Mulches associated with modern food production have been included, such as peach and apricot stones, and grape stems. The Goulburn River will be depicted through plantings of saltbush. Recycled materials have been incorporated - railway sleepers will represent the irrigation

network, crushed concrete and brick from the Council's waste facility will be used for paths and mulch, and locally sourced recycled wood mulch will also feature.

The committee and the Friends group are now starting to plan the delivery of this first major garden. This will no doubt be a learning

experience and a process which we realise may not go to plan at all times. Our aim is to proceed carefully and to enlist expert assistance whenever necessary. Having said that, we are excited to be involved in constructing a unique garden which will tell an important story about the Greater Shepparton community and the Goulburn Valley environment.



LEGEND

	Existing Gabion Wall
	Terraces Plant: <i>Atriplex semibaccata</i>
Irrigation network	
	River Plant species: <i>Rhagodia spinescens</i>
	Main Channel Materials: Raised crushed concrete path with railway sleeper edging.
	Intermediate Channel Materials: Railway sleeper
	Plot Boundaries Material: Steel edging
Edible Succulent Garden	
	Plot Treatment 1 Plant: <i>Calandrinia praeinflora</i> Mulch: Granitic sand
	Plot Treatment 2 Plant: <i>Enchlyaena tomentosa</i> Mulch: Peach/apricot stones
	Plot Treatment 3 Plant: <i>Carpobrotus rossii</i> Mulch: Peach/apricot stones
	Plot Treatment 4 Plant: <i>Bulbine bulbosa</i> Mulch: Grape stems
Edible Grassland	
	Plot Treatment 5 Plant: <i>Tridolia</i> spp Mulch: Crushed brick
	Plot Treatment 6 Plant: <i>Themeda triandra</i> Mulch: Recycled woodchip mulch
	Plot Treatment 7 Plant: <i>Themeda australis</i> 'Mingo' Mulch: Gravel mulch
	Plot Treatment 8 Plant: <i>Austrostipa stipoides</i> Mulch: Gravel mulch

2. 'THE TERRACES' ROOFTOP GARDEN - CONCEPT PLAN

AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDENS FOR GREATER SHEPPARTON

cpg-global.com

Buildings | Communications | Energy | Industrial | Resources | Transport | Urban Development | Water

DRAFT



© CPG

Myrtle Rust in a Botanic Garden

Kate Heffernan

Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Friends volunteers are monitoring 19 different Myrtaceae species with varying levels of Myrtle Rust infection. In all there are 20 species, and overall possibly 60 plants, that have been diagnosed as affected. The regular weekly assessments are revealing fluctuating stages of inoculation and the resultant damage caused by the Myrtle Rust fungus.

The first time we were made aware of a possible infection was a visit from officers of Bio-Security Queensland in February 2011 following up on a potential source of infection from plant

acquisitions made in November 2010. These plants were cleared after Bio-Security inspected them accompanied by Gardens staff, but we were left with serious concerns for all our Myrtaceae species and a diligence for regular inspections. By April 2010 staff had diagnosed Myrtle Rust at the Gardens and were treating *Gossia* 'Blushing Beauty' and *Rhodamnia maideniana* with fungicides recommended and approved as suitable. There was a degree of confusion with horticultural staff and the critical nature of reporting procedures, but in hindsight it may not have made a significant difference to controlling the spread and the impact on the collection. Within weeks Myrtle Rust was confirmed

by Bio-Security on mature specimens of *Syzygium jambos* and inspections were undertaken on every representative from the Myrtaceae family. Fifteen species were confirmed as infected and it was determined that a Management Plan would be drafted and implemented as a matter of urgency. As Senior Consultant for the Gardens I was asked to join the Council's Myrtle Rust Management Planning Group.

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens enjoy very strong volunteer support and three of the Herbarium volunteers participated in a day of training at Lismore, organised by RBG Sydney and the Australian Plant Conservation Network. From this detailed day of instruction, the Friends volunteers went on to share their knowledge with other concerned Friends in a several comprehensive workshops. Moving on to late spring Bio-Security were confident that the monitoring which the Friends undertook on Myrtle Rust could provide important information for the longer-term understanding of the disease. Bio-Security and Forestry Queensland have guided our response and have been very supportive.

By late June 2011 a detailed draft Myrtle Rust Management Plan was in place, the Gardens were in high-risk control, and Myrtle Rust was making us all fearful for the future integrity of parts of the Living Collection. Controlling the disease is at best haphazard on a 31 hectare site with residential properties and a heavily timbered golf course on its boundaries. The Management Plan concentrates on monitoring, removals of very heavily infested plants in high visitor traffic areas, and some treatments of very important species or specimens.

Recruiting volunteers from our committed Friends was not difficult, and without their thorough inspection and recording of the disease across the site, the Gardens would be battling, and possibly Myrtle Rust would be more widespread.

Here are some facts – none of which are really giving us a confirmed understanding of the disease – just yet.

- In July 2011 we planted dozens of *Eucalyptus grandis* in a plant community representing the moist hinterland. They were sourced from three nurseries growing three separate local provenances. One provided strong upright tubes, whilst the others were less vigorous. The faster growing plants showed signs of Myrtle Rust in October, probably suggesting the inoculation occurred in situ. It's too early to surmise, but it seems the fast-growing specimens with masses of repeat new growth were the most susceptible. By January 2012 the disease was totally absent and the affected plants have grown from 30cm skinny tubes to three bushy metres. No treatment was undertaken.

- *Rhodamnia maideniana* has never recovered from the initial infection and we were forced to remove two specimens.
- *Eucalyptus curtisii* infection was only on coppice growth which occurred after the main stems broke in a storm.
- Species including *Melaleuca*, *Leptospermum* and *Backhousia* have not progressed to serious damage levels. No treatment has been given.
- *Austromyrtus dulcis* shows low-level variable symptoms, after an initial heavy infection. Because they are mass planted in one area, we are planning to partner in some trials of fungicides.
- *Gossia inophloia* 'Blushing Beauty' is impacted far worse than other Gardens plants, and we have removed any that were along pathways to prevent the spread of infection into the wider gardening community.
- A species may be infected in one area of the Gardens but free from the disease in another.
- The wet summer has not resulted in a catastrophic outbreak, which we had thought would be probable.

It is very much a learning opportunity, and nobody can report with confidence where the disease will spread or how long and harsh its impact will be. The importance of sharing information may not seem obvious yet, but in the longer term any records we keep may make a difference. Our hygiene is rigorous and our records are available for Bio-Security and the Council's Management Team. Some of our regional species affected by Myrtle Rust are listed below.

- *Austromyrtus dulcis*
- *Gossia inophloia* "Blushing Beauty"
- *Decaspermum humile*
- *Eucalyptus curtisii*
- *Eucalyptus grandis*
- *Leptospermum luehmannii*
- *Melaleuca pachyphylla*
- *Melaleuca nodosa*
- *Melaleuca quinquerivaria*
- *Pilidostigma glabrum*
- *Rhodamnia maideniana*
- *Rhodomyrtus psidoides*



Planting *Eucalyptus grandis* July 31st 2011



By January 2012 *Eucalyptus grandis* had been infected, recovered and grown to over 3m

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Blooming Tasmania - Making Tasmanian Gardens Blossom

Phill Parsons and Mark Fountain

Blooming Tasmania was originally an initiative of Tourism Tasmania intended to help grow the Garden Tourism sector.

Blooming Tasmania Association Inc is a non-profit industry body formed to support gardens and garden-related tourism in Tasmania.

The association as it is now was formed in 2004 with a number of key organisations helping it through its formative years. These included Tourism Tasmania, the National Trust of Tasmania, the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, the ABC's Open Garden Scheme and a number of the larger regularly open gardens.

The organisation is now largely industry-driven and is self sustaining and managed through an elected committee of hard-working volunteers.

The major promotional materials are the website www.bloomingtasmania.com and the *Blooming Tasmania Booklet*, a 32-page booklet funded through advertising from many of the regularly open gardens and distributed by the gardens themselves and on-line.

The booklet and the website are both informative and stimulating, bringing together information about the individual gardens, local nurseries, events, garden tours and even garden-focused accommodation in easily accessible packages.

The visitor can plan their visit around the gardens, events, the seasons and the accommodation options and add, if they wish, side trips to sample quality wines and boutique foods.

The stimulus provided by increased and focused garden visitation and potentially longer visitor stays has encouraged the industry to expand, with more (and often innovatively different gardens) joining the association.

This in turn has led to improvements in the quality of the 'product' and the availability of a broader range of garden experiences. These experiences include heritage gardens associated with some of Tasmania's beautiful early colonial buildings (Brickendon), Australian plant gardens (Inverawe Native Gardens), and unusual horticultural experiences like Tasmazia with its large collection of botanical mazes. Other gardens listed include the expansive Tasmanian Arboretum, the beautiful Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden, and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The formation and development of Blooming Tasmania could easily serve as an example for the benefits of collective marketing and the promotion of niche attractions within a defined region. It is a very good model around which to develop gardens tourism in your own region.

The first comment is very positive!

The Blooming Tasmania website looks great Phill.

Easy to follow and great drop down boxes.

Paul Scannell

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AFBG)

Annie McGeachy

The Committee of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AFBG) was very pleased to have supported representation at the BGANZ Congress in Albury last October and the opportunity to network and speak about the Association's activities and members. Our thanks to BGANZ Council.

This opportunity will be reciprocated by a BGANZ representative at the Association Conference in Port Augusta, from 17-19 October this year.

AFBG membership is steady at 52 Friends' groups, although within that, some of the smaller and older groups in Victoria are in need of new members and new energy for rejuvenation. However, this year we hope to increase AFBG numbers to include more Friends of Botanic Gardens in Queensland.

With many national volunteer networks it is very difficult to maintain stability and succession of committee representatives and officers over a long period.

To this end the Association has adopted a BGANZ type model. In May 2011 we contracted an Administration Officer and were fortunate to obtain the services of Ro Noone (until recently Geelong Friends Education Officer). We outsourced production of the newsletter *Campsis* to Friends ANBG Canberra and updated the AFBG logo. The new and much improved website is professionally managed, providing access to information and mapped locations of 52 botanic gardens in Australia.

Financing this new stability in the long-term is of course our next challenge.

We are hopeful!

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

BGANZQ 2012 Conference

This is to confirm that the 2012 Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held on the Sunshine Coast and hosted by the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens in the new Arts & Ecology Centre on 6, 7 and 8 September.

Details of the conference will be advised soon but it is planned to have a series of workshops aimed specifically at issues that are important to most botanic gardens and staff. These include:

The Brisbane Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides will be presenting a special workshop that will share their invaluable knowledge and experience to assist smaller gardens to inform, interpret, share knowledge and work with the community for mutual benefit.

Kate Heffernan will present the 'Smart Gardener' programme to demonstrate how this initiative, recently gifted to BGANZQ by the Department of Primary Industries, is a valuable tool in horticultural education and a very effective way for botanic gardens to outreach into the community.

Please mark these dates in your diary now as this will be an important opportunity for all botanic gardens to network and gain knowledge and ideas.



BGANZQ Exec group from left to right:
Dale Arvidsson (Vice Chair and National Representative,
Maya Harrison (Education Officer Mackay RBG), Kate Heffernan (Chair),
Alan Donaldson (Living Collections Coordinator, Friends of the GCRBG)
and Lawrie Smith (Honorary Secretary)

BGANZ NZ Autumn Seminar

Design in public gardens

25-26 April 2012, Hamilton Gardens, NZ

To book by 16 April Hamilton.gardens@hcc.govt.nz

BGANZ Q Conference 2012

6 – 8 September 2012, Maroochy Regional

Bushland Botanic Gardens

BGANZ 6th Biennial Congress 2013

20-25 October 2013, Dunedin, New Zealand

In conjunction with the BGCI 5th Global Botanic Garden Congress

The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Biennial Conference

Mangroves, Myalls and More

18 - 19 August 2012, Port Augusta, SA

Hosted by The Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Port Augusta Inc. Registration forms are available on

www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org

Government Sustainability Conference

18-19 September 2012, Sebel Albert Park, Melbourne

www.governmentustainability.com.au

Global Eco Asia Pacific Tourism Conference

15 – 17 October 2012, Cairns, Qld

New website will be available soon

Conference Hotline: +61 7 3012 9575 or info@globaleco.com.au

Condobolin Garden Festival

21 – 22 April 2012, Condobolin Showground,

Condobolin, NSW

www.condobolingardenfestival.com

New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference

27-29 April 2012, Kingsgate Conference Centre, Hamilton, NZ

Details TBA

Friends of the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens, NSW

28-29 April 2012, 10 am – 4 pm

All proceeds will go to help finance the development of the newly approved site for the Botanic Gardens in Bowral, NSW.

www.shbg.com.au

5th International Parks Management & Leadership Conference

Parks beyond boundaries

22-24 May 2012, National Wine Centre, Adelaide SA

www.parksforum.org/cms/

EUROGARD VI - Sixth European Botanic Gardens Congress

European Botanic Gardens in a Changing World

28 May - 3 June 2012, Chios Island, Greece

www.eurogardvi.gr

ANPC National Conference

Plant Conservation in Australia -

Achievements and future directions

29 October to 2 November 2012, Canberra

www.anbg.gov.au/anpc/conferences.html

8th BGCI International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens

Education and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

12-15 November 2012, Jardín Botánico del Instituto de Biología de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Ciudad de México, Mexico

13th International Association of Botanic Gardens Congress

13-15 November 2012, South China Botanic Garden, Guangzhou, China

www.IABG2012.com www.bgci.org/education/news/0722/

www.bgci.org/education/mexicoform

BGCI 5th Global Botanic Garden Congress

20-25 October 2013, Dunedin Botanic Garden, New Zealand

It is likely other activities will be scheduled either side of these times. Further details will follow nearer the time of the Congress in 2013

International Horticulture Congress

17 – 22 August 2014, Brisbane –the “Olympics” of

horticultural science www.ihc2014.org/



www.bganz.org.au