



FRIENDS OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN



NEWSLETTER

Vol 17 No 2 Winter 2008

*We would be glad to receive your contributions to our newsletter.
Please note all views expressed are those of individual authors.*

NEW RETAIL ITEMS

We continue to add to our quality retail items, available both from the Gallery shop, and via mail order. Items now include a DVD, new mug and new bookmarks.

We have produced a **DVD** of the popular video "Sharing the Dream", priced at \$20. The Video is now on special at \$10.



We now have a stunning new black and white **latte mug** for sale. Its design by Carol McCormack is based on the stained glass windows at the Gallery.

You can be among the first to own one, with our mail order catalogue at the end of the newsletter. Price is \$15.

Our new **bookmark** features the same stained glass effect on one side as previously. The other side now has five images by Dan Proud, which were featured in the most recent Western Downs Tourism Guide. Price is \$1 each.

GRANTS

Grants provide much needed capital injection to Garden projects. We cannot obtain grants for wages, but for other items they have been our main source of funding.

The **Waterwise grant** has now been acquitted, with rainwater from the Gallery roof going to a tank near the visitor toilets.

We have a grant towards the cost of **new entrance gates**, see page 3 for further details, and your chance to contribute.

And now—a new grant of \$10 000, from Round 2 of the Q150 Community Funding Program, for interpretive **signage** and educational materials for visitors to the Garden. The Qld Govt.'s 'Q150' grants celebrate the fact that next year marks 150 years of statehood for Queensland

All grants require a great deal of research and paper work, by particular Directors, and Janine in the office.

WELCOME TO NEW CARETAKERS

It is with great pleasure that we welcome to the role of Caretakers at MPBG, Garry and Wendy Greenwood, who settled into Terpersie early in May, with daughter Jenita, and grandson, Aiden. Garry and Wendy come to us after years of travelling around the world, settling in to life in a quieter vein.

Both are talented artists, and we look forward to seeing some of their work displayed in the Gallery. Garry also makes animals and birds from bird netting, quite delightful.

Please call when you next visit, to make their acquaintance.

OPEN DAY 2008 - OPEN DAY 2009

October 2008 will be the 20th anniversary of the formation of the first MPBG Committee. Next year, for our Open Day 2009, we plan a "big celebration" for our 21st birthday, so mark the last Saturday of August 2009 on your calendars. Anyone at all connected to the Garden or MPBG Ltd is invited back.

Open Day 2008 is to be a quieter affair. We will start the day as usual with the popular bird walk, this year led again so ably by Ian Venables. The iconic sausage sizzle breakfast follows, then it's walk time—the opportunity for all to experience the trails and walks of the Garden.

Currently there are nine walks and trails:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chinchilla White Gum Trail | Lake View Trail |
| Bed and Breakfast Trail | Old Eucalypt Way |
| Western Walk | Honeyeater Walk |
| Gumnut Walk | Acacia Walk |
| | Garden for all Seasons Walk |
- How many have you done?

Come visit on August 30 2008—tick some off!

RESEARCH AT MPBG

A recent research project at MPBG is a partnership with the University of Queensland (UQ). The Centre for Native Floriculture UQ is working along with our Garden to showcase their current waterwise Australian hybrids.



Three small plots of **Ptilotus** were planted in March 2008. Irrigation was installed for the establishment period. Four plants were lost during the first few weeks, but no further losses have been experienced. They are currently in full flower and producing an impressive display.

Spring 2008 will see further planting by UQ staff. These will include a number of trial species for the cut flower industry. This project will assist in the development of commercially focused native floriculture industries in Queensland. In addition, this project will encourage the sustainable use of Qld's biodiversity and expand knowledge of our Australian flora.

We welcome this important partnership with the University of Queensland's centre for Native Floriculture.

For further information about the Centre for Native Floriculture, visit www.uq.edu.au/lcafs/cnf. For more information re our partnership, email N.Lester@griffith.edu.au

OPEN DAY - AUGUST 30 2008—WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR VISIT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT—Dorinda

As always, much has been happening at the Garden and in the district. We congratulate John and Dianne Haken for creating **Monty's Garage** in Glenmorgan. It was officially opened the weekend Glenmorgan State School celebrated their 75th year.

The garage was named after Monty Adams who was a mechanic in the district in the 1960s and 70s. The Adams family lived and worked at Myall Park for many years. Monty's widow, Margaret, and daughter, Christy, returned for the occasion, a weekend of nostalgia, and stayed in the Garden accommodation.

With **Shire amalgamation** we are very fortunate in that the Mayor and one Councillor of the new Dalby Regional Council come from the former Tara Shire Council so are very aware of MPBG activities. Other new councillors are known to MPBG Ltd Directors who live in the Miles and Condamine districts. Our 'local' area has expanded and we will use media outlets in this larger region to advertise our presence.

We welcome **Michelle Heuston** as the Tourism and Events Officer for the Dalby Regional Shire, and also **Sue Siganto** who now shares the Garden administrative position with Janine Pechey, and works with Michelle. Thank you Michelle for your acuity in having name tags made for the Directors. When I visited the Garden recently, Janine was looking very smart, wearing her new corporate outfit.

Caretakers: We welcome Garry and Wendy Greenwood as new caretakers and hope they are settling into Terpersie and life here. They arrived at the time of the Friends working bee, so no doubt experienced an initiation by fire with so much happening around them.

Administration: Garth Shaw has stepped down from the role of secretary. Ted Gibbons has taken on this job and will work in conjunction with Janine Pechey.

Living Collection: Much as been achieved by volunteer working bees, and may I say on behalf of all Directors a sincere thankyou to all participants. The work you do is just fantastic, and words do not express how much we appreciate your efforts and support.

A long held goal has been to secure a **Curator** for the Garden. To further this dream, at the **Regional Botanic Gardens Conference** at the Gold Coast in July, we will present a case for sharing Curators between small regional botanic gardens. Nita will also present a paper at the conference, on mapping.

Education and Research: This year has seen a review of our information brochures, with much quiet work in the background. A reptile workshop is planned for October 4.

Art in the Garden: The committee is currently organising a sculpture workshop, and is to be congratulated on the successful grant application for entrance gates. These will create a sense of arrival, plus that feeling of anticipation as people reach the Garden boundary.

Future plans: In preparation for future development, plans are being drawn up by Trevor Bacon, our new Director, enlarging the Gallery building to incorporate amongst other things, a meeting room, kitchen, herbarium and a new retail area, leaving the present shop area for office space.

Marketing: A busload of volunteers who man the Dalby Visitor Information Centre visited to gain first hand knowledge of the Garden.

Finally, thank you to all the Directors who work so hard behind the scenes and in many spheres not mentioned above.

ART IN THE GARDEN REPORT

The main focus of the committee with responsibility for "Art in the Garden" has been the successful grant of \$18840 plus GST for new **entrance gates**, as reported in the last newsletter. This amount is short of the actual costs, especially with the increasing cost of steel. See page 3 for details on this. It is intended for completion by May 2009.

We were successful with an RADF grant for a **sculpture workshop** with **Ben Somerville**.

Ben is well-known for his corrugated iron pieces, and he will create a sculpture for the Garden during a week long artist-in-residency. He will also conduct adult and school sculpture workshops and participants will be invited to display their pieces in the Garden. It is hoped that one of the pieces created by Ben could be mass produced for marketing at the Garden, and that workshop participants will take home skills to improve their standing as artists in the community.

This reflects the aims of Cultural Tourism. MPBG aims to maximise the impact of its distinctive cultural, art and heritage features by creating a sculpture trail through the historic Garden for the enjoyment of all visitors and community volunteers.

SCULPTURE WORKSHOP BEN SOMERVILLE

Ben Somerville is a sculptor well-known for his corrugated iron pieces.

When: 13 September, 9 am—5 pm

Where: MPBG

What to bring: tin snips, pliers, rusty iron

No power tools

Cost: \$30, incl tea/coffee, byo lunch, smoko.

RSVP - MPBG office 07 4665 6705

Numbers limited to 10— so be quick!

MARKETING NEWS

MPBG was successful with a marketing opportunity in conjunction with Toowoomba and Golden West to advertise in the 'Caravan World' magazine, August 2008 edition, with a circulation of over 13 000.

Both Janine and Dalby Regional Council Tourism officer, Sue Siganto, who is based at MPBG, have attended various tourism days, including the Aussie Hosts workshop in Dalby on May 29.

A folder has been compiled specifically for Visitor Information Centres in the area to complement our brochures and be a resource whereby the volunteers manning them can access more information concerning the Garden.

Thank you to Julie Latham (a Member of MPBG Ltd) who invited the Garden to give an update on happenings at MPBG when the Bendemere Garden Club visited her garden. Word of mouth is a very important form of advertising so if anyone would like someone to address a group or meeting about the Garden, please let us know.

We appreciate the coverage we were given in the latest Western Down Tourist Guide, including some stunning photos by the appointed photographer, Dan Proud.

OPEN DAY 2008—AUGUST 30

6.30 am Bird walk, with Ian Venables

8.00 am Sausage Sizzle brekkie for the “birdos”

9.00 am onwards—all day, your chance to spend the day on the nine Myall Park Botanic Garden walks and trails—how many can you tick off?

Smoko provided, lunch BYO or available for purchase.

Meet the new caretakers, check out the new plantings esp the UQ Ptilotus plot (see Research page 1), walk.....it's up to you.

TO CREATE THAT STUNNING ‘SENSE OF ARRIVAL’, CAN YOU HELP?

Qld. Govt.’s Gambling Community Benefit Fund is proud to provide funding for the Myall Park Botanic Garden entrance project. However, for the project to go ahead an extra \$4080 is required to cover the unforeseen cost increases for goods (especially steel) and services, since the original application.

The Garden has a wonderful opportunity to create a welcoming sense of heightened expectation for our visitors and add to the artistic elements already in the Garden. As people stop to open the proposed new boundary gates, they will look through to plantings of the three Gordon grevilleas.

Illustrated below is a portion of the proposed entrance gates designed by Jenny Cameron, a granddaughter of the Garden’s original owners, Dave and Dorothy Gordon. Featuring two stylised grevillea flowers, it is to be constructed by Jenny’s husband, Andrew, out of steel, with a galvanised finish and engraved timber side panels.

All donations are tax deductible and can be acknowledged at the entrance. We would appreciate it if your donations, or pledges of such, could be sent before 31 August 2008. For more information, please contact Betty Salter, 07 4669 5298 or email: glenfosslyn@bigpond.com



If you can help, please fill out the form below, and post with your donation to Nita Lester, 24 Victoria Tce, Annerley 4103.

‘SENSE OF ARRIVAL’ project donation

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

I would like to donate \$.....to the ‘Sense of Arrival’ project. Please make cheques payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Gift Fund.

I wish to be acknowledged as a donor to the project

Yes/No



HELLO—from the new MPBG caretakers.

Hello, readers. We are the new Myall Park Botanic Garden caretakers, Garry and Wendy Greenwood.

We arrived here during the first week of May this year and have settled into Terpersie Cottage very nicely.

During our very first week there was a group of volunteers, mainly from the Gold Coast, here also, and they were

able to spend some time with us showing how the Garden etc functions. This time spent with the volunteers, mainly Peter and Lyn Reilly and the previous caretakers, Jim and Sandra Hughes, was invaluable in making our transition from city slickers to country caretakers very smooth indeed. Thanks, guys and gals.

Initially, we thought that we might find ourselves feeling a little lonely, but in our short time here we have already met some very interesting visitors, most of whom have been of the grey nomad variety with a particular interest in Australian native flora as well as wanting a good chat over a cup of tea. Some of these visitors really seem to know their plants, which at times puts us to shame a little: but not all, as just the other day an elderly visitor from Melbourne asked me to accompany him around the Garden to help find a particularly beautiful (in his eyes) plant which he had seen growing locally and he was hoping that I could help identify it so as he could add a few specimens to his southern garden. "It's grayish with a beautiful pink/orange flower—and there's plenty of them," he said. I explained that he wasn't allowed to take away any vegetation, but I would accompany him anyway. I was now curious, too.

It didn't take him long to find a few choice specimens—plants which I had recently learnt were Mother of Millions—a noxious weed I had been pulling out for some time now. Oh dear!

I hope all visitors to the Garden are able to spend at least one night as the night sky out here is really something to behold. We have never seen such a brilliant starscape, and it always leaves us gobsmacked. We find it makes a good reality check, too.

So, if you're planning a visit to the Garden maybe spare a few moments and come on over to the caretakers cottage and say "hello".

Garry and Wendy Greenwood



CARETAKERS RETURN—Sandra Hughes

James and I returned to MPBG to care-take after Marion and Warren had moved on, until the new caretakers arrived.

We were not sure what it would be like, but we felt as if we had never left. It was like 'coming home', as they say. The only thing very different was that, after all that beautiful rain, we were there to witness all the new seedlings. This above all was what my dreams were made of.

I don't think I have ever been so excited about any other thing at the Garden in all the three plus years we were there. Oh, except seeing the ground orchids, and the glider possums and the wee bills nest with young in it that our dear friend Gloria had shown us, and, and, and..... Of course I could go on and on.

James and I enjoyed being back at the Garden this time as caretakers as we felt we could really get too have fun and get into

propagation. We could not help ourselves so took some of the Garden home with us, in the form of seedlings and cuttings for propagating. With help from Gill and Nita we just might have a few to plant back in the Garden in Spring.

As usual we made new friends and met up with old ones. We spent some short but quality time with volunteers. We slept more soundly as we had worked through the day and had the beautiful smells of the bush at night. The sound of night owls was great to go to sleep with. What more could you ask for?

Thank you Directors for asking us to come back for a while. Welcome, Garry and Wendy and family to MPBG. We hope you enjoy the Garden and people as much as we did. **Sandra and Jim**

PROFILES OF OUR 2 NEW DIRECTORS

A. Ann Gibbons (Miles)

Ann writes: Having my husband already a Director on the MPBG Board, (and always being very interested in his conversations after a day well spent there at the meetings), makes becoming a Director a very interesting challenge for me! We work well together, and having us involved in different areas of the Garden makes for harmony and greater personal interest!!

My interest in the Garden has been through Ted's eyes, loving the fact that MPBG is a natural bush area, without the formality of other public "gardens", making MPBG quite distinct and unique.

As we are newly grandparents x 2, I particularly look forward to developing the Play Space idea, which many of you have already mooted to the Board in the past.

I had resigned from the Board of The Year of the Outback in 2006, and now thank you for inviting me to join your Board.

B. Trevor Bacon (Brisbane)



I am pleased to be invited to be a Director and as an introduction give this brief personal outline. I live in Brisbane where I share my married life with Janet, and at various times, our two grown sons. Both Janet and I have our own businesses, Janet music teaching, and myself a residential building designer.

We came to Brisbane in 1990 from a rural area of New Zealand after a 1988 Expo visit gave us great encouragement. Having always enjoyed native flora and fauna, trips out to national parks such as Carnarvon and Mount Moffat opened our eyes to the huge variety and wonderful colours found in the Australian bush. One such trip saw us stay longer than anticipated at MPBG where we were in awe at the September flowering with an opportunity to view rare and varied species. We were also taken with the concept of a botanic garden combined with plant study and the arts. Dave Gordon and supporters have created something of very special interest for the Western Downs. With greater involvement I hope to support a continuation of the excellent work members have achieved in maintaining and developing this rural botanic garden centre.

Support your Garden with Retail Purchases

Many of our retail items are easily and safely able to be posted, and are quite different to anything you will find in "normal" shops.

All profits go into further developments at MPBG. Think Christmas (already!), and support your Garden.

FRIENDS WORKING BEE MAY 2/11 2008

Another full-house working-bee this year, 14 Friends and others including two first timers—welcome Elizabeth and Trevor. Happily for us, the very cold snap of the precious week, which saw the Caboolturians hunting for more blankets, and the water trays in the nursery turning to ice, had given up.

We amazed ourselves with the amount of work we got through, with our wonderfully multi-skilled and talented team.

We had to change our plans from the start for a few reasons, including a break in one of the tractor hydraulic lines, which we could not remedy. Thus, making mulch and remedial work on the soil in the raised beds around the Gallery and hybrid area was deferred.

So we directed our efforts to planting the 100 or so plants that had accumulated from various sources, some left by Caboolture SGAP from cuttings and seed they took back the previous year, donations from Sparrow's Nursery, donations from Jan Glazebrook SGAP nursery grower, a collection from Nita and some of the Garden's own potted-on seedlings courtesy of James and Sandra Hughes. Digging holes, planting, putting in watering, fencing and caging took most of the week. Sites were found in the beds around the Gallery, opposite Avochie, and near the big tank. A lot of these had existing watering lines and only required drippers.

As an experiment, planting was done mixing coconut fibre in with the soil in the hole. The practice begun last year of using water crystals as well as native fertilizer was continued. The process of de-compressing the coconut fibre with water, and wheel-barrowing it about in the very heavy iron wheel-barrow called for improvement. Patty, Ros and Elizabeth had a new lighter wheel-barrow delivered from Tara, making a donation of it to the Garden. Thank you very much ladies.

While on donations, Gemma had the idea that clearing some of the walks and tracks would be easier using a blower, so has kindly donated one of those to the Garden. It got its first work-out clearing leaves off the roof of the Quarters. Thanks, Gemma.

It was decided to fence the whole of the Avochie A block. This is seen as a better solution than individual cages for the numerous plants in the block.

The other major effort was clearing a huge number of Hakea trees and suckers from the eastern end of blocks E and A, a job urged on with enthusiasm by Fran. This great work now allows clear views of some wonderful specimen plants like the bottle tree. In the early part of the week, without the chainsaws (no chain and bar oil on hand), the trees were felled by axe, thanks Jim, leaving some unattractive stumps which will be removed in time when the tractor is repaired. All cut plants were painted with Gly phosphate so should not regrow.

Leon, with some good offside help from Jim, coaxed the machinery out of the sick bay. The glow plug circuitry of the Toyota had to be replaced. Its completely worn-out water pump was replaced with a new one. The Mazda brake-shoes were adjusted so there is now some braking ability. On the Rotary hoe, the idler/tensioner roller he rebuilt during the year was refitted and a valve regrind and valve clearance adjustment got the engaging working satisfactorily. After this, the machine was used to help dig the planting holes.

There was some major excitement one night when we had a bonfire to burn all the hakea we could not mulch without the tractor. The heat and a spark set an old wound on a nearby eucalypt alight. It was 30 to 40 m away and looked perfectly

safe. When it didn't look like going out by itself, we used two of the accommodation fire extinguishers on it, one from the top of a ladder in the back of Allen's ute. That looked good, but when checked an hour later it was well alight. The tree is hollow, and the chimney effect was in play very effectively. We didn't feel like sitting up all night watching it, waiting till it burnt through and the top fell off with unknown consequences, so we decided to use the fire-fighting unit. This was man-handled on to the trailer, filled with water, and started for the first time in 12 months. Luckily, this all went without a hitch, and with a copious deluge of water, the fire was extinguished completely. We now know that next time there is a burn-off, the fire-fighting unit should be on site.

There is a positive side to this drama. We did a real test on our fire-fighting equipment and our skills, and found both to be up to the job. The need for an easier way to lift the unit on to the trailer became urgent and resulted in Trevor's and my building a suitable system in the Avochie shed. It should now be possible for a couple of people to bring the gear into action rather than the 6 strong people we had to use.

Other jobs not already mentioned included weeding, whipper-snipping grass, mowing, writing new label tags for new plantings, preparing horticultural notes for the Garden's database from library references, checking walks and trails for inconsistencies like missing or misplaced number posts, dead plants etc, checking division outlines for some of the mapping data, devising the new Gordon Grevillea walk, photographing the UQ Ptilotus plantings, and recording deaths in the Hybrid Grevillea Gardens.

(Thanks to Peter Reilly for this report)

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 24	Directors Meeting
August 30	Annual Open Day
Sept. 13	Ben Somerville workshop
Oct 4	Proposed reptile workshop
November 19/20	Annual and General Meeting of Members of MPBG Ltd and Directors Meetings

NEW FRIENDS:

We welcome the following as Friends of MPBG Ltd:

Life: Michael Morse, Inverell, NSW

Also: Robert Parish, Deception Bay, Qld

John and Ann Drinan, Glendon Brook, NSW

Michael and Lynda von Pein, Kogan, QLD

John and Robyn Watson, Boggabri, NSW

Louise Melville, Seaforth, NSW

THANKS:

As usual, our thanks to our local National Party Member for Warrego, **Howard Hobbs**, for allowing photo-copying this edition of our newsletter in his St George Electoral office. Thanks, Stella, again!

A very special thank-you to past caretakers, **James and Sandra Hughes**, for "filling in" while we searched for new caretakers. They have now become quite adept at propagating too, and have had quite a lot of success at that.

Thanks for various items contributed by members of working bees, too many to list individually. And thanks, Merinda Warner and Sandra Hughes for organising mailing of this newsletter.

WATERWISE PROJECT COMPLETION

This project came in two parts—the installation of a rain water tank, pressure pump and hot water system for washing up at the Gallery, and secondly more poly and drippers for garden beds.



The rain water tank is situated behind the Gallery toilets, amongst some shrubs. Rain water is now fed into the hand basins there.

The pressure pump and the 25 litre hot water system is installed behind the Gallery and the sink there can now be used in the manner in which it was meant —ie clean water for Volunteers when washing up during activities held at the Garden.



During recent working bees, many new plantings occurred along with the installation of the new poly-pipe and drippers to bring watering in line with other best practices in the rest of the Garden.

All in all, a very positive project

CALENDAR 2010

For our special Open Day 2009—the celebration of 21 years of Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd organisation—we are preparing a 2010 calendar. Unique images of the Garden will be show-cased. Thirteen images will be selected: one for the cover and one per month. If you have an image you would like considered, please send a compressed jpeg to our office, email:mpbglimited@itconnect.net.au.

We are currently planning this retail item, so send as soon as possible.

Details to order the calendar will appear in future newsletters—keep an eye out as only a limited number will be produced.

BIRD PROJECT COMING UP

MPBG is involved in a new regional bird project. The **title** of this will be 'Birds of Myall Park Botanic Garden and Surrounding Brigalow Belt, covering the area from Kogan to Surat, Condamine Highway to Moonie Highway.'

Team members include Craig Eddie, Ian Venables, Rob Lethbridge, Carol McCormack, Dorinda Schwennesen and Nita Lester as Project Manager.

The aim of the project is to compile all bird species recorded in the region, and appeal to all from beginner bird watchers to experts.

There are plans for a book, a DVD with an interactive identification key, a screen saver, children's activities and a bird sound CD.

To date, major contributors with images include Craig Eddie, Bindy Warby, Dean Portelli, Nita Lester, Carol McCormack, Lyn Reilly and Sandra Neill.

All profits from the project will be donated to the Garden.

If you have images you wish to offer (you will be fully credited) or wish to know more, please contact Nita on her email

N.Lester@griffith.edu.au

START OF THE PLAYSPACE

Consideration has commenced on an area specially for our younger visitors. The area designated for the Playspace will be between the toilets and the sawmill. Planting has commenced on a 'secret garden' with a spiral planting of sennas. A load of sand provides the beginnings of a sandpit.

There are ideas of various height stumps for walking steps, maybe weigh down existing branches of trees to make climbing a fun experience. We don't want any bright plastics in sight.

We do require a good fence—but that may require yet another grant.

After achieving the first step of the enclosure for littlies, maybe we may look at a wider area for the next age group to take in the musical pipes, and later on, the big kids could go further afield with flying foxes etc.

These are only thoughts at the moment. Are there any Friends who may be interested in working on the Playspace concept? We are involving some of the young mums of the district.

BROADBAND CONNECTION

Finally, the Garden office is to be connected to Broadband, making life much easier for our admin assistant, Janine.

It will entail a move to Telstra, so our email address may change to mpbglimited@bigpond.com We will keep you informed about our address change.

Is there a Friend out there who would like to sponsor the on-going costs of being connected?

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH UPDATES

Work is currently underway with updating our bird list, as there have been alterations to the taxonomic order.

Suggestions for audio-taped Garden adventures are developing—the idea being that visitors can take an audio with them as they explore the Garden.

This year we are also involved in a project to update the Tara Shire History from 1988 to 17 March 2008, the last day the Tara Shire existed.

UPGRADING GARDEN SIGNAGE

A review of garden signage, from the entrance gate, to walks and trails within, has been conducted, and guidelines developed to up-grade signage for visitors' comfort, and interpretation. Improved signage will inform the public about the past, the place, and the people.

The project will be expensive. For example, individual plant labels are \$70; A3 informative plant labels \$200; directional signs \$700; a welcome sign \$1200.

If you would like to support our up-grade, please consider that all donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Forward donations to Myall Park Botanic Garden Gift Fund, c/- Nita. C. Lester, 24 Victoria Tce, Annerley 4103. Any queries to Nita.

POSITION VACANT

Andrew Burnside of Cedar Hill, guest speaker at our Open Day 2007 is looking for a mature enthusiastic person with some horticultural background to grow natives for harvesting at a newly acquired property in the Mary Valley. If you know of someone, ask them to email Andrew - andrewb@cedarhill.com.au

Think B4 U print:

1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4kg of Co2 into the atmosphere. 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of fresh water used.

INFORMATION PAGES

Garden closed for maintenance 20 Dec—20 Jan each year
VISITORS WELCOME AT ALL OTHER TIMES

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2008

A - GARDEN ENTRANCE FEES

Organised working parties—Free of charge (by prior arrangement)

Gallery Open \$5.50

Garden Only \$3.50

FRIENDS and under 14 **FREE**

Official Guide \$50 plus Garden entry fees

Coach tours \$5.50 pp, tour operator free Ph 4626 5969

MPBG Friends Group Membership—each visit, one free entry, other members visiting same time 10% discount

B - ACCOMMODATION

For bookings, contact Caretakers Ph 07 4665 6855

May—October, advance bookings advisable

Friends Members 10% discount.

Garden Entry Inclusive

Tour organisers Free

Children u 14 half price, u 6 free.

Linen \$5 per person (bed linen, towels)

Avochie Cottage:

1 night - 1/2 people \$60 - each extra person \$20/ night

2 nights - 1/2 people \$120 -each extra person \$20 /night

3 nights - 1/2 people \$160 - each extra person \$18/night

For above packages, a cleaning fee of \$20 will be added if necessary

5 nights - 1/2 people \$270 - each extra person \$18/night

1 week - 1/2 people \$ 360 - each extra person \$15/night

Cleaning included for 5 nights or longer.

Quarters: “backpacker” style—guests share kitchen and bathroom facilities)

per person: 1 night \$20 2 nights \$40 3 nights \$55

5 nights \$90 1 week \$120

Cleaning NOT included in Quarters packages, \$20 fee added if necessary.

Sole Use of Quarters—p.o.a.

Tents & Vans: \$16.50 per unpowered site—\$20 powered site per night incl Garden Entry for 2 people.

C - CATERING

Meals available Bottle Tree Inn, Glenmorgan

D—GALLERY HIRE

\$50 per day, \$25 each extra day (includes cleaning)

\$10 per day for local groups (Tara, Warroo, Murilla Shires) without grant or government funding—leave clean or pay \$15 cleaning fee.

Includes use of furniture, urn, powerpoints for equipment, fridge and Garden entry. Tea and coffee not provided.

Please discuss all arrangements when you book. Information in log box at Visitor Centre, or see on-site caretaker. Basic provisions but no fuel in Glenmorgan.

NEAREST FUEL 70 km—Surat, The Gums, Condamine

ABOUT OUR ACCOMMODATION:

Avochie Cottage -Renovated 3 bedroom cottage with 1 double and 4 single beds. Bath/shower and toilet. Electric hot water system. Open fireplace in sitting room. New electric stove, microwave oven, crockery, cutlery, electric jug, fridge, frypan and toaster. Washing up and cleaning utensils supplied. Fan, heater, basic furnishings.

The Quarters: Renovated inside and out. 2 verandahs, 5 small bedrooms (8 single beds) 1 large bedroom with 1 double bed. Electric hot water. 2 bathrooms each with bath / shower, 2 toilets. Open fireplace in living area. New electric stove, microwave oven, crockery and cutlery, fridge, electric jug, frypan and toaster. Washing up and cleaning utensils supplied. Fan, heater, basic furnishings.

Caravans/Tents: Connect to the power at The Quarters, and use Toilet/ Shower facilities at the Quarters. Unpowered sites available.

Linen is not included. Ask about our linen service when you book.

For bookings, phone caretakers on 07 4665 6855.

We ask you to leave the accommodation clean when you depart, and to take all rubbish with you.

CONTACTS FOR MPBG PERSONNEL

Office

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MPBG WEB SITE—

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Current Directors & Managers
Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

DIRECTORS:

Chairman: Dorinda Schwennesen
Vice-Chairmen: Carol McCormack, Peter Reilly
Secretary: Ted Gibbons
Treasurer: Betty Salter
 Trevor Bacon, Ann Gibbons, Gill Kidd, Nita Lester, Megan McNicholl, Priscilla Mundell, Lynette Reilly, Sue Reilly, Garth Shaw.

MANAGERS: **Living Collection** Gill Kidd
Art in the Garden Sue Reilly
Education /Research Nita Lester
Friends Betty Salter
Marketing /Retail/ Visitor Services Megan McNicholl

PLANT LABELS & DOROTHY GORDON WILDFLOWER SPONSORS

Number of general plant labels @ \$70 each:.....

Dorothy Gordon Wildflower Plant Labels @ \$100 each:.....

Name/s to appear on label:.....

Address:.....

Cheques made payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Gift Fund.,
Post to Myall Park Botanic Garden, PO Box 22, Glenmorgan 4423.

Your articles, photos, advertisements.....are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter.

Contact the Editor, Betty Salter, Ph 07 4669 5298 or email glenfosslyn@bigpond.com

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DONATIONS

All donations of money and goods with a value of \$2 and over are tax-deductible. Cheques to be made payable to MPBG Gift Fund.

Post to Nita Lester, 24 Victoria Terrace, Annerley, 4103.

I/WE WISH TO BECOME A FRIEND OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Subscriptions: For membership to 30 September 2008

Individual	\$20.00	Single Life M'ship	\$275.00	Community Groups	\$35.00
Household	\$30.00	Couple Life M'ship	\$440.00	Businesses	\$100.00
Concessions	\$10.00				

Please print:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email).....

Receipt required Membership card required

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH:

- Newsletter production (collect articles, layout, etc)
 - Herbarium (helping with specimens, records etc)
 - Promotion & Marketing
 - Living Collection
 - Retail
 - Other (please indicate your interests)
-

This is a gift subscription from

..... Payment enclosed \$.....

Cheque payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

Please send with completed form to: Mrs B. Salter, "Glen Fosslyn", Glenmorgan, 4423

CLIMATE CHANGE—NO 3

Plants at risk and the role of MPBG

With predicted temperature increases, changing hydrological cycles and other factors of climate change, as many as half of all plants may be lost over the next century. This is a catastrophic scenario given the fundamental importance of plants to life on earth. As yet there is a lack of published information on plant extinctions directly due to climate change but with baseline information now being collected on the distribution, threat status and ecology of various plant groups, monitoring schemes can be established.

In an era of rapid climate change, species have three basic alternatives. They can: migrate to appropriate environmental conditions; adapt to the new environmental conditions; or become extinct. In a changing environment, some species with fast generation times and wide ecological tolerances are more likely to adapt or migrate quickly and are more likely to flourish. Conservative species with specific habitat requirements or long generation times are more prone to the threat of extinction.

Plant species restricted to high-risk habitats, including montane, island or coastal habitats are likely to be the first casualties of climate change. Plant conservation action needs to be increased to ensure that options are available for the future.

Key points to be considered:

1. Recent models, based on a temperature rise of 2-3 degrees C over the next 100 years, suggest that up to half of the world's plant species will be threatened with extinction. Levels of extinction will depend completely on the extent to which we limit global warming.
2. Species that are already under threat will become rarer and more likely to become extinct.
3. Alpine plants are one group particularly at risk. Such species tend to have a narrow habitat tolerance and grow in marginal habitats. Many alpine plants exhibit relict distributions and have migrated to highlands since the last Ice Age.
4. Other species with 'nowhere to go' and which are already of grave conservation concern, include island species and those confined to cloud forests.
5. 10% of the world's tree species are threatened with extinction. This is of particular relevance as trees facilitate significant carbon storage and play a crucial role in the carbon cycle.

Climate change will place pressure on the natural range and survival of wild populations of plants. The survival of many plants in the wild is threatened by a wide variety of factors. As well as climate change, major causes of the loss of both species diversity and the decline of individual plant species are habitat loss, the spread of invasive species and the over-exploitation of valuable species. Assessment of the conservation status of plant species began over 40 years ago and a significant body of information has been built up. Measurements of threat take into account factors such as rate of decline of population, past, ongoing or predicted, or restricted area of distribution and condition of the habitat.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has developed the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species—a global standard system of categorising threatened species. Basically these are:

Extinct—no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died
Extinct in the wild—only survives in cultivation, in captivity,

or as a naturalised population well outside the past range
Endangered—considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild

Vulnerable—considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild

Threatened—considered to be facing reduced habitat, poor survival rates hence facing the likelihood to qualify for a vulnerable category in the near future.

Species at risk across the world include magnolias, oaks, cacti, aloes, bamboos and palms. Australia has representatives of some of these groups along with many unique species at risk.

In our Garden the following are examples of species we are currently protecting: *Banksia blechnifolia*, *B. gardneri*, *Eremophila nivea*, *Eucalyptus angustissima*, *E. argophloia*, *E. cerasiformis*, *E. crucis*, *E. curtisii*, *Grevillea kennedyana*, *Melaleuca coccinea*, *M. eleuterostachya*, *M. groveana*. These are just a few examples under our care.

One of the important roles of any botanic garden is to provide a safe site for plants that are under threat as well as providing data that will further the research re understanding the individual requirements of species. This contributes to the world wide collection of information about species and how natural systems should be monitored and protected.

All queries direct to Nita.

A LITTLE PIECE OF MPBG HISTORY

The original MPBG Committee was formed almost 20 years ago, on 3 October 1988. That committee consisted of:

Nita Lester—President; Sandra Neill—Vice President

Joan Schwennesen—Secretary; Peter Gordon—Treasurer

plus committee members of David Gordon, Merinda Warner, Jane Bridle, Keith Kerr, Rob Lethbridge, Carol McCormack, and Dorinda Schwennesen.

That committee terminated on 25 November 1990, when Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd was established, with Chairman, Nita Lester; Secretary, Joan Schwennesen; Treasurer, Peter Gordon, and other Directors being Jane Bridle, David Gordon, Bob Harslett, Keith Kerr, Rob Lethbridge, Carol McCormack, Sandra Neill, and Dorinda Schwennesen.

Chairmen who have followed are (in order)—Carol McCormack, Gillian Kidd, Betty Salter and Dorinda Schwennesen

Secretaries - Dorinda Schwennesen, Garth Shaw, Ted Gibbons

Treasurers—Rob Lethbridge, Gill Kidd, Phillip Lester, Ted Gibbons, Betty Salter.

Others not already mentioned who are currently Directors are Trevor Bacon, Ann Gibbons, Megan McNicholl, Peter and Lyn Reilly, and Sue Reilly. Those who have served in the past as Directors are Elaine Lyons, Ann Henning, Ian Russell, Kate Whittall, Stephen and Penelope Comino, Peter Voller, Lorraine Barnes, Mim Hirst, and Donna O'Brien.

Tax deductibility status was attained in 1997.

Each year we must have at least 50 members of MPBG Ltd. to comply with ASIC requirements. These are not to be confused with our 'Friends of MPBG', although many members are Friends as well.

Because of the confusion caused by being a member and/or a Friend, there is a move afoot to combine the two, but the legalities of this must be investigated. This will be decided at the Annual Meeting of Members later this year.

WHAT'S IN FLOWER—JULY 2008

In spite of our current cold dry conditions there are still flowers to see. As July progresses, more buds will open and we should see acacias and eucalypts in particular, in full flower.

The spiny cryptandras near the picnic tables at the Garden for all Seasons are in various stages of bloom, covered with tiny white flowers. *Banksia ashbyi*, sometimes known as 'golden candles' is always good to view in winter with its large orange flowers. Also the *Eucalyptus grossa* sprawling behind it is in bud.

The far western end of the Garden has a great display with the local species, *Babingtonia jacunda*, and its small white flowers along the low arching branches. Sharp eyed visitors will see the naked stems of *Hakea othyorrhyncha* clothed in bright red flowers. They so look like they are on fire in the late afternoon light. Contrast these with *Hakea fraseri* with its cream flowers at the ends of fine weeping foliage.

Eucalyptus pachyphylla, *E. youngiana* and *E. kruseana* are all flowering beside the Gallery near the high tank. Close up photos of the gum nuts lifting to reveal the bulging stamens, bursting to escape, are addictive.

Honeyeater Walk is the best place to watch for honeyeaters, best early in the morning or late afternoon. Those who stay over at the Garden get the best viewing.

LIVING COLLECTION REPORT

Recent plantings are doing well, a couple of deaths only. Let's hope the frosts stay away and don't burn off the blossoms of the grevilleas.

You may notice removal of some species in the Garden, particularly Hakeas and *Cassia brewsteri*. These plants are spreading and this is an attempt to stop them getting outside the loop road, or where seeds may spread further.

Some time this month the UQ team will visit the Garden to prepare the beds for the demonstration planting.

More wire and steel posts are arriving soon, with grant monies, so more areas can be fenced.

Several of the garden beds around the Gallery are to be rebuilt to make them more amenable to absorbing water.

Several plants whose labels had gone missing have been identified. These include the following:

Melaleuca eleuterostachya, native to WA and SA, a beautiful fine leafed plant with yellow ball flowers

Glycine clandestina var. *sericea*, native to Eastern Qld. We have two clumps of this plant climbing in our Garden with its purple pea flower and fine leaves.

Acacia profuse—with small narrow phyllodes and yellow ball flowerheads on long peduncles.

Acacia incongesta—yellow rod flowerheads, narrow medium length phyllodes, the pod rather firm and slightly curved.

Remophila gilesii—purple flowers, long narrow leaves.

Maytenus cunninghamii—a local species with outstanding fruiting this year.

REPTILE WORKSHOP

October 4 2008

A Reptile Workshop will be held at MPBG

For more details contact Gill Kidd, closer to the date, as there will not be another newsletter before the workshop, and details have not yet been finalised.

RECORDING THE NEW SEEDLINGS AFTER SUMMER RAINS

Summer 2007/8 was actually more like normal, with good rains in December and January, quite wonderful after our many dry years. Following this wetter summer, numerous seedlings appeared. Most were grevilleas, but eucalypts, eremophilas and acacias have also been observed.

Sandra and James Hughes, our acting caretakers over summer, looked after these young ones with great care, and many have continued to develop. The Directors greatly appreciate the time and energy so freely given by Sandra and James.

Amongst the seedlings could be a future outstanding hybrid—who knows?

Thanks Sandra and James



Brunonia australis

Of the 48 native plants featured in her book, 'Australian Wildflower Paintings' *Brunonia australis* was Dorothy Gordon's favourite plant with its cornflower-blue flowers. Subsequent to the opening of the Gallery in 1995, a couple of *Brunonia* plants grew spontaneously outside the Gallery door, as though in tribute to Dorothy. With dry seasons, the plants died and did not reappear until this year, again in the compacted gravel surrounding the Gallery.

Neville and Betty Richardson had purchased a special 'Dorothy Gordon' label for *Brunonia australis* and it gave me great pleasure to resurrect this label and place it beside this solitary plant. Neville and Betty have been staunch supporters of the Garden since early days and as well as donating office supplies and helping with working bees, they also spent a period 'in residence'. More recently, Betty donated some lovely handspun wool. A wonderful range of colours resulted from using eucalypt leaves collected in the Garden and the cochineal beetles found on the tree pear as natural dyes.

Dorinda Schwensen

WORKING BEES/VOLUNTEER HELP

We invite any Friend (and any friends of Friends) to come to the Garden for a few days to help in whatever capacity they can. Contact Gill Kidd, or the caretakers, before arriving, and they will find a job for you, either outside, or inside if that is what you prefer. All tools supplied, accommodation free for approved workers. A great way to get to know the Garden, and know you've helped keep "One Man's Dream" alive.

SCREENSAVER CD

Our screensaver CD contains an amazing 500 images of the Garden. Easy to install, it has become a popular retail item. Order from catalogue. Ideal gift for overseas friends.

PLANT LABELS

For \$70, you can sponsor a label for a Garden plant. For \$100, you can sponsor a label for one of the special Dorothy Gordon Wildflowers. See Page 10