



FRIENDS OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN NEWSLETTER



Vol 20 No 2 Winter 2011

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

This year we continue to celebrate the International Year of Forests.

Our Garden gained many new plants this year, as you'll see from the working bee reports. One of the biggest plantings fleshed out our Brigalow Forest area where brigalows and their associated understorey plants will provide shelter and sustenance to the endangered butterflies we hope to encourage in our Invertebrate Biodiversity project (see page 7).



The 'secret senna spiral' has had a good season.

'In 15 years I've never seen the Garden looking so great!' Read on to see how the combination of good rains, assiduous mowing by the caretakers and volunteers' labour has wrought a transformation.

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THANKS to the St. George office of Howard Hobbs, MLA for Warrego, for his ongoing support for our newsletter.

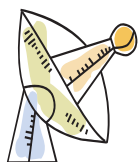
DATES for your 2011 DIARY

Directors' meetings: July 17 & 18; November 20 & 21.

Observers are very welcome at meetings.

Open Day: 27 August

Art Exhibition: 27 August to 27 October



Contacts for Myall Park Botanic Garden

Office: Phone 07 4665 6705

Email: myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com

Post: PO Box 22 Glenmorgan Qld 4423

Website: www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au

Nita's notes

Oh what a season – the potential for an incredible late winter and early spring is just beginning to blossom. *Acacia wardellii* is currently in full bloom — one specimen to such a degree that it fell over during recent rain due to the weight of the wet flowerheads. What a time the caretakers [Jeff and Chris] are experiencing - increased gardening duties due to the rains and warm weather and over 500 specimen plantings over the recent month. [Please see working bee reports]. Incredible outcomes from both working bees: Caboolture and Friends.

Chris and Jeff continue performing miracles in our Garden.

Recorded quotes from visitors include:

- 'The Garden is the best we have ever seen it and we have been visiting over a period of five decades'.
- 'Improvements keep coming, I am in awe of what you all achieve'.
- 'We met Chris and Jeff during our first visit to the Garden, and we were so impressed with their guidance and the place generally that we have booked to come again and learn more about Australian flora and fauna'.

Now to two issues that affect us all:

1. The recent Government's Discussion Paper – Implementation of model schedules for Commonwealth serious drug offences, and in particular in relation to the expanded list of plant species under the schedule for controlled plants. Especially noted that in accordance with the Proposed Model Schedule of Controlled Plants, it is specified that 'any plant containing DMT' will be classified as a Controlled Plant. The understanding is that the cultivation for a commercial purpose, the sale, or possession of plant material for commercial cultivation of any Controlled Plant will constitute a criminal offence. Numerous *Acacia* species are under threat. Please see the *Acacia* Study Group's reasons for objecting to the proposal, all of which our Company supports, on Page 8 of this newsletter

2. The current status of botanic gardens worldwide and our relevance on the national and international scene. Please see article on page 9 of this newsletter.

Best wishes to you and enjoy spreading the word to help everyone develop an understanding of the importance of Australian flora and fauna.

nita



TOPAZ RAFFLE

Congratulations to David Sandercoe, winner of our raffle.

David writes:

'The topaz is wonderful and the current thought is having the gem incorporated into a pendant (have to think of some suitable designs for Carolyn). It was great to hear that the raffle was a success for MPBG. I have never won a raffle so it came as a big surprise (we tend to think of buying raffle tickets as making a donation). Given the great work you all do out there we certainly see the Garden as being a thoroughly worthy cause to support – keep up the sterling effort. One day we hope to get out there for a visit. All the very best, David Sandercoe'

The raffle was drawn on May Day 2011 in the presence of directors and Friends' working bee participants.

Chris and Jeff generously donated this beautiful stone for the Garden raffle which raised over \$1150. Thank you to all who contributed.



Robyn, Gill, Joan and Jeff among those looking on as Chris draws the winning ticket

OPEN DAY AT THE GARDEN

This year it was decided that we would alternate 'busy' Open Days with 'quiet' Open Days. This year the Open Day will be 'quiet' - meaning that there will not be outside-organised events. However it will be just as enjoyable because we will have the usual:

- Plant sales, Garden tours, friendly faces and good company
- **PLUS Opening of Art exhibition by Carol McCormack**—see invitation & Carol's notes below



'Myall Park Botanic Garden, my view with a finer brush'

Over more than twenty years I've made hundreds of visits to the Garden attending to a variety of different jobs ranging from painting walls, plotting walking trails, looking after visitors' needs and attending all manner of meetings and workshops.

Every time I visited I would breathe in the beauty of the place and long for time to put it into paint on the spot, so I am very excited to be having an exhibition of new work in the Garden. It will consist of about twenty small paintings and digital photographs inspired by favourite plants and views of the garden.

My first day's painting there after retiring as a director produced four paintings that seemed to create themselves without intervention from me, as if they had been composed for many years without taking form.

I feel this is just a beginning; the Garden is so rich in subject matter waiting to be processed! The little digital photographs grew from beginnings in the **Cyberflora** mural - as co-ordinator I pieced together hundreds of digital images - photographs of the Garden, and the other artists' work - to make up the whole image which was then painted on to the walls by local art group members and volunteers. It seemed fitting to include some more composite images created with the skills learned during that project. I hope some will enjoy the exhibition as much as I have enjoyed producing it.

There will be an online preview on www.carolmccormack.com.au/mpbg from August 20

Profits from the exhibition will go to the Garden.

See all of our new small plates at Open Day (or order form on back page)



'Merinda'



'Robyn'



'Sandra'

For latest information and pictures on 'What's Flowering Now in the Garden' see our website -www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au

A WORD FROM THE CARETAKERS

What a busy time we've had since the last newsletter. The summer wet, and the follow up rain that we have had, has the Garden looking wonderful and green and has certainly kept us on our toes with mowing & weed control - isn't it unfortunate that weeds like the moisture too?

It has been quite a busy time with visitors too. First since the beginning of April came the Model T Owners of Queensland, who were travelling through in their beautifully restored Model T Fords.



Then came the Bayside Restorers Club who were also travelling in some wonderful older vehicles.



Later the Barambah Bush Bash, run by the Murgon Rotary Club came through. They supported not only the Garden but also our local Bottle Tree Inn, who catered lunch and delivered it to be enjoyed in our Old Mill area.

It has been a real pleasure that these groups have included us in their itineraries and for us to be able to showcase the Garden to them, as well as to the many individual travellers who have found their way to us. One of the great things about this job is the opportunity to meet so many people from such varied walks of life.

As well as the visitors, we have had the great pleasure of meeting again, and of being greeted as old friends by, members of our Friends of the Garden who have held their annual Working Bee and also SGAP Caboolture

who have held their Autumn Working Bee. Much has been achieved by these hard working people in a short time, including the construction by SGAP of a new feature picnic area in the Gordon Grevillea area, hundreds of new plants planted (some of which have been propagated here at the Garden by Jeff) and many large (and small) maintenance jobs carried out by the "Friends". They are a little like ants, scurrying here and there around the Garden and then presto - jobs are done.



Life members from Armidale, Kevin and Helen Williams, enjoy a break in the Old Mill after a tour of the Garden.

With such lovely Autumn weather, several of the Hybrid Grevilleas are in bloom, such as



"Ned Kelly",



"Misty Pink" and



"Orange Marmalade".



Acacia bancroftiorum (above right) are particularly beautiful as are the *Acacia wardellii*.

Some of the Eucalyptus' are also flowering and many others are covered in bud ready for Winter bloom.

What's that? Oh yes, that would be the mower calling again!

Chris & Jeff

WORKING BEE - CABOOLTURE S.G.A.P.

While the number of members who were able to travel to the Garden this year was down on past trips we came home with Nita's list of jobs nearly all completed.

New picnic area: On our last visit to Myall Park we were asked to plan a picnic area in the vicinity of the Gordon Grevilleas incorporating the three negatives left from the construction of the entrance panels. These have not been treated in any way and will blend into the surroundings as they age. The panels mark the entrance to the picnic area behind the grevilleas on the side of the loop road. The picnic table has been placed in the middle of the mown area and should be in shade at lunch time. The panels are welded to pipe uprights which needed holes dug. We found out just how hard that ground is - it took four of us about 2.5 hours to dig six holes using crowbars to break the ground to be shovelled out. We cleared an old track leading to the original 'Robyn Gordon' so picnickers can easily walk to inspect the beautiful flowering shrub.



New walk: We were asked to submit a plan for a walk in the area where there are numerous trees of the mallee type, west of the road to the old quarry. The suggested track will start at a new carpark close to the boundary in the shade of a semi circle of trees, head west through the mallees, then do a U turn and return along the change of soil types and vegetation. Total walk is about 400 metres.

New boundary garden: A garden is going to be established on the boundary between the original Gordon residence and the visitor's accommodation, giving privacy to both. Our members moved a fence from near Avochie to enclose this new garden. We were also able to erect netting above the present fence to create a trellis for climbing plants.

Propagation: The two lady members of our group were very busy seed collecting and taking

cuttings. We were pleased to note that although our plantings from last year had a few casualties, the rest are showing good growth.

We had fine weather while we were there. The first morning as we drove around the park, there was fog so we experienced "wallabies in the mist".

Edgar Askew



Our group at the new Gordon Grevilleas picnic area

WORKING BEE—FRIENDS

People often ask me why we keep going out to the Garden, especially for working bees. I always answer 'Because it is so beautiful out there.'

This time was no exception. I just love the low slanting sunlight on the grey-green cypresses and on the silver-leaved ironbarks; the peace and quiet broken occasionally by the call of a striped honey eater flying over—or by the honking of brolgas in the early morning. I love the treasury of special plants that await the inquisitive eye, even when I am taking a shortcut in the middle of some other task.

The Garden is a very special place and it is a privilege to help keep it so—for as long as our aging bones will agree to participate. As we mark our fifteenth annual working bee, we may gradually change our activities to less physical ones, but I can't see an end to our visits yet.

The presence of the special people who come too is the other good reason we keep coming out.

Lyn

A treasure discovered: the first flowering of *Eucalyptus rhodantha* which was called something else when we acquired it!



FRIENDS WORKING BEE April 27th to May 8th

The official duration of the working-bee was one week, but people are free to come and go as their personal life permits, hence the dates above. It was a full house, with 14 people attending. Caretakers Chris and Jeff offered their help and now extensive knowledge of the garden throughout. Carol, past director, and Gill, present director, each gave us a generous day's help. Thank you all.

The weather was warm at first, later becoming cool to cold in the mornings. We had 12 mm of good rain on Tuesday morning, which helped soften the ground, but made the roads quite slushy. As usual, by the end we couldn't believe how much we'd achieved. Central to all the activity was our whirlwind manager, Joan, who somehow managed to orchestrate the planting of over 500 new plants in multiple sections of the garden. Our group managed about 400 of these because Jeff had done most of the rest before we arrived. This was a marathon effort of planning and organising by Joan, so hearty thanks to her.

The pictures tell a lot of the story, and no doubt I'll miss a few things, but the 'jobs completed' list goes as follows:

New plantings went into: the new Sense of Arrival gardens, the new Eastern Boundary gardens, the Rest Area, a number of the Gallery gardens, the Western Walk area B5, B3, B2, the Garden for all Seasons, Honeyeater Walk area, the Hybrid Grevillea gardens, the accommodation garden BB, Terpersie and Avochie gardens, and the ex-road near Avochie.

Many of these sites had to be cleared around the existing plants so mowing could be done, watering laid, and afterwards mulched.

All new plants were tagged and mapped.

We cleared the dying *Grevillea obliquistigma* patch and dead *Banksia ashbyi* plants.

Cut out all but three of the *Cassia brewsteri* plants in the Gordon Grevilleas area.

Mulching the removed plants producing over two full ute loads of mulch.

Placing un-mulchable material in the erosion channels in the T4, T2 and L blocks.

Clearing around many specimen plants for their own health and for better access.

Collecting mother of millions and cactus from nearby surrounds.

Cataloguing and reorganising the library.

Packeting, labeling, and filing of collected seed

in the seedbank

Gluing home-made labels to aluminium stakes and placing with plants when found.

Removing and cleaning the Toyota Troupie clutch slave cylinder and diagnosing a possible cause of hard starting.

Service check of the rotary hoe.

There – short and to the point. But I assure you it was easier in the telling than in the doing.

Peter Reilly



From the top (L to R): Robyn, Dan, John, Ros, Wendy, Gwen & Leon, Dale, Allen, Patty.

Missing from these photos: Joan, Gemma, Peter, Lyn.

HORTICULTURE, CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

Extreme weather events have continued in 2011. Although these have not impacted physically on the Garden, we have had plant losses as a result of the persistent wet conditions. Those plants that have survived have rarely looked better and the Garden is a picture.

We have had two **very successful working bees to date.** (See reports on pages 5 and 6.)

Some details of the new plantings:

As well as in the Eastern Boundary garden, plantings were carried out in the following areas:

The Gallery and cottage gardens – mainly grevillea and eremophila species and also Anigozanthus sp.

The fenced garden between the cottages - mainly grevillea and eremophila species, with some calothamnus and dodonaeas.

The new Rest Area screening – species of acacia, calothamnus, dodonaea, eucalypt, and senna.

The Walk for All Seasons – *Owenia venosa* and Baker's mallee and groups of three *Allocasuarina* spp (*A. inophloia*, *A. nana*, and *A. decaisneana*). All have interesting characteristics in keeping with this Walk.

The new Acacia area – more varieties of acacia

The Grevillea division – grevillea species not tried before.

The Western Walk – species of acacia, banksia, callitris, corymbia, eucalypt, kunzea, lysiphyllum.

The Honeyeater Walk – various species of grevillea and three different brachychitons.

Grevillea Hybrid Garden— More hybrids added. In all over 500 plants were added to the Garden, a mammoth task. Some plants had been propagated by volunteers, many donated and some of the grevilleas sourced as tubestock and on-grown. This has given a much greater impact to our revitalisation of the Garden and at the same time reduced expenditure in this area.

These plantings should be well established by the time the winter comes and hopefully will survive the colder weather.

We are most grateful for the continued **enthusiasm of our volunteers**, contributing much to the beautification and maintenance of the Garden. It has been gratifying to receive positive feedback from several of our volunteers about the progressive improvements and especially the overall presentation of the Garden, noted as they visit over successive years. Their contribution is thus validated as is the diligent maintenance by our Caretakers.



Our Biodiversity Project aimed at preserving two endangered butterfly species and promoting increased abundance of allied invertebrate species is progressing to the next stage.

(It commenced last year with a grant from the Western Australian Museum.) Plant species known to provide habitats for the butterflies and their larvae were sourced and have been planted, extending the brigalow in a newly prepared area near the entrance grid. This will be fairly densely planted and will not be in the usual Garden style. In time it should also become an important bird habitat area. (Photo above.)

More 'Gordon' grevilleas were also planted in this area to enhance the entrance and to give an increased "Sense of Arrival" to the Garden.

Plans are underway for restoration of an area of the Garden originally planted with many beautiful hakea species. Over time, some of these species have adapted to the conditions in a way that has resulted in their becoming 'weed' species. An application for a grant from the Garden History Society is being prepared to finance the clearing and rehabilitation of this area. Hakeas will not be the only species planted as we propose to concentrate on other Proteaceae species from arid and dry-land areas of Australia.

Earlier this year, Alan Beil from Tara brought us **another hive of stingless bees** (*Austroplebeia australis*). This unusual man-made hive is located against a tree trunk near Terpersie cottage. All the original hives and bees are doing well with the constant food sources at the Garden.

The ongoing health and vibrancy of the Garden could not be achieved without the commitment of our excellent Caretakers, Jeff and Chris Guihot. Their initiative and enthusiasm is inspiring and I hope they are enjoying their stay with us as much as we appreciate having them.

Joan Wilkinson, Manager, H C and R

The ACACIA DEBATE—reasons for objecting to proposals to ban plants which might contain DMT (dimethyltryptamine).

- Acacias are very commonly grown in Australia, in both public and private gardens. The effect of the Government proposal will be to restrict the ability of people to grow these plants.
- As well as popular garden plants, Acacias are extremely common in native vegetation, on roadsides and in native revegetation programs. Acacias also serve an important ecological function in natural and planted vegetation as nitrogen fixing legumes that increase soil fertility.
- Some of the *Acacia* species that will be impacted by the proposal are rare species such as *A. wardellii* (right) known only from a limited local area. The ongoing cultivation of such species is important in assisting their survival and our biodiversity.
- The proposals are unwieldy and too generalized. There is little hope that people will know which species contain DMT – and a consequence of this is that people will unknowingly be committing criminal offences. Whilst we are aware that Government spokespeople have denied that backyard plants will be banned or their growers prosecuted, we believe that it is unacceptable to ask people to rely on this reassurance – if in fact they are effectively committing a criminal offence.
- We believe that the proposals are also unlikely to achieve what the Government may be hoping to achieve. Some of the species that are reported as containing DMT are very common, and in some cases have become weed species in parts of Australia. For example, this would apply to *Acacia baileyana* and *A. longifolia*. It would be a simple matter for a person to obtain plant material from these weed infested areas – and hence the banning of garden plants would seem to be futile. We believe this proposal will draw unnecessary attention to the presence of DMT in many



common plants and could in fact promote the spread of such information and increase the likelihood of inappropriate human use of such alkaloids.

- It is noted that some of the species reported as containing DMT are also very significant species for a variety of reasons. Acacia seed as a source of human food has been a subject of increasing interest and research in recent years. *Acacia victoriae* is the most important species in the Australian bush food industry, whilst *Acacia colei* is showing promise as a source of human food in semi-arid regions of the Sahel, West Africa. *Acacia victoriae* is also important as chemicals extracted from this plant have been shown to have anti-cancer properties. Rather than banning these plants in Australia, we should take action to protect them.
- The wattle is Australia's national flower, and is proudly celebrated as part of our cultural heritage Wattle Day and on other festive occasions. It also features on our coat of arms. The absurdity of the Government proposals, even in banning some species, is evident when considered in the context of this national heritage.

From: Acacia Study Group Newsletter No. 112 p 10.
[Ed: No news since submissions closed in March.]

MORE PICS FROM FRIENDS' WORKING BEE



Burning a dead prostrate banksia to stimulate seed drop and a new crop of seedlings after the next rain.



Jeff's erosion berms near Avochie work well and allow water to seep into the soil instead of washing it away..

MAKING MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN RELEVANT: Examining our place in the network of Botanic Gardens nationally and internationally

Forces that motivate a change in thinking

Traditional thinking of botanic gardens must be challenged in the light of global change, biodiversity loss and many people's dissociation from the natural world. The 21st century is witnessing increasing awareness and concern about the threat from climate change, human impact on the environment and species extinction. Threat to both plant and animal has never been greater and is predicted to become progressively worse. Botanic gardens need to reflect upon current practices and assess if their focus continues to be relevant.

Traditionally botanic gardens provide education and promote awareness about plant diversity and the need for its conservation but are these enough to keep botanic gardens alive and viable? Botanic gardens must maintain their existing audiences and the quality of their collections, but the perception that botanic gardens are for the elite, middle-class, white and older demographic must be challenged. What other audience groups need to be attracted? Capital investment aimed at improving interpretation has become common place, but again the question is asked: 'Is this enough?'

Botanic gardens regularly engage in research of local and global economic importance in developing medicine, methods of seed storage and conservation strategies, and their research is used to benefit communities directly, nationally and internationally. Closely linked to the botanic gardens' scientific and research activity is the contribution they make to public and political debate about the environment, through access to knowledge and information. No one is removed from a connection to the plant world. By explaining how plants are used in everyday items and medicines it is possible to help establish direct, personal connections between the lives of humans and the natural world in which they live.

Botanic gardens should be actively challenging attitudes and behaviours towards the natural world across the social spectrum. Science can make connections across the barriers of religion, social status and race. Proactive approaches should be encouraged and new audience groups targeted. Botanic gardens need to model sustainable behaviours and together with climate change information, gardens must select species with care as well as showcase sustainable horticultural methods. Glasshouses and special areas to maintain species out of their geographic zones need to be reconsidered in the 21st century and should only be continued if this interpretation shows positive benefits.

Interactive educational materials, storytelling and art activities are employed by many Gardens to spread the environmental message and encourage a wider

audience. It is important to ask if new visitors return to discover further treasures.

A major focus in moving botanic gardens into the current century must be the enhancement of social well being and self-esteem for the whole community. Activities, events and education programmes designed for a range of existing audiences, at the same time targeting new social purposes of informal and relaxed learning environments, can potentially broaden the appreciation of botanic gardens. Making links with local community organisations and asking what the locals require of a botanic garden will forge engagement and increase audiences. City spaces are reducing and many humans now reside in homes/units with little or no garden so the botanic garden spaces take on the ever increasing role of providing freedom and engagement.

Enhancing relevance to a new audience is an intensive, long term and challenging task and requires people with particular skills which may not currently be available in the staff of a traditional botanic garden. Roles of botanic gardens must be examined and staff skills and abilities need to be assessed. Traditionally people with backgrounds in science have dominated management and horticulture, and some of these are inherently resistant to change. For audience change, botanic garden staff must include those with social, artistic and economic expertise.

Our actions

The Directors of Myall Park BG held a workshop in March and determined that changes to the Garden's mission, values and vision were necessary. The focus was on repositioning the organisation through a period of rapid social and environmental change.

We addressed the following questions:

Why do we exist? In other words, what do we think we offer to the botanic garden network nationally and internationally as well to our local community?

What do we believe in and what philosophy drives our energies?

Who are our audience?

What do we wish to achieve?

Why do we exist? What are our strengths?

- Specialist in arid, semi-arid and dry tropical Australian species;
- Represented in the living, seed and herbarium collections are numerous central and western Australian species whose gene pool is now lost in the natural populations;
- 'Retained natural species' collection represent the brigalow region of southern Queensland;
- Showcase dry land horticulture;
- First plantings were recorded in 1942;
- Successful not for profit environmental organisation with over 23 years of experience;
- Linking the arts with the sciences;

- Research centre for brigalow fauna and flora;
- Provide educational materials for children and adults focussed upon saving Australian biodiversity.

What do we believe in?

Our ability to

- protect, improve and increase our current collections;
- ensure our audience has access to educational material about both flora and fauna;
- value our past, present and future;
- grow Australian species that suit our regional soils and climate;
- use the arts to provide links to the human soul (and nature that can be appreciated and understood).

Who are our audience?

Researchers of both fauna and flora; grey nomads; environmental groups such as field naturalists, bird watchers, Australian plant lovers; school and tertiary students; families; photographers; artists.

What do we wish to achieve?

Increase connections with the younger generations;

Increase the awareness of our collections;

Increase connections with the immediate local community and work along with it to increase economic development;

Be a place where people can relax and make personal connections between their lives and nature;

Encourage participation through working bees and events.

Need to alter structurally

The directors are committed to change. 2010 organisational change reduced governance and enabled board members to make a choice on their personal contribution. There were some significant changes to the new board, with policy and management issues the priority. Specialist committees are now able to deal with specific issues.

The smaller board now focuses upon policy and management issues knowing the everyday procedures are covered by committees. A number of the committees increased membership as specialised persons from further afield participated.

More than structure, beliefs have to change

Both structural changes and belief systems have undergone transformation. The need to recognise societal changes and the changing roles of botanic gardens is perceived by the new board as critical.

We want to improve connections with the local community. By first providing a place for our audience to relax within the Garden, they may then learn more

about the importance of nature for the survival of humankind. The directors aim to stimulate interest in environmental issues and encourage active engagement.

As a not for profit organisation, we must act for social engagement, sustainability and environmental protection if funding bodies and the public are to see us as relevant and viable. By embracing this wider theme of social relevance, beneficial networking opportunities may arise. By working with partners and key networking organisations like Western Downs Regional Council, Australian Network of Botanic Gardens and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, our Garden is not isolated in its quest to develop new ideas and approaches. The passion for the future of mankind drives action.

Having re-positioned our Garden we are beginning to communicate this change to the outside world. We believe the traditional roles of botanic gardens as centres of scientific enquiry and education must be protected but our Garden must become relevant and have a social as well as an environmental purpose.

Results in 2010/11 include:

- a) Director meetings focus upon policy and not procedure and implication;
- b) Mind frames of the directors have focussed upon design and creativity;
- c) Enjoyment and fulfilment in being part of the board;
- d) Listening to the community to assess their needs so policies can be developed and activities designed to connect;
- e) Past board members who elected to be part of a committee can focus upon their interests and are contributing new and innovative plans.

2011 actions to include:

- a) Determine the best action to develop a platform to promote and link local community events and features with the aim of increasing socio-economic development. Following this planning, a grant application has been made to enable a web-based platform for all local businesses to be linked and energised.
- b) An Art based programme will focus on the question 'What is my place in the environment?' Centred on local schools and community participation, numerous pavers will become 'canvases' by children and adults. The installation of these tiles will create discovery pathways throughout the Garden. Focussed plantings and additions of interactive musical objects will, over time, make this a living art form.
- c) With the aid of a biodiversity grant in 2010, focussed plantings are underway to increase invertebrate populations and to attract threatened butterfly species. Numerous locations around the Garden site have been selected for endemic species plantings and local nurseries have contributed time and plants.
- d) A new Walk through a previously inaccessible area will showcase the particular feature of some Australian

eucalypts – the mallees. The Walk is being designed and developed by a community group, based in Caboolture, who are actively growing and promoting the cultivation and awareness of Australian native plants.

e) New dry land plant species have been introduced since 2010 and this focus will increase as the need to showcase appropriate horticultural practices for the 21st century becomes more and more important. Species planted over years gone by that require special watering regimes will not be reintroduced.

f) To enable social connectedness and the furthering of research, accommodation facilities must continue to be updated to enable a small increase of capacity. Environmental and local conditions were reviewed so the Garden facilities are in accord with the needs of the community. A grant application has been made to enable the construction of a 'bush style' workshopping and meeting venue which will include an ablution facility that will be environmentally sensitive.

These are our aims for 2011.

At the end of each year our elected Board and Committees review our achievements and set new goals for the coming year. We have the capabilities to keep abreast of any challenges to the vitality and relevance of Botanic Gardens that the future may bring.

Dr Nita C. Lester
Chairman, Board of Directors, Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

STEPPING STONE INSTALLATION

Our Garden will have the pleasure of introducing artist Michelle Potter from June 14 to June 23. She will be running workshops for children and adults during that period.

Purpose: To develop, design and paint 'stepping stones' that will be incorporated into a discovery pathway installation at the Garden.

Outcome: Once all 'stepping stones' are installed, visitors will enjoy these artistic elements as they wander through the Garden.

Participants are invited to work along with Michelle and create their own tile design after considering the question 'What is your place in the local environment?'

Installation is scheduled later in the year when all tiles are assembled.

WELCOME TO NEW FRIEND

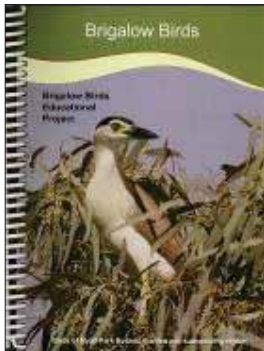
Paula Halford (Mt. Tyson)



We hope your association with the Garden will be a long and happy one.

SOME BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM OUR CATALOGUE Order from the Garden & the profit stays here

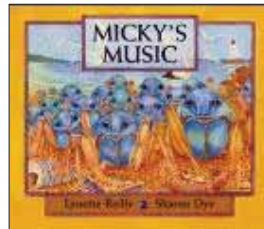
.NEW!



Brigalow Birds: birds of Myall Park Botanic Garden & surrounding brigalow region

Book	\$33
DVD	\$33
Book + DVD	\$60

One Man's Dream (2nd ed.) by Betty McKenzie:
Biography of Dave Gordon **\$11.00**



Micky's Music by Lynette Reilly: Picture story book about the adventures of a soldier crab seeking his real self (for all ages) **\$5.00**



Woodland to Weeds (2nd ed.)
by Nita C. Lester
Definitive reference to plants of the Southern Queensland Brigalow Belt

\$49.95



Australian Birds for Children

Set of 24 colourful cards featuring common easy-to-find birds - bird on front, information on back of each 18x10cm card

\$20

For Sharp Eyes Only - by Nita C. Lester & Elaine Lyons: Illustrations show how our native animals are camouflaged in their surroundings

\$15.00

Email or use form on page 14 - not forgetting to add a one-off cost of \$10 postage per order.

INFORMATION PAGES

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

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2011

A - GARDEN ENTRANCE FEES

Garden and Gallery \$5.00 per person
FRIENDS and preschool children FREE
School children under 14 \$2
Official Guide \$50 plus Garden entry fees
Coach tours \$5.00 pp, driver & tour operator free
MPBG Friends Group Membership –each visit, one free entry, other members visiting at the same time 10% discount
Organised working parties—Free (by prior arrangement only)

B ACCOMMODATION (Garden entry included)

For bookings, contact Caretakers Ph 07 4665 6855
(April—October, advance bookings advisable)
Friends Members 10% discount.
Tour organisers Free
Children under 14 half price, under 6 free.
Linen (if required) \$5 per person (bed linen, towels)

Avochie Cottage:

1 night - 1-2 people \$80 - each extra person \$20/ night
3 nights - 1-2 people \$220 - each extra person \$20 / night
1 week - 1-2 people \$480 - each extra person \$20/ night
For above packages, a cleaning fee of \$20 will be added if necessary.

Cleaning included for 5 nights or longer.

The Quarters: (guests share kitchen and bathroom facilities)
per person: 1 night \$30 3 nights \$80 1 week \$180
Cleaning NOT included in The Quarters packages, \$20 fee added if necessary.

Sole Use of The Quarters—p.o.a.

C - TENTS & VANS (Pay 2 nights, get 3rd night free)

Unpowered site: \$20 per site per night for 1-2 people.
Powered site: \$25 per site per night for 1-2 people

D - CATERING

Meals available Bottle Tree Inn, Glenmorgan and General Store, Glenmorgan.

E - GALLERY HIRE

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

\$50 first day, \$25 each extra day (includes cleaning)
\$10 per day for local non-profit community groups—please leave clean or pay \$20 cleaning fee.

Please discuss all arrangements when you book tours or accommodation.

On arrival, see information in log box at Visitor Centre, or on-site caretaker.

Glenmorgan has basic provisions including diesel and unleaded fuel. Diesel and unleaded fuel are also available at Surat and The Gums. Fuel sales at Meandarra are card only.

ABOUT OUR ACCOMMODATION:

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

Avochie Cottage -

[Right] Renovated 3 bedroom cottage with 1 double and 2 twin rooms. 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.

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 (no collection here).

CONTACTS FOR MPBG PERSONNEL

<u>Office</u>	07 4665 6705
Janine Pechey	myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com Ph/fax 07 4665 6855
<u>Caretakers</u>	
Jeff and Chris	mpbg@westnet.com.au
<u>Directors/Managers</u>	
Trevor Bacon	Ph 07 3366 0450 thbacon@bigpond.net.au
Gill Kidd	Ph/fax 07 4663 0720 kidd_greenhills1@bigpond.com
Nita C. Lester	Ph 07 3391 4287 N.Lester@griffith.edu.au
Megan McNicholl	Ph 07 4627 6490 fax 07 4627 6364 meganmnicoll@bigpond.com
Lyn Reilly	Ph 07 5537 3354 fax 07 5537 1803 lrreilly@bigpond.net.au
Peter Reilly	Ph 07 5537 3354 fax 07 5537 1803 plreilly@bigpond.net.au
Betty Salter	Ph 07 4669 5298 fax 07 4669 5219 glenfosslyn@bigpond.com
Joan Wilkinson	Ph 07 3378 3110 rodgerwilkinson@bigpond.com

MPBG WEB SITE

Our website has been described as 'One of the best'.
Have **you** looked at it recently?

Keep up to date with the latest news, workshops etc at

www.myallparkbotanicgarden.org.au

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH PHOTOS IN GLORIOUS ORIGINAL COLOUR?



If you opt to receive it by email as a pdf file, then that's what awaits you. As well, you will be helping to cut down the amount of paper we pay to transport all over the country and the time taken by our volunteers to fold, staple and post each one.

Please send Betty (see page 12) your email address which we will use in confidence only for this purpose.

Alternatively, newsletters may be downloaded directly from our website.

Your articles, photos, advertisements..... are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. Contact the Editor, Lyn Reilly, Ph 07 5537 3354 or Fax 07 5537 1803 or email lreilly@bigpond.net.au

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**Current Directors & Managers
Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd**

DIRECTORS:

Chairman: nita c lester
Vice-Chairmen: Trevor Bacon, Peter Reilly
Secretary/Treasurer: Betty Salter

Plus: Gill Kidd, Megan McNicholl, Lynette Reilly, Joan Wilkinson.

MANAGERS:

Horticulture, Conservation & Research: Joan Wilkinson
The Garden Experience: Megan McNicholl
Business Management: Betty Salter

Company correspondence to: The Secretary,
Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd,
PO Box 22, Glenmorgan, Qld 4423

DONATIONS / BEQUESTS

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 and posted to Nita C. Lester, 24 Victoria Tce, Annerley, Qld 4103.

For Bequest details, contact Bequest Coordinator, c/ - Nita C. Lester, above address or as on p. 12.

Renew or join here

I/We wish to remain / become a Friend of Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

Subscriptions: Renewals to 30 September 2012

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

I wish to add a donation of (Donations will be credited to the tax deductible Gift Fund and receipted.)

This is a gift subscription from

Total payment \$.....

Payment may be made **either** directly into our bank account:

Commonwealth Bank, Dalby. BSB 064-412 Account No. 1000 1195 (please include your name and that it is for 'subscription')

or by cheque payable to 'Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd.'

Whichever method of payment you use, please send this completed form to:

Mrs B. Salter, "Glen Fosslyn", Glenmorgan, Qld 4423

I/We are interested in assisting with:

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



MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Every purchase will help the Garden!



Try our floral china instead of flowers for that special gift.

New discount of 5% for non-Friends on every purchase of six or more fine china items.
(Discount of 10% for financial Friends as usual)

MAKE YOUR ORDER HERE

Number. subtotal

A	AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWER PAINTINGS Book of Dorothy Gordon's paintings Signed by David Gordon	\$ 38.50 \$ 42.50		
B	UNFRAMED WILDFLOWER PRINTS by Dorothy Gordon (20x30 cm)	\$ 4.50 each \$ 24.50 (Set of 7)		
C	TASTE OF THE OUTBACK our native foods recipe book	\$7.50		
D	SCREENSAVER ON CD Images A Collection of stunning photographs by MPBG volunteers, and Paul Costin, Anne Thompson and Bindy Warby	\$ 20.00 500 images		
E	MUGS - Fine Bone China with the 3 Gordon Grevilleas designed by MPBG artists	\$ 20.00		
F	RICE BOWLS –115mm Fine Bone China with the 3 Gordon Grevilleas designed by MPBG artists	\$ 13.50		
G	PLATES—Fine bone china 155 mm G. 'Robyn Gordon' or new 'Sandra Gordon' or new 'Merinda Gordon' design. Each makes a great set with the mug.	\$13.50 'Robyn' 'Sandra' 'Merinda'		
H	COLLECTOR PLATE (numbered) Features the 3 Gordon Grevilleas & blue-faced honeyeater	\$ 55.00		
I	JUG 250ml Features all three grevilleas. Very fine and light. Dishwasher and microwave safe.	\$20		
J	SERVING / DINNER PLATE 275mm Features all three grevilleas. Makes a wonderful serving with all of the above pieces. Dishwasher and microwave safe.	\$25		
K	LATTE MUGS. Leadlight Design. Black on white contemporary style.	\$ 10.00 Special		
L	TEA TOWELS Screenprinted by hand Grevillea 'Robyn Gordon' (red & green) Grevillea 'Merinda Gordon' (red & green) Grevillea 'Sandra Gordon' (yellow & green)	\$ 15.00 each		
M	GREETING CARDS Featuring 8 Dorothy Gordon botanical paintings	\$ 3.50 Single \$ 22.00 Set of 8		
	BOOKS - add titles and prices from page 11			

Cheques payable to
Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd.

Post to
MPBG Ltd
P O Box 22
Glenmorgan
Q 4423

please add your address
Thank you for your order

Order Total	
Less Friends 10% discount	
Postage	10.00
Total	

We also accept credit card payments. Please contact the office on 07 4665 6705 to arrange payment.