



NEWSLETTER Issue 59 June 2023

## Chair's Farewell Note

Dear Friends

It's with great pleasure and pride that I offer you my last Chair's Note for this Newsletter, as we continue to celebrate the Arboretum being open to Canberra and its visitors for over ten years. I was especially pleased Jon Stanhope AO could attend the Annual General Meeting on 9 May and remind us of the bumpy but determined journey he had as ACT Chief Minister to make sure this wonderful national asset was built right here in Canberra. *Trish Keller, OAM outgoing Friends Chair and Former ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope AO May 2023*



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## Chair's Note Continued

We have marked the Arboretum's ten-year anniversary in several ways already, including



*Trish Keller, OAM outgoing Friends Chair and Scott Saddler, AM, Executive Branch Manager Arboretum*

Friends financial support for a short documentary THE ARBORETUM STORY:2003-2023. This wonderful visual history was launched to great acclaim with key snippets shown at the Gala 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner held at the Arboretum on Friday 5 May. I want to especially thank Roger Hnatiuk for recommending the Friends Council consider and commence work on this important historical project.

You will be able to see the full 30-minute documentary soon. I guarantee you will enjoy it, as well as be in awe of how far we have come.

*Trish Keller, OAM, Outgoing Friends Chair with Jocelyn Plovits and Sherry McCardle-English, former Chairs*



I want to share with you a couple of recent complimentary remarks about the Friends - first from the Governor General, the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), in a note he sent to us for the Gala dinner in May as he was unable to attend. He commented 'Linda and I extend a heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the Arboretum for their expertise and tireless efforts that have brought so much joy to all who visit the Arboretum.'

The full text of the Governor General's message is provided below and was read out as part of the Gala dinner proceedings.

The second comment was from the ACT Special Minister of State, Chris Steel MLA, at the Gala Dinner ...he commented "I extend my thanks to the many Friends and volunteers of the NAC. The commitment of these extraordinary people has been critical to the Arboretum's ongoing growth and success since its inception."

And as always, we have a busy year ahead... Warm Trees is on again in a few weeks' time, thanks to Jan Morgan and her busy team. South Africa will be the diplomatic partner in 2023 - fabulous colours in their flag so the display this year will certainly be bright and heart-warming.

I've said all along that you the Friends members continue to be worth your weight in gold, solid gold. Each of your generous and unstinting contributions to our Arboretum is hugely appreciated and accounts for many hours of support for the Arboretum and significantly enhances visitor experiences. Volunteer guides alone have provided over 1,000 hours of support between July 2022 and April 2023.

One of the first pieces of correspondence I received as Chair was from the previous Chair Jocelyn Plovits. Her message to me read ‘CONGRATULATIONS! You will enjoy being the Chair of the Friends. Happy to help if needed.’ She was right I have enjoyed this role and she did help me... many times. Thanks Jocelyn!

I have enjoyed supporting the Arboretum in many different capacities and will continue as the Donations and Sponsorship Manager.

I would also like to extend congratulations to our friend Lorraine Nicholls who received an OAM (awarded to Mrs Margaret Lorraine Shadforth Nicholls) in the recent June Kings Birthday Honours List for ‘services to women and services to the community.’ Well done Lorraine!

I am resolved to do as Ian Warden once said he would do back on 8 Jan 2022, in one of his Canberra Times articles....I will continue to haunt our National Arboretum, walking at least once a year in each of its 100 forests, talking to the trees and listening respectfully to what their whispering, rattling, swishing, susurrating leaves have to say to me.



If you can't find me out there, I'll most likely be in my office... or driving the bus! See you soon!

Regards Trish  
Trish Keller OAM  
Chair, Friends of the National Arboretum

## Key Diary Dates for Friends

25 June	Market Stall
6 July 2.30pm	Launch of Warm Trees
11 July 5.30pm	General Meeting & Seasonal Talk #2 TBC
20 August	Market Stall
1 September	Wattle Day Celebration
16 September	Floriade Opens
23 Sept	Plant Fair at Lanyon Homestead
10 Oct 5.30 pm	General Meeting & Seasonal Talk #3 – TBC
13 October	10 Year Celebration-BBQ Brunch for Friends and Volunteers
14 Oct	Market Stall
26 Nov	Market Stall
December Date TBC - NAC & Friends End-of-Year Event 6-8pm - Thank you to Volunteers.	

## Governor General's Message for the Gala Dinner



His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd)  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### National Arboretum Canberra — 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner

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It is a delight for me to be able to provide a message in this way on this celebratory occasion.

Linda and I had hoped to join you, but we are currently in London for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles The Third.

Congratulations to all involved in the National Arboretum Canberra on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening to the public. It is a significant milestone and an outstanding achievement.

I must admit that when I was asked to provide a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary message I hesitated because I couldn't believe it had really been open that long. Such is the extraordinary impact the Arboretum has made in a relatively short period of time. The more than six million visitors to the site and the many successful events held there is evidence of that.

Tonight's Gala Dinner is an occasion to celebrate — both the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary milestone but particularly the Arboretum's people. They are the ones in the engine room, driven by a passion and a dedication to make the National Arboretum Canberra one of the finest national cultural institutions in the country.

Linda and I extend a heartfelt thank you to Scott and his wonderful team, and the Friends of the Arboretum, for their expertise and tireless efforts that have brought so much joy to all who visit the Arboretum.

Congratulations, again, and enjoy the evening.



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## Discovery Kitchen Garden & Harvest Group Update

Article and photos (unless otherwise attributed) by Ange McNeilly

### Discovery Kitchen Garden

It was a beautiful morning on the third day of winter, windless and t-shirt weather! However, around 2.00 pm grey storm clouds approached from the south and yes, rain, not much but just enough to wet the ground and the clothes on the line! The intense cold snap and minus night time temperatures experienced towards the end of May only served as a reminder of just how cold Canberra can get, usually from around ANZAC Day.

The plants in the kitchen garden are thriving and eggplants, chillies, some French marigolds and nasturtiums have only now been cut back or removed due to slight frost damage, this is some six weeks later than in previous years.

Winter brassicas of Tuscan, Russian and scarlet kales, sugarloaf cabbages and purple broccoli had a good start by being planted slightly earlier when the weather was still warm. Sweet peas, snow and sugarsnap peas as well as broad beans were also planted along with ornamental kales, pansies and violas for colour. The sweet williams have continued to bloom and the cheerful nasturtium flowers put a smile on people's faces as they remember them growing in their "granny's garden" when they were children.



Due to the cooler temperatures this autumn, many of the tomatoes were harvested green and ripened indoors in order to make relishes in time for the market stalls in April and May. In the garden, rock mineral soil improver has been trialled to see if it will make a difference to the health and vigour of plants over time. The garden soil was also topped up with compost from the bins in the Sensory Garden. As rain has been infrequent over the past few months, supplementary watering has had to be applied.

As happens every year in winter, garden rosters have had to be rearranged due to travel plans and injury. It is great to have Lesley volunteering each Monday, Joan on Wednesdays and a big welcome back to Debbie, who will resume garden duties on alternate Thursdays.

Many thanks to all the garden volunteers for their dedication and commitment!

There will be little further planting in the garden this winter mainly because all of this year's funds have been spent. Ongoing maintenance will consist of removing frosted plants, dead leaves, pest patrols and the occasional watering when needed. Seeds will

continue to be sown in pots and kept in home greenhouses so that seedlings will be ready for sale or for planting out in spring. Drying and painting artichoke flowers and magnolia grandiflora seed pods and the gathering of dried botanicals to make wreaths for Christmas are some of the other activities undertaken during the winter months.

### Fig Harvest

The fig harvest started late this year and again was another bumper crop! Bags of beautiful fresh juicy figs were sold at the two market stalls held in April and May.

Cooks were kept incredibly busy processing the many kilos of figs into an array of delectable preserves. Many thanks to all these wonderful individuals who I am sure, do not want to see another fig at least until next year! Thanks also to the Arboretum for their valuable contribution of the jars and lids for the preserves.

The Harvest Group is always seeking more people to help with task such as harvesting, cooking and market stalls. So if you can follow a recipe, have some spare time and want to support the Friends and the Arboretum while having fun participating very enjoyable activities, then come and join us! This year, the Harvest Group is making up for market stalls missed during the Covid lockdown as there are nine scheduled, four of which have already been held as detailed below

### Market Stalls Held

Date	Location	Takings	Wollemi Sold
4 March 23	HDO at Lanyon Homestead	\$850	
25 & 26 March 23	Bonsai Reshaped Market Weekend - Discovery Garden	\$105	\$910
30 April 23	Arboretum Visitor Centre	\$2,145	\$185
7 May 23	Arboretum Visitor Centre	\$2,100	\$370
Total		\$5,200	\$1,465

Above Right: Sue and Trish at Lanyon

A further five market stalls are scheduled for the second half of this year (refer to the table below). Make a note in your diaries, keep an eye on the website as there will be interesting locally made products to buy (*at right: artichoke flowers displayed perfectly*), so come support the Friends and the Arboretum! Market

### Stalls Scheduled

Date	Day	Location
25 June 23	Sunday	Arboretum
20 August 23	Sunday	Arboretum
23 September 23	Saturday	Lanyon Homestead
14 October 23	Saturday	Arboretum
26 November 23	Sunday	Arboretum





Right: Cynthia, Tralie, Ange, Janet, Joanne and Maggie at the Arboretum. Photo: Jennifer Griffiths.



### Friends Wollemi Pine Propagation Project



This is the third and final year of this exciting pilot project and the contract with Yarralumla Nursery concluded with effect 31 May 2023. The remaining Wollemi Pines were transported to the Arboretum by staff and will be stored at the back of the bonsai area until sold. The total cost of the project was \$15,481.65 which includes licences to sell protected plants, the commercial printing of plants tags and brochures and the purchase of boxes to contain seed cone bracts. The Certificates of Authenticity were produced in-house by the Arboretum. This is your last chance to buy one of the very special trees. The following table provides a brief cost summary of the project.

### Friends Wollemi Pine Propagation Project Cost Summary

Pot size	Plants Supplied	Cost (ea)	YN Cost Wollemi	Trees Sold	Price (ea)	Received	Profit	Donated	Available For sale
300mm (lge)	20	\$200	\$4,000	11	\$395	\$4,345	\$345	5	4
200mm (med))	80	\$100	\$8,000	51	\$295	\$15,045	\$7,045	9	9
200mm (sml)	27	\$100	\$2,700	18	\$185	\$2,980	\$180	3	17
Super Tube (Mini)	1	\$33	\$33	1	\$150	\$150	\$117		
Super Tube (Bonsai)	2	\$33	\$66	1	\$245	\$245	\$179	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>		<b>\$14,799</b>	<b>82</b>		<b>\$22,765</b>	<b>\$7,966</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>

The Friends generously donated 18 Wollemi Pines from the project to a number of organisations. Also as part of this project, two super tubes were potted up as bonsai by Mike (photo above). One of these special trees was sold during the Bonsai Reshaped Market Weekend and the other was given to Trish Keller OAM when she stepped down as Chair of the Friends at the AGM in May.

Another exciting outcome has been the research paper written by Dr Roger Hnatiuk and recently published in the Australian Journal of Botany on the previously undocumented phenomenon of side branching which was observed occurring in many of the Wollemi growing in this project.

Congratulations to Roger, for his meticulous research and paper which will add to the body of scientific and horticultural knowledge for this rare and endangered iconic Australian species. Roger is also the owner of a serendipitously rare “miniature” specimen of Wollemi Pine that emerged during this project and which will form the basis of further propagation and study to see if this quirky genetic feature is passed on to progeny. If it does, then there will be huge potential for the Wollemi bonsai market!

The benefits from this project are:

- Fundraising success as all project costs are covered and a profit realised, also as a demonstration that such “high value” items for sale can be successful.
- Ongoing partnerships established between the Friends, the Yarralumla Nursery and other organisations and businesses as well as the public.
- Increased horticultural knowledge and experience of successful propagation and growing of Wollemi under local conditions.
- The discovery, documentation, and publication of a scientific research paper in the Australian Journal of Botany about side branching observed during the project.
- The continued conservation and preservation of this rare and endangered species through the spread of information and the presence of physical robust specimens through sales.

It has been an incredible journey and sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved!

## **What's New about Wollemi Pines at the Arboretum?**

Article provided by Roger Hnatiuk

Wollemi pines are not only known for their rarity, but their branching pattern is unique in their family (Araucariaceae) and possibly in the whole of the conifers (cone bearing plants).

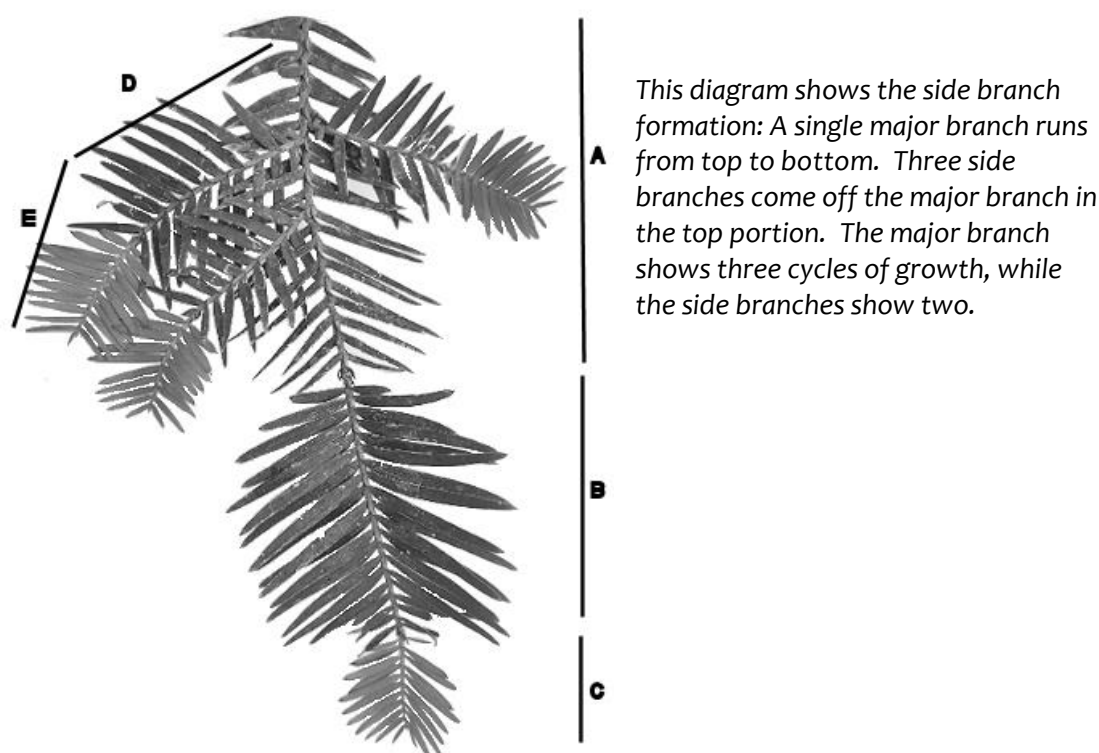
If you look at your own Wollemi, or the ones at the Arboretum Forest 33 or even pictures online, you can see that the branches coming off the trunk are long, have leaves along their sides, but no side branches. Until now, the only known exceptions to this pattern were the occasional production of 1-4 side branches just below, or behind, the tip of the branch when that tip has been damaged or had a cone produced there.

The Friends Wollemi Propagation project organised by Ange McNeilly, saw nearly 200 seedlings grown at Yarralumla Nursery, in preparation for sale to raise funds for the Arboretum.

I was providing botanical advice to the project. Suddenly in December 2021, I noticed several of the seedlings were producing side branches without the tip of the branch being damaged. These side branches were only on ‘one-year-old’ parts of the main branches. The phenomenon was repeated the following growing season at the Nursery, and in some ‘privately-owned’ seedlings from the original set.



The cause of this unexpected abundance of side branches is not known, but it adds some important information about the potential growth of this iconic and still little-known species.



My work titled *Secondary branching in Wollemia nobilis* (Araucariaceae), an unexpected occurrence has been published in the scientific literature, as it is of some significance. If you want more information, you can get a copy from the CSIRO publisher at <https://www.publish.csiro.au/BT/BT22049>, or you can contact me for a copy.

I'd just warn you that the language is quite technical, as botanists have many terms they use with specific meanings so that the different parts of plants can be clearly talked about, at least to other botanists.

## My (other) favourite plant podcast & Green Hills

Article provided by Joanne Maples

In recent newsletters I've talked about the **Branch Out** and the **In Defense of Plants** podcast. Here is another of my favourite plant podcasts—this time from Britain, so English accents. This one is no longer being regularly broadcast, as it ran for only 25 very interesting episodes from 21 July 2014. But still available.

### **Plants: from Roots to Riches**

by Kathy Willis for BBC Radio 4

found at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b048s3my/episodes/downloads>

This podcast series talks about the changing relationship humans have had with plants over the last 250 years—from tools to exploit, to objects of beauty, to being an essential

resource we must conserve. Episodes are generally about 15 minutes, though 5 episodes at a time are also bundled into hour-long 'omnibus' episodes.

To choose your episodes go to the link above and listen to episodes on plant-related topics. Here is a selection:

- Plants to shape society: about Sir Joseph Banks and plants to shape the British Empire
- Taming the exotic: about the Amazonian water lily and innovations needed to get it to flower
- Multiple genes: the mystery of how a plant can have multiple forms
- Unlocking biodiversity: about the tools needed to map the world's flora
- Dynamic rainforest: how DNA analysis is providing new insights into plants as regulators of our planet.

Also, if you are interested in Trevor Lipscombe's paper on Green Hills, his article is: Trevor Lipscombe. 2023. *The Green Hills: Griffin and Weston's Forgotten Arboreal Backdrop*. Canberra Historical Journal no. 90, March 2023. ISS 0313–5977. Canberra & District Historical Society Inc.

Happy listening and reading! Joanne Maples

## Warm Trees Nearly Here!

The annual installation of colourful scarves at the Arboretum will be happening again this July. Our partner this year is the South African High Commission, so around 200 volunteers have been knitting and crocheting scarves in the colours of the South African flag. They have also been making items for a design for the gabion wall leading to the entrance to the Village Centre. The design features the national tree, flower and bird of South Africa, as well as one of our forests that is native to southern Africa and has amazing red flowers.

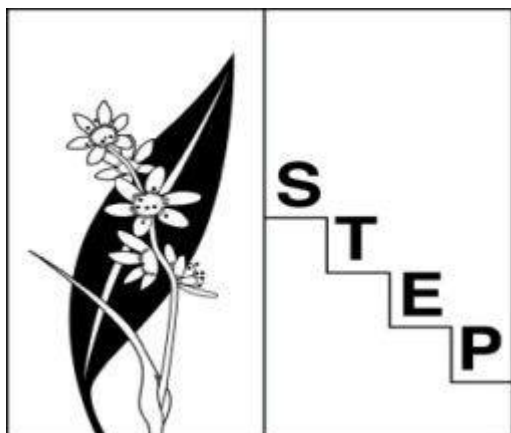
It is not too late to get involved! You can still knit a scarf, or if you want to do something quicker and smaller you can knit leaves for one of the trees or crochet the fruit for another tree. Or if you want something that is more active and outdoors, you can volunteer to help install the scarves, which will start on Friday 23 June and run over the next few days.

And if you are busy or away over the next few weeks, you can also get involved in early August when we take down the scarves, wash them and make them into rugs to give to local charities.

And finally, if you prefer to volunteer in a different role altogether, Jan is looking for some extra administration and coordination help for next year's Warm Trees. Ideal for someone who wants to be involved in volunteering activities at the Arboretum, but just for a relatively short time.

For more information, please contact Jan Morgan, Warm Trees 2023 convener, at [janmorgan2@me.com](mailto:janmorgan2@me.com).

## News from STEP – Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park Forest 20



Hello all

The gardens down in Forest 20 are really starting to reap the benefits of intensive weeding, mulching and planting over the autumn period. Warm days and regular rainfall have made for ideal gardening conditions and working bees have been well attended. There are still a lot of plants in flower including members of the Daisy Family (Asteraceae), Grevilleas, Eucalypts and River Buttercups.

As is common in autumn, we also have various fungi popping up, including the appropriately-named “Spectacular Rust gill” (pictured below) which clusters around the base of one of the *Eucalypt nortonii* along the Central Path. Fortunately, these fungi appear to feed on dead wood only and should not affect the health of the tree.



Our focus now is to ensure the plants are labelled and receive appropriate after care. The STEP volunteers have divided into “watering groups” who check new plants each week and ensure that none dry out.

It is rewarding to note that more people are visiting the gardens since they have been re-established and it is not uncommon to see people studying the names of plants and taking photos.

We have had several groups come on pre-arranged walks recently, including the Volunteer Guides from the National Botanic Gardens. This provided an excellent opportunity for information exchange and raises the awareness of the Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park and the National Arboretum.

On ACT Reconciliation Day (29 May) several of our volunteers were stationed down in the Bush Tucker Garden between 10 am and 12 noon. Visitors who attended the Arboretum that day were able to come down for a walk in Forest 20 and ask questions during that time. We encourage everyone to come down and pay us a visit!

Thanks and regards  
Jane Cottee  
President STEP



## Chat with Cally

Dear Friends and Volunteers

It's been a busy period at the Arboretum, and I want to thank all of you who for the hours of assistance and support you have provided to help make our visitor experiences so special.



As part of the Arboretum's 10 Year Celebration, Lish Fejer from ABC Radio Canberra, broadcast live from the National Arboretum Canberra on 4 April 2023. Lish interviewed lots of our inhouse stars over the course of the morning.

*Lish and her team get ready for the day!*



Minister Rebecca Vassarotti MLA (right) officially launched the **40th Canberra and Region Heritage Festival at the Arboretum** on 19 April 2023. 'Sharing Stories', awakening a sense of place and belonging was the festival theme for 2023. A themed guided forest walk took in the views of Canberra and shared stories of the Canberra landscape. In addition, a children's event involved a quest and special fairy hunt through the 100-year-old, heritage listed, Cork oak forest.

The Arboretum celebrated **Canberra Tree Week** from 29 April to 7 May, with a range of activities from Guided Tree Week Walks, Poetry of Autumn Forest Walks, Exhibition by local photographer Graham Gall, and a Harvest Stall selling jams, chutneys and preserves, made with organic produce harvested from the Arboretum's forests and gardens.

The **Gala Dinner to celebrate the Arboretum's 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday** was held on Friday 5 May 2023. Ngunnawal Elder, Aunty Violet Sheridan welcomed guests to Country. A wonderful highlight of the evening was the performance by William Barton, distinguished composer, didgeridoo virtuoso and 2022 Queensland Australian of the Year, accompanied by the Ellery String Quartet. William Barton dedicated a solo of 'Bird Song at Dusk' to the Arboretum as a 10th birthday gift.

*William Barton preforms on the night*



Visitors were immersed in Indigenous culture at **Canberra Reconciliation Day** held at the National Arboretum on 29 May.

The day started with a Smoking Ceremony followed by Welcome to Country. A sea of hands greeted visitors as they stepped out of the Village Centre.

Free activities throughout the day included language workshops, basket weaving and boomerang decorating, a portrait exhibition, panel discussions, musical performances, traditional storytelling, all while enjoying the Arboretum.



A second **Forest Shelter** will be constructed in coming months in Forest 43 (Black tupelo). This Shelter has been commissioned by EPSDD to create a place of reflection to recognise the impact of the 'Mr Fluffy' loose fill asbestos insulation on many thousands of Canberrans. The chosen site has magnificent views over the city and is surrounded by rocky outcrops featuring endemic plants, mosses and lichens .

**FORESTS UPDATE: AUTUMN FOREST DETAILING** Forest 10, the Californian fan palm *Washingtonia filifera*, has been pruned with the assistance of the volunteer working bees. Pruning has also been completed in Forest 45, Chilean myrtle *Luma apiculata*; as well as detailing of the Grass trees, *Xanthorrhoea glauca* in Forest 11.

In line with the Propagation Program, replanting to infill spaces has been completed in these forests: American yellowwood *Cladrastis kentukea*; Euphrates poplar *Populus euphratica*; and Franklin tree *Franklinia alatamaha*. The Forests Team have been busy with planting and mulching in Forest 79 Kurrajong *Brachychiton populneus*. Recycled Dracena guards and frost cloth have been installed in Forest 58, Silk floss tree *Ceiba speciosa*, to protect the forest during winter. A field trip to Bendora Arboretum by Fran, Owen and Kieran to collect Sugar pine cones for propagation, although unsuccessful (no cones present) was much enjoyed.

**GARDENS** The Gardens crew have worked with the volunteer working bees to undertake mulching in both the POD Playground and the upper tiers of the Crepe myrtle forest (carpark), installing Coir logs to assist with mulch retention and water management.

New Banksias have been planted in the POD Playground and Bronze Ramblers planted around the Forest Shelter. Full Lawn renovations along with hedging have been completed throughout the Gallery of Gardens and the Discovery Gardens. Now is a beautiful time to visit!

#### **NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING COLLECTION NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who experienced and participated in the March Bonsai Reshaped event. Thank you to our creative artists, Nik Rozman from Slovenia and our very own Sam Thompson for showcasing the arts of bonsai and penjing in Australia. It was great to see the smiling faces of beginners reconnecting with nature with their miniature styled trees, and



the intermediates walking away with new aspects and ideas to take their bonsai to the next level.

Bonsai After Dark was a fabulous night under the lights of the Village Centre. Nik and Sam showcased their bonsai skills during live demonstrations, adapting their designs as some



branches snapped (audibly).

The Bonsai Market Stalls took place over the weekend in the Terrace

Room. The four vendors from around Australia sold a wide variety of bonsai trees and tools providing inspiration and advice to visitors.



**CENTENARY BONSAI PRIZE** The NBPCA are very excited to announce Peter Hanrahan as the winner of the Centenary Bonsai Prize 2023 for his outstanding native bonsai *Banksia ericifolia*, Heath Banksia. The Centenary Bonsai Prize is offered every 10 years to celebrate the centenary of Canberra as the nation's capital in 2013. Australian artists are invited to submit their work by photograph. Entries are judged by a panel of representatives from various parts of the Australian Bonsai Community. The prize is awarded to the entrant who demonstrates the highest artistic and horticultural qualities in bonsai and penjing. The

Centenary Prize is an acquisition prize and the winning tree is now part of the Collection.

**CONGRATULATIONS SAM** The NBPCA would like to extend our congratulations to our very own Sam Thompson for winning 1st prize at the recently held Bonsai Open Competition on the Central Coast, NSW. This is now the second year in a row that Sam has won the Open Competition.

**Tree** Cork bark Japanese black pine, *Pinus thunbergii* 'Corticosa'

**Pot** Antique Chinese, Wu Zhi Lai  
**Stand** Lindsay Beb





**BONSAI POT ACQUISITION PRIZE** The NBPCA had a number of fantastic entries for the 2023 Bonsai Pot Acquisition Prize in beautiful earthy tones and textures inspired by nature. Judges were looking for aesthetics, practicality, creativity and suitability for the selected tree the *Olea europaea* European olive. First prize went to Patrick Kennedy for his stunning handmade pot glazed with his own hardwood ash glaze. The light grey with hints of olive green beautifully complements the tree's natural colouring. Patrick's pot will be a permanent feature in the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia. Second prize was a tie between Marie Hewartson and Luke Parsons.



Hope to see you soon at the Arboretum!

Cally Earnshaw  
Community Engagement Officer

## Australia's 2023 Eucalypt of the Year is the... *Angophora costata*!



It's no wonder the tree is so well-loved, with those fantastically wiggly limbs that capture the imagination, and that smooth red bark that calls out to be touched!

Known as kajimbourra by the Dharawal people, the Sydney Red Gum is synonymous with the sandstone escarpments of the Greater Sydney region, where it grows in woodlands on shallow, sandy soils. Also known as the Smooth-barked Apple, the species is distributed from Bodalla on the NSW South Coast to Coffs Harbour (NSW North Coast), from the coast to adjacent inland ranges. Interestingly, there are disjunct populations on sandstone escarpments west of Townsville, suggesting a wider historic distribution.



Many Australians will be most familiar with the Sydney Red Gum as an important part of the urban forest in our cities and towns. With its broad trunk, attractive bark and spreading form, the species has been planted widely across suburban parklands and streetscapes and is beloved well beyond its natural range. At the Arboretum, a Sydney Red Gum can be found in the National Bonsai and Penjing collection.

The Sydney Red Gum has this in common with this year's runners-up, the Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) and Red Flowering Gum (*Corymbia ficifolia*). Each are so widely and commonly planted they have become part of the Australian psyche, at least in the south, where they evoke strong memories of childhood summers and days past.

Eucalypt Australia has now celebrated National Eucalypt Day in Australia for ten years.

To find out more go to: <https://www.eucalyptaustalia.org.au/>

## Cosy up this winter with a good book

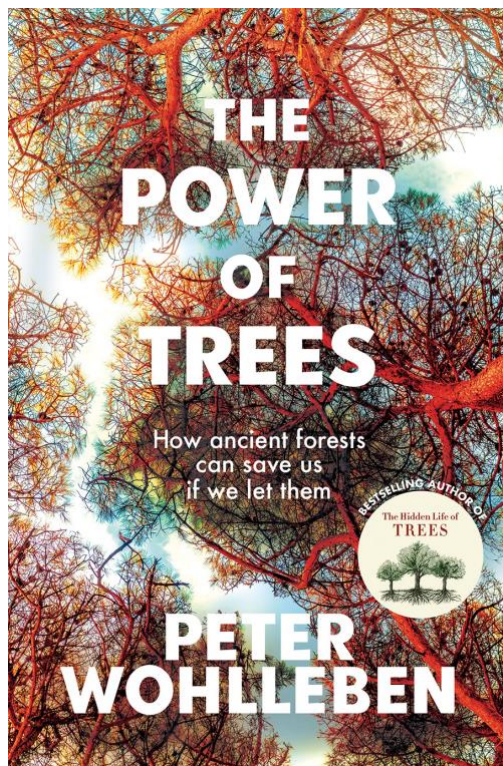
The first collection of books will give you a fascinating insight into the nature of plants and our species' need to interact, tame, collect and harness them. Intrepid adventurers, Raynor Winn and Ya Reeves will take you on adventures through the wilds of Scotland and the Australian Alps. Then lastly, a gorgeous book on how to make the most beautiful floral displays from our native flora.

I hope you enjoy this collection.

Mel  
The Curatoreum

### ***The Power of Trees: How Ancient Forests Can Save Us If We Let Them***

by Peter Wohlleben \$34.99



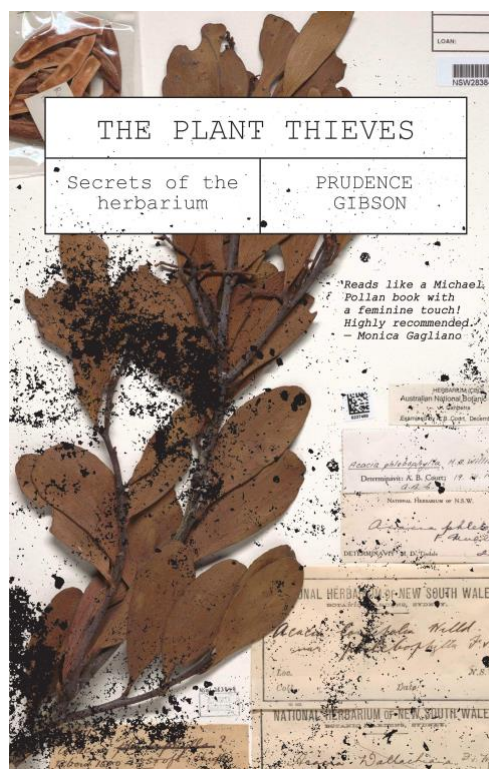
*The Power of Trees* is forester Peter Wohlleben's follow-up to his internationally bestselling *The Hidden Life of Trees*. It is as fascinating and eye-opening as it is trenchant in its critique: on the one hand, Wohlleben shares astonishing discoveries about how trees pass knowledge down to succeeding generations that helps them survive climate change; on the other, he is unsparing in his criticism of those who wield economic and political power – who plant trees exclusively for the sake of logging and virtue-signalling, even as they ruthlessly exploit nature. *The Power of Trees* is a love letter to the forest and a passionate argument for protecting nature's boundless diversity – not only for the trees, but also for ourselves.



***The Plant Thieves: Secrets of the herbarium***  
by Prudence Gibson \$39.99

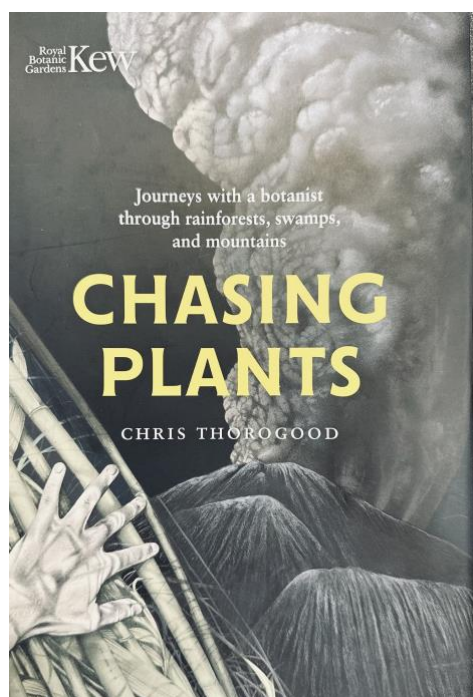
In *The Plant Thieves*, Prudence Gibson explores the secrets of the National Herbarium of New South Wales and unearths remarkable stories of plant naming wars, rediscovered lost species, First Nations agriculture, illegal drug labs and psychoactive plant knowledge.

Gibson reveals the tale of the anti-inflammatory plant that saved a herbarium manager when she was collecting in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, stories about the secret Wollemi pine plantation (from one of its botanical guardians) and the truth about a beach daisy that has changed so much in 100 years that it needs to be completely reclassified. She also follows the story of the black bean Songline, a recent collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, to find the route of this important agriculture plant.



*The Plant Thieves* is both a lament for lost and disappearing species and a celebration of being human, of wanting to collect things and of learning more about plant life and ourselves.

***Chasing Plants: Journeys with a Botanist Through Rainforests, Swamps and Mountains***  
by Chris Thorogood \$59.99

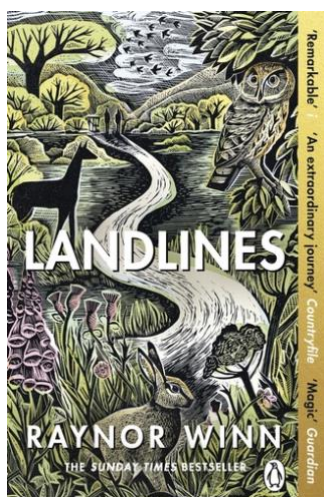


In his hair-raising adventures across Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, Chris Thorogood treads a death-defying path over cliffs, up erupting volcanoes, through typhoons, and out into the very heart of the world's vast, green wilderness. Along the way, he encounters pitcher plants, irises and orchids more heart-piercingly beautiful than you could ever imagine. An internationally acclaimed botanical illustrator, Thorogood conjures his adventures back to life in his electric paintings, which feature throughout the book. Joining his wild adventures is to be under a green spell: you'll never think of plants the same way again.

***Landlines***, by Raynor Winn \$24.99

Raynor knows that her husband Moth's health is declining, getting worse by the day. She knows of only one cure: the healing power of walking.





Embarking on a journey across the Cape Wrath Trail, over 200 miles of gruelling terrain through Scotland's remotest mountains and lochs, Raynor and Moth look to an uncertain future. Fearing that miracles don't often repeat themselves.

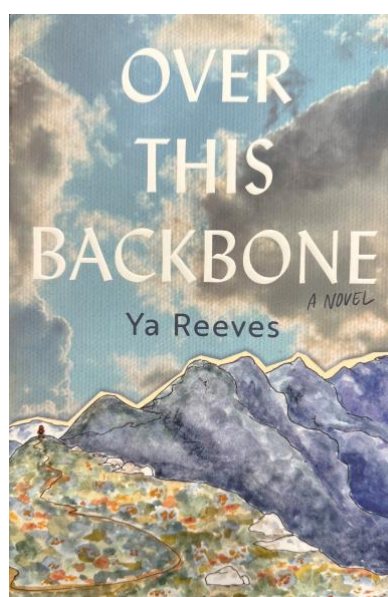
But for all the physical struggle, there is healing. And so when their journey ends, they do what they know best: they keep walking . . . Their journey began in fear. But can it end in hope?

**Over This Backbone**, by Ya Reeves \$34.99

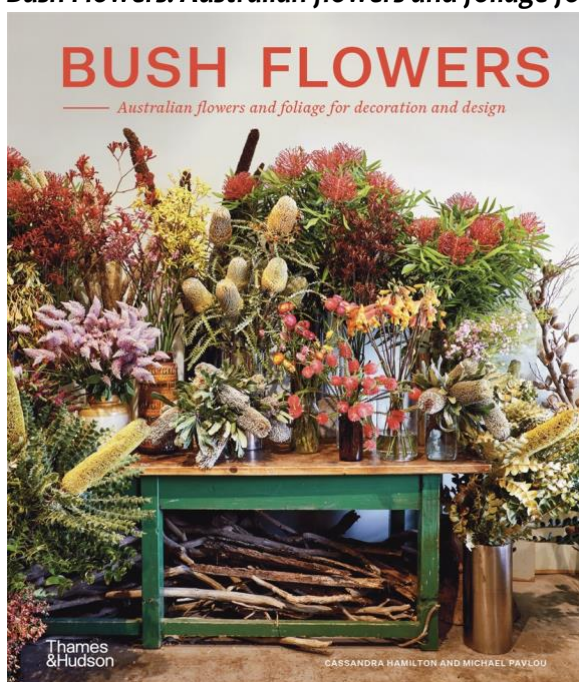
Peta has a plan that she is determined to follow – a timeline, things to prove—but nothing is as expected. She is ghosted by wild dogs, almost trampled by horses, hunted down by the police, dehydrated and flooded-in; but none of this compares

to the rollercoaster that is her relationship of the past year.

Shifting between Peta's journey across the Australian Alps Walking Track and her past, we learn about Peta and Ben's tumultuous connection, her attempts to extract herself, and her subsequent experiences in the South Australian desert that both liberated and shattered her. *Over This Backbone* is about the things we try to bury—about when 'I'm fine' means the opposite, when battling alone doesn't equate to strength. It is about the Australian landscape and the way it seeps into our bones, the way it rattles and calms us. It is about walking a long way and walking away.



### ***Bush Flowers: Australian flowers and foliage for decoration and design***



by Cassandra Hamilton, Michael Pavlou  
\$59.99

Native flora and foliage offer a beautiful alternative in the sustainability-challenged cut-flower industry. Our diverse landscape and climate produce incredible flowers that inspire our gardens and fuel our creativity. Here are over 50 plant profiles with notes on growing, cutting, conditioning, arranging and drying, with florists' insights on what makes them so special. *Bush Flowers* will give you everything you need to bring Australian native plants into your home, and to see the bush around you in all its beauty.

## What We've Achieved!

Below is a summary of how the Friends have contributed to the development of the National Arboretum Canberra, as presented to Friends at the AGM in May 2023.

**Financial contribution:** The Friends have funded:

- The first Forest Shelter on the Arboretum site (March 2022)
- 5-year leasing of the Ngala Tour bus (late 2019)
- The Friends Garden atop Dairy Farmers Hill (2018)
- Zigzag Garden No 19, the Saltbush Garden (2018)
- The Arboretum Story 2003-2023– a 30-minute documentary on the development of the Arboretum
- Retrofitting a vehicle trailer for Working Bees' use (2020)
- Provision of guide uniforms and volunteer hi-vis vests
- A number of Arboretum community engagement activities
- Centenary Gift of a Fire Trailer - can be used for watering and other maintenance

Financial contributions to the National Arboretum have been made possible from a variety of sources, including:

Wollemi Pine Propagation Project – which has seen the growth from seed (each individually provenanced from the Wollemi Pine Forest) of over 130 Wollemi Pines

Regular Harvest Group Market Stalls, where sales of chutneys, jams etc are made by volunteers from produce from the Discovery Garden and forests

Sales of The Arboretum Book – and the revised edition published in 2022 – which was produced and created by members of the Friends

Sales of annual calendars, with images captured from around the Arboretum throughout the year

Sales of Golden Wattle Seed packets, with seed sourced from the Golden Wattle Garden near the Cork oak car park.

Fundraising events such as the 2021 Friends' Dinner to help fund the Friends Forest Shelter

And most importantly, membership fees

### **Volunteer effort**

Many Friends are regular volunteers in a range of Arboretum activities, such as:

National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia – greeting visitors and assisting in the maintenance of the Collection

Working Bees – general maintenance of the forests led by the NAC horticultural team

General guiding – around the Village Centre and into the Forests and Gardens beyond

Harvest Group – gardening, harvesting, cooking and preserving produce from the Forests

STEP (Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park) – maintaining Forest 20

Warm Trees – knitting and crocheting to add winter colour to Arboretum

Ngala Tour Bus guides – describing the Arboretum forests and features to passengers

Citizen Science projects – eg frog watch and Wollemi seed collection

School holiday programs – assisting NAC staff in their delivery

Administration of the Arboretum parking pass system

Management of the Friends organisation in accordance with ACT legislative requirements  
Provision of an online environment including a website, social media, newsletters, email updates

## Friends Council Members (Elected) May 2023

**Chair:** Vacant  
**Deputy Chair:** Mike Woolley  
**Treasurer:** Lynley Rees  
**Secretary:** Del Da Costa  
**Publications Officer:** Nicole Pietrucha  
**STEP representative:** Hugh Milloy  
**Members:**  
Fran Hinton  
Marelle Rawson  
Maggie Hawes  
Ian Chambers  
Barry Langshaw

**Donations and Sponsorship Manager:** Trish Keller OAM (not a Council position)

## Thank you to all our Sponsors and Contributors

If you have ideas for articles, or items that might be of interest to the Friends such as stories or photos from the Arboretum or further afield, please contact me Nicole Pietrucha on: [pietruchanac1@gmail.com](mailto:pietruchanac1@gmail.com). Many thanks to the people who have contributed articles and photos for this and previous issues of the Newsletter, and given generously of your time to write, read and proofread. I could not do it without your help.





Friends new website: <https://friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au>

Friends new email address: [contact@friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au](mailto:contact@friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au)

## How to join the Friends

Visit [arboretumcanberra.org.au](https://friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au) to join online or to find out more about the benefits of being a member

OR

Email your details to: [contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au](mailto:contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au) and pay by funds transfer or cheque

OR

Complete the Application Form and mail it to:

The Secretary, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra,  
PO Box 48, Campbell, ACT 2612, and pay by funds transfer or cheque.

- ☐ **Bank details for funds transfer:**  
Westpac, Petrie Plaza, Canberra, ACT: BSB 032 719.  
Account: 375379 – please include surname in description.
- ☐ **Cheques payable to:** Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

Membership type	1 year	2 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$55	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Concession*	\$25	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Club/Association**	\$100	\$180
<input type="checkbox"/> Business**	\$500	\$900

\*Pensioners, health card holders & students

\*\*See website for details

## Membership Application Form

Membership type: .....

Title: ..... First name: .....

Last name: .....

OR

Club/Association/Business name: .....

Address: .....

..... State: ..... P/code: .....

Email address for newsletter and updates: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Number of parking passes: .....

Total amount payable (include membership/s and parking pass amounts): \$ .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Parking Pass** 1 year

☐ Friends' Annual Parking Pass \$35 per vehicle

For a parking pass, please include your vehicle's registration number. ....

**Note:** An Individual Member is entitled to apply for one Parking Pass at the Friends' rate and a Household Member is entitled to apply for two Parking Passes at the Friends' rate.

*Parking passes are issued for one year from the date of purchase.*