



NEWSLETTER Issue 60 September 2023

Chair's Note

Dear Friends

Welcome everyone to the Spring newsletter and my first time sharing some Friends' happenings with you. The most exciting news I have is that our documentary, which chronicles the first 20 years of the Arboretum, from 2003 to 2023, is now publicly available to view from either the Arboretum or Friends websites.



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Chair's Note Continued

Thanks to the creative skills and dedication of the team at SRH Filmmakers, the Friends have provided a legacy for the Canberran and broader community, which for some of us reminds, but for others, informs them of the journey of the Arboretum's development to become one of Canberra's top attractions.

We are so proud of the documentary that SRH produced for us that we have nominated it for recognition in the 2023 National Trust (ACT) Heritage Awards. Fingers crossed ...

Warm Trees was again a great event, providing a very informative Village Centre display by the South African High Commission and visitors to the Arboretum with much colour and many photo opportunities along the gabion wall as well as in the various terrace and forest locations. Thanks Jan, the installation team and all the knitters and creators. And a big thanks to the Arboretum staff without whom we could not stage this winter warming event.



Below: Guests at the opening including Serena Williams, Ngunnawal Elder, the Acting South African High Commissioner Mr. Leonard Khoza, the ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, Scott Saddler AM Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum Canberra and University of Canberra Stromlo Park, Lebo Mokowena, First Secretary (Political), South Africa High Commission Canberra and Warm Trees Convenor, Jan Morgan at the official opening of the Warm Trees celebration on 6 July.





Jan Morgan received scarfs knitted by Sophia and Louisa from the Canberra Montessori School - Banipreet Kaur from the school came for the installation along with the girls' families!

I am also able to report that August 2023 sees the finalisation of Wollemi Pine Propagation Project. After nearly four years since the 'sowing' of the idea, and three and a half years in execution, about 130 special Arboretum sourced Wollemi have found themselves in new locations across eastern Australia. Thanks very much to Ange, Colette, Roger, the Wollemi seed team and to Arboretum and Yarralumla Nursery staff involved. You can read more in Ange's report below.

You will be aware that we have moved to a new website platform and updated our 'look and feel' as well as our membership process. Just click on the:

[Join/Renew](#)

button at the top of each page and follow the instructions. We will be sending reminders to members leading up to, and if necessary, after expiry of their membership as we have had feedback that members didn't realise that their term of membership had expired.



Membership fees provide a large part of the Friends' capacity to provide tangible support to the Arboretum in the provision of visitor and community assets such as gardens, the Friends Shelter, the Ngala tour bus and of course the documentary. To help with growing our membership, the Friends have recently invested in two new

sandwich boards to promote membership and are now being placed on the terraces of the Arboretum.

I attended my first official Arboretum event on 15 August, an Australian Hero Tree dedication, of a Hoop pine dedicated to Melissa Doyle AM, Australian journalist, author and ambassador to numerous children's charities.



Melissa Doyle AM and Minister Chris Steele
MLA Special Minister of State



Frequent visitors to the Arboretum will notice that the Yoshino cherries are starting to flower which announces the arrival of spring. That rogue specimen just near the road had flowers by 18 August this year.

And a reminder to set aside the morning of the 13 October for the 10-year Celebration-BBQ Brunch hosted by the Arboretum for Friends and Volunteers.

See you at the Arboretum soon!

Mike
Chair
Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra

Let's Celebrate Wattles in Spring!

Hope you got to join in the activities at the Arboretum to celebrate National Wattle Day on 1 September led by Dr Suzette Searle, President of the Wattle Day Association Inc and with complementary activities in the STEP Forest (20). There is also good reason to plant a wattle this spring- and you can buy seeds from the Arboretum's own Wattle Grove (Forest 2) at The Curatoreum!



Plant a pioneer wattle this spring !

There is great variation between Australia's 1,073 native acacias (wattles).

In general wattles are:

Good for low allergy gardens (insect-pollinated)

Fast-growing

Drought-tolerant

Grow well on poor soils

Fire-retardant

Frost-tolerant (depending on species)

Wattles...

improve the soil by adding nitrogen

create fast-growing visual screens & windbelts

create animal habitat

feed the parrots with protein-rich seed

feed the bees with protein-rich pollen

offer many choices for your garden

make great firewood for bbq's & pizza ovens

like to be pruned to keep them young

For more information visit the Wattle Day website

<https://wattleday.asn.au/about-national-wattle-day/>

and *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle)

<https://wattleday.asn.au/golden-wattle-acacia-pycnantha-australias-national-floral-emblem/>

Discovery Kitchen Garden & Harvest Group Update

Article and photos (unless otherwise attributed) by Ange McNeilly

Kitchen Garden

The garden has been particularly colourful during these past winter months and given the warm weather in July, plants such as alyssum, calendula, borage, violas, dianthus, and broad beans put on a burst of growth and were all flowering beautifully. When niece Jade visited, she exclaimed that she “could not believe how huge the viola flowers were and the wonderful honey scent of the alyssum!”



The seeds for summer vegetables sown in August will reach a good size to plant out in the garden around October/November when the danger of frost is less likely, although there is always the chance of late frosts. However, the overhead metal “umbrellas” will provide some protection. The many varieties of tomatoes, eggplants, and chillies as well as herbs such as sweet and purple basil and the different forms of parsley will be bought when the yearly allocation of funds is received.

Market Stall

The market stall held on Sunday, 20 August 2023 netted a profit of \$1,883, which included the sale of two Wollemi Pines, (one each sold by Vicki and Mike). On the day, there was an exhibition of paintings by Valentyna Crane in the Visitors Centre, and she kindly gave a tour of her works that progressed from particular views of the forests at sunrise through to the same views at sunset – extraordinarily beautiful views!

Due to the exhibition, the market stall tables were located next to The Curatorium, which meant a steady stream of people came through in both directions. Great crowds of



people were attracted to the Arboretum by the beautiful weather to either sit on the grass, fly kites or walk around the gardens.

Right: One of four wreaths made for sale using prunings of ornamental grapes and *eucalyptus pulverulenta* branches and a variety of dried botanical seedpods.



Left: Ange, Cathie, and Lorraine. Photo by Jennifer Griffiths.

There is still plenty of produce available for sale and there will be three more opportunities to buy local and support the Friends and the Arboretum as follows:

Market Stalls Scheduled for 2023

Date	Day	Location
23 September	Saturday	Grow Your Garden Plant Fair at Lanyon Homestead
14 October	Saturday	Arboretum
26 November	Sunday	Arboretum

Friends Wollemi Pine Propagation Project

As already mentioned in the previous newsletter, the Friends have donated Wollemi Pines from this project as follows:

Donated Wollemi Pines

	300mm (large)	200mm (medium)	200mm (small)	Bonsai	Total
Governor General's Residence in the ACT	3	2			5
Australian National Botanic Gardens	2	4	2		8
New Zealand High Commission	1	2			3
National Arboretum Canberra	4	8			12
Trish Keller OAM				1	1
Jon Stanhope AO			1		1
Total	10	16	3	1	30

This successful long-term pilot venture has now concluded with 100 Wollemi Pines sold and 10 of varying sizes remaining. These remaining trees were donated to the Arboretum for planting out in Forest 32 in early September 2023 and are included in the figures contained in the previous chart.



Left: After a job well done Pete, Kieran, and Ryan from the Arboretum Hort. Team successfully planted the donated Wollemi Pines at the New Zealand High Commission.

Sincere thanks go to the following people who have been instrumental to this project:

Scott Saddler AM, Executive Branch Manager of the Arboretum and all Arboretum personnel who have assisted most generously with this project over the years.

Dr Matthew Parker, Senior Director Branch Manager and General Manager of the Yarralumla Nursery and all Nursery personnel involved in this pilot venture.

Trish Keller OAM, former Chair of the Friends and all the FNAC Council members for supporting this project.

Mike Woolley, current Chair of the Friends and Vicki Woolley for their support and assistance with Wollemi sales.

Special thanks go to Colette Mackay OAM and Dr Roger Hnatiuk for their support, guidance, and companionship during the course of this project.

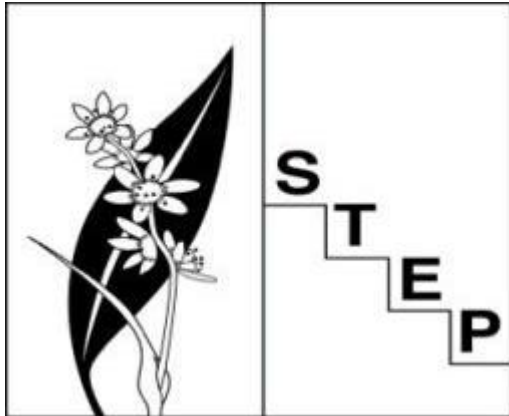
Right: How wonderful that this Wollemi Pine and little girl will grow up together.



Key Diary Dates for Friends

16 September	Floriade Opens
23 Sept	Plant Fair at Lanyon Homestead
1 October	Kite Fest
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
12 December	NAC & Friends End-of-Year Event 6-8pm: Thank you to Volunteers

News from STEP – Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park Forest 20



Hello all

Planting has been occurring at a rapid pace down in the gardens of Forest 20. Spring seems to have arrived a bit early this year and we already have several species of Acacia in bloom. This allowed us to provide great Wattle Walks as part of activities delivered in association with National Wattle Day on 1 September. Guided walks of 1 hour duration were on offer and provided a great way to learn about this amazing genus of plants and to also see how well the gardens are doing.

On 23 July a group of approximately 30 people from Canberra Nature Map visited the garden. As many of the plants found in Forest 20 are also listed on Canberra Nature Map it was an excellent opportunity for STEP volunteers and fellow plant lovers to share information. We hope to take more garden tours over the busy Spring period.

Our working bees continue to be well attended on Thursday mornings, but we always welcome newcomers! STEP volunteers meet between 8.00 am and 11.00 am on Thursdays. All equipment is supplied and we have a delicious, shared morning tea at 10 am. Happy Spring!

Regards Jane Cottee
STEP President



Chat with Cally

Dear Friends and Volunteers

It's so wonderful to see Spring transform the Arboretum, and to have been able to celebrate National Wattle Day. There is so much to look forward to as the weather warms up, including Floriade activities at the Arboretum and Kite Fest on 1 October. We also have two special events coming up for the Friends and volunteers, including the 10 Year Celebration-BBQ Brunch for Friends and Volunteers on 13 October and the NAC & Friends End-of-Year Event 6-8pm on 12 December.

Dr Suzette Searle, President of the National Wattle Day Association led education and celebration activities at the Arboretum as well as activities in STEP. Dr Searle also kindly provided this photo of Australia's national floral emblem *Acacia pycnantha* (Golden Wattle) in flower. © SD Searle



The year has been filled with special birthday celebrations and one of our valued volunteers, Agnes Walker is celebrating a decade of being a guide at the Arboretum.



Agnes has supported her special year with her donation planting her Central Valley Garden 4 with the beautiful *Camellia sasanqua* 'Yuletide'.

Kite Fest is coming up in the forthcoming Spring school holidays.



Once again, the Warm Trees July celebration was a huge success. Thanks so much to Jan Morgan and her team! Now in its 9th year, the colourful display was generously brought

to fruition through the hard work and creative endeavors of the Friends of the Arboretum along with many talented volunteers who contributed their valuable time and artistic knowledge to designing, knitting, crocheting, creating, and installing the vibrant designs.

During August, Luke Yeoward from Queensland was the second artist, as part of the 2023-2024 artist in residence program, to spend time in the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection.

The Miniature Bonsai Pot Acquisition is also now open to encourage the appreciation of the art of bonsai pottery and to highlight the beauty and functionality of bonsai pots even on a tiny scale. Australian bonsai potters are invited to submit their work for appraisal and for the work to be purchased by the Bonsai Trust Fund and displayed at the Collection for visitors to view. A panel of judges will select up to 20 pots based on the challenge criteria. Selected pots will be purchased from the maker and put on display in the Collection with a label crediting the potter.



The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection was also recently featured on Channel 7's House



and Garden show on Friday 11 August. You can catch up on @7plus if you were not able to watch on the night.

Above: Leigh Taafe, Curator of the NBPCA and show horticulturist Graham Ross.

With Spring, there is always lots to do at the Arboretum and the Working Bee volunteers recently pruned the carpet roses around the Village Centre.

Cally Earnshaw
Community Engagement Officer

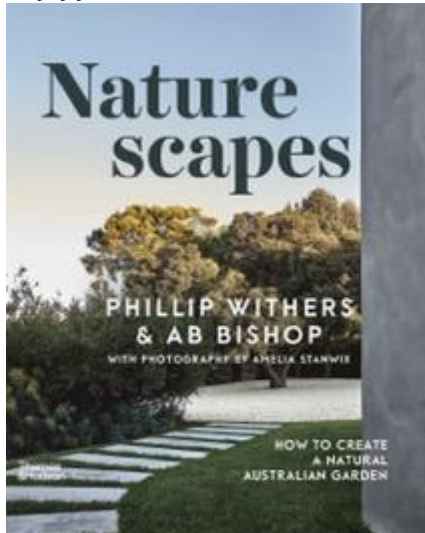
What's New and Noteworthy in The Curatoreum this Spring!

It's that time of year again, when new growth bursts forth and the publishing world starts inundating us with gorgeous and informative books. My picks so far include a garden design book to inspire and inform, and a microscopic study of ants. Beyond the garden, we are fortunate to be able to participate in enshrining an indigenous voice to parliament and government in the Constitution. For



those wanting to learn more about the Voice, you can find a selection of books in store and online.

Naturescapes: How to Create a Natural Australian Garden, by Phillip Withers & AB Bishop
\$59.99

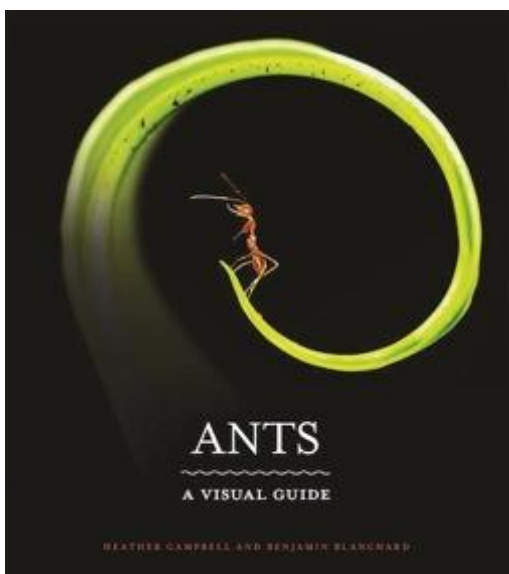
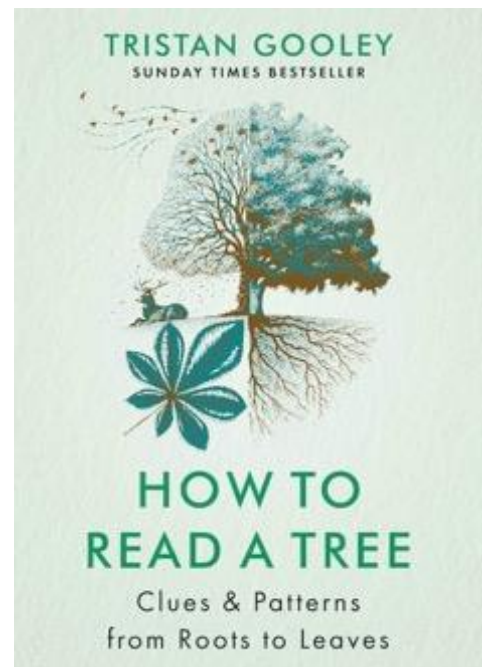


Landscape design expert Phillip Withers and habitat expert AB Bishop join forces to share their wealth of experiences in how to create stunning Australian gardens that support the local environment. Naturalistic gardens help plants, creatures and people thrive. This book shows how to take inspiration from your favourite natural areas and create your own outdoor wonderland.

How to Read a Tree: Clues & Patterns from Roots to Leaves, by Tristan Gooley
\$49.99

Each tree we meet is filled with signs that reveal secrets about the life of that tree and the landscape we stand in. The clues are easy to spot when you know what to look for but remain invisible to most people.

In *How to Read a Tree*, you'll discover the simple principles that explain the shapes and patterns you can see in trees and what they mean. And you'll learn rare skills that can be applied every time you pass a tree, whether you are in a town or a wilder spot. Once you have learned to see these things it is impossible to unsee them. We will never look at a tree the same way again.



ANTS - A Visual Guide, by Heather Campbell & Benjamin Blanchard
\$54.99

Plentiful and familiar, ants make up an estimated one-third of the world's insect biomass and can be found in virtually every part of the globe, from rain forest canopies to city sidewalks. But their importance is about more than numbers: ants are fundamental species in a range of habitats and their interactions with plants, fungi, and other animals ensure the survival of many fragile and complex ecosystems.

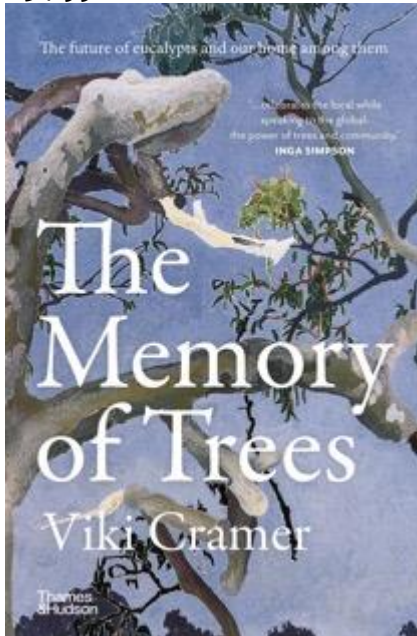
This beautiful book explores the extraordinary diversity of ants and offers insights into their elaborate social systems, investigating the

key collective and competitive behaviours that operate within their varied colony structures. Featuring exceptional close-up photographs and clearly organized thematic chapters, the book covers anatomy, evolution, life cycle, ecology, and other important topics.

The Memory of Trees: The Future of Eucalypts and Our Home Among Them, by Viki Cramer

Cramer

\$34.99



Most Australians see their world through eucalypts. From towering forests to straggly woodlands, in city parks, by the coast and in the bush, these are the trees that inhabit our familiar landscapes and national psyche. Yet the resilience of our eucalypt ecosystems is being tested by logging and land clearing, disease and drought, fire and climate change. In many places they are a faded remnant of those known by past generations. How important is the memory of these trees?

In search of answers, Viki Cramer takes us on a journey through the richest botanical corner of the continent, exploring forests of rugged jarrah and majestic karri, woodlands of enduring salmon gum and burnished-bark gimlet. Spending time with the people caring for these precious places, she interrogates the decisions of the past, takes a measure of the present and

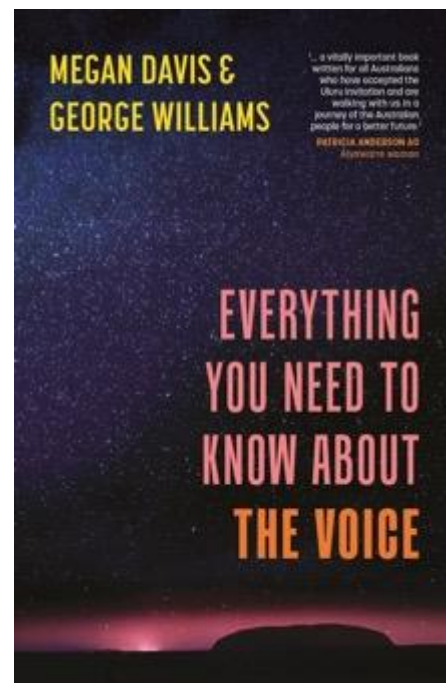
glimpses hope for the landscapes of tomorrow.

Everything You Need to Know about the Voice, by Megan Davis & George Williams

Megan Davis & George Williams

\$27.99

Everything You Need to Know About the Voice to Parliament, written by co-author of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Cobble Cobble woman Megan Davis, and fellow constitutional expert George Williams is essential reading on the Voice to parliament, how our Constitution was drafted, what the 1967 referendum achieved, and the Uluru Statement. It charts the journey of this nation-building reform from the earliest stages of Indigenous advocacy and, importantly, explains how the Voice to parliament offers change that will benefit the whole nation.



The Voice to Parliament Handbook: All the Detail You Need, by Thomas Mayo, Kerry O'Brien & Cathy Wilcox (illustrator)

\$16.99



Indigenous leader Thomas Mayo and acclaimed journalist Kerry O'Brien have written this handbook to answer the most commonly asked questions about why the Voice should be enshrined in the Constitution, and how it might function to improve policies affecting Indigenous communities, and genuinely close the gap on inequalities at the most basic level of human dignity.

News from Abroad

Norway: As we hosted Warm trees in July, Norway did likewise in Eidfjord!



USA: Mauricio Diazgranados, is the new chief science officer of the New York Botanical Garden and his appointment represents the first time that its chief scientist hails from the same region as so much of its Latin American collections. You can find out more at:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/31/science/new-york-botanical-garden-diazgranados.html>

Friends Council Members (Elected) July 2023

Chair: Mike Woolley
Deputy Chair: Fran Hinton
Treasurer: Lynley Rees
Secretary: Del Da Costa
Publications Officer: Nicole Pietrucha
STEP representative: Hugh Milloy
Members:
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. 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.

And if you haven't joined already, then the time is right to become a Friend!

<https://friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au/membership>

THE
CURATOREUM

Curated Objects, Thoughtful Gifts
And Fine Publications



ELECT PRINTING