



Chair's Note

Dear Friends

We've all been asking it, but I'll put it in writing – how green does the Arboretum look – indeed the greater Canberra region? Above average and extended rainfall has helped the growth of the forests to the extent that more of them are reaching the point that their tree canopies are touching, creating continuous shade beneath.



A quick re-cap ... In December last year, Friends and volunteers enjoyed our annual Christmas celebration in the Village Centre hosted by the Arboretum where volunteers were recognised for their contribution throughout the year. On behalf of the Arboretum, Scott Saddler awarded Joanne Maples, Volunteer of the Year, and others were recognised by Scott for their sterling service across the various volunteering areas. You can read

more in the Latest News on the website:

[Volunteer of the Year Award 2023 - Joanne Maples \(friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au\)](https://friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au)

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Chair's Note Continued

You can also find out more about Joanne and her love of the Arboretum later in this Newsletter. The Jake Keller scholarship was also announced at the celebration and went to Katherine Harris and was awarded by Michael Blasch representing the Horticulture and Floristry, Design and Technology Department at CIT and by Trish Keller OAM.

I am pleased also to announce that we have added another element to our documentary covering the first 20 years of the Arboretum. The lead landscape architect, Perry Lethlean has now been woven into the documentary after being interviewed late last year. The final tweaks are being made by SRH Communications, to the slightly extended documentary, and we will let you know when it is available for viewing.

Following our successful Wollemi Propagation Project last year, we have decided to sell to the public, some younger Wollemi that have become available. These were grown from seed collected at the Arboretum and used in a research project being undertaken by Roger Hnatiuk. While the research continues, these particular trees have served their purpose in the research and are ready for re-homing. Details to come.

The Harvest Group are in full swing with the fig harvest. This year, while the crop lasts, there is an emphasis on selling freshly picked figs on Saturday mornings. Keep an eye on the Arboretum socials for announcements.

Lastly, I was excited to learn that this year, one of the trees in the ginkgo forest produced 'fruit'. Picture below. This is unusually early for the age of these trees – as according to most literature on the topic it is about 20 years before this occurs. A magpie was there looking in amazement as well.



Don't forget to share your support, and in many cases, passion, for the Arboretum with your friends because we are always keen to welcome new members to our community.

[Join/Renew](#)

Mike
Chair
Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra

Key Diary Dates for Friends

Tuesday 9 April – 5.30pm Friends General Meeting

Tuesday 9 April 6.15pm – Seasonal Talk #1 David Rees – Topic: Butterflies of the Arboretum and ACT Region

Thursday 11-14 April Bonsai Reshaped-see below

Tuesday 14 May – 5.30pm -Margaret Whitlam Pavilion Friends' AGM

Tuesday 10 July – 12.30pm General Meeting and Seasonal Talk Guest Speaker TBA

Tuesday 9 Oct – 2.00 General Meeting Seasonal Talk #3 –Speaker TBA

December NAC & Friends End- of- Year event –6-8pm Thank You to Volunteers

U3A Trees of the Arboretum Courses 2024

The popular U3A 'Trees of the Arboretum' courses are again being offered this year. There are three courses, each running for 6 weeks in a classroom, plus two walks. Each session runs from 10 am to 12 noon. Please check the U3A website (u3acanberra.org.au) for further details, including how to enrol.

Tuesday 2 **April** to 14 May 2024, **Course 3:** Cook Community Centre, Room 1

Friday 23 **August** to 27 September, **Course 4:** Hughes Community Centre, Room 3

Thursday 17 **October** to 28 November 2024, **Course 2:** Hughes Community Centre, Room 3

Vote for your favourite Eucalyptus

Yes- there's still time to vote for your favourite Eucalyptus of the year for 2024. This is the seventh year Australians have been invited to vote.

<https://www.eucalyptaustralia.org.au/eucalypt-of-the-year-2024/>

Bonsai Reshaped- 11 to 14 April: Friends discount applies!



The poster features a large, detailed illustration of a bonsai tree in a pot on the left. To its right, the words 'BONSAI' are stacked vertically in large, bold, purple capital letters. Further right, the dates '11-14 April 2024' are written in purple. Below the dates, the text 'Our annual celebration of the art of Bonsai:' is followed by a bulleted list: '• Bonsai After Dark Event', '• Beginner Workshops', '• Intermediate Workshops', and '• Bonsai Markets'. On the far right, there is a purple circular badge with the text 'Friends 10% Discount' and a purple rectangular badge below it with the text 'Promo code: FR24-BR'. The background of the poster is light green with faint, stylized illustrations of trees and a sunset.

BONSAI

11-14 April 2024

Our annual celebration of the art of Bonsai:

- Bonsai After Dark Event
- Beginner Workshops
- Intermediate Workshops
- Bonsai Markets

Friends 10% Discount

Promo code: FR24-BR

Discovery Kitchen Garden and Harvest Group Update

(Article and Photos by Ange McNeilly unless otherwise specified.)

Lavender

January is lavender harvest time at the Arboretum. This year, the Harvest Group picked a vast quantity of the lavender growing around the Visitor Centre filling eight trugs for drying, processing, and storing before being packed into organza bags for future market stalls. Surprisingly, this lavender produced a great quantity of seed, which was packaged to sell as a new item. (The seed sown to check viability germinated within two weeks so there may be some lavender plants offered in future).



Above: Cathie harvesting the lavender in the Sensory Garden.



Above: Sandy and Nikki harvesting lavender around the Visitor Centre.

Kitchen Garden

The garden team continues to maintain and water the garden during the hot summer and autumn period even though there has been intermittent rain. Tomatoes were harvested early to make relish and chutney and Debbie (left), made 15 jars of delicious Warrigal greens pesto for the next market stall. The huge pumpkin plant spilling over the garden edge must have been too enticing, as only one pumpkin has remained from the several growing on the vine. Chillies also seem to be very attractive to visitors, as many seem to disappear! While we who maintain this garden do not mind children picking ripe strawberries, we do mind other produce being taken!



Above: Ange and Cathie with harvested lavender

Seed saving is another activity undertaken in autumn at the garden with nasturtiums, scarlet runner beans, Warrigal greens, and French marigolds gathered and dried. Seed from the best tomatoes are also saved for growing the following year. Most of the tomato plants with little or no fruit were composted to allow more airflow through the garden.

Fig Harvest & Market Stall

This is another bumper year for the fig forest at the Arboretum! The Harvest Group decided to sell fresh figs and the remaining preserves at pop-up market stalls held soon after picking. At the time of writing, there have been two pop-up market stalls.

The first pick occurred on Friday, 16 February with the market stall held on Saturday, 17 February from 10am to 12pm with takings of **\$842**. Thanks to Rosy for organising and to the pickers and sellers including Chris, Janet D, Mike, Lorraine, and Lyn.

The second pick was on Friday, 23 February and luckily, there were eight pickers with Maggie organising. The market stall held Saturday, 24 February between 10am and 12.30pm yielded takings of **\$928**. Thanks to Maggie and all the pickers as well as to Lorraine and Susan for sales. Our wonderful cooks made preserves from the unsold figs.



Left: Salesperson extraordinaire, Lorraine, selling figs to Mike while Maggie chats with another customer.



Above: Luscious figs!

Market Stalls

There are five market stalls scheduled for this year at the Arboretum are:

Sunday, 24 March 2024
Sunday, 5 May 2024
Sunday, 14 July 2024
Sunday, 22 September 2024
Sunday, 1 December 2024

Make sure to note your diaries and by buying our locally produced items, you will be supporting the Friends and the Arboretum. Monitor the website for something very special offered for sale this year at the Arboretum!

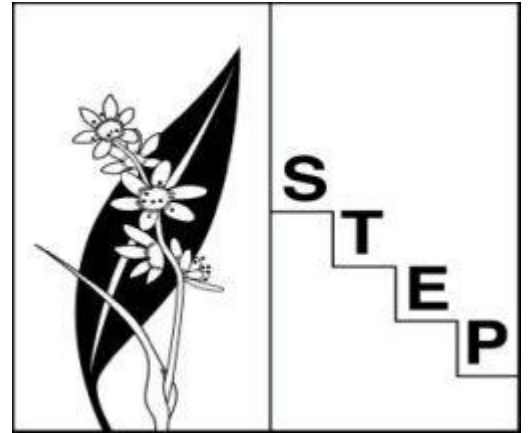
Goodbye Rhu!

Sadly, Rhu is leaving Canberra and the Arboretum. We thank her for her cheery helpfulness and wish her well for the future. Happy days!

News from STEP – Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park Forest 20.

Greetings from STEP and happy new year.

It has been an excellent growing season for us, with just enough rain to keep Forest 20 looking colourful and vibrant. Our hardy bunch of STEP-pers has continued to attend the working bees through the holiday season, and it has been lovely to see a lot of family groups enjoying the walks and vistas. Quite a few plants such as the Showy Copper Wire Daisies *Podolepis jaceoides* and Vanilla Lilies *Arthropodium milleflorum* have been flowering prolifically due to the mild summer and we have been able to collect seed. This will be used to create more seedlings for planting, and so the cycle continues!



One of our volunteers, Andrew Russell, was recognized at the National Arboretum Canberra's end of year 2023 Volunteer Recognition Awards ceremony. He was a worthy recipient of the Sterling Service Award and was acknowledged for the many hours of work that he contributes to STEP and the wider community. A talented and dedicated photographer, Andy has been an active member of STEP since its inception and produces our monthly photo sheet of interest in Forest 20 and quarterly members' newsletter. Congratulations Andy!



There has been no shortage of material for photographing this summer around the garden beds. The ephemeral wetland has been echoing with frogs and I have noticed an increased variety of insects. Some of these species damage our plants, like the Gumleaf Skeletoniser larvae (see photo I snapped on 18th January 24), but this is all part of a healthy ecosystem, so we let nature take its course. Our volunteers need to be careful when handling eucalypt vegetation though, as hairy caterpillars can cause a significant skin reaction. This is why we recommend wearing long sleeves, trousers and gloves when gardening.

As always, we encourage visitors to venture down to Forest 20 and explore the amazing range of Southern Tablelands regional flora. Or our working bees are on Thursday mornings from 8.30 am to 11.00 am each week.

Regards
Jane Cottee
STEP President

Volunteer of the Year 2023 Congratulations Joanne Maples

Contributed by Nicole Pietrucha



The Friends are thrilled that Joanne Maples, long-time stalwart of Arboretum volunteer activities, was announced as Volunteer of the Year for 2023 at our end-of-year celebration. Joanne contributed over 200 hours and nearly 100 shifts in 2023 across many activities such as guiding, the Harvest Group and event assistance. Her warm and informative approach to guiding enhances every visitor's experience. She shares her knowledge and passion with the wider group of volunteers and staff. And she appears in our Friends documentary film *The National Arboretum Canberra: A twenty-year story*, which is available for viewing from either the Arboretum's or our Friends' website.

To find out a little bit more about Joanne and her involvement at the Arboretum, I interviewed her and found out the following:

How long have you been a volunteer at the Arboretum and why did you get involved?

Joanne got involved with the Arboretum in about 2008, when she was driving to and from work and saw all this activity onsite and thought "Oh, what's going on here? They're planting trees ...". As a long-time tree-lover, Joanne contacted the Friends and was soon involved, starting with those early day activities including 'bucketing' for donations on open days and manning information tents.

Joanne is also a guide at the Australian National Botanic Garden and a member of the Friends of ACT Trees and of STEP, just to add more to her tree and plant-related interests.

What activities do you currently volunteer for? Do you have a favourite activity?

Joanne is involved in guiding—rostering herself for Welcome Walk, Forest Walk and coach tour shifts, as well as driving and guiding for Ngala bus tours. She picks figs with the Harvest Group and sometimes helps to man the market stall. She has also been engaged in citizen science seed counting for the Wollemi pine, led by the fabulous Roger Hnatiuk, and in helping with development of further bus tours. Last year, she shared her knowledge about different parts of the Arboretum with the other volunteers at monthly meetings, by giving two presentations. Joanne is currently working on a similar presentation about the Sensory Garden. She has been a contributor to the Friends Newsletter (thank you, Joanne).

While enjoying all these activities, her favourite is talking to people as a guide and this occupies most of her volunteering time for the Arboretum while onsite. At home, hours

spent delving into plant particulars for presentations and tour development, she also finds absorbing and keeps her brain active.

What's the question that you get asked most frequently when you are guiding people through the forests?

Joanne says, "Every forest walk I go on with people is an individual thing. To be honest, I can't nominate a question that people ask more than any other. I love it when there are small numbers of people, and I can have a real conversation with them about the Arboretum and the urban forest here in Canberra and what it means to have trees on the landscape."

What is the most interesting question you have been asked about the Arboretum?

"To date, that would have to be "Why do you call your tree plantings forests? I had to do a bit of research on this. While they are called forests they are more akin to mini-plantations. The trees are arranged as small plantations with allées between them and the grass in the allées and around the trees is mowed, though lately it has been hard to keep up with the grass growing. The design name for the Arboretum, *100 forests and 100 gardens*, seems to have started use of the word 'forest'."

Do you have a favourite time or tree at the Arboretum?

"Oh, well, at different times of the year, I'd probably choose something different. I love those pink *Toona sinensis*, Chinese mahogany, in the spring when they have new leaves. I also really like the *Cornus kousa*, Japanese flowering dogwood, when they have beautiful white bracts on the trees. But just for peace and quiet, the *Quercus suber*, cork oak."

What do you wish for the Arboretum in the future?

"I hope that there'll be much more emphasis on educational programs. I really think that there's a lot of capacity for involvement in educational programs, not only for school children, but also for adults. I'd like to see more emphasis on involvement with the universities around town as well. I think there's a lot of capacity for more education and research activity here. The Arboretum is a young institution. It's come a long way in building up infrastructure but hopefully it can move into more educational and research-related activities as time goes on."

Farewell and thankyou from Hans

This lovely message was recently received by the Friends:

"..... Just wanted to say that my wife and I are leaving Canberra to settle at Rosedale on the South Coast on 27/2 and want to thank everyone for their commitment and enthusiasm for the work that volunteers have done for decades. I'm sorry to be leaving the Arboretum after being involved from the early days of construction, it has been an important part of my life. I wish you all well and will now become involved in the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens."

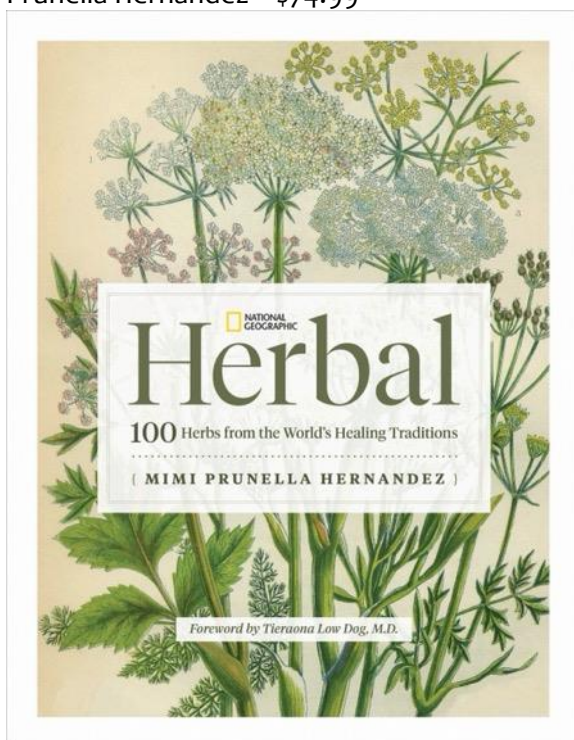
Hans

What's New at The Curatoreum

It's always magical to watch the colours of the Arboretum transform each Autumn from our vantage point inside the Village Centre. Below you'll find a selection of books to usher in the change of season, as well a locally made Arboretum tea towel that we're excited to have back in store.

Mel and The Curatoreum Team

National Geographic Herbal: 100 Herbs From the World's Healing Traditions by Mimi Prunella Hernandez – \$74.99

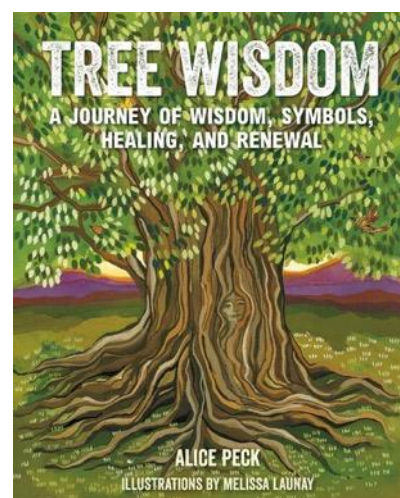


Targeted to the millions of consumers treating common ailments with herbal remedies, this authoritative guide to 100 essential herbs is chock-full of crucial information for the health-minded consumer, wellness advocate, gardener, and naturalist.

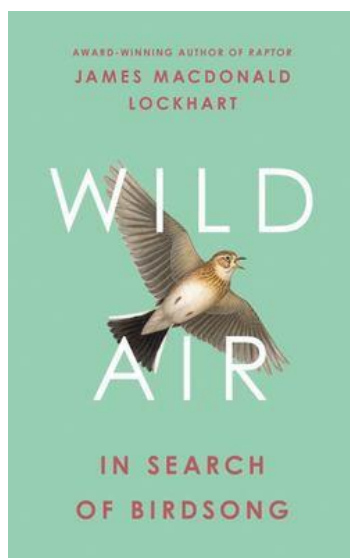
Written by the executive director of the American Herbalists Guild, *Herbal* blends traditional lore and current science, with information ranging from tips for the kitchen garden and home apothecary to news about activism in the global arena. Illustrated with vintage botanical drawings and vivid contemporary photography, it highlights hallowed traditions, from ancient Chinese and Ayurvedic principles to the Latin American curanderismo lineage and Gullah Geechee practices in the American South.

Tree Wisdom - A Journey of Wisdom, Symbols, Healing, and Renewal by Alice Peck. \$37.99

As author Alice Peck reflected on the maple tree in her backyard, she began to notice and then study its intricacies and changes. This became her regular meditation and inspiration. In *Tree Wisdom*, Alice shares what she has learned from that maple tree, and from the trees all around us. Every tree tells a complete and ongoing story, and like us trees feel and react to their environment and communicate in subtle but distinct ways. Alice explores trees from four perspectives: their roots—wisdom and understanding; their branches—symbols and rituals; their leaves—healing and science; and their seeds—transformation and spirituality. Filled with insights from botany to poetry, ecology to mythology, and herbalism to sacraments, *Tree Wisdom* explores the ways these grounded yet soaring entities can steady and move us, teach and transform us, inspire and comfort us.



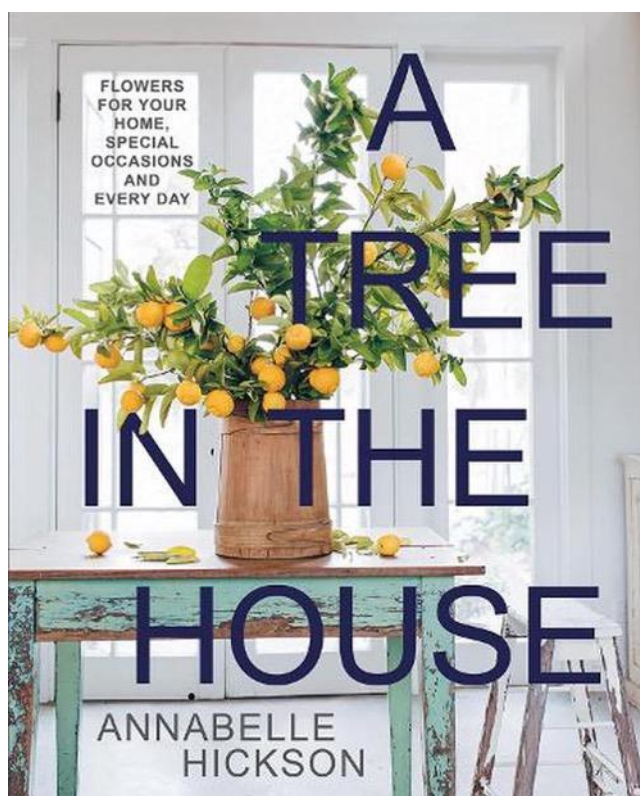
Wild Air – In Search of Birdsong by James Macdonald Lockhart. \$39.99



In *Wild Air*, James Macdonald Lockhart writes about a series of birds as though he has his granny's role of listening to birds' songs and calls and relaying what she heard to her aged, quite deaf father - the famous naturalist Seton Gordon. From a nightjar's strange churring song on a heath in the south of England, to a lapwing displaying over the machair in the Outer Hebrides, he writes about eight different birds who he has spent most time with, returned to most often and relays what he hears.

Whether in lowland heaths or dense scrub, he reveals how the sounds of the birds he listens to serve as an introduction to their lives and the environments they inhabit. Through its sensory journey through the natural world, *Wild Air* is a powerful argument for being still and listening.

A Tree in the House: Flowers for Your Home, Special Occasions and Every Day by Annabelle Hickson. \$50.00



A Tree in the House is part guide for the aspiring home florist, and part celebration of rural life in sync with nature.

The new edition of this book honours the joy and simple, natural beauty flowers bring to the home every day, with a special focus on foraged and locally and seasonally grown plants. Annabelle Hickson, founder and editor of Galah magazine, provides stunning ideas and instructions for flower installations and arrangements, covering beautiful, seasonal bouquets, flowers for friends, table and overhead arrangements and flower arrangements for special occasions, interspersed with gorgeous snapshots of her picturesque rural life. In words and pictures, this is a stunning ode to

flower arranging and is as much an aspirational window into rural life as an inspirational guide to creating beautiful, simple arrangements.

Celebrate the art of arranging flowers at home, for friends, for celebrations big, small and in-between, and for every day – throughout the year.

Arboretum Horizon Tea Towels by Gatbi. \$28.00

Gatbi is a local Canberra business that produces a range of unique homewares, and we currently have their wonderful Arboretum Horizon Tea Towels in store. Available in both red and black, the tea towels are proudly hand screen printed in Canberra on 100% natural linen and make a lovely gift or keepsake.



Warm Trees is off to South America!

Get ready! Take a walk through the trees of Chile:

There are currently seven NAC forests with trees native to Chile:

Forest 12 *Araucaria Araucana* – Monkey puzzle – Chile’s national tree

Forest 26 *Jubaea chilensis* – Chilean wine palm

Forest 45 *Luma apiculata* – Chilean myrtle

Forest 57 *Austrocedrus chilensis* – Chilean cedar

Forest 83 *Nothofagus macrocarpa* – Roble de Santiago

Forest 77 *Sophora toromiro* – Toromiro (Rapa Nui is a territory of Chile)

Forest 94 *Quillaja Saponaria* – Soapbark tree

In addition, *Podocarpus nubigenus* (cloud podocarp or Chilean podocarp) is also native to Chile. It is in the same genus as *P. totara* (the New Zealand Totara, forest 64) and *P. latifolius* (South African broad-leaved yellowwood, planned for forest 29 and already planted in Central Valley).

If you would like to be involved with Warm Trees 2024, please send an email to contact@friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au.

You can even recite poetry as you wander through the wonderful trees of Chile at the Arboretum. Margaret Groube, one of our regular Guides and host of the Poetry Forest Walk has identified several poems written about the Chilean trees. *Ceremony of Love* by Jaime Luise Huenun pays tribute to the Soapbark tree and the Roble de Santiago (Chilean acorn tree).



Left: *Nothofagus
Macrocarpa*
(photo not from the
Arboretum)

***Ceremony of Love* by Jaime Luise Huenun (translated by Cynthia Steele)**

Last night the trees loved each other like Indians: podocarp and ulmo, Patagonian oak
and *hualle*, *tineo* and litchi, knot to knot, loved each other
so lovingly, Chilean acorn trees
browned each other's bark, so many coigues
kissed each other's roots and beards and new sprouts.
until love awoke
in the birds that had been lulled to sleep
by the feathers of their
own trilling loves.

Correspondingly, the *huinca* shoots
lovingly buried each other, and the *chola*
waters opened their luminous watershed, naming
each other sip by sip, all alone and telling each other; good waters, lovely
waters, oh but we have been violated, Rahue waters,
weeping swallow, flowery, midwifing and still happy,
streams hopping like hares
over the mountains and hills.

And eared doves were soon united
by the same love,
the Inallaos' green
springs, the Huaiquipans fierce
honeys, the Llanquilefs swift

eyes, the breasts of the Relequeous'
thrush, the brown hairs of the Huilitraros'
soapbark tree, the Paillamanques'

In the middle of the *chola* grove, under the
perpetual pomegranate Indian sky,
they loved each other, piled up
like waterfillies and like lit animallen fireballs, in
the fragrant
dawn they loved each other, sweetening the
seed just
like clay pots filled with *muday*.



Soapbark tree flowers
(not from the Arboretum)

Definitions:

Huilliche: the southern portion of the Mapuche
Indigenous people of Chile

Rahue: a river in the Los Lago region of Chile; in its middle course, it flows through the
city of Osorno

Huinca: name given by the Huilliches to any outsider to their people, especially an enemy

Inallao, Hauiquipan, Llabquilef and Huilitraro: Mapuche last names and lineages

Paillmanque: Lonko Anselmo Paillamanque (d.2012) was a Huilliche leader who played a
key role in creating a network of indigenous parks and in recuperating Mapuche territory,
culture and identity

chola: a somewhat derogatory term for mixed-blood casts in the Spanish Empire

anchimallen: mythical Huilliche creatures that take the form of small children and that
can transform themselves into flying fireballs emitting bright light.

muday: an alcoholic beverage made from fermented cereal grain and traditional drink of
the mapuche

Friends Council Members (elected) July 2023

Chair:	Mike Woolley
Deputy Chair:	Fran Hinton (Acting)
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.

We ask all Friends to check your membership card for your renewal/expiry date!
And if you haven't joined already, then the time is right to become a Friend!
<https://friendsarboretumcanberra.org.au/membership>

