



#66
March 2025

FRIENDS

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS of the
National Arboretum Canberra

Chair's Note - Autumn 2025

Greetings Friends.

It's fair to say that during this summer we've experienced some quite variable weather conditions. Hot, cool, dry and wet at various points through the season. Our Arboretum appears to have fared quite well judging by the growth in the trees and mostly verdant appearance

In my last note I shared the news of the picnic setting located adjacent to the POD Playground that was sponsored by the Friends. We have now applied for a grant from the Federal Government to allow us to provide some shade over the setting. Fingers crossed! Additionally, the Friends have partnered with STEP to introduce a picnic setting into Forest 20 but the details of the location are yet to be finalised.

Over the last six to 12 months I have mentioned that the Friends are pursuing opportunities to support scientific research, education and the art trail at the Arboretum. We are continuing to liaise closely with the Arboretum team so that we are ready to participate in these areas with an appropriate level of support.

And here's a plug for the Canberra Bonsai Society (CBS), a source of many of the Arboretum's National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) volunteers. Every year the CBS hold an exhibition of Australian native bonsai in partnership with the Australian National Botanic Gardens. As well as an image of the People's Choice winner below, there is an image of a quite old Wollemi bonsai. Note also the potter – Pat has been the winner of several of the annual pot competitions hosted by the NBPCA.

continued...

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▲ Owens Wattle, *Acacia pravissima* | The tree is of unknown age but has been styled since 2005



▲ Wollemi pine, *Wollemia nobilis* | Tree age 20 years
Styled since 2023 | Pot by Pat Kennedy

Chair's Note - continued...

I hope you were able to make it along to the autumn General Meeting to hear the latest Arboretum and Friends info and to catch up with fellow Friends. At the meeting we also enjoyed an enlightening and passionate presentation on the *Brachychiton* genus by Dave Rowell, Emeritus Professor at the ANU Research School of Biology.

To support workplace safety for volunteers and to assist the Arboretum, the Friends have recently sponsored a new batch of 50 hi-vis vests with the Friends logo printed on the back. This helps keep the volunteers safe whilst working on their various Arboretum outdoor activities – and promotes the role of Friends of the Arboretum.

Also, on the topic of volunteering, congratulations Diane, Sandy and the Arboretum team in re-establishing the volunteer training and engagement programme.

Big thanks again to the Harvest Group volunteers who continue to run very successful Harvest Stalls (including recent Saturday pop-ups) in the Visitors Centre.

Don't forget to have a wander through the National Rock Garden – which now has its own official and very attractive Arboretum signage.

And remember, with the Gift Membership option, it is easy to share the benefits of being a Friend with your family and friends which helps us support the ongoing development of the Arboretum.

In case you missed seeing them this year, below are images from the Franklin trees (Forest 93) - of the flower buds and an open flower.

Wishing you all the best ...

Mike



▲ Forest 93 franklin tree flower and flower buds, *Franklinia alatamaha*

Key Diary Dates

15 March

Harvest Stall

15 - 23 March

Balloon Spectacular

18 April - 11 May

Heritage Festival

3 May

Market Stall

3 - 11 May

Canberra Tree Week

13 May

Friends Annual General Meeting & Seasonal Talk

19 - 25 May

Botanic Gardens Week

1 July

Warm Trees

8 July

Seasonal Talk

12 July

Market Stall

Warm Trees

There is still time to knit...

This year's partner is the Republic of Korea. The flag colours are red, white, royal blue and black, and as usual, we are very pleased to receive scarves in any colours!

[Click here for details](#)

Jan Morgan

Warm Trees Convener 2025

The National Rock Garden - Forest 13

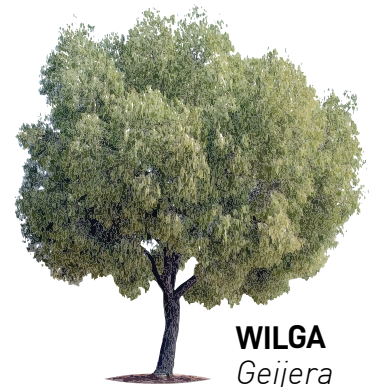
The National Rock Garden celebrates Australia's rich geological heritage and the deep connection between its people and the land. As you walk through the garden, you'll journey across four billion years of history, discovering the remarkable and diverse rocks and minerals that shaped the nation's landscapes, culture, and prosperity.

Each rock has an informative plaque, most with a QR code giving you access to more information.

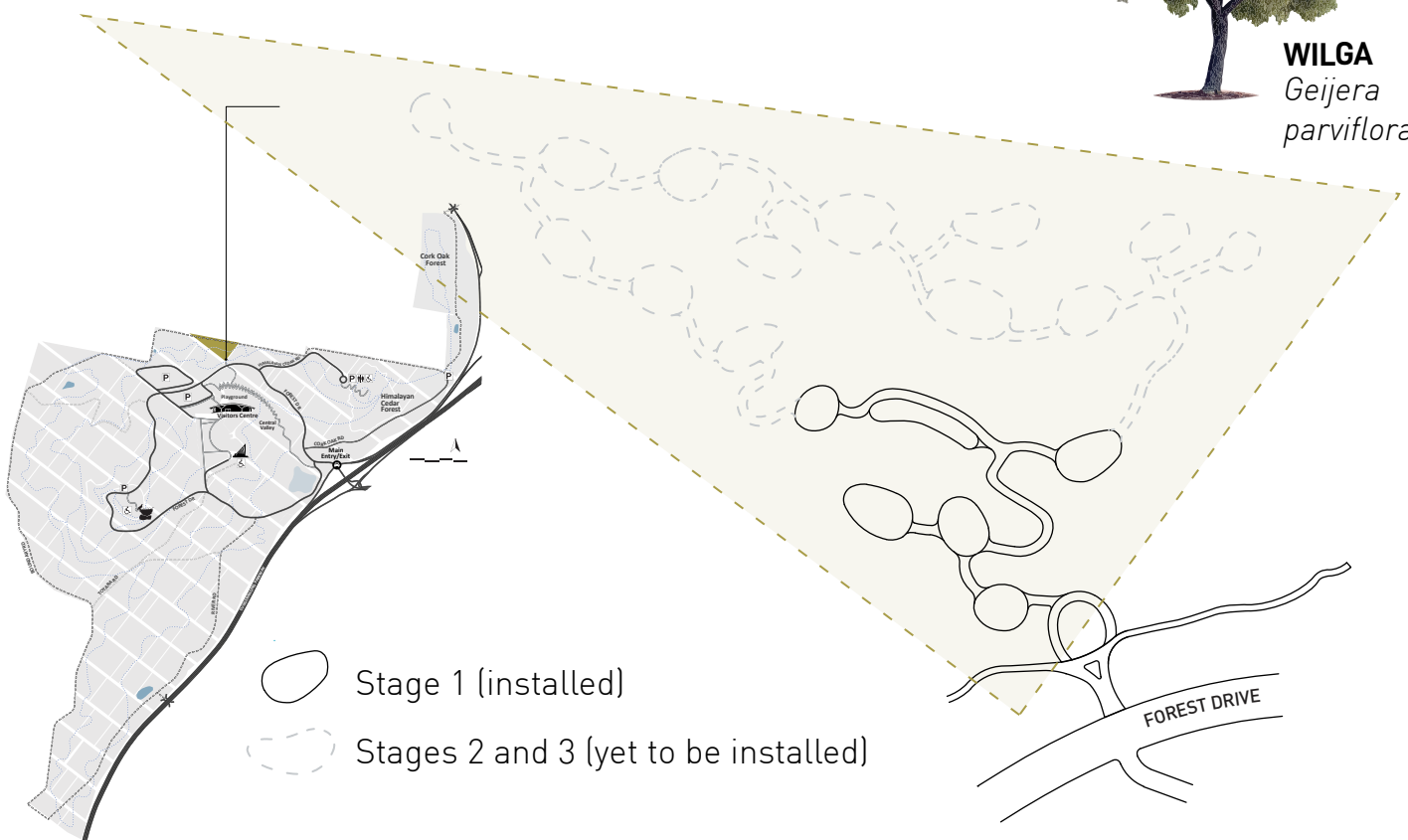
Enjoy the rich colours and intricate textures of these rocks as you explore the garden, uncover each rock's story and deepen your own connection to Australia's history and culture.



National Rock Garden
Celebrating the Geological Heritage of Australia



WILGA
Geijera parviflora



▲ National Rock Garden. Photo: Prof Brad Pillans

Ceremonial Tree Planting - His Excellency Hon David Waiiau Ranibok Adeang MP

As part of a visit to Canberra, His Excellency Hon. David Waiiau Ranibok Adeang MP, President of the Republic of Nauru was welcomed to the National Arboretum on 10 December 2024.

Starting at Dairy Farmers Hill, His Excellency took in the sweeping views across Canberra where Stuart Jeffress, Executive Branch Manager, gave an introduction to the National Arboretum and pointed out several of the highlights in view including forests, sculptures and architecturally designed buildings.

His Excellency was then invited to plant a Hillgrove spotted gum *Eucalyptus michaeliana* along the path in the Central Valley.

Ngunnawal elder Uncle Warren Daley commenced the ceremonial proceedings by welcoming visiting dignitaries, guests and staff to Country. Arboretum Horticulture team member Owen Rawlings then offered His Excellency the ceremonial shovel and watering can, where he turned the sod of soil and watered the tree, before signing the Guest Book.

His Excellency then took a selfie with this new ceremonial tree before a short walk to admire the other plantings in Central Valley.

An easy walk from the Visitors Centre, the Hillgrove spotted gum with its unmistakable gum leaf shape and bark that peels back to reveal the smooth pale trunk, will form part of a future shady walkway through the Central Valley that represents Australia's strong international ties for all visitors to enjoy.

► [Appearing left to right] Owen Rawlings, His Excellency Hon. David Waiiau Ranibok Adeang MP, Uncle Warren Daley, Stuart Jeffress



The Arboretum at Night - Planets, Stars, Frogs & More

Many of us spend time at the Arboretum during the day, as volunteers or just visiting. It is one of the most stunning spots in the ACT. But, after hours, the Arboretum takes on a different atmosphere, with the stillness of the night accentuating the many different sounds of the animals that inhabit the Arboretum. For the most part the Arboretum is dark, except for the light provided by the moon, stars and planets and the increasing glow of city lights reflected off the clouds. People are few and far between and the sounds of the city, although present, are softened.

Five times a year, a small group of volunteers conduct nighttime frog surveys as part of Frogwatch ACT's long term monitoring program. Data from these surveys are included in information held by the Frogwatch Coordinator at the Ginninderra Catchment Group (<https://ginninderralandcare.org.au>), and helps support longitudinal studies on the health of the ACT's frog population.

Monitoring at the Arboretum commenced in 2010 and has been conducted continuously under the stewardship of Dr Roger Hnatiuk (2010 – 2022) and now by Alison Purvis. They are supported by a small group of Arboretum volunteers who measure water and air temperatures, identify and count frogs, by their calls, at the four key sites: Larch Dam (Forest 36), the ephemeral pond in STEP (Forest 20), the dam near the Cork Oaks (Forest 2) and the Ginkgo Dam at the Arboretum entrance (Forest 27).

On Wednesday 29 January 2025, a group of four people gathered at 9 pm to conduct the late-summer frog count. The night was warm, as Canberra was experiencing hot temperatures that week, but the sky was clear. The sunset, in various shades of red, orange and yellow, highlighted the deep purple outline of the Brindabellas. Once darkness descended, the moon and stars were easy to spot, as were some of the planets forming the "parade of planets". Venus, in particular, was very bright and easy to spot. It was followed by Jupiter, Mars and Saturn.

Click the buttons below for the articles:

ABC News: Planetary Parade Alignment

Australian Traveller: Planetary Parade



▲ Spotted marsh frog



Fishing spider ▲

Our small group surveyed all sites over the course of two hours. Water levels were very low and the ephemeral pond had dried up. Where previously we used to measure air and water temperatures while balanced on rocky outcrops, that evening we stood on the exposed dam beds sometimes up to 3 metres in width. Even the Ginkgo Dam at the Arboretum entrance was low, exposing metres of rock in the steel-mesh gabions. The lack of water and the heat meant that frog numbers at these dams were low and in some dams no frog calls were counted.

Nevertheless, the exposed dam bed near the Cork Oak Forest meant that we could observe a sight we previously hadn't recorded - the presence of Spotted marsh frogs burying themselves in the mud to provide respite from the heat. The ground in front of us literally came alive as frogs were jumping everywhere. Unfortunately, the lack of water also allowed us to spot and remove fishing gear near the side of dam. Perhaps someone was hoping to catch yabbies, while not disturbing the frogs?

Even though there were few frogs that night at the wetland survey sites, frogs live for most of the year on dry land throughout the Arboretum. They even inhabit the Village Centre having been spotted before in the Bonsai Collection and just the other day behind the welcome desk at the Village Centre entrance (pictured above top).

Finally, many other species make the Arboretum their home at night, everything from birds, kangaroos and wallabies, foxes and rabbits, snakes and insects of many descriptions. That evening we were able to see a fishing spider at the edge of Ginkgo Dam.

We would welcome new Volunteers to join us. Please contact the Community Engagement Officer on 0434 843 853 or ArboretumVolunteers@act.gov.au

Beth Gibson

News from STEP - Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park, Forest 20

Hello all

The Thursday morning working bees have continued over the school holidays although some weeks we have ceased work after morning tea due to the heat. It has been lovely to see so many families and visitors to the Arboretum taking walks through our shady groves.

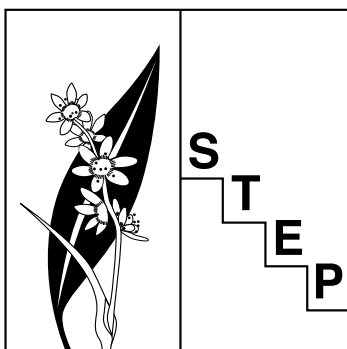
There is always something in bloom, and I notice that two of the *Acacia* species in our Wattle Walk are flowering well this year. Mountain Hickory *Acacia penninervis*, with its lemony-yellow pom-pom blossoms, and Deane's Wattle *Acacia deanei*, with its fine feathery foliage would both make great specimens for local gardens. There are several Wattles from the Southern Tablelands that come into bloom in late summer, another one being Hickory Wattle *Acacia implexa*.

As we come to the end of another season, the team at STEP has been busy clearing away fallen branches and sticks that have been blown about by summer storms. This will enable the arboretum mowing team to cut back the native grass areas after the seed heads have ripened and shed. Any dead branches still attached to the *eucalypts* we leave intentionally, as they provide important habitat for insects and birds. Some of the gum trees with smooth trunks have been shedding their bark. This is an annual process, known as decortication, and usually occurs in the summer months. The tree trunks in the Eucalypt Walk at Forest 20 are looking particularly colourful as a result, especially after rain.

Soon we will commence autumn planting, and as always hope for some gentle rain. At the beginning of summer the focus was on hand-watering but the occasional downpour through the last month has taken the pressure off, and the soil moisture is adequate for most of our plants.

We always welcome more volunteers to help out with our working bees, so if anyone is interested more information can be found at step.asn.au

Jane Cottee, President STEP



▲ Clearing fallen branches



▲ *Acacia deanei*



▲ *Acacia penninervis*

Harvest Group - Update

Late last year Maggie Hawes stepped down from her role as Harvest Group Coordinator due to ill health and the wonderful Rosy Pate agreed to take on the role with assistance from Carolyn Thomas.

At the first Harvest Group meeting held in mid-February, discussion centered on procedures for the coming fig harvest; the signing of relevant Standard Operating Procedures for Harvest Group activities; and, deciding dates for this year's market stalls.



Rosy's report on the fig harvest to date:

"This year we welcomed 15 new members to the fig harvest group. We are very lucky to have members of the group who are very experienced to help us all in our roles.

We started our fig harvest on the 14th February where we picked produce for preserving. On Saturday 22nd February, we had our first of five planned pop-up fresh fig stalls. This was very successful and we made \$686. Unfortunately the following Saturday pop-up stall we had a much-reduced harvest and made \$258. During this time, we have had many of our volunteers picking and preserving figs in many different ways which we will be able to sell at the five Market Stalls held during the year."

▼ First Fig harvest. Photos: Rosy

continued...



Market Stall Dates

15 March

3 May

12 July

20 September

6 December

Discovery Kitchen Garden - Update



Currently growing in the Discovery Kitchen Garden:

Flowers

- Alyssum
- Calendula
- Flanders Poppy
- Marigolds
- Nasturtium
- Sweet William

Herbs

- Basil
- Borage (Blue & White)
- Chives
- Fennel
- Garlic Chives
- Parsley Curly
- Parsley Italian
- French Sorrel
- Strawberry

Vegetables

- Chilli (various)
- Climbing Spinach
- Cucumbers (Lebanese)
- Eggplant (various)
- Globe Artichoke
- JBL Mini Pumpkins
- Tomato (various)
- Rhubarb
- Scarlet Runner Beans
- Silverbeet
- Warrigal Greens
- Zucchini Black Jack

The predicted warm wet summer did not eventuate. Instead, there was little rain and very high temperatures, good for some vegetables (and figs) but not others. For example, tomatoes, eggplants, and chillies did very well, with harvesting commencing in late January, which is unprecedented, and continued throughout the month of February. By the end of February, 12 boxes of savoury preserves had been made to sell at future market stalls including Eggplant Chutney, Green Tomato Pickles, Hot and Spicy Tomato Relish, and Tomato and Chilli Jam.

A vegetable that did not do well in very hot temperatures was the scarlet runner bean, which although flowering prolifically, did not set many pods. However, once the weather cooled, awaited pods appeared. Most plants in the garden were very robust, growing tall, strong, and productive. This may be due to the crushed rock minerals spread over the soil during spring, something that will be trialled again this year. The chilli plants especially grew tremendously tall and laden with fruit.

Unfortunately, the garden team is losing another one of its valued members, as Amanda is no longer able to continue due to grandchild minding duties. She has been a long-time garden volunteer and will be missed, particularly by garden volunteer buddy, Nikki.

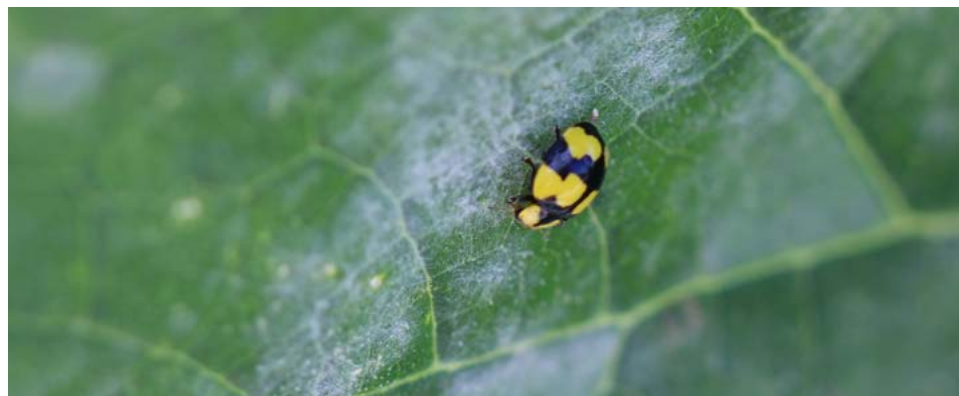
Happy gardening!

Ange

Discovery Kitchen Garden - Update continued

The garden is chemical and pesticide free and relies mainly on natural predators to keep pests at bay. Volunteers remove any visible nasties such as snails, slugs, cockroaches, and caterpillars by hand. The numerous fairy wrens in the Discovery Garden keep smaller insect numbers down and there are other critters as well. During autumn, pumpkin and zucchini leaves get powdery mildew, eaten by tiny yellow and black ladybirds that provide great interest for children passing by.

Did you know there are fungus-eating ladybirds, 14 spotted, and 22 spotted yellow and black? A trapdoor spider moves around the garden and was photographed occasionally. The cascading white alyssum provides great cover for pests including a very large redback spider!



Sincerely and with some sadness – but with so many happy memories!

Forward: at the Arboretum's End-of-Year party in December, we paid tribute to Janet Duncan who has decided, after many years of volunteering, to retire from guiding. Here is her letter, full of memories, to us all!

"Dear marvellous Arboretum Guides, Market Stall people, Tree-measurers and so many others who volunteer at the Arboretum!

I am writing this email to let you know that I have decided to retire from volunteering at the Arboretum at the end of this year (2024) and in this decision is the realisation that the Arboretum has played a significant part in my life. I began guiding and volunteering before the official Opening in February 2013. Below is a summary of some of my volunteering over the years. Volunteering has been a most happy time for me. This year's Friends and NAC Christmas party will be very special for me.



▲ Janet Duncan, Retiring Volunteer and Guide

Sincerely and with some sadness – but with so many happy memories!

So many of you shared in the below activities in which I was involved for over twelve years. I hope you all remember just how much FUN we had!

From 2006 I had watched with interest as the different forest plantings were able to be seen from the Tuggeranong Parkway. And then the ACT Government decided it would be the central part of Canberra celebrating its 100th Year and many more forests were planted.

I really wanted to be part of the National Arboretum Canberra (NAC) after attending the first public Open Day held, I think, on a special Sunday in 2009. Despite the day being so wet, so windy, so very gusty and very cold, I decided I wanted to be part of this new development.

I cannot exactly recall when I first attended a meeting chaired by Jocelyn Plovits. However, by 2011 a group of like-minded people, including Jocelyn, Roger Hnatiuk, Jennie Widdowson, Linda Muldoon, Bronwyn Halbish, Anna Howe and Max Bourke met and over time we worked out a series of possible walks. In these early days we had fortnightly meetings at each other's home.

Also during these early years, Jocelyn, who with sheer hard work coupled with persistence, and the help of the first Chair, Sherry McArdle-English, managed to "found" the organisation now known as Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra. We held general meetings with other interested people at the ACTEW building in Civic.

Many of us, about 50, decided to be Guides, and lectures were held over at a Dairy Flats school room accompanied by the cows that wandered around. We had six weeks of two-hourly lectures covering topics from basic botany, geology, how to manage a crowd, knowledge about the art works and of course knowing something about the Forests planted in the Arboretum. I think, in hindsight, we early Guides were like enthusiastic pioneers, ready to defend the NAC and were fortunate to be given superbly-adequate training. By then letters to the paper were complaining about the 'stupidity' of planting trees in a drought.

I recall when we first started Guiding, we really did need to defend the proposal for establishing an Arboretum as it was begun in the severe drought, now known as the Millenium Drought.

Many people complained that they were not allowed to water anything outside; areas of their gardens and particularly lawns were now dead, and here we were establishing trees, for goodness sake! As Guides we carefully and sensitively answered that the Arboretum was not using any water from the Lake and that after the initial watering, all the trees had to survive, which most did. However, with heatwaves we bucketed some water to some trees. When the rains came about four years later, the trees started to grow very large areas of greenery to the extent that the botanists hoped that the meagre root system that had for so many years just survived would be able to keep the extra growth alive. There was real concern that the trees' small root systems might not be able to soak up enough water. However, as can be seen today, trees are tough and not many died.

I recall in a February heat wave one Sunday, helping to carry buckets of water from a water cart. It was pretty heavy work especially when we had to go uphill with filled waterbuckets. However, we early volunteers were stoic and a love for the Arboretum kept us going. Every time I was rostered to help Guiding, I just loved being at the NAC.

Now it's great to see the public walking and able to explore the Arboretum by following a map and walking along the different paths.

I also enjoyed the more scientific work that Roger proposed doing. For about 4-5 years, a group of us would meet each month. Our group became known as Tree Measurers. Using a computer to randomly select 15 pairs of trees we measured those trees' height plus its girth for over 5 years, learning about all the different Forests planted. Roger was very patient with all of us when we erred on measuring only one trunk and not all the little trunks! We heeded masses of ants, cheerfully measured in cold biting winds, sometimes rain and had to walk up to the highest point to measure several of the pairs of trees. At first it was easy as all the trees were so small. However as the trees grew we needed to stretch ourselves. Roger taught some of us to use a Theodolite with mixed success. Over time Roger had enough data to gauge each forest's relative health. The team was sad as we had worked together for a number of years and felt we all needed another project .

As the trees grew so did their produce and some volunteers decided we would have Market Days and sell produce that the Arboretum grew. For about three years,

Sincerely and with some sadness – but with so many happy memories!

Colette Mackay enthusiastically organised Fig Picking Days and cheerfully drove around Canberra delivering much needed jars into which we poured jams, chutneys or relishes. I was in awe of Ange McNeilly's energy and expertise as she tended the Discovery Garden, along with other volunteers. And so I became involved with another wonderful group of volunteers using the produce that the Arboretum grew. A number of us picked figs and made many pots of jams and chutneys. One year, I felt very pleased with myself for having made 93 jars to sell, until Maggie Hawes let me know gently that she had 400 jars! I kept very quiet, then.

And then there were five absolutely unforgettable majestic events known as "Voices in the Forest". With others I helped put out the chairs for the first concert. Thankfully this job was taken over by other workers in the last three years. I enjoyed helping with 'crowd control' during all five concerts. The first three "Voices in the Forest" were rain-free, then disaster as for the next two years' events, heavy rain with lightning and thunder spelled the end of this piece of fantastic outdoor opera magic evenings. I hope one day it will return.

In these early years, Guides were free to plan interesting walks. Along with Anna Howe we decided that the Wollemi Tree should celebrate its 21st Birthday and there was a week of lectures and walks, with many people listening to lectures about its discovery and significance. David Noble, the National Park/bushwalker Ranger, who discovered the tree also came to Canberra and spoke about his find. Other Guides carefully planned Poetry Walks, with poetry suitable for different trees. Anna and I also planned Autumn Leaves Walks rambling through trees with autumn colouring.

Jocelyn, as Chair of the Friends, encouraged all ideas. As a group, some of us did not believe – knowing how cold Canberra's winters could be – that people would visit the Arboretum in June, July and August. We were so wrong! Aside from the under-floor heating, plus the marvellous Village Centre views, the almost crazy idea to drape the trees with colourful scarves to encourage visitors has been so successful. It's taken on its own life. Now Embassies want their colours to be represented and many schools in Sydney are teaching their students to knit so they can drape their scarves around trees.

" I am absolutely confident that the Arboretum – with the will, energy and enthusiasm that the volunteers bring to this marvellous Forest of Trees – will always be cared for in the future. "

Janet

I can still remember carefully draping many scarves around trees in the chosen Forest and – worse – undoing the pesky clips, then taking down the scarves at the end of Warm Trees Month! The Warm Trees project is another measure of the success, energy and fun that the volunteers initiated.

I wish to thank particularly Jocelyn, Roger and Colette for their leadership with the different groups. I feel the Friends and the Arboretum are so fortunate to have these generous people at the helm for quite some time and I thank fellow guides and staff employee, John who is always cheerful and helpful at the Front Desk.

And most of all I thank the Arboretum, the Trees and the Volunteers for their peacefulness and ability to help me through my tough personal times over a number of years.

I will continue to lead walks in the Arboretum with my bushwalking friends and, of course, in an emergency will help out either guiding or doing whatever I can. I am absolutely confident that the Arboretum – with the will, energy and enthusiasm that the volunteers bring to this marvellous Forest of Trees – will always be cared for in the future.

Sincerely and with some sadness – but with so many happy memories!"

Janet Duncan

What's new - The Curatoreum

As autumn sets in, it's truly magical to watch the Arboretum's colours transform from our cozy spot inside the Village Centre. To celebrate the season, we've curated a selection of books, garden essentials, and plant accessories for you.

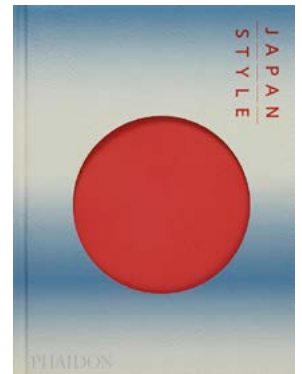
Pinal & Mel – The Curatoreum

Japan Style, by Gian Carlo Calza – \$69.95

'Japan style' is an aesthetic recognizable to everyone: a beautifully displayed flower, an elegant piece of calligraphy, or a simple rock garden, yet it is also difficult to define.

Written by one of the world's most respected scholars of Japanese art and culture, this book does just that.

Japan Style explores specific achievements in Japanese art and architecture and offers an in-depth analysis of the whole of Japanese culture, its vision of the world and of humankind.



Funga obscura: photo journeys among fungi, by Alison Pouliot – \$49.99

This book is about fungi, and the photography of fungi.

The title – Funga Obscura – unites the two. Beginning in elemental landscapes of ice and rock, the book traces the evolutionary path of fungi as enablers of life on land, and creators of soils and forests.

Crossing continents and ecosystems, we navigate lichen-covered landscapes, crawl in the fungal undergrowth, scale glacial extremes and duck between rainforest shadows.

Orchid Vent Tall Self-watering pot by Cup O Flora – \$69.95

Discover the perfect home for your beautiful orchid with the Orchid Vent 'Tall' design. This innovative pot features laser-cut holes, ensuring ample drainage to keep moisture away from your plant's roots.

Brought to you by Cup O Flora®, the OrchidVent™ 'Tall' design offers super easy care, meaning you'll spend less time tending to your orchids and more time enjoying their beautiful blooms, again and again.



What's new - The Curatoreum



Plantology, by Teena Crawford & Lisa Ellis – \$95

If you only buy one more plant book, make it this! Prepared by two professional plantswomen who share more than sixty years experience as garden designers Plantology showcases a refreshing repertoire of more than 180 proven plant species illustrating why and how they can be used to deliver exceptional results.

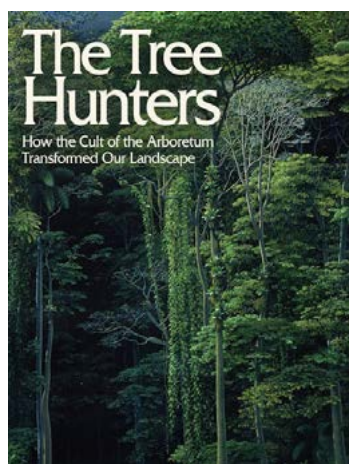
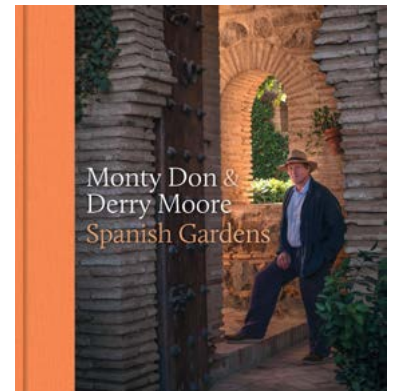
Key to the publication is advice and encouragement on how to achieve better 'designed' outcomes in ornamental gardens, and it is packed with information and cross-referencing tools to elevate both aesthetics and performance of ornamental plant species. Plantology also features a plant thesaurus with lists of synonymous plant aesthetics and tolerances. This indispensable reference book will invigorate the way that gardens are planted, and is perfect for those planning a new garden from the beginning, or rejuvenation of an existing landscape or garden beds.

Spanish Gardens, Monty Don and Derry Moore – \$85.00

Join Monty Don on a stunning journey through Spain's most breathtaking gardens, from the lush landscapes of Galicia to the sun-drenched courtyards of Seville.

Inspired by his BBC series, this beautifully illustrated book explores Spain's history, culture, and garden design through the ages.

A must-read for garden lovers and travel enthusiasts alike!



The Tree Hunters: How the Cult of the Arboretum Transformed Our Landscape, Thomas Pakenham – \$69.99

Discover the daring adventures of plant-hunters who transformed Britain's landscape! From exotic tree collections to high-stakes expeditions, Thomas Pakenham reveals the passion, rivalry, and intrigue behind the arboretum craze.

For centuries, English country gentlemen had collected exotic pictures for their saloons and rare books for their libraries. By the end of the seventeenth century, they had begun to collect trees. Within the space of a few years, hundreds of new specimen trees enriched the British landscape.

How did these extraordinary trees make their way to the gardens of Britain and Ireland? Who were the scholars and daredevils who combed the new and old worlds in search of green treasure? What crimes did they commit, and what price did they pay to bring the world's charismatic megaflora to the gardens of home?

In this exuberant history, Thomas Pakenham reveals the marvellous tales of adventure, discovery, rivalry, and passion that created the modern British landscape.

Friends Council Members - (elected) May 2024

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

Members:	Marelle Rawson
	Ian Chambers
	Maggie Hawes
	Barry Langshaw
	Mark Lodder

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



▲ Monkey puzzle, *Araucaria araucana*, in flower. Photo: Alison Purvis



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!

[Renew or join now](#)

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.

