

FRIENDS OF THE CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL ARBORETUM AND GARDENS (CIAG) INC

D A T E D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 8 | V O L U M E 3

Seasons Greetings to All

I cannot believe how quickly this year is moving. It has been a year full of activity for the Friends. We held our first AGM for the Association in March with great support from the community.

We have had a wonderful response to our call for volunteers. Since our first volunteers stepped forward we have been very active in initiating volunteering programs. The first requirement was to run Volunteer Training Programs, which have been received very well. We have been training our volunteers in a knowledge of the Arboretum, awareness of OH&S issues, the importance of working effectively with the community, familiarization with the selected species of trees, and many more aspects.

The first challenge for the volunteers was to represent the CIAG at Floriade. The feedback I have received is that it was a positive way to put our volunteer training into action, and the public response was very encouraging. The volunteers, including Jocelyn and myself, all noted that people coming to the marquee and Bonsai display were very interested in hearing about every aspect of the new arboretum, and we were all very pleased to be able to share the information.

We ran a competition "What is an Arboretum" and we also had a promotion for new members, of which there were many. You will see the results in the body of this newsletter. Our sponsors were also wonderfully generous and we have listed them at the back of the newsletter.

I would also like to congratulate the members of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia who had their official opening by Chief Minister Stanhope during Floriade, to an overwhelming community support and amazing attendance numbers through their door.

Our volunteers are now also involved in a working bee, weather permitting.

I am excited to announce the date for our first major event which is to be on the 15th March, 2009 during the Canberra Week celebrations.

This will be a Gold Coin donation Family Fun Day to be called the *Festival of the Forests*, with one third of the profits raised to be donated to Carers ACT. We plan on having many fun activities for all ages, as well as entertainment and events. I encourage as many as possible to come along to our next General Meeting to help us plan the day.

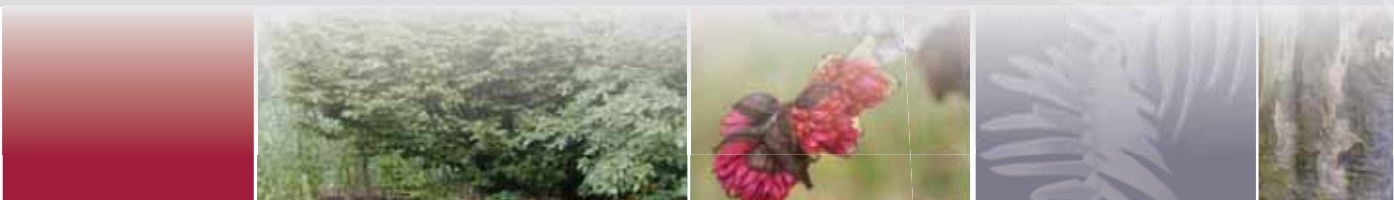
A very exciting time for the ACT Government was the planting of the Lone Pine by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in September. The Executive of the Friends congratulates the ACT Government on this significant planting on the top of Dairy Farmers Hill. It was an important historic event with representation present from many Embassies, the Defence forces, and the business community of Canberra.

All in all 2008 has been a very busy year for the further development of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens, and I, along with the members of the Friends am proud to be associated with this visionary project.

To all our members I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sherry McArdle-English

Chair





FRIENDS AT FLORIADE 2008

Over 22,000 people visited the Friends marquee and over 38 000 people visited the display for the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia - this is a very worthwhile outcome in support of the development of the Arboretum.

With the support of Chief Minister's Department, Yarralumla Nursery, ACTEWAGL, Bel Air Drycleaners, SEERS, FACTA, ANU, Seeds and Plants Australia, STEP and our absolutely fantastic team of volunteers, we were able to provide a comprehensive display with information. Our marquee was beautifully decorated with plants including advanced Wollemi Pines from Yarralumla Nursery and local plants from Seeds and Plants Australia.

Most people simply knew very little about the project and were keen to find out more - having the volunteers there to assist with questions was most important.

Our display was open from 9.00am to 5.00pm every day for the whole of Floriade (30 days) with Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday being the busier days. The display was between the Cottage and Stage 88. We played a DVD giving up-to-date visuals from the site (showing the dam and roads being formed, the plots that have been planted and pictures from the master plan showing what is planned for the coming years). We also borrowed for the display the winning design, an up-to-date map of the plantings, and boards of many of the trees that have been planted so far. This, together with the display material from the ANU about their longitudinal climate research on the site, the FACTA display about the ACT's arboreta and STEP's display about the ecology of the

Southern Tablelands captured the attention of our visitors - but the best feedback was about the information provided by the volunteers.

The opening of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia in the Cottage was also an attractor (this is the first 'garden' of the Arboretum and is reported in another article). Placing the Friends display near the temporary (but more solid) NBPCA display made sure that both these aspects of the Arboretum could support each other.

Next year for Floriade, it is planned to place the Friends display inside the Cottage, and to provide tours of the Arboretum.

As part of the Friends display we ran a competition and a membership promotion. The results were:

Week I

Arboretum Competition

Renate Metz - Fantastic for Canberra
(Fantastic Forests)

Membership promotion

Lynn and Steve Adams

Week II

Arboretum Competition

Marina Di Rosso - Each child born offered opportunity to plant tree and have name on a wall

Membership Promotion

Richard and Erina Jenkins

Week III

Arboretum Competition

Amelia Dixon (aged 4) - Picture of trees (worth a thousand words)

Membership Promotion

Lois Maiden



Week IV

Arboretum Competition

Mary Butteriss - Out of adversity - great things grow

Membership Promotion

Ian and Yvonne Kilgour

The prize for each weekly winner of the Arboretum Competition was a Wollemi Pine from Yarralumla Nursery and the Membership Promotion winners received a plant to the value of \$25.00 from Yarralumla Nursery. Our thanks go to Yarralumla Nursery for their sponsorship.

As an endnote to a very successful month it was good to learn that Amelia had presented, with great pride, Willomina the Wollemi to her mother.

Jocelyn Plovits | Secretary



S McArdle-English, A and G Dixon, R Metz, M Butteriss and M Prowse

MORE ON PENCIL PINES

(by Linda Muldoon, CIAG Friend)

Our last Newsletter contained an article about my visit to The Tasmanian Arboretum but the photo referred to was omitted.

So here it is. This is one form of *Athrotaxis cupressoides* (Pencil Pine) growing in the Tasmanian alpine section. According to Phil Parsons, President of The Tasmanian Arboretum, Pencil Pines have eight distinct leaf forms, all endemic to Tasmania.

On this very attractive young tree the branchlets hang down with many terminating in cones. If a tree can wear a heavily beaded party dress, this surely is it!





THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIA

28th September, 2008

On a lovely sunny spring morning hundreds of people from all over Australia gathered together in Australia's capital city, Canberra, to witness the official opening of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA), the first garden of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens.

Many of the trees on display had travelled thousands of kilometres across the breadth of Australia and had also travelled many decades in time, some being nearly sixty years in training as bonsai. Some of the invited guests had travelled similar distances and times to witness the opening of the collection.

The speeches were made in a marquee some two hundred metres away from the bonsai and then the focus moved to the site of the collection. There, the Interim Curator, Mr Grant Bowie, struck a brass gong to call guests attention and the new NBPCA bonsai pavilion was officially opened with a simultaneous ribbon cutting ceremony performed by the Chief Minister of the ACT, Mr John Stanhope and the chairman of the Bonsai Management Committee Dr Roger Hnatiuk. The twin cutting of the ribbon was to symbolise the cooperation between the ACT government and the bonsai community of Australia in making this collection possible.

Dr Hnatiuk conducted Mr John Stanhope through the bright red entrance gate to be the first official guest of the collection and then the rest of the gathered bonsai community filed

through to view the collection. The business of the Friends of the Arboretum was suspended for the morning as their marquee was used to supply tea and coffee for the assembled guests as they waited their turn to view the collection. For the next hour and a half the collection was full of the excited specialist bonsai audience and many pictures were taken of both the bonsai and the guests.

The temporary site (for the next three to five years) for the NBPCA is in a purpose built, architect designed pavilion in Commonwealth Park and the park is also the site for Floriade, the annual spring floral festival in Canberra. Floriade was in full swing and we were right in the middle of it both geographically and time wise, so by midday the rope barriers were removed and the general public were allowed in to see the collection as well.

During the 23 days that the NBPCA was open during Floriade we had 38,770 visitors pass through the collection, many of them local Canberrans. All of the comments on the collection, both verbal and written in the visitors book, were very complimentary of the bonsai, the display facility and the combined effort of the ACT Government and the bonsai community to establish the NBPCA. The guides of the collection, resplendent in their red coats, answered lots of questions about





the collection in general and many specific questions on their favourite trees on display. Many questions were answered about the CIAG and many pamphlets were handed out as well. Each of the bonsai on display seemed to be someone's favourite and it showed how balanced the collection is in terms of deciduous, evergreen, conifer and native. The mix of styles, including the forests, were also very popular.

We are now open 7 days a week at the moment from 10am till 3pm. I hope to see you at some time at the collection.

Grant Bowie | Interim Curator



FESTIVAL OF THE FORESTS ANNOUNCING THE COMMUNITY EVENT ON 15 MARCH 2009 AT THE ARBORETUM

The Friends are hosting the inaugural Festival of the Forests at the Arboretum on 15 March 2009. This will be a day for our whole community to gather on the site and learn about the bio-diversity goals of the Arboretum as well as having fun in this wonderful community asset. There will be an opportunity to make gold coin donations towards the Arboretum and a proportion of the profits will be going to our partner, Carers ACT.

The planning for all the events is well underway. We are hoping for a start with a breakfast with the balloons, then the inaugural Festival of the Forests Family Fun Run (to become an annual event), a Walking for Pleasure tour, a concert

program held in the amphitheatre and events and displays on the Event Terrace particularly focused on families and childrens' activities. Something for everyone! The official program will be launched in the next newsletter.

Through the day there will be hop-on hop-off bus tours around the site so people can see the new forests as well as the mature forests of cork oaks and Himalayan cedars and there will be plenty of opportunities to talk about the trees to learned people.

So bring a picnic and come and join the fun (there will also be food and soft drinks available on site).

Information about the day will be in the program for the Canberra Festival 2009 program, on our website, and in the next Friends newsletter. In the meantime if you have any queries or want to get in early to be a volunteer on the day, contact Jocelyn at hackman@grapevine.com.au



PROJECT UPDATE

The Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens has almost reached a most exciting milestone, the completion of the new entrance, dam and Stage 1 road works which will mean that when the opening hours are announced in the new year people will be able to have access to the site and see the 20 forests which have already been planted.

The forests which have been planted already contribute to the preservation of the bio-diversity of threatened and iconic trees and the colours of their foliage and flowers can be seen as the trees start to develop. It will be

very interesting to watch the changing colour patterns through the seasons.

Work to prepare for the next plantings of forests has begun and is concentrated on the area alongside the Tuggeranong Parkway. For up-to-date information about the forests you can visit the web site at cmd.act.gov.au/arboretum. The Forest Guide provides information about each of the trees that have been planted so far.

Planning for trees and other site infrastructure is underway.

This article is based on information provided in November 2008 by the Project Director in Chief Minister's Department.

FRIENDS CALENDAR FOR 2009

Here are the proposed dates for 2009. Notices will be sent out by e-mail (and mail) closer to particular events and if there is to be any change to the calendar. It could be anticipated that there would be changes if there is bad weather on a particular day when activities are to be held on site.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2009.

Feb	Bonsai Volunteer's BBQ
8 Feb	Combined Friends of the CIAG Inc and Friends of the ANBG bus tour
15 Feb	Friends of the CIAG Inc (ActewAGL) bus tour
22 Feb	Working Bee
3 March	Meeting
15 March	Festival of the Forests - Community Day hosted on site by the Friends
19 March	Craft ACT at the NBPCA
26 April	Working Bee

18 May	Annual General Meeting
28 June	Working Bee
Sept/Oct	Tours provided to Floriade visitors
Sept	First birthday celebrations - NBPCA
27 Sept	Working Bee
3 Nov	Meeting
22 Nov	Working Bee and Members end-of-year party

As you can see there are plenty of opportunities for involvement and to be a volunteer.

Have you completed General Information (Module 1) of the Volunteer Training? This module provides useful information about the site and it is information you can use when talking to and assisting members of the public.

Module 2 - Botanical information about the forests will also be available in 2009 starting from March 2009.

Contact Jocelyn on 0406 376 711 or on hackman@grapevine.com.au if you would like to participate in either of these modules.



MEMBERSHIP IS DUE

Have you remembered that membership fees are due on 1 December each year? Please forward your payment as outlined on the application page. Your fees are used to run the administration of the Friends (including matters such as insurance and contact with members) - all fees and donations are welcome!

NEWSLETTER IN 2009

To ensure the most effective expenditure of membership fees and to assist the environment with less use of paper, the Council is promoting distribution of the colour version of the newsletter by e-mail. To reduce printing costs hard copies will largely be formatted in black and white.

If you have the facility, please forward your e-mail address to hackman@grapevine.com.au

PERSIAN IRONWOOD

Parrotia persica

The banner of this newsletter features the Persian Ironwood, the sole species within the genus *Parrotia*.

It is a deciduous tree which grows as low-branched, multi-stemmed tree or large shrub. In autumn the leaves are spectacular colours including bright yellow, orange, pink and purplish red. In the banner you can see the small, dark red flowers that appear on the bare bark in later winter/spring.

This tree is native to the mountains of northern Iran in the Alborz Mountains and the Caucasus Mountains of Georgia and Turkey. This tree was discovered in 1829 by F W Parrot a German botanist exploring Mt Ararat looking for Noah's Ark.

In Canberra it is expected to grow between 8m and 25m high and between 10m to 20m wide. It is planted in Lot 7 of the Arboretum.

Article based on information taken from the Arboretum's *Forest Guide Spring 2008* and the *Canberra Gardener 1991*.



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FRIENDS of the CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL ARBORETUM and GARDENS Inc.

Membership Application Form

Yes, I/we wish to become a Friend(s) of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens Inc.

1. Title..... First Name..... Last Name

2. Title..... First Name..... Last Name

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel (h)(w).....

e-mail.....

Membership arrangements (please indicate)

- Friend.....no cost
- Contributing Friend.....Single \$25
- Household\$30
- Contributing Concession\$20
- Association or Club.....\$50
- Corporate Friend\$2000

not registered for GST

Payment details for contributing members:

Cash Cheque

Cheques payable to the Friends of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens Inc.

\$.....

For any enquiries contact

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Secretary

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