



# FRIENDS of the National Arboretum Canberra Newsletter 37 / December 2017

## Dear Friends

We have exciting news!

The Friends have accepted an invitation from the Arboretum to sponsor the beautification of the Dairy Farmers Hill precinct—upgrading from the current bark chips to a simple, hardy, low maintenance, landscaped surround to the the excellent lookout and eagle sculpture that already exist. It is important to understand that the Friends are buying into the Arboretum's preferred design for the upgrade.

The design concept is quite simple: saltbush is to be used as a sculptural loose-flowing feature with a yet-to-be-determined contrasting native species (we may have some influence on this latter choice); and these would surround 25 snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) which would form a partial canopy to the area on the northern, western and southern sides, leaving the eastern view to the lake uninterrupted.

Scott Saddler, Acting Executive Manager of the Arboretum, has advised us that his most urgent task in relation to this project is the acquisition and planting of 25 snow gums before Christmas. Scott is excited about the current well-grown tree stock on hand at Yarralumla Nursery and anxious for the contractors to begin planting. Certainly the steady rain in early December should ensure that our trees get off to an excellent start. Later, we will be able to examine a more detailed version of the design and take advice on appropriate species for the understory plantings. Watch this space

for more details of how you can participate in the planting of hundreds of understory plants. There will be days and times to suit everyone.

It is not too late to put your name down for the **Trees and Gardens Friends Tour of Singapore**, 5–11 March 2018. Singapore's climate can be stressful to the uninitiated so the time spent at various venues has been carefully managed by the tour leaders, Margie and Max Bourke AM. They will be using their extensive knowledge of Singapore, gained after spending much time there over many years. In developing this tour, Max and Margie have had close discussions with the Director of the Botanic Gardens and senior staff of the National Parks Board of Singapore. Some of these people will be making presentations during our visit and providing expert input. *See page 5 for more details.*

Looking ahead to our AGM in May 2018, there will be some vacancies occurring on Council, so give becoming a Council Member some thought. Nominations will be called for in good time as usual.

A couple of our Friends are not in the best of health. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back at the Arboretum in 2018.

I do hope you enjoyed our Friends Christmas Celebration in the Terrace Room on 12 December 2018. The Jake Keller Scholarship was presented to Jayne Roberts by ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA. He then unveiled an Honour Board which will later be mounted on a wall in the Village Centre. This scholarship is a partnership between the Horticulture staff of the CIT and the Arboretum and is a great example of cooperation between institutions to support final year CIT students.

Thanks to Lauren Brown, our Community Engagement Officer, for the sterling job she performs on behalf of the Friends. Thanks also to Scott Saddler who pops into our Guides meetings and other meetings to give us regular updates. We appreciate his friendly, knowledgeable and ready cooperation.

A hearty thank you to all you Friends for the magnificent work you do for the Arboretum. You are the best ambassadors for the Arboretum by far!

Seasons greetings to you all.  
See you at the Arboretum in 2018!

**Trish Keller OAM**  
Chair

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# Our cork oak forest turns one hundred!

BY LINDA MULDOON

What a memorable event this was!

Weather conditions were perfect for the **Cork oak Centenary Celebration** held from 11am to 3pm on Sunday, 12 November 2017. The sun filtered through the many cork oak canopies, creating an absolutely magical setting for entertainment. Everyone seemed to be in a good mood, prompted by the power of these familiar

trees that many of us have known and felt a connection with over several decades.

The program began with our Guides leading walks from the Village Centre to the cork oaks at 10am, 11am and 12 noon, but there were also shuttle buses departing at regular intervals, offering free rides to and from the cork oak celebrations.

The many children that attended were well-catered for. At 11am storytelling about 'Natasha's Wood' was delivered by Fay Maddison, author of an ongoing story that involves children's art and which will result in a limited edition picture book. There was a Children's Discovery Trail, an opportunity to 'make your own swaggie hat' and supplies for children to try 'ribbon



Friends' volunteers manned a stall near the entry to attract potential members and collect donations. From left: Michael Hodgkin, Cynthia Blount and Maggie Hawes.



Bronwyn Halbisch demonstrated her ongoing enthusiasm for selling produce via the Harvesting Group's market stall which reaped around \$400 profit.

People sat in groups around the many tables set up around the stage, or they spread out picnic blankets and relaxed on the forest floor.





The Arboretum's Hannah Semler was MC for activities on and around the stage. Here Hannah was thanking Brett Odgers of the Walter Burley Griffin Society for his 10-minute talk on the history of the cork oak forest.



Above: A performer from Elementz Rhythmic Gymnastics  
Below: Junior members of the Manquehue Chilean Dance Group

twirling'. A venue set up for teaching children how to make 'acorn creatures' was particularly popular. In other areas of the forest the cork oak stripping demonstrations drew large crowds and cork oak forest walks got underway. Lively and colourful acts were performed on stage, beginning with a ribbon twirling demonstration by the impressive Elementz Rhythmic



Above: Cecilia and Jorge performing in the forest  
Below: The 'create an acorn creature' table was very busy



Gymnastics group, followed by performers, young and not so young, from the Manquehue Chilean Dance Group. These sessions were interspersed with Portuguese music by DJ Dan and Latin music by Cicilia and Jorge. The stage performances ended with a talk by Eric the Bee Whisperer.

Many vendors traded from the area to the east of the cork oaks and they appeared to be doing a roaring trade, particularly those selling food and drinks.

### CORK STRIPPING

A large crowd gathered to watch the cork stripping demonstrations. On this occasion, this was undertaken by Harley Baker, one of the Arboretum's Senior Horticulturalists.

Apparently this was not the ideal time of year for this activity but the crowd watched eagerly as progress was made. Harley began by making a horizontal cut around the trunk at the top and bottom of the area of cork to be removed and then a vertical cut which enabled him to get in and lift the cork layer with the head of the axe.

In the bottom left photo Harley is showing us the traditional Portuguese cork stripping axe that he used.

*This was a very successful event where the community seemed to be very ready to claim 'their' forest and join in the celebrations.*



Photos by author

# Max and Margie Bourke's Singapore trip

5–11 MARCH 2018

If you act quickly you can still book a spot on this exotic tour of Singapore's trees and gardens.

Max and Margie Bourke have had a long association with the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra and with arboreta, gardens and garden history around the world. They also have an ongoing connection with Singapore, so in developing this itinerary they've liaised with the Director of the Singapore Botanic Gardens and senior staff of the National Parks Board of Singapore. Some of these people will be making presentations and providing expert input during this visit—making this a special opportunity, well beyond that available to the general tourist.

Singapore has a rich botanical history and its old and current tree planting practices are of international interest. This trip will explore these developments with experts in the fields of botany, ecology and tree management. It will look at the history of tropical lowland rainforests (remnants still remain), gardens with antecedents going back to 1819 and the days of Sir Stamford Raffles, the early 1960s under the leadership of Prime Minister Lee Kuon Yew and his 'greening' of Singapore, as well as observing present day developments.

The tour leaders, Max and Margie Bourke, will be operating *pro bono* and any profits from the trip will be directed towards the Friends.

**Day 1:** After arrival in Singapore, travel to Palau Ubin, a small island off the north coast of Singapore to see old kampong (traditional village) life and the natural flora and fauna that once covered Singapore. Then book into our Singapore hotel which will be home for six nights.

**Day 2:** Singapore Botanic Gardens/National Orchid Garden, and visit other specialist gardens.

*Singapore Botanic Gardens—the Tembuso tree is featured on the reverse of Singapore's five dollar note.*



*Orchids in the National Orchid Garden*

**Day 3:** Visit Gardens by the Bay, a massive complex of glasshouses and outdoor areas which opened four years ago (at a cost of \$1 billion plus).

**Day 4:** Sungei Buloh Wetlands and Mangrove Arboretum.

**Day 5:** More of Singapore Botanic Gardens, then onto the 9 hectare Hort Park.

**Day 6:** MacRitchie Reservoir and Yishun Park.

**Day 7:** Visit Fort Canning Heritage Tree Trail and historic site (home of Singapore's historic royalty), WWII sites and great trees in the heart of the city. Then catch an evening flight and head back to Canberra.

## TOUR PRICE (excluding air fares)

Per person, twin share \$2,640

Single room supplement \$930

Prices include six nights accommodation, six breakfasts, two dinners, air-conditioned coach travel throughout the tour, entry fees to all gardens, sightseeing as shown in the itinerary, and tipping/porterage at the hotel.

Prices do not include international air fares, travel insurance, personal expenses and anything not mentioned above.

For more details/bookings, contact

**Opulent Journeys** Ph: 1300 219 885

Email: [enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au](mailto:enquiries@opulentjourneys.com.au)

Website: [www.opulentjourneys.com.au](http://www.opulentjourneys.com.au)

For more information on the parks/arboreta/gardens contact Max Bourke Email: [max@mebourke.com](mailto:max@mebourke.com)

# Ceremonial tree plantings in October and December

BY LINDA MULDOON

Location: Arboretum's Central Valley

Date: 13 October 2017

**His Excellency Mr Issoufou Mahamadou, President of the Republic of Niger**, planted a Mediterranean red bud (*Cercis siliquastrum*), accompanied by Mr Michael Pettersons MLA who is the Member for Yerrabi.

His Excellency had asked to see some Australian animals during his stay, so his visit to the Arboretum was used as an opportunity to satisfy this request. He was introduced to a 2-year-old bettong from Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and also a very obliging baby wombat that had been hand-reared because he was found in his mother's pouch following her road death. The animals behaved very well and were the focus of everyone's attention. His Excellency was obviously delighted to meet these little Australians.

*Below: His excellency was delighted to see the bettong from Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary.*

*Below right: Mr Michael Pettersons MLA (front left) with His Excellency and the two animal handlers.*

*Bottom right: The hand-reared baby wombat.*



*Above: His Excellency watering in the Mediterranean red bud and the plaque that marks this event.*



*Location: Southern end of the cork oak forest*

*Date: 11 December 2017*

An AFP piper played on the edge of the cork oak forest as **Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT**, walked together with **Mr Andrew Colvin APM OAM, Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police**, and approached waiting guests for a ceremony where they



*The Chief Minister of the ACT (left) with the Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police addressing the crowd.*

were to plant a cork oak tree (*Quercus suber*) 'To celebrate 100 years of Federal Policing in the Year of the Cork Oak Forest Centenary'.

Both men addressed the crowd and then the planting got underway, with the men moving spadefuls of topsoil one after the other, but watering the tree in together.

Following the ceremony, a representative of the Australian Federal Police handed out gift packs to all those attending. These contained commemorative badges and egg-shaped rubber balls. They were commemorating the Centenary of the 'Warwick Incident' and Federal Policing in Australia, with the explanation as follows:

'On 29 November 1917, while Prime Minister Billy Hughes was delivering a speech at Warwick Railway Station supporting military conscription, his hat was dislodged by a protester's egg.

*The plaque which marks the tree.*



*Top: A piper playing on the edge of the forest really added atmosphere to the occasion.*

*Above: The two men watered the tree in together.*

'When directed by the Prime Minister to arrest the protester for a breach of Commonwealth law, Senior Sergeant Kenny of the Queensland Police refused to do so saying he upheld Queensland law only.

'As a result, the Prime Minister used the *War Precautions Act 1914* to create Australia's first federal police, the Commonwealth Police Force, on 11 December 1917!'

*Photos by author*

# *Luma apiculata*

## CHILEAN MYRTLE

BY LINDA MULDOON

What a pretty sight Forest 45 will be in years to come. So far, these evergreen trees of the Myrtaceae family have flowered repeatedly and their orange-brown trunks will be just stunning.

*Luma* is derived from the Mapuche name, referring to the orange colour of the bark; *apiculata* refers to Latin for a small point at the end of a leaf.

Forest 45 was planted in November 2011. According to Taylor Cullity Lethlean, the planting pattern represents the shape of a Chilean myrtle tile (*tejuela*), popularly used on the roof and facade of a house in Chile's southern zone. The design allows the visitor to experience the species canopy as a dense forest at first, and as a distinctive tree on entering the central clearing.

### DISTRIBUTION

*L. apiculata* is native to the central Andes, between Chile and Argentina and a notable *L. apiculata* forest dominates 20 ha of the Quetrihué Peninsula, which is on the Argentina side of the border. Elsewhere it can be seen intertwining with other species and sometimes grows in water, or has its roots within a permanent water source.

### CONSERVATION STATUS

Not threatened.

### DESCRIPTION

A small evergreen tree which grows to 12 m in height with a spread of 8 m, often with a twisted and contorted trunk. The smooth bark can be grey but is more often bright orange-brown and it peels as the tree grows, revealing patches of white. The small elliptical deep-green leaves are 2–2.5 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, with a pointed tip. They are smooth, shiny, and some new growth is flushed with red. Small, white, cup-shaped flowers, up to 2 cm in diameter, appear in profusion for several weeks in February/March but at the Arboretum we frequently see flowers appearing sporadically through the year. They mostly have four (but sometimes five) petals, a prominent stigma and anthers that lengthen with maturity. Round hanging fruits appear in autumn. They are black or dark red, about 1 cm in diameter.

Flowers



Leaves



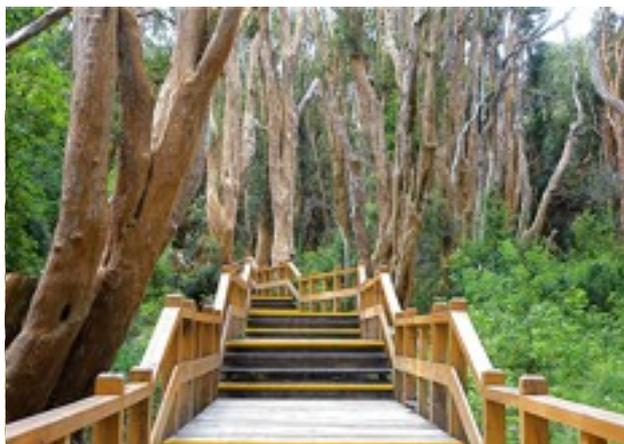
Fruit



Peeling orange-brown bark on a mature tree

### USES

*L. apiculata* is used medicinally by the Mapuche people. The fruit is edible and the flowers are used in honey production. The hardwood is used for making furniture and handles.



Right: very mature Chilean myrtles dominate on the Quetrihué Peninsula



*A tangle of Chilean myrtle trunks growing in Los Arrayanes National Park, Argentina*

*Photos by author*

# FOREST TALK

## VOLUNTEERS' THANK YOU EVENT IN THE MARGARET WHITLAM PAVILION

The evening of 7 December was fine and balmy—ideal for spilling out onto the deck of the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion and surveying 'our' Arboretum. A very happy ACT Chief Minister, Mr Andrew Barr MLA, addressed us, thanking us for the many hours of work we had all contributed to the Arboretum in one way or another (estimated to be around 20,000 hours in 2017).



## FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY IN THE TERRACE ROOM

The evening of 12 December began with Bevan Smith, son of Aboriginal artist Duncan Smith OAM, giving an exciting performance on a special type of didgeridoo. Next, the ACT Chief Minister awarded the 2017 Jake Keller Scholarship to Jayne Roberts. The scholarship is awarded to a final year horticulture student at CIT and supports tuition and work experience at the Arboretum. Scott Saddler, Acting Executive Manager, then addressed us, saying that Jayne's particular interest was in studying the benefits of exploding soil prior to tree planting and research would be carried out in the English oak forest. Then the party got underway.



Chief Minister Andrew Barr with Jayne Roberts



Above: Lauren Brown (left), Community Engagement Officer, National Arboretum Canberra, with Trish Keller, Chair of the Friends.

Right: Yvonne Kilgour (left) with Tralie Kimlin

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form, **OR** go to [www.arboretumcanberra.org.au](http://www.arboretumcanberra.org.au) where you can join online and make a secure payment.

Yes. I/we wish to join the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

1. Title ..... First name .....

Last name .....

2. Title ..... First name .....

Last name .....

Postal address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Email address .....

I agree to receiving notices by email YES/NO .....

Telephone (h) ..... (w) .....

**Please remember to tell us about changes to your contact details**

Date .....

Please circle your relevant membership category/parking voucher request:

Single	1 year \$35	3 years \$95	5 years \$155
Household	1 year \$40	3 years \$110	5 years \$180
Concession	1 year \$20	3 years \$55	5 years \$90
Association or club	1 year \$60	3 years \$160	5 years \$270
Corporate Friend	1 year \$2000	3 years \$5400	5 years \$9000

Friends' annual parking voucher \$25 Reg. No. ....

Total payment ..... Please circle your method of payment

Cash    Cheque    Direct deposit

*(cheques must be made payable to Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.)*

Post membership applications to:

**The Secretary, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.**  
**PO Box 48, Campbell, ACT 2612**

Direct deposit details are:

WESTPAC, Petrie Plaza, Canberra, ACT

Account—Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

BSB No. 032719 Account No. 375379

*(when making a direct deposit, please record your name so that your membership can be verified)*

## Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

### Contact

You can contact us via email at [friends@arboretumcanberra.org.au](mailto:friends@arboretumcanberra.org.au) or visit our website at [www.arboretumcanberra.org.au](http://www.arboretumcanberra.org.au) or by phone during business hours on 0406 376 711

### Office bearers

Trish Keller OAM (Chair)  
 Del Da Costa (Secretary)  
 Richard Bear (Treasurer)  
 Colette Mackay (Donations and Sponsorship Manager)

### Council members

Rob Ey  
 Cherie McLean (Social Media Manager)  
 Linda Muldoon (Publications Editor)  
 Lainie Shorthouse (STEP Representative)  
 Mike Woolley (NBPCA Representative)

The Council (all of the above) meet on the second Tuesday of each month

### Life members

Max and Margie Bourke  
 Roger Hnatiuk  
 Sherry McArdle-English  
 Linda Muldoon  
 Jocelyn Plovits

### Honorary member

Jon Stanhope AO

### Patron

John Mackay AM

### Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly. Please contact Linda Muldoon, the editor, by email on [lindaon@grapevine.com.au](mailto:lindaon@grapevine.com.au) if you would like to contribute an article, news or photos. Decisions regarding what content is published are determined by the Chair.

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NOTE: this page may be photocopied

