



# **FRIENDS** of the **National Arboretum Canberra** **Newsletter 35 / May 2017**

## **Dear Friends**

Recently 35 new Guides completed their 12-week orientation course and it was my very great pleasure to present them with their completion certificates. I would like to offer my very heartfelt thanks to the coordinators of the course, our Community Engagement Officer Lauren Brown and Sandra Linsley, to the trainers who prepared and delivered the weekly course lessons, and to the experienced Guides who took on the role of Mentors for the new Guides.

This training exercise has been a great experience for all Friends concerned and the Guides Roster can now be filled with both experienced Guides and those new Guides just itching to get started. Our new Guides will all look very professional in their new uniforms, bag in hand and a wide smile. A special thanks must go to Marelle Rawson for organising all the new uniforms.

The commitment shown just indicates what team effort can do and we also recognise much generosity of spirit among members of the Canberra community wanting to be involved in the Arboretum.

At the recent Order of Australia Association's National Conference in Brisbane, Emeritus Professor Catherin Bull AM, MLArch (Melbourne), DrDes (Harvard), FAILA Hon, LFAIA, MAICD addressed the conference forum as a guest presenter. Her topic under the conference theme 'Innovating for Society' related to urban biodiversity and innovation and the National Arboretum Canberra was mentioned in glowing terms as having value and

purpose for the broader benefit of society in resilience, inclusion and biodiversity. Professor Bull was involved in the early days of the design of the Arboretum and is very keen to visit and go on a tour. I promised her this could be arranged!

Planning for Warm Trees 2017 is well underway. Jocelyn Plovits, our indefatigable convenor of this event, has been in close liaison with the Japanese Embassy as the Yoshino cherries (*Prunus x yedoensis*) in Forest 17 will feature this year. A very special launch will be held at 11:00 am on 4 July when Japanese and Aboriginal cultures will become musically entwined. There will also be a display in the Village Centre featuring posters, beautiful artwork from local school students and a DVD from the Embassy of Japan will be playing.

A Japanese ex-student of mine told me that in the past Yoshino Mountain was worshipped as a god and cherry blossom trees were believed to be sacred—so people planted them when they visited the mountain as a form of donation.

Our 2017 Volunteer of the Year will be announced at our Annual General Meeting on 9 March. Also other Friends will be recognised for the sterling service they have contributed to Friends' activities in and around the Arboretum. There are so many opportunities for Friends to be involved and here I list just a few: Guiding, Event Assistance, Research Assistance, Bonsai, Working Bees, Warm Trees, Harvesting, STEP, Cactus and Succulent Society, administrative tasks, speaking another language and no doubt there are many others.

'Visiting the relatives' took on new meaning lately with the photo exhibition in the Village Centre from 4–25 April. I do hope you were able to view this photographic memoir of the journey several of our Friends (and others) took to Chile and Argentina, in search of the Arboretum's Chilean species growing in their natural environments. From 1 May and during Tree Week a travelling exhibition occupied the display area in the Village Centre. **The Tree Projects photographic exhibition** featured photos of the tallest flowering plant in the world—*Eucalyptus regnans* (mountain ash) from the Styx Valley in Tasmania. Drones were used for some of the photos, with stunning results.

See you soon—at the Arboretum!

**Trish Keller OAM**  
Chair

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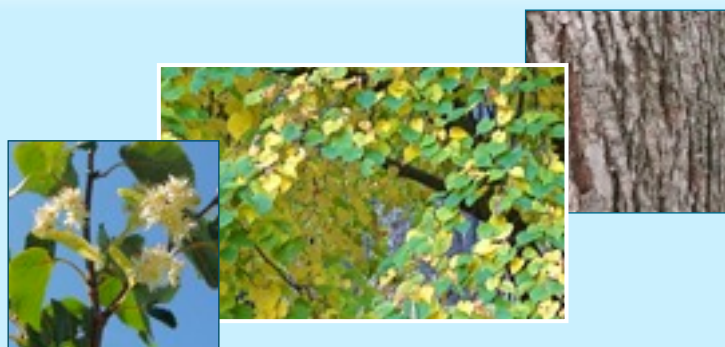
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# Four new gardens open on the Events Terrace

BY LINDA MULDOON

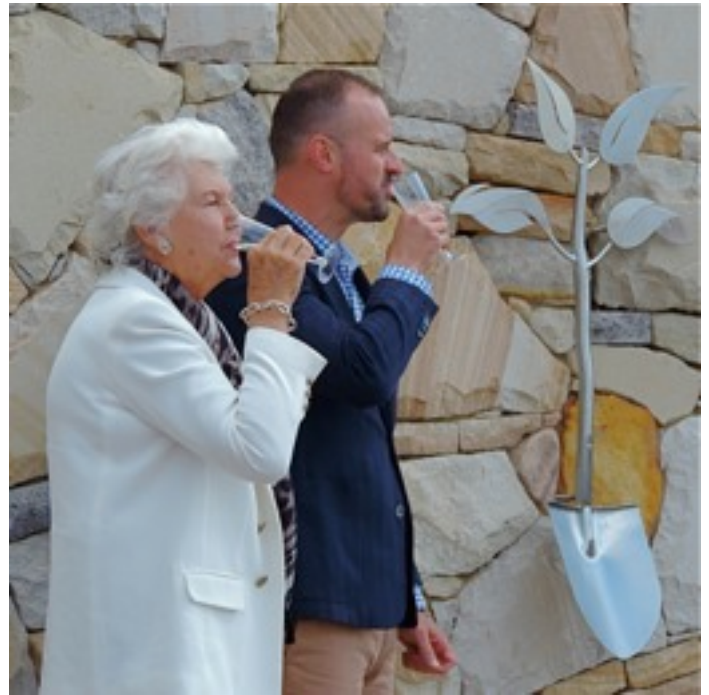
*Remember the original proposal: **100 Forests 100 Gardens?** Right from the start, gardens were planned to be part of this Arboretum and now we have substantial progress on this front. Four gardens in the 'Gallery of Gardens' are now open to the public, following an impressive opening ceremony on 2 April 2017.*

Ultimately there will be seven gardens occupying this strip at the rear of the Events Terrace but the first to get underway was the **Open Gardens Australia Celebration Garden** which is based on the theme 'artistry in gardens'. This was funded by a generous donation from the winding up of Open Gardens Australia. Mrs Tamie Fraser AO was patron of that organisation and she attended both the turning of the first sod (in June 2015) and the garden opening.

The garden was designed by Neil Hobbs for Harris Hobbs Landscapes, with a mix of Australian and exotic plants reflecting the diversity of gardens showcased by Open Gardens Australia over their 27-year history.

The next garden along is **The Labyrinth Garden** with a medieval pattern inspired by the Notre-Dame Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth in France. Designed for walking meditation, this is a space for contemplation and

*Some of the many guests gathered for the opening ceremony of the Open Gardens Australia Celebration Garden.*



*Mrs Tamie Fraser AO joined Mr Andrew Barr MLA in a toast to the garden.*

renewal. There are also quiet places to sit, surrounded by ground covers, shrubs and deciduous trees. This garden was inspired and donated by Amelda and Glenn Keys and designed by Neil Hobbs for Harris Hobbs Landscapes

Further along is **The AIDS Garden of Reflection**, a living tribute to those lost to AIDS and also supporting those living with HIV. This garden was made possible through years of fundraising and advocacy by a group of people with HIV and their supporting family members and friends. The project was also supported by the AIDS







*Glenn Freeman, an Aboriginal elder of the Ngunnawal people, gave a very spirited Welcome to Country speech prior to the launch.*



*Jocelyn Plovits, former Chair of the Friends (with the scarf) sitting next to Trish Keller, current Chair of the Friends, at the ceremony.*

Action Council and their patron Mr John Mackay AM. The opening ceremony was particularly moving with recollections of those departed and songs from the Canberra Gay and Lesbian Qwire. The garden has been designed by John Patrick Landscape Architects to provide a sense of calm and comfort with a haven featuring an arbour, a shallow rock pond, benches and rock seating for visitors reflecting on loss and developing hope within a wonderful landscape.

The adjoining space is **Mununja the Butterfly Garden** which has an Aboriginal theme depicting a dreamtime story of the Ngunnawal people, the custodians of the land the Arboretum occupies. The garden was designed by Jim Fogarty of Garawana Creative with layout, colour and shape referencing the geometric scales on wings of two butterfly species found along Australia's east coast.

Native plants have been selected for their cultural significance to provide food and habitat for butterflies. This space provides opportunities for cultural dialogue, education and indigenous engagement, as well as providing private contemplative areas and a venue for public functions. Construction was made possible through generous donations from the Mackay and Waldren families.

Members of the Friends performed various roles during the opening ceremony and we ran a fundraising stall, selling produce from the fig forest and Canberra Discovery Garden during the hours that followed. A wonderful festive atmosphere prevailed as the public arrived and many kites took flight.

*A didgeridoo player began proceedings at the opening of the Aboriginal-themed Mununja garden. Tyronne Bell is standing far left, representing the Ngunnawal people, with John Mackay. The Waldrens are next in line, sitting with other distinguished guests.*

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR



# Photo exhibition and talks on Chilean trees and travels

BY JOANNE MAPLES

Another wonderful achievement from among the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra was the photographic exhibition mounted in the Village Centre during April 2017. It focused mainly on the Arboretum's seven forest species that are native to Chile, but also included many colourful images of birds, flowers, national parks, lakes, volcanoes and cultural icons seen along the way—photographed and shared by eight of the thirteen Friends and other Canberrans who travelled through Chile and part of Argentina in late 2016.

## Visiting the relatives



IMAGES OF THE ARBORETUM'S CHILEAN SPECIES GROWING IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTS

The group flew to Santiago and then travelled by minibus, north to the coastal port of Valparaíso, then south through Chile's central valley to its Lakes District, across the Andes into Argentina and back into Chile to visit several spectacular national parks and the island of Chiloé. The trip took 24 days and was the inspiration of Jan Morgan, who worked hard to put together a full itinerary that really took account of the group's interest in seeing Arboretum tree species and other aspects of nature, great and small. The image shown above was



Shelly Parer opening the exhibition on 8 April 2017.

used in the exhibition. It was photographed by Vera Bloxham and is of monkey puzzle crowns rising in the grassy Andean foothills with a volcano in the background. Linda Muldoon took many of the other photos and curated the exhibition—an exercise which she claims took at least as many hours as the trip itself!

The exhibition was installed on 4 April but officially 'opened' on Saturday 8 April—to Chilean tunes (on guitar and flute) and short speeches from Hannah Semler, Trish Keller and Shelly Parer. Shelly lived in Chile for several years and spoke from the heart about how trees relate to some of her own life experiences and about traditions involving trees that shape how people experience community.

The exhibition was supported by two talks: one as part of ongoing learning for Arboretum Guides and one for all Friends and the public. These talks gave more detail about the Arboretum's Chilean species in Chile, other interesting Chilean natives (trees, other flora and fauna), and a few Arboretum species seen along the way that

*The music of Jorge (left) and Cecilia (below) certainly created a lively mood for the exhibition opening.*

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON







were not native to Chile. The speakers were Jan Morgan, Joanne Maples, Linda Muldoon and Jean Chesson.

Thanks must go to speakers for their efforts and to the other travellers who contributed so many interesting photographs. The exhibition and talk enhanced the offerings available to the large number of Arboretum visitors coming into the Village Centre over the Easter holidays—thanks to its Friends.

*Top: The tour's participants and members of the public found much to discuss following the exhibition opening.*

*Above: Many Arboretum visitors viewed our exhibition over the Easter holiday period*

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON



# Prickly but pretty, fussy but fantastic

BY JACKIE WARBURTON\*

The **Cactus and Succulent Garden**, located within the Arboretum's Discovery Garden is the latest venture of the Cactus and Succulent Society of the ACT (the Society) which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015. It received a Gold Award from the ACT Chief Minister for delivering 50 years of service to Canberra.

## GROWING CACTI AND SUCCULENTS IN CANBERRA

The Garden is, very fittingly, part of the Discovery Garden that demonstrates water-wise ways of gardening for Canberrans and other visitors. It was established under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arboretum (signed August 2016) which gives the Society an on-the-ground opportunity to extend its role in educating people about cacti and succulents for this region.

## NO NATIVE CACTI, SO WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

Most cacti come from arid regions of North and South America, especially the USA and Northern Mexico. Cacti can withstand scorching heat and little rainfall. Most species have an extraordinary capacity to absorb droplets of water and store it efficiently. Many protect themselves from the burning sun with hairs and spines. All cacti are succulents as they store water in their stems,

but all succulents are not cacti. The one thing that sets cacti apart is the presence of areoles, which are small lumps and fluffy-like buds on the stems from which new growth emerges.

Through many years of experimentation, Society members have acquired a thorough knowledge of the species that survive the extremes of Canberra's climate, especially winter nights when temperatures can fall to -6°C. The success of this Garden is due to the selection of suitable plants but the soil mix, the sunny and sheltered location, watering and ongoing maintenance by the Society's volunteers also contribute.

The Garden includes some succulents that have been donated by members of the Society who have grown them to some size over many years. For example, the *Caphalocereus senilis* is over 2 m tall and one *Echinocactus grusonii* is over 50 years old. Other cacti and succulent additions are donated and have been settling into their new environment over the past six months.

In line with the Arboretum's conservation role, the Garden has also played a part in the preservation of species that were growing in the Xeroscape Garden at the CIT Horticulture School in Weston. The word



*The golden barrel cactus being moved into its new home*



*Echinocactus grusonii*

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR





*xerophyte* comes from the Greek words *xero* (dry) and *phuton* (plant) and describes a species of plant that has adapted to survive in an environment with little liquid water, such as a desert or an ice- or snow-capped region in the Alps or the Arctic.

Several outstanding specimens were rescued from the derelict Weston gardens and transferred to the Arboretum in 2010. *Echinopsis spachiana*, *Cereus hilmannianus* and *Crassula arborescens* were the main succulents that came. They are hardy and grow on low rainfall with little or no care. Others were added to the Discovery Garden to fill the space before the Society came onboard to add more interesting succulents to the collection.

### A CONTINUING SUCCESS

The Society is a member of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra and we were pleased to be welcomed to the Arboretum for our General Meeting on 19 March 2017. A close and critical inspection of the Cactus and Succulent Garden followed.

The initial plantings had to be redesigned to move spiky specimens out of reach. We are thrilled to see the new layout and arrangement of the plants. The 'babies' appearing on several cacti show how healthy they are and the red scoria and grey gravel set off the main colours of the plants perfectly.

Our members made many comments on the spread of low-growing succulents, then with flowers, and the tall *Cephalocereus senilis* also flowering, albeit out of season as it usually flowers from November to January.

I summed up the experience, saying that after this visit we were all highly motivated to maintain the Garden as an unusual and interesting part of the Arboretum for years to come.

*\* Jackie Warburton is President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of the ACT*



*The garden as at May 2017*

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Jackie Warburton will be speaking at the Friends Winter Seasonal Talk on 18 July, at 12:30 pm in the Terrace Room—put that date in your diary.

Visit the Society's website at [www.cssact.org.au](http://www.cssact.org.au) to find resources, including full lists of cacti and succulents that grow in Canberra, details of supplies, and activities such as soil mix days and garden visits.

### CACTI AND SUCCULENTS WITHIN THIS GARDEN

*Agave attenuata* (century plant)  
*Agave victoria-reginae* (royal agave)  
*Cereus hilmannianus* (hedge cactus)  
*Crassula arborescens* (silver jade plant)  
*Crassula falcata* (propeller plant)  
*Crassula perforata* (string of buttons)  
*Echinocactus* sp. 'Easter Bonnet'  
*Echinocactus grusonii* (golden barrel cactus)  
*Echinopsis huascha* (red torch cactus)  
*Echinopsis schickendantzii* (sea urchin cactus)  
*Echinopsis spachiana* (golden torch cereus)  
*Ferocactus glaucescens* (barrel cactus)  
*Portulacaria afra* (Chinese jade plant)  
*Sedum* sp. 'Pat's Pink' (stone crop)  
*Senecio sepens* (blue chalksticks)





# Yet more delights from the Discovery Garden!

BY BRONWYN HALBISCH\*

The Harvesting Group's **Discovery Garden (DG) Group** of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Arboretum on 6 October 2016—to develop and maintain the large central raised planter box in the education area of the Discovery Garden to its fullest productive potential as a demonstration, learning and harvestable vegetable and herb kitchen garden.

The DG Group, headed up by Ange McNeilly, is delighted with this opportunity to showcase this wonderful Arboretum asset to the public. In just over six months the DG Group has provided abundant quantities of tomatoes, beans, basil, parsley, aubergines, chives, artichokes and chillies to make delectable produce for sale at the Market Stall held during the opening of four gardens in the Gallery of Gardens on 2 April. We raised \$850 for the Friends, in support of the Arboretum, on that day.

Colette Mackay, Ange McNeilly and Lorraine Nichols were the champions in organising and setting up this great initiative with the help of Susan Parsons, Jeanette Hahn and myself. We also had access to harvest from the Sensory Garden (beyond the cacti and succulents), including lavender.



*Discovery Garden plantings to dazzle the eyes and tempt the taste buds.*

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

The next Market Stall will be held on **Sunday 21 May 2017**. Make sure you put that date in your diaries!

There will be **basil pesto, parsley pesto, green tomato chutney** and **pickles**, plus a great array of other attractive items. And yes, we will have **figs** for sale. They are still ripening very slowly, so there will be **fig jam**—and we've found a recipe to deal with the green ones—**pickled figs**? Yes please! So make sure you come along and stock up your pantry!

\* *Bronwyn is leader of the Harvesting Group*

*Friends selling produce from the Market Stall on 2 April.*





# *Tilia cordata*

## SMALL-LEAVED LIME

BY LINDA MULDOON

*I've just discovered how beautiful this tree can be, having seen an advanced specimen growing in the grounds of the ANU Vice Chancellor's Residence during a Tree Week walk.*

*Tilia* is Latin for linden and *cordata* is Latin for heart, referring to the heart-shaped leaves. Forest 38 is home to this species at the National Arboretum Canberra where it was planted in 2011 in a pattern of curved lines.

### DISTRIBUTION

*T. cordata* is native to Europe and much of Asia, occurring in woodlands on fertile soils, and is commonly found on wooded limestone cliffs. It is restricted to high elevations in the south of its range.

### CONSERVATION STATUS

Although not classified as threatened, it is thought to be increasingly rare in Britain.

### DESCRIPTION

*T. cordata* is a medium-sized deciduous tree: height 25 m, spread 12 m, with a dense rounded crown and



*Wow! How will a forest of these look? This tree, photographed at the ANU on 3 May, had a very pleasing mix of yellow and green leaves (see closer photo of same tree below).*

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

a single trunk, up to 1 m in diameter. The bark is grey-brown and ridged with shallow furrows. The deep-green heart-shaped leaves are 3–8 cm long and wide, with finely serrated margins. Leaves turn to yellow in autumn. The small, pale, yellowish-green flowers are fragrant and they emerge in clusters of 5–11 from leaf-like yellow-





green bracts in early summer. They have both male and female organs and are pollinated by bees. The fruit is dry and nut-like, downy at first but becomes smooth when mature and is then 6–8 mm long and 4 mm wide. Life-span is around 60 years, with some trees living much longer.

## USES

This species was often coppiced and used for fuel, hop-poles, bean-sticks and morris-dancing sticks! This was because the wood has a tight grain and doesn't splinter when hit hard. The wood was a classic choice for wood carvings. The fibrous layer of under-bark called 'bast' was twisted into ropes and used to make sandals. The flowers are important for honey production and young flowers are still used to make a medicinal tea which is believed to have anti-inflammatory properties. Leaves can be used as fodder for livestock and young leaves can be added to salads.

Young leaves



Bark



Buds

Clusters of flowers and their bracts



Small-leaved lime trees in winter, growing in Bavaria.

WIKIMEDIA PHOTO

There is evidence that the tree was used for social purposes as early as 760AD. In Germanic and Norse countries, it was believed to be a favourite of Freya (the goddess of love) and Frigga (the goddess of married love and the hearth). Women hoping for fertility would hug the tree or hang offerings in its branches.

*T. cordata* is the national tree of both the Czech and Slovak Republics.



Small-leaved lime tree fruits. Note how the bracts turn brown as the fruits mature.

WIKIMEDIA PHOTO



## OBITUARY

# Adam Burgess

BY LINDA MULDOON

Adam, the Arboretum's Horticulture Manager, died unexpectedly at home on Monday 1 May due to complications following surgery, aged 44.

We, the Friends, are all devastated at this news and feel so deeply sorry for his grieving family. Our relationship with Adam has stretched over many years now, and I have been able to locate photos going back to 2009 when he was organising the early Friends' Working Bees.

He was always very supportive of the Friends and even appeared in our first group photo. Many of us had developed very cordial working relationships with Adam over the years. In those early days, he was very much the public face of the Arboretum and our first point of contact for many activities.

While there have been three Chief Ministers and several changes in administration staff during this period, Adam was there for the long haul with an ongoing passion for the Arboretum project. I still have emails from him which demonstrate how dedicated he was, such as:

*Sent* Monday 2 June 2014

*Subject* Success 3 new dinosaurs have emerged

**'NAC *Wollemia nobilis* babies**

**So happy, I collected some more seed and you beauty! the seed cones 6–12 cm long and 5–10 cm in diameter, seeds small and brown, thin and papery with a wing around the edge to aid wind dispersal. Seedlings appear to be slow growing'**

This message was accompanied by portraits of all tree babies as photography was another of Adam's strengths.

In lieu of flowers, donations are sought to assist Adam's wife Danielle and their two young daughters. Please contribute directly into Danielle's bank account:

St George Bank

Danielle Burgess

BSB: 112 908

Account No: 054733040



*This was Adam on 14 April 2011. He'd found a plastic snake in the grass and joked with new Novotel volunteers working on their rocky outcrop.*

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR



*28 June 2009 Working Bee*



*14 March 2010 Festival of Forests*



*Friends' knoll 29 August 2010*



*Translocating bottle trees  
Adam at left, 27 October 2010*



*At Danish royals tree planting  
22 November 2011*



*Helping Aldo Giurgola plant  
a tree, 15 March 2012*



*Talking at the Wollemi Seminar  
21 July 2015*



# FOREST TALK



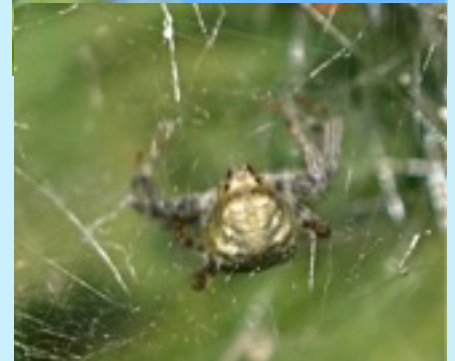
## A NEW OPENING PIC FOR OUR WEBSITE

There is splendid autumn colour at the Arboretum this year and this rather Monet-style image will appear on our website, replacing the dam photo. We will be making seasonal changes to the website photos from hereon in. This one features the *Cornus kousa* (flowering dogwoods), which have exceptional colour this May. They are located just beyond the Himalayan cedars on Cork Oak Road. This photo was taken from way back in the monkey puzzles, hence the hazy look.

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

## DO YOU KNOW THIS SPIDER?

Three members of the Tree Monitoring subgroup were measuring in the *Cedrus libani* (cedar of Lebanon) forest on 23 April when they came across some unfamiliar spider's nests, completely suspended between the branches. These were covered in dead leaves but there is another similar greenish nest (without leaves) in the monkey puzzle forest, so the dead leaves may have more to do with the location than the intention of the spider. The spider is quite small for such a sizable nest. She has two indentations on her back and will hang upside down with legs folded in when threatened. She then resembles a dead blowfly caught in a web!



## ANOTHER NEW TREE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

On Friday 7 April 2017, Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney-General for the ACT, joined **His Excellency the Hon. Baron Divavesi Waqa**, President of the Republic of Nauru, and **Madam Louisa Waqa** to plant a tree in the Arboretum's Central Valley. The species chosen was *Magnolia loebneri* 'Merill' (Loebner magnolia), a deciduous broadleaf magnolia with large white flowers followed by light green leaves. It has an upright habit and reaches 4–8 m in height (after 50 years).

PHOTO: DEL DA COSTA





## 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 .....

ast 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.aboretumcanberra.org.au](http://www.aboretumcanberra.org.au) or by phone during business hours on 0406 376 711

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Lainie Shorthouse (STEP Representative)  
Mike Woolley (NBPCA Representative)

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

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### 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.

*The Friends thank the ACT Government, ActewAGL, CanberraNet, Ginger Catering and Elect Printing for their support*

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