



# *F R I E N D S* of the National Arboretum Canberra

NEWSLETTER Issue 56 September 2022

Welcome to Spring! And Welcome to new Friends! It's been a very busy Winter with the Warm Trees celebration in July, a Winter Harvest Stall and lots of Wattle Day activities on the last weekend of August, just before Wattle Day on 1 September.



Wattle Day Stall



Jan Morgan, Helen Hemphill, and Marelle Rawson and Bogong Moths for Warm Trees

Forest 20, the Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP) has also re-opened and there is lots to look forward to including the launch of the Arboretum's Forest Sculpture Gallery on Friday 9 September and the Spring Harvest Stall on Saturday 17 September.

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## Chair's Report

Dear Friends

Happy Wattle Day! I hope you were able to enjoy some of the Wattle Day activities held at the Arboretum recently. And thanks to STEP and Dr Suzette Searle, Wattle Day Association President, for leading celebrations at the Arboretum.

Did you know Wattle is our formal emblem and a symbol that comes directly from our land. Wattle welcomes in the Spring and is amongst the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our wide brown land. And now you are able to purchase Wattle Seeds gathered from the Arboretum wattles from The Curatoreum. Yet another successfully completed Friends project! Thanks to Mike, Mel, Suzette, Michelle and a team of seed packers.

Warm Trees has been great at cheering us up during the long cold and dreary winter. Congratulations again to Convenor Jan Morgan. She and her team produced a very colourful display, across the Arboretum.



**Golden Wattle seeds**  
*(Acacia pycnantha)*  
**available at The Curatoreum**



Congratulations to Rob de Castella, AO, (see below) and the Indigenous Marathon Foundation, our Diplomatic Partner this year. Thanks in particular to Elna Jennings from IMF, who liaised with Jan to bring about this successful partnership.







We were also very pleased to have on the liaison team and at the Launch of Warm Trees Ngunnawal Elders Aunty Roslyn Brown and senior Ngunnawal elder Loretta Halloran, both from the Ngunnawal Council.

There is more about the Warm Trees story in the Newsletter, and if you want to find out more about this year's launch go to <https://www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/top-stories/warm-tress-launched-today>



This year's Warm Trees included dressing the Crepe Myrtles on the terrace behind the Discovery Garden, as well as the trees on the Main Terrace.

Planning for Warm Trees 2023 is already under way and our Diplomatic Partner will be South Africa. There are many colours in the flag of South Africa so now is a really good time to get started on your scarves for 2023!

At the Friends' August 2022 Council meeting, questions of succession planning were on the agenda and up for discussion again, with the questions being:

- 1) 'How are we/Council going to attract, recruit and engage new members to the Friends in the first instance?'
- 2) 'How can these new members be encouraged to become involved in Friends governance and consequently be encouraged to nominate for Council?'

Within this newsletter is a copy of the recent August Council Agenda to give you an idea of how we conduct our business month to month.

As I will not nominate again for Chair of the Friends at the Annual General Meeting in 2023 I have jotted down a few notes on my leadership and management styles to give you some idea of how it is being the Chair of the Friends... my way.

To begin with, this volunteer role has added purpose to my life and is a rich and rewarding experience. I am surrounded by a highly competent, trusted and effective Executive team. Between us we lead the legal entity (Council) which has responsibilities to you the membership. Strategic advice and support is freely and generously given to me on a regular basis. My key strategies for leading and managing include:

- being aware of the legislation of the Incorporation Act, the Friends Constitution, and our Memorandum of Understanding with the Arboretum;
- being actively involved in a variety of as many Friends activities as I can. These currently include Chairing the Guides meetings, ensuring our Guides have consistent and accurate information; ensuring they are well resourced and regularly able to network with their fellow Guides;
- being a Thursday Worker Bee (once upon a time);
- fundraising ;
- driving the Ngala bus;
- public speaking which includes accepting invitations to outside organisations where I can promote the Friends and talk about the Arboretum; chair the Friends' General Meetings; give seasonal talk introductions and thanks;
- maintain an excellent rapport with the Arboretum staff, ACT Government officials, Ginger Catering, Bonsai, STEP, Mel and The Curatoreum, the cleaners, and of course with you the Friends;
- writing a regular segment for the Friends newsletter... like this!
- drawing on an effective network for lobbying;
- working closely with the Community Engagement Officer who is the NAC staff member employed to support Friends and Volunteers; and
- setting Council Agendas with the Secretary and Council priorities with the Friends Council members.

Being retired is an advantage for taking on the Chair's role. Over the last nearly 8 years, I have had the time and energy to commit to this role. Being flexible, with excellent interpersonal skills and being a good listener also helps!

My passion for the Arboretum has never waned since the day I first volunteered in this role. If you are considering nominating for this position and would like some mentoring ... **see me!**

The Friends' latest project, the History of the Arboretum, is up and running. SRH, a local production company of high-end corporate filmmakers was chosen to complete the work. They will craft a narrative from interview content and weave together a coherent story incorporating still-photo photography and other facets of their design work bringing a creative and keen eye to the task. We envisage the project to be completed by early December 2022 thus ready for a launch in 2023 in conjunction with an Arboretum event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening.

See you at the next Friends General Meeting and Seasonal Talk on 13 September where Glenn Cocking will talk about moths. Thanks to Jan Morgan for organising!

And if you haven't done so yet, make sure to renew your Friends membership!

Kind regards

Trish

Trish Keller OAM

Chair, Friends of the National Arboretum

## Quick Updates for 2022

**My favourite plant podcast** by Joanne Maples

For those of you who love podcasts, this is one of my favourites: **Branch Out**

by the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney

<https://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/science/branch-out> There are currently 46 short episodes you can click on to listen to assorted plant-related topics—all fascinating! Some are tree-related:

- Ep. 16 No Plants No Chocolate: how plant diseases are threatening the supply of chocolate
- Ep. 25 Amazing plant-based inventions: including from cashew nut shells
- Ep. 28 Battling a plant disease pandemic: how myrtle rust attacking eucalypts, lemon myrtle and tea-tree
- Ep. 34 Tree change: the effects of climate change on trees and the ecosystems they live in
- Ep. 37 Fast Flora Facts: Trees: bite-sized facts, stories and research about trees.

If you like listening to the radio, then podcasts offer an easy way to choose your content. You can go to the web address above to listen to back episodes. To find new episodes on an ongoing basis, 'subscribe' to *Branch Out* through Spotify Apple or Android podcast platforms on your phone or desktop. Happy listening!

**Trees in Books** A recent episode of ABC's The Book Show by Claire Nichols profiled five books where trees play a significant role: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-18/five-amazing-trees-in-fiction-magic-faraway-tree/101324028>

**Australia Votes for its Favourite Tree**- As part of National Science Week this year, ABC Science hosted an Australia wide competition to find Australia's favourite tree... you may have already participated in this competition, you can read more about it below or watch the special two part Catalyst program screened on the ABC during August.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-07-29/vote-for-your-favourite-australian-native-tree/101210764>

<https://www.abc.net.au/catalyst/australias-favourite-tree-part-one/14021222>

**Diary dates:**

- 9 September: **NAC's Forest Sculpture Gallery Launch**
- 13 September 5.30pm **General Meeting and Seasonal Talk #3** Glenn Cocking, on **Moths**
- 8 November 5.30pm **General Meeting and Seasonal Talk #4** Rachel Dawes, Senior Director, Urban Treescape, on **Expanding Canberra's Urban Forest**
- 13 December **End of Year Event: Thank You to Volunteers & Friends 6-8pm**

## The Story of Warm Trees



*Overheard on the Event Terrace while installing scarves on the trees:*

*Small boy to volunteer: what are you doing?  
Volunteer to small boy: what do you think we are doing?  
Small boy: you are wrapping scarves around that tree  
Volunteer: yes, that's right  
Small boy: why are you doing that?  
Volunteer: why do you think we are doing that?  
Small boy: to keep the trees warm  
Volunteer: yes, that's right  
Small boy, triumphantly: but the trees don't feel the cold!!  
Volunteer: you're right, so why do you think we do it?  
Small boy: for fun? Volunteer: yes, that's right!*

The volunteer could have added that as well as having fun, Warm Trees is also about creating a colourful and cheerful display during winter, to encourage visitors to come when there are no other sources of colour, such as the trees in flower or the spectacular autumn colours.

And there are some other purposes. The event is organised by the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra, and in recent years we have partnered with an embassy or high commission and knitted scarves in the colours of the country's flag and have a display relating to a feature of the country – for example, a maple leaf for Canada, a bicycle and lots of wheels for the Netherlands, and a merlion and orchids for Singapore. The embassy also provides material for a display inside the Village Centre. So it is an opportunity for visitors to learn more about a foreign country.

This year we partnered with the Nggunawal people and the Indigenous Marathon Foundation, and the display on the wall leading to the Village Centre featured the endangered Bogong moth. So it was an opportunity to learn more about the first peoples of the country we live in, and also about the inspirational work being done by the IMF in Aboriginal communities around Australia.

And finally, another purpose is to keep people warm! At the end of July the scarves, which are knitted or crocheted by volunteers from around Australia, are taken down, washed, and made into wraps. They are then sent to a charity in Sydney called Wrap with Love, who in turn give them to needy people in Australia and overseas.

If you would like to get involved in future Warm Trees, please email [contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au](mailto:contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au) and the convener, Jan Morgan, will be in touch.



## Discovery Garden and Harvest Group Update

Congratulations to Colette Mackay OAM who is grandmother to a new baby girl born to daughter, Claire, who lives in California. Colette and John went to visit their new family member and will return to Australia in early September, just in time to get things ready for the market stall on Saturday, 17 September.



Speaking of the market stall, there will be copious amounts of fig jam and preserves, packaged seeds, plants, seedlings, decoy butterflies, and many other items for sale.

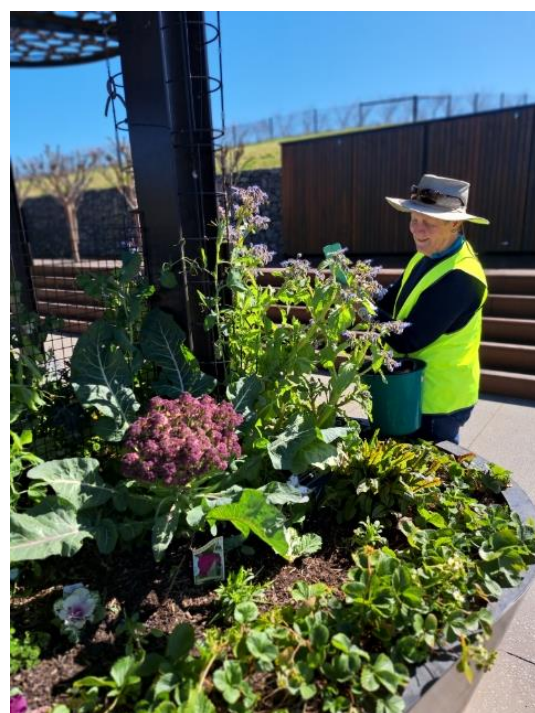
STEP will also be joining the market stall selling native seedlings. Wollemi Pines will be offered for sale

this spring and again closer to Christmas so make sure you get one of these extraordinarily rare trees with provenance to the Arboretum as a gift for your loved one (or for yourself). **Above: The Discovery Kitchen Garden in winter**

**Right: Cynthia in the garden**

This winter has been cold and wet! Many thanks to the valiant garden volunteers who have tended the garden for the month of August without my input, as I dealt with health and family issues. They have done an excellent job!

Cynthia sent the photos for this article and it is clear that all the vegetable and flowers are flourishing with some spectacular highlights such as the purple Sicilian cauliflower, broccoli Romanesco and rainbow silver beet.



The bees seem to love the beautiful blue flowers of the borage as well as all the other flowers in the garden. It is hoped that the dreaded Varroa mite virus does not enter ACT as it is hard to imagine a garden without the familiar buzzing of bees. My advice is to always plant flowers amongst the vegetables for the bees!

**Left: Bee in borage flower!**

Some more pictures of the produce in the Harvest Garden are provided on the next page.



**Article: Ange McNeilly and Photos: Cynthia Kimlin**

## Keeping in STEP

The winter weather and considerable rain has slowed down much of the activity at Forest 20. Despite this, it is pleasing to report that Iconic Trails have been able to do a considerable amount of path remediation. Their work is of a very high standard and has allowed us to re-open Forest 20 to visitors. Many thanks to Digby Gascoine and Terry Murphy for their liaison with Iconic and NAC management.

Wattle Day was a big event for us with guided tours along our Wattle Walk. We have 30 of the 33 species of wattle from the Southern Tablelands planted and the display of blooms is spectacular. We hosted two walks each day over the weekend.

Ground preparation has commenced with gravel and blue metal being dug into the soil to create a freer draining environment in places where Acacias have suffered due to excess water. This has been very arduous work and the assistance of Pete Mealy and the Horticulture crew is much appreciated. Thanks also to Jane Cottee for sourcing the Acacias which need replacing – her expertise is much appreciated.

In July, staff from Cool Country Natives at Pialligo came for a guided walk, led by David Shorthouse, as part of their staff development program. They were interested to see mature examples of some of the plants which they sell and indicated their continuing interest in Forest 20 and what we are striving to achieve.

Considerable work has also been on-going around the (not so much) Ephemeral Wetland area. Drainage lines and rock crossings have been constructed and there had been a huge effort made to remove excess Carex and Juncus from the pond edges. It is also such a joy to hear the very musical frog chorus from the ponds. Jennie Widdowson has ably overseen this work. Signage for the Grasses Gallery has finished the design stage and will be erected (as a lean over sign) shortly, consistent with NAC standards. Thank you to Wal Kelman and Ross Dalton for their work on this.

Best wishes to you all. See you at Forest 20 now we have re-opened.

Regards  
Judy Smith  
President STEP



## Chat with Cally

A special thankyou to all the Guides and volunteers who have helped us through this Winter, including with supporting the Warm Trees and Wattle Day celebrations and for committing to help us with the Forest Sculpture Gallery Launch as well as the extended activities and tours in the forthcoming Floriade and spring school holiday period. We recently completed our financial year reporting and over the last financial year, volunteers contributed 16,530 hours across a staggering range of activities including: guiding, attending training and meetings, working bees, National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia, Discovery Kitchen Garden, Harvest Group, Wollemi seed counting, Warm Trees, Ngala tours, maintenance of the Rocky Knoll and Cacti and Succulent garden, Friends support to the Arboretum, STEP and Stromlo Forest Park trail building.



Winter has meant amazing views at the Arboretum. And the Working Bees have been busy, undertaking forest maintenance activities across the Arboretum, under the supervision of the Horticultural team. Recently, the Working Bees have been spreading mulch in Forest 80 European Beeches, Forest 62 Dove Trees and Forest 64, Totara trees.



Other winter activities have included mulching and pruning Forest 14 the Persian Ironwoods, pruning Forest 9, the Chinese Tulip Trees, Forest 43 Black Tupelos, Forest 10 Californian Fan Palms, and Forest 8 Japanese Flowering Dogwood.



In Forest 12, a replacement Monkey puzzle was also planted. Here is the team in action! Enhancements were also made to the Terra Australis garden by the Horticultural team... see over the page.

Winter also saw the Arboretum make it to the big screen!

If you have not seen it, make sure to catch: Costa in the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection. Watch episode 18, Gardening Australia, series 33 on ABC iview [HERE](#)

Hayden Quinn also visited the Arboretum as part of his Taste of Australia series. You can find this show via:

<https://www.facebook.com/TasteOfAustraliaHQ/>

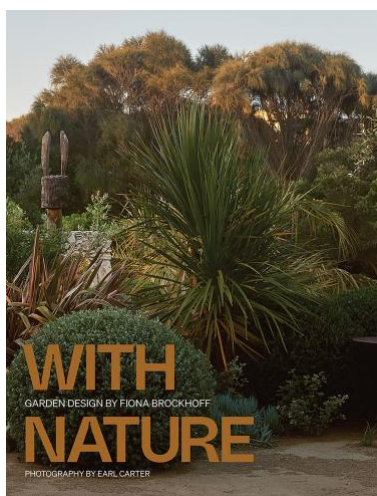


And we are so very pleased to finally be able to open the Forest Sculpture Gallery on Friday September 9. I look forward to seeing you all at the Arboretum!

Regards Cally Earnshaw  
Community Engagement Officer

## New Books to delight: This Spring @ The Curatoreum

There are so many gorgeous new garden design books landing in store, here are just a few of our recent favourites.

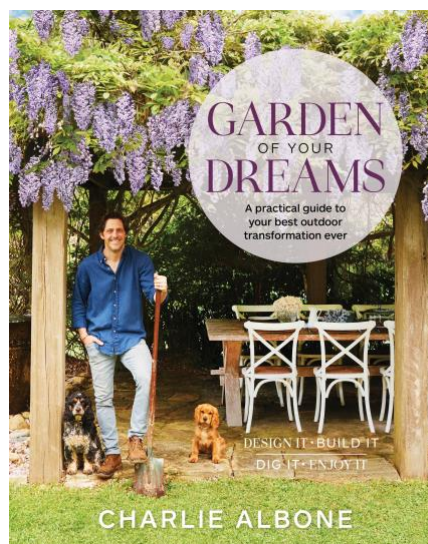


**With Nature**, by Fiona Brockhoff - \$70.00

In this beautifully photographed book, Fiona Brockhoff takes us through her gardens in Australia - some never before seen - with tips, design guidance and inspiration to help you create your own sustainable, naturalistic and holistic gardens. From small-space inner-city gardens to coastal and rural properties, Fiona's work is full of new and creative ideas.

**Garden of Your Dreams**, by Charlie Albone - \$39.99

Garden of Your Dreams is an inspirational and practical guide to complete outdoor transformations - from the smallest urban courtyard to a rural paradise. Let award-winning garden designer and landscape expert from Better Homes & Gardens, Charlie Albone, walk you through the process of turning your outdoor space into your own personal oasis. Start by identifying your dream design style, then learn how to make a plan that works for your site, budget and aspirations. Packed full of ideas and inspirational how-to as well as Charlie's personal plant guide, Garden of Your Dreams is the ideal first step to dreaming up your own outdoor transformation.

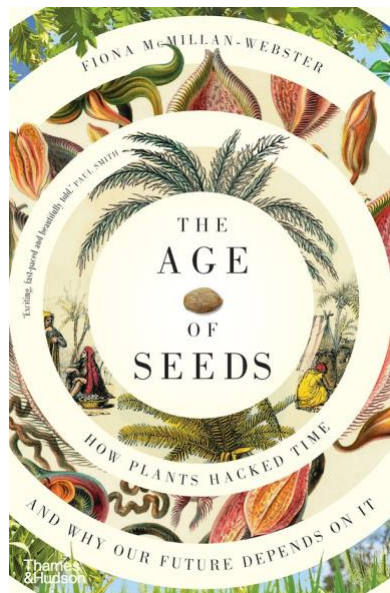




## Fascinating Reads

Staff Pick:

**The Age of Seeds: How Plants Hacked Time and Why Our Future Depends on It**, by Fiona McMillan-Webster - \$34.99



Fiona McMillan-Webster wondered why the dusty packet of sunflower seeds sitting on her nightstand wouldn't germinate, when a 2000-year-old extinct date palm seed did (though under vastly different circumstances). This curiosity led to *The Age of Seeds*, in which Fiona McMillan-Webster tells the astonishing story of seed longevity, the crucial role they play in our everyday lives, and what that might mean for our future.

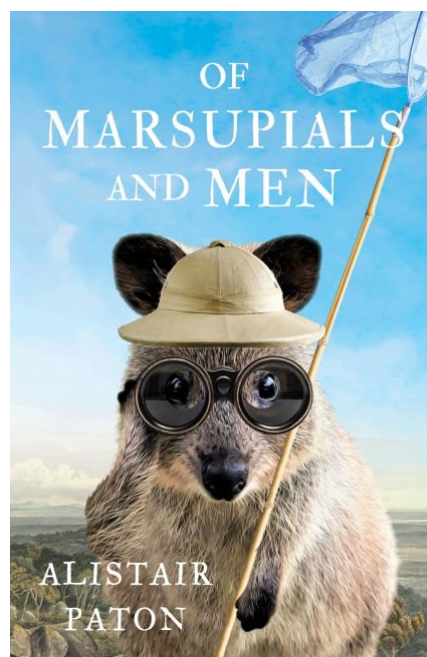
The book recounts fascinating tales of brave, early seed

collectors and the importance of seed banks today.

**Of Marsupials and Men**, by Alistair Paton - \$32.99

A brilliantly entertaining history of Australia's weird and wonderful natural scientists, *Of Marsupials and Men* recounts the fascinating and often hilarious history of the men and women who dedicated their lives to understanding Australia's native animals.

From the 'snake men' who fearlessly thrust their arms into hollow logs just to see what might happen, to the top-secret plan to smuggle a platypus to Winston Churchill at the height of World War II, these are their stories,



Spring is the perfect time to take cuttings of your favourite indoor plants!



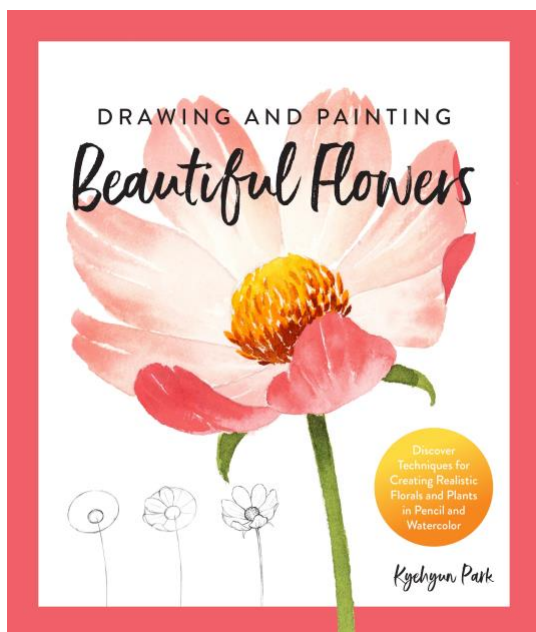
Beautiful and practical, **Proppi 3** is perfect for propagating your favourite indoor plant. Simply put a cutting into the specially designed amphoras and see them thrive. Then, keep them in the tube as an ornament or pot into the soil and watch them take off - \$46.99. Also available, Proppi 2 at \$36.99.

Have you ever wanted to capture the beauty of a carefully arranged vase of flowers, or a spectacular landscape?

We have a range of books to help you express the artist within.



In **Drawing and Painting Beautiful Flowers**, discover how to draw flowers such as roses, cosmos, daffodils, tulips, hydrangeas, lilies, daisies, and more from various angles, and learn about perspective and shading. Once you have the skills to draw a single flower, learn how to draw groupings, bouquets, and wreaths. Mix in grasses and wildflowers to create a variety of looks and dynamic scenes.



Pair with a beautiful and practical cast **Ceramic Paint Palette** - \$39.95. It is made from high fired stoneware, coated in a speckled matte white glaze. The perfect addition to your painting studio, the palette is sturdy, long lasting, and easy to clean.



Don't forget to show your Friends card for a 10% discount in store!

## Friends of the Arboretum Council Agenda

Tuesday, 9 August 2022, at 12.30pm, in the Terrace Room, National Arboretum Canberra

### AGENDA

1. Welcome; and Acknowledgement of Country – Trish
2. Presentation of Friends' new website – Spero Cassidy, Pictal
3. Any Conflicts of Interest to be declared
4. Attendance; and Apologies
5. Acceptance of the Minutes: 12 July 2022 – *attached*
  1. Matters arising – *attachment* re uniforms
  2. Action List
6. Chair's Report – Trish – *attached*
7. Treasurer's Report – Lyn – *attached*
  1. (a) Financial Report to end-July 2022 – Lyn
  2. (b) Payment of invoices – for approval
8. Correspondence log 2022 – *attached*
9. Disposal-for-profit of Warm Trees art installations in cutting – auction? For discussion
10. Annual Partnership Plan – update of 5 August *attached* 2022 – for information
11. Friends' Activities
  1. (a) Arboretum Oral History Project – Trish/Mike – first meeting held 5 August
  2. (b) Wollemi Pines propagation project – 35 sold to date

3. (c) Wattle Seed project – Mike – on sale now! – image of packet *attached*
4. (d) Membership
5. (e) Queen's Platinum Jubilee Forest Canopy project – one tree planted; await date from GG
6. (f) Warm Trees 2022 – completed; pack-down 1-2 August; a success!
7. (g) Friends' website update – see Agenda Item 2
8. (h) Friends Activities 2022 – Del – *attached*
12. Friends' Reports
  1. (a) STEP Report – Cathy – *attached*
  2. (b) Bonsai Report – Mike – *attached*
  3. (c) NAC Community Engagement Officer report incl Guides update – Cally
  4. (d) Harvesting Group report – (Colette/Angie)
13. Any other business:
14. Next Council Meeting – **Tuesday 13 September 2022 at 3.30pm** to be followed by **General Meeting and Seasonal Talk at 5.30pm.**

## 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](mailto: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.



## How to join the Friends

Visit [arboretumcanberra.org.au](http://arboretumcanberra.org.au) to join online or to find out more about the benefits of being a member

OR

Email your details to: [contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au](mailto:contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au) and pay by funds transfer or cheque

OR

Complete the Application Form and mail it to:

The Secretary, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra,  
PO Box 48, Campbell, ACT 2612, and pay by funds transfer or cheque.

- ☐ **Bank details for funds transfer:**  
Westpac, Petrie Plaza, Canberra, ACT: BSB 032 719.  
Account: 375379 – please include surname in description.
- ☐ **Cheques payable to:** Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

Membership type	1 year	2 years
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$45	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Household	\$55	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Concession*	\$25	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Club/Association**	\$100	\$180
<input type="checkbox"/> Business**	\$500	\$900

\*Pensioners, health card holders & students  
\*\*See website for details

## Membership Application Form

Membership type: .....

Title: ..... First name: .....

Last name: .....

OR

Club/Association/Business name: .....

Address: .....

State: ..... P/code: .....

Email address for newsletter and updates: .....

Phone: ..... Mobile: .....

Number of parking passes: .....

Total amount payable (include membership/s and parking pass amounts): \$ .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

**Parking Pass 1 year**

☐ Friends' Annual  
Parking Pass \$35 per vehicle

For a parking pass, please include your vehicle's registration number. ....

**Note:** An Individual Member is entitled to apply for one Parking Pass at the Friends' rate and a Household Member is entitled to apply for two Parking Passes at the Friends' rate.

*Parking passes are issued for one year from the date of purchase.*