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JANUARY 2023

From the President, Ed McAlister

As some of you would be aware, I spent three weeks over the Christmas/New Year in the USA visiting my daughter and her family so I missed all the excitement surrounding the flowering of the *Amorphophallus titanum*, although I was back to have a look at it 48 hours after it was past its best.

So while I may have missed that excitement I have come back in time to get involved in a few matters which have the potential to make major changes to the Adelaide Botanic Garden and the Director has stated that he wishes to have involvement from the Friends.

One initiative is the possibility of having an electric vehicle capable of holding a few people who are handicapped or infirm so that they may be able to enjoy the Adelaide Botanic Garden and, possibly, Botanic Park. A second initiative is to find a better situation for our Visitor Information Centre. Thirdly the Gardens have been successful in receiving a grant of \$68,000 to undertake restoration work at North Lodge. The Friends have already promised \$60,000 towards this project, probably over two financial years, to improve the condition of the inside of the building, which is far from satisfactory. The fourth project, which will certainly be the largest one, is in connection with the Classground, an area of great concern to many of us.

Preliminary meetings have been held in relation to these projects and, because of their knowledge in the different areas, I have asked Greg Lane to represent the Friends point of view in relation to the proposed electric vehicle, Bodo Jensen in relation to the Visitor Information Centre and Jackie Skilton in relation to the North Lodge upgrade. I have retained to myself the pleasure of being involved in the planning for changes to the Classground.

One more matter I need to bring to your attention is that the committee has decided to implement a Five Year Membership, more details, cost, date of implementation etc. will be available in coming weeks.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the various Gardens in the coming weeks and hope to see a large number of you at the General Meeting in February.

Ed McAlister
President

From the BGSB Director, Michael Harvey

Dear Friends,

As Ed has noted in his introduction, the beginning of this year will see a new focus on collaborative projects between the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium and the Friends. With the appointment of Ryan Sims as our Volunteers Coordinator, and the successful grant application for North Lodge (along with a significant contribution from the Friends), there is increasing investment of time and money in facilities and support for participation in the work of the BGSB through

volunteering. Whether it is the day-to-day work of providing hands-on horticultural support, gardens tours or visitor information – or the more occasional events such as Flower Day or the now-famous Titan Arum flowering event – volunteering is a fundamental part of the Botanic Gardens' program.

I am very much looking forward to working with Ed and the Friends' committee to explore both the evolution of existing programs and the development of new ways for the Friends and the BGSB teams to work together.

With best wishes,
Michael H



General Meeting

7 February 2023

Goodman Building, Lecture Theatre
Despite various COVID restrictions over the last couple of years, we have tried to maintain engagement of the members, and, for the most part, we have been successful in bringing various speakers on topics which have interested our Friends.



The first couple of meetings next year will showcase the close collaboration between the Friends and Botanic Gardens staff.

Just as we offered our AGM guest speaker to address the whole Gardens staff, which was greatly appreciated, so for our first General Meeting we have Kelly Bramhill and Mak Djukic from the Education staff, who were jointly sponsored by the Friends to attend the international Botanical conference in Melbourne last September.

Kelly will share the presentation she made at the Conference. The overall theme was Influence and Action' Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change. Kelly's topic "How traditional knowledge and stories can be celebrated and integrated into The Museum of Economic Botany".

Mak will explore the various highlights and cultural learnings gained focusing on Botanic Gardens as places of learning and engagement.

Please reserve this interesting evening in your calendars.

Marg Davy, Vice-President

TWILIGHT MEETING 28 MARCH 2023

Tuesday at 5.30PM, Goodman Building, Lecture Theatre



This meeting will focus on the three Gwen Thomas Scholarship recipients for 2022: Lilith Tremmery, Valdis Balodis, Eloise Lowcock.

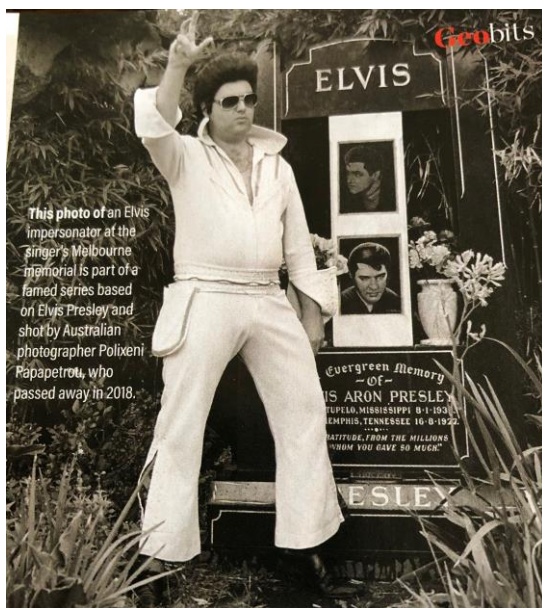
They were all supported to attend the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Conference in September in Melbourne.

One of the conditions of the award is that all recipients present their impressions and lessons to the Friends at a Members Meeting.

We look forward to hearing from them. Equally, we encourage them as they start out on their horticultural careers. We urge you all to support them and hear what they have learned.

ELVIS UPDATE

As some of you are aware I have just recently returned from the USA where I was visiting my daughter and her family. For some years now I have been subscribing to Australian Geographic in her name and having it



delivered to Oklahoma. While I was with her I was browsing through an old issue and I came upon a short article named 'Crazy For Elvis' which stated that 'the only official monument to Elvis outside of the USA is in Victoria. The Elvis Presley Memorial Garden in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Parkville, is an elaborate and slightly kitschy tribute commissioned in 1977 by the then president of the singer's official Australian Fan Club.'

So, not to let these eastern staters get one up on us, I emailed Australian Geographic and informed them of our cupola in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. Surprisingly within 24 hours I had a response asking me that if I could send photographs they would consider putting my letter and photograph in their 'Your Say' section.

I arrived home on Tuesday 10th January and came in to the Garden the following day, took photographs and sent them off that evening. I am pleased to report that on 18th January I received an email informing me that my letter

and a photograph would appear in the 'Letters' section of the March edition of Australian Geographic.

Interestingly, when I took the photographs there was a bouquet of flowers attached to the cupola commemorating Elvis' birthday of 8th January 1935. I have seen the recent film and feel it to be well done.

The story behind how we got the 'Elvis Cupola' is one for another time!

Ed McAlister



From the Vice-President, Marg Davy

As we run out of them, we are preparing new editions of FBGA brochures. Marg Davy is leading a group for a Membership, and Gill Simons a Guide brochure.

Ed has also spent many hours fossicking in the archives to produce the wonderful insertion in the last Gazette to celebrate our anniversary.

This all raises the problem that we need an up-to-date archive of photos to record Friends activities

Stephanie has been asked to set up a system to record photos of each Activity Group's activities for future access. We encourage each convenor to think seriously about submitting photos of core - and other important activities of their group, with notes on participant names and other details.

We await your contribution.

Hands on Hort Adelaide, Greg Lane

Assist ABG staff with general garden maintenance. Variety of tasks allocated according to need on the day. Meet Tuesdays 8.45am for a 9 - 11am session at North Lodge, off Plane Tree Drive next to Botanic Park.

Hands on Hort Wittunga, Helena Jenkinson,



The Hands On Hort Wittunga has restarted and we would love to have more members.

We follow strict WHS & Covid safety protocols guidelines.

Contact Helena Jenkinson for further information 0412781449 or helenaj@esc.net.au.

Hands on Hort Mt Lofty, Helen Milne

The "Hands on Hort" group at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden has been in operation for approximately four years. Meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

If you would like to contribute a few hours of your time, once a month, to maintaining an interesting part of the Mt Lofty Garden, please contact the Friends Office for details. You will be very welcome.

Garden Guides, Greg Lane, Guide Leader

Guides meet monthly to provide Free Walks at:

Adelaide:- Daily 10.30am meet at the Visitor Info Centre.

Botanic Park: Weekly Mondays 2.00pm meet at Friends Gate North Lodge ABG.

Mount Lofty: Weekly Thursdays 10.30am, meet at the lower car park.

Wittunga: Weekly Tuesdays 10.30am, meet car park off Shepherds Hill Road.

Booked walks at a time / date negotiable for all Gardens and Botanic Park and bus tours of Mount Lofty. Booking information is on the Friends website.

Botanical Photography Group,

Geoff Mower & Anna Lester, Convenors

The Botanical Photography Group concluded 2022 with an excursion to the St Peters Billabong, which generated much interest from both botanical and ornithological points of view, and would be well worth revisiting in other seasons. This was followed by a very enjoyable lunch at the Kentish Hotel in North Adelaide.



The Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 10.00am–12 noon. We gather in the Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building, or on a field trip/photo shoot in one of the three Gardens or occasionally further afield.

The first meeting for 2023 will be held in the Goodman Lecture Theatre at 10am on Friday February 10th. We will be sharing images taken on recent field trips and over the holiday break, as well as planning our activities for the coming year.

We welcome anyone keen to capture the beauty of our Gardens photographically to join our enthusiastic and relaxed group.

Please contact Stephanie in the Friends Office on 8222 9367, friendsabg@internode.on.net for further details.

Volunteering Opportunity -Secretary Time for a Change

After more than nine years of exemplary service, Gill Simons has stepped down from the position of Honorary Secretary. This position is a critical part of the Executive of the Friends and I urge all members to give serious consideration to taking on this role.

Gill says the job is not onerous, "I came to it with no previous secretarial experience. In consultation with the President, I prepare an agenda and a set of minutes each month and for the Annual General Meeting, an occasional

letter and bring papers prepared by Stephanie to committee meetings".

Further info contact Gillian Simons, Mobile 0407 607 738

Tours Group, Judith Bail, Convenor

Tours group planning meeting on 3rd January suggestion for 2023 .

- Day trip possibly in early May to Camelot Garden Kadina
- Pt Augusta – revisit to Arid lands
- Visit and guided tour Of The Art Gallery of SA

Ballarat Botanic Gardens and Begonia Tour.

The FBGA Tour Group offer Friends a 5 night six day Interstate Group Tour to include Ballarat Botanic Gardens and Begonia Display –

Monday 13th March [PH] –
Saturday 18th March 2023



Plant of the Month,

Margaret Swincer, Garden Guide

Head to the cooler Mount Lofty Botanic Garden and use the self-guided walk starting from the upper car park to find the stunning Himalayan lantern.

Between the pair of katsura trees is *Pentapterygium serpens* (previously *Agapetes serpens*) a semi-climbing shrub from the Himalayas. It belongs to the Ericaceae family and flowers brilliantly for a long period. The paired red flowers on arching stems are succeeded by pale purple berries. It has a bulbous root and bronze winter foliage.



Why plant me.

It will grow in subtropical as well as cool temperate areas and can be grown as a pot plant.

Sad News

Members will be sad to hear of the death of Foundation Member Miss Helen Godlee on 14th of January 2023.

Helen was a very enthusiastic member and volunteer. She was particularly active in North Lodge, including starting a Craft Group at a time when virtually all of the Gardens' retailing was done in that building by members of the Friends. Helen was 95 years old.

Our condolences to the members of her family.

Ed McAlister

Botanical Art Group, Silja Zarins, Convenor

Our last meeting for 2022 was on 17th December when the BAG enjoyed a festive lunch together.



lowering Gum, coloured pencil, Carol Cowles

We will start again on 4th February, 2023. 2023 will be a very busy year. It is the Botanical Art Group's 20th anniversary and is also our 'Framing Nature' Exhibition year.

As usual, our meetings are in the Goodman Lecture Room every Saturday from 12 noon to 4pm. New members are very welcome.

Visitor Information Centre,

Bodo Jensen, Convenor

The VIC is a very important service for visitors to the Garden.



More volunteers are needed to ensure that the public get maximum benefit from their visit to the Gardens.

North Lodge Jackie Skilton, Convenor

Happy New Year to you all.

January is a very busy time in North Lodge when visitor numbers to the Garden increase dramatically.



Open daily from 1100 to 1400 there is much to see, including the pictorial history of the families who lived there and the Botanical Art Groups stunning exhibition and sale of art works and cards.

Other items available for purchase include handcrafted woodwork, teapots with colourful teacosies, dried flower arrangements, beautiful photo cards, card packs, books, posters, handcrafted gifts and second hand books.

EFTPOS is available.

The MahJong Group - the Dragonflies meets every Monday morning 10am- 1pm.

Book clubs meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays, 1.30-3pm. Contact Stephanie at friendsabg@internode.on.net

Jakie Skilton

APOLOGY

I apologise to Greg Lane for the fact that his election as Junior Vice President was omitted from the December issue of the Friends Gazette.

I also apologise to Tony McArthur for the fact I have not welcomed him to the position of Treasurer of the Friends.

My apologies Greg and Tony.
Ed McAlister, FBGA Gazette Editor.

Key Dates for 2023

- **7 February**, General Meeting, Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building
- **13-18 March** Ballarat Botanic Gardens & Begonia Tour
- **26 March** Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **28 March**, Twilight Meeting, Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building, 5.30pm
- **23 April** Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **2 May**, Lunchtime Meeting Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building
- **May** History Month Walks in all 3 Botanic Gardens
- **28 May** Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **25 June** Plant Sale Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **22 July** Plant Sale Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **1 Aug** General Meeting
- **27 August** Plant Sale Mt Lofty Botanic Garden