



www.friendsbgadelaide.com

JULY 2022

From the President, Ed McAlister

I seem to have been very busy since my previous message in this Newsletter and the Gazette but I will just select what I feel are the important matters. I have mentioned previously that six of us attended the Conference of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFGBGA) at Eurobodalla in NSW and were most impressed with what we saw. One event we were most impressed with was the talk delivered by Michael Anlezark the Curator of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden. So impressed with this inspiring talk that we have sought, and received, permission from the Friends Committee to bring him over to Adelaide to speak at our AGM on Tuesday 8th November. This will help us celebrate our 45th Anniversary, which happens to fall on that particular day. It is hoped that Michael will also be able to speak to members of staff during his time in Adelaide. Please put this date in your diary.

Another initiative which has arisen from the Eurobodalla Conference came after hearing that the Friends of that Garden each year allocate \$5,000 to assist a Year Twelve student to attend University. Those of us who attended the conference have sought permission from the Committee to investigate this initiative on behalf of the FBGA. One thought was, through the Playford Trust, to offer \$2,000 to a young person completing Certificate Three in Horticulture to allow him or her to undertake the Diploma in Horticulture. This is but one thought and we will keep you updated on developments.

It is pleasing to report that, using the money from the Gwen Thomas Bequest, the Friends are funding the sending of three horticultural staff to the Global Botanical Congress in Melbourne in September and in addition we are going, in a 50/50 split with the Gardens to assist the attendance of two Education staff as well. It is also pleasing to



note that the attendance of another member of the horticultural staff is being funded through a Bursary established by the late Audrey Abbie. It gives me great pleasure to note that this wonderful opportunity is being supported by the Friends as I believe great benefit will be derived by all concerned and eventually to the Gardens.

Members will be aware of all the work being undertaken in relation to toilets in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, but more exciting is the decision of the Gardens Foundation to undertake a major and much-needed redevelopment of the SA Water Mediterranean Garden and the committee has agreed to donate \$10,000 to this project.

On 24th June, as a result of the efforts of our Vice President, Marg Davy we hosted a good number of members of Adelaide Photography Groups at a wine and cheese evening event in relation to the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition and were fortunate to have Doug Gimsey, who has two images in the exhibition, address us. This was an excellent event and, not only did we make some money for the Friends coffers, but did some 'friend-raising' as well. Thank you to Gill Simons, Tim and Jackie Skilton and Geoff Mower for their help on the night.

In connection with photography our own Anna Lester has organised a workshop to show people how to take better photographs with their mobile phones or other 'smart devices'. Having been at her trial run I am sure it will be a great success.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see a repeated request for someone to undertake the role of Treasurer for the Friends; I would ask anyone with the requisite skills to seriously consider undertaking this important role.

I also have to report that following our Annual General Meeting in November it is the intention of our current Secretary, Gillian Simons, to step down from that position and you will find a message from Gill in this Newsletter. Gill has been an excellent Secretary and done a sterling job for a period of nine years and is an integral part of the Executive of the Friends.

Once again I would ask that everyone seriously consider undertaking this important role, without which it would be very difficult for us to function effectively.

Ed McAlister

General Meeting

Tuesday 2 August 2022, 12 noon, Lecture Theatre, Goodman Building

The Speaker will be Mr Jeff Lugg, General Manager Operations for the Royal Zoological Society of SA.



Among Jeff's responsibilities is the environmental plantings in both Adelaide Zoo and Monarto Safari Park. This latter responsibility will include involvement in the recently opened Wild Africa development in Monarto.

It promises to be an interesting lecture. Please book friendsabg@internode.on.net

From the BGSB Director

Dear Friends,

We have some exciting upcoming events in the gardens in the coming months - most notably the return of Light Cycles, part of Illuminate Adelaide. This event was a very hot ticket last year and it was an absolute delight to experience the gardens as it hosted this spectacular light and sound experience. We are also entering the last month of both of our special exhibitions - Wildlife Photographer of the Year ("WPY") in the Rose Garden and Overlay in the Museum of Economic Botany. We are delighted to be able to join forces with the Zoo to offer joint ticket discounts for the Zoo and WPY for these school holidays, so do see our website for details.



I must also sincerely thank the Friends' for some significant contributions to the public experience in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. The Friends group has made substantial donations to both the installation of new water-bottle filling stations in the garden - which are being installed now - and towards a full renovation of the Mediterranean Garden, which is in the planning stages.

The Friends' birds group has also been working with us on a series of new information signs on the bird species that regularly visit or live in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and these are in production now.

A big thanks to all the Friends' groups for their ongoing support for our work and I look forward to seeing you around the gardens.

With best wishes,
Michael H

POSITIVE UPDATE

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report that the former Director of our Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, Dr Lucy Sutherland, has accepted the position of Director of the National Botanic Garden of Wales and, following completion of a number of projects here in Australia, will commence her appointment in October. This is a prestigious appointment to a relatively young botanic gardens and Lucy is looking forward to leading the organisation through to its next stage of development.

I have spoken to Lucy and know that she is excited about this opportunity. I am sure you join me in wishing Dr Sutherland every success in the future.

Ed McAlister

STOP PRESS

The FBGA Website may be unavailable for a week or so during upgrade to New Website (same address).

www.friendsbgadelaide.com

From the Vice-President, Marg Davy

I have been "scooped" not once or twice, but thrice... by the President, a past President and the convenors of the Photography Group.

I was planning to report

1. WildLife Photography soiree, where 40 members of SA Camera Clubs attended a private showing of the exhibition with wine and cheese and a winner photographer to speak.
2. The fantastic initiative of the Photography Group to hold a course to improve photography with a smart device - Anna Lester and Geoff Mower need congratulations for attracting 13 attendees on 3 July.
3. The Croquet trial run at Reade Park, led by Marilyn and John Sandham.

Instead, I will remind you all of other groups which the Friends support- all designed to cater for Friends with a variety of interests which they might join to foster friendship.

1. Mahjong Monday mornings in North Lodge - just come and there are those who will teach 10.00am.
2. Bookclub, first and third Mondays at 13.30. Both groups have vacancies and will welcome you. All reading tastes are catered for.
3. Read the remainder of the Newsletter for reports from the various convenors of other groups.

Please contact Stephanie in the Friends Office if you are interested to further your connection with the Friends, especially if any of these newer initiatives fires your inspiration

- smart phone photography
- croquet
- home plant propagation

Which are all featured in this newsletter.

How good that we have passed the winter solstice - the sun will return!

Margaret Davy AM

Hands on Hort Wittunga,

Helena Jenkinson, Convenor



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 Convenor

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.

Hands on Hort, Adelaide,

Greg Lane Convenor

As a volunteer group a useful contribution can be made to assist ABG staff keep up with the general garden maintenance.

Friends volunteers work on Tuesdays between 9 - 11am in a variety of areas. Please meet just before 9am at North Lodge to find out what interesting part of the gardens you will be working.

Contact Greg on 0459 782630

Growing Group

Margaret Lee, Convenor

We have now received the all-clear to return to working with all Friday members together and look forward to catching up with each other.



Bursaria spinosa

The weather was rather cold and wet for our June sale, but we had some interesting plants and a few brave customers who were quick to snap up the sought-after, "hard-to-get species."

Garden Guides,

Greg Lane, Guide Leader

Volunteers complete a training course and assessment to become Garden Guides. Once qualified they meet monthly to participate in ongoing training, share knowledge while planning and preparing walks.

Free Walks are held in:

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 Shepherds Hill Road.

Booked walks for all Gardens and Botanic Park, bus tours of Mount Lofty and booking information are available on the Friends website.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Treasurer

The position, which pays a modest honorarium, requires approximately 6-8 hours per week and can be undertaken in the Friends office or remotely at home.

Gracie is more than happy to induct the new treasurer and work together for as long as it takes.

For more information email the Friends Treasurer friendsabg1977@gmail.com.

Secretary

Time for a Change –November 2022

At the November AGM I am going to resign as Secretary of the Friends. I have held the position while both Bodo and Merilyn were presidents and for the first year of Ed's term of office. I have enjoyed working on Friends committee - always with enthusiastic people who want to assist with our Botanic Gardens in any way they can.

The job of Secretary is not onerous. I came to it with no previous secretarial experience. A couple of agendas and two sets of minutes each month and an occasional letter and bringing papers prepared by Stephanie to committee meetings are all that are required. Anything else is up to you and whatever interests you.

Please offer to take on this position. Come to a committee meeting as a visitor and see for yourself. I am free to help, advise, encourage and reassure.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Gillian Simons, Mobile 0407 607 738

North Lodge Convenor

Helena has stepped down after many years, so NL is looking for a new convenor.

Growing Opportunity

A new opportunity exists for Green-fingered Friends to assist the fundraising efforts of the Friends. We are considering forming a new group of volunteers propagating tube stock plants at home specifically for sale at the ABC Market and salvia and herb days held every spring.



Similar to the successful Trees for Life model where we would supply the tubes and potting mix and possibly "plant plugs" and labels and the "Growers at Home" would take care of the plants until they reach sale size and then deliver them to the Fullarton Centre on sale days. If you think you have the skills and facilities at home to produce professional standard tube-stock could you register your interest with Bodo Jensen on either

bodo@adam.com.au or 0406 712620 and we will arrange a meeting to discuss the practical issues and elect the coordinator.

Plant of the Month,

Margaret Swincer, Garden Guide

Plenty of winter colour at Wittunga; use the current Special Plants Trail to find the coppery spikes of male flowers on she-oaks to the brightly-coloured hakeas.



Look for *Eucalyptus kruseana*, the book-leaf mallee from the WA goldfields region, as it is one of few eucalypt species with a canopy consisting almost entirely of juvenile leaves. The crowded stalkless grey leaves line the branchlets in overlapping, closely-packed ranks. The flower buds, mostly in groups of seven, encircle the stem, often forming a bracelet of flowers when the stamens expand, pushing off the bud caps (opercula) to reveal the yellowish-green blossoms.

Visitor Information Centre,

Bodo Jensen, Convenor



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

If you would like to volunteer in the VIC please contact Bodo through the FBGA Office.

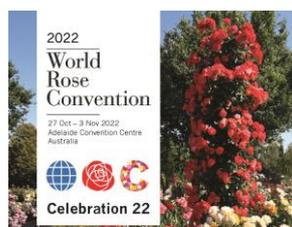
Come and Try Croquet

A small group of Friends braved the cold conditions to learn the basics of playing golf croquet at the Reade Park Croquet Club last month. John Sandham and Marilyn Kuchel provided coaching and members of the club provided an excellent afternoon tea.



If there is enough interest we may hold another session in the spring. In the meantime for those who missed out you are welcome to Come and Try any Wednesday evening from 4 pm.

Merilyn D Kuchel, Ph 0428851582



World Rose Convention 2022
For Information click
www.wrc22.aomevents.com.au

Botanical Art Group,

Silja Zarins, Convenor

The Art Group is busy preparing for the Burra Exhibition which will open on the 22nd of September and close on the 6th November. You might like to consider a visit to lovely regional Burra Art Gallery.

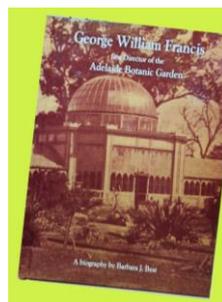


Artwork: *Clivia sp*, Artist: Jenny Byass

Artists are also hard at work producing lovely rose portraits for the World Rose Convention. These works will be available for sale in the North Lodge at the time of the Convention. Attendance continues to fill the room every Saturday but we always welcome enquiries about joining.

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

Reprint of George Francis Biography



In 1987 our founder, Dr Collin Robjohn, wrote a review on the book featured above but I do not intend to repeat what he said. Suffice to say that there is a strong feeling within the book, a feeling with which I agree, that Francis does not receive sufficient credit for the daunting task which he undertook in laying out the framework for the Adelaide Botanic Garden.

Francis was certainly a very talented man, a lecturer, editor, scientific writer, illustrator, surveyor and gardener.

Some of the plants which he established still exist today. Two of these come to mind, one the magnificent *Flindersia australis* on the lawn close to the Nelumbo Pond, which I believe is the largest in Australia, and the *Gardenia thunbergii* in the border to the west of the Flindersia. We are deeply in his debt for his efforts. Efforts which have been built upon over more than 150 years.

Botanical Photography Group,

Geoff Mower & Anna Lester, Convenors

The Botanical Photography 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.

Winter is proving a very busy time of the year for the Photography Group. In mid-May we met at the Mt Lofty Botanic Gardens to photograph the autumn colours, and in late May we visited the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition as a group.



Red Angel's Trumpet

Photos by Anna Lester.



Eastern Spinebill

Recently Anna Lester conducted a *tour de force* workshop in Nature Photography With A Smart Device, for members of the Photo Group and Friends Committee. The workshop was well-received by all attendees, and Anna will repeat the session for Friends Members and members of the general public in early July. We are confident that this will be a highly successful event.

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

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

North Lodge,

The autumn leaves having fallen, North Lodge is a warm and welcoming place to visit on a cold winter's day.



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, beanies, scarves and an assortment of beautiful photo cards, card packs, books, posters and handcrafted items.

EFTPOS is available.

The Friends MahJong Group - the Dragonflies, meets every Monday morning, 1000- 1300.

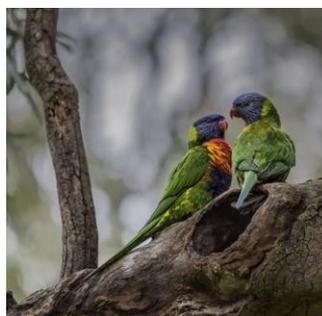
Contact Stephanie on friendsabg@internode.on.net

The Friends Book clubs meet on the first and third Monday, 1300-1500, in the kitchen of North Lodge. Contact Judy on Judy.stacey@icloud.com

Jackie Skilton for the North Lodge committee.

SOME FORWARD PLANNING - Bird Walks

On Sunday, September 25th and again on Sunday, October 2nd, 2022 at 9.30am the Guides are repeating their Spring Bird Walk in the Adelaide Botanic Garden finishing with a bird count and coffee, if you wish.



Rainbow Lorikeets, Photo by Chris Kirby

Meet at the Goodman Gate, Hackney Road. \$5.00pp.

Remember your binoculars – but we do have spares for learners.

Numbers are limited. If you would like to join us please contact Stephanie, friendsabg@internode.on.net

Key Dates for 2022

- **24 July**, Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **2 August**, General Meeting
- **28 August**, Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **25 September**, Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **25 September** Bird Walk
- **27 September**, Twilight Talk
- **2 October** Bird Walk
- **23 October**, Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden