



Letter from the President

Welcome to the final edition of the Friends News for 2007. It has certainly been an extremely positive and productive year for the Friends as the Gardens moves from strength to strength.

At last year's AGM we noted the key objective for 2007 as the establishment of a Botanic Gardens Advisory Board. I am pleased to report that a seven member Project Control Group (PCG) has now been formally appointed. While the PCG is an interim body that will transition into an expanded 'Advisory Board' in the near future, the PCG fulfils a vital role in assisting in the early development, management and operation of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. The Friends have two members who sit on this group, meeting monthly or more often if required. A list of the PCG membership can be found in this month's 'Council Corner'.



I am also thrilled to report that Kate Heffernan, Friends Founder and tireless supporter of the Gardens, has been appointed to the position of Senior Project Officer for the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. For the many of us who have been fortunate to work alongside Kate, or indeed to have been taught by her, you will have witnessed first hand the fantastic qualities that she brings to this role... together with her trademark passion and professionalism. While now working for Council means that her role with the Friends will change, Kate's positive impact on the Botanic Gardens is without question. You can read Kate's first report in this edition's 'Council Corner' as she talks about the many significant projects currently underway or in planning for the Gardens. Of particular note is the Children's Garden & Horticulture Hub – both very exciting signature projects.

For the many of you who attended the Gardens Alive event on Sunday 14th October, you would have shared in what was a truly wonderful day in the Gardens, complete with industry presenters, entertainers and stalls. It was a fabulous event and on behalf of the Friends I would like to give thanks and recognition to the Council staff who did a mountain of work organising and running the event. The feedback received from Friends and community on the day was overwhelmingly in support of Council making it an annual event on the Gold Coast's Horticultural Calendar. The Friends also celebrated this day with our first 'official' guiding event, as we hosted the Coffs Harbour Garden Club who visited the Gardens with a bus load of members. It was a terrific day and I would like to thank our volunteer guides who did a superb job. We look forward to the Friends Guides now being an integral part of the 'fabric' of the Gardens.

As we finish up the year I would like to extend an invitation for you to attend our final Community Planting day for the year on Sunday 2nd December 8am – 10am, followed by our AGM at 11am. We are always looking for new energy and assistance so please come along and get involved and enjoy some time in the Gardens with Friends.

Finally I would like to thank you for the opportunity to fulfil the role of President again this year... it is a privilege to just be a part of this wonderful organisation. Thank you to all of you who have given your time, energy and enthusiasm throughout the year, proving that it is limitless what can be achieved when a group works together as one.

Nick Bloor MPLA MAIH

0411 348 611

Summer

Planting Day & AGM!

Sunday 2nd Dec.
Planting 8-10am

Rosser Park,
Ashmore Road

Friends merchandise,
books and local native
plants sale.

Meet at 'Mangroves to
Mountains'

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Sunday 11am
2nd December
2007

After planting activities,
Rosser Park, Ashmore
Rd, Benowa.

All Friends welcome!



Planting Day Coordinator's Report

By *Kate Heffernan*

The Friends continue to lead the way with plantings in the Mangroves to Mountains Transect. The September planting day saw several hundred dry rainforest species planted on the hill leading to Ashmore Road. Special thanks to the Friends, who co-ordinated the day, (while Alan and I spent our days enthralled by the botanical collections Kings Park in Perth). Unfortunately plants ordered to replace the *Hibbertia scandens* in the open forest area were a bit too small to plant. The Nursery Industry has had a tough year, with drought, hail and frost so stock has been hard to source. We should be in a position to plant this area in December. There was a corporate planting day for volunteers from Sensis Pty Ltd (formerly Yellow Pages) in early September, and willing volunteers planted an extension to the wetlands. Again, Alan and I were away, so a big thanks should go to those who co-ordinated on the day.

The Friends maintenance group continues to help Patrick's team keep the Mangroves to Mountains looking good. Hopefully visitors are able to see how wonderful Australian plants, (particularly local species) can look with some regular shaping and care. The early days saw a few casualties, but overall the Mangroves to Mountains has provided an opportunity to monitor the resilience of local species throughout some of the toughest growing conditions.

Although my role with the Friends will change at the December AGM, I am happy to continue to organize plants for the Mangroves to Mountains and planting days. The important thing is to keep the momentum and make the Mangroves to Mountain Transect and other Friends Projects a success. I want to congratulate all the volunteers for the wonderful work in the Mangroves to Mountains so far. It will be fabulous to have some plant labels soon, and make the experience for visitors more worthwhile.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

Kate Heffernan

Planting Day Coordinator



Gardens Alive event - Coffs Harbour Visitors

Council Corner

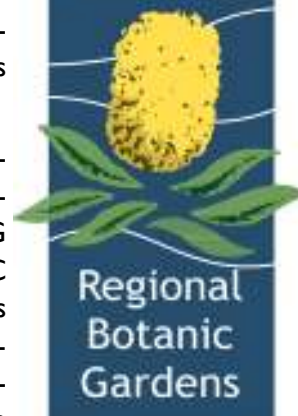
By *Kate Heffernan*

This is my first report on behalf of council as Senior Project Officer for the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. I am writing this on the eve of my first day in the role and I am looking forward to working with the council, the Friends and the community to see the realisation of the Botanic Gardens. There are significant projects already underway, some will start to come to fruition in the ensuing months. These include –

The Children's Garden – In the planning stage at the moment, with a team of innovative consultants working with the younger members of our community, educators, Friends, landscape designers, artists and others to determine a design brief. This is an exciting project led by Gold Coast Council Landscape Architect Amanda Lake, and some of the input so far has been inspirational.

Horticulture and Environment Hub – The name may change, but the impact a temporary building will have on the Friends, the community and visitors will be far reaching. The location of the building will be determined in the next week or so, and while it may still be sometime until a permanent Visitors centre is constructed this hub will provide an immediate base for Botanic Gardens activities.

The Entrance – A Design Brief for an entrance will be undertaken very soon. Many Gold Coast-ers are yet to learn of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Garden so this project has the potential



to provide a highly visible 'Front door'.

The Art Master Plan is almost complete, and those who have seen the wonderful 'Quilt of Diversity' recently installed at the gardens will agree that art is an integral component. Congratulations to Nazrin Vaziri and her team. A Public Art Assessment Panel will soon be formed, and I should be able to advise of appointments to the panel fairly soon.

Sign Master Plan – The recent adoption of the Signage Master Plan will see the introduction of interpretative signage a priority.

Mangroves to Mountains Pathway – Approved by the Project Control Group for this financial year. Yes, the Friends can finally look forward to seeing the Mangroves to Mountains more accessible to visitors.

Marketing Officer – sending out the message of the GCRBG has been enhanced by the secondment of Alison Ballard to the CityWide Greening Team.

The Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens have been driven by the community, and the Project Control Group who liaise with council each month has now been formally adopted. This is a significant milestone and will continue to ensure the integrity of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. Following the formalization of the Project Control Group membership now consists of:

Chairperson – Senior Project Officer, Kate Heffernan

Two Council Officers – Senior Horticulturist, GCRBG, Patrick Whiteley and, CityWide Greening and Botanic Gardens Marketing Officer, Alison Ballard

Two Horticulture/Landscape Industry Representatives – Landscape Architect and GCRBG Master Planner, Lawrie Smith, and Gold Coast Horticulture Industry Representative, Alexander Jakimoff.

Two Friends – President, Nick Bloor and Secretary, Mary Woods

The Terms of Reference for the PCG recommends additional membership for specific projects as needed.

Also thanks to Arno King (Industry Representative), and Peter Gamble (GCCC) for their roles in the interim PCG.

The continued development of the GCRBG relies on council, community, industry and corporate support. Over the past months the GCRBG have benefited from the leadership of GCCC CityWide Greening Officer Col Brown. Col has divided his time between the CityWide Greening Project, which will ultimately have far reaching effects to our cities amenity value, and the Regional Botanic Gardens which also have an intrinsic role in our long term 'green' future. Together these projects can make a difference, and the Friends and the community have been privileged to have Col Brown at the helm. As a newly appointed Council Officer I know I will rely on the experience of the CityWide Greening team. I will also enjoy working beside Senior Horticulturist Patrick Whiteley and his team who are keeping the GCRBG in prime condition. I am honoured to take up a position with the GCCC, and continuing my relationship with the Friends.

Kate Heffernan

Senior Project Officer

Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens



Quilt of Diversity artists left to right Midge Johansen, Yvette Barta, Nasrin Vaziri (project designer & manager), Draghitza Diaz, Kristina Kala & Sadaf Vaziri.



Keukenhof

Keukenhof

“The most beautiful spring garden
in the world”

In our last newsletter, I recalled our Spring in Amsterdam earlier this year, and shared some highlights of the Hortus Botanicus. No story of Spring in the Netherlands would be complete without including the splendid show that is Keukenhof.

This year the theme of the famed tulip gardens, as it was across Europe, was ‘Linnaeus, Kings of Flowers, Turns 300’, to acknowledge his crucial role in the area of flowering bulbs. As well as a stunning floral photographic exhibition in his honour, there were many Swedish aspects to the various displays throughout the gardens.

Keukenhof is about 35 kms southwest of Amsterdam, near the small town of Lisse and is open from about 20 March to 22 May each year. We easily spent six hours enjoying the display gardens and the exhibits in several pavilions around the 32 hectare park.

While the tulips take centre stage, the gardens have impressive displays of all types of flowering bulbs – more than 7 million in all – planted by hand each year. Among the pavilion exhibits are



fabulous orchid, bromeliad and lily presentations and various competitive flower shows, as well as flower arranging demonstrations. We appreciated the

many opportunities to sit and enjoy the gardens and the variety of healthy meals and snacks available.

Around the grounds there are different garden styles with different combinations of flowering bulbs, perennials and shrubs. There were seven inspiration gardens each with its own theme set out as a source of inspiration for visitors’ home gardens. For us though, the colour and variety of mass plantings of tulips was probably the most impressive feature. There were shapes and sizes, shades and colours artfully arranged on hillsides and around lakes and ponds to delight the senses - a photographer’s paradise!

There is a report on this year’s event on their website with some details about next year already: www.keukenhof.nl.

Mary Woods





Botanica... Try, try, try again!

This could be the motto of the Friends' 'Botanica' competition. For some years now we have organised a competition for school students, in order to raise the awareness of our Regional Botanic Garden among children and their parents.

During the first few years, the competition took the form of a poster competition, with prizes for primary and secondary levels. We were less than overwhelmed with entries, but the Botanica's patron Cr. Susie Douglas presented a prize each year at a Planting Day.

Last year I looked into the possibility of linking our effort with the Science Teachers' Association (STAQ) competition, which is held at all levels of schooling throughout Queensland. A few companies offer bursaries (about \$200) to entrants who deal best with a relevant topic.

Each year, the Science teachers on the Gold Coast have run a 'preliminary' competition – with the best entries not only winning prizes but being forwarded on for entry into the State competition. Most state and private schools on the coast enter students' work – especially at the upper levels where students are assessed for in-school assignments.

This seemed a likely avenue, as our Gardens have a Regional focus. On behalf of the Friends I suggested a list of possible topics in both the 'scientific collections' and 'communication of science' categories, and offered a bursary of \$200.

The result – nothing, zilch, zero. Not a single entry.

Next year? I intend to try again through the same avenue. As our Gardens become more of a place to learn – with Guides and (hopefully) some names on some plants – they should become a more desirable topic. Students might make collections of e.g. rainforest or heath leaves and relate

these to the natural conditions where these plants are found. They might design a website (communication) showing e.g. the Mangroves to Mountains section. We could include this as a page on our own website. There are lots of possibilities.

Any suggestions gratefully received.

Lyn Reilly

Stamps celebrate Australian Botanic Gardens

Australia Post has issued a new stamp release featuring five of the major botanic gardens – Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth.

The stamp release comes at a time when research shows nearly 40% of Australians over the age of 15 visit a botanic garden at least once a year, and, that botanic gardens are the second most popular cultural venue after cinema.

Australia Post Group Manager of Philatelic, Mr Noel Leahy, said Australia Post was keen to celebrate and promote the beauty and range of some of Australia's most popular botanic gardens. "Internationally, Australia's gardens are recognised for their iconic and individual beauty, and we were keen to celebrate this", he said.

"While each design features a prominent aspect of the specific botanic garden, the set as a whole captures the different seasons and diversity of garden types," Mr Leahy said.

The Australian Botanic Gardens stamp issue includes five 50 cent stamps, a first day cover, a stamp pack, a prestige booklet and a set of maxicards. They are available from participating Australia Post outlets or by mail order on 1800 311 794.

from Australia Post Media Release 12 Sept 2007



friends noticeboard



Next Planting Day:

Sunday 2 Dec.- Summer Planting Day & AGM
Planting 8am - 10am
AGM - 11am

Enquiries to Mary Woods (Secretary) 0449 561 674

Buy Your Plant

Books from the Friends and SAVE!!!

Grow Natives on the Gold Coast
by Graham McDonald

Rrp \$15 **Friends' price \$10**



Membership fees due...

The end of our membership year is 31st August and most members have paid their fees and remained financial. Keep an eye on the address label of the newsletter. It will show the date you are paid up to, or if your fees are now due. Remember, you can pay for up to five years in advance and so beat any price rises in that time, and, avoid this minor hassle each year.

Since your fees help to cover the cost of preparing and mailing the newsletter, those remaining unfinancial at the end of the calendar year are removed from the mailing list. So to be in touch with what's going on in the gardens, keep your fees up to date and continue to get the newsletter. Just complete the form and post a cheque to our mail box and all will be taken care of.

Peter Reilly, Treasurer

Mangroves to Mountains Vols. 1 & 2

by Logan River SGAP

Rrp \$45 ea

Friends' price \$35 ea



Create More Butterflies

by Helen Schwenke & Frank Jordan

Friends' price \$25

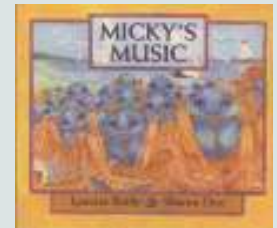


Micky's Music

(picture book about soldier crabs)

by Lynette Reilly

Friends' price \$5



See them on Planting Day...

Buy them on Planting Day!

Apprentice needed...

Our long-standing treasurer - since we started 10 years ago - is wanting to retire. Over the coming 12 months he is willing carry on but to show someone else the ropes as well, with a view to that someone taking over after next year's AGM.

It needs someone with a spare few days a month, computer skills - Microsoft Excel, and some figures ability - just adding and subtracting really. So if anyone would like an interesting job that can be done at home, please contact any of the committee members or call Peter on 5537 3354 for more details.

Peter Reilly, Treasurer

Friends Merchandise

Buy your next hat, cap, mug or shirt from us. The Friends have a range of merchandise that tells everyone you are proud to be 'helping the Gardens grow'.



See the range of mugs (new!), bucket hats, peaked caps and green polo shirts at the next Planting Day on Sunday 2nd December.

A big thank you...

to the office of John-Paul Langbroek - local MP for Surfers Paradise, for generously providing photocopying services for our newsletter!

COMMITTEE

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Mary Woods

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Planting Day Coordinator

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