



Friends of
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
& Sherwood Arboretum

ABN 20 607 589 873
Connect - Promote - Protect

Lilygram

5

Newsletter

March 2017

Let's be friends...

CONTACTING fBBGSA

Our Website

www.fbbgsa.org.au

(Membership details here)

Email

info@fbbgsa.org.au

MAIL ADDRESS

fBBGSA, PO Box 39,
Sherwood, Qld 4075.

New Board of Directors

Mary Jo Katter (Chair),
Annette Irish (Vice-Chair),
John Taylor (Treasurer),
Jeannie Sim (Secretary),
Paul Plant (Promotions/Media),
Arno King and Julie Lumsdale
(Growing Friends) and
Dale Arvidsson (ex officio as
Curator of both BBGs)

Membership Counter

12 March 2017: 145



Brisbane Lily planted at October 2015 Launch.
These lovely blooms photographed in November [MJ/K]



DELECTABLE PLANT TREASURE:

Victoria amazonica, at Mt Coot-tha Botanic Garden
(Prue Pettett photographer).

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Refer to the Website for the most
up-to-date Activities and Events!

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our fifth issue!

♥ *Lilygram* lives! ♥

Our regular newsletter will be sent out
by email to all connected members and
available to download as a PDF from
our website. The intention is to publish
quarterly issues: March, June,
September, and December 2017, and
beyond.

Suggestions for stories or actual
articles are very welcome! For starters,
in this issue is the summary of content
of our first Tuesday Talk for the year.
However, best to come along and hear
for yourself! See you next month!

— Jeannie Sim (editor)

GOVERNANCE & more from the Chair

§

Connecting with our members is
our focus in our projects and
events. We would like to hear from
our members what they want so I
would encourage you to come
along to our events and see what
we are about. Two different kinds
of opportunities are the Kitchen
Garden project which has been a
big hit with members working in
the Mt Coot-tha site by day and by
night come along to the Tuesday
talks in the Auditorium at Mt Coot-
tha Botanic Gardens.

We will have an open Friends
meeting in June so members can
have their say directly. There are
many opportunities to get involved
with a friendly and purposeful
group working to promote and
protect our beautiful Botanic
Gardens. We'd love to meet with
you and hear your ideas.

— Mary Jo Katter.

New Members!

Each quarter, we'll greet and welcome all
the new folks to join our gang!

November:

Rosalind Perry, Susan Byrnes,
Helen Mackay, Susan Sawyer,
Veronika Butta, Corinne Ward,
Andree Axelsen, Kirsti Doesser,
Rebecca Bassingthwaite, Ted Marchant,
Norman Katter, Geer and Marcus Johnson,
and Denis Stojanovic

December:

nix; everyone's gone bush! ☺

January:

Ray and Ruth Steward, Kris Bentley
Dinah Johnson and Jill Paterson.

February:

Liz Elliott

REMINDER to RENEW!

If you paid for an annual subscription in
October 2015 you are due for renewal.
Please go to the website and follow the
renewal instructions! Thank you.



SOCIAL MEDIA



PURPOSES

FBBGSA's three media outlets have these common intentions:

- (1) to promote our three botanical treasures by frequent postings of photographs with commentary
- (2) to connect with like-minded organisations and individuals and celebrate all things botanical.
- (3) to spread the word about upcoming events and activities!



Please share your thoughts and images with us! Contact info@fbbgsa.org.au

INSTAGRAM news



This social media outlet has been established since March 2016 and is thriving with 1,141 followers and still growing! WOW! Here's our tag: **@brisbanebotanicgardensfriends**

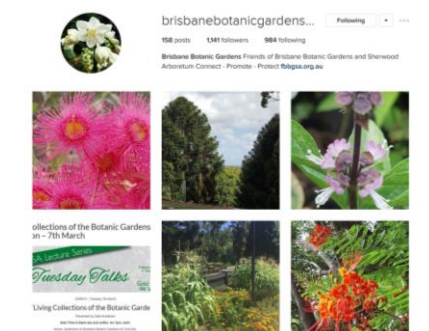
Here's how to join INSTAGRAM!

ON YOUR SMART PHONE...

- (1) go to the APPS store and search for INSTAGRAM
- (2) Open once loaded and search for our tag: @brisbanebotanicgardensfriends
- (3) It's been a while since I arrived on Instagram so I can't remember exactly but you probably have to start your own profile. That's OK, you can do the minimum, even make it private and still follow our posts!

You can also follow Instagram on your computer. There are lots of botanic gardens, horticulture, arts, crafts and design postings out there!

Have some fun. If a luddite like me can learn so can you!



And you can dip into our collection of images anytime!

FACEBOOK news



Paul Plant is running the page for our **Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum**: <https://www.facebook.com/brisbanebotanicgardens/>



Friends of Sherwood Arboretum have established a Facebook page! Congratulations FOSA!

Check out their working bees and other activities directly.



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

WEBSITE news



www.fbbgsa.org.au

Please drop in regularly to see what's new! We have been tidying, adding and rearranging things lately. What do you think? What else would you like?

Contact us: info@fbbgsa.org.au



Friends of
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
& Sherwood Arboretum

Our important membership application function is easy! We use **PayPal** to safely gather funds and information. **Did you know anyone can use PayPal as a guest?** So don't worry about being obligated to join them.

We have such a great archive of **"WHAT'S FLOWERING?"** that will only get bigger each month/year. Starting in October 2016, November, December, January and February are there and waiting for your inspection!



<http://fbbgsa.org.au/flowering-brisbane/>

COMING SOON:
City Botanic Gardens
history Interpretation
"Now and Then" plus more!

PLANT NEWS!

Victoria amazonica Amazon lily

Exciting news reported by Dale Arvidsson and his crew: they have successfully flowered a rare lily and put it on display in the Japanese Garden pond at Mt Coot-tha BG.

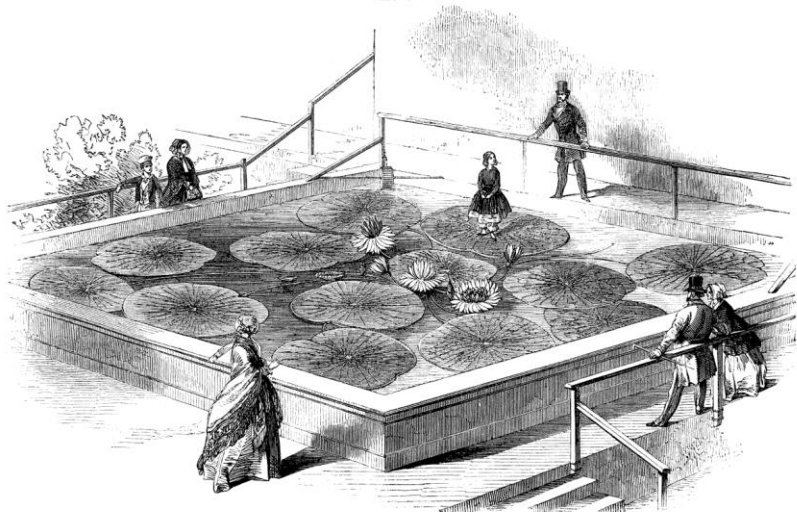


Photo: Mary Jo Katter 2017

This lily plant still has smallish leaves but give them time. The flowers open at night starting as pure white blossoms on the first night then changing to deep pink on the second night. Check out all those pickles under the leaves and on the bud. You can catch the unfurling of the leaves during the day!

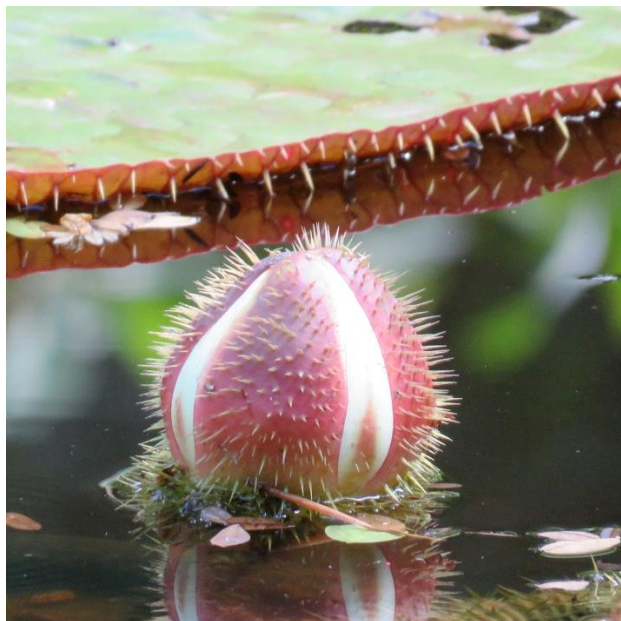


Lily Photography: Prue Pettett 2017
(many thanks for extraordinary images Prue and to Dale as well for sharing)!



THE GIGANTIC WATER-LILY (VICTORIA REGIA), IN FLOWER AT CHATSWORTH.

"On unbent leaf in fairy guise, Reflected in the water, Beloved, admired by hearts and eyes, Stands Annie, Paxton's daughter...": "The Gigantic Waterlily (Victoria Regia), In Flower At Chatsworth", 1849
SOURCE: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_amazonica Accessed 17 February 2017.



EXPLOITS!

Growing Friends

Julie Lumsdale



Welcome to 2017 and the start of the **Kitchen Garden Project** at the Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha. For the first time volunteers from the Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens & Sherwood Arboretum (fbbgsa) have been invited to help maintain the gardens – in this case the Kitchen Garden.

Nine skilled gardening volunteers nominated to start the project by undertaking Safety Training conducted by the Brisbane City Council on Thursday 16 February. We were briefed on limbering up before we start, managing the weather conditions (heat and wet), keeping our gardening tools close (so we didn't fall over them!), and keeping ourselves safe from the public (errant vehicles and school kid mobs!), as well as the native wildlife (water dragons, bush turkeys, ticks, mozzies, flies, etc.), amongst other things.

We meet the BCC staff – Team Leader Mark and Tasha the Gardener – who look after the Kitchen Garden and will guide us through our regular monthly Wednesday morning activities. While viewing the site Dale told us about some of the native bush tucker and its use by Aboriginal people. We were surprised about some of the plants which gave fruit that we had in our own gardens and new plants like native mint.

The focus of the Kitchen Garden is to maintain a regular supply of fruit and vegetables for the educational workshops held in the gardens in the Kitchen in the Gardens building. Coming up:

- ☉ “Fresh Fast and Fabulous Meals Gold Program” run by the Nutrition Australia Qld (on 7 March)
- ☉ “Spurtopia Workshop – Food Fermentation” on 18 February
- ☉ “Grow It, Cook It, Compost It” on 23 February

See all the details on the **What's On** brochure or on the Botanic Gardens website.

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-brisbane/events-council-venues/parks-gardens-events/whats-brisbane-botanic-gardens-mt-coot-tha>

You may be thinking the nine of us joined so we can take home produce at the end of the day – not so! The Kitchen Garden is still a part of the Botanic Garden so a treasured collection of plants for all; if you want to take home produce at the end of the day any Community Garden will be happy to help with this.

We were all pleased to hear that the Kitchen Garden is supplied by tank water (rather than recycled water) with heaps of worm juice (locally produced) used for the plants and soil and only natural pesticides used in this garden. We will be responsible for the composter as well. Dale is keen to acquire locally grown seeds for the garden as they have better tolerance to the local conditions. So any of our members who are prepared to donate seed Dale will happily consider them if you know their botanical name (rather than self-sown by who knows what plant).



Who are these lovely people? From the left: Julie Lumsdale, Elizabeth Teeland, Marie Hollingworth, Patty Munro, Fay Stutt (new member), Ros Laundon, Liz Elliott (new member), Dale Arvidsson (Curator), Mark and Tash (Team Leader and Gardener for the Kitchen Garden). Stay tuned for our new Friends workshirt reveal! ☺

So come and have a look at what we are doing – give us praise, suggestions are welcome, and if this project excites you why not join us! You can come for a day or stay the year! Any interest you have can be directed to members@fbbgsa.org.au and our new Administrative Assistant Vicki or Julie will be in touch.

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EXPLOITS 2!

First Tuesday Talk March 2017

We had a double feature this month with Bettina Palmer explaining at 6:30pm all about the **Horti-Couture** event she's running again in September this year.



Bettina Palmer the entrepreneur, Polly the Mannequin in the tea-cup hat and Barbara Bakker the artist who designed and made the ensemble!

Bodice of
teabag tags!
Teabag skirt
with tassels of
teabag strings
and trim of
different
pyramid bags!

Why teabags?

Tea comes
from a plant!



Supporting the Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum Ltd

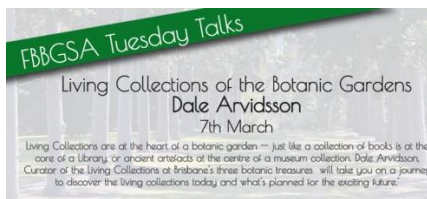
Horti-Couture

15 of Brisbane's finest florists and multimedia artists interpret
Garden Inspired Wearable Art
Exhibition and Morning Tea
10:00am 15th September, 2017

Pre-book tickets \$50 through members@fbbgsa.org.au
Japanese Garden of Brisbane Botanic Gardens
Mt. Coot-tha Road, Toowong

15th September 2017
**Garden inspired Wearable Art
Exhibition and Morning Tea
in the Japanese Garden at MCBG**

Helpers behind the scenes are vital to the success of this event. **We need some volunteers!** If you want to know more please contact Bettina through our info@fbbgsa.org.au email.



The **MAIN FEATURE** for the night was our Curator Friend, **Dale Arvidsson** discussing the excellent work he is doing for all three botanic treasures: City Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum.



It was so heartening to hear about the strategic planning going into the new **Living Collections Policies**. These will be the drivers for the future and help the current management and interpretation of the two botanic gardens and the arboretum. Dale's talk was a combination of revealing secret treasures and potential new pleasures all wrapped in a tasty feel-good package to conserve the plants of the planet for the good of all! One special insight was revealing the oldest plant in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens: *Bambusa balcoola* which was planted in Penal Settlement times.

Dale emphasised that Botanic Gardens were like Art Galleries or Museums with curated collections, but unlike those places, plants required long term strategies for replacement as well as maintenance.

So what do our places focus on? Mt Coot-tha BG has a breadth of living collection categories and a surprising number of indigenous Australian plants. Even unofficially, this place is the default Queensland Botanic Gardens and reflects the range of our State's bioregions as much as possible with the subtropical climate in mind. The gradual development of the Bunya

Mountain communities was exciting to hear and worrying that if climate change continues and involves the loss of cloud on those actual mountains, our collection in Brisbane might be the only place these plant communities remain! It is so important to maintain biodiversity in the wild but botanic gardens help with in situ and ex situ conservation. Representatives from the world's rainforest communities are here also and will be more clearly visible in the future.

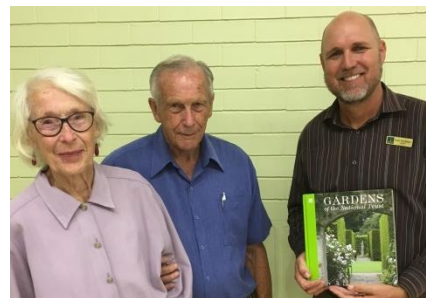
We have a Tropicalian garden in the City as well. Dale listed five main categories of living collections: palms, gymnosperms (Pintetum), bamboo, figs and minor collections that together are highly evocative of the subtropics.



Ficus microcarpa, a Queensland native fig with distinctive aerial roots, located near QUT U Block Entry.

Sherwood Arboretum has an unusual historical collection of Australian trees as well as a wetland habitat collection.

The three different policies (one for each site) will be gradually compiled, approved and released during 2017. Friends of BBGSA will be there to show the way you can find the documents online to peruse and get excited. Effective botanic gardens need these Living Collections policies. Congratulations Dale for taking on this herculean task with such enthusiasm and skill.



Dale with his gift book from us and two new young members, Ray and Ruth Steward! We love greeting Volunteer Guides as new Friends!



THREAT ALERT!

What makes for inappropriate activities in a botanic garden? Disruptive mass markets that don't focus on horticultural, educational or aesthetic matters perhaps? Or huge outdoor concerts that impact directly on the quiet refuge and peacefulness of the place? Or maybe it's the clutter of outsized electrical switchboxes or memorials that are not connected to the history of the place.

For several months, Mary Jo Katter and Dr Jeannie Sim as members of the fBBGSA Board have been campaigning and lobbying against the imposition of a memorial into the City Botanic Gardens. We have talked to Brisbane City Council Councillors, representatives of the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and our colleagues on the Lord Mayor's Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee. That committee agreed with our sentiments and endorsed the Chair, Sallyanne Atkinson to write to the QPS stating opposition to the insertion of any memorial into the historic Botanic Gardens.

We have offered numerous suggestions for alternative sites around Brisbane and the CBD, but hopefully QPS will find the right place for their history to be revealed and commemorated. Meanwhile fBBGSA will continue to act to protect the integrity of our botanic treasures.

MEMORIALS are IMPORTANT

Memorials to fallen service people are much appreciated by our community and make important contributions to our urban places. No one could contest their significance. These memorials deserve locating in appropriate places, with strong connections to the history of those organisations.

The Fire Fighters of Queensland have their Memorial to those who have made the supreme sacrifice while carrying out their duties, on the corner of Queen and Eagle Streets, Brisbane. They call it **Mooney Memorial** after the 17 year old volunteer James Mooney who died in 1877 as a result of fighting a fire in a general store in Queen Street and was the first fire fighter fatality in Queensland. **There is a logical and emotional connection between the memorial and this place.**



IMAGE SOURCE and READ MORE:
<https://environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=600087>

When the authentic connections and historic values match the strong social values, such memorials become beloved cultural heritage.

Mooney Memorial, originally built as a Drinking Fountain in 1878-1880, is listed on the **Queensland Heritage Register**.

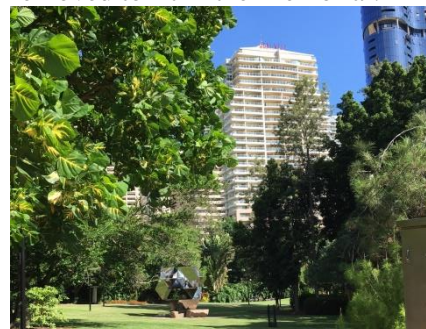


The Queensland Police Service deserves a proper memorial in a location that has direct relevance to the QPS that enables quiet reflection in a safe and non-threatening locale.

The QPS proposed location for the Memorial in the City Botanic Gardens is within the garden bed adjacent the Morning Star Lawn, which is at the George Street end of the old Queen's Park reserve along Alice Street.



Such a location conflicts with existing uses including Wedding functions and uninterrupted green views. The setting for the "Morning Star" artwork would also be compromised. And the *Grevillea robusta* tree will have to be removed to fit in the Memorial.



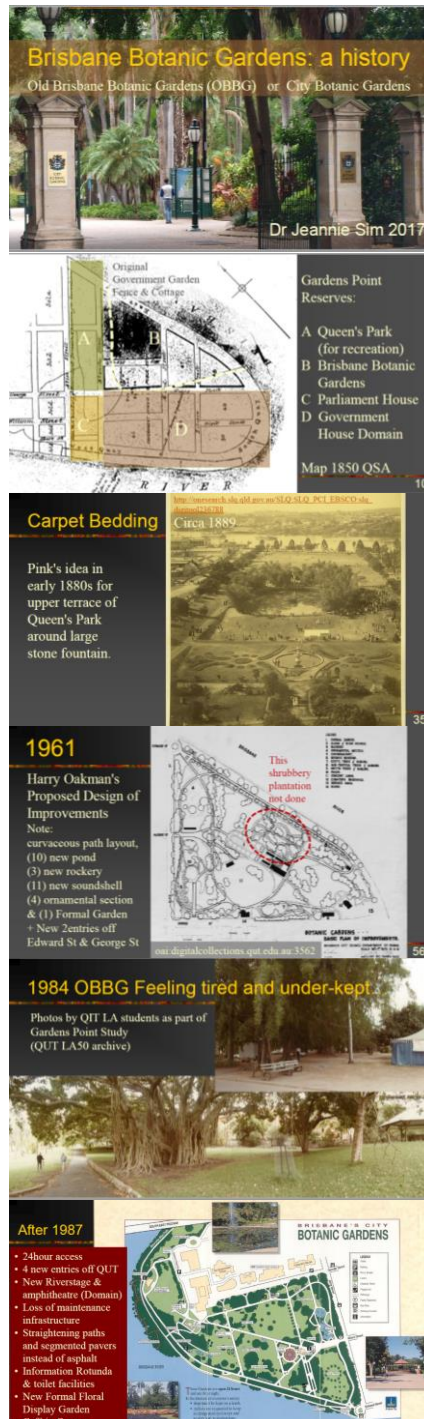
Herbaceous Plant Identification

Volunteer Friends of BBGSA, Arno King and Paul Plant are providing some expertise for Curator Dale Arvidsson. Despite this wretched heat, they are tramping through the undergrowth plotting plants into numbered garden beds. Jean Sim provided those numbers and rough plan layouts using data gathered in 2005 and earlier maps from 1995. This data will feed into the larger vegetation survey Dale coordinated associated with the recent Masterplan exercise. Some day in the future all this data will be publically accessible and provide excellent learning opportunities.

Gardens Point Study Revisited

QUT Landscape architecture students will be studying the OBBG for their third year design studio this year. Dr Sudipto Roy is leading the studio with guest lectures from Dale Arvidsson, Lawrie Smith, Shawn Walsh, Glenn Thomas and Jeannie Sim. Their goal is to produce a conceptual Master Plan for the whole of the Botanic Gardens and Domain property. A similar project was undertaken in 2016 focused on BBG, Mt Coot-tha with exciting results. The student ideas were shared with Dale Arvidsson and Darryl Mills as they prepare a Master Plan for BCC.

I prepared and delivered a new talk for the LA design studio last week. This digital presentation will be posted on our website in March as part of the revamped history interpretation of the OBBG we have in the works. The working team of fBBGSA members call ourselves the triptych: Marcus Richardson, Jim Dobbins and Jean Sim. Here are a few teasers from that talk:



1967-2017: LA50QUT



Another milestone in history this year is the anniversary of fifty years of landscape architectural education in Queensland. Former staffer George Williams has gathered hard facts, personal reminiscences and images

from alumni, staff and students and posted these online at:

<http://la50qut.zohosites.com/>

Drop in and enjoy the stories! Read about Dr Karl Langer and how he was part of establishing the LA profession and the course in Queensland.



Smiling George Williams at the LA50QUT birthday party held on 3rd March 2017. Students and staff from the first course in 1967 were there!

A hardcopy history book is being prepared based on these findings and will be published in November. Why is this relevant to fBBGSA? These stories are entwined with recent history at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in the city and I'm the editor of this new book!

GPS 1984-5

Data gathering for the LA50QUT project coincided with needing a new home for a special collection of student work called the **Gardens Point Study (GPS)** undertaken for QIT under the supervision of Catherin Bull. These documents are now safely in the Brisbane City Council Archives, but QUT's Library photographed and digitised all the work and these images are readily available online as well:

<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/collections/landscape-architecture/>



<http://digitalcollections.qut.edu.au/2229/1/Gardens%20Point%20Study%202022%20-%20Poster%20-%20Preferred%20Strategy.jpg>

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NEWS!

MASTER PLAN

Brisbane City Council is well advanced on their Draft Master Plan for Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha. It should be revealed to the public for comment by the end of March 2017. As soon as that is live on their website, we will notify our members so you can review for yourself the ideas and proposals.

Remember that this master plan exercise is a broad brush approach to find the key conceptual strategies for the future. Detail planning will come on a project by project basis.

Mary Jo and Jeannie as members of the Lord Mayor's Parks and Gardens Advisory Committee were privy to their initial draft. We were excited by many aspects of this well-prepared report and congratulate the team involved.

The Board of fBBGSA have some priority projects for MCBG that we want to ensure are not forgotten in this process, including:

- **propagation nursery** to ensure plant provenance and biosafety (with some room for Friends to activate their Growing Friends mandate)
- **children's playground** that is a plant learning garden (as in RBG Melbourne's Children's Garden)
- **expanded Library** facilities.

All the other well-known issues and improvements are well represented in the draft, for example effective wayfinding, universal access, better entry experience and so on.

What would be your pet peeve or dream for the gardens? Have your say directly to BCC when the Draft is released.

VISITOR CENTER

Construction has started on the new Visitor Information Centre at the end of the carpark near the Café. Some temporary changes in the car parking were necessary including using the shady driveway within the Australian Rainforest area for coaches and buses.

As soon as the official opening date is announced we will promote the event! Meanwhile, we can observe the progress and enjoy the spectacle! Here is the official BCC website for this facility:

<https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/mt-coot-tha-precinct/mt-coot-tha-precinct-projects/mt-coot-tha-visitor-information-centre>

There is a nifty fly-through video showing the architect's design intentions. Here is the front view.



TROPICAL DOME & PLANTEARIUM

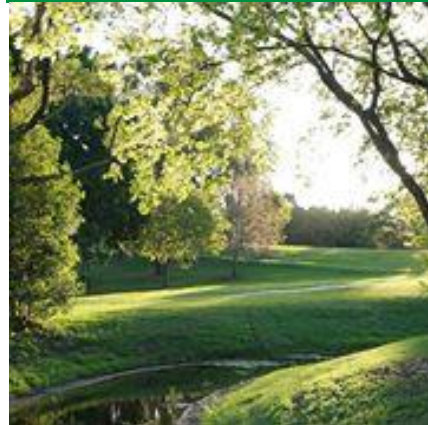
Just an aside about these landmark and beloved structures.

With the loss of so much 20th century Modernist architecture in Brisbane, the continued use and protection of these two beauties at Mt Coot-tha is even more important. We can easily become complacent about such buildings. Ensuring the ones that matter remain for following generations to enjoy is up to us. Meanwhile we can revel in their distinctive forms and wallow in the pleasure they give!



FoSA News

Friends of Sherwood Arboretum



The hands-on activities of the Friends of Sherwood Arboretum continue with planting days, school children involvements, BBQs and birdwatching events. Check out their Facebook page for announcements, stories and images.



Magpie geese are breeding in the lagoons again! Such a rich resource for birdlife.



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

§ OUR ACTIVITIES §

Currently there are six major areas of interest for 2017. They match up with most of the interests members have nominated in their application forms, but we can always refine and improve!

TALKS	☺	Going strong! 6 per year
WALKS	⚙	In pipeline !
GROWING	∞	In pipeline !
Gardening	✂	Brand new but alive at MCBG!
Newsletter <i>Lilygram</i>	📄	Going well! 4 per year (#5 out now)!
SOCIALS	👏	Going very well! Horti-Couture rocks!

TALKS

Six Tuesday Talks are scheduled this year with supplementary lectures and seminars being planned as well.

WALKS

Don't forget the Volunteer Guides provide excellent guided walks around our two Botanic Gardens. Well worth taking!

OPEN GARDENS – anyone interested in opening their own garden to visitors contact info@fbbgsa.org.au
We want to meet on 23rd March to discuss setting up this popular activity.

GROWING / GARDENING

Powerhouse Julie Lumsdale has gathered a workforce for the Kitchen Garden maintenance. Further intact after safety training is scheduled. Check the website for details. We can't begin our much desired propagation from botanic garden material until we have a small nursery facility. We are determined to make this happen.

NEWSLETTER (4 issues per year)

We will publish the newsletter using the email system for distribution of a PDF version with an archived version downloadable from fbbgsa website.

SOCIALS

So far we have identified several fund-raising events that link art and plants in a big way, for example Bettina Palmer's "**Horti-Couture**" and her art/craft sales events called **Botanique Bazaars**. What else would you like?

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP



The easiest method to renew is to use the PAYPAL facility on our website. It is extremely safe and you can use it as a guest without making any commitment to join PayPal.

Future Get-togethers!

Tuesday Talk ~ 4th April

William Jolly, Lord Mayor of Brisbane by Sallyanne Atkinson

This will be a fascinating talk by our well-known former Lord Mayor Atkinson. Jolly was such a major mover behind many of our beloved public parks and gardens. For more details, see our website:
<http://fbbgsa.org.au/william-jolley-lord-mayor-brisbane-sallyanne-atkinson-april-4th/>

Tuesday Talk ~ 2nd May

History of the City Botanic Gardens by Marcus Richardson

Historian Marcus reveals tales of his adventures researching the history of the original botanic gardens and the interpretation ideas we have been exploring for our website.

<http://fbbgsa.org.au/history-city-botanic-gardens-marcus-richardson-may-2/>

MORE TUESDAY TALKS

We have posted August and September talks on the website and there will be one more in October.

Horti-couture in Spring!

Supporting the Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum Ltd



Horti-Couture

15 of Brisbane's finest florists and multimedia artists interpret

Garden Inspired Wearable Art Exhibition and Morning Tea

10:00am 15th September, 2017

Pre-book tickets \$60 through members@fbbgsa.org.au
Japanese Garden of Brisbane Botanic Gardens
Mt. Coot-tha Road, Toowong



www.fbbgsa.org.au



Application for Membership

Friends of BBGSA

ABN 20 607 589 873

revised 24 March 2016

TITLE: First NAME SURNAME

Mailing ADDRESS

SUBURB State: Postcode

Email

Telephone/Mobile

Please complete to help planning of Activities and Events:

Your Age: Under 18 18-29 30-44 45-59 60+

What are your particular interests (tick as many as you like):
Plant Propagation Horticulture Rambles/walks Visit other gardens
Garden Design Heritage & History Photography Arts/Crafts
Other/Suggested Activities?....

MEMBERSHIP: I am applying for the following (tick box):

Individual Membership:

\$30 per annum (12 months) \$50 per 2 years LIFETIME – \$1000

PAYMENT OPTIONS: CASH + Give this form directly to fBBGSA representative

Payment by cheque/money order payable to **Friends of BBGSA**

+ Post with this form to postal address below.

Payment directly to the FBBGSA bank account with NAB Kenmore

BSB 084 263 Account Number: 91 416 2233 Include your surname in transaction name.

+ Post this form to postal address below.

Payment through **PayPal online at Website:** <http://www.fbbgsa.org.au>

(this PayPal process includes your contact details and interests record as well).

Membership Officer,

Friends of BBGSA, PO Box 39, Sherwood, Qld 4075.

Website: <http://www.fbbgsa.org.au>

Email: info@fbbgsa.org.au