

Friends of
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
& Sherwood Arboretum

Lilygram 8.

Welcome to our eighth issue!

Suggestions for stories or actual articles or photographs are very welcome!

Please send them to the Editor, via info@fbbgsa.org.au

Newsletter

June 2018

Better late than never!

Let's be friends...

CONTACTING fBBGSA

Our Websites

www.fbbgsa.org.au

(Membership details here)

+

Brisbane's Botanic Treasures

www.brisbanebotanictreasures.info

Email

info@fbbgsa.org.au

MAIL ADDRESS

fBBGSA, PO Box 39,
Sherwood, Qld 4075.

New Board of Directors

Julie Lumsdale (Chair),
Annette Irish (Vice-Chair,
IT/Membership),

John Taylor (Treasurer),
Jeannie Sim (Secretary &
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief),
Arno King (Events),

Sidonie Carpenter (Promotions),
Sue Ogilvie (on leave), and
Dale Arvidsson (ex officio as
Curator of both BBGs & SA)

ABN 20 607 589 873

Connect - Promote - Protect

Brisbane's Botanic Treasures are:
Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt. Coot-tha
City Botanic Gardens, CBD

STOP PRESS!

Sherwood Arboretum recognised and rewarded in recent Brisbane City Council Budget. Assistant Curator to help Dale Arvidsson.

See more on page 9.



DELECTABLE PLANT TREASURE:

Combretum indica 'Jessie's Star'

formerly called *Quisqualis*, or Rangoon creeper. This is a locally bred all white flowered cultivar gifted to MCBG

(Photographer & breeder: Kirsten Matthews).



OUR FLORAL EMBLEM

Proiphys cunninghamii

Brisbane Lily

Planted on 14 October 2015 in MCBG at the Launch of fBBGSA. These blooms photographed in November 2015 [MJK]

CONTENTS:

Membership Counter!.....	1
From the Chair	2
SOCIAL MEDIA News.....	3
TALKS / Training	4
GARDEN / Growing.....	5
EVENTS / Exploits	6
OBBG news	8
MCBG news.....	9
FoSA news.....	10

Creative Diversions (new!)..	11
Summary of Activities	12

Membership Counter

31 May 2018: **150***

Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens
and Sherwood Arboretum

*Current financial members,
however another 31 are due for renewal!

Welcome all new members!

Since December 2017,

we have welcomed 29 new members!
Many thanks to all who have renewed their
membership recently as well!

VALE

Elizabeth Tree Smith FAIH

fBBGSA members were very sorry to hear Liz lost her battle with cancer. Annette Irish wrote a lovely story about her close friend in an April Mailchimp but I remember Liz's tireless efforts in our early days including pulling together the "Lighting up the Dome" event at MCBG, May 2016.

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From the Chair

§

Welcome to the FBBGSA's first newsletter for 2018! Many events have happened over the last 6 months and many volunteers have helped to make the events worthwhile. With Volunteer's Week recently I wish to personally thank every volunteer who helps (taking on shifts at events, offering their help with planning events like HortiCouture, or even cooking lemon curd for sale)! Without people helping and attending there are no events to look forward to. So thank you to all volunteers, participants and speakers/organisers. Remember you are the members – if you have a specific area of interest please advise us and always happy to have feedback!

You would think after the steamy hot summer weather that the Kitchen Garden volunteers would be reluctant to go back to planting, weeding, watering etc. at the beginning of the year (though Dale the Gardener has the fields looking specky). But you would be wrong! They were very enthusiastic to restart and then the rain came and they had to wait for another few weeks. Not been there lately? You are missing out! The Open Day at the Gardens had Dale with an "Ask Me" badge and the public did just that! Don't wait till next year though as Dale and the FBBGSA volunteers are always happy to help.

The pressures of all gardeners – the weather! What a difference it makes to the Gardens and the attendees at the Hidden Treasure garden by Antonia McCaskie were rewarded with a beautiful sight, heaps of new ideas and high praise to anyone who would listen!! Thank you Antonia – I know even with rain it is a big ask to have a garden ready for the massive number of attendees. Maybe some of you have a garden to recommend to visit – email or phone us with the details!

Did anyone go to the see the Queen (well future Queen to be)? The Brisbane Botanic Gardens in the City were so lucky to display their beauty when Prince Charles and Camilla came to town. It had been a rainy time (and a wee bit wet under foot) so attendees were waiting patiently for the event to unfold. Some of these visitors loved the gardens so much that they spent

time there – even the curlews came out for a look! And the week later the Botanica Art Festival were operational in these Botanic Gardens – night time was the best with one of the oldest (length of time old) gardeners lighting up the trees! What a beautiful sight!

Have you noticed anything different at the Botanic Gardens at Mt Coot-tha lately? Yes the Cafe is busy; yes the lawn is looking so good without the cockatoos resting in the vista; yes the free bus tour during the Commonwealth Games was excellent especially the trips to the Australian Plant Community area; yes the 2017 Artist-in-Residence Exhibition was absolutely beautiful (plant prints, birds made from raw plant material for example). All good things are bright and shiny – well the new art work near the Visitor's Centre is; the two people searching for bugs or butterflies via magnifying glass and net near the Lagoon (ex Expo 88 I believe – 30 years ago!) adds so much interest there. So keep your eyes out for more art works as the Botanic Gardens is transformed. And some of you thought I was referring to the Zipline... – not yet as the Development Approval has to go through.

Recently I was having a discussion about the Children's Trail and needed to mention Jeannie Baker – the Collage Artist who had a wonderful Exhibition we enjoyed for the first 8 weeks of 2018 in the Richard Randall Studio. One of the amazing things I learnt was how Jeannie makes a complex story look easy and simple. Maybe we can create a storyline for the Children's Trail. FBBGSA has dedicated upgrading the Children's Trail as our project for 2018 – allocating funds from a range of events including two Plant Crèches as well as our donation box funds towards the upgrade. Did you know the Children's Trail and the Kitchen Garden were the two most asked about places at the Visitor's Centre at Mt Coot-tha?

Well I have left the best till last. One of our Tuesday's Talk by Dr Jeannie Sim on Bush Houses was so well received that we will attempt to encourage Jeannie to do it again at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in the City. So watch your emails for the details and be enthralled by Jeannie's presentation of the history of the Bush Houses with a challenge to recreate

one of these for yourself but in a contemporary style.

So till next time, keep your eyes on our website – there are changes a-coming and more events to attend. Have you kept 14 September free for example??

— Julie Lumsdale

BOARD ISSUES

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We have two new Board Directors: Sue (who started in March) and Sidonie (starts in June). Our new Director Sue Ogilvie suggested we share more news about what the Board does in its monthly meeting marathons! Great idea Sue! The Board of Directors of fBBGSA meets the first Tuesday of every month, February to December and handles all the usual management matters such as finance, governance, correspondence, promotions and more. We hear reports from Directors in charge of specific areas including IT & websites, various Events, Training & Education, Kitchen Garden and Membership. We also discuss a round-up of issues related to each of the three sites under our care: City Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum. Lately, the proposed Zipline at Mt Coot-tha and the new Queensland Police Service Memorial and proposed Riverwalk in the city have been recurring concerns. On the horizon is the 2020 Conference of the AAFBG (Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens) which we agreed to host in Brisbane. Annette Irish is our coordinator for this big event. Expect to hear more soon about volunteer helpers and organising committee membership.

Our big focus for improvements this year is **membership**. We want more members so we will have a louder lobby group and more funds that can be ploughed into our three botanic treasures. We have begun connecting with several allied community groups and have signed up Friends of Sherwood Arboretum and Botanical Artists Society of Qld as our first corporate members (not for profit). Commercial corporate members are also future targets. Sponsorship is another area of fund-raising that we plan to utilise for specific projects such as the proposed Children's Garden.

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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INSTAGRAM news

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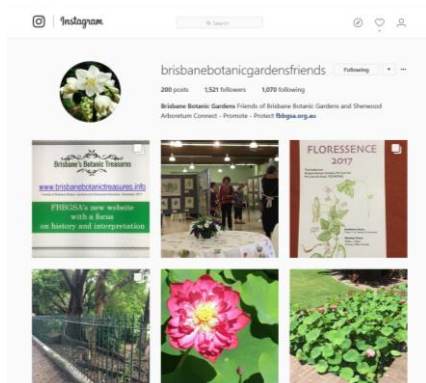


This social media outlet has been established since March 2016 and is thriving with **1,705** followers and still growing! WOW! And we just reached #292 posts! Here's our tag:

@brisbanebotanicgardensfriends

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

Our team of enthusiastic social media workers now includes **Anne Marlay, Annette Irish and Jeannie Sim**. But, Anne does most of the hard work!



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FACEBOOK news

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Or maybe you favour this platform?

Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and Sherwood Arboretum
<https://www.facebook.com/brisbanebotanicgardens/>

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

Check out their working bees and other activities directly.

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends of Sherwood Arboretum/>

WEBSITES

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Friends now operates two websites!

Our original one is the operational heart of our communications while the new one is devoted to interpreting the history and values of all three botanic treasures.

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

Membership renewal and newbies are easily managed online. We are always seeking volunteers for the many projects we have underway. Please consider helping. Also, the events booking process is new and really easy to operate! Old favourites like **"WHAT'S FLOWERING?"** has its own menu tab while back copies of **Lilygram newsletters** are under NEWS. Under EVENTS we have a big calendar listing as well as individual notices.

Lastly if you can't find something easily in the top menu, the **QSEARCH** function is really clever and should get you to the right place!



www.brisbanebotanictreasures.info



featuring the fascinating
NOW and THEN Gallery!

[24]



1905 THEN shows 5 masted ship (Source: SLB/SLB)
 2017 NOW: Mt Coot-tha in background now obscured by new buildings and new of bridge piers constant.

[24]



1905 THEN shows 5 masted ship (Source: SLB/SLB)
 2017 NOW: Mt Coot-tha in background now obscured by new buildings and new of bridge piers constant.

Please tell us what you think of our
 new website! Contact us here:

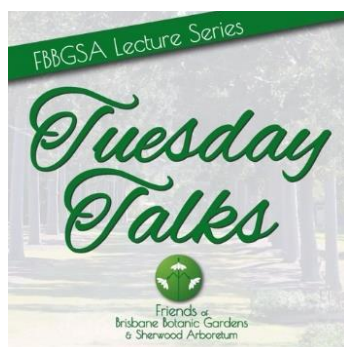
info@fbbgsa.org.au

Our new Brisbane botanic treasures website captures some of the interesting stories, images and ideas that have been prepared in recent times to interpret these places. And it will continue to grow as more articles are written by more people, more maps uncovered and more photographs taken. We aim to provide information for the casual visitor and the serious scholar, for real visits and virtual explorations. **Thus the real purpose of this website is to provide interesting and useful educational experiences.**

Recently the Bush-house Tuesday Talk was added to the PDF presentations available for downloading! If the top or side menus aren't helpful in finding something, use the **QSEARCH** function (located in top green space to right).

TALKS + Training

TUESDAY TALKS



MARCH 2018

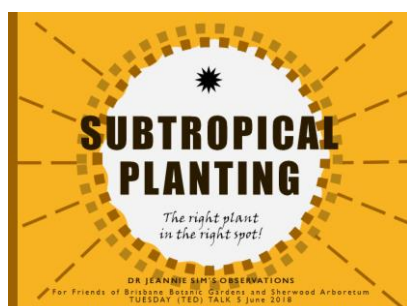
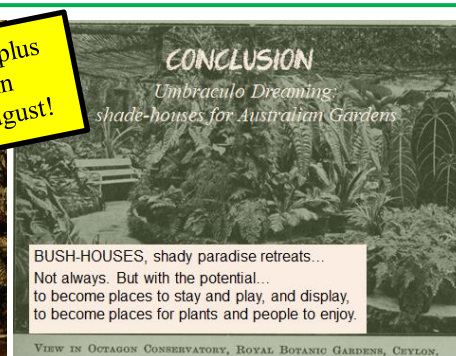
Annette Irish FAIH presented a thrilling tour through some of the great Asian botanic gardens, their supportive local communities, clever horticulture and their glorious collections of plants. We squeezed into the Seminar Room while BCC upgraded the Aircon in the Auditorium, but we had fun and bought vintage books and baby plants as well!

APRIL 2018

Dr Jeannie Sim gabbed away about her passion for Bush-houses (shadehouses) and introduced that Spanish word UMBRACULO! Finally she urged everyone to reinvent the wheel, experiment and create their own 21st century version! And the call went out for another rendition in the CBG later this year.



Talk repeat plus walkabout in CBG in August!



JUNE 2018

What is Planting Design in the Subtropics? Can we do it better?

In tandem with the AILD, Arno King organised a new format of short talks by a panel of 4 local designers: Arno, Sidonie Carpenter, Andrew Munroe and Jean Sim! Kim Woods-Rabbidge was the super MC. Q&A followed. Lots of new faces that may join us! Hope to do this again soon!

MASTER GARDENER SERIES with Annette Irish

This programme was initiated in late 2017 after great initial interest and enthusiasm from members and non-members alike. During the '3 workshop' trial period for the implementation of the Master Gardener classes, it was found that enrolments would not support a viable outcome. It has been identified that there is direct competition from other garden and external programmes, that week days are not suitable for non-members and that the length of each workshop needs to be considered. We are now investigating how we maintain viability and a point of difference and therefore provide a project with a point of difference. We need to establish how best to provide the members with the programme they would support. Over the next few months we will be reviewing its structure and hopefully with your support we will be able to reinstate the programme later in the year. The board is committed to the continuance of the program and seeks to ensure it meets member's needs. It's a partnership project that could bring great benefits to all, including the projects within the gardens. This is an important outcome for us all in The Friends.

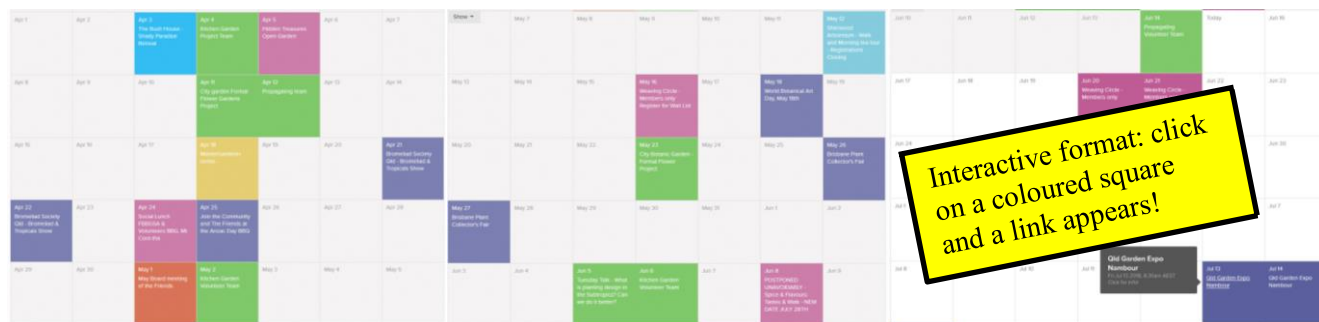
—Annette Irish

VEGGIE TALKS Series with Arno King

Seasonal talks for 2018 have been suspended after a great start last year. Arno will be focusing on the Tomato Festival to be held in the BBG at Mt Coot-tha in October.

NEW CALENDAR on Website!

Keep an eye on what's on next on our website. The interactive calendar was uploaded in April and has proved really useful! It also acts as a nifty archive for past events. GO to >>> <https://fbbgsa.org.au/events-2/#!calendar>



YOUR CHALLENGE: what is Annette and Jim's colour coding for different event categories?!

GARDENS/growing

VOLUNTEERS are very welcome! We need to gather your information and get you safety trained for field work so please take the time to fill out the application form available here: <https://fbbgsa.org.au/volunteer-programme/>

KITCHEN GARDEN @MCBG



The Kitchen Garden is being maintained with vital assistance from fBBGSA volunteers, overseen by MCBG professional gardener, Mark. Patty Munro is the new volunteer Team Leader and what a wonderful job they all do. Each time one wanders through, the stunning growth simply bursts forth from the delightful 'chocolate' organic soil with the plants brimming with health and vitality! So come and have a look and praise them as they work. If this project excites you why not join in! Also check out the orchard while you are there, as earlier in 2018, a new fruiting tree was added. The St Helena Olive tree preserved from the penal settlement at St Helena Island, Moreton Bay, is said to be very like a 'Frantoio' and it is believed that its olives won Australia's first international agricultural award!

Selected images from our @brisbanebotanicgardensfriends Instagram Collection and written by Anne Marlay.

GROWING GROUP

The secret is out! Several dedicated members of FBBGSA have been beaver away doing propagating of plants from the Mt Coot-tha site of the BBG since September 2017. A recent stocktake of cuttings shows 42 different species have been collected for cuttings. Some are ready for sale like *Whitfieldia longifolia*; others are still developing like magnolias. The greatest challenge with propagating is having the material potted up and then delivered to a member's greenhouse until they are ready for sale. Welcomers at the Visitor's Centre have indicated that the public having been asking if any plants are for sale.

If anyone is prepared to volunteer one Sunday a month at the Visitor's Centre to sell the stock please contact Julie Lumsdale on 0455 512 302. If you want to join the dedicated group propagating occurs usually in the Seminar Room on the second Thursday of the month all year round. All materials are supplied; please wear covered in shoes.

Any further queries please contact — Julie Lumsdale



EVENTS+Exploits!

CHECK our CALENDAR on the website for future events! <https://fbbsa.org.au/events-2/#!calendar>

Jeannie Baker 'Circle' Exhibition

Our first activity of the year was minding the Exhibition in the Richard Randall Art Studio, selling Baker's books and plying raffle tickets. We gained members and funds and lots of exposure. Volunteers made this all possible!



ABOVE: Opening Night with Jeannie Baker and Dale Arvidsson. A selection of Baker's wonderful books on sale during exhibition.



Did you find this precious writing? "By following the direction of the Bar-tailed Godwit across the southern seas, the Maoris were guided to the shores of New Zealand."

Hidden Treasures GARDEN VISIT 5th April 2018



Mother Nature's Laughter – Antonia McCaskie's garden

When Antonia was a young girl, growing up in The Hague, Holland during the war, she was inspired by the resilience of flowers blooming amidst bombed ruins. Decades later, living in another world, Antonia has created the most delightful hillside garden on the outskirts of Brisbane. The front section, leading to her timber cottage, is a colourful profusion of sub-tropical plants while at the rear, large forest trees she planted twenty five years ago shelter swathes of shade lovers. Many of the plants growing here are unusual – reflecting the talent and persistence of a plantswoman. All who visited this garden was entranced! Many thanks for this opportunity!

— Julie Lumsdale

Anzac Day Community BBQ April 2018

At the top of the Hill at MCBG one can find peace and inspiration at the Freedom Wall Memorial. As the breeze whispers through this quiet contemplative space, time to remember those whose lives were given for peace and freedom in the world. Anzac Day, 2018 drew the community together to share personal memories, enjoy music at the bandstand while the local Guiding group volunteered their time to support visitors to view the freedom wall.

— Anne Marlay



WORLD BOTANICAL ART DAY: BASQ and fBBGSA!

WBA Day was celebrated on the 18 May 2018 with the Botanical Art Society of Queensland and fBBGSA mounting an exhibition at the Richard Randall Art Studio, MCBG in celebration of the wonders and beauty of Mother Nature. Botanical Artists from BASQ contributed their art work for the visitors while plant sales, art experiences and ikebana demonstrations added to further enjoyment of the day's experience.

— Anne Marlay



Plant Crèche activities at Garden Expos & Plant Fairs

Getting ourselves known and gathering potential new members has been a major focus this year. As part of this strategy, we have operated plant minding booths for several gatherings this year including the Brisbane Plant & Garden Plant Expo (16-17 March) and the Plant Collectors Fair (26-27 May). They are a great way of providing a service to visitors while promoting our 'brand' and raising some funds. Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who stand and serve! Deserving some freshly minted thank-you 'lilyhugs' ♥🌿♥☺

Weaving members!



Bettina Palmer has been involved in various crafts since childhood and with her long time interest in advocating for the Botanic Gardens, and building a relationship with the local botanically related arts community, she now co-ordinates activities promoting use of natural fibres, in every form from utilitarian basket making to practical structural forms in the kitchen garden and more flamboyant art pieces worn and exhibited at the annual Horti-Couture event.

With the generous co-operation of the Botanic Gardens Staff, dried garden waste is collected and prepared ready for various woven forms. On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, a small group of skilled artisans meet at different venues within the Mt Coot-tha precinct to weave with foraged and salvaged plant fibres. The first session saw eight participants manipulate plant husks, fibres and grasses into beautiful little baskets. Polynesian style green palm weaving allowed the group to produce a different style of basket and for the session in April, we plan to practice different techniques in readiness for the larger more sculptural work of building scarecrows. Later in the year there will be opportunity to construct wearable pieces, which will then be exhibited at Brisbane's EKKA and our gala fund raiser Horti-Couture, where constructed outfits are modelled live.

The weaving sessions are open to any member willing to come play with us, but are strictly limited to twelve participants each session and there is already a healthy waiting list. For a mere \$15 all materials, mentoring, and a modest morning tea is provided. Of course, the whole exercise is part of the Friends' projected vision in promoting the Botanic Gardens as a public resource for both science and art; connecting with a wider visiting public; and protecting the natural environment.

— Bettina Palmer

FUTURE EVENT!
Get your tickets now
while they last!

The Friends of Brisbane Botanic Gardens and
Sherwood Arboretum invite you to attend

Horti-Couture 2018

a fashion parade of wearable art inspired by nature
and designed by local artists



Enjoy tranquil surroundings, a scrumptious morning tea,
multi-prize raffle, lucky door prize, and good company.

Vote for your favourite outfit.

All profits will be donated to the renovation of the
Children's Trail in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coot-tha.

Browse the stunning artwork available for purchase.

Date: Friday, 14 September 2018 at 10:30am

Venue: The Japanese Garden
Brisbane Botanic Gardens
152 Mt Coot-tha Rd, Mt Coot-tha

Ticket price: \$60
Book early at fbggsa.org.au

Tickets are limited.



NEWS

Talk and Walk planned for CBG in July: Bush-houses redux! Dale's idea is that we search out locations of former structures and think about the future!
From Lord Mayor's 2018-19 Budget speech; "I have allocated \$5 million towards continued upgrades and delivering on the master plan at the City Botanic Gardens."

2018-19 BCC BUDGET documents <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-information-rates/news-publications/council-annual-plan-budget-2018-19>

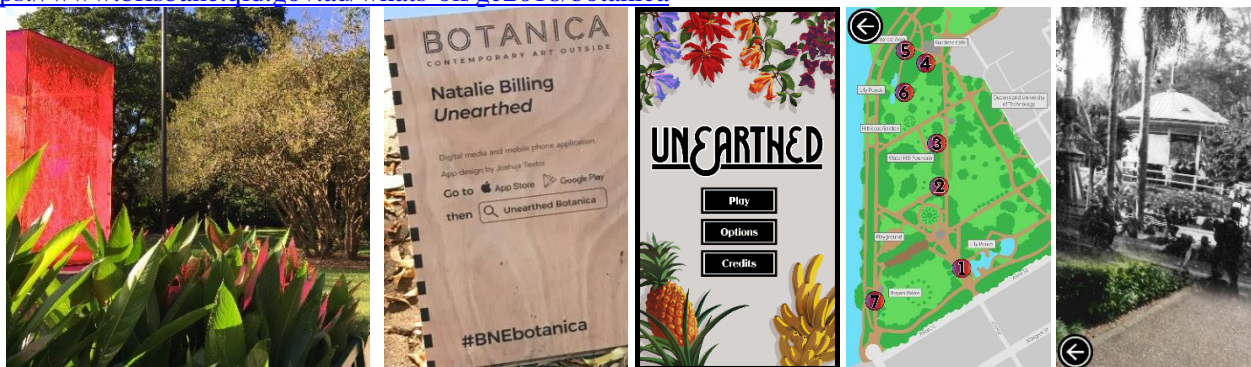
Royal visit in April!

Brisbane welcomed **His Royal Highness, Prince Charles** and his wife, **Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall** on their recent visit to open the XXI Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast. On 4 April, they met the public at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens in the City, surrounded by the beautiful inner city parkland that captures the tropical nature of Queensland's horticultural history. The assembled crowd was keen to meet these royal visitors who were equally warm in their overtures towards the crowd, despite the somewhat inclement weather. While waiting for 'the Royals' to arrive, it was interesting to reflect that in 1866, Queen Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, a relative of Prince Charles, when on his first visit to Australia, planted a Cook Pine at these gardens. Reaching a height of up to 60 metres, the Cook Pine, *Araucaria columnaris*, a tree indigenous to New Caledonia, is the tallest in the botanic Gardens. Its botanic name refers to its narrow shape. Some say it leans towards the Equator and as the earth's axis shifts, so does the direction of this tree!

— Anne Marlay

Botanica: Contemporary Art Outside

This wonderful new event in the City Botanic Gardens coincided with the Commonwealth Games from 6th-15th April 2018. Natalie Billing's APP "Unearthed" has some great historic views and audio. It is a much smarter version of fBBGSA's 'Now and Then' segment on the Brisbane Botanic Treasures website! For many more exciting images (including the exciting night-time light shows) please go to Instagram and search #BNEbotanica or see the official website <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/whats-on/gc2018/botanica>



We should urge the City Council to restage this event in 2019 and beyond! This is gentle and respectful activation. It makes a welcome balance to all the recreational and sporty things that get staged in parks.

QPS Memorial approved by Qld Heritage Council

This is sad news to many of us who believe the City Botanic Gardens is not the right place for this important memorial. The proposed set of monoliths will mean the removal of the existing sculpture *Morning Star* and probably this *Grevillea robusta* tree (LHS photo). Location is up the George Street end of Queens Park. The annual National Police Remembrance Day is 29 September so construction should be completed for that date this year.

We have found some public information available. The official media release from the State Government is here:

<http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2018/3/7/brisbane-botanical-gardens-to-be-home-to-new-memorial-for-fallen-police>



Police Facebook (photo): <https://mypolice.qld.gov.au/blog/2018/03/08/new-memorial-homed-brisbane-botanical-gardens/>

And the Heritage Council application approval document reveals the footprint is approved for 10x15m, see here:

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/assets/documents/land/heritage/applications/600067-application.pdf>



NEWS

Implementation of the Masterplan will be done in stages. From the Lord Mayor's 2018-2019 Budget speech: "I have allocated over \$5 million to continue upgrades to walking trails, picnic areas, the Botanic Gardens, the Planetarium, the Visitor Information Centre and the new Zipline project."

2018-19 BCC BUDGET documents <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-information-rates/news-publications/council-annual-plan-budget-2018-19>

Mount Coot-tha Visitor Centre

The new Visitor Centre was opened October 2017 and has become a roaring success! At last there is a proper welcoming place with friendly faces and lots of information. It was high time the Volunteer Guides had such a facility to call home. Congratulations to all involved. The building is a visual treat, has shady seating, is easily accessible and has great toilets!



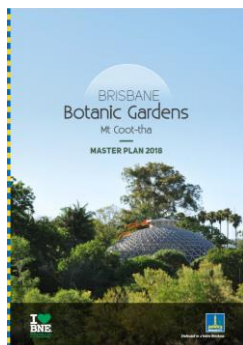
Lord Mayor Graham Quirk graciously approved the installation of our first **DONATION BOX** adjacent the new Mt Coot-tha Visitor Centre. Since being installed, a steady stream of funds has been forthcoming and we plan to channel these into the redevelopment of the Children's Trail at MCBG. Next time you are up the mountain, please drop some \$\$\$\$ into the box!

Of course, the fBBGSA Board dreams of installing another box in the City Botanic Gardens soon. Maybe FoSA should try for one at Sherwood Arboretum!

MASTERPLAN RELEASED

Council has released the final version of their Masterplan document that is a vision for the next 15 years. The quarry is still not considered relevant (pg. 3): "Importantly, this is a master plan for the Gardens and while feedback was received about the quarry it remains operational and provides value for Council and is not part of the scope of this master plan."

The implementation schedule is particularly interesting (pg. 31) and our hopes for a Nursery may be fulfilled (pg. 20)! Exciting future ahead with the proposal to install a proper Children's Garden (pg.24): "The underused bandstand area could be transformed into a children's garden – a unique sensory botanical haven that would inspire children to learn as they play among the plants. With a hands-on focus, children would connect with the environment, themselves and each other."



Front Cover



Page 21: Entry Precinct



Page 23: Lakeside Precinct



Page 25: Central Precinct



Page 27: Australian Precinct

Download the whole PDF here: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/mt-coot-tha-precinct/brisbane-botanic-gardens-mt-coot-tha-master-plan>

ZIPLINE PROJECT

Despite ardent feedback from fBBGSA, the Volunteer Guides and many individuals, the proposed Zipline landing in the Australian Plant Communities area is still going ahead. However, the project has yet to complete the Development Approval stage. The Board continues to negotiate with Brisbane City Council to reach the best outcome and ensure the least damage is done. The official BCC website is: <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/facilities-recreation/parks-venues/mt-coot-tha-precinct/mt%C2%A0coot-tha-precinct-projects/mt-coot-tha-zipline>

The local Wilderness Society is another community group with concerns, see here: <https://wilderness.nationbuilder.com/>

Additional information is provided by Alan Lee in his Environmental Overview document, which can be downloaded from our website here: <http://brisbanebotanic treasures.info/mount-coot-tha-botanic-gardens-brisbane/mount-coot-tha-botanic-gardens-management/>



**FANTASIC!
Well deserved!**

Breaking NEWS

Lord Mayor's Budget Speech 2018-19 (13 June 2018): "Following meetings with the 'Friends of Sherwood Arboretum' earlier this year, I would now like to announce that I have allocated \$520,000 towards the management and upkeep of this important asset. The Arboretum will be afforded additional support and will be brought under the umbrella of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens and the City Botanic Gardens and an Assistant Curator will be recruited to assist the Curator."

2018-19 BCC BUDGET documents <https://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/about-council/council-information-rates/news-publications/council-annual-plan-budget-2018-19>

Saving our 'living history'

A winning combination of science and a deep knowledge of tree care is helping restore a unique example of Brisbane's 'living history'. Council's senior arborists, with the professional help of a soil scientist and a hydrologist, are working to achieve the long-term restoration of a 93-year-old avenue of Queensland Kauri trees with a lifespan potentially of more than 300 years. The Kauri avenue, in the heritage-listed Sherwood Arboretum, is one of the few examples in Australia where citizens came together to plant a landmark avenue of trees to celebrate the opening of a botanic gardens or arboretum. While these conifers or cone-bearing trees can trace their origins back to the Jurassic period, some 140 to 190 million years ago, it is the ravages of the 21st century which have taken their toll on this historic avenue. As well intended as the Arboretum's founders were in 1925, these rainforest giants have suffered the ill-effects of flooding, storm damage, soil compaction from vehicles, mowers and people, and also a rising water table along a low-lying section of the avenue. Council last December completed a \$108,000 project to help improve the growing conditions for these 72 trees by promoting the increased uptake of oxygen, nutrients and moisture into the compacted and poorer quality soil along the avenue's north-south corridor. Following the findings of a soil scientist, Council's contractor, Green Options used aeration equipment (pictured) to help break-up the compacted soil around each Kauri. With this work completed, River City Trees (pictured) then spread quality mulch to help promote improved root growth for each of the Kauri trees.



The Friends of Sherwood Arboretum Association (FOSA) is hoping Council's 2018-2019 budget will allow the next stage of the restoration project to proceed – the engineering design necessary for the future installation of underground drainage to minimise the damage caused by the high water table. With future funding, a major drainage construction project, based on Council's original hydrology study, could then follow to allow the 12 young



replacement Kauri trees, temporarily growing in raised earthen mounds, to be returned to a more stable ground level. The integrity of this unique example of Brisbane's 'living history' would be preserved for future generations to appreciate.

One rare bottle!



If you've ever felt the need to hug a tree, the *Brachychiton rupestris* could be the tree you've been searching for. Better known as the Queensland Bottle Tree, this very familiar specimen tree captures all of the romance and ruggedness of the Australian bush. However, spare a thought for a rare member of the bottle tree family, the Ormeau Bottle Tree (pictured left), which needs much more than a caring hug from tree and nature lovers. This rare rainforest tree is listed as critically endangered under Federal legislation, with some 161 remaining in the Upper Pimpama and Albert River catchments in the Gold Coast Hinterland. In March this year, the volunteers of the Friends of Sherwood Arboretum Association (FOSA), with the guidance of the Curator of Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Dale Arvidsson, planted the second of two young Ormeau Bottle Trees in the heritage-listed Sherwood Arboretum. Strenuous efforts are being made on the Gold Coast to bring the Ormeau Bottle Tree back from the brink of extinction by restoring the rainforest ecosystems along the Pimpama River and surrounds. The Curator and FOSA volunteers (pictured right) also added a Mullumbimby Plum, an endangered tree in the wild, found in the sub-tropical rainforests of northern New South Wales.



The Arboretum tree planting included another rare rainforest tree, the Small-leaved Tamarind, which has suffered a similar fate to the Ormeau Bottle Tree by the clearing and fragmentation of rainforest in South-East Queensland and northern New South Wales and also weed infestation. The bright-red fruit (pictured left) is suitable for jams and preserves. In all, the Curator selected 20 trees to add to the Arboretum's impressive collection of more than 1000 Australian

Native trees. The Institute of Foresters of Australia volunteers also planted a Rib-Fruited Pepperberry tree, common in the Wet Tropics and Cape York, in the Arboretum's Forestry Grove, which showcases 10 of the State's top timber trees of the 1920s and 1930s.

Stories and images from **Andrew Benison**, President of Friends of Sherwood Arboretum (FoSA)
For more information, please email info@sherwoodarboretum.com.au or call 3278 6525.

CREATIVE

Poetry challenge

PICK a PLANT!
WRITE a POEM!
Silly or Serious!

Do people like to play with words anymore? Of course some do! Are limericks your cup of tea? Whatever form, express yourself! Share your notions! Let's reignite plant appreciation using WORDS! Or send a DRAWING! Children's works especially welcomed!

Please submit your creative efforts in praise of plants to info@fbggsa.org.au for inclusion in the next *Lilygram*! Meanwhile your Editor offers this tragic teaser.

Odę to *Ficus racemosa*,
thę cluster fig.
— Jeannie Sim, April 2018.

Once upon a fig tree growing —
Fears of sickness flowing.

A winter's end leaf drop fall!
Becomes a Springtime flush,
then bright lime jelly foliage,
matures to shady shelter,
against the swelter.

Strange stalks corrupt the trunk,
residual gunk, budding spunk,
then cauliflory inflorescence
erupts, green orbs become pink.
Food for many and future figlets!

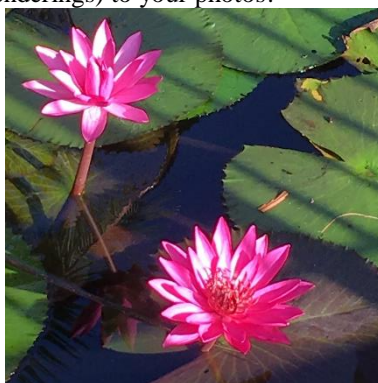
Life's cycle endures.
Pleasure rises as Bizarreness
appreciation ensues and smiles.

DIVERSION

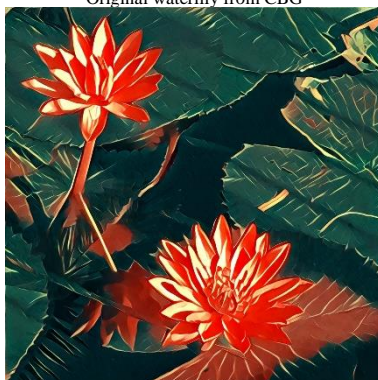
Photo challenge

SNAP a PIC!
Play 'Prisma'
on it maybe!

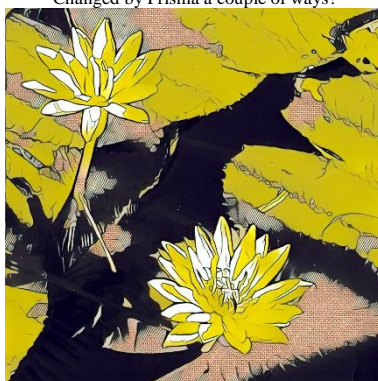
Prisma is a free APP for smartphones that does weird visual things (artistic renderings) to your photos!



Original waterlily from CBG



Changed by Prisma a couple of ways!

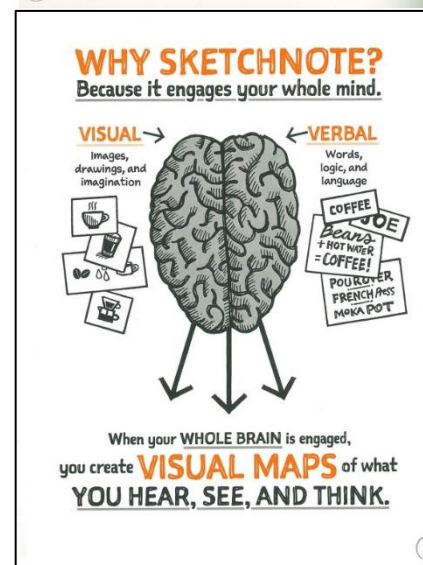


PAGE

Drawing challenge

DOODLE or DRAW!
Or 'Sketchnote' a
Tuesday Talk!!

Sketchnoting is a graphical way of taking notes that has a fun focus!



SOURCE: Rohde, Mike 2015. *The Sketchnote Workbook: Advanced techniques for taking visual notes you can use anywhere*. Berkeley, CA: Pearson/Peachpit Press.

Creativity is good therapy!

OUR ACTIVITIES

TALKS



We achieved six Tuesday Talks in 2017 and similarly planned for 2018. We also have started the educational Gardening Masterclasses series with Annette Irish and the seasonal Veggie Talks with Arno King.

WALKS



Don't forget the Volunteer Guides provide excellent guided walks around our two Botanic Gardens and even did one around Sherwood Arboretum this year. We also have great hopes for bird watching events in the future. Our first successful Open Garden event was in October! More to come!

Growing



We have begun our much desired propagation from botanic garden material without a small nursery facility and are selling already at events. But we will not give up on the real nursery goal!

Gardening



Our diligent volunteers helped maintain the Kitchen Garden this year. In 2018 we began helping out at the City BG Floral Display garden.

Newsletter *Lilygram*



Going well! 3 per year (#8 now)! We will publish the newsletter using the email system for distribution of a PDF version with an archived version to download from the fBBGSA website. Also a hardcopy version will be available from MCBG Library.

SOCIALS



Going very well! 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. We have nibbles and beverages at our Tuesday talks that aid the socialising. What else would you like us to do?

OTHER!



New!? Other Good Works?

We have also started volunteering to help with the labelling of plants up at MCBG and provided some expertise in identifying herbaceous material in the CBG, and so on.

Watch out for email notices & our website for all future events!

NEW MEMBERS and RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

The new MembershipWorks software is up and running and offers easy operation and accurate database records. Online is our preferred payment method! Members will require a password which is sent to you on your request (almost immediately) and you can add your details including the Emergency contacts at the same time as renewing.

Any difficulties with this please contact

members@fbbgsa.org.au or
webmaster@fbbgsa.org.au

Renewals will be according to when you sign up with automatic reminders.



REGISTERING for EVENTS!

The online booking/payment system is really easy to use and makes administration so much better for us.

Please use this option instead paying cash on the night! Many thanks.

FUTURE-WATCH



The fBBGSA is a member of the **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)** which has annual conferences that alternate between Guides and Friends groups every year.

Our website has a link to their website under OUR PLACES / LINKS where you can access their newsletter and much more.

There are many plans around Australia for 2020 to celebrate the journey and plant collecting by Joseph Banks and his mates on board the *Endeavour* with Captain Cook in 1770. Our turn to shine will be to host the AAFBG Conference in 2020 here in Brisbane! So please keep a watch for more news and calls for help!

END