



FRIENDS of the National Arboretum Canberra

Newsletter 17 / May 2012

Dear Friends

With another successful Annual General Meeting completed, I am happy to report that our combined efforts as ambassadors, guides and educators, bucketeers, Festival facilitators, tree measurers, bonsai and penjing explainers, working bee / Rocky Knoll gardeners—in fact all our efforts as volunteers, are astounding.

There are many ways to measure success. Our membership has grown to around 700 memberships (which represent more than 1500 people and thousands when we include associate and corporate memberships). Thousands of volunteer hours have been contributed in the above activities. Fund-raising has exceeded expectations and our bank accounts total nearly \$70,000, enabling us to present a significant Centenary gift to the Arboretum next year. Many thousands of people have now visited the Arboretum—in fact around 12,500 people attended this year's Festival of the Forests (see pictorial report on page 4).

Alan Franklin stepped down as Treasurer this year. Alan has been an excellent Treasurer since the Friends' inception in 2008 but we know he is also part of the Arboretum team and working very hard on many aspects of the project to ensure the Arboretum is ready for the Grand Opening in February next year. Our thanks go to Alan and we wish him well for the future.

Given that no members have yet stepped forward to be our new Treasurer, the members agreed with my offer

to take on the role with the valuable assistance of Colette, our fantastic Secretary. I can assure you that being Treasurer is a great role in a developing organisation and I encourage members to consider nominating themselves. Please contact me if you are interested.

I am also pleased to report that members agreed to Sherry McArdle-English rejoining our Council. As we know, Sherry offers great expertise and we all look forward to working with her again.

Our 'Volunteer of the Year Award' went to Bronwyn Halbisch who has participated in so many activities and especially because of her willingness to organise the prominent involvement of the Australian American Association in the Festival of the Forests this year. Well done Bronwyn!

The rest of our Council Members continue with the second year of their term and I am sure, like me, they are all looking forward to the most exciting time ahead, leading up to the Grand Opening and then assisting with the range of events and programs planned for the future.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Arboretum!

Jocelyn Plovits

Chair

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Two more ceremonial tree plantings page 2

Festival of the Forests 2012 page 4

Charles Landry's view page 9

High speed growth! page 10

Selecting bonsai for the NBPCA page 11

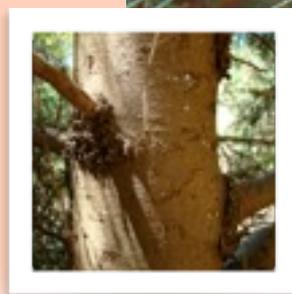
Working bees page 11

FrogWatch update page 12

South Esk pine in focus page 13

The world of arboreta 6 page 14

Forest talk page 15



Two more ceremonial tree plantings

A REPORT BY LINDA MULDOON

The wet weather prompted cancellations of some ceremonial tree plantings in this quarter but a beautiful day greeted Mr **Romaldo Giurgola AO** (Aldo) and his daughter, Ms Paola Giurgola, when they planted a hoop pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) in the Arboretum's Central Valley on Thursday, 15 March 2012. The ceremony was in honour of Aldo's outstanding achievements in Architecture (we can see Parliament House from the Arboretum!) and his close connection with the National Arboretum Canberra during the design competition of 2004.

Below: Ms Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT, with John Mackay, Chairman of the Arboretum Board.



Aldo, now in his nineties, had been on a tour of the Arboretum prior to the planting and his mood was upbeat. He felt that the reality of the Arboretum's design had definitely exceeded his expectations.



Top: Aldo talks with Myra Dickson, Project Officer, ACT Government (left) and Jocelyn Plovits, Friends' Chair.

Above left and left: Aldo addresses the assembled guests.

Above: These intrepid magpies have moved in on the Arboretum and want to star at every opportunity.

Monday, 16 April 2012 was another fine day when **His Excellency The President of the Republic of Lebanon, General Michael Sleiman** (see photo at right), joined Katy Gallagher MLA, Chief Minister of the ACT, to plant a cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus libani*) near the top of the Arboretum's Central Valley.



Above: The party arrived amidst considerable fanfare.

Right: His Excellency and the Chief Minister planting the tree.



Below, from left to right: Jocelyn Plovits, an interpreter, the Chief Minister and His Excellency.

Below right: The tree gets watered in for good measure.

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON



Festival of the Forests 2012

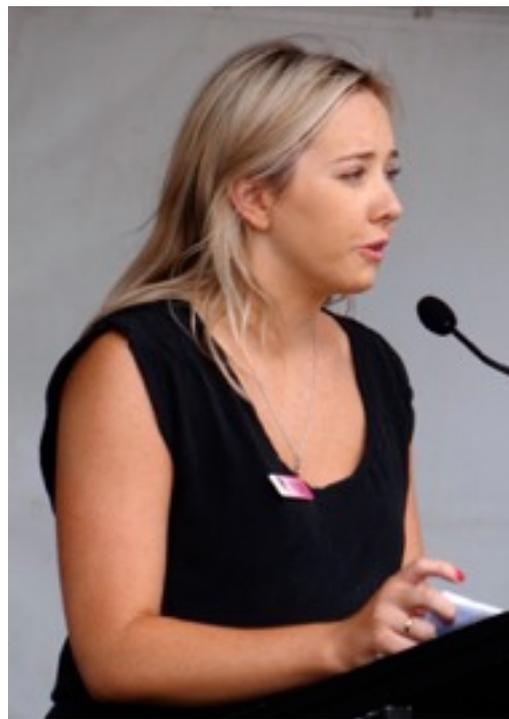
A PICTORIAL REPORT BY
JOCELYN PLOVITS

The 2012 Festival, hosted by the Friends, was held on 1 April. It attracted an estimated 12,500 people—the biggest attendance in the Festival's four-year history.

It was possible that it would be difficult to match previous visitor numbers, given that the Festival had been moved out of the Canberra Festival calendar. This was a deliberate decision by the Board, the Directorate and the Friends, because it provided the opportunity to present the Festival when there were less competing events. The new date was untested but proved to be very viable.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers from the Friends, to the Directorate, to Early Bird Events, to all our sponsors (ActewAGL, Yarralumla Nursery, Westpac, ABC and Supabarn), to the Embassies, participants and exhibitors, all of whom made the 2012 Festival a wonderful, colourful experience—and a great success.

Below: A continuous stream of incoming cars viewed from the Visitors Centre construction site, and at bottom, visitors got a tour of the building work in progress.



Top: Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Chief Minister, opened the Festival.

Above: Bianca Lockley spoke on behalf of the McGrath Foundation.

The ACT Chief Minister, Katy Gallagher, opened the day with praise for the efforts of all in developing the Arboretum and the McGrath Foundation representative, Bianca Lockley, spoke of the special relationship being developed between the McGrath Foundation and the Arboretum, especially with the 2011 bunya pine plantings by Glen McGrath, breast care nurses and the indigenous representative from the Bunya Mountains in south-east Queensland. The McGrath Foundation was our charity partner for this Festival. Jocelyn Plovits, Chair of the Friends, thanked all participants and visitors. This opening ceremony

drew our biggest crowd yet for the formal opening segment.

Jon Stanhope, the former Chief Minister, had requested a different cultural focus for each Festival. In 2011 the focus was on our indigenous culture. In 2012 (after consultation with ACT Government representatives and the Chief Minister's office), the Friends approached the Embassies of Japan, Spain, Turkey and the USA. The first three participated in their own right, with the USA participating through the Australian American Association. The Creative Spirits program, presented in the Himalayan cedars by Duncan Smith and his team in 2011, was repeated on the Event Terrace in 2012, giving more people access to the interactive activities.

We were not able to use the whole Event Terrace for the Festival because of the construction underway, but with the Canberra Discovery Garden open, hosted by ACTEW, and tours of the partly built Visitors Centre, the Event Terrace became a real focus and we found there was little demand for activities underway in other areas of the Arboretum.

The Friends provided guides for bus tours which travelled on a loop around the site and over 4000 people took a tour (the same number as in 2011 as it is determined by the number of buses and the tour timetable). Prior to the rain which began at 2.00pm, all visitors wanting to take a bus tour were able to do so.

This year we had private sponsorship for a hot air balloon which was tethered close to the Tuggeranong Parkway and this attracted people to the site but hot air balloons need calm conditions and after two hours the wind made it too difficult to manage. The wind was beneficial when it came to making and flying kites and hundreds of children (and parents) participated. Many children sought answers to the questions in the 'Passport' and participated in interactive displays.

This year's Festival also included a planting event for the Chief Minister, her family and other visitors (around 70 in all) which launched a brochure about understorey plantings in the Lot 100's Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP). This is a small regional botanic garden being developed within the Arboretum, featuring 16 different eucalypt species.

Below: The hot air balloon tethered near the Parkway.



Top: Guided bus tours were very well-patronised.

Above: Kite making and flying was a huge success.

Festival advertising encouraged people to come by bike and more than 100 bikes were parked in the racks throughout the day. However the children's cycling course that had been prepared at the southern end of the Arboretum was not well-patronised.

The Friends sought funding for various projects with the help of our sponsors, ActewAGL, Supabarn, Yarralumla Nursery, and a private sponsor to support aspects of media preparation for the advertising campaign and the hot air balloon. The Friends also obtained support from Westpac, a new sponsor, which included advertising within four Westpac branches and supplying Westpac volunteers to count and bag monies collected by our volunteers, ready for banking on 2 April.

The Friends organised the services of 60 volunteers to work on the numerous activities required to deliver such a Festival. Volunteer hours totalled 2000, including meetings, administration, training, time spent working on the day and time spent working after the event.

The Friends also conducted a random survey of visitors. Apart from the slow access to parking, feedback remained overwhelmingly positive. Particularly positive feedback was received regarding the guided bus tours, tours of the Visitors Centre and the variety of activities focused on families and children.

Despite the rain later in the day, the Festival certainly met the goal of involving the community, with full car parks and traffic on the entry road slowed to a crawl. Access to and movement around the site are currently being reviewed by the Directorate. We had 21

exhibitors (the same as in 2011) and all indicated that they would continue their involvement next year.

The Friends collected \$6146.80 in donations (double the amount collected last year), \$1350 in book sales for the Directorate, and gained a number of new members. Unfortunately the McGrath Foundation representatives were delayed in their flight from Sydney and didn't arrive until midday. While they were only able to collect \$536.90 before the rain, they considered the exposure of the McGrath Foundation name to be very beneficial.

By becoming an annual event, the Festival of the Forests has a proven identity. It was initiated by the Friends in February 2008 when Sherry McArdle English, Jocelyn Plovits and Jeremy Lasek met to discuss the potential for a major annual event at the Arboretum.

Thanks again to all of you who made the 2012 Festival so successful.



Bush Dancers display group with the Southern Cross Band and Bush Capital Band.



Jocelyn Plovits speaking at the Festival opening—wearing the full Friends' kit.



Our perennial Festival of the Forests MCs—Sherry McArdle-English and PJ.



Close to opening time and recycling bins, portaloos and a generator were ready for action.



Duncan Smith delivered the 'Welcome to Country', as well as performing with the Wiradjuri Echoes on stage.





Top: The Friends' Bronwyn Halbisch (right) with Alicia Doherty, Communications Officer for the Australian American Association.

Above: Tools at the ready for children to create cut-out eagles.

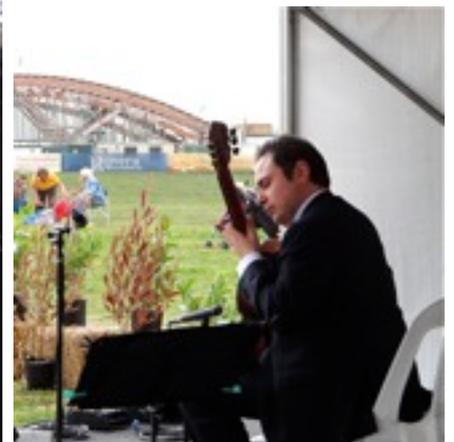
Top: Food sampling was popular at the Embassy of Japan's colourful display.

Above: Several visitors volunteered to participate in this demonstration of making sticky rice.



Left: Beautifully dressed young Spanish dancers waited for their turn to perform on stage.

Below: Spanish guitarist Giuseppe Zangari gave two wonderful performances.





Left: Dancers from the Sydney Turkish Dance Ensemble gave an all-male performance, followed later by an all-female performance.



Above: Giralang Primary School's 'Six Seeds' performed their unforgettable 'Kurrajong Rap'.

Below: Flags of the participating nations adorned the area in front of the stage, creating a multicultural splash of colour.



Thanks to all our Festival of the Forest volunteers including: John and Kay Beagle, Chris Begley, Linda Beveridge, Cynthia Blount, Max and Margie Bourke, Sue Brown, Adam Burgess, Gayle Burnes, David Carr, John Clune, Del da Costa, Emma de Landre, Silvana Cradoc, Anne Duncan, Barbara Duus, Janet Edstein, Jacquie Elliot, Alan Franklin, Tony Fearnside, Jill Freeman, Yvonne Hackman, Meredith Hinchcliffe, Roger Hnatiuk, Mark Howard, Anna Howe, Bev Kaiser, Peter Kanowski, Trish Keller, Tralie Kimlin, Brigid Kitchener, Naomi Landau, Glennys Leyne, Sherry McArdle-English, Colette Mackay, Mac Maculan, Marie Mannion, Angelo Mifsud, Linda Muldoon, Rod Nichols, Jocelyn Plovits, Trish Quail, Marelle Rawson, Sanya Richie, Kathy and Andrew Smith, Carol Summerhayes, Carolyn Thomas, Anthony Widdowson, Jennie Widdowson, Doreen Wilson, Shirley Wilton, Gail Winnett, Di Wright, Dami Vigone, and the volunteers who came from sister organisations including FACTA, STEP and ANBG.

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

Charles Landry's view

Charles Landry, internationally renowned city planner, recently visited Canberra. He was sponsored by the Waldren family to host a seminar on the Arboretum. He forwarded this report following his visit.

I am a convert and I have been singing the Arboretum's praises ever since I saw it for the first time. I have become an ambassador.

I have been thinking too about the essence of great places or cities for the past 20 years. A quick summary for me are five features: it is a place where you feel at home and familiar, within this sense of safety you have possibility, third it is a place where you connect internally and with the external world, where you feel you are learning, and lastly where on occasion you feel as if you're inspired. The National Arboretum Canberra encapsulates all of this. It's about memories. It's what we can do. It is soulful. The Arboretum is special.

I helped Canberrans self-rate the city in 2010 and they came up with a score of 3.4 out of 10 for leadership in Canberra. Here with the Arboretum project by contrast we have a primary example of leadership, guts, tenacity and long-term vision. It completely contradicts our score that there is little leadership in Canberra.

One of the great things about the Arboretum is that many of the things that are good about it are not immediately transparent. Obviously, we know the Arboretum is, for instance:

- ◆ a visitor attraction
- ◆ a picnic and recreation area
- ◆ a scientific arboretum
- ◆ a sustainability project
- ◆ an educational facility

But it is the biggest story of healing the world that I'm interested in. What strikes me about this project is that it has a sense of 'for the world' about it. This is not just a collection of 100 forests. It is connecting us with nature. There's something that is hitting the higher registers that we have as well as the obvious things. It's beyond us now or beyond our self-interest.

It deals with the past but it's the future as well.

'What makes great places?'. 'How do we make our mark?'. 'Where is our vision?'. These are questions leaders of cities around the world ask themselves.

If you look at some of the world's greatest cities you find they have left some sort of legacy. Think of Hyde Park in London, Central Park in New York, the Eiffel Tower in Paris. All were considered slightly crazy, eccentric schemes when they were built. But each of them encapsulates a spirit of generosity and of giving. The Arboretum has this sense of generosity that the city has given back to itself.

There's also a sense that it is slow and measured in a fast world. It will grow on us. Most things feel less good over time. The Arboretum though will get better and better over time.

It's one of the few things that can do that. Most things—buildings or shopping centres get worse, they feel shabbier. But the Arboretum will speak for itself. It won't need explanation.

I recommended after my visit to Canberra in 2010 that Canberra look to Freiburg, the green heart of Germany, for inspiration and a comparison of what it should be aiming to become. Freiburg is a model green city. It contains a whole series of carbon-neutral estates and has attracted one of the largest solar institutes in the world. This is an excellent beginning to becoming Australia's green heart.



The Arboretum on a perfect Easter morning in 2012... We think it's special too! (Ed.)

PHOTO: LINDA MULDOON

High speed growth!

BY JOCELYN PLOVITS

There is much talk about the 'two speed economy' in Australia. Well, we have just discovered a third speed in super-fast trees!

One of the purposes of the Arboretum is to be able to demonstrate the growth rate (or not) of the various species so that we have a record of their suitability to the site's conditions and climate.

Friends will be aware that Dr Roger Hnatiuk has been leading a devoted band of volunteers. Tree measuring commenced in 2009 and they have been monitoring the growth rate of the trees in all the forests, according to a rigorous sampling plan.

Roger's tree measurers work two to three hour sessions on two Tuesdays and two Sundays per month. They measure the height and trunk diameters of thirty randomly selected trees in each forest lot. But now things are getting really interesting as some forests are being measured for the second time.

Remember that freezing morning in July 2010 when the Friends turned out to plant the Friends Forest of drooping she-oaks (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)? The median height when they were first measured was 52 cm. Two growing seasons later they were remeasured with a median height of 2.6 m, meaning that they have grown a bit over a metre per year. On 8 April 2012 the tallest tree in the Friends Forest was 3.6 m tall!

Other trees showing remarkable growth are the Buchan blue wattles (*Acacia caerulescens*) and the Camden white gums (*Eucalyptus benthamii*).

But most forests are doing well and are a tribute to the work of the teams planting and caring for them—and no doubt to the rain falling from above.

Our happy band of tree measurers at the end of a Tuesday session on 4 April 2012.



Super-fast tree growth recorded in the Friends Forest on 8 April 2012.



Close-up of the healthy young shoots on the tree above.

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

Selecting Bonsai for the NBPCA

BY LEIGH TAFE (Assistant Curator, NBPCA)

The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) has two types of bonsai: those that are donated to the Collection and those that are on loan.

The selection process is fairly similar for both. Let me first explain the process and then I can explain the difference. The Collection calls on a small group of highly experienced and seasoned bonsai artists from around the country who make up what we call our Selection and Ambassadorial Committee (SAC). The purpose of this committee is to be a voice for the Collection in their areas, together with their contacts and affiliations. They will act as ambassadors for the Collection and promote its activities to clubs and individuals in their areas. They will also act as scouts for suitable bonsai to be selected for either loan or donation to the Collection.

Once our SAC members have identified a bonsai offered for loan or donation, they will take a number of photographs, highlighting the particular strengths of

the bonsai on offer. The details of the bonsai, including dimensions, age, years in training and some information about the tree or species, are then submitted to Grant Bowie, the Curator.

Grant will then compose a 'snapshot' of the bonsai in question and this will be included with snapshots of other bonsai on offer from the same region. SAC members will then be asked the 'rank' the bonsai on offer from that region. Grant will then collate the votes and use them to help select the bonsai to add to the Collection for that particular intake of tree/s from that region.

The selection of bonsai for any particular intake may also be dependent on the current situation within NBPCA. Grant must take into account other trees that will already be on display in the Collection, the significance of the species being offered, the size of the tree on offer and the available space within the Collection to display the tree.

The process is the same for both loan trees and donation trees. However trees identified as being offered for permanent donation to the Collection will be assessed not only on their present state but also on their potential to be a significant bonsai of the future. One other determinant is whether the tree would be classed as the best representation of that species as a bonsai in Australia.



Working bees can be really hard yakka!

PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

The top row of photos are from the Friends' working bee on 19 February when we began weeding our second rocky knoll. The weeds were enormous and just look at one of several piles at the end of the morning!

On 18 March the working bee was in the Himalayan cedars where some people created more piles of weeds and others raked masses of mulch away from the trunks of the young trees.

The last photo is from 20 May. An *Acacia dealbata* hedge has been planted along the perimeter fence from the Buchan blue wattles to the cork oaks (around 300 plants). It is hoped that these plants will quickly form a barrier to limit the spread of weeds from the adjoining paddocks. We removed **all** of the pink tree guards and trimmed the weeds from around most of the plants. Others worked on our second rocky knoll.

FrogWatch update

BY ROGER HNATIUK
(FrogWatch Group Leader)

Quarterly recordings of frogs continue at the Arboretum's three 'wetlands'. On a mid-March evening, with a warm breeze and partially cloudy sky, five Friends set out to listen and record the frogs. Dan was on his first session, Claire on her second, Tony returned after a few months' absence, almost bouncing on his new space-age knees. Jennie, also on her first session, brought welcome experience with FrogWatch and Roger just continued continuing.

With our second La Niña year still providing much free water in the landscape, frogs have continued breeding into autumn. The spotted grass frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*) was heard by the tree monitoring group as they called in small pools out in the central west in Lot 65 (*Styrax japonica*, Japanese snowbell). This frog continued to mark its presence in daylight hours, as it did for the previous six months. Interestingly it has been heard less after dark than during the drought.

The highlight of our March 2012 session was the sighting of not one but two frogs! These were the first of the actual creatures to be seen as distinct from the calls of courting males being heard. The one that hopped along the roadway as we finished recording at the STEP Lot 100 ephemeral wetland, was the spotted grass frog, though we heard none calling from the wetland itself this time (Figure 1). There were others calling from the surrounding landscape. However, in the wetland, a swarm of moderately-sized tadpoles were seen swimming about. No legs could be seen on them yet. They are proof that the calls we've heard before have been rewarded with successful breeding. The weather will determine whether these tadpoles mature to adult frogs before the wetland dries up again. Of course, various birds or maybe even a water dragon could also influence the outcome.

At the main dam, in Lot 11 (ginkgos), a second spotted grass frog was sighted (Figure 2). These were interesting in that some of them were calling from under the ground on the edge of the water, producing a fascinating echo-y sound underfoot.

The main dam was also of great interest because the banks at water level (it was full to overflowing) were covered in a band of densely-growing sedges and reeds (Figure 3). This is the first time this has happened since it was created several years ago. These were all 'naturally planted', presumably from seed carried in the runoff, or on the feet of the large flock of ducks that make the water their home. Since mid-March, there has been significant landscaping work at the dam, with areas of wetland plants being planted, as well as the recent removal of the delta at the bottom of the Central Valley. The increased vegetation around the margins should assist in building the frog population and our observations will help to document this.



Figure 1. Spotted grass frog on road at STEP Lot 100 ephemeral wetland, March 2012. PHOTO: DAN HUNT



Figure 2. Spotted grass frog on south bank of main dam, March 2012. PHOTO: JENNIE WIDDOWSON



Figure 3. Newly-vegetated edge of main dam, March 2012. PHOTO: ROGER HNATIUK

Callitris oblonga

SOUTH ESK PINE

BY LINDA MULDOON

These neat little trees have been planted in the Arboretum's Lot 30, a steep rugged site next to the quarry. One corner of the forest adjoins Dairy Farmers Hill. It's a tree that could do well in Canberra gardens, replacing some of the exotic conifers. Several specimens can be found in the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

This is a small ellipse-shaped conifer, reaching 2–5 m in height and 1–2 m in width. The bark is dark grey and smooth, except for the scales of earlier cones which remain attached. It has extremely dense erect branches with very fine deep blue-green foliage. Leaves are 4–5 mm long on branchlets.

The female cones can be found attached directly onto short thick fruiting branches. They are grey and egg-shaped, 12–24 mm long and 10–24 mm in diameter at maturity, with six cone scales arranged in two rings of three. The three inner scales eventually open to shed numerous dark brown, three-winged seeds, 1–3 mm long and around 2 mm wide. Sometimes the cones retain viable seed for several years after maturity.



Left: One of several South Esk pines growing at the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

Below: The foliage is fine, soft and blue-green in colour.



Top: Lot 30 is a rugged, undulating site.

Above: Male cones.

Tiny egg-shaped male cones, about 3 mm long, are yellowish-brown in colour and occur singly or in groups of two to five at the tips of the foliage.

In Tasmania, the natural range of this conifer is restricted to the north-east of the state and the Cataract Gorge area. In New South Wales, it grows in sand near banks of streams on the eastern side of the tablelands. It is classified as vulnerable in both states.

REFERENCES

Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment: *Threatened Flora of Tasmania*

www.conifers.org

New South Wales Flora Online: *Callitris oblonga*

Below: Female cones (left) and bark (right). PHOTOS BY AUTHOR



High alps arboreta

BY MAX BOURKE

Two extremely high level arboreta in Europe (both are right at the top of the tree line), are examples of highly specialised arboreta, now serving a very useful long-term scientific purpose. One is *Jardin Botanique alpin du Lauteret*, between Grenoble and Briançon in France. You may have seen this on television, as the cyclists have wooshed past it in the last two Tours de France! The other is *Jardin des Rochers de Naye* (also known as *La Rambertia*) near the famous Swiss city of Montreux on Lake Geneva. Both were established at the end of the 19th century for scientific research purposes. The French one is owned and maintained by the University of Grenoble. It has a collection of some 2500 species of alpine trees and shrubs from around the world (including Australia and New Zealand), growing at 2500 m altitude with a mean average temperature of 2°C. Today internationally important scientific work is conducted on, among other things, climate change, as this zone is particularly sensitive to these changes. The garden is open all year round though deep snow can block access in mid-winter. Signage and all information is in French but there are often some interesting young graduate students on site, prepared to be explainers. A visit, if only for the scenery (see photo), is highly recommended to those who are new to the Department of the Haute-Alpes.

The other site in Switzerland is even more precarious. Perched high on a ridge, it covers just 1.5 ha with some 1000 alpine plant species, including very small prostrate tree species from alpine regions of the world. It is accessed by a rack

train from Montreux Station and if you are in the vicinity on a sunny day it is well worth a visit to see what a group (comprised entirely of volunteers right from the beginning) has been able to achieve on this spectacular though precarious site. It is open from June to September, when it is usually snow-free. Those who suffer from vertigo may prefer to give it a miss!

These two sites show what truly-committed plants people can achieve.

Jardin Botanique alpin du Lauteret in France, photographed in 2004.



FOUR MONTHS OF DATES TO REMEMBER

10 June **Open Day @ Arboretum** 24 June **Volunteer training day @Arboretum*** 8 July **Open Day @ Arboretum**

12 August **Open Day @ Arboretum** 14 August **Friends' General Meeting** 19 August **Working Bee @ Arboretum**

9 September **Open Day @ Arboretum** 16, 23 and 30 September **Floriade @ Arboretum**

* Volunteer training is for new members and existing members wanting to refresh their knowledge. This session starts at 11.00am—meet at the Arboretum gate at 10.45am so that the one to one and a half hour session can start on time. Participants will learn about the Arboretum, receive a booklet of volunteer information (with space for notes, so bring a pen), receive a copy of the Arboretum book (if you don't already have one) and be issued with a Friends' T-shirt. Ring Jocelyn on **0406 376 711** or email contact@arboretumcanberra.org.au to book a place.

2012 Voices in the Forest will be held on **24 November**. For more information go to www.voicesintheforest.com.au.

FOREST TALK

EQUESTRIAN VISITORS

On Sundays we now see quite a few people out riding in the Arboretum. This was Ross McDonald riding 'Chuck' and Maggie McDonald riding 'Jasper' on Easter Sunday.



THORNY CUSTOMERS

Have you checked out Lot 55B yet? This is *Ceiba speciosa* (white silk floss tree). It's from South America and will have beautiful pink flowers followed by fluffy white pods.



WALKING VISITORS

ACT Walking for Pleasure celebrated its 25th anniversary on 15 April and a luncheon was held at the Aboriginal Cultural Centre over the way. Prior to the luncheon about half of the 140 guests tackled a walk through both the Lindsay Prior Arboretum and our Arboretum. Here the walk leader is following quite an established goat track through the Himalayan cedars near the entry.



CANBERRA DISCOVERY GARDEN OPEN

The very modern Canberra Discovery Garden (see photo above) was opened by celebrity gardener Don Burke and Katy Gallagher MLA, ACT Chief Minister, on 12 February 2012. Don gave two talks to large audiences and he was very favourably impressed with the Arboretum. The garden (managed by ACTEW) has been attracting large crowds. It is open to the public during the Arboretum Open Days on the second Sunday of each month.



CAMDEN WHITE GUM FLOWERING

Arboretum Curator Adam Burgess captured this photo of the first of the *Eucalyptus benthamii* to flower in Lot 18A/B. The trees from the earlier plantings are now so large that alternate trees have had to be felled to make room.

OTHER PHOTOS: LINDA MULDOON

Membership application form

Please complete the form below **OR** go to www.arboretumcanberra.org.au where you can join online and make a secure payment.

Yes, I/we wish to join the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

1. Title First name

Last name

2. Title First name

Last name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Telephone (h)(w).....

Email address

Do you agree to receiving notices of meetings via email?

YES/NO Date of application

Please tick your relevant membership category:

Single (\$25.00) **Association or club (\$50.00)**

Concession (\$10.00) **Corporate Friend (\$2000.00)**

Household (\$30.00)

Memberships are due for renewal in December each year

Please tick your method of payment

Cash **Direct deposit**

Cheque (cheques must be made payable to the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.)

Details for direct deposit are:

WESTPAC, Petrie Plaza, Canberra, ACT
Account—Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.
BSB No. 032719 Account No. 375379

If making a direct deposit, please make sure that you record your name so that your membership can be verified.

Send applications to : **The Secretary**
Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.
PO Box 48
Campbell ACT 2612

PLEASE REMEMBER

to notify us about changes to your contact details!

Contact

You can contact the Friends at friends@arboretumcanberra.org.au or via our website on www.arboretumcanberra.org.au or by phone on 0406 376 711 during business hours

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

OFFICE BEARERS

Jocelyn Plovits, *Chair and Treasurer*
Trish Keller OAM, *Deputy Chair*
Colette Mackay, *Secretary*
Spero Cassidy, *Events Co-ordinator*

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Cathy Robertson, *STEP Representative*
Linda Muldoon, *Publications Editor*
Sherry McArdle-English

The Council (all of the above) meet on the second Tuesday of each month. We invite any member interested in joining the Council to contact us. We would definitely welcome more faces as we need five members for a quorum, which is sometimes difficult to achieve.

LIFE MEMBERS

Sherry McArdle-English
Roger Hnatiuk

HONOURARY MEMBER

Jon Stanhope

Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly. Contact the editor, Linda Muldoon, on lindaon@grapevine.com.au if you would like to contribute to a future issue.

The Friends thank the ACT Government and our sponsors for their support.

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