



FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA Inc.

D A T E D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 0 | V O L U M E 1 1

Dear *Friends*

First of all, on behalf of the Friends' Council, I wish you a happy festive season and a peaceful new year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2011.

Even if 2011 is peaceful, you can guarantee that the Friends will have many and varied opportunities to be involved in the development of the Arboretum. Sherry McArdle-English has commenced the planning for the Festival of the Forests ACT 2011 which will be held on 20 March 2011, a date for your diaries and we will be calling for volunteers early in the new year.

More of our activities are outlined in the draft Strategic Plan included with this newsletter. This draft has also been provided to our key stakeholders, the Governing Board and the Department of Land and Property Services, for their input to ensure our proposals add value to the development of the Friends and the development of the Arboretum.

We would like your input to the final plan. December and January can be a very busy time of year, and many will be away on holidays, so the time to return any comments and ideas has been extended until the second week of February 2011. We look forward to your contributions.

Floriade-at-the-Arboretum proved a very successful experiment. There was low key advertising and yet more than 2,500 people visited the site during the open days on Sundays. More than \$2,500 was collected through donations. This money will go towards supporting the development of the Arboretum. More information

about this important initiative is included in this newsletter.

Our last quarter of the year has been very busy, including the achievement of the draft strategic plan, open days at the Arboretum, distribution of the new membership pamphlet, numerous activities, numerous talks to interested groups and a great end of year function.

On 12 November 2010, I represented the Friends at the planting organised by the Department with the RSL and associated organisations. The Chief Minister acknowledged the work of the Friends in his comments and the participants planted 100 trees, one of the lone pines (*Pinus brutia*) species, around the top of Dairy Farmers Hill. During the December open day the Friends distributed all the spades (donated by Urban Contractors) to those who had planted the trees.

Next year, we will go ahead with activities, especially the working bees, even if it rains. If it is raining our Plan B will be to meet in the Showroom and discuss strategies and learn about new trees – there is so much to focus our attention and so many people who enjoy talking about trees and other aspects of the project.

Remember – it is time to renew your membership – the form is at the back of the newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Arboretum in the new year!

Seasons Greetings to All

**Jocelyn Plovits
Chair**





FABULOUS ART AT THE ARBORETUM

By Jocelyn Plovits

The wonderful art being acquired for the Arboretum deserves special attention.

NEST

By Richard Moffat (2008)

The very first sculpture to be placed at the Arboretum is this intricate metal nest and eagle by Richard Moffat, acquired for the site by ActewAGL.

Nest measures over 3 metres in height and diameter. It is welded from metal objects collected from around the farms of the South Coast – a historical record in itself because it incorporates identifiable parts from old machinery, metal tools and even a small boat propeller and anchor.

Many people respond very positively to this sculpture, some admiring the sheer artistry, some loving the concept of the nest and the eagle, and some excited by the history contained in its materials. Guides from the Friends feature the Nest during our tours and although warm, still days are great for tours, the really windy days are also good because the anchor swings in the wind.

Nest is placed high on Dairy Farmers Hill and some days when you visit, you can also watch real raptors at eye level, as they hover over the plantings in the Arboretum.

I often wonder what TimeTeam from future millennia will make of this metal nest – I can almost hear them saying ‘this must be a high status symbol from ages past’ but I don’t know how they’ll explain finding an anchor so high up on a hill.



WIDE BROWN LAND

By Marcus Tatton, Futago and Chris Viney (2010)

Information taken from a media release by Arts ACT

On 30 July 2010 the ACT Government unveiled a new public artwork at the National Arboretum Canberra titled ‘wide brown land’, by Tasmanian-based artist team Marcus Tatton, Futago and Chris Viney. The three words used in the artwork come from the second verse of Dorothea Mackellar’s poem ‘My Country’ written about Australia when she was just 19 years old. The artist team developed the design of the sculptural words using a script that is inspired by the cursive style of the author’s original hand-writing, as observed in the manuscript held in the State Library of New South Wales. The frame for each word was cold bent by Marcus Tatton at his studio in Tasmania using 16mm steel rod. Each word was





then freighted to Melbourne to Fasham metal fabricators where the frame was clad in corten steel plate. The words were transported on open pannier trucks from Melbourne along the Hume Highway. The word 'wide' is 9.4 metres long, 'brown' is 13.4 metres long and 'land' is 9.3 metres long. This work is 3.2 metres in height at its highest point and has a total length of 35 metres, making it the longest public artwork in the Territory's public art collection.

Marcus Tatton is an artist known primarily for his work in timber. He has exhibited at 'Sculpture by the Sea' since 2004 and the 'Helen Lempriere National Sculpture Award' since 2006 (when he won the Judges Encouragement Award). Futago is a graphic design company specialising in signage and the built environment. Chris Viney is a

free lance writer with interests in outdoor/travel/ environment and corporate projects.

The artwork is located on the crest of the hill adjacent to the existing Himalayan cedar forest at the National Arboretum Canberra.



BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP

By Paul Jamison (2010)

In the Showroom now, and destined for the new Visitors Centre, are the wooden sculptures by Paul Jamison made from wood recovered from trees damaged in the 2003 fires.

These were carved by chainsaw from eucalypt stumps of yellow box and red gum which were found near Curtin following the 2003 fires. Paul created seven pieces incorporating Australian history, myths and dreamtime stories fusing stories from Captain Cook to Ned Kelly (Today). The shapes Paul created symbolise a dreamtime-like story of survival and regeneration. When John Mackay saw them as an exhibit called 'Beyond the Black Stump' he asked ActewAGL to acquire the whole collection for the Arboretum. He particularly liked the strong connection with bushfires, which the Arboretum shares, and that these pieces could evoke memories of the fires and of regeneration





OBITUARY

DR KEN ELDRIDGE

1934 - 2010

By Jocelyn Plovits with excerpts from the article by Colin Matheson, Peter Kanowski, Alan Brown and Chris Harwood in *Australian Forestry*, 2010, vol 73 (3) pp 205-6 (shown here in italics).

I first met Ken when he joined the project to develop the new National Arboretum Canberra. Ken was wonderful, learned and wise, with an acerbic wit, and he assisted in the development of the project in many ways, always as a mentor to those learning about arboreta and their importance in the world. Ken worked on this project at the end of his career. He had already contributed much to the world of forestry.

Ken was recognised as a world leader on tree breeding. *From a career of more than 50 years he will be particularly remembered for two achievements of enduring worth: the conception and conduct of a cooperative systematic collection of seed from the natural stands of radiata pine that now provides a broad international base for the breeding of that species, and a major contribution to a classic reference on eucalypt breeding.*

It did not take Ken long, after he started his post PhD work, to ascertain that the tree breeding of the 1970s could be improved. *Ken became concerned with the state of radiata pine breeding in Australasia, believing that the genetic resources available to breeders could well be far too narrow (he used to say 'our best is none too good'). The direct evidence relating to the introduction of radiata pine to Australia in the mid-19th century was then, and remains, sketchy, and it is quite possible that Australia received a very reduced subset of the genetic resources of the species in California and two Mexican islands.*

Ken set about drumming up support in both Australia and New Zealand, and in California with his friend Professor Bill Libby, for a new, range-wide seed collection. This collection took place in 1978 in the three mainland localities (Año Nuevo, Monterey and Cambria with Tony Firth of NZFRI) as well as on Guadalupe and Cedros Islands in Mexico. His account of the collection is lively and very readable, noting the help the expedition received from a local prison

population as well as interested children and well-heeled private individuals (particularly on the Mexican islands). This collection was established in stands not only in Australia and New Zealand but around the world where radiata pine is grown. With his long-standing collaborators Rowland Burdon and Bill Libby, he also worked on the manuscript for a book on the domestication of radiata pine. The radiata pine genes Ken brought back to Australia will continue to contribute to plantation productivity for as long as the species is grown here.

Despite his important work with *Pinus radiata*, Ken maintained his consuming interest in the eucalypts, and in 1977 was elected co-chair of the IUFRO Working Party on Breeding Eucalypts. The group (with some changes in membership) wrote a book on eucalypt domestication culminating in *Eucalypt Domestication and Breeding*, published by Clarendon Press in 1993. It is now a standard work, widely cited, and is a lasting memorial to Ken's work, as well as a testament to the contributions of his co-authors.

After retirement, Ken remained active as an Honorary Research Fellow, first in the CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products and, when that closed, the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry. Ken's interest in people, and the community of which he was part, meant that he was keen to share his knowledge. He advised the Royal Canberra Golf Club on their trees, inherited from the Westbourne Woods Arboretum established by Charles Weston and augmented by Lindsay Pryor. He became so interested in those trees that he was one of the founders of the Westbourne Woods Action Society in 1980 and led many of the subsequent monthly Westbourne Woods walks, conducted in recognition of the importance of the collection to history and to the future of Canberra's trees.

For the past five years, that same interest prompted Ken to contribute greatly, despite the challenges of extended hospitalisation and confinement, to the shaping of the new National Arboretum Canberra as a place of learning, beauty and enjoyment. It is very fitting that the final plantings of seedlings derived directly from his 1978 radiata pine collection were established, soon after his death, in the arboretum in a plot that will be named for him.

He will be remembered through these wonderful contributions.

FOREST TALK

THE BOTTLE TREES ARRIVE

Six trees up to 5 metres high and 25 smaller trees arrived at the Arboretum in November for lot 67. These bottle trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*) were saved from an area near Toowoomba.

First dig a hole . . . what soil!



Then pick up the tree



Settle the tree



Then there were three – the new profile on our landscape



CHERRIES BLOOMING AT THE ARBORETUM

Photos by Linda Muldoon



FOREST TALK

FRIENDS END OF YEAR FUNCTION 2010

Thank goodness for the Showroom on the Event Terrace of the Arboretum! With thanks to Sherry and Colette, and all the other Council members, we were able to celebrate the end-of-year despite the rain. We all had a great time and even ventured into the rain for this

wonderful picture taken by Linda—how brave are we! Thanks too to Adam Burgess, Curator of the Arboretum, for helping make the day go with a swing and providing the prize, a tour guided by him personally, to our prize-winners, Del da Costa and Doreen Wilson.



FLORIADE 2010 AND THE NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIA

By Grant Bowles, Interim Curator NBPCA

Floriade 2010 turned on a spectacular display of flowers and attractions; plus great weather!

The 30 days of Floriade saw almost 62,000 people visit the bonsai collection and hardly any rain interruptions.

On display this year were some absolutely amazing new bonsai on loan from Victoria including a fabulous natural raft of English elm. This bonsai began life in a farmers paddock in Gippsland Victoria and for the first 20 or 30 years was eaten, beaten, trampled and generally abused by farming machinery, lots of cows and the usual droughts and flooding rains.

Imagine its relief when finally in 1988 this refugee from the milder climes of the northern hemisphere was “rescued” by a kindly passing bonsai enthusiast. The tree was brought down to the big city of Melbourne and was lovingly tended for many years by a number of



kindly bonsai artists. Its current owner has brought out the rugged spirit of the tree that had survived so many years in the wilderness of a cow paddock and softened it with the beautifully refined growth that comes with many years of patient attention by a true artist and admirer of nature. (Too romantic—I don’t think so.)

Once again however the real stars of the bonsai collection are the numerous volunteers who give up their time freely to help manage the display and interact with the many thousand enthusiastic admirers during the very busy month of Floriade.



BUCHAN BLUE WATTLE, *ACACIA CAERULESCENS*

A PHOTO STORY

Photos contributed by Adam Burgess and
Linda Muldoon

Have you visited the forest in Lot 99? Look how they
have grown.

Planting the trees – 5/11/2008



20cm seedlings – 5/11/2008



4.7m trees – May 2010



Flower buds – October 2010



It was found that because the trees don't form buds
until spring they are late flowering compared to other
spring flowering acacias!



The *Acacia caerulescens*, from the Buchan area in Victoria,
was planted at the NAC because it is threatened in
the wild. These photos may be a first to record the
development of the flowers. Whilst the growth has
been rapid, the trees have shown they do not like "wet
feet" and paperbarks may need to be planted in a small
area of an ephemeral stream in this forest lot.



THE WORLD OF ARBORETA

by Max Bourke AM

This is the second in a series with information about arboreta around Australia and the world.

ARBORETUM DU VALLON DE L'AUBONNE, SWITZERLAND

Situated in the foothills of the Jura mountains, a few kilometres off the freeway between Geneva and Lausanne, this is virtually the Swiss National Arboretum. The nearest village is Aubonne. The arboretum is open every day with free entry. See for more details: <http://www.arboretum.ch/>

Although only a 'young' arboretum, created in 1968, this 200 hectare collection of trees and shrubs is definitely worth visiting. There now have over 3,000 species of trees and shrubs planted in a hilly site along a valley. There are many species which have been planted in our National Arboretum such as *Sequoiadendron*, *Picea*, *Prunus*, *Parrotia*, *Cedrus* and *Pinus*.

One of the collections which is most interesting is an orchard of historic cherries, apples and pears. During the harvest season it is permitted to pick them though most of the historic cultivars I tried would NOT replace a good Pink Lady! Still this is important to protect the genetic diversity of these species.

This arboretum is almost entirely run by volunteers with two paid staff. This leads to the problem that the very interesting Museum of Wood (housed in a beautiful craftsman building) is only open Sunday afternoon for 6

months of the year. However it has a fantastic collection of tools and wooden objects worth visiting if possible.

The personnel produce an excellent annual publication on activities and species, but only in French. The volunteers are largely retired foresters and horticulturalists. The project had its genesis as an attraction for Expo '64 in Geneva and the volunteers managed to persuade the local and regional governments to keep the site after it was over.



Arboretum Du Vallon De L'Aubonne, Switzerland



DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2013

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA INC.

To contribute to the development of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc (NAC), the Friends' Council has drafted the following Strategic Plan for the next three years. This plan is linked into the planning for the NAC and will guide the work of our Council.

We encourage you to contribute comments on this draft, and suggestions for additional activities.

Comments should be sent to the Council through the Chair via e-mail to hackman@grapevine.com.au or by mail to the Chair, Friends of the NAC Inc., GPO Box 48, Campbell ACT 2612.

Comments should be received by 20 February 2011.

1. Introduction

In 2004 the Stanhope Government in the ACT set up a committee to look at areas decimated by fires. This committee recommended that the 250 hectare site overlooking Lake Burley Griffin be developed as an international arboretum. This proposal was consistent with Walter Burley and Marion Mahoney Griffins' plan for Canberra. The Government endorsed the proposal and provided the start up funds for the development of the Arboretum.

The Government has also supported the Friends of the NAC Inc. since their incorporation in 2008.

The Friends is a new organisation, with a secure funding base for the next three years, and so it is timely that we publish our goals and strategies for the period, and that these be developed in consultation with our members, the Governing Board of the NAC, the ACT Government and other relevant stakeholders.

This draft plan, in parts, is modeled on plans from other similar organisations, and we acknowledge their assistance.

This is an initial plan and, given the evolving nature of the NAC, will need to be reviewed annually as part of the Friends' Annual General Meeting to ensure it is appropriately related to the actual development of the NAC.

2. Mission

To support the development of the National Arboretum Canberra.

3. Vision

The Friends of the NAC Inc. are a successful Friends group assisting, and advocating for, the development of the NAC as a world class attraction promoting conservation and improving bio-diversity through activities as appropriate, including research, education, tourism and recreation.

4. Goals

A Council member is assigned as the main point of contact for an action.

In many cases more than one Council member, and Friends member, is involved in developing and delivering the action. Groups will be reporting to members through the newsletter and this report will recognize the contributions of all members involved.

When finalised, the working document will also set timelines and budget allocations.

Outcomes	Strategies/Actions	Responsibility
4.1 Local, national and international promotion and engagement through providing activities for communities to enjoy and appreciate the NAC.		
a. Effective support for special events	Collaborate with the NAC management in determining which events to support such as Floriade, pre-Christmas event, Festival of the Forests, schools programs and other major events.	Sherry
b. Develop and operate sub-groups for a diversity of activities.	Guides available for scheduled events and bus tours Pre- Floriade and pre- Festival of the Forests event volunteer training. Maintain subgroups for guides, forest lot maintenance, tree monitoring, history, photographic records, frog watch, bird recording and so on.	Jocelyn
	Seek NAC project team participation in relevant training sessions for volunteers.	Jocelyn
c. A comprehensive schools' education program of engaging experiences exists for the young people of the ACT.	Create a written and pictorial resource for publication and education.	Max
	Develop our role in education for the community	Trish
	Identify, clarify and document what biodiversity means in the context of the Arboretum and include this information in our literature, training and education program.	Trish
	Maintain sub-groups for guides, forest lot maintenance, tree monitoring, history, photographic records, frog watch, bird recording and so on	Trish



Outcomes	Strategies/Actions	Responsibility
d. An attractive and useful website informs and promotes the role and value of the Friends and the NAC	Redesign website to include on line payment, improve information for members and promote memberships and donations, bookings for events, rosters and records of volunteer involvement and time as a resource for annual report and ability to survey members Setup relevant email accounts eg, secretary@canberraarboretum.org.au Keep website up to date.	Colette
e. Promote events locally, nationally and internationally through media contacts in collaboration with NAC management	Activate "Friends" association relationships with relevant local, national and international bodies to promote education, research, tourism and recreational opportunities.	Jocelyn
	Develop positive partnerships with bodies such as the ANBG, FACTA, LPNA (NCA), the Molonglo Catchment Group and STEP	Jocelyn
	Collaborate with STEP to create mutual benefits .	Cathy
	Collaborate with STEP and the Molonglo Catchment Group to establish the "Molonglo Community Science Project" - the project involves recording and providing data for the "Living Atlas of Australia" database.	Jocelyn
4.2 Partnership with the NAC by building and maintaining strong partnerships and a good relationship with the NAC's management to achieve the visions of the NAC and of its Friends.		
a. Close and positive involvement with NAC management achieved	Negotiate ex-officio participation in planning meetings.	Jocelyn
	Provide value adding comments to drafts of documents for the management of the NAC and other plans.	Jocelyn
	Invite regular meetings with the Minister responsible for NAC and invite NAC management participation in the Friends Council meetings.	Jocelyn
	Finalise a MOU between the Governing Board of the NAC and the Friends to ensure role clarity and that Friends activities facilitate development of the NAC	Jocelyn
b. The NAC project team actively supports the Friends' volunteer and sub-groups program	Friends receive regular information about the activities on site	Jocelyn
4.3 Raise funds to manage the Friends' organisation and the development of the NAC.		
a. Sufficient funds available for specific projects	Raise funds (around \$50,000) for a gift to the NAC for the Centenary of Canberra celebrations in 2013 eg, possibly a "Friends Grove" to be located near the Visitors' centre.	Jocelyn
	Finalise and implement the sponsored seat program.	Jocelyn
	Continue the development and maintenance of the Friends' Forest, and add value to the Friends Forest by providing one or more seats and other enhancements. (also seek the involvement of COG).	Max
b. Friends group operating towards self funding and sustainability.	Ensure continued base funding for the administration of the Friends beyond 2013 – currently \$6,000 pa.	Jocelyn
	Develop sales initiatives such as an annual calendar .	Colette
c. Membership doubled by December 2011.	Use talks, bus tours, open days, and an active recruitment campaign to increase paid memberships.	Jocelyn
	Ensure membership pamphlet attracts members.	Jocelyn
d. Friends' Public Trust Fund	Finalise tax deductible donations to facilitate the collection of donations.	Jocelyn
	Establish a donations program Investigate the possibility of a bequest program.	Sherry
	Secure donations from sponsors identified in collaboration with NAC management.	Sherry



Outcomes	Strategies/Actions	Responsibility
4.4 Create a positive reputation for being a rewarding and contributing organisation.		
a. Ensure there are trained guides available for scheduled events and bus tours ie, pre festival Floriade and Festival of the Forests' event training	Advertise interesting training of a professional standard for volunteers generally and for guides.	Jocelyn
	Run enticing general meetings with thought provoking guest speakers.	Jocelyn
	Conduct innovative working bees and other functions.	Jocelyn
	Consider having a % target for member involvement.	Council
	Provide recognition for members and their activities. Ensure donations of time and funds are recognised in the newsletter and on the website and achievements are recorded in Annual Reports. Provide certificates when worthwhile and appropriate.	Jocelyn
b. Establish sub groups	Plant and maintain the Friends' Forest.	Max
	Contribute to the operation of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia.	Jocelyn
	Conduct research into the species being planted in the NAC forests. Create a written and pictorial resource.	Linda
	Conduct and contribute research on tree measurement, frog watch, bird watch, NAC history.	Max
c. High quality services endorsed by members	Survey members about their expectations and use information to improve services.	Sherry
	Publish four newsletters a year Encourage members to provide articles	Jocelyn
d. Good governance	Manage the organisation and Council prudently.	Council
	Annual report meets all legislative requirements.	Council
	Promote clear succession planning for executive positions.	Jocelyn
	Provide appropriate support to sub-groups.	Council
	Review this plan annually	Council

DEFINITIONS

Arboretum is a plot of land where different trees or shrubs are grown for study or popular interest (Macquarie Dictionary)

Bio-diversity describes the variety of flora and fauna in an ecosystem (Macquarie Dictionary) – Our goal will be to increase bio-diversity at the Arboretum and, where possible, preserve some species (local, national and international) which are threatened, endangered, extinct or rare in the wild.

Trust Fund in this context means an ancillary fund established with the approval of the Australian Taxation Office into which are collected tax deductible donations for the development of the NAC.

Bequest is a gift made in a will.

Tax deductibility an arrangement, approved by the Australian Taxation Office, whereby tax deductible gifts can be made to an entity. Currently the Friends of the NAC has applied for Ancillary Fund which will enable a tax deductible arrangement.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Please fill out the following application to renew your annual membership or to become a new member.

UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

We have noticed that a number of email addresses and street addresses are out of date, so if you have recently changed your address or email address, please email Colette Mackay, our Secretary on j-cmackay@hotmail.com.au with your new details.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Yes, I/we wish to become a Friend(s) of the National Arboretum Canberra

Date: / /

1. Title

First Name

Last Name

2. Title

First Name

Last Name

Address

.....

..... Postcode

Tel (h) (w)

e-mail

Do you agree to the use of your e-mail for AGM notifications? Yes No

Membership arrangements (please indicate)

Single \$25

Household \$30

Concession \$10

Association or Club \$50

Corporate Friend \$2000

Payment details for members:

Cash Cheque Direct Deposit

Cheques payable to the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

For direct deposit: Westpac, Petrie Plaza, ACT
Account: Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.
Account BSB No: 032719
Account No: 375379

Please make sure to record your name when making a direct deposit so that your membership can be identified.

Annual membership falls due in December each year.
Gift memberships available.

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

CONTACT US

Phone mob: 0406 376 711 during business hours
by e-mail: hackman@grapevine.com.au
by web: canberraarboretum.org.au

The Friends thank the ACT Government, ACTEWAGL and Yarralumla Nursery for their support.

Information prepared by the Friends of the NAC Inc.
12/2010

