



FRIENDS of the National Arboretum Canberra

Newsletter 36/September 2017

Dear Friends

As you all know, the Arboretum is an exceptionally active place—and since the last newsletter much has been happening.

A very special 'thank you' to Jocelyn Plovits, as convenor of Warm Trees 2017, and her considerable team of volunteer helpers and knitters (see page 2 for more details). The partnership with the Embassy of Japan for this event was very special. During the launch in the Village Centre, Mr Doi, a Japanese court musician, played his flute with didgeridoo player Bevan Smith of the Wiradjuri Echoes (son of Duncan Smith OAM). The sound of this duet was quite haunting—just magical.

Plans for Warm Trees 2018 are well under way and Jocelyn and I have met with the New Zealand High Commission who are very interested in being our 2018 partner. Watch this space, or better still, keep an eye on our website www.arboretumcanberra.org.au for the latest details.

Speaking to various groups about the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra is one of the enjoyable activities that come my way. In early August, I addressed the Weston Creek VIEW Club and at the end of August I will be speaking to the Brindabella Bushwalking Club. It is always a great pleasure to tell those groups about the magnificent work you do in the myriad of opportunities available for Friends. This latter group are particularly interested in the Arboretum's walks and trails and Lauren Brown, our Community Engagement Officer, has given me a list of what bushwalkers can expect to find at

the Arboretum. I always take plenty of Arboretum fliers and membership brochures with me to these talks.

Membership of the Friends is a hot topic for the Friends' Council at the moment and currently we are liaising with other groups around the ACT and interstate. One question invariably asked is 'What do we get when we become a member?', so we are working on delivering more, though our membership numbers are steady.

Max and Margie Bourke addressed the August Council Meeting regarding a trip they are organising for the Friends, looking at things botanical in Singapore during March 2018. This will be publicised on our website soon. Max and Margie know this area very well, having travelled there over many years. They have gone to extraordinary trouble to find us the most interesting venues. This trip will also be a fundraiser for the Friends with a donation factored in to the cost. I have a feeling this trip will be hugely popular so do keep a look out for all the details. There are already names on the list. Thank you so much Max and Margie Bourke.

At the beginning of *Science Week at the Arboretum*, I attended lectures by Associate Professor Cris Brack who always captures attention with his data regarding the Arboretum's research forests (Forests 98 and 99), his fascinating data about tree growth, his drones, wonderful photos, and a presentation regarding the new Water Management at the Arboretum. The third presentation was by Anke Maria Hoefner, coordinator of Frogwatch ACT, who has worked extensively with Roger Hnatiuk to ensure the quality of the data reported on frog species. Anke's imitation of the various frog calls was remarkable—even hilarious!

I am very excited to tell you that Duncan Smith OAM is presenting an exhibition of his work, in the Village Centre from 23 September until 23 October. The exhibition will be opened by Jon Stanhope AO, Patron of the Arboretum, at 2:00pm on Wednesday, 4 October. The exhibition, called *Scar Trees*, will feature works in traditional ochre paint. Duncan will also be holding workshops in the Terrace Room featuring Indigenous activities over three days during the school holidays.

Purchases of Duncan's exquisite work can be made through the Curatoreum shop.

I'll see you in October—at the Arboretum!

Trish Keller OAM
Chair

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Report on Warm Trees 2017 page 2

Three new Ceremonial Tree Plantings in the Central Valley page 4

The World of Arboreta: The Botanical Ark page 6

The 2018 Arboretum Calendar is on its way page 7

Trees in Focus: Osage orange page 8

Forest Talk page 10



Report on Warm Trees 2017

BY JOCELYN PLOVITS

As we wrap up our colourful Japanese cherry blossom themed Warm Trees installation for 2017, we can reflect on a degree of success in meeting our goals.

SOME OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

A different kind of community engagement with the Arboretum

Hundreds of knitters and crocheters from our region, from around Australia, and from overseas, donated their time and materials by supplying thousands of scarves and cherry blossoms to help create a display. This year, our diplomatic partner was the Embassy of Japan whose wonderful staff assisted in so many ways to bring elements of Japanese culture to the display and to the launch.

Enticing visitors out into the wintery forests and a school holidays program

Thousands of visitors saw Warm Trees 2017 and hundreds of children (and their parents) learned a little about how to knit. We taught French knitting for beginners, as well as more advanced knitting and crochet. There were also very popular origami classes.

Top right: Scarves near the entrance to Pod Playground—the one on the left was made by a 104-year-old lady from London and the circles were made by children doing French knitting in the school holiday program.

Right: Crocheted cherry blossoms on the walls of The Cutting.

Below: Minister Mr Tadayuki Miyashita opens the Sakura display of posters of popular cherry blossom places, sponsored by the Embassy of Japan, at the launch of Warm Trees 2017. The framed artworks of cherry blossoms are by Evatt Primary School students.





Donations to organisations able to utilise the crafted yarn

After one month on display, the scarves were gathered up, washed and assessed for reuse in Warm Trees 2018, or for use elsewhere within our community and internationally. So far donations have been made to:

- ◆ *Wrapped With Love*—a Rotary initiative to distribute rugs to disaster areas (scarves are joined to make beautiful multi-coloured rugs);
- ◆ *Challenge House*—a scarf for every resident;
- ◆ *Mirinjani Nursing Home*—large crocheted circles from the centres of the huge origami-inspired flowers in Forest 17 were reused as colourful knee rugs;
- ◆ *Animal Rescue*—damaged scarves make excellent animal bedding;
- ◆ *Smith family and St Vincent de Paul*—always have a use for scarves;
- ◆ *Overseas*—a rug from small squares and scarves is to be taken to Vietnam; and
- ◆ *Fundraising*—a large rug is being made from pink scarves and large crochet cherry blossoms to raffle as a Friends' fundraiser, and the Embassy of Japan donated cherry blossom posters for the Friends to resell.

Photos by Linda Muldoon

SPECIAL MEMORIES FROM WARM TREES 2017

The beautiful music

Sakura was played at the launch of this event. Bevan Smith of the Wiradjuri Echoes played a didgeridoo in a duet with Dr Doi who played an ancient Japanese flute. The music from these two instruments from ancient cultures was exquisite and everyone in the Village Centre was spellbound. The composition *Sakura* usually celebrates the cherry blossom season in Japan, but with posters of real cherry blossoms provided by the Embassy of Japan, the display of huge cherry blossoms in Forest 17 (visible from the the Village Centre), and the chains of crochet cherry blossoms within the Village Centre—well, for a while we could believe that springtime in Canberra had arrived early.

Protesters

For the first time, we had protesters objecting to the removal of elements of Warm Trees. Children and their adults wanted the display we called 'Fantasy Forest', hanging along the Pod Playground fence (see photo below), to stay for longer. Visitors entering the Village Centre via The Cutting wanted the crochet cherry blossoms to remain for longer—but we told them there would be another display to see next July.

All of this and more could not have happened without our volunteer yarn crafters, the involvement of the Embassy of Japan, the very able assistance of the Arboretum staff, sponsors including Trish Keller, Jocelyn Plovits, Jenny Cantlon, Rob Ey and Carol Ey, and all the volunteer installers from the Friends. This year we installed in fine weather but had a gale for the removal but our fine volunteers met this challenge.

Many thanks to everyone who participated or visited. Next year is already shaping up to be another fantastic Warm Trees event when our diplomatic partner will be the New Zealand High Commission.

Top left: Some of the huge cherry blossom designs in Forest 17, located on both sides of Forest Drive.

Below: 'Fantasy Forest' adorned the full length of the northern fence enclosing Pod Playground.



Three new Ceremonial Tree Plantings in the Central Valley

BY LINDA MULDOON

On Wednesday, 24 May 2017, Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA, Attorney-General for the ACT, joined His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, to plant a red cedar (*Toona ciliata*) in the Central Valley.

Red cedar is a medium-sized to large deciduous tree which can grow to 60 m in height. This species is native to southern Asia, subtropical rain forests of southern

Below: Mr Gordon Ramsay MLA (right) greeting the Sri Lanka President and his entourage in the Central Valley.

Bottom: His Excellency watering-in the tree, following planting.



Red cedar timber is highly sought after for its beautiful red colour.



Spring leaves are flushed with red.

Wikimedia photos

Queensland, New South Wales (as far south as Ulladulla) and Norfolk Island. Its beautiful red timber is highly sought after so it is grown in plantations in other parts of the world.

Photos by Linda Muldoon



On Monday, 14 August 2017, Mr Chris Steel MLA (above right) joined The Honourable Mr Manasseh Damukana Sogavare MP, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands and Madam Mrs Emmy Sogavare, to plant a common fig tree (*Ficus carica*). This ceremony honoured the Friendship between Australia and the Solomon Islands.

The Honourable Mr Manasseh Damukana Sogavare MP, Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands.





On Wednesday, 16 August 2017 we saw one of the most memorable ceremonial tree plantings yet. The weather was cold and windy but there was much excitement as the white official cars were seen arriving along Forest Drive. There were many Australian-Croatian school children waving small Croatia flags and one person was waving a very shiny, full-sized, Croatia flag.

Her Excellency Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of the Republic of Croatia, was joined by Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, ACT Minister for Multicultural Affairs, to



Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA (left) with the President of Croatia.

plant an evergreen oak (*Quercus ilex*). This species is native to the Mediterranean region (including Croatia). It is evergreen and can grow to be large, up to 28 m in height and can develop a 28 m wide canopy in open situations. The name 'ilex' means 'like holly'; referring to the leaf shape.

The President's six-day visit to Australia marked the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Croatia and Australia and from the behaviour of the children and others greeting her, she appeared to have celebrity status. She said that the children had to help her plant the tree, so there were many young people in a huddle and we could only get brief glimpses of the President.



Above: Somewhere in this huddle you can see the President bending over, wearing a black coat, and the tree on the right.

Below: The President with some of the school children, following the tree planting.

Photo by Shelly Parer



The Botanical Ark

BY MAX BOURKE

Unknown to many in Australia, even those seriously interested in trees and gardens, is one of the world's best collections of tropical plants. I had read what the great American botanist, Dr Peter Raven, wrote about the work of Alan and Susan Carle 20 years ago, and I immediately knew I had to see this place.

It is astonishing, but when you meet the Carles you begin to know how it all came about. When Alan was a nine year old growing up in north-eastern USA, his parents asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up, and to their astonishment he replied 'an Australian'.

In 1982 the Carles bought a block of land north of Mossman in far north Queensland. It had been a cane and cattle farm but was in an isolated valley at the foot of the escarpment, not far south of the Daintree River. They set out to 'actively participate in rainforest conservation' and they certainly have.

I have been in gardens in Singapore and Malacca (Malaysia) where the owners referred to Alan as 'the guru' and asked me if I knew of The Botanical Ark. While not being known so well in Australia, The Botanical Ark is certainly known internationally. It focuses on wet tropical trees and shrubs of the world and probably only those who have visited can fully appreciate its diversity. When you visit, you slowly become aware of the effort the Carles have put in, over almost 40 years, of collecting in some of the most difficult places on earth, gathering the fruit, nut and flowering trees of the world into one tropical paradise.

This arboretum and botanical garden hosts the well-known species, such as *Hevea brasiliensis* (the rubber tree) and a huge diversity of the fruit and nut trees from Australia and the rest of the pan tropics—but also holds a fabulous diversity of flowers from well-known species like heliconias, gingers and bromeliads to palms by the hundred.



*The colourful fruit of one of the world's favourite trees—
Theobroma cacao or chocolate.*



Dozens of members of the palm family provide a deep litter of fruit that feeds many species of wildlife.

At most times of the year, an extraordinary diversity of fruits, nuts and flowers are available, with some 30 plus species flowering and fruiting most of the time.

This is not a public garden, though visits can be arranged by contacting Alan and Susan Carle (and getting directions!) by emailing info@botanicalark.com

The best way to really enjoy the place is to book out the house (take a group of friends). It comfortably, and I mean comfortably, sleeps eight people.

For more information see <http://botanicalarkretreat.com/about-the-ark/>

The palm lawn provides open space in front of the luxurious house above a 'natural' pool.

Photos by author



The 2018 Arboretum Calendar is on its way

BY LINDA MULDOON

First of all I want to thank everyone who sent in photos for possible inclusion in the 2018 calendar. And if your photo wasn't chosen this year, just keep trying and your turn may come.

This year the calendar cover features one of the views from Dairy Farmers Hill, and although I was unable to get over the problem that it was winter, just look at that clear blue sky and deepest blue water.

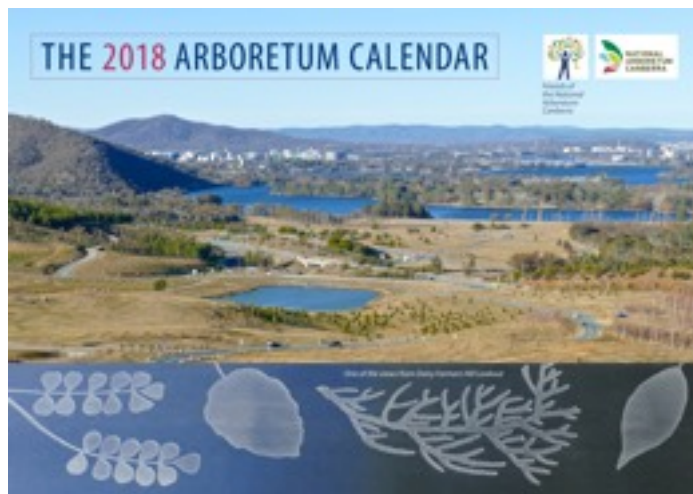
Joanne Maples' photo of the Arboretum's forests in autumn will appear for the month of May. This photo was chosen because it clearly demonstrates the patch-work pattern of the forests. As the trees grow, this pattern is becoming very obvious to motorists along the Tuggeranong Parkway during autumn.

Jack Mohr got up really early and endured freezing conditions to capture a heavy blanket of frost over the Arboretum on 22 July 2017. This photo clearly demonstrates the different planting patterns in the different forests and the vastly different distances between trees in the spreading burr oaks, compared to the much smaller Yoshino cherries next door. When you see this photo at full size, you can clearly see the frost-laden cherry blossom designs of Warm Trees in Forest 17 and I have included some small Warm Trees photos on the facing page to tell a story.

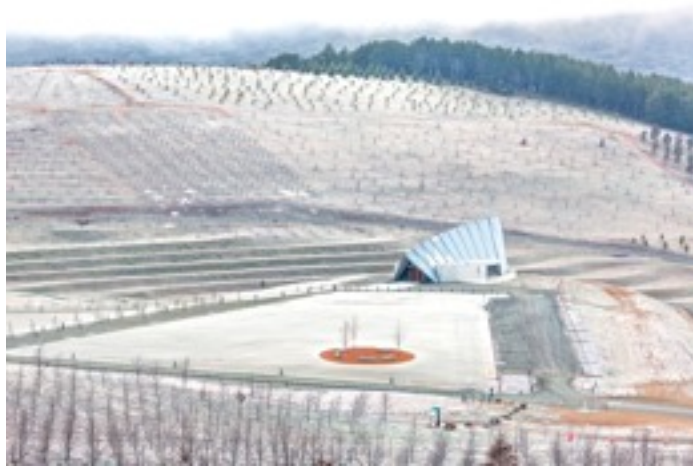
Elect Printing has been very supportive in keeping the price of printing the calendar down. Can you believe that this will be our seventh calendar and we haven't raised the selling price once? The 2018 calendar will be available at the Curatoreum shop for \$10 each (\$9 with Friends' discount). It will also be available online and at Friends' gatherings. Although this is a fundraiser for the Friends, its real value is in promoting the Friends and the Arboretum outside Canberra and outside Australia, so the more copies we can sell, the better—it isn't just about making a profit.

When I visited my relatives in Denmark and the UK in June this year, there was our 2017 calendar on the walls in both countries—and the recipients had learned quite a lot about the Arboretum from the short texts of information we manage to squeeze in.

I will leave you with a few surprises by not including all the photos here. January features a very cool photo of the cork oaks; February features the 'wide' of the *Wide Brown Land* sculpture, photographed from behind on a hot summer's evening; March features unique trios of dark fruits hanging on a black tupelo tree; April features the bonsai pavilion, June features two people sitting on a secluded seat in the wintry silver birches; August features the acorn cubbies in Pod Playground, September features flowering trees and shrubs in STEP Forest 20; October features a magnificent spring leaf in the Chinese tulip trees; November features the bright



Autumn at the Arboretum, from the oriental sweet gums in Forest 72, photographed by Joanne Maples.



An incredibly frosty morning in July, photographed by Jack Mohr.

pink spring leaves of a chinese mahogany tree; and December features a superb fiddler beetle which is feeding on the nectar of our dragon trees' first flowers.

Thank you Jennie Widdowson. I have drawn on Jennie's Photoshop skills several times in the past, and this enables us to use photos we like, but which may lose the edge of something important when cropped in the printing and trimming processes. Jennie has extended the edges of several of the small photos in the calendar, enabling us to present them as well as possible.

Maclura pomifera

OSAGE ORANGE

BY LINDA MULDOON

A walk through Forest 102 in winter will show you just why these thorny trees were useful for hedges, prior to the arrival of barbed wire.

Maclura is named after William Maclure (1783–1840), a Scottish-born American geologist, and *pomifera* is Latin, meaning 'apple-bearing'.

M. pomifera is a species within the Moraceae family (along with figs and mulberries) and it lives for about 75 years.

The Arboretum's Forest 102 was planted in November 2011 and the trees are doing well. They are planted in a pattern combining straight lines and arcs and this is the story behind it (recently supplied by Taylor Cullity Lethlean, landscape architects): 'The forest design takes a bow form and runs a clearing through it, inviting visitors to walk along the arc it forms. Densely planted lines symbolising arrows are driven through the bow. The dense planting that builds these forms also acts to guide the visitor through the site, referring to the species' use as a fencing material. The looser planting between the bow and arrow shapes allow the full form of the deciduous tree to be appreciated.'

DISTRIBUTION

M. Pomifera is native to the United States in the Red River drainage areas of Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas.

CONSERVATION STATUS

It is not classified as threatened.

Male flowers at the Arboretum



Advanced Osage orange trees growing at the Royal Canberra Golf Club

DESCRIPTION

A small deciduous tree, with a short trunk and rounded crown, a height of 12 m, and a spread of 8 m. The bark is brown to orange-brown with deep furrows and ridges. The glossy ovate leaves have long tapered points. They are 7–13 cm long and 3–6 cm wide, bright pale-green when young and deep-green when mature. They turn yellow in late autumn. Straight thorns, 5–25 mm long, appear in the axil of each growing leaf.



Female flower

Bark



Thorns appear in leaf axils





Osage orange has very barbed-wire-like winter branches



A very 'cerebral-looking' fruit growing at the Arboretum

At the Arboretum, male and female flowers form on different trees in late October. The Friends' Tree Monitoring Subgroup observed male flowers emerging in clusters of three on 23 October 2016 (see photo below), but by the next time they visited the flowers had dispersed their pollen and disappeared. Each round, fluffy, female flower-head is comprised of up to 200 individual flowers. The fruits are not a form of citrus, but a pale-green, 10–13 cm sphere, made up of many compressed drupes with oblong seeds. They are filled with latex-based juice.

The tree's orange-coloured roots spread widely and very vigorously.

USES

Before the invention of barbed wire in the 1880s, many thousands of kilometres of hedge were constructed by planting young Osage orange trees close together in a line. When planted that way, they grew to less than 10 m in height and saplings were pruned aggressively to make them dense—'horse-high, bull-strong and hog-tight', as was claimed.

After barbed wire fences became the more popular option, the Osage orange was still valued for its wood which made wonderful termite-proof fence posts.

When early French settlers ventured west of the Mississippi River, they encountered the Osage Indians (the source of the common name) who were known for making bows that were superior weapons for fighting and hunting. The French were not familiar with *M. pomifera* and they promptly referred to it as *bois d'arc* or 'wood of the bow'.



Inside a sphere of fruits



Osage orange timber is beautiful but requires very sharp and powerful tools

The early settlers didn't take long to recognise that Osage orange was a valuable timber resource and they used it in many applications that needed a tough and tenacious wood. The hubs and rims of wagon wheels were made from Osage orange because its great strength enabled it to bear heavy loads, whilst its flexibility made it relatively easy to bend into circles that had the capacity to absorb shock without cracking or splitting. Those properties, plus the ability to resist the detrimental effects of soil and moisture, created very durable wheel rims.

The popularity of the timber did take a toll on native stands but its common use in fencing also spread the species much wider than its original footprint.

There is a myth that the fruit can be used as an insecticide or to repel insects and spiders but this has been disproven, although there are compounds within

FOREST TALK



LITTLE SPIDER WITH BIG NEST IDENTIFIED

If you recall, in Newsletter 35, we were trying to identify this small spider seen in the monkey puzzles and the cedars of Lebanon.



SPONSORS WANTED FOR PLAYGROUND PICNIC TABLES

Arboretum management has asked if we can assist by promoting sponsorships for picnic tables for the playground area. Many families and groups use this space for parties and we would like to improve the general amenity of the area. If individuals or groups would like to help in this pursuit, please contact colette@arboretumcanberra.org.au

Kim Pullen, an Honorary Fellow with the Australian National Insect Collection, has now identified it as *Cyrtophora parnasia* (a tent spider).

Cyrtophora are apparently quite gregarious with several spiders each in their own web but close together.



A FUNNY THING ON THE WAY TO THE ARBORETUM

You may have seen this sculpture, *Backward Attitude*, before, because it was on display at Floriade in 2016. Its creator, sculptor Louis Pratt, has now donated the work to the National Arboretum Canberra where it will have a permanent home. Every time you drive to the Village Centre from the main entry, you will pass it on the right of Forest Way, just before you turn into the main car park.

Louis Pratt is Sydney-based, but was educated in Canberra. When he donated this sculpture, valued at \$70,000, he said that it is a political statement and he wants it to be seen.



WORKING BEES ARE NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY!

Photo taken by Mike Woolley on 27 July. Mike said he didn't have to set this up but the participants just got into position spontaneously!



CRIMSON ROSELLA POSING ON A MESA OAK

This feathered friend was near Forest 20 on 28 July, just testing whether the smallest branch would support him.

CHERRY BLOSSOMS GET EARLIER AND EARLIER

Rob Ey spotted the first cherry blossom tree flowering on 27 August and this is two weeks ahead of the date recorded two years ago. However, Roger Hnatiuk says that there are four trees that are always the first to flower and that they are not true Yoshino cherries—but they are still getting earlier and earlier! Thank you Rob for your thoroughness in keeping records.



NEW UPDATED MAP NAMES ALL IN THE GALLERY OF GARDENS

SPRING ARRIVES IN STEP

Shrubs, wattles and ground covers are getting very established in Forest 20 and will be very colourful in the coming weeks. It's a good time to visit and observe all the progress.



FIRST FRUITS IN THE CHINESE TULIP TREES

Rob Ey spotted these fruits on a Chinese tulip tree in mid-May—and this was quite a surprise as we were unaware they had flowered.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please complete this form, **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

ast name

2. Title First name

Last name

Postal address

..... Postcode

Email address

I agree to receiving notices by email YES/NO

Telephone (h) (w)

Please remember to tell us about changes to your contact details

Date

Please circle your relevant membership category/parking voucher request:

Single	1 year \$35	3 years \$95	5 years \$155
Household	1 year \$40	3 years \$110	5 years \$180
Concession	1 year \$20	3 years \$55	5 years \$90
Association or club	1 year \$60	3 years \$160	5 years \$270
Corporate Friend	1 year \$2000	3 years \$5400	5 years \$9000

Friends' annual parking voucher \$25 Reg. No.

Total payment Please circle your method of payment

Cash Cheque Direct deposit

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

Post membership applications to:

The Secretary, Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.
PO Box 48, Campbell, ACT 2612

Direct deposit details are:

WESTPAC, Petrie Plaza, Canberra, ACT

Account—Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

BSB No. 032719 Account No. 375379

(when making a direct deposit, please record your name so that your membership can be verified)

Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra Inc.

Contact

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

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Trish Keller OAM (Chair)
Del Da Costa (Secretary)
Richard Bear (Treasurer)
Colette Mackay (Donations and Sponsorship Manager)

Council members

Rob Ey
Cherie McLean (Social Media Manager)
Linda Muldoon (Publications Editor)
Lainie Shorthouse (STEP Representative)
Mike Woolley (NBPCA Representative)

The Council (all of the above) meet on the second Tuesday of each month

Life members

Max and Margie Bourke
Roger Hnatiuk
Sherry McArdle-English
Linda Muldoon
Jocelyn Plovits

Honorary member

Jon Stanhope AO

Patron

John Mackay AM

Newsletter

The newsletter is published quarterly. Please contact Linda Muldoon, the editor, by email on lindaon@grapevine.com.au if you would like to contribute an article, news or photos. Decisions regarding what content is published are determined by the Chair.

The Friends thank the ACT Government, ActewAGL, CanberraNet, Ginger Catering and Elect Printing for their support

NOTE: this page may be photocopied

