



FRIENDS of the National Arboretum Canberra Newsletter 34/January 2017

Dear Friends—Happy New Year!

The new year is well underway and 2017 promises to be another action-packed year at the Arboretum.

A new group of folk will begin their Guides' training in early February and we are very excited that more than 50 people have shown interest in doing this training course. Our very experienced and knowledgeable trainers will again take these 'guides-to-be' through a comprehensive series of lessons, to be completed towards the end of April.

As you will see from photos of our end-of-year celebrations (pages 2–6), the awarding of prizes in the photo competition and the presentation of the first Jake Keller Scholarship to Ryan Mallard were very happy events. We are delighted to have this partnership with the CIT and Ms Leanne Cover, CEO of the CIT expressed her thanks to me for 'establishing this wonderful student and industry initiative with CIT and the community'. These events were held in the Terrace Room and we were pleased that the fine weather allowed us to spill out into the Canberra Discovery Garden and view the Cactus and Succulent Garden—all looking splendid. These areas were admired by all our guests. Congratulations to Friends and others for nurturing these areas—they are a joy to behold!

I met Jackie Warburton who is closely connected to those responsible for the Cactus and Succulent Garden and we agreed to make contact in the new year. Watch this space!

Over Christmas and New Year I was travelling in the United States and I want to share with you two tree-related points of interest.

1. In the American Airlines journal, *The American Way*, I read an interesting article by Elaine Glusac, photography by Finn Beales, called 'The Woodland Cure'. This explained how 'a good walk may be just be the answer to all that ails you'. It reminded me of all the wonderful guided walks undertaken by our Friends' Guides at the Arboretum. The walks in the article were located at Blackberry Farm resort which abuts Tennessee's Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The walks are called 'forest bathing', meaning a slow, watchful walk whose benefits are said to range from clarifying the mind to lowering blood pressure via an active form of meditation which focuses on our senses, how nature awakens them and the practice of mindfulness. I will endeavour to get this article onto our website.

2. The old, old, old 'Live Oak' at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, was quite magnificent. Planted in 1814, the *Quercus fusiformis* was being admired by the many hundreds of visitors the day I was there and the squirrels were using it as their own private playground. One David Crockett from Tennessee was one of the defenders of the Alamo back in 1836 and I wondered how big that old 'Live Oak' would have been back then.



Wikimedia photo of 'Live Oak' by Rei.

See you soon—at the Arboretum!

Trish Keller OAM
Chair

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Photo prize-giving, scholarship award and end-of-year event—all rolled into one! [page 2](#)
Gardens at National Arboretum Canberra [page 6](#)

IN CHILE: climbing so high to where the monkey puzzles rule [page 7](#)

Looking for seat sponsors [page 9](#)

New Arboretum app launched [page 9](#)

Bonsai Week 2017: introducing Tony Tickle [page 10](#)

Forest Talk [page 11](#)



Photo prize-giving, scholarship award and end-of-year event— all rolled into one!

BY LINDA MULDOON

The evening of Monday 12 December 2016 was very happy and memorable for the Friends. Around 65 members and others occupied all the seats in the Terrace Room, leaving standing room only, to watch prizes awarded in our second photo competition: 'Capturing springtime at the Arboretum'.

Then came the awarding of the first Jake Keller Scholarship, followed by the Friends' end-of-year event. Celebrations spilt out into the adjoining Canberra Discovery Garden, now enriched by the productive plantings of our Harvesting Group—and we discovered what a wonderful large summertime venue the combined spaces make.

PHOTO COMPETITION

At first, entries for the photo competition came in very slowly but they finished in a last minute rush, aided by the support of two participating schools: Fraser Primary



Above: Linda Muldoon with Sofia Sanchez Parer whose photo was Highly Commended in the primary and under category.





The judges of the photo competition (back row, from left to right): Graham Tidy (former photographer with *The Canberra Times*); Linda Muldoon (*Friends'* photographer); and David Flannery (architect and photographer).
Some of the winners (front row, from left to right): Alexia Norbart, Mikaylah Norbart, Emma Semrad, Alexander Mackenzie, Sofia Sanchez Parer.

School and Cranleigh School (special education). We ended up with 80 photos, all of which were displayed in the Village Centre from 13 December until 7 January. There were many more entries in the 'Primary and under' category than in the 'High school/college category' so we awarded Commended certificates to five extra competitors in the younger group. These went to Miki Smith, Zoe Levett, Dempsey Hall, Dylan Bathgate and Cristina De Angelis-Woods.

Winner of the 'Primary and under category' was **Alexia Norbart**, aged 10, of Gordon Primary School, with her entry *Slater in the sun* (seen bottom left). Alexia won \$300 and a copy of *The Arboretum Book*.

Runner-up in the 'Primary and under category' was **Elarah Cartwright**, aged 12, of Fraser Primary School, with her entry *One-handed cartwheel* (seen below). Elarah won \$150 and a copy of *The Arboretum Book*.





Highly commended in the 'Primary and under category' were: **Sofia Sanchez Parer**, aged 7, of Namadgi School, with her entry *Purple flower in the grass* (seen above); **Alexander Mackenzie**, aged 6, of Blue Gum Community School, with his entry *New everlasting flowers*(see below);



and **Emma Semrad**, aged 12, of Mount Rogers Primary School, with her entry *Bee bum* (see enlargement at left to see why!).

The winner of the 'High school/ college category' was **Jake Wenger**, aged 16, of St Francis Xavier College, with his entry *Rubber tree with red undergrowth*. Jake didn't attend the prize-giving but was able to come to the Arboretum on 26 December to collect his prizes (\$500 plus two copies of *The Arboretum Book* because he also won a 'Highly commended' prize with his entry *Bonsai tree with new leaves emerging*). I also took the opportunity to take Jake's photograph



Jake Wenger at the Arboretum—beside his winning entry: 'Rubber tree with red undergrowth'

with his winning photo. Runner-up in the 'High school/ college category' was **Mikaylah Norbart**, aged 14, of Lanyon High School, with her entry *Bee on purple flower*. Mikaylah won \$250 and two copies of *The Arboretum Book* because the 'Highly commended' *White flowers everywhere* (photo below) was also Mikaylah's.





The other 'Highly commended' prize went to Daniel Fisher (above), aged 18, of Dickson College, for his entry *Golden tips on the pin oaks* (see bottom of page 4).



Left: Jake Wenger's Highly commended photo 'Bonsai tree with new leaves emerging'.

JAKE KELLER SCHOLARSHIP

CIT Horticulture student Ryan Mallard won the first Jake Keller Scholarship which will enable him to work with the Arboretum's horticulture team. The scholarship was presented by David Francis who was the late Jake Keller's friend and colleague for many years.

From left: David Francis, Trish Keller and Ryan Mallard.



Party time: Susan Parsons in the Canberra Discovery Garden with long-time colleague Graham Tidy.



Members of the Canberra (First) Garden Club (who look after the rock outcrop garden in the Himalayan cedars) looked very much at home at the party in the Canberra Discovery Garden.

Please make a note that the Friends' first Seasonal Talk for the year will be held on 14 March at 5:30 pm in the Terrace Room. Speaker TBA.

Gardens at the National Arboretum Canberra

BY JOHN MACKAY*

The original design for the Arboretum envisaged 100 forests and 100 gardens. Until recently, only four gardens (Bonsai, Discovery, STEP and Himalayan cedars) have been developed, along with plantings in a number of the rock outcrops.

In mid-2015 the Open Garden Scheme of Australia donated the first garden in the Gallery of Gardens. Local designer, Neil Hobbs, won the design competition amidst a selected panel of garden designers and landscape architects who were asked to draw inspiration from the theme 'artistry of gardens'.

This announcement was quickly followed by another about an adjoining garden with an Aboriginal theme: 'Mununja the Butterfly', designed by Jim Fogarty (who recently won the Chelsea Garden Show design competition). This second garden was privately sponsored.

These two gardens and five others are now at various stages of design and construction and they run the full length of the rear of the Events Terrace. Each will occupy about 500 square metres and have provision for the erection of a modest marquee. Each of the seven gardens will be bordered by hedges.

Those gardens currently being constructed include a labyrinth, a children's garden and an 'AIDS Garden of Reflection'. These have all been privately funded by very generous individuals or groups. Design and fundraising is also underway for a 'Gift of Life' garden.

Plans are afoot to officially open five of the gardens on **2 April 2017**. Plans are also at an early stage for a 'Sky Garden' that will run across the front of the Village

The labyrinth garden under construction on 11 January 2017.



Centre and the Friends have had early discussions with the Arboretum about having some input regarding possible design and funding.

Whether or when the full 100 gardens will be created is a matter for future consideration, but the first nine mentioned here will present a stunning display of beauty and tranquility—and they are bound to attract many more visitors.

* John Mackay AM is current Chair of the National Arboretum Canberra Foundation and Patron of the Friends of the National Arboretum Canberra.



'Above: 'Mununja the Butterfly' garden under construction—its wings and eyes are starting to take shape.

Below: The Open Gardens Scheme of Australia's 'Celebration Garden' is in a spectacularly scenic location.



IN CHILE: climbing so high to where the monkey puzzles rule

BY LINDA MULDOON

In mid-November 2016, 13 Friends and kindred spirits travelled to Santiago in Chile for a guided tour of national parks in Chile and Argentina—searching for the native habitats of six of the seven Chilean species that are destined to live in our forests at the National Arboretum Canberra.

We are planning an exhibition of photos from this trip and you may well hear more from other sources, but here I want to concentrate on one very memorable day.

It was Tuesday, 22 November, and we had reached Pucon, a small town situated in the Andes foothills. From there we travelled to Huerquehue National Park in the Araucania Region. The park covers 12,500 hectares with broad steep gullies and mountainous terrain, with elevations ranging from 720–2000 metres. Large tracts are covered by evergreen, broadleaved, temperate rainforest. The main reason the park was declared was to protect the flora and fauna found there, particularly the ancient forests of *Araucaria araucana* (monkey puzzle

The characteristic domed canopies of maturing monkey puzzle trees.



We studied a map near the start of the walk.



This sign pointing to another track helped me to gauge my location on the circuit.

trees), some of which are estimated to be around 2000 years old.

We were told there was a walk we could do that would enable us to see the monkey puzzles and it would take about two hours. We paused to study a map at the start of the walk and in two dimensions those red dotted lines all looked so easy. One or two of us were even anticipating going beyond Circuito Quinchol to a track further on—but the reality was different. This was a merciless uphill grind and the group got quite spread out with some giving up quite early. Those of us still climbing stopped for lunch after about an hour and three quarters—where there was some seating and a beautiful view across a valley.

Our guide had told us to get back to the start by 4:30pm and I realised that time was already running out. I pushed on alone and met up with Vera (one of the kindred spirits) where the uphill track met Circuito Quinchol. We had been told to wait there before going any further but it was already after 2.00 pm and I had been walking for over two hours. The thought of travelling so far to get photos, but then missing out, was overwhelming me. Also, missing out would mean that my climb had been pointlessly burdened by the weight of two cameras. Vera was feeling spent by this time and wanted to stay put. I told her I would walk on until 2:30 pm and then turn back. However, by 2:30 pm I was close to halfway around the circuit so I decided to



High above, the branches overlap making a confused pattern.

continue on. Three of the younger and fitter kindred spirits caught up with me and we walked together on the narrow track, with me slowing the pace by stopping to take photos from time to time. Walking on the southern side of the hill was more difficult—undulating where little rivers of ice melt had created erosion.

It was a pity that we couldn't afford to take things more slowly. Walking among these tall ancient trees was breathtaking, particularly in areas where the canopy closed over us, creating a confused pattern of spoke-like monkey puzzle branches. Nuts were scattered on the ground in parts, and there were new seedlings emerging—just beginning their very long lives. I observed how different the bark was on the very old trees, breaking up into angular plates with a covering of lichen, rather than maintaining the horizontal ridges seen on the bark of younger trees.

We eventually got back to the point where the circuit joined the uphill track—only now it was downhill. Although this was easier on the lungs it was much

Monkey puzzle nuts on the forest floor.

PHOTOS BY AUTHOR



An example of the very old bark with lichen.

harder on the knees and toenails. We only allowed ourselves one brief stop until we were nearly at the bottom. By that time my muscles were turning to jelly and my feet didn't always land where I intended. At that point our guide, who we assumed was way ahead of us, caught up with us from behind.

He had been told that I was going to turn around at 2:30 pm and was very worried when he didn't meet me walking in the opposite direction, so he also walked the complete circuit and then *ran* down the hill. We all had very sore thighs that evening and the following day. Even our guide (about half my age) was suffering. His was not an easy task as the group had varying interests and priorities—sometimes his job was like herding cats!

The written description that it was a two-hour walk must have meant that it took two hours to get up to the circuit. In fact it took us a good four and a half hours to complete the walk—but I'm glad that I was one of the few that was able to complete it.

In another voluntary capacity, I am Friday Walk Co-ordinator for ACT

Walking for Pleasure and have been a member for 22 years. That proved to be good training for this one very memorable day.

With sincere thanks to Jan Morgan for her role in organising this ambitious trip, only made possible by us all travelling around Chile and Argentina as a group.

A new tree emerging.



We're looking for sponsors for seats in prime locations

BY COLETTE MACKAY*

Thank you Friends for your support during 2016.

Work on the Events Terrace has improved the walk from the Village Centre to the Margaret Whitlam Pavilion: concrete plinths have been placed along the walk to



allow for more sponsored seats to be installed; and trees have been planted for screening, and protection from the sun and wind. Soon the scaffolding will be removed and you will be able to walk along this area, see the progress being made in the new gardens and just enjoy the space.

We are now looking for sponsors for these seats which have exceptional views to Lake Burley Griffin and beyond, and are at the \$10,000 sponsorship level.

If you and/or your business or friends are interested in sponsoring a seat, please email me on colette@arboretumcanberra.org.au

You can download a copy of the Sponsored Infrastructure Policy from our website: www.arboretumcanberra.org.au (to find document, first click 'shop' and then 'seat').

I look forward to your support in 2017.

* Colette Mackay, Donations and Sponsorships Manager

Below: Several concrete plinths are now awaiting seats.



New Augmented Reality app launched

On Monday, 5 December 2016, the Deputy Chief Minister, Yvette Berry MLA, launched the Arboretum's new Augmented Reality app, developed from a collaboration between the Arboretum and APositive Augmented Reality, as part of the Canberra Digital Challenge. You can access holograms, digital information snippets and soundscapes via the app. Download onto a tablet or smartphone via the App Store or Google Play.



Bonsai Week 2017

20–26 MARCH

Introducing Tony Tickle from the UK

Tony has been working with bonsai since 1983. He specialises in native European trees, particularly hawthorn, yew and pine.

He was a Director on the Board of Bonsai Clubs International in 2003–05 and is a Member of the Association of British Bonsai Artists. Tony is also a founding member of 'Black Scissors', the global creative brotherhood of bonsai artists. He has been an event planner—in 2015, Tony organised Bonsai Europa, the biggest bonsai event to take place in the UK since 1991. He has a regular column in *Bonsai Focus* (the widest circulation bonsai magazine) and writes for specialist publications worldwide.

Tony demonstrates at major conferences throughout the UK and Europe—and across the world, including South Africa, China, Brazil, India and the USA. He was nominated for a Noelanders award in 2009 and participated in world conferences and many European events. In 1997, he won his first Ginkgo award, and in 1995, he was UK winner and runner-up in the European New Talent Competition.

He demonstrates at clubs, societies and organisations throughout the UK and Europe, and travels extensively to work with the best artists, believing it is important to never stop learning. Sharing and giving are important features of Tony's teaching methods, and to this end he created the

Tony Tickle



Burrs events which have been running since 2004. At these events, many invited artists come to share their talents with the participants.

Not afraid to speak his own mind, Tony seeks to promote bonsai as an art form in its own right, hosting exhibitions in museums and art galleries, along with unusual locations that capture the public's imagination. He has sometimes presented bonsai in creative and dynamic ways, courting controversy and praise in equal measure.

Tony has also championed the introduction of a fair and transparent judging system that is now widely-used across the global bonsai scene.

ACTIVITIES

Curator's Guided Tours

Guided tours of the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia facility. Hear stories of bonsai and penjing within the Collection. FREE—no booking required.

Bonsai Technique Demonstrations

Various artists will be working on trees throughout each day. FREE—no booking required.

Master-classes with Tony

Artists who have been involved with the Collection, either as a volunteer, lender or donor, or as a club-nominated artist, have been invited to nominate to be a participant or observer at these workshops with Tony Tickle. From the list of nominees, ten participants and ten observers will fairly and randomly be selected to be involved. FREE for those selected.

Tony's Presentation

Tony will present an audio-visual bonsai case study prepared over a 20-year time period. FREE event (numbers limited). Please register your interest in this critique by emailing: leigh.taafe@act.gov.au or calling 02 6207 8483.

Bonsai Art with Tony Tickle

A Gala Cocktail Evening Demonstration by Tony Tickle, the premier event of Bonsai Week. This will be a good opportunity to dress up and socialise with good friends, whilst experiencing the wonders of the Arboretum in the evening. Watch the sun setting from the award-winning Village Centre complex, see the Bonsai and Penjing Collection under lights, marvel at Tony as he transforms a stock tree into a bonsai masterpiece in a relaxed and comfortable setting. Then you will have the chance to bid on that very tree at auction and other auctions will be held throughout the evening. This is a ticketed event. Price and bookings information has yet to be determined. The bar will be available for cash purchases of further drinks.

You can see Tony's website at

<http://www.yamadori.co.uk>

FOREST TALK



EXCITING TIMES IN THE DRAGON TREES

We always get excited when there is a first flowering and this year has been no exception. Two of the dragon trees (*Dracaena draco*) produced flowers and by 10 January, one of them was already forming fruit.



THE ARBORETUM FOUNDATION GETS UNDERWAY

This was John Mackay (centre left), Chair of the National Arboretum Canberra Foundation, with fellow Foundation members Assoc. Professor Cris Brack and Gweneth Leigh on the right. Mike Woolley, Friends Council member, is on the left. The occasion followed the Friends General Meeting on 11 October when John gave a brief talk about the role of Foundation (photo: Anna Howe).



PERSIAN WALNUT FLOWERS: HOW STUNNING?



VOLUNTEERS' THANK YOU EVENT

ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA, (left) looked very relaxed during the break from the Legislative Assembly. Here he was addressing some familiar faces among many Friends' volunteers (above) in the Canberra Discovery Garden on 12 December 2016.

Thanks to Jan Morgan for spotting these beautiful little female flowers in the Persian walnuts (*Juglans regia*). Some of these trees were planted in 2010 so they are getting to an age where they may become productive. Has anyone spotted any male catkins yet? A few fruits have been seen previously, so they must have been around (photo: Jan Morgan).



FRIENDS' DINNER AT MACQUARIE

On 11 November 2016, ten people enjoyed great chatter, good cheer and a memorable Vietnamese feast. Above (from left) are Margaret Johnson, Dennis Nicholls, Richard Bear, Carolyn Thomas and Mary Lervasi (photo: Del Da Costa).

DISAPPEARING FLOWERS IN FOREST 102

On 22 October, we were excited to find little flowers (below left) while out tree measuring in the osage oranges (*Maclura pomifera*) but by our next visit they had completely disappeared. This, we discovered, is because they were male flowers and they had already done their job. With further scrutiny we discovered fruits developing on some of the female trees and by 18 January some of the fruit (below right) was quite well grown (photos: Linda Muldoon).



JORDANIAN CEREMONIAL TREE PLANTING

On 24 November 2016, the Attorney-General for the ACT, Gordon Ramsay MLA, joined their Majesties King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein and Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan planted a Mount Tabor oak (*Quercus ithaburensis*) in the Central Valley.

Mount Tabor oak is a member of the beech family and is the national tree of Jordan. It is native to south-eastern Europe and south-western Asia, from Turkey south through Lebanon, Israel, Syria and Jordan. It is semi-evergreen to deciduous and grows to a maximum height of 15 m with a rounded crown, often with a gnarled trunk and branches. The leaves are glossy, dark-green above and grey beneath. The acorns, which are generally oval and up to 5 cm long, take 18 months to mature.

IMAGES FROM CANBERRA DISCOVERY GARDEN

These two photos of borage (top) and artichoke flowers were captured by Jenny Cantlon. Thank you Jenny.



KITE-MAKING SOARING TO GREAT HEIGHTS

In springtime (3 October) Floriade appeared to be making its mark on kite design at the Arboretum. Sincere thanks to all those Friends' volunteers who repeatedly find time to help with this school holidays activity.

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

Last 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.arboretumcanberra.org.au or by phone during business hours on 0406 376 711

Office bearers

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 Richard Bear (Treasurer)
 Colette Mackay (Donations and Sponsorship Manager)

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Rob Ey
 Anna Howe
 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

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 Roger Hnatiuk
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 Linda Muldoon
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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

