

Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden,

Port Augusta Incorporated | ABN 72 979 332 415

Newsletter



May 2016

President's Report *by John Zwar*



Swainsona formosa Sturt's Desert Pea growing at the AALBG - Bev Reichelt



We are well into the year and there is an interesting programme of Friends meetings and activities and speakers planned, along with other events organised by AALBG management. Do try to attend some of these if close enough, or if passing through or visiting Port Augusta. Brian Reichelt, Vice President, represented me at the last AALBG Management Committee meeting as I was unable to attend because of lecturing and other work commitments. Significant work to develop the Arid Explorers Garden has been undertaken, much of it by Friends volunteers. Most of the paths have been completed. Uni SA students

visited recently for a bush tucker tour and other tours for visitors are conducted regularly by our Garden Guides. Jim Hayward has updated and improved the training package for our Garden Guides who have also met with Kristen from Bugs N Slugs, who was at the AALBG for the kids' holiday tours, to learn about doing natural history tours themselves, and about mangroves. Tour training of Garden Guides has resumed. As I write, I am about to depart for Geelong to attend the biennial conference of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens, and will do the field trips in the region also. Both our Treasurer Geraldine Davis and I, serve on the AAFBG national committee, but will be standing down after several years, at the AGM. Geraldine was the Chairperson of this national body for some time. I am looking forward to the conference and hearing of Friends involvement in many other botanic gardens and to catching up with friends I have met at previous conferences. It is an excellent networking opportunity. I will report on the conference in the next newsletter.

Best wishes to all and I look forward to seeing some of you at this year's meetings and events.

NEXT MEETING

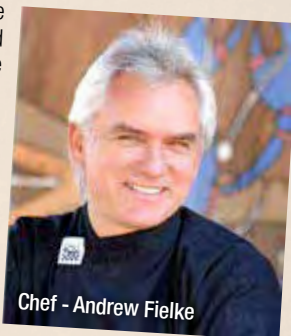
To be held in the Conference Room at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Visitor Centre, Saturday 4th June, 1.00pm

GUEST SPEAKER - ANDREW FIELKE

Andrew Fielke is an internationally acclaimed chef specialising in creating unique dishes using Australian native ingredients. He is recognised as one of the foremost pioneers in this field and will be speaking about his passion for using Australian bush foods in cooking when he is guest speaker at the Friends meeting in June.

Learn about the unique ingredients sourced from Australian native plants he uses, and get some tips on how to use them at home.

- Cherie Gerlach



Chef - Andrew Fielke

DIARY DATES

BGANZ Open Day at AALBG

Sunday, 29th May - 9.30am

Free tours, talk by John Zwar on garden design and a talk by Jim Hayward and Ronda Hall entitled "Setting up a garden for our climate".

Next Meeting Saturday 4th June

1.00pm in the Conference Room

Talk by renowned chef Andrew Fielke at our Friends Meeting.

Bird Watching Field Trips

- Sunday, 22nd May - Euro Bluff area
Meet at start of Stuart Highway, 8.00am
- Sunday, 19th June - Boolcunda Creek
Meet at Quorn Swimming Pool, 8.30am
- Sunday, 17th July - Telowie Gorge
Meet at Highway 1 Port Germein Gorge turn off, 8.00am

June (yet to be confirmed)

Reflection Garden opening

Arid Sculptural Festival

Sunday, 28th August to Sunday, 2nd October

Entries now open

Friends AGM

Saturday, 3rd September - 1.00pm

20th Anniversary of the AALBG

Tuesday, 27th September

Friends Dinner

Friday, 30th September

Dinner with Friends and Angus Stewart

Angus Stewart from ABC

Saturday, 1st October

Angus Stewart from ABC's Gardening Australia giving a p.m. talk on native plants

Angus Stewart Public Walk

Sunday, 2nd October - 9.00 - 11.00am

Public walk and morning tea



BOTANIC GARDEN
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
Open Day

**BOTANIC GARDENS CONSERVING PLANTS -
OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT.**

www.botanicgardensopenday.org

Sunday 29 May 2016 - 9.30am to 4pm

What's on at our Garden

Join us for our first ever Open Day at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

9.30am Tours of the Garden
Children's activities all day
11am Learn about the principles of garden design
1pm Setting up a garden for our climate.
All events are FREE.
Cafe, Gift Shop and Plant Sales open all day.

For more information contact 86419 116

Our ambassadors
Costa Georgiadis (Australia) and Jack Hobbs (New Zealand)

#BGANZOpenDay



Volunteers at Work

Ronda Hall an expert plant propagator, and a Friend of the AALBG since its inception, has spent many, many, many hours of volunteer time, not only assisting with the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) research project, but also in recruiting Corporate Members; this in addition to numerous hours spent in pruning and teaching both volunteers and school students the art of pruning and propagation. Ronda also, along with husband Peter, selects plants, loads and transports, then displays and sells them at plant stalls held at various centres across the state. - Julie Owen



Ellen from UTS & volunteer Ronda Hall with *Maireana sedifolia* leaves - Peter Hall



Volunteer Ronda Hall presents certificate to corporate member Augusta Cinema representative Roger Coles - Peter Hall

Since our last newsletter the Volunteers have been working alongside the Garden Staff on three main projects. The first, in one of the Mallee Regions, was to replace irrigation pipe which had deteriorated to the point that it constantly created leaks. This will assist in reducing current water usage. - Brian Reichelt



Mallee Region, Cory Keenan



Mallee Region, Volunteer Ian



Mallee Region, Volunteer Andre

The Reflection Garden, is now taking shape, and the photos attached show how far it has come in recent months. All that is left is to install the gabion wall seats. It is anticipated that it will be officially opened in June. - Brian Reichelt



Reflection Garden - The beginning stages



Reflection Garden - Pavement installation



Reflection Garden - Finishing touches



Reflection Garden - Final product

The Arid Explorers Garden, is progressing well with the area cleared of unwanted vegetation, the maintenance path installed, the rock retaining wall on the dry creek bed installed and the stones laid to form the dry creek bed. Thank you to Dr. Anu for donating the large stones used for the wall of the creek.

The Arid Explorers Garden will be a great asset to the Garden when completed. It is estimated that the cost of developing this area is in the vicinity of \$40,000 and donations of cash will be accepted and greatly appreciated to complete this project. - Brian Reichelt



Arid Explorers Garden - Marking out



Arid Explorers Garden - Creek bed stones



Arid Explorers Garden - Creek bed marking out



Arid Explorers Garden - Creek bed finished

To assist people affected by the devastating Pinery Bush Fire, a donation of plants has been made by the AALBG Nursery, Friends Ronda and Peter Hall and the Port Augusta Better Homes Supplies Mitre 10.

On April 13 Ronda and Peter Hall, former Pinery residents and previous owners of the Pinery Nursery, loaded up about 600 plants and delivered them to Ken Warnes to distribute to people looking to rebuild their gardens in the Pinery region. - Cherie Gerlach



Peter Hall loading plants at the AALBG nursery for the Pinery fire victims. - Ronda Hall

Peter's Plants by Peter Hall

Samolus eremaeus is a small perennial plant that grows to about 0.6 m x 0.4 m. It has bright green oval leaves, the stems are usually erect and the plant can sucker somewhat. The flowers on the plants in the Arid Lands Botanic Garden are a dainty pink, but they can be blue or white.

Samolus eremaeus grows in S.A., W.A. and N.T. and often in sandy or gravelly soils near creeks and pools. The name *eremaeus* means, growing in deserts. It belongs to the Primulaceae family.



Samolus eremaeus - Peter Hall

Bird Talk from the Garden by Peter Langdon

During the last week of April 2016, there was a female Gilbert's Whistler (*Pachycephala inornata*) sighted in the Arid Smart garden area of the Garden. This species is not regularly sighted in the Garden. A very plain bird with loud "chop chop chop" calls, the female is uniformly grey with pale buff under the tail. The male (seen in the same area in August 2012) has an orange throat and black lores. Like most of the genus "Pachycephala", they quietly search for caterpillars and insects in trees and shrubs and also on the ground.

This bird was named after John Gilbert, who was John Gould's (the birdman) most prolific collector of bird specimens and who discovered many new species in Australia, including the Paradise Parrot (now believed extinct). Gilbert was supposedly speared to death by Aborigines on Ludwig Leichardt's expedition to Port Essington (near Darwin) in 1845.



Female Gilbert's Whistler - Peter Langdon

Time Travel

Previously we have featured the *then and now* of the Courtyard and the Eremophila Garden. Leading up to the 20th Anniversary of the Official Opening, in September, we bring you the following:

VISITOR CENTRE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT TIME LINE & PHOTOS - Bernie Haase

- Early 1995, Visitor Centre construction starts.
- October 1995, construction completed but fitting internals still ongoing.
- September 1996, Official Opening by S.A. Environment Minister David Wotton & Federal Member for Grey Barry Wakelin.
- June 1997, Herbarium / Conference Room construction begins.
- November 1997, Herbarium / Conference Room completed.
- May 1998, Conference Room officially opened by Sir Arvi Parbo from Western Mining.
- April 2002, Visitor Centre kitchen extension construction starts.
- Kitchen completed before the September 2002 Eremophila Festival.



VC 3



VC 8



VC 4



CR 1



VC 5



CR 2



Visitor Centre 1



VC 6



CR 3



VC 2



VC 7



AALBG December 2015

2016 Corporate Members

2016 CORPORATE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

We welcome these additional corporate members and encourage Friends to patronise their businesses.

Don't forget to mention that you are a Friend of the AALBG and that we appreciate their business participating as a corporate member of the Friends.



TRAVELLERS REST HOTEL

Creative
Home Image



SUNDROP
FARMS

**SPENCER GULF
SECURITY SERVICE**



Whiteway Laundry

WESTSIDE NEWSAGENCY

New Book! Plants of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, by Chris Nayda

- PRICE: \$12.95 each (extra for postage).
- SPECIAL DEAL: ONE Plants of the AALBG + ONE Birds of the AALBG 2nd Edition, \$20 (extra for postage).



On the left: Our FAALBG Web Master Horst Weber, relaxing with a copy of Plants of the AALBG in his home in Munich, Germany. As his contribution as a Friend, which is greatly appreciated, Horst maintains our web site free of charge.

Memberships Subscriptions - Due Now!

Individual & Family Membership Subscriptions are due for renewal by 30th of June 2016.

We would like to keep you as a member and look forward to receiving your subscription. Please complete the Join or Renew form/s below.

Join or Renew Subscription & Contacts

TO JOIN OR RENEW SUBSCRIPTION

Request a form from Contacts or collect one from the Visitor Centre

Or fill in this form and send with remittance to:

Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Port Augusta Inc.

PO Box 2040, Port Augusta SA 5700

www.australian-aridlands-botanic-garden.org

PLEASE TICK: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal of Membership

NAME: Dr / Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms:

Address:

..... Date:

Email Address:

Any donation will be gratefully accepted. Donations of \$2.00 and over are tax deductible. Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc.' Receipts will be posted. A SAE would be appreciated but not obligatory.

Enclosed is my:

Subscription \$

Donation \$

TOTAL \$

DIRECT DEBIT BANKING DETAILS

BSB: 035-065

Account No.: 164 604

Account Name: FAALBG

Reference: 'name of person banking'

Please notify by email to friends@aalg.gov.au

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Individual (1 adult) \$30

Due annually 1st July. Includes 1 membership card.

Family (2 adults & dependent children under 18) \$50

Due annually 1st July. Includes 2 membership cards.
(2 forms must be filled in).

Corporate \$250 Due annually 1st January.

(includes 1 membership card issued in one name
nominated by the business)

President: John Zwar Phone Home: (08) 8338 6658 Work: (08) 8372 6876 Email: jzwar@bigpond.com

Vice President: Brian Reichelt Mobile: 0418 896 995 Email: breich@bigpond.net.au

Treasurer: Geraldine Davis Phone: (08) 8648 6399 Mobile: 0418 447 020 Email: glgadavis@bigpond.com

Secretary: Christine Nayda Phone: (08) 8642 4684 Mobile: 0434 717 382 Email: b.nayda@bigpond.com

Editor: Julie Owen Mobile: 0408 866 385 Email: jayowen@bigpond.com

PO Box 2040, Port Augusta, South Australia 5700 Email: friends@aalg.gov.au

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