



# Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden,

Port Augusta Incorporated | ABN 72 979 332 415

## Newsletter



July 2016

## President's Report *by John Zwar OAM*

*Magic of a foggy morning, AALBG, courtyard planting by Cory, Ryan & Ian, by Peter Hall*



This is a year which promises to be a good season in the north of SA. Many areas have had soaking rains and outback roads have been closed so people will be travelling north to see wildflowers in coming months. The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden has an uncharacteristic tinge of green. The down side is weed growth, but overall good soaking rains are of great benefit to the country. Our next meeting is the AGM and one of the important tasks on that day will be to vote on proposed changes to our out of date constitution. Brian Reichelt and Jim Hayward have thoroughly combed through and suggested several alterations so that our constitution complies with the law and is up to date. These have been discussed and refined at committee meetings. Please look at the proposed changes and be prepared to vote on them at the AGM. I commend the work of all involved and urge Friends to vote in favour of the alterations.

Late in April I attended the biennial conference of The Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens,

hosted by The Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden. It was an enjoyable experience meeting friends from other gardens and comparing notes. There were some excellent presentations and regional tours. The Geelong Botanic Garden is one of Australia's oldest and has an original mid 1800s section, an early 1900s section and the striking 21st Century section, reflecting different eras and trends in botanic garden development. Geelong is a fine conference venue with well developed public gardens, a very impressive foreshore development and landmark buildings, both heritage and modern. As well as Geelong Botanic Garden, I was able to visit Melbourne, Colac and Melton Botanic Gardens and some impressive private gardens in the region. Meanwhile you can explore GBG Geelong Botanic Garden online here: <http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gbg/default.aspx> and their Friends group here: <http://friendsgbg.org.au/> In our Garden, Friends have been busy with maintenance, development work and plant propagation and fund raising projects. A huge thank you to Brian Reichelt for taking a leading role in many of these activities and to all who have assisted in so many ways. Development of the Arid Explorers Garden for children is well underway and the Reflection and Healing Garden has been completed and recently opened. I look forward to seeing some of you at the AGM and to seeing northern SA after a rainy winter.

Regards and best wishes.

### NEXT MEETING

**AGM, including election of committee members\* and FAALBG constitution\*\* update ratification.**

**Guest speakers:** Photo presentation by locals Brian Reichelt & Peter Hall.

**Topic:** "What Friends have achieved in the Garden in the last 12 months."

**Venue:** Conference Room at the AALBG Visitor Centre

**Date & Time:** 1pm Saturday 3rd September, 2016.

\*Members of the FAALBG interested in being on the Committee are advised that completed nomination forms, signed by another Friend, MUST reach the Secretary Chris Nayda NO LATER THAN THREE weeks before the AGM i.e. no later than 12 August, 2016. Forms will be emailed out, and are also available on the website. If you are unable to print your own hard copy, please contact the Secretary (0434 717 382 or [b.nayda@bigpond.com](mailto:b.nayda@bigpond.com)).

\*\*A copy of the amended Constitution has been emailed to all Friends who have provided email addresses. A copy is also on the Friends website. If you require a hard copy please email Vice President Brian Reichelt ([breich@bigpond.net.au](mailto:breich@bigpond.net.au)) who will post one to you. If no email, please phone (0418 896 995).

### DIARY DATES

#### Arid Festival

August 28th - October 2nd  
See details on page 4.

#### Friends Annual General Meeting

Saturday 3rd September - 1:00pm  
Essential to read important info upper right at \* & \*\*

#### Garden's 20th Anniversary.

Friday 23rd September  
Morning function for invited guests.

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPECIAL GUEST - ANGUS STEWART

From ABC's Gardening Australia.  
September 30th - October 2nd, Dinner. Talk. Walk.

#### ANGUS STEWART - Dinner With Friends

Friday 30th September, 6 for 6:30pm. Bookings & pre-payment essential as places limited, first 50 persons only \$40 Friends / \$45 non-Friends.  
Direct Debit banking details page 4.

Please notify by Phone: Robyn 0428379231 or Email: [friends@aalg.gov.au](mailto:friends@aalg.gov.au)

#### An Afternoon with Angus

Saturday 1st October - 1:30pm  
Talk: "Native plants and their benefits, especially in our arid area, & principles of good garden design."  
\$5 Friends / \$10 non-Friends. Also sales and signings of his book. Bookings at Gift Shop 86419116.

#### ANGUS STEWART - Free Garden Walk Q & A and Morning Tea (latter at own expense)

Sunday, 2nd October - 10:00am - 12 noon  
Bookings at Gift Shop 86419116.

#### Bird Watching Field Trips of the Birdlife Australia Club, Port Augusta Group

Sunday, 28th August - 8:00am - Bernie's Block. Meet at Mambray Creek Parking  
Sunday, 11th September - 8:00am - Argadells Station (\$50/vehicle). Meet at Quorn Swimming Pool  
Saturday, 1st-3rd October - 8:30am - Carriewerloo Station,

Meet at start of Stuart Highway.  
(Camp out facilities available).

Please bring sturdy footwear, hat, sun protection, morning tea and lunch if staying longer.

For further info contact:  
Peter 86425723 / 0457708859;  
Greg 86486630 / 0459088052;  
Bernie 0419863834





# 20th Anniversary of the Official Opening

The 24th September 2016 is the 20th Anniversary of the Official Opening of the Garden. The Friends 30th Anniversary was celebrated in 2014, the group having been formed in 1984 by John Zwar. The Friends were at work for 12 years beforehand, promoting the Garden widely, seeking funds, lobbying the Government, raising and purchasing plants needed for the Garden, organising working bees to assist with development, and providing expertise, plant and equipment.

Shannon Architects from Adelaide planned the environmentally friendly facility and the main part of the Visitor Centre was funded by grants from WMC Resources and both Federal and State Governments and by the Port Augusta City Council.

The Garden had a major sponsor, Western Mining Corporation (WMC), which provided almost \$500,000 on site surveys, the employment of a landscape architect and preparation of a master plan for the Garden and for the development of the Garden up until the Opening. WMC Resources subsequently provided another \$500,000 which facilitated the construction of the passage and the WMC Meeting Room/Conference Room and the arid zone flora Herbarium and many other developments up until 2005.

Read some history from the archives with the excerpt adjacent. With some input from Bernie Haase and Gwen Leane, John Zwar wrote, typed, laid out and printed all the News Releases/Newsletters for more than twenty years, then packed and despatched them from Roxby Downs to Port Augusta for posting.

Garden Manager, Cherie Gerlach, received a letter from Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP Member for Stuart acknowledging the 20 year anniversary, and commending the numerous accolades received over the years. He stated that, "The well-established botanic gardens are a true reflection of the magnificent natural resources local to this region. Featuring a diverse range of arid plant species as well as insects, birdlife and vibrant colours, casual visitors, tourists, artists, corporate groups or professional horticulturalists are offered a large variety of rewarding experiences, including speciality menu items from the licensed café."

Angus Stewart will be a 20th Anniversary Celebration Special Guest from 30/9 until 2/10 (details on page 1). We hope that you can join us for some, if not all, of the planned activities.

Julie Owen et al.

Excerpt from 'News Release  
11.11.1996 by John Zwar'  
AALBG Official Opening

This took place at the Garden at 5.30pm on Tuesday 24th September and was attended by about 350 people. The opening of stage 1 of the Garden was performed jointly by the Hon David Wotton, SA Environment Minister, and the Hon Barry Wakelin MHR Member for Grey. Others who spoke at the Opening included Mayor Joy Baluch, and Mr Roy Woodall representing WMC (and a keen AALBG supporter). Many in the crowd were in Port Augusta for The Australian Rangeland Society National Conference, and many Friends were present. Grant Henderson and his wife Kaye from Canberra made the trip especially as did Dr Gordon and Yanni Paine of Australind WA. Grant prepared the Garden's Masterplan in 1990, and Gordon was Friend's President until four years ago. Olive Pink Botanic Garden at Alice Springs was represented by Clarrie and Francis Smith and Connie Spencer and her husband.

They too travelled to Port Augusta especially for the Opening as did several other Friends from various parts of the country. Following the opening ceremony which was held adjacent to the carpark many present inspected the Interpretive Building. A presentation was made also, recognising environmental features in the building, by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (SA Chapter), and both Bob and David Shannon, the project architects, were present. Some Board members and invited guests attended a dinner late in the evening to celebrate the official opening; an important milestone in the history of the Garden.



## Time Travel

In the lead-up to the 20th Anniversary we featured the Eremophila Garden in July 2015, the Courtyard in November 2015, and the Visitor Centre in June 2016. This month we focus on the development of the Entrance Path.

Many thanks to Bernie Haase who spent many hours sifting through his old slide photos and selecting the best, and in compiling the timelines. Bernie was the first full time employed gardener and was appointed in May 1994 as a contract gardener.

He was responsible for most of the early landscaping and plantings and the interpretation of the master plan prepared by Grant Henderson, the landscape architect from Canberra whose work was funded by Western Mining Corporation for a year. Bernie joined the Council in February 1997 and was the only employee until September 1997 when Quentin Grantham was appointed as a second gardener.

Another gardener, Jimmy Martin, was employed in February 2000 and Quentin was transferred to the Council's Parks and Gardens department. In the years after that additional staff members were appointed. Bernie took a break in service from October 2006 until November 2011, and then returned as a part time employee and continued with the development and improvement of the AALBG. He retired in November 2015.

When you visit the Visitor Centre in September, watch the television screen and enjoy the Time Travel loop of photos showcasing the 20 years of development.

Julie Owen et al.



September 1995 Entrance Path EP Clearing



1995 View from Courtyard



1996 EP from Car Park



1998 View from Courtyard Entry



2004 View from Courtyard Entry



2004 EP Through Car Park



2012 View from Courtyard Entry



2015 EP from Car Park



2016 EP from Car Park - John Zwar



June 2016 Entry Statement Piece - John Zwar



# Volunteers at work

The Friends have been very active since our last newsletter. Ronda Hall has conducted a propagating class for the Green Army trainees, and this group is working within the Garden for a six month period.



The "Reflection Garden", which was built as a result of a collaborative effort between Centacare and several other organisations, and constructed by Garden staff and Friends, was officially opened on 16th June. This area has received high praise from the sponsoring groups and visitors to the Garden.



Additional propagating has been carried out by the Friends on Friday mornings, as well as that by the regular group on Wednesdays, to meet the orders being received by the Garden.



Tour guides have been very busy with tours, in particular with a group of 100 children from Caritas College. The children enjoyed the experience and the guides are to be congratulated on a tremendous effort on the day.



Native food culinary great, Andrew Fielke, was the guest speaker at the last meeting held on 4th June and this proved to be a winner with a full house on the day. Attendees were treated to samples of the native bush foods and also products that had been produced using these bush foods. A great afternoon enjoyed by all who attended!



We would like to welcome our latest Corporate Member, Emanuele Brothers, to our Corporate Member group, and thank them for their support. It is pleasing to note that around 36 business houses from Port Augusta recognise the benefits of the Garden and the work of the Friends as an asset to the community of Port Augusta.



The Friends were actively involved in the BGANZ Botanic Garden Open Day which proved a real winner in promoting the Garden to the community and visitors alike. Thank you to those Friends who assisted on the day.

The working bee group has been actively involved with Garden staff in Garden maintenance i.e. planting, weeding, pruning and upgrading heat beds in the propagating area.

Brian Reichelt (Photos courtesy of Peter Hall.)

## The 2017 Australasian Botanic Gardens Volunteer Guides Conference, Canberra 15th - 19th October

Theme: 'Informed Guiding – Discovering the mystery and magic of our Gardens'.

Conference website (<http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/guides-conference-2017/>) has an introduction to the Conference and the venues, accommodation, and sights that Conference participants will enjoy.

## Bird Talk from the Garden by Peter Langdon

On the morning of 15th May 2016 I was checking out a raucous flock of Yellow-throated Miners (*Manorina flavigula*) near the water treatment plant. Whilst observing the group I saw a Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) amongst them.

This is the first time a Noisy Miner has been recorded in Port Augusta. This aggressive colonial species is common around Adelaide, inland along the east side of Australia to North Queensland, and also eastern Tasmania.

The closest recordings to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and Port Augusta are at Jamestown, Belalie East and Bundaleer Forest.



Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*) - Peter Langdon

# 2016 Corporate Members

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

We welcome this additional corporate member and encourage Friends to patronise their business.

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.



## ARID FESTIVAL

LIFE ON THE EDGE

27 AUGUST - 2 OCTOBER 2016

Celebrating art and the environment, this five week festival offers a diverse range of exhibitions, workshops, entertainment and family fun!

ENQUIRIES: Port Augusta Cultural Centre - Yarta Purlti  
Phone: (08) 8641 9176 • [www.aridfestival.wordpress.com](http://www.aridfestival.wordpress.com)

## Peter's Plants *by Peter Hall*

*Grevillea huegelii* is one of those plants that you don't want to come into contact with as its leaves are very stiff and sharply pointed. It has red flowers, and if a good specimen, can be very attractive in full flower.

*Grevillea huegelii* can grow to 2.5m x 3m but is usually smaller. It grows in SA, VIC, NSW and WA, in the semi-arid regions of those states. The flowers attract nectar-feeding birds and the stiff foliage offers them good refuge.

The plant was named after Karl von Hugel, a 19th century Austrian botanist. It can be found growing in several places in the AALBG.



## NEWS FLASH!

**Did you remember to renew your Individual or Family subscription by the end of June 2016?**

You need to have done so to be able to vote at the AGM and to receive further Newsletters. We would like to keep you as a member and look forward to receiving your subscription.

## 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](http://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@aalbg.sa.gov.au](mailto:friends@aalbg.sa.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 **Mobile:** 0408 887 565 **Work:** (08) 8372 6876 **Email:** [jzwar@bigpond.com](mailto:jzwar@bigpond.com)

**Vice President:** Brian Reichelt **Mobile:** 0418 896 995 **Email:** [breich@bigpond.net.au](mailto:breich@bigpond.net.au)

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

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

**Editor:** Julie Owen **Mobile:** 0408 866 385 **Email:** [jayowen@bigpond.com](mailto:jayowen@bigpond.com)

PO Box 2040, Port Augusta, South Australia 5700 **Email:** [friends@aalbg.sa.gov.au](mailto:friends@aalbg.sa.gov.au)

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