



# Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden,

Port Augusta Incorporated | ABN 72 979 332 415

# Newsletter



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

March 2017



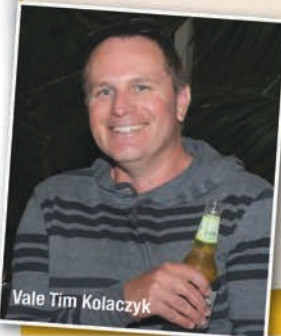
*Eucalyptus pachyphylla* - Chris Nayda



John Zwar OAM

It is with great sadness that I mention the untimely death of Tim Kolaczyk, the AALBG's young Nursery Co-ordinator appointed to the position in mid 2016. A memorial service was held at the AALBG for Tim on Monday 5th February. It was attended by more than 30 Friends and co-workers. I was unable to be there but sent the following message to be read at the service.

*"I did not know Tim as well as most of you did, having met him only three times. I was so impressed to hear that someone with a passion for eremophilas and arid zone plants had been appointed Propagator at the AALBG. A few weeks later when I heard that the Nursery was full and that Tim even worked some weekends I knew we had the right person in the position. I understand Tim got on well with paid staff and Friends and re-established the AALBG Nursery on a very sound footing. His passion for plants was infectious and just what was needed in the position. It was very disappointing to hear that Tim had resigned for personal reasons and then some time later, absolutely devastating to receive a phone call from Brian Reichelt advising of Tim's tragic death. These tragic situations leave many unanswered questions. It is important to remember that Tim was befriended by many of you in his new position in Port Augusta and that he was highly respected and admired for what he achieved in such a short time. His legacy will live on at the AALBG. We grieve for Tim along with his Family and friends. Thank you Tim for a job well done. Rest in peace. My apologies for not being at this memorial service today, but I plan to attend Tim's funeral in Mudgee NSW next Monday 13th Feb. John Zwar, President, The Friends of The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta Incorporated."*



Vale Tim Kolaczyk

On a lighter note, Friends Vice President Brian Reichelt reports that because of the volume of rain during December and January, weed growth has been extremely high so outdoor volunteers have been heavily involved in weeding the garden. Approximately 180 plants have been planted in the Eremophila Garden and service road area. One of the large heat beds in the nursery has been fully refurbished. Because of summer rain, Buffel Grass (an introduced weed) removal has started and will continue for some time as it is spreading into the Garden in these ideal growing conditions.

Development of the "Arid Explorers Garden" has continued with the bird hide completed, a teepee style construction completed along with landscaping and gardening in the area. In mid February Port Augusta experienced a run of very hot days with temperatures in the mid 40s and up to 47 degrees, trying conditions indeed.

You will see in the newsletter that we have an interesting programme of speakers and events planned for 2017, including a Botanical Artist, Dolores Malloni, as guest speaker with a botanical art workshop to follow.

Dolores studied art in Buenos Aires and has lived in Geelong for many years where she leads a very active botanical art group within the Friends of Geelong Botanic Garden. If you would like to find out more about botanical art, this will be an ideal opportunity. I look forward to seeing some of you at our meetings and other events this year. Best wishes to all.

John Zwar, President.

### DIARY DATES

#### Botanical Artist Visit - Special Event

Saturday 8th April, 1.30pm - 3.00pm  
Free Talk (Workshop 9 April. FULL)

#### Opening of Arid Explorers Garden April

BGANZ Open Day at AALBG  
Sunday 28th May

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

Saturday 11th, Sunday 12th, Monday 13th March  
Munyeroo Conservation Park. Meet at 8.30am Whyalla Wetlands. (Camp out - no facilities available.)

### NEXT MEETING

**Guest speakers:** W.A. eucalypt expert Malcolm French, assisted by S.A. eucalypt expert Dean Nicolle (Arboriculture - Botany - Ecology - Eucalypt Research)

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

**Date & Time:** 1pm Saturday 25th March, 2017

**Topic:** "Malcolm's favourite W.A. eucalypts, particularly from the arid zone."

Malcolm has worked in three states of Australia & whilst at Mudgee (NSW) started cultivating eucalypts for his farm at Rylstone. From there things grew...

He has been collaborating with Dean Nicolle since 1991 and in 1994 they produced a small book together updating the region's forestry book.

Malcolm readily accepted a transfer to Perth in 1993, mainly due to the eucalypt diversity there! 1997 saw him publishing a book on the eucalypts of the South-West of WA.

He has spent 22 years volunteering at the WA Perth Herbarium, looking after the eucalypt collection of course.

In 2007 Malcolm was awarded Research Associate at the Herbarium, in 2013 he published the book *Eucalypts of WA's Wheatbelt\** and in 2015 he was awarded Order of Australia for environmental work in agriculture.

More books on the way! ([www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au](http://www.eucalyptsofwa.com.au))

*\*Special Cash Only Book Prices for 25th March only:  
Eucalypts of Western Australia's Wheatbelt (Malcolm French) - \$30  
Native Eucalypts of South Australia (Dean Nicolle) - \$25  
Smaller Eucalypts for Planting (Dean Nicolle) - \$30  
Taller Eucalypts for Planting (Dean Nicolle) - \$30*

*Or any two of above DN titles for \$50, or all three for \$70.*



Malcolm French

Friday 14th, Saturday 15th, Sunday 16th, Monday 17th April  
Mount Ive Station. Meet at 8.30am Tanks parking bay, Iron Knob turn off (Camp out \$10pp/night - facilities available. Please book at Mount Ive 8648 1817)

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

For further info contact:

Peter 86425723 / 0457708859;

Bernie 0419863834 / [b.haase@telstra.com](mailto:b.haase@telstra.com)

# Volunteers in the Garden *by Brian Reichelt*

Since our last newsletter the propagation volunteers along with Garden staff have worked extremely hard and have kept up the supply of plants for sale.

The outdoor volunteers Peter H. Peter L. Ian H. and Brian R. refurbished one of the large heat beds installing a new heat mat and new top covers to improve the efficiency of the heat bed.

They have continued to be busy in the Garden working alongside the Garden staff, weeding the main Garden areas, removing Buffel Grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) from outer areas of the Garden and pruning eremophilas etc. Approximately 200 eremophilas have been planted with around a further 150 still to be planted to upgrade garden beds and add new species to the Garden.

We have also continued to be busy working in the Arid Explorers Garden, installing a Bird Hide, a Teepee structure (see photo), and undertaking further landscaping.



Arid Explorers's Garden teepee



Seating around tree, landscaping & bird hide



Paths, mulch and new plants - Nov 2016



Paths, mulch and new plants - Nov 2016

## Bird Talk *by Peter Langdon*

With all the rain about you would think that we would have lots of birds at the Garden. Well, we have, but mostly lots of the same species. The good rains in the north of the state have meant that lots of our seasonal birds (Budgies, Chats, Woodswallows etc.) have stayed up there.

Where are the Zebra Finches?

We have seen a few Orange Chats and some Crimsons, but the Garden is not attracting them because conditions outside the Garden are as good as within the Garden. There have been a few Black Honeyeaters but only juvenile birds and no reports of Pied Honeyeaters. Only a few flocks of Budgies and Cockatiels but not the normal large flocks we would see.

However, it is still good, with lots of breeding by the resident species: Magpies, Kestrels, Mulga Parrots and the Honeyeaters. There are still a few Brown Quail about and the White-winged and Variegated Fairy-wrens are thick; Rufous Field-wrens have also been busy.

When it dries out further north, I believe we will get an influx of the nomads as they disperse.

There are a few Yellow-rumped Thornbills watering at the Chenopod bird hide, but you must get there early to see them.



Juvenile Black Honeyeater - Peter Langdon

## Calendar Of Events 2017

### MARCH

- FAALBG Meeting 25th March, Guest Speaker/s: eucalypt experts Malcolm French Western Australia and Dean Nicolle South Australia.

### APRIL

- Botanical Artist Visit: Talk 8th April, Workshop 9th April.
- Opening of the Arid Explorers Garden.
- School holiday activities.
- Easter egg hunt 15th & 16th April.

### MAY

- BGANZ Open Day 28th May.

### JUNE

- FAALBG Special Meeting for a Constitution change. Meeting 2nd June.

### JULY

- School holiday activities.

### SEPTEMBER

- Eremophila Study Group visit to AALBG.
- Rangelands Conference in Port Augusta. AALBG to host events.
- School holiday activities.
- FAALBG Annual General Meeting 2nd September. Guest Speakers: Pat & Warwick Wright.

### OCTOBER

- BGANZ bi-ennial Conference in Adelaide 22nd - 25th October. Group expected to visit AALBG.
- SEGRA Conference in Port Augusta late October - AALBG to host events.

### NOVEMBER

- Thursday night dinners commence 26th October

### DECEMBER

- FAALBG Meeting 2nd December. Guest Speakers: Peter Hall & Brian Reichelt
- 4th December Christmas Shopping Extravaganza
- Volunteer thank you lunch

# Botanical Artist To Visit AALBG



Dolores Skowronski-Malloni, a botanical artist, tutor and author from Geelong, but originally from Buenos Aires, will be an **APRIL SPECIAL EVENT** guest speaker.

**Topic:** Botanical Art - the history, what I do and how I have developed my own art.

**Date:** Saturday 8th April

**Time:** 1.30pm - 3.00pm

**Venue:** Conference Room, AALBG

**Cost:** No charge. Open to all, everyone welcome.

**Please note:** Dolores's workshop class in botanical art on Sun 9th April is already FULL.



## Peter's Plants *by Peter Hall*

One of the most spectacular plants of inland Australia has to be a *Grevillea juncifolia*. It grows on the red sand hills and sand plains of the inland in all mainland states except Victoria.

It has spectacular golden-yellow-orange flowers and although it can grow up to about 5 metres it is usually a little smaller. The flowers contain a lot of nectar and were used by Aboriginals as a food source. Nectar-eating birds also visit the flowers.

In South Australia *Grevillea juncifolia* grows in the northwest of the state, with some plants on Eyre Peninsula. The photos used in this article were taken on the Lasseter Highway west of Erdunda in the Northern Territory.



*Grevillea juncifolia* - Peter Hall

## Kudos for Garden

Conservation SA's 2016 Environment Awards, Unsung Hero Award: the FAALBG was delighted to be nominated & delighted to be a finalist!

S.A. Tourism Awards 2016: Silver medal to AALBG!

S.A. Regional Awards 2016: AALBG, a Finalist!

S.A. Community Achievement Awards 2016: AALBG a Finalist!

Yet again, because of your support, up there with the best.



## Advance Notice:

For the purpose of a name correction in the Constitution of the FAALBG, a short Special Meeting is to be held immediately prior to the general meeting, at 1.00pm on Saturday 2 June 2017.

## Chris's Observations *by Chris Nayda*

### Two-spotted Line-blue Butterfly.

Lycaenidae family, *Nacaduba biocellata biocellata*  
wingspan male 17mm, female 17mm

There have been hundreds of these lovely butterflies seen flying around the many *Exocarpos aphylla* (Native Cherry Trees) at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden over the last month.

They are found over a large area of the state, especially in the northern areas, flying around the acacias (wattles) and feeding on the flowers. The larvae, which are very tiny, feed on the mature wattle buds. It is unusual to see the butterflies feeding on our

Native Cherry buds. You can clearly see the butterfly's proboscis entering the bud of the *Exocarpos aphylla* (Native Cherry) in the photo. The male is an intense violet-blue on the upper surface of the wings but the female is more variable.

At the base of the hind wing there are two small black dots with a few bright shining green scales in their centres and are surrounded by a bright orange ring. They are a very pretty butterfly.

To have them in your garden just plant a couple of wattle trees and they will come and see you.



Two-spotted Line-blue Butterfly - Chris Nayda

# 2017 Corporate Members

## 2017 CORPORATE MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

We welcome these corporate members 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.



**Reminder:** Discounts in the café and gift shop for Friends Membership only apply to the card holder for the purchase of their meal and gifts and cannot be transferred to family and/or friends.

## 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

Enclosed is my:  
Subscription \$ .....  
Donation \$ .....  
TOTAL \$ .....

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.

### 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

**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)

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