



# *The Chef's Cap*

Newsletter of the Friends of  
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

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June 2015

## **July Quarterly Meeting of the Friends of ERBG**

**Saturday 18 July 2015 at 2 pm in the Visitors Centre Meeting Room**

**Guest Speaker: Des Cannon**

### **Trees and Bees—The role of the NSW South Coast in the Beekeeping Industry**

Ever wondered at the appearance of so many beehives in the South Coast forests, especially in winter? Why is the area so popular with beekeepers? And why only some times, and not others? Where does the South Coast sit in relation to the overall picture for beekeeping? And are Australia's bees suffering from the losses reported overseas? *Varroa* who?

These questions and more (even some of yours from the floor!) will be answered on 18th July by Des Cannon. Des was a former High School



Beehives in Flat Rock State Forest, Termeil, April 2005

Science Teacher who enjoyed a tree change and a second career of 25 years as a commercial beekeeper. He is now the Publisher/Editor of *The Australasian Beekeeper*, Australia's national beekeeping journal. In addition to the above, Des will discuss the role of honey bees and native bees in pollination and their place in agriculture.

### **Coming Events**

Thursday & Friday 25 & 26 June 2015      Tree Sale at ERBG, 50% discount

Sunday 5 July 2015

Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am

Tuesday 7 July 2015

Plants and Preserves on sale at Moruya Farmers Market at 3 pm

**Saturday 18 July 2015**

**Friends of ERBG Quarterly Meeting at 2 pm**

Sunday 2 August 2015

Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am

Tuesday 4 August 2015

Plants and Preserves on sale at Moruya Farmers Market at 3 pm

**Saturday 22 August 2015**

**Fund-raiser Trivia Night at Malua Bay Bowls Club at 7 pm**

Tuesday 1 September 2015

Plants and Preserves on sale at Moruya Farmers Market at 3 pm

Sunday 6 September 2015

Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am

**Friday 11 September 2015**

**Photo competition closes**



## President's Report

Heather Haughton

There are so many disparate items to report on in this Newsletter that I should call the page *Cabbages and Kings*, and resort to dot points. Here goes.

The Friends Committee is delighted to welcome back to the Gardens family Victoria and Patrick Callioni, after a brief sojourn in Canberra. A motion to co-opt Victoria to the Committee will be put at our meeting on Monday 22 June, and some of you may already have had a chance to see her when she has been on Meet and Greet duty.



Meeting and Greeting offers me a smooth segue to volunteering at ERBG. Friends provide the social matrix for our volunteers, and all the money that Friends raise contributes to the projects that volunteers undertake and the roles they fill. Currently we need some more people in the Meet & Greet, general outdoor maintenance, and guiding roles, so if you like meeting people, or have time to help maintain our beautiful community asset, please leave your name at the Visitors Centre. Michael conducts induction sessions for new volunteers on the first Thursday of every second month, the next being 2 July. Naturally we hope that many volunteers will join Friends, but there is no compulsion.

Guided walks on the first Sunday of the month have been taken up on average by ten or a dozen people each time, which makes the activity pleasant and worthwhile. Two new guides, Barbara Roberts and Shane Doherty have recently been warmly welcomed to the volunteer guides group. Again, if you like meeting people and are willing to learn a bit more about our Gardens, please consider joining. Training proceeds largely by mentoring and osmosis, and by attending six meetings a year. As well as the first Sunday walks, guides are called on the show bus tour groups around the site, most recently 25 keen members of the Taralga Garden Club. They were impressed by the gum-leaf shaped information signs in the Arboretum, the result of the project funding awarded to Friends by the Dahl Trust. The Friends are subsidising the registration fees of guides attending the national conference of guides in botanic gardens, being held at RBG Sydney later this year.



Members of the Taralga Garden Club with ERBG volunteer guide Sharon Macdonald (far right), 15 May 2015.

All members will be pleased to hear of the progress being made by the working group planning for the redevelopment of the Visitors Centre. Friends have three representatives on the group, Sue Cogger, Peter Hickman and Stewart Needham. Jenni Horder, a co-opted member, also provides specialist knowledge and experience. Expressions of Interest from architects will be called for shortly, through electronic and print advertising locally, in NSW generally and in Canberra; the project brief will be then be sent to applicants.

Calling all grandparents with grandchildren likely to be staying with you in the September school holidays, specifically after Saturday 26 September when the NSW and ACT holidays overlap. We would like to organise a Grandparents' and Grandchildren's Day at the Gardens covering a variety of activities. Is anyone out there interested in helping to plan and carry out the day? Please let me know, on 4471 3271 or [h@haughton.id.au](mailto:h@haughton.id.au)

Finally - your Friends cooks have been producing cauldrons of marmalades, jams and chutneys to swell the coffers. Please, if you are dropping by, leave a donation of sugar or other non-perishable ingredients. All gifts will be gratefully accepted!

## Gardens Manager's Report

**Michael Anlezark**

Well, winter has arrived at the Gardens, with frozen bird baths and icy grass. We have had several heavy frosts and anything in the nursery that is frost tender has been put away safely till spring. Despite the cold, the days are glorious and visitors, staff and volunteers are all rewarded with sun traps, Banksia flowers, Acacia blooms and abundant wildlife.



With the end of the financial year upon us, tidying up the budget is a priority, making sure expenditure is within budget and revenue targets are met. I guess many people would be surprised at the level of administration and financial reconciliation botanic gardens require. As a Council funded community asset we are always investigating ways to operate efficiently, expand our programs and improve our facilities without additional costs to ratepayers. The Gardens receives overwhelming support from local residents (over 65% of our visitors), we get great comments in our visitor book and we have just been awarded the 2015 Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor for consistently high ratings. These things tell me we are getting it right, we are providing a place our community highly values and have something that people want to donate time and money to.

Over the last few months we have had some great events with around 120 children participating in our first ever school holiday nature activities with another day planned for July 8. We partnered with Council's Environment team for this event and also for the schools Year 4 program which finished earlier this month. The Schools program saw over 500 students visit the Gardens for a day packed with environmental education in a format you just can't get in a classroom.

Mandy Hillson, Congo paper artist turned our humble meeting room into a North Shore art gallery for the River of Art Festival and showcased her beautiful work created with local native plants.

Not to forget our major fundraiser in April, the Giant Plant Sale and Easter Fair (which now seems a long time ago) which raised over \$11,000.00 in plant sales alone and had around 2000 people attend. A remarkable event with a remarkable team that had the day running like a well oiled machine.

Work will progress shortly on the carpark upgrade, installation of lighting and the extension of electricity there and beyond, including electrification of the barbecues with quotes for all work now accepted. The new link path that is essential for moving visitors safely from the new overflow areas to the existing carpark and beyond is now almost complete. The new path has been a collaborative effort between staff, volunteers and a great Green Army team that will eventually spend a month working on projects throughout the Gardens. We are sharing the team with Council's Environment team and National Parks over the next 6 months. It is a great opportunity for these young people to learn new skills to help them get a job and I am really glad that we have staff and volunteers who have so much





Chilly winter morning.

knowledge and skills to share. The Green Army Project was in fact launched from the Gardens this week by Federal Member Dr Peter Hendy who briefly visited the Gardens to see the work done so far. The new path winds through lovely bushland and is wheelchair friendly.

Other news just briefly:

- Friends Trust Fund has donated funds for an additional Gator (small garden utility vehicle), delivery now being eagerly awaited;
- Visitor Centre Working Group expects this week to have all documentation finished with expressions of interest advertised for architects;
- The Gardens will have a regular stand at the Moruya Farmers Market on the first Tuesday of each month;
- Staff member and volunteer Jayne Clark has been coordinating many new plantings with her hard working small team of volunteers;
- We continue to get many new enquiries for events to be held at the Gardens with three weddings booked in for spring;
- We will be holding an End of Financial Year Tree Clearance Sale on June 25 & 26 near the plant shop at the Gardens;
- We are upgrading the plumbing in the nursery precinct with an electricity upgrade to follow.

Please feel free to call or email me if you ever need more information on any of our projects and events or if you have any ideas that you think might help.

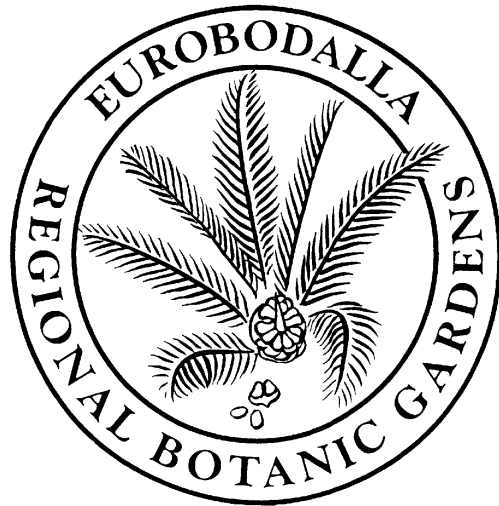
Till next time, Michael Anlezark

# End of financial year clearance

All trees **50% off** for **2 days only**

Aussie species for:

- gardens
- farms
- revegetation
- windbreaks
- wildlife attracting
- shade
- screening



Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  
Thursday & Friday 25–26 June

Princes HWY 5km South of Batemans Bay

Cash and cheque only

For more information call 4471 3348

All proceeds go to further developing the  
Gardens

## Friends of ERBG Membership Survey

Gail Stevens

This year the Friends' Committee decided to take the pulse of the membership. We embarked on a survey of members using both hard copy mailed questionnaires and responses and Survey Monkey, an Internet application. Our reasons for seeking member feedback was twofold. Firstly to seek member views about the organisation and secondly to garner ideas for how we might improve what we do.

In the world of surveys, we believe we received a very good response rate. Of 213 members surveyed, 100 responded—47% which is far better than many surveys receive. So thank you to those members who took time to complete the survey.

Once members join, Friends have members who choose to stay, with 93.2% of respondents holding memberships of longer than one year and more than 50% greater than five years. Seventy-two percent of respondents are female and all of those members who completed information about their age are over 45 with a significant 57% over 70 years.

Not surprisingly 79% of respondents identified 'Support for the Gardens' as their reason for joining Friends while discounts and newsletters were also considered good reasons for being a Friend. Overall Friends are satisfied (86.5%) but we can't rest on our laurels and will be looking at what we need to do to improve our rating. We were pleased to see many members would encourage others to join and will take up some of the excellent suggestions to make this happen.

The newsletter was considered to 'add value' to Friends' membership by 91% of respondents although some excellent suggestions for making *The Chef's Cap* even more interesting and enjoyable will definitely be appearing in future issues. Some feedback offered includes:

- Provide tips for gardeners including growing native plants, what pests and diseases are a problem locally;
- Feature information and photos of plants on sale in nursery;
- Start a series of articles, with photos, of plants from the collecting area starting with those only found in the region.

Comments about the various Friends' events and suggestions for a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration have all been taken on board. Among the suggestions received were:

- A walk around the Gardens, highlighting the projects funded by Friends over the years, followed by a get-together in the big marquee;
- Launch the appeal for funds for the Visitor Centre Redevelopment;
- Produce a brief history showing progress made.

The survey feedback we received covered a wide variety of issues. Some of these are matters for the Gardens Manager and Council and we shall be compiling that feedback to pass on to them. Other feedback offered suggestions that we can see presenting great opportunities to develop in partnership with Gardens management.

The survey responses were rich in ideas. In the next edition of *The Chef's Cap* we will present a brief overview of some of those suggestions that we think we can effectively put in place to make being a Friend even better.

### **Advance Notice—Fund-raiser Trivia Night at Malua Bay Bowls Club Saturday 22 August 2015 at 7 pm**

Some of the Table Captains have confirmed (see below), and they will be joined by others. You are welcome to contact a Table Captain if you would like to attend, or to put your name down on a response sheet that will be placed in the Visitors Centre in early August. More details later. Friends greatly appreciate donations of an original painting by Janice Seatonberry, and a Family Pass to Mogo Zoo, to be raffled on the night.

Fran Anderson      0427 580 533

Michael Anlezark      4471 3348

Sybil Buchanan      0431 766 749

Ken Foster      4472 3485





Little Forest Plateau collecting trip—Jayne Clark, Karen Cockerill, Will Higginson.

## News from the Nursery and Seed Bank

Will Higginson

### Collections over the past few months

The successful Giant Easter Plant Sale freed up some room in our nursery and enabled us to increase propagation and grow a range of new or lost species from our collection. In the first week in May we undertook a collection trip to Little Forest Plateau in Morton National Park where we walked the Florence Head Track. If anyone has not been to Little Forest Plateau it is well worth the drive. We collected seed from two mallee gums; *Eucalyptus stricta* (Blue Mountains Mallee Ash) and *Eucalyptus ligustrina* (Privet-Leaved Stringybark) which we are currently growing. These species are very attractive and very small (approximately 5 metres tall) as far as eucalypts go, so they have potential in residential or urban landscaping. We also collected cutting material from a range of species. These included *Sprengelia incarnata*, *Epacris obtusifolia*, *Bossiaea kiamensis*, *Stylidium lineare*, *Leptocarpus tenax* and *Actinotis minor* all which were new to the collection or were previously lost. These species will be a welcome addition to our growing sandstone section.

Early June we walked to the entrance of Coila Lake from Bingi and made collections of *Olax stricta* (which will be a new addition to the Gardens), along with *Platylobium formosum ssp. parviflorum*, *Casuarina glauca* and *Xanthorrhoea resinifera*. Other collections we made in the past few months were *Prostanthera incisa* and *Myoporum bateae*. In April Michael and I attended the FungiMap8 conference in Batemans Bay, where we learnt about fungi identification, making fungi collections and other interesting fungi related things. Looking to the future we will be heading to the Wadbilliga National Park in a few months to target a range of species including the endangered forb species *Dampiera fusca*.



**A newly discovered Variegated *Platysace lanceolata***

In mid last year an ERBG collection trip occurred to the Currowan State Forest. During this trip a passionate and very observant volunteer Cliff Williams found what appeared to be a variegated *Platysace* species. Variegation is a cell mutation where the cells produced lack plastid pigments (chloroplast), resulting in white coloration on the leaves. Leaf variegation is generally a rare occurrence in nature, but has become popular in indoor and outdoor ornamentals. The ERBG Herbarium staff identified the specimen as *Platysace lanceolata*, with obvious variegation running laterally along the leaves. This was confirmed when specimens were sent to the Australian National Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium for identification. To ensure that the variegation would remain true to the original plant, cuttings have been taken from at least 4 generations over the past eight months. At this point it is looking likely that this interesting and unusual trait will remain true to the original plant. *Platysace lanceolata* commonly known as Shrubby Platysace is an attractive and hardy shrub native to south-eastern Australia. *P. lanceolata* grows to 1 metre in height, tolerates sun or semi-shade and produces umbels of white flowers in summer. Currently there are no variegated forms of *Platysace* on the market and we are now at the stage where we can offer this interesting plant for sale. *Platysace lanceolata* (variegated *Platysace*) is a striking and unusual addition to a rustic or formal garden.

Whoever can come up with the best new common name for this species will win one! Just email your suggestions to [will.higginson@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au](mailto:will.higginson@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au)



Variegated *Platysace*





# Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

## Invite you to enter the **2015 Photographic Competition**

Entry is free with prizes to be won  
and a chance to have your image  
feature in the Gardens 2016 calendar

Details available at the  
Gardens Visitor Centre  
Open 9-4 Wednesday to Sunday  
Phone: 4471 2544 or online at  
[www.friendserbg.org.au](http://www.friendserbg.org.au)

Entries close 4pm 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

A Friends of ERBG initiative in partnership  
with Eurobodalla Shire Council



## **Black is the New Black in Batemans Bay and Moruya**

*This article is a media release from the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife. It first appeared in the Bay Post & Moruya Examiner on 11 May 2015 in abbreviated form.*

During late autumn and winter, Black Cockatoos are looking to start a family with their partners. This will mean plenty of show-off behaviour around the neighbourhood from some stylish males. Just like the hipster human equivalents, strutting their stuff down uber-trendy streets, the male Black Cockatoos are preening themselves and combing their quiffs in an effort to impress the ladies.

“There are five Black Cockatoo species in Australia and they can be found across much of the country,” said Ms Susanna Bradshaw, CEO of the Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. “There are three types of black cookies in New South Wales. The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is more common in Northern New South Wales and rural areas, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo is common along the coast and around Sydney, and the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo population is scattered along the coastline.”

“Unlike their Sulphur-crested cousins, Black Cockatoos do not damage houses and only eat fruit crops when their native foods are low or missing,” said Ms Bradshaw. “The distinctive cry of Black Cockatoos as they fly past on a crisp autumn day is a very sentimental Australian sound. Their intelligent and gentle nature is also a delight to witness. These unique Aussie birds are very deserving of our help to make our suburbs and towns better places for them.”

### **Tips for living with Black Cockatoos**

- With the extreme weather battering the eastern coast of Australia recently, many people are turning to the chainsaw to remove large trees from their properties. It is these big trees that many Australian animals depend on for nesting and protection. Land clearing is the single biggest threat to the Black Cockatoo. So please seek professional advice before removing trees and leave them be if they are safe or away from pedestrian areas.
- To encourage Black Cockatoos into your backyard, plant their favourite foods such as casuarinas, native pine trees, banksias and tall eucalypts.
- Radiata Pine is very popular with Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos who love to eat the pinecones. However, these trees are introduced and highly invasive. Before removing them, try to build up native trees nearby so that the cockatoos will still have somewhere to eat and hang out.

“Don't get the wrong idea about these show-off males,” said Ms Bradshaw. “The cockatoo pair will mate for life, which can be over 50 years, and they will care for each other into their old age, even after they can no longer reproduce. The male Black Cockatoo will dance to impress his mate by bopping his head like a hip-hop star and fluffing up his crest. He will also bring her food gifts, sing to her and preen her feathers to show his affection during the autumn breeding season. The female will often give the male a sharp peck for his efforts as if bringing him into line.”

Ms Bradshaw said, “Their gregarious and loving nature has made Black Cockatoos popular pets. Sadly there is a black market trade of these birds, particularly in the U.S. where they fetch the highest price. Because they are slow at reproducing, poachers illegally taking babies and eggs have significantly affected their wild numbers.”

### **Interesting facts about Black Cockatoos**

- Black Cockatoos are the biggest parrots in Australia.
- Most Black Cockatoos lay two eggs; however, only one chick will survive. The chick will stay with its parents for around six months, making these birds very slow reproducers.
- Old Australian bush lore suggests the screeching of a Black Cockatoo means that rain is on its way.



### For more information

To see if Black Cockatoos are in your area, please consult the

[Atlas of Living Australia](#).

You can search your location and see what species have been seen there, or you can search by type of animal, click the occurrence records and display these on a map of Australia.

For local information, please contact the Wildlife Officer or Bushcare Coordinator at your local council, or speak to a ranger at your nearest national park office. Contact Eurobodalla Natural History Society via their web page at [www.enhs.org.au](http://www.enhs.org.au). Guests are welcome at their field meetings on the second Saturday afternoon and fourth Sunday morning of most months.

Backyard Buddies is a free program run by Australia's Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife. Each month, you get a Backyard Buddies email (B-mail) with tips to make your backyard inviting and safe for native animals. Black Cockatoos featured in May B-mail. Sign up for B-mail and download a free factsheet about Black Cockatoos at [www.backyardbuddies.net.au](http://www.backyardbuddies.net.au).



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*)

© 2013 David Cook Wildlife Photography. All Rights Reserved.

### Images

For high-resolution digital images of Black Cockatoos, please download from this Dropbox link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6r300n8vnbg2mmf/AABM7l7XVHgftlkNKYPFbLgea?dl=0> and credit the photographer provided in the file name.

### Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

The Gardens sells selected plant species mentioned above. You'll find allocasuarinas growing in the Sensory Garden, around the Loop Track west of the car park, and up the hill towards the Deep Creek Dam. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are featured in the Gardens bird brochure. They and many other bird species can be seen at ERBG because botanic gardens like ours provide a reliable source of food and water.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens (FRBG) in Melbourne is again running its biennial natural history art exhibition - **reFraming Nature**. A special feature of this exhibition will be 'a room of miniatures' containing small-framed artwork. The surprisingly exquisite beauty of these miniscule natural history subjects cannot be over-emphasised.

**reFraming Nature 2015** will display artworks depicting ferns, fungi, lichen, insects, butterflies, marine life, pond life, shells, birds, fossils, amphibians as well as botanical subjects. All the paintings and drawings exhibited aim to be as scientifically accurate as possible while expressing, at the same time, artistic vision and creative individuality. All framed works are for sale as well as artists cards, unframed originals and prints.

Included in the exhibition will be a tribute to the "Whirlybirds". In the 1980s a group of artists interested in developing their skills in botanical illustration attended Anita Barley's classes at Burnley Horticultural College. Those artists' enthusiasm for botanical illustration inspired the introduction of regular botanical art classes at the RBG which continue to this day. These popular classes, taught by renowned Australian botanical artists, are held in the Whirling Room Studio (the inspiration for the original group's name) at the gardens. Thirty-plus years on a much expanded "Whirlybirds" group continues to meet at the RBG every Tuesday to paint, plan, share ideas and socialise.

**reFraming Nature** will run from October 10 - 25 except Sunday 18 when it will be closed because of the Melbourne Marathon. The exhibition will be held in Domain House Gallery, Dallas Brooks Drive, located behind the Shrine of Remembrance. Entry is by gold coin donation. All works are for sale. There will also be cards and unframed works for sale. The exhibition opens 10am daily and closes at 4pm on weekdays, 6pm on weekends.

**reFraming Nature** is a great opportunity for art lovers and collectors to acquire beautiful original art at modest prices and for everyone to experience an art form that is accessible, highly individual, and astonishingly beautiful.

**reFraming Nature** at a glance:

**Date:** 10-25 October (closed October 18 for Melbourne Marathon)

**Where:** Domain House Gallery, Dallas Brooks Drive, Melbourne 3004 (Behind the Shrine of Remembrance)

**Times:** 10-4pm weekdays, 10-6pm weekends

**Admission:** free (although a gold coin donation will help with our fundraising efforts). All framed works are for sale as well as artists cards, unframed originals and prints.



## Invitation to participate in study

Trevor King

My name is Trevor King and I have lived at Dignams Creek in Eurobodalla Shire since 1989. As part of my Masters Thesis for the School of Education at Federation University, I am undertaking research in education for sustainability.

For the past 10 years I have been investigating ways to integrate the study of natural history into cultural settings, for instance with the Cultural Reference Group assisting Eurobodalla Shire Council and with South East Arts. In 2006 I wrote a 'Style Guide for the Nature Coast' followed by a request by Bega Valley Shire Council to prepare an 'Artist's Style and Design Guide' for the redevelopment of Littleton Gardens, Bega in 2012. I am currently conducting sustainability research projects in Bermagui, and into the application of 'nature-based' aesthetics to local and regional health care settings including the newly constructed facilities at Moruya and Bega Hospitals.

Building on this work, I am interested in conducting new research into the way people gain and retain environmental knowledge. I wish to interview people who have a 'hands on' approach to gardening and place-making with indigenous flora because their knowledge is not only intellectual but involves all of the senses (embodied learning). In relation to ERBG, indigenous flora is being used to inspire a place-making endeavour that will contribute towards the development of a unique sense of place for this particular locale.

Key aims of this study, *Using participant engagement with Regional Flora to explore the development of Aesthetic and Affectionate Engagement*, are to:

- Investigate whether the embodied experience of place-making by participants assisted them in learning about regional flora.
- Examine whether the place-making processes involved in establishing the Gardens led to an enhancement of cultural connections with the region's ecology and a heightened sense of 'belonging' for participants.

A good deal of the research undertaken in this area of education is oriented towards sustainability learning outcomes for children. My study will involve mature adults and seniors to ascertain how increased participation and learning in education for sustainability may be achieved.

Up to ten participants are being sourced from among the volunteers of the Friends of ERBG. Information collected will comprise their values, attitudes, opinions and insights in relation to the development of their emotional attachments to, and aesthetic appreciation of, regional flora prior to, and over the course of their association with the Gardens.

I would appreciate your support to conduct the study. If you agree, could you please send confirmation of your support on the email address below as soon as possible?

Many thanks and kind regards, Trevor King, [trevorking.design@bigpond.com](mailto:trevorking.design@bigpond.com)

### Friends of ERBG Committee 2014–15

<b>President</b>	Heather Haughton	4471 3271	<b>Vice-President</b>	vacant
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**Acting Newsletter Editor** Heather Haughton [h@haughton.id.au](mailto:h@haughton.id.au)

**Visitors Centre Phone: 4471 2544 (in opening hours)**

Open 9 am to 4 pm Wednesday to Sunday and Public Holidays except Christmas Day and Good Friday, and open daily during NSW School Holidays.