



The Chef's Cap

Newsletter of the Friends of
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens

PO Box 1068 Batemans Bay 2536
Email: friends@erbg.org.au

September 2015

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of ERBG

Saturday 17 October 2015 at 2 pm in the Visitors Centre Meeting Room

Presentation of annual reports & election of the Friends committee 2015–2016

Quarterly Meeting of the Friends of ERBG immediately following the AGM

**Guest Speaker: Sonia Bazzacco, South East Local Land Services,
Batemans Bay**

Taking care of our coastal wetlands

Sonia works as a wetland biodiversity officer, undertaking rehabilitation works on coastal wetlands including salt marsh, mangroves, riparian areas, coastal floodplain, swamps, lakes and estuarine areas on private and public land. She will focus on some of the on-ground projects that Local Land Services has funded/facilitated, including; *Juncus acutus* control, fencing protection works of biologically significant wetland areas at Mogendoura Farm, erosion works on the Tomaga, and salt marsh rehabilitation projects.

Sonia is interested to hear about any other wetland issues that we may know of, and looks forward to discussing opportunities for the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens to propagate salt marsh plants for future rehabilitation works.



Juncus acutus,
Spiny or Sharp-pointed Rush

Coming Events (and a few recent ones)

Thursday 3 September 2015	Fund raiser Film Night, <i>A Walk in the Woods</i> 5:30 pm
Sunday 6 September 2015	Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am
Friday 11 September 2015	Photo competition closes
Friday 18 September 2015	Exhibition of short-listed photos; voting for the People's Choice Award in the meeting room, Visitors Centre ERBG
Thursday 24 September 2015	Breakfast with the Birds at ERBG, 7:30 am
Sunday 27 September 2015	Visit by Gardens Guides from many Botanic Gardens
Thursday 1 October 2015	Dinner celebrating Gold Eco Tourism award, Moruya
Sunday 4 October 2015	Market stall at <i>Art on the Path</i> , Broulee
Sunday 4 October 2015	Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am
Monday 5 October	Market stall at Tuross Head
Tuesday 6 October 2015	Plants and Preserves on sale at Moruya Farmers Market at 3 pm
Saturday 17 October 2015	Friends of ERBG Annual General Meeting & Quarterly Meeting 2 pm
Friday 23 October 2015	Awards presented in the photo competition, launch of 2016 Gardens Calendar, 5:30–7 pm, light supper and drinks
Sunday 1 November 2015	Guided Walk at ERBG at 11 am
Tuesday 3 November 2015	Plants and Preserves on sale at Moruya Farmers Market at 3 pm



Acacia blayana at the barbecues, ERBG, 19 August 2015.

Greetings to all members on the final occasion on which I write as President of Friends of ERBG. The past four years have been exhilarating and immensely rewarding in the opportunities afforded to me to represent your interests, and to have been supported by an enthusiastic and talented team of committee members. Without them we would not have achieved anywhere near the goals we have reached, and I sincerely thank them all. It's our collective good fortune that most are going to stand again for re-election.



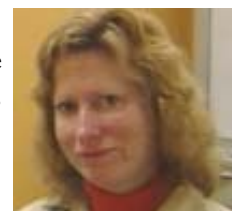
Annual General Meeting and Committee positions

I urge members to attend the AGM on Saturday 17 October, to show your support for the elected representatives who will take the Gardens into our 30th year. Our constitution limits office-bearers to four year terms in the one position, so this year I will step down. Three nominated committee positions are available, the Herbarium Curator and the Gardens Manager; and, if the AGM agrees, the Immediate Past President, which I would take. Jenny Liney and Michael Anlezark can take up the first two, which are non-voting *ex officio* seats.

There are four office-bearers' positions and up to six committee places to be filled. Of current serving members, Deborah Hamilton will not stand again but will remain an active member of the 30th Birthday Celebrations sub-committee. Thank you Deborah. Members of another sub-committee, the Working Party for the Visitor Centre Redevelopment, retain their places, and as Treasurer/Secretary of that group Sue Cogger will continue to report back to the Friends committee. The two other Friends representatives in the group are Stewart Needham and Peter Hickman. A nomination form is printed on the last page.

Editorship of the Friends Newsletter, *The Chef's Cap*

It is with great pleasure that I introduce Trish Richardson who will take over as Editor of the newsletter from the final edition for 2015. When I invited Trish to write something about herself, this is what she said:



Trish Richardson

'I'm greeted by open friendly smiles. "Hi I'm... and I believe you're our new editor..."

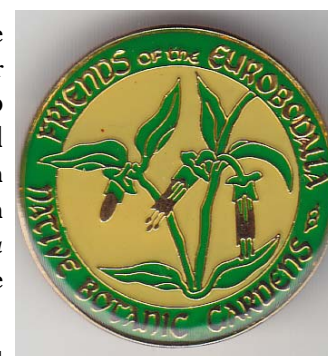
'So the first thing I've learnt is that the grapevine is thriving. That's okay, it can indicate a positive organisational culture. But is that also relief I see on their faces? What have I got myself into?

'We moved to Moruya around 3 years ago and joined the Friends the first day we visited ERBG. Its beauty and tranquillity, complemented by welcoming volunteers and staff, beckons you back; encourages you to contribute something and my something is going to be editing the newsletter. Its present quality will be challenging to enhance but I'll do my best. My most relevant qualifications include a BA and a National Diploma of Writing, Editing and Proofreading; my experience mostly corporate and educational. For something completely different (and to my amazement), I've also achieved first prize in a Federation of Australian Writers competition.

'I'm looking forward to working with you all and welcome your future assistance and contributions. I believe the Friends are a brains trust of information, talent and skills that we can share and foster through the newsletter so don't keep your expertise and lightbulb moments to yourself—add them to the brains trust newsletter!'

The new logo: see front page

Members who have been part of the Gardens family for 20 years will recognise the shape and features of the new logo on the front page. It is modelled on the first circular logo for the Friends of the Eurobodalla Native Botanic Gardens, prior to the name change in 1996 (see photo page 9). *Correa baeuerlenii* still holds pride of place. The need for a redesigned logo arose partly in response to changes in technology, the need to improve its visibility on our printed products, and partly from a desire to have the Friends' logo perceived on an equal footing with the circular generic Gardens logo, the one featuring *Macrozamia communis*. Friends of ERBG are grateful to Jarrad Needham who donated his expertise and time to design the new logo.



First Friends metal badge between 20¢ and 50¢ coin in size.

Finally, and what a note to end on, congratulations to all staff and volunteers past and present, on the Gardens' winning the Eco Tourism award in the South Coast Tourism awards 2015.

It's Gold for the Gardens!

I was really pleased to be able to attend the 2015 South Coast Tourism Awards night with my wife and Gardens volunteer Lynne and accept on behalf of the Gardens a trophy and certificate.



For the first time ever the Gardens were nominated for a major tourism award and were successful in winning first place. South Coast Tourism covers an area from Wollongong to the Victorian border and boasts a diverse and amazing array of first class tourist attractions. To come first in the Eco Tourism category is a great testament to the huge effort that the Gardens team has made. Well done staff, volunteers, Friends and our Eurobodalla Shire Council support team. Information about a celebratory dinner that Friends of ERBG are organising is printed later in this Newsletter.

As the Gardens slip into spring it is busier than ever with a record number of events and functions to occur over the next couple of months. These include weddings, tour groups, Breakfast with the Birds and children's activities.

Our visitor numbers continue to increase with statistics recorded at the end of the financial year showing a remarkable 49,236.

The access path to the new overflow parking area is now complete and the access road almost finished with the electricity to the carpark and picnic areas due for completion within the next three weeks.

Our Visitor Centre Redevelopment Working Group is making great progress with architects short listed for our next exciting stage.

The Farmers Market plant and preserves stall is going well and is great PR for the Gardens. The Market is at Moruya Riverside Park every Tuesday at 3 pm and we are there the first Tuesday of each month. Do go along and support this award winning Market.

I am very happy to announce that work has started on developing a new web site for the Gardens. This very important and overdue project will give a fresh new look and clear introduction to who we are and what we are all about. It has been developed so that our Gardens team can easily and regularly update content and images.

Other news is that our Seed Bank Officer and Nursery Coordinator Will Higginson got married in the first week in September and casual staff member and volunteer Lawrie Ball has decided to retire. Lawrie has been a valuable part of our team and fortunately for us does still hope to come and volunteer from time to time. A send off BBQ for Lawrie will be arranged in the coming weeks. I know I speak for many in offering best wishes to both Will and Lawrie.



South Coast Tourism Award night:
Michael Anlezark with Chief Judge Gordon Beattie

Many of you may know that my wife and I have been building a house on a beautiful small acreage in Moruya which is now very close to completion. This means that we will soon leave the Manager's residence in the Gardens. It has been both a privilege and a challenge living in the Gardens and I look forward to telling the story of this in another newsletter. Lynne is also keen to write an article about 'Life in the Gardens'.

Last year I started researching the potential uses of the Gardens residence once we depart and will update progress on this in the near future.

That's all for now. Michael Anlezark

An Overview of Income Over the Past Four Years

Sue Cogger

A recent membership survey that many of you participated in raised questions regarding our merchandising practices and I have taken this opportunity to respond to some of the points raised.

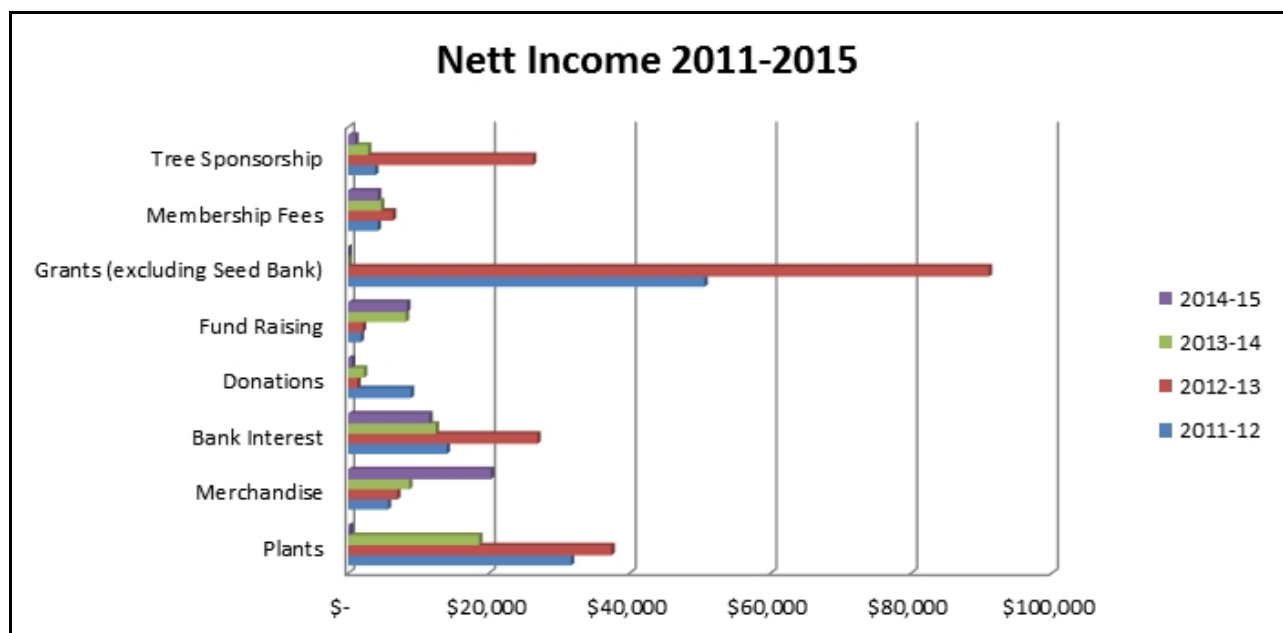
The Merchandising Committee comprises Lynne Anlezark and myself—I am the leaner and she is definitely the lifter on this committee. Anyone with retail experience or a strong interest in Friends' retail outlet would be more than welcome to join us.

When purchasing merchandise we try to act within the following guidelines:

- Buy Australian - where at all possible. Lynne has gone to great lengths to source Australian products, but unfortunately Australian manufacturers of items like snap snakes (an extraordinarily popular item) etc. are just not available
- Showcase and retail the work of local artists when the Visitors Centre renovations are completed
- Sell at below recommended retail price - the percentage varies from item to item
- Refresh and expand the range to keep return visitors buying
- Sell all items of clothing at cost.

The idea of the merchandise sales is to encourage visitors to the Gardens to support Friends' fundraising efforts. We have had to strengthen this area because Friends no longer gain any income from plant sales. All plant sales money goes to the Gardens' budget via the Gardens' Manager. The only plant sales we retain money from is 50% of those sold at local markets. The resulting loss of plant income was huge. In 2012/13 Friends received \$37,405; in 2014/15 it was \$248.

To give you an overview of our income I have produced a simple bar diagram showing the net income figure (i.e. after costs have been deducted) and their source.



Notes: Tree sponsorship is now finished and no longer an income stream.

Membership fees have remained stable over the period. There should be a slight rise in income in the 2015/16 year as we have increased fees.

Grant income was mainly for the Children's Play Space.

Fund Raising has increased from 2013–2015: volunteers from Friends have increased activity including presence at local markets and shopping centres, the Giant Plant Sale, film and trivia nights and organising sponsorships and sales of calendars.

Donations to Friends shown. As Trust Fund amounts are transferred straight to the Trust Fund I have not shown them in this graph.

Bank Interest - we all know the decline in rates since 2011/12.

Merchandise sales have increased considerably: 2012/13 - \$5, 629; 2014/15 - \$20,278.

Stock in hand as at June 2015 is approximately valued at \$8,000.

In addition to fundraising and sales, Friends actively seek funding from external sources to support the Gardens. The signs at the arboretum were funded by the B J Dahl Trust. Funding for items for Gardens volunteers including gas barbecues, office equipment and all-weather vinyl blinds was obtained from the Federal Government.

Some people commented that Friends have become too commercial and in response I have listed below what Friends have done and will do with the income earned since my involvement in 2012:

- Basic costs like insurances, stationery, postage, advertising, repairs and maintenance of equipment, subscriptions etc. approximately \$4,000 pa
- Provision of a printer and toner etc.
- Contributed \$50,000 to the Children's Play Space (in addition to contributions by Council, ERBG Trust and Grant Funds)
- Upgraded volunteers' facilities in the propagation area (bathroom and lunch area) \$5,000
- Volunteer refreshments provision has grown from \$533 to \$880 pa in 2014/15
- Timber seat \$500
- Purchased glass showcases to protect and display merchandise \$2,247
- Microscope for use in the Herbarium \$1,867
- Relocation of the workshop at a cost of \$20,400.

In addition, Friends have allocated \$30,000 to the barbecue upgrade, \$10,000 to the new carpark area and a further \$70,000 towards architectural fees associated with the design and submission of the Development Application for additions/renovations to the existing Visitors Centre. These funds will be spent in the near future.

The introduction of EFTPOS was also raised - it is something we are working towards, together with the ability to scan items rather than key them in. It is important we offer this option as we are losing sales because we do not have the facility. However, the flip side is that a number of our Meeters and Greeters are concerned about the technology and have indicated they would drop out of the M&G roster if it were to be introduced. Before we make this change we would have to organise a comprehensive training course and notes to ensure people are comfortable with the technology. It is definitely something we will have to do.

I hope this breakdown addresses the questions asked and informs the Friends on where the money is coming from and how we are contributing funds on an ongoing basis to the Gardens. If anyone has any specific questions regarding the financials I am more than happy to answer them.

Sue Cogger, Treasurer

Vale Noela Cant

A well-loved member of Friends and a longstanding volunteer was lost to the Gardens family when Noela Cant died in June. She will be remembered for her work in the Herbarium dating back to its days in the Moruya Council chambers and subsequently at ERBG, in the potting shed, at the Meet and Greet desk, and for taking charge of ordering our green shirts and jackets. In fulfilment of her wish, a party was held at the gardens on 13th July, attended by friends from Canberra, from Probus, from the Gardens and our local area. We send our sympathy to Brian, daughters Kerry and Amanda, son Greg and grandchildren Maddie and Jack.



Brian and Noela Cant at the 2009 Trivia Night.

Sue Grahame photo

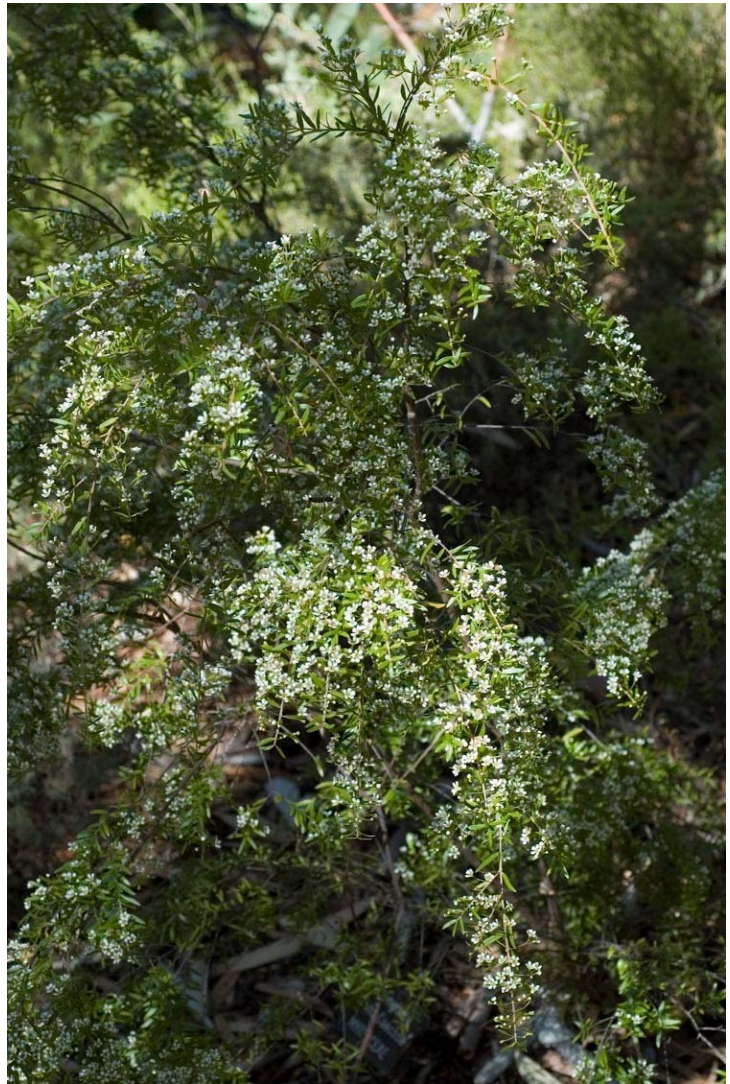
It's not easy to choose a favourite from the many indigenous plants I know and love. My mind initially jumps to splendid 'look at me' species and flamboyant displays of colour and form. When making a choice, however, I moved past noticeable good looks to subtle beauty, strength, reliability and an undemanding nature.

I never fail to admire the soft, weeping form of *Sannantha pluriflora* and to be thankful for this plant's co-operative character.

To find *Sannantha plurifolia* go to the bridge over Deep Creek between the Visitors Centre and the amphitheatre. As you walk towards the amphitheatre the bushes are growing along the creek on the right, beside the Prostanthera walk.

Looking at the photo you may recognize the plant but not the genus *Sannantha*. Perhaps you know this plant as *Babingtonia pluriflora* or may wonder if it is related to *Baeckea virgata*.

If you're perplexed about the recognition and naming of this plant, you're not alone. For 130 years botanists reviewed and revised the classification of plants broadly described as *Baeckea* by Bentham in 1867. In 1997 the Australian botanist Anthony R Bean transferred a group of eastern Australian plants previously listed as *Baeckea* to the resurrected genus *Babingtonia*, first named by Lindley in 1842. After re-evaluation in 2007 Peter G Wilson placed the plant known as *Babingtonia pluriflora* in the newly created genus *Sannantha* and retained the descriptive species name *pluriflora* = many flowers.



Sannantha pluriflora

Sannantha pluriflora is a flowering shrub belonging to the Myrtaceae family. In its natural habitat along the south-east Australian coast and coastal ranges it is found growing to a height of up to four metres. Short, fine mid green leaves are held on arched, gently weeping branches. Masses of small white flowers with five rounded petals appear between October and April, attracting butterflies and bees.

In gardens, as in nature, this amenable plant will grow in a variety of different positions and conditions. The original soil profile in my garden is extremely shallow topsoil over low nutrient shale sitting on a subsoil of dense yellow clay. I have planted *Sannantha pluriflora* in this soil and in soil with structure improved by the addition of organic matter, in both sunny and shady positions. All plants in my garden have survived, regardless of soil and position, and have self seeded. Growth rate has been influenced by soil tilth and available moisture, but I have not applied any additional nutrients. In a shady, dry area of my garden a *S. pluriflora* with a sparse and open lateral branching pattern holds foliage in rounded clusters at branch ends, reminiscent of plant forms found in Japanese gardens. I am considering removal of lower branches along each stem and tip pruning of foliage to produce cloud pattern topiary. *S. pluriflora* is also suitable for training as a bonsai specimen. Close planting at 400 - 500mm centres and regular tip pruning to encourage abundant foliage produces an informal hedge. When left to grow naturally the reward is a soft, weeping shrub, able to stand alone as a specimen plant or be massed for effect in drifts or copses.

The quiet loveliness of *Sannantha pluriflora* can be found and admired in diverse bushland habitats; complementing eucalypts in coastal forests, nodding along creek and river banks and springing up amongst rocky outcrops in mountain ranges. Brought into the garden, the combination of attractive form, foliage and flower, reliability, pest and disease resistance and diverse application make this beauty a favourite plant.

Suddenly, seemingly without warning, it is Annual Report time again. I am finding it increasingly difficult to keep up. However, it is good to look back and see what has been achieved during the past year.

Our specimen numbers have received a great boost during the period. The National Parks Narooma office while cleaning out its store room came upon a box of dried, annotated and mounted specimens collected by Phil Gilmour, a botanist who carried out extensive vegetation surveys in the Deua and Wadbilliga National Parks early in the 1980s. National Parks thought that we might be able to use them, and so we have.

It has taken months of steady work to go through them all: keeping those specimens that we need, adjusting locations and coordinates to match our system, following through name changes and other discrepancies. Many of Gilmour's species were not represented at all in our collection, and others showed particular features—buds or fruit or juvenile leaves—that we had not covered. It has been a challenge for volunteers to ensure that all the data is correct and compatible with ours. Everyone has been involved in some way, but I must mention Karen and Fran in particular who devised clever strategies to make everything fit.

Our Seed Bank Office and Nursery Manager Will Higginson, always happy to help, has often taken some of our volunteers with him on collecting trips and has returned from interesting places with interesting species. We are very grateful for his assistance. One of Will's projects has been to have the ERBG collections added to the Atlas of Living Australia, an online repository of information about Australian flora and fauna run by CSIRO in Canberra. This brings our Gardens and its collections to a much wider audience than we might otherwise have reached.

A smaller activity that we are trying to do ourselves, is to produce a small booklet describing some of the features that identify plant families. This will include beautiful line drawings done by Marion Muldrew, and will be put together with mathematical precision by Michele Fluke. It is intended that it be used by Gardens volunteers who work with plants, so that they can more easily place species in their correct group.

We have been very pleased to have ERBG apprentice, Luke Cumming with us on Thursday mornings for the past six months or so (when he is not required to relieve someone who feels the need to go on holiday). Luke's delight in finding a species that we have not collected before is very contagious. The knowledge that he has acquired, quite apart from anything that he has learned in the course of his TAFE studies, since starting at the Gardens is quite astonishing.

The planned listing of the Wallace Herbarium on Council's heritage register in the Eurobodalla Local Environment Plan 2012 was endorsed by Council for public exhibition in February 2015. The public exhibition took place in June/July 2015 following the issue of a gateway determination by the Department of Planning and Environment. Once a public hearing into other matters included in the planning proposal has been held, the proposal will go back to Council for final endorsement. The Herbarium has met internationally recognised criteria for heritage listing.

A new Herbarium volunteer, Caroline Metzler, has joined us since the last report. Caroline is a qualified ecologist with a good knowledge of plant species, and is thorough and careful when working on specimens that defy identification. She is a great asset to our team—Karen Cockerill, Marion Muldrew, Fran Anderson, Judi Rimmer, Michele Fluke, Helen Moore and Brian Cant.

The increase in our collection figures is shown in the accompanying table.

Jennifer Liney

Curator, Wallace Herbarium, ERBG

October 2015

	1 July 2014	1 July 2015
Total specimens	12680	13165
Families	168	172
Genera	717	738
Species	1745	1815
Fungi	197	197
Enquiries	130	151

Meeting and Greeting in Early Days

Judy Thomson

Four years after the 1994 fire, a small but growing number of volunteers took on a multitude of tasks to restore the Gardens. As enthusiastic volunteers, my husband David and I tried counting the plants growing back in a marked square on Track One. We really didn't have the skill or knowledge. Next we helped plant out *Microlaena* on the banks of the Ampitheatre. My fingers were far too clumsy. So we volunteered to welcome visitors.

By 1998, the Gardens open hours were limited to Saturdays, Wednesdays and Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. Fifteen minutes beforehand we would race up to the Nursery to sign in and collect the items for sale, yellow banners and money boxes from the locked 'cage'. Then to the Highway to put up banners, change the Closed to Open sign on hoarding and ensure entrance and exit gates were open. At the Gazebo in the car park we'd set up a table to display the postcards, note cards and plants for sale. Separate money boxes were labelled CARDS, PLANTS and DONATIONS.

By 11 am, we were ready to greet the arrivals and tell them something about the unique plan for a regional native botanic garden. We handed out a small Gardens pamphlet, the map for Track 1 and 2 and recorded the number of visitors and cars in a book provided. In spare moments we would water plants established in the car park, eat our sandwiches and have a cuppa, while remembering to get people to sign the Visitors' Book. No mobile phone distracted us, only the sound of the birds, but I did feel it would be good to have some means of calling for help—this came later. At 4 pm we had to reverse all the above, place the money boxes into the locked cage and sign off!

Today I feel quite nostalgic walking past the Gazebo. Those money boxes were so easy to manage compared with the dreaded Till! Time I signed off for good?



Original ERBG entry gazebo. The logo matches the badge on page 3.

Audrey Walton photo.

Friends of ERBG Committee 2014–15

President	Heather Haughton	4471 3271	Vice-President	Victoria Callioni	4471 7420
Secretary	Chris Heazlewood	04 1753 2358	Treasurer	Sue Cogger	4471 7452
Committee	Jenny Liney	4474 5610		Ken Foster	4472 3485
	Gail Stevens	4471 3850		Stewart Needham	4471 5718
	Joan George	4474 4244		Fran Anderson	04 2758 0533
	Deborah Hamilton	4471 3640			

Gardens Manager Michael Anlezark 4471 3348 email: michael.anlezark@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au

Acting Newsletter Editor Heather Haughton 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.



Winners are Grinners.

Photo: Josh Gidney, *Bay Post*

Trivia Night Success

Thank you to all members and their guests who helped Friends raise \$1,280 on Saturday 22 August 2015 at the Malua Bay Bowls Club. These funds will contribute to building new barbecues at the Gardens. Prizes were kindly donated for the raffle by local artist and Friends member Janice Seatonberry, by Mogo Zoo and by Friends; the Bowls Club donated use of the room and six bottles of wine; and committee members donated innumerable boxes of chocolates. Winning team on the night was *Broulee Bookies*. Six of the *Broulee Bookies* are pictured. Left to right: Ed Gilmour, Max Wilson, Jill Howell, Diddy Needham, Fran and Derek Anderson. Out of shot: Stewart Needham and Karen Gilmour. Karen also won third prize in the raffle.

Breakfast with the Birds, Thursday 24 September 2015, 7:30 am at ERBG

Leaders, all members of Eurobodalla Natural History Society, are Mandy Anderson, Lyn Burden, Peter Haughton and Dave Kay.

We have chosen to organise this annual event in the school holidays for the first time, hoping that family groups will attend. A continental breakfast at the barbecues will follow an exploration of the Gardens to see birds in their springtime vigour. For personal comfort we suggest using your insect repellent. Fifty places are available, and pre-booking is essential. Pay in cash on arrival. Your fee covers the walk and breakfast.

Fees: Members of ERBG \$12, Non-member adults \$15,
Children and students \$10, Family group (say 2+2) \$30

Booking by Sunday 20 September: phone or e-mail Heather Haughton, 4471 3271, h@haughton.id.au

An optional extra: if you would like a DIY barbecued breakfast after you've consumed the continental one, you are welcome to BYO food, utensils and portable table.

If the **weather** is seriously awful we will send a cancellation notice to ABC South East radio.



Eastern Yellow Robin Photo: Steven Benjamin

I hope the early start will be worthwhile at Breakfast with the Birds on Thursday 24 September and we are rewarded with many sightings of the birds which regularly call the Botanic Gardens home.

Without leaving the café, we are almost certain to see lots of Superb Fairy-wrens, with the males now in full breeding plumage, and the brown females showing interest in their colourful mates. White-browed Scrubwrens are becoming plentiful near the café: look for a small brown bird with three diamond dots on its wing pecking the leaf litter. Yellow Robins (grey back, yellow front) are also well used to humans and may be seen on the ground or at around head height in trees. New Holland Honeyeaters are probably the most numerous and bossy of the Gardens' birds. Spot their black and white streaked plumage and bright yellow patch on the wing. If you cast your eye down to the nearby dam, you are sure to see Purple Swampheens and perhaps a Wood Duck (Maned Duck) or two.

One bird which has been fairly difficult to spot until recently has been the Bassian Thrush, formerly known as the Australian Ground Thrush. It has an intriguing speckled appearance and is most commonly observed foraging on the ground for worms and other terrestrial creatures amongst the leaf litter. Is it becoming accustomed to human company? I recently observed a pair in the nursery.

At Breakfast with the Birds I hope that I and the other guides will be able to help visitors identify some of the smaller brown species - the thornbills, fantails, pardalotes and scrubwrens. We are all familiar with the calls of the Magpie, Kookaburra and perhaps the Grey Shrike-thrush, but the smaller honeyeaters, whistlers and thornbills also have distinguishing calls, and here again your guide can help. Whip birds regularly inhabit the moister gullies and their call echoes through the grounds.

Everyone who comes to Breakfast will get a copy of the ERBG's useful colour brochure featuring the "Top 40" birds - those seen most regularly at the Gardens. Many birds are migratory and therefore seasonal, and there can never be a guarantee with bird watching. Sometimes the birds we most expect to find can be missing but, on the other hand, it is not uncommon to spot something unusual and exciting. Perhaps a Rose Robin will make its presence known with its shrill referee's whistle.

There is always something special to see at the Gardens so don't forget your binoculars.



Bassian Thrush

Photo: Ann Christiansen



Dinner with the Stars

Come and be a star at your own dinner party!



To celebrate ERBG's winning the Gold Eco Tourism Award at the South Coast Tourism Awards in August, Friends of ERBG are organising our own celebration.

The Mayor, Councillor Lindsay Brown, will be our guest.

We congratulate all past and present staff and volunteers and recognise the role of the Friends in providing behind-the-scenes financial support.

Date and time: **Thursday 1 October 2015, 6 for 6:30 pm**



Place: Balcony on Shore restaurant, above the Adelaide Hotel, Moruya.
Enter from Shore Street. There is disabled access.



Cost: **\$30 per person.** Friends are subsidising this cost.
Purchase your own drinks at the restaurant bar.



Booking: e-mail to Heather Houghton, h@haughton.id.au or phone 4471 3271

Payment: **Please pay when you book.** There are three options for payment:
by mailed cheque to Friends of ERBG, PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay NSW 2536;
by cash at ERBG (using the Events key on the till); or
by Electronic Funds Transfer or Internet Banking Pay Anyone to:
Friends of ERBG, BSB 641 800, a/c no. 200175567.



Use first six characters of your family name plus initial for Reference.

Whichever is chosen, **please e-mail confirmation of payment method** when you book.

RSVP: **Friday 18 September 2015**

Preferential seating for staff and active volunteers. The restaurant seats 60.

Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Nomination form for committee 2015-16

I , being a financial member of the Friends,
wish to nominate who is also a financial member
of the Friends, for the position of
(President/Vice-President/Secretary/Treasurer/Committee Member)

Signed: Date / /

Seconded by , also a financial member of the Friends.

Signature of seconder: Date / /

Nominee: I consent to the above nomination—

Signature: Date / /