

CORREA

Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden Newsletter

Indigofera australis

Spring 2026

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President's Report

Derek Anderson

Welcome to the spring edition of your *Correa* newsletter. The last editions were prepared by Kathleen Patrick with input from many Friends contributors. Chris Heazlewood will now lead the editorial team to continue to prepare and publish this important informative newsletter. On your behalf, your Committee would like to thank Chris for agreeing to take on this important role.



During the June long weekend, Friends held our Book & Bake sale. Many Friends together with Garden staff assisted in setting up, staffing stalls and packing up over the weekend. I would like to thank all those who gave their time over the four days to make this Friends event so successful. The homemade baked cakes, biscuits and chocolates were a big hit. In the last edition I reported that Kathleen Patrick had organised a day of silk screen printing of T-shirts; 40th anniversary poster tea-towels were printed commercially, and both of these were sold on the day. Our own tea-towel is now a wall hanging in pride of place.



Friends hard at work at the Book & Bake Sale, K. Patrick



Visitors getting themselves a book bargain at the Book & Bake Sale, K. Patrick

Preparations for the rest of our celebratory year are well underway including for our bush dance, to be held on Sunday 4th October, from 4pm till 7pm on the lawn below the Garden Visitors Centre. You will be able to purchase Cut & Run pizza, and delicious home-made flavoured ice creams from the famous Clyde River Berry Farm. Local band *The Country Pumpkins* will be providing the music and calling the

dance. This event should be great fun and an opportunity to contribute to Garden's next amazing project, The Discovery Garden.

Friends and the Garden (through the Shire Council) have purchased a new storage shed which has been built in the nursery precinct. Friends and Garden staff are in the process of establishing the best layout for the sharing of this new facility. Whilst not a Friends co-operative project, the Garden has created a facility for WIRES to nurse injured wildlife which is hidden in amongst the trees opposite the nursery and herbarium. This personal project of Michael's is a great demonstration of how the Garden can work with local community organisations within the Shire. Friends congratulate Michael on this important project supporting WIRES.

Our series of speaker talks continued with Dr Tim Entwisle presenting "The Sceptical Botanist" in August. A full report is included in this edition. It was an excellent presentation with some thought-provoking questions followed by afternoon tea. Many thanks to Friends who volunteered to set up the Banksia Room, and to those who attended helping to pack up afterwards too.

Our next speaker talk is set for 7th November for pollination week. This should be a fascinating presentation, as pollinators of all types, insects, birds, small mammals are so important and in some areas are sadly in decline.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday 17th October, commencing at 2pm. Final reports for the previous 12 months will be presented, plus the election of a new Committee. Several members who have served on the Committee for a number of years have decided not to nominate again. As this will be the last edition prior to the A.G.M. I would like to thank those members for their contribution during the time they have been on the Committee.

Till next time,

Derek Anderson

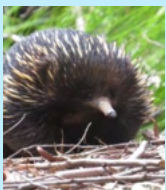
Hello From the New Editor

I wish to introduce myself as the new Editor of the Correa Newsletter. I have been a member of Friends and a garden volunteer since 2014. I have also served as Committee Secretary and inaugural Convenor of the Jenny Liney Scholarship Committee. I am looking forward to supporting Friends in this role and to receiving contributions from any Friend who wishes to reflect on your experiences with the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, in your own garden or generally in our beautiful part of the world.



Chris Heazlewood

Celebrating Australia's Remarkable Echidnas and Citizen Science



The short-beaked echidna is one of Australia's most unique and elusive creatures, and as the weather warms up, these fascinating animals are becoming more active in the wild. They may be spotted in backyards or crossing roads, and their sightings offer a rare glimpse into the life of one of our country's most adaptable species. Did you know that you can help researchers by sharing your echidna sightings? See [here](#) for more information.

Garden Manager's Report

Michael Anlezark

The dry weather throughout Autumn has continued into Winter with only 41mm recorded at the Garden over June, July and August, the long term forecast now raising concerns. Many of the ponds at the Garden are quite low and we are having to regularly replenish water features.

It seems to have been a relatively short winter with only a handful of frosts that are evident by the poor condition of the Crinum lilies at the front of the visitor centre which will as usual spring back in no time. Many Acacias are in full bloom with many other species starting to bud up.

Our wildlife is also getting into spring mode and is as abundant as usual with birds being particularly visible and vociferous. Two notable additions are Gang-gang and Bassian Thrush chicks which have been spotted for the first time. With Avian influenza arriving on the south coast we are certainly fearful for the wellbeing of the Garden's rich population of birdlife many of which we interact with regularly such as the Grey Shrike Thrush and Superb Blue Wrens that regularly visit staff and volunteers in the hunt for morning tea and lunchtime crumbs, Nature's entertaining little vacuum cleaners.



WIRES Wildlife Centre, M. Anlezark

Activities in the Garden as usual never stop and a couple of projects covered in the last edition have had great progress. The long awaited WIRES wildlife recovery and rehabilitation facility being built near our nursery precinct is now almost complete with most of the structure in place. Once doors and a couple more mesh panels are in place and landscaping is complete we should be ready to accept wildlife. At this stage it is likely that the facility will only be used for possums until Avian influenza protocols are established.

The new shed that Friends shared costs for is now complete and being fitted out with shelving. This will provide much needed additional storage for Friends and the Garden.



Friends new shed, M. Anlezark

The next project to get off the ground will be the rebuilding of our Sensory Garden which will be called the Discovery Garden. I look forward to providing more information about this project in the next edition.

We welcome our new Horticulturist Christine Elwes to our team.

Christine started with us in early August but is no stranger to the garden having previously volunteered and being temporarily employed to assist in our bush fire recovery. Many locals will also know Christine from her position at Moruya Library.

If you want information on any of the great activities or events happening at the garden be sure to visit our upcoming [events page](#) or subscribe to our [Garden Path newsletter](#). It's easy, free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Till next time,

Michael Anlezark

Fungimap and the great Australian Fungi Hunt

Grahame Clark

This interesting talk was given at the recent Fungi Festival by Dr Michael Priest, president of Fungimap. He covered the objectives of Fungimap and how ordinary observers with a smart phone or camera can help. The project has three objectives. First to map fungi distribution, second to raise awareness of the role of fungi and third to provide advocacy for the consideration of fungi in policy decisions. These days fungi are not regarded as either flora or fauna but as a separate taxonomic kingdom giving rise to the 3Fs - Flora, Fauna and Fungi.

The typical sign of fungi is the classic toadstool which is the “fruit” of the fungus as it is the way fungus reproduces by spreading spores. There are many other shapes this spore producing body can take including spikes, star shapes and brackets on trees as well as underground ones such as truffles. These visible signs are only the reproductive parts of the fungi. The largest part is underground and called the mycelium composed of minute hair-like underground threads spreading like roots. It is thought the world’s largest living organism is The Humongous Fungus in Oregon whose mycelium covers over 2000 acres and is estimated to weigh 35000 tons and be 8500 years old. In comparison fungi also occur in microscopic form such as moulds and yeasts. Living in the human body there are around 200 distinct species of these micro fungi.

At present the scientific study of fungi (mycology) is badly represented in academic Australia. There are no dedicated mycological courses at Australian universities and no Australian herbarium has a full time mycologist. Fungimap originated in Victoria in 1995 to map the distribution of fungi which was virtually unknown. This information could then provide objective input to conservation policy decisions. A field guide to Fungi called Fungi Down Under was published in 2005 to raise awareness of fungi generally. It is now out of print though a second edition is being prepared.

The field naturalist can help financially by joining Fungimap. But even if not a member you can help in establishing fungal distribution by submitting records. Originally records were submitted to Fungimap with a species identification. Nowadays Fungimap uses the free app iNaturalist which will identify species using AI. All you have to do is photograph the fungus and submit it to iNaturalist. Then even if it cannot be identified by AI it will be later be identified by a human. Even if identified by AI it will be checked by a human before being totally accepted. One photo can be enough. However the ideal observation would be one with four photos. Close ups of the top and side views as well as the underside of a cap if it’s a toadstool type. Finally a picture of the fungus in its habitat. A useful hint was that an easy way to take the underside is to turn the phone upside down.



Figure 1. Emperor Cortina



Figure 2. Earth Star

Here and above are some photos of fungi seen in the Garden.



Figure 3 *Anemone stinkhorn*



Figure 4 *Mutinus species Stinkhorn*



Figure 5 *Birds Nest Fungus*



Figure 6 *Wineglass Fungus*

Financial Report of the 2026 Book & Bake Sale

Many thanks to all the book contributors, volunteers, garden staff, bakers and buyers. Your efforts resulted in a very successful Book & Bake Fair. The following is a breakdown of monies raised:

- Books \$3,278.00
- Baked Goods \$974.50
- Jams etc. \$129.55
- Merchandise \$1,612.50
- Donations \$31.95
- **TOTAL \$6,026.90**



We could not have asked for better weather or a nicer crowd of volunteers and Garden Staff to work with. Many lessons have been learnt by this experience and we are already working on a plan for a bigger and better Book & Bake next June long weekend – keep us in mind.

Flies: Unsung heroes of pollination

Phil Warburton

Wherever you go in our beautiful region, from our coastal heathland to the forests and wetlands, pollination is a bustling activity on a massive scale. Whilst the introduced European honeybee often steals the spotlight, Australian native bees and a variety of other insects do much of the work in this industry, as they have for millions of years. Amongst them is one group of pollinators that is often overlooked but plays a major and sometimes dominant role: the dipterans, or true flies.

Often treated as annoying pests, these winged marvels are essential to the reproduction of both native plants and horticultural crops, often playing other critical ecosystem roles at the same time.

Native Plants and Fly Pollination

Hoverflies are a prominent example of dipteran pollinators. They are very much in evidence in the ERBG and many of our plants are pollinated by this group. For example, shrubs of *Pomaderris* sp. grow in marshy areas in the gardens and, as this is the sort of terrain that hoverflies prefer for their breeding, it is not surprising that there is a frequent pollination relationship between hoverflies and this plant. In one visit during the spring flowering, five species of hoverflies were observed on the *Pomaderris discolor* near the ERBG barbecue area including the stunning white-spotted red hoverfly, *Odyneromyia iridescens*, which had never been previously photographed as a live insect.



Figure 1: The white-spotted red hoverfly, *Odyneromyia iridescens* in the family Syrphidae

Another prominent pollinator group in the ERBG are the nose flies such as *Stomorhina subapicalis*, with its extraordinary patterned eye colours. Primarily a generalist nectar feeder, this member of the blow fly family pollinates as it goes with pollen sticking to its hairy ventral surfaces. Unlike bees, it does not gather pollen for its nest and so carries out pollination efficiently with minimal depletion of the flower's pollen resource.



Figure 2: A nose fly, *Stomorhina subapicalis*

Many other species of blowflies and tachinid flies are found in the ERBG and contribute significantly to pollination. These flies are multi-tasking friends of our bushland plants. Some act as waste recyclers and also population controllers for other insects and small creatures that might otherwise cause extensive plant damage. A good example lies in the snail-parasitising blow flies, such as *Amenia imperialis*.

The photo shows a female collecting nectar from Kunzea flowers in the ERBG.

This blow fly lays live larvae on snails which are consumed by the larvae until the next generation of adult fly emerges from the now-dead mollusc.

Many of our plants are completely reliant on Dipteran pollinators. For example, some of our native orchids are solely pollinated by flies. One such case is the beautiful pixie cap orchid, *Acianthus fornicatus*, and these are pollinated by non-biting midges in the family Chironomidae. The non-biting midges cannot claim all the glory though; their biting cousins in the family Ceratopogonidae are also essential pollinators including several important crop plants (not least being the cacao tree from which we get chocolate).



Figure 3: Snail-parasitic blowfly, *Amenia imperialis*

How plants attract dipteran pollinators

The mechanisms for attracting dipterans to pollinate flowers are varied and sometimes differ from the mechanisms that attract generalist pollinators. Whereas plants use nectar rewards for bees and generalist pollinators, flies may be targeted using a deception strategy. Some plants emulate a sexual partner for flies with others imitating their preferred foods; pale or dull coloured flowers, perhaps with the smell of rotting carrion or the odour of fungus. One of our ERBG orchids has quite a unique approach. Frit flies obtain nutrition by lapping the eye secretions of mammals and it has been suggested that our *Genoplesium* orchids exploit this; their flowers are thought to mimic a weeping animal's eye to attract this pollinator to the flowers. We do not yet know if the visual appearance is backed up by volatile organic compounds to enhance the deception but a current University of Sydney study, that includes the ERBG orchids, may clarify this point.

Appreciating the Little Things

A study carried out in the ERBG in 2021, after the devastating bush fires that swept the country, showed that the balanced ecosystems in our bushland had been badly disrupted by the fires. The flies were seriously impacted and population numbers were well down, including the frit flies that pollinate the *Genoplesium* orchids. Ground nesting spiders, that survived the fires, laid webs around the flowers of these orchids but failed to find much prey and the flowers found few of their pollinating insects. The bush eventually recovers from such disruptions but if extensive fires become more frequent, as a likely consequence of climate change, the pressure on our pollinators and other wildlife will grow.



Figure 4: A frit fly being attracted to *Genoplesium* flowers

As many of our pollinators are under pressure from invasive competitors, habitat destruction, climate change and pesticide usage, it is a good time to appreciate the wide array of insects that our plants depend on, including the flies. Our tiny dipteran friends are a multi-tasking heroes of the bush ecosystems. They are well worth appreciating and should be valued for their huge contribution.

Phil will be a presenter at our Pollinator Week talk on 7 November 2026. (Ed)

Pittosporum revolutum (Rough Fruited Pittosporum)

David Kay

Original article was previously printed in the Eurobodalla Natural History Society newsletter and is reprinted with permission (Ed).

Having seen the rather stunning seed capsules of this plant on a recent walk, it prompted me to do a bit of research into the species.



Pittosporum revolutum Fruit, Wikimedia Commons

Pittosporum revolutum has a mainly coastal distribution in NSW, extending just into the central tablelands and central western slopes. It extends up the coast as far as Cooktown in Queensland and into the north-east corner of Victoria, with one final disjunct patch between Bairnsdale and Orbost. It grows in rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest, and in dry sclerophyll forest in the south of the range.

Pittosporum revolutum is a spreading shrub or small tree to about 1–4m high. Branchlets and leaves are covered with rusty-coloured, short-matted hairs. The older leaves are smooth with occasional hairs on the

lower surface. Leaves are dull, dark green, alternately arranged or clustered, oval, elliptic or egg-shaped, 4–15cm long, 3–6cm wide, and the margins wavy or smooth. The fragrant, bisexual yellow flowers, varying in number, are borne at the end of branches in clusters (pedicels) 4–15mm long. Sepals are lance-shaped about 5mm long, petals are oblong-shaped, down-curved, 10–20mm long and yellow. Flowering occurs in September and October and the fruit is a yellow-orange coloured capsule, ellipsoid or globe-shaped, 12–20mm long, warty and wrinkled. The seeds are orange to red or red-brown, sticking together in a mass as they are coated with a sticky resinous substance; very showy if produced in large numbers.

Pittosporum is a large genus of about 150 species, extending to Africa, southern Asia, the Pacific Islands and New Zealand.

There are about 14 Australian species, occurring in all states. *Pittosporum revolutum* was first formally described in 1811 by W.T.Aiton and the description was published in *Hortus Kewensis*. The specific epithet (*revolutum*) means "curling down" referring to the petals. The species has a number of common names including rough-fruited pittosporum, yellow pittosporum, Hairy Pittosporum, Lemon-fruited Pittosporum, Brisbane laurel and wild yellow jasmine.



Flowers, By Allthingsnative, Wikipedia Commons

The species can be grown in a garden situation and plants are available commercially. It is a very attractive plant in flower as well as in fruit. Seeds are eaten by Figbirds and Satin Bowerbirds while the flowers attracts bees, butterflies and other insects. It is useful as a fast-growing hedge or screen plant and can be grown in a sunny to dappled light situation, in most soils. It has limited frost tolerance. Propagation can be carried out from seed which germinates readily without treatment. This species was reportedly used by First Nations People of Australia for food. It is not considered to be at risk of extinction in the wild.

Professor Tim Entwisle AO “The Sceptical Botanist”



Michael Anlesark, Tim Entwisle and Derek Anderson at the event, L. Vincent

Our guest speaker on 15 August was Professor Tim Entwisle, AO, a highly respected botanist, broadcaster and author with more than 30 years' experience working in some of the world's leading botanic gardens. His distinguished career has included senior roles at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney and Kew Gardens in London, where he was Director of Conservation, Living Collections and Estates.

Speaking to a full house in the Banksia Room, Tim gave us a fascinating and entertaining insight into his career, his passion for plants and the ideas behind his latest book, *The Sceptical Botanist: Separating Fact from Fiction*.

Tim began by sharing some of his early experiences as a student and writer, and how his interest in botany developed. He recalled being

captivated by seeing a plant cell for the first time and becoming increasingly fascinated by the Australian bush and its extraordinary plant life.

His particular passion soon became algae. His first research project focused on a freshwater red alga, and his honours project involved searching for and describing these algae wherever he could find them. Tim subsequently completed a PhD and postdoctoral research in algal studies. He shared a particularly memorable and amusing story about collecting algae in Katherine in the Northern Territory in 2008 – an area well known for its crocodiles!

Tim has had the unusual distinction of working at three of the world's eight great botanic gardens, including Kew Gardens in London and the Royal Botanic Gardens in both Melbourne and Sydney. His career has encompassed botanical research, conservation, writing, public communication and the management of living collections. He has also played an important role in encouraging botanic gardens to respond to environmental challenges, including climate change.

The focus of Tim's talk was his newest book, *The Sceptical Botanist: Separating Fact from Fiction*. Written to entertain, provoke and inform, the book explores a fascinating collection of questions about plants and gardens and challenges some of the claims we commonly hear about the natural world.

Are plants intelligent? Do trees communicate with one another? Can a plant use up all the oxygen in a room while you sleep? Are some plants truly immortal? Through a series of essays, Tim examines these and many other questions, separating established scientific fact from popular myths, misconceptions and exaggerated claims. Tim described himself as being "stubbornly sceptical" about implausible and outrageous assertions. His approach, however, is not simply to dismiss unusual ideas. Instead, he encourages us to be curious, to ask questions and to look for the evidence behind what we are told.

This combination of scientific knowledge, curiosity and humour made his presentation both informative and highly entertaining.

Tim has written several books that reflect his broad interests in plants, gardens and the natural world including *Sprinter and Sprummer*, published in 2014, which challenges the traditional concept of four seasons and encourages us to think differently about the seasonal changes we observe in the natural world. The book also reflects Tim's interest in climate change and the ways in which plants and gardens respond to a changing environment.



The sceptical botanist, Tim Entwisle, L.Vincent



Tim Entwisle takes questions, C.Heazlewood

His 2022 memoir, *Evergreen: The Botanical Life of a Plant Punk*, provides a personal account of his life and career in botanic gardens. Tim's latest book, *The Sceptical Botanist*, continues his tradition of combining scientific knowledge with accessible and engaging storytelling. Professor Entwisle kindly brought several copies of *The Sceptical Botanist* to the talk, which he personally signed for purchasers. The book is also available through the ERBG Shop.

A big thank you to Tim for sharing his knowledge, stories and infectious enthusiasm with us, and to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success.

REMINDER: Annual General Meeting 17 Oct 2026

Members of Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden are advised the Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00pm on 17th October 2026. A notice will be emailed to members with more detail a minimum of 21 days before the meeting date.

There are many significant areas in which Friends can participate and support the continued growth and development of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden. Our committee works to support this valued community asset and new and existing Friends can help by getting involved.

Please consider if you could contribute as a committee member to promote and support Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden as Friends have done since the Garden's inception.

The Friends Committee has documents outlining the range of roles and responsibilities for all our Committee positions. These may help you, as a member, decide whether you have the skills and interest to nominate for a Committee position. Please give it your consideration. Being on Friends' Committee can be very satisfying and this coming year promises to deliver in spades.

Celebrating 40 years of Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden

1986 – 2026

As a special addition to the Correa for our 40th year, we will be looking back over the decades across this year's editions. We will look back at a range of historical snippets and stories relating to each decade of the 40 years.



In this issue we will look back at the second decade of the Garden from 2006 to 2015 including:

- An overview of the decade
- Recollections from Michael Anlezark, Garden Manager
- Playspace: A long and winding road to success!



Friends volunteers, 2007



Bridge on track 3 is washed away, 2007



Aboriginal Heritage Walk committee, 2007



Pat, Harry and Lawrie install the dragon, 2011

2006 – 2015 Friends' Third Decade of Supporting ERBG

Gail Stevens

In the first Correa edition of 2006 the President, Don Walton, included the following in his report to members:

“The Friends have but two criteria in the functioning and advancement of the Gardens, first is to raise finance for capital projects and second to provide a constant source of volunteers to do the work, maintenance and promotion of the Gardens.”

Fundraising

As well as providing many hours of volunteer labour to support both the development and maintenance of the Garden, Friends also raised funds for Garden projects, through market stalls selling plants and preserves; trivia nights; sponsorships (Village Centre); raffles and funding applications.

Infrastructure

Work continued developing the walking tracks, enlarging the plant nursery and arboretum, upgrading



Walking track 2009, K. Foster

the Garden entry and maintenance of the Garden as a whole.

ERBG's Sensory Garden opened in 2007. Sensory gardens engage as many of our senses as possible. They help reduce stress, aid cognitive development, and offer grounding experiences for individuals of all ages and physical or cognitive abilities.



Sensory Garden, K. Foster

The ERBG Aboriginal Heritage Walk was opened in 2008. Its signage helped make it a wonderful experience for visitors who came especially to the Garden to learn how our native plants have been used by the original owners of this country.

A Children's Walk catering to 3 to 10 year old children was opened in early 2007. The walk installed models of local animals to introduce children in an interactive and fun way to the

importance of bush habitat in providing food and shelter. Models were placed at eight separate stations around the track together with an interpretive sign posing the question "who eats that?" With each sign an illustration of the food of a particular animal and a "lift-up" flap enabled children to discover the answer. Children could then look for the model animal camouflaged in the vegetation.

The Children's Playspace was opened in 2012. This project was made possible through financial contributions from Council, Friends and the NSW State Government. The Playspace, along with improved barbeque facilities, has proven to be extremely popular. Its story is covered in a separate article in this edition.

Nature

On the morning of Sunday 5 September 2010 gale force winds with gusts up to 148 km/h hit the Garden - trees were uprooted, large branches broken and significant damage was inflicted on the new Orchid House.



Orchid House destruction after windstorm, NSW Fire Service helping with clean up, tree down on site.

As early as the Tuesday morning, help arrived. As well as Friends, Garden volunteers and individuals from our local community who contributed hours of labour, local businesses such as Skyline Tree Services and various community groups assisted ERBG. Notably the Batemans Bay Rural Fire Service crew brought their chain saws, and others like the Narooma Bush Walkers and staff from the Service One Credit Union from Canberra organised working bees to assist.



Opening of the rebuilt orchid house, 2011

Eurobodalla Walking for Pleasure, Moruya Garden Club and the Shoalhaven Orchid Society, also donated funds to help restore ERBG's damaged facilities, particularly the native orchid house.

Herbarium

During this period the herbarium, despite operating out of the shared space off the walk through breezeway under less than perfect conditions, was busy. Under the leadership of Jenny Liney, Honorary Curator, the Herbarium was engaged to undertake vegetation surveys throughout the Shire e.g. Coila

Lake saltmarsh, Flying Fox Bay Rainforest and more. Universities and their PhD students sought access to herbarium specimens and it undertook collections on behalf of entities such as RBGSyd, ANBG, CSIRO Centre for Plant Diversity. This collaboration with CSIRO resulted in an article in an international botanical journal, where the assistance of the ERBG was noted.

ERBG submitted an application to CHAH (Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria) to have the Wallace Herbarium listed on the website of the Resources of Australian Herbaria. CHAH contains details of all the major Australian Herbaria. With the application accepted, the Herbarium is in illustrious company. The Herbarium is also listed on Council's heritage register meaning it has met internationally recognised criteria for heritage listing.



Jenny Liney and Herbarium volunteers, K. Foster

In 2013 Friends purchased a camera/stereomicroscope which enables Herbarium volunteers to take pictures of the minute parts (as seen through the microscope) of a plant—seeds, flowers, shoots and leaves—that can then be projected on to a screen.

The Herbarium was also engaged by Council to compile a series of Field Guides of prescribed Endangered Ecological Communities listed by the State Government of NSW. The Field Guides provide a reference tool for developers, landholders, Landcare workers and wider community.

As early as 2007 there was already talk about a focus on building a purpose built Herbarium. This would involve relocation of the heritage listed Herbarium to temperature controlled, insect-free space to protect the more than 13,000 plant specimens currently held.

The Herbarium provides an essential service to the community in plant identification to landholders, land care groups, horticulturists and those interested in native flora and is the only one accessible in our region. It provides specimens and locations of species for post graduate study, operates as an environmental consulting body for the Eurobodalla Shire Council, and at the same time carries on our core operations of collecting, identifying, pressing and storing specimens of the Region's flora.

Tricia Kaye writes about the consolidation of the herbarium collection on page 18.

Acknowledgement of Friends and ERBG

During the period 2006 – 2015 both Friends and ERBG received acknowledgement from a variety of sources for contributions made. Jennifer Liney won an Order of Australia Medal, and the NSW Government Seniors Week Achievement Award for her work as honorary curator of our Herbarium. Ryan Harris, an ERBG employee, was recognized as Illawarra TAFE Student of the Year 2007 and received a Eurobodalla Shire Council Achievement Award in recognition of his commitment to work and study.



Jenny Liney OAM, Narooma News

The Friends, were recognised, receiving an Award from Council for the Event of the Year at the Australia Day presentations; the Jeff Britten Award for the Pursuit of Excellence recognising outstanding service to the community and Seniors Week State award in the Environment/Science category. Friends were also honoured with Champions of the Catchment Award recognising community groups caring for the environment.

In 2015, ERBG won first place in the South Coast Tourism Award Eco Tourism category which covers an area from Wollongong to the Victorian border This result was a great testament to the huge effort that the Gardens team has made.

As Manager Michael Anlezark noted the “Gardens receive overwhelming support from local residents (over 65% of our visitors), we get great comments in our visitor book and we were awarded the 2015 Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor for consistently high ratings.”

At end of financial year 2014/15 visitor numbers continued to increase with statistics recorded a remarkable 49,236 – a significant increase.



Guides in new uniforms 2009



Plant sale 2012

Wallace Herbarium 2006-2015: A Decade of Consolidation

Tricia Kaye

By the end of 2005, the bulk of collecting had been completed in terms of species occurring naturally in the region. Around 1,500 species had been collected, representing approximately 75% of the 2,000 native plant species known to occur in the region.

The third decade, 2006–2015, saw around 200 new species added to the collection, many of them introduced weeds and garden escapees. Twenty people contributed specimens during this period, including volunteers and ERBG staff. Collecting activity generally focused closer to home on coastal areas to the north and south of Batemans Bay. However, important native species were also collected from more remote locations. These included the endangered *Pomaderris gilmourii* var. *gilmourii*, collected by ERBG horticulturalist Ryan Harris in 2007–08 from rocky outcrops near Coondella Trig, in a remote area of Deua National Park.

During this period, the Herbarium also received two significant donated collections:

- **Around 150 specimens collected by Phil Gilmour** during a 1984 flora survey of Deua National Park, donated by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service office in Narooma. During this survey, Gilmour discovered two species subsequently named in his honour – the endangered *Pomaderris gilmourii* and the recently described *Grevillea gilmourii*. Both of these species have been important elements of the ERBG nursery and living collection.
- **Around 150 specimens collected by NSW State Forests employees**, including a 1978 specimen of the endangered Jilliga Ash, *Eucalyptus stenostoma*, one of the earlier collections of this species.

By the end of 2015, the Herbarium had consolidated a valuable record of the region's botanical diversity. The contributions of volunteers, ERBG staff, botanists and government agencies have collectively built a resource that continues to support the understanding, conservation and appreciation of the South Coast's unique plant heritage.



Original specimen of *Grevillea gilmourii* collected by namesake Phil Gilmour in 1984



Grevillea gilmourii is currently flourishing behind the ERBG Visitor Centre

Recollections: Michael Anlezark, Garden Manager

Barbara Jackson

On the day of his interview for the position of Manager of the Garden, Michael paid his first visit here. He knew it was a good Garden from reading a great deal about it, and it had been mentioned favourably at conferences he'd attended, but he had not actually seen it.



Michael Anlezark, K. Foster

During that visit, a chance encounter with a volunteer in the old plant shop gave him the opportunity to learn more. The volunteer enthusiastically declared with great pride that the Garden was all run by volunteers. This of course aroused Michael's curiosity. He knew that it was Council funded and Council staffed.

Following the success of his interview, Michael was appointed Manager of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, and commenced work on 6th June, 2012.

Michael set about investigating how Council resources could be better used to support the Garden which was already well supported by Friends and volunteers. Before his first experience of a Garden Management Committee meeting, Michael had delved deeply into its history, reading through meeting minutes for the previous twelve months. Although there were Council representatives, Friends and community members involved, Michael could see that the existing structure needed refinement and reinvigoration. While he was dedicated to the success of the Garden and the Council and Friends' partnership, respecting the role and achievements of both, all parties involved needed roles and areas of responsibility clearly defined.

Michael's dedication to achieving progress through mutual support, trust and respect has been obvious as the Garden has grown. Through tough times and good, this has contributed to a climate of positivity throughout the Garden.

The first major joint project between Friends and Council that Michael took on was the establishment of the Seed Bank. A successful grant application resulted in a great project brought to a very satisfying conclusion. A working group had been assembled specifically for the project, composed of equal representation from Council and Friends.

The group was so successful that Michael realised it was a better model for future major projects than the old Management Committee. Every time there was a new project, a group of appropriate experts would be assembled specifically for that purpose. Personnel could include Council, Friends and community representatives, not necessarily directly



2015 Easter Fair, K. Foster



Garden visitor centre, Eurobodalla Coast Tourism

associated with the Garden, simply the people considered best for the job. Notably, that was the model used later for the Redevelopment Project when the architect Stuart Whitelaw was invited to participate, and the Garden reaped the enormous benefit of his, and others' skills.

The move from a Management Committee to Project Based Working Groups was a major shift in how the Garden was managed, and became part of the recommendations of the 5 year Strategic Plan that Michael developed for the Garden within his first year.

Throughout his years as Manager, Michael has been able to balance the interests of all parties and achieve the progress universally sought. He is rewarded by the support and loyalty of Friends, staff and volunteers. He regularly reads the comments left in the Visitors Book and is invariably impressed with their overwhelming positivity. The Garden Shop is well patronised and is an undoubted success, contributing significant income to the Garden's budget and to Friends future projects, further enhancing visitors' experience.

Michael also lists the quality and quantity of events held at the Garden as contributing to its success - art exhibitions, the Eurobodalla Shire's schools Year 4 program, festivals, cultural performances, conservation programs, our involvement in high level Botanic Garden networks, and our partnerships with other Botanic Gardens. He's rightly proud of his very latest project, the publication of our soon to be released first ever book, *Native Plants of the Ulladulla Region 3rd Edition*, which is a remarkable achievement for a Botanic Garden, especially a Regional Garden.

During the first three years of his leadership, coinciding with the Garden's third decade, the Council had come to appreciate the value of the Garden as a community resource and a tourism asset. Under Michael's leadership our Garden continues to attract thousands of visitors every year, a clear demonstration of the high esteem in which it is held.



Michael Anlezark in the Garden, Eurobodalla Coast Tourism

Playspace: a long and winding road to success

Heather Haughton

Designing and constructing the Playspace took a long and winding road from 2007 to 2012. First mention of a Children's Garden was in 2007, when the concept under discussion was an iteration of the Ian Potter Children's Garden at Melbourne Botanic Gardens. Other short-term projects took priority at the time, and naturally the practical reality of fund-raising had to be considered, initially \$25,000 for a concept plan. Friends offered to contribute this amount. By 2010 the notion of a Children's Garden had changed to a playground. From Council's perspective, there was discussion on maintenance of equipment and safety features. The possibilities of grant funding or private sponsorship came to the fore.

And rather suddenly the road straightened.

Council granted funds for the project on the basis of the Gardens community matching Council's contribution. With the assistance of another grant from the NSW State Government, enough money was found for work to commence. By July 2011 a concept plan was provided to the Management Committee project management sub-committee. Friends held several fund-raisers

including Trivia Nights, while community support came via the purchase of pavers and sponsorship of components.

In October 2011 the President's Report in the Friends newsletter states: 'Committing \$75,000 for the new Children's Play Space (still to be formally named), [which] will lift the public profile of the Gardens and will, no doubt, draw an increase in our visitor numbers, especially children and their younger parents, all with resulting benefits'. The term 'play space' recognised the areas that already existed near the barbecue area for kicking a ball on the grassed area and experiencing running water in the Sensory Garden.

A Play Space Working Bee was held on 10 December 2011. The two 'Gator' vehicles were kept busy ferrying the fine mulch-like material which had to be installed as 'soft fall' under the play pieces in the Children's Play Space. Thanks to the local press, radio and club contacts who picked up Council's press release, a lot of progress was made. Summer began with letting children into the Play Space on Boxing Day 2011 a little ahead of completion but in time for the holidays.

The Mayor officially opened the PlaySpace in January, 2012 and in October, Council issued an invitation to help build the mud brick cubby:



Working bee to cart mulch



Friends and Mayor at opening play space

'Council is hosting community groups, schools and shire visitors to join the mud making on Wednesdays 10am – 2pm throughout the school terms at the Gardens. We encourage your participation on these days and need assistance with mud brick making and carpentry.

We are also coordinating festival days on Saturday 6th October, Saturday 3rd November and Saturday 8th December (Cubby Opening). These are a chance for families to join in, full of music, food, dance and mud making, open and suitable for all ages and abilities. Visit the Botanic Gardens any Wednesday in the school term or the Saturdays above armed with clothes suitable for

muddy fun, a picnic, drinking water and a hat.'



Local kids making mudbricks, the final mudbrick cubby.



Finally, in the December 2014 edition of the Friends Newsletter, the Garden Manager reported:

‘Well, we are now drawing closer to the end of a very busy year. Visitor numbers for the last 12 month period have now cracked the 40,000 mark with the Play Space and picnic barbecue facilities playing a big role in this.’

Resulting benefits indeed.



Kids enjoying the Playspace.

The effort of creating the Playspace has been a success according to advice of some young experts.

Ettien:

There were different things to play with in different areas, like the sandbox and the slides and the mountain climbing bit, and the musical instruments, and having seating areas around it.

He also thought there should be a sign pointing to the slides as he'd met kids who didn't know they were there; that there should be more shade, e.g. a big tree or a shade sail; and that a sign is needed pointing to the toilets and said the Playspace compares well with other playgrounds and that it's in a good location;

He didn't know that the cubby had been built by kids but thinks that is really interesting. However, it's a bit empty inside.

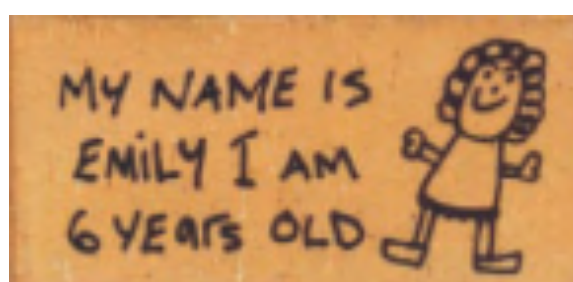
Finally – feels really good about his name being on the bricks.

Antoan:

He liked that there were lots of 'kid-operated' features, i.e. everything was designed in a way that gave kids control over what they were doing, e.g. the giant swing was low enough for a kid to push, and little kids could reach the musical instruments. The slides being hidden was fun because it was a secret to share or discover. It all gave a feeling of 'I can do it myself'. Kids building the mud-brick cubby should be better known because it would improve its appeal and emphasise the 'I can do it myself' feeling.

Thought the PlaySpace uses its space very well and is not generic like other playgrounds. It had unique features and is in a good location. But the climbing wall was a bit generic. He says it needs more shade, and could there be a fund-raiser to plant more trees?

Finally – 'Put up a sign that says watch out for stepping in kangaroo poo'.



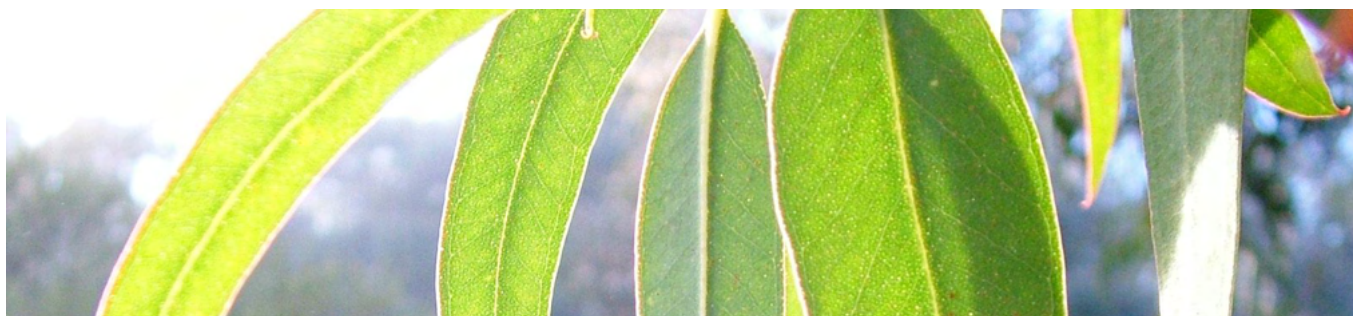


Dates for Your Diary

- 4th October – [Friends Community Bush Dance](#)
- 17th October- Friends Annual General Meeting
- 7th November – Pollinator Week Talk, Speakers: Dr Keith Bayliss, Brett O'Keefe & Phil Warburton

More information will be sent out to members as it comes to hand.

For all ticketing find us on [EventBrite](#)



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