

CORREA



**Friends of Eurobodalla Regional
Botanic Garden
Newsletter**

March 2025



President's Introduction and Report

Derek Anderson

I was born in England in 1948. In 1957 my Mum and Dad decided we should migrate to Australia under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme set up by Arthur Caldwell. Along with my two older brothers we arrived in Sydney on the 28th of August 1957 after a five-week sea voyage through the Mediterranean Sea and down through the Suez Canal. We originally settled in the migrant hostel in Fairy Meadow (Wollongong) where Dad had a job in the drawing office at the Port Kembla Steel Works.

I joined the RAAF as an Aircraft Engineering Apprentice in 1964 and spent 16 years' service in the RAAF as an Aircraft Electrical Fitter. I retired as a Sergeant instructor in January 1980 at the RAAF School of Technical Training at the Wagga Wagga RAAF base.

After RAAF service, I joined TAFE NSW as an Electrical Trades Teacher, sometimes acting in the role of Head Teacher. We lived in Camden, and I first taught at Bankstown TAFE then Miller TAFE (near Liverpool). After 24 years with TAFE, Fran and I retired to Broulee in 2006.

In 1991 our youngest daughter was selected as a Rotary Exchange Student (to Finland in 1992), and I was asked to join a new Rotary Club being formed at Narellan. In Rotary I have served as a Club President 3 times, the latest in the 2023/24 Rotary year with Moruya Rotary. I have served in many of the Director's roles in a Rotary Club, as well as in Rotary District roles, where I'm currently a member of the local Rotary District's Environmental Team. I have also led a team for four years that presents the Rotary *Youth Driver Awareness program* to all year 11 students in the Eurobodalla, and I was the Chair of the local Lions & Rotary Australia Day Committee for about 12 years. I believe my Rotary service and leadership experience will enable me to fulfill the role as President of the Friends Committee.

I have been volunteering for some years with the Garden, mainly assisting in running Friends and the Garden's activities and events. I realise as a new Committee member I have a lot of reading to do (and have been trying to do) to catch up on Committee activities. I have been relying on advice from current committee members, and former members who have now rejoined the Committee.

I would like to see the Friends engage with the broader community to enhance their enjoyment of this wonderful garden. This could involve running events and publicity about Friends in local media such as the online paper *the Moruya Mail*. I have been in contact with the Australian National Botanic Gardens to extend co-operation between the two gardens. As a result, we have been receiving their newsletter, and they will be receiving copies of ours.

Christmas Raffle winners

First prize: Brian Paterson – \$100 voucher for The River

Second prize: Jenny Pekin – \$100 voucher for The Punt House

Third prize: Anne Rault – \$50 voucher Raymonds at Malua Bay

Fourth prize: Barbara Jackson – a basket containing jars of jam, pickles etc and a muffin mix from the Oz Tukka range.

Front Page photo: Geoff McVeigh
Fan-tailed Cuckoo being fed by a White-browed
Scrubwren at the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden





PO Box 1068
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20th February, 2025

Dear valued member of Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden

I am writing to you to celebrate all the achievements we, as a not for profit community organisation, have achieved in supporting our much loved Garden over the last nearly four decades. Friends have achieved much over the time we have supported the Garden – a feat that is acknowledged by other botanic gardens around the country.

The Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden committee and the Garden Manager share a vision that will substantially advance the Garden and enhance what it offers to the community. For example, we are looking to help visitors to better understand the importance of local native flora and fauna to support our local biodiversity through a range of opportunities including greater access to environmental education that supports the conservation of native plants and animals. We aim to ensure that every activity offered by the Garden enables participants to leave knowing more. The Garden is also looking to upgrade nursery capacity to both deal with climate change and enable ERBG volunteers to successfully propagate higher numbers of plants.

Friends' members have, in the past, assisted the Garden to achieve so much more than is possible if only Garden staff are involved. We are looking at re-inspiring Friends to again become involved in promoting Garden events; catering for some events, being involved in Garden working groups and promoting ERBG events more widely than is currently being achieved and involved.

The Friends' committee is exploring transitioning our fundraising efforts to run fewer but more profitable events, improving our donations capability from how we currently operate to incorporate ways of ensuring donors are actively supporting projects. Some of these roles simply require a willingness and time to make them happen.

Through your support, as well as the major redevelopment of the Visitor Centre and relocation of the Herbarium, Friends, over the years, have contributed to:

- ◆ the Garden walks;
- ◆ children's play space and picnic area;
- ◆ bird hide;
- ◆ display gardens;
- ◆ community meeting spaces;
- ◆ a shop (90% of sales profit go to the Garden).

Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden is now at another point in our continued support of the Garden. We want to work with the Garden to:

- ◆ improve our capacity to showcase native ferns and orchids;
- ◆ upgrade the nursery;
- ◆ ensure the success of the Quoll Project
- ◆ assist promotion of the Garden and calendar of events etc...

Friends can achieve some of this by seeking grant funding from a number of sources and by volunteer work. Due to the breadth of goals we are hoping to achieve however, we are asking members who wish to assist, and have the time to assist, on specific working groups but do not wish to stand for a position on the committee, to contribute where they can. If you have any or some of the following specific skillsets: marketing, promotion, organising events, understanding more sophisticated fund-raising processes and the like, we look forward to hearing from you. If you can assist, please contact the President Derek Anderson.

Yours sincerely

Derek Anderson

President

Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden



Garden Manager's Report

Michael Anlezark

Well summer is pretty much done and dusted and fortunately it was a fairly mild one. As we move into autumn everything at the Garden is still green and looking great.

Visitor numbers over summer (27,332) were a whopping 26% higher than the previous summer with January and February recording the highest numbers for those months ever. Mountain bike riders which we can count fairly accurately made up 6.3% of the visitors over that period. Visitors also spent approximately 11.5% more in our shop over this summer compared to the last one.

Now that the Summer holiday crowds are gone we are getting ready for the Easter school holiday crowds and our *From the Forest* festival that will run for two weeks over that period. *From the Forest* will feature an art exhibition showcasing 130 works from 23 of our talented regional artists.

This year will include 10 artists exhibiting with us for the very first time. I think the diversity of works and the talent within our region is truly remarkable and the exhibition is not to be missed.

In addition to the exhibition there will be music, guided walks, propagation workshops, kids activities and local Aboriginal cultural experiences so keep looking on our website for more information and links to ticket sales (for some events).

Other news is that our annual Year 4 schools' education program is underway together with a range of events including guest speakers, regular themed guided walks and environmental events including earth hour and National Tree day so again check our website for more information <https://www.erbg.org.au/news-and-events/upcoming-events>

We are in the process of finalising new directional signage that will make it easier for our visitors to get around and the design of signs for the bird hide project is almost complete. I will add that since landscaping around the bird hide was completed and with the addition of the new water feature that area has become noticeably richer in birdlife. Once the plantings start to mature and produce seeds and fruit we can expect to increase even more.

Please remember that if you would ever like more information about what's going on at the Garden do feel free to drop me a line michael.anlezark@esc.nsw.gov.au

Till next time.

Michael Anlezark
Manager
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden



Study by Michelle Peterson for *From the Forest*



View from the bird hide

Photo: Michael Anlezark

Cicadas: the Sound of Summer

Jane Elek

The last time I wrote about cicadas was in 2018 so it must have been another big year for cicadas. Perhaps this year is the next generation since cicadas are known to have long life cycles.

Cicada drumming is the distinctive sound of an Australian summer. They are the loudest insects in the world, and produce the loudest sound per body weight of any animal. They can drum up to 120 decibels, which is equivalent to a chainsaw or thunderclap; close to our level of pain threshold.

They are probably one of the best-known insects worldwide, famed for their song and also as a delicacy! Apparently, the fat nymphs are the tastiest – any offers to sample them? The adults are popular prey for local birds which seem to eat mainly the abdomen, judging from the discarded thorax with wings I have found.



Fig 1b: stone (jade) carvings from China



Fig 1a

The earliest historical record of cicadas is a stone carving in China, about 1500 BCE, where they were revered for rebirth and immortality (carved cicadas were put on the tongues of deceased for burial). They also feature in Greek myths, again symbols of resurrection and immortality. This symbolism probably arose from their strange lifecycle, emerging after many years underground as nymphs to transform into adults. In one Greek myth, the goddess of dawn, Eos, begged Zeus to grant her human lover, Tithonus, immortality. But be careful what you wish for! Zeus granted her wish but she forgot to ask also for eternal youth, so Tithonus grew very old and miserably decrepit and whining for release. The best Eos could do was transform him into a cicada. Look closely at the head of an adult cicada.

Does it remind you of a wizened, whining old man?

Although we commonly call all insects 'bugs', only insects with straw-like sucking mouthparts like stink bugs, aphids, scale insects as well as cicadas are true bugs, belonging to the Order Hemiptera. They are all sapsuckers, piercing the veins of plants to suck up their sugary contents. Cicadas feed on a range of tree species but probably cause little damage to them. They have two pairs of membranous wings held like a tent over their body and the pattern of wing veins is used to identify the species. They come in a range of body colours and patterns from black, brown, yellow and green and range in size up to about 60 mm.

There are over 2500 species worldwide and at least 350 species in Australia. Only the males drum to attract females and drumming in chorus may confuse their predators. Any children who have caught cicadas will know the difference between the males (drummers or croakers) with a pair of drums and females (pissers) with pointed abdomens that squirt out dilute honeydew when caught. Males drum by contracting muscles to vibrate their two drum membranes (timbals), located on the undersides of their abdomens. Females use large ear membranes, also on their abdomens, to identify the call of males of their species. Males also have large ear membranes that they

fold up when drumming so they don't deafen themselves!! Crickets by contrast are fiddlers, singing by scraping their legs and/or wings together.

Fig 2a and b. Razor Grinder, *Henicopsaltria eyduxii*.

Note the black patterns on the wing veins, and on the underside the red drums and its straw-like mouth parts.



Photos: Jane Elek

Continued from previous page

If you listen carefully, you might be able to distinguish different song rhythms of different species. This summer, the dark coloured Razor Grinder cicada, *Henicopsaltria eudouxii*, is back, generating deafening choruses (see Figure 1). They start with a series of pulses that gradually increase to a continuous roar which then dies away before starting up again into the next wave. Each wave lasts about 20 seconds. They drum in the morning, are usually silent during the middle of the day then start up again at dusk. This species occurs along the coast to as far south as Narooma, mainly in eucalypt forests.



Fig 3 White drummer cicada

The White drummer, *Arunta perulata* (see Figure 2) is found (or heard) only in coastal dune and headland vegetation such as banksias and casuarinas. It has a continuous rattle produced sporadically throughout the day but especially at dusk. It also occurs as far south as Narooma. Another familiar species that is common in forests and gardens all along the east coast is *Cyclochila australasiae* which has several colour variations known as Greengrocers, Yellow Mondays, Masked Devils, rarer Chocolate Soldiers and Blue Moons. They drum continuously in distinctive pulses.

Another common cicada that occurs on eucalypts, casuarinas and mangroves in our area is the Black Prince or Silver Knight, *Psaltoda plaga*. Its call starts off pulsating then becomes a continuous drone. A comprehensive website, Cicadas of Australia, can help you identify any you find with images and information on their distribution and song: [Cicadas of Australia](#)

The cicada life cycle is very unusual. The winged adults only live for a few weeks. After the female mates, she lays her eggs in a slit in the bark of her tree host. The nymph hatches out and drops to the ground and burrows into the soil where it feeds on plant roots for many years. It is thought to be always a prime number such as 3, 5, 7, 13 or even 17 years but we don't know why! The nymph sheds its skin many times as it grows. For its final moult, it burrows out of the ground and climbs a tree trunk, where its pupal case splits open to allow the winged adult to emerge, leaving its characteristic 'shell' behind, clinging to the bark (see Figures 3 & 4). There is a lot more to learn about such a familiar and abundant insect. Perhaps scientists know so little about them because most of their life cycle is spent underground, and is longer than the usual PhD study period!



Fig 4 Pupal skin from which an adult cicada has emerged. Note the strong front legs used to dig its way out of the soil.

Eurobodalla Bush-friendly Garden Guide

Courtney Fink

Bush-friendly gardens feature different native plant species and are low-maintenance. They provide food and a range of habitat elements for birds, butterflies, lizards, frogs, and native insects. These gardens also help to:

- enhance the biodiversity of the urban landscape
- provide a continuous food supply for animals and birds that live in them
- connect nearby bushland.

Visit Council's website for the full publication: [Bush-friendly garden guide | Eurobodalla Council](#)

From the Forest



An event celebrating the resilience, beauty and bounty of our South Coast Forests.

Over 2 weeks the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden will host an art exhibition, music, storytelling, and workshops paying homage to the forests, the lungs of our nation, important places that play a role in the lives of countless generations, past, present and future.

12-27 April 2025
Eurobodalla Regional Botanic
Garden Deep Creek Dam Rd
Batemans Bay



Blakella Gains Momentum

Tricia Kaye



Red Bloodwood flowers
- March 2025

Last year, we reported on a new development in the eucalypt name debate – the introduction of *Blakella*, a proposed genus for ghost gums, yellow bloodwoods, and spotted gums. Currently, Spotted Gum is classified as *Corymbia maculata*, and 25 years ago it was *Eucalyptus maculata*. Under the new proposal, Spotted Gum would become *Blakella maculata*. Meanwhile, *Corymbia gummifera*, Red Bloodwood, would remain in *Corymbia*.

One argument against the change is that Spotted Gum and Red Bloodwood can hybridise in the Nowra area – a hybrid once thought to be a distinct species, *Eucalyptus nowraensis*. Interestingly, both species naturally co-occur in the ERBG along the Hill Track.

Support for *Blakella* appears to be growing. Herbaria in Queensland and the Northern Territory have adopted the new genus, with NSW likely to follow. However, formal adoption generally requires agreement from all major herbaria, which will take time.

The Northern Territory government even issued a statement on their decision – a rare instance of plant taxonomy making the news! Read more at:

<https://environment.nt.gov.au/news/2025/nt-eucalypts-changing-names>



Spotted Gum -
smooth bark



Red Bloodwood -
rough bark

Chopathon

Heather Haughton

Have you ever wondered where the preserves on sale at ERBG come from?

All are made in the kitchens of Friends of ERBG, and a Chopathon on 24th February produced 50 of them: Bin 47 Chutney, Rhubarb, Date and Ginger Chutney, Two Fruit Marmalade and Blackberry and Apple Jam. They will be available over the next few weeks at the Garden.

If you would like to join the knife-wielding coven as depicted, contact Heather Haughton, h@haughton.id.au



Left to right: Karen Cockerill, Barbara Jackson, Gail Stevens, Heather Haughton, Chris Bendle, Judy Carpenter, Jennifer Phillips.



ERBG is looking to recruit more **guides** to help conduct a range of guided walks around the Garden.

Interested?

Please contact
 Dawne Usher
Dawne.Usher@esc.nsw.gov.au
 Lynne McInnes
Lynne.mcinnes@eurocoast.nsw.gov.au

Meet Ken Foster



Having been a previous member of the Friends Committee, I accepted an invitation to renominate and offer support to the ongoing work of the Friends in promoting the continuing development of our Garden in conjunction with our Garden Manager Michael Anlezark.

Having been involved with the Garden for the past 15 years, it has been exciting to see the changes and improvements achieved, especially more recently, following the 2019 bushfires.

The contribution of Friends has been fantastic and I look forward to working towards full cooperation with all parties involved, in our common goal to further develop and enhance our magnificent scenic and educational attraction - the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden!

"I spy with my little eye: 3 unusual Australian plant ecosystems to spot on your next roadtrip"

is the intriguing headline of an article appearing in *The Conversation*, 26 February 2025. First ecosystem to be described is our own Burrawang/Spotted Gum community, followed by Ancient Acacias and Boabs.

The author invites the adults in the car to use the opportunity: "If you're on a road trip, now is the perfect time to talk to children about ancient moving continents, volcanoes and dinosaurs."

Cycads are [ancient gymnosperms](#) (cone-bearing plants) which evolved long before the Gondwanan supercontinent separated. These tough, hardy plants saw the dinosaurs come and go, and their relatives are found all around the world."

For the full article click [here](#) or:

https://theconversation.com/i-spy-with-my-little-eye-3-unusual-australian-plant-ecosystems-to-spot-on-your-next-roadtrip-246129?utm_medium=article_native_share&utm_source=theconversation.com

Responsible Cat Ownership

Courtney Fink

Council's Environment Team has been working on changing the language around responsible cat ownership to encourage owners to keep their cat at home. Under the current NSW Companion Animal Act, Councils are not able to implement responsible cat ownership measures and therefore cat "containment" is up to the owner. Roaming cats generally have a lower life expectancy due to the risks of roaming which include: car accidents, dog attacks, injuries from fights with other cats, unwanted breeding, snake bite, tick and flea infestations, diseases, poisoning or being stolen/abused/in a shelter. On average, each roaming cat kills 186 native animals every year (much more than you see at the back doormat!) and 2 in 3 cat owners have lost a roaming cat due to a roaming related incident.

Keeping your cat safe, happy and healthy at home doesn't have to be exclusively indoors - there are other options such as outdoor cattery enclosures (either attached or detached from the house, in many functionalities and styles that can suit your home), or supervised outdoor play time with a cat lead. Free cat bibs are also still available from Council, for cats that are transitioning away from roaming.

To check out these options and learn more about responsible cat ownership, visit: <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/residents/pets/cat-ownership/keeping-your-cat-safe-at-home>

Seven Ways to Attract Birds to Your Garden

Published by the Conversation: January 20, 2025

- ◆ Secure pets
- ◆ Avoid using insecticides and outside lights
- ◆ Stop poisoning raptors
- ◆ Prevent window strikes
- ◆ Create an inclusive garden
- ◆ Encourage insects
- ◆ Water the birds too

Click [here](#) for the full article or

<https://theconversation.com/from-securing-pets-to-building-insect-hotels-here-are-7-ways-to-attract-birds-to-your-garden-247561>

Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*)

Helen Kay

Have you noticed the abundance of pittosporum over the last few months with their shiny new leaves and slightly sickly scented flowers?

Pittosporum is a large genus, found in Africa, Asia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands. There are 14 Australian species and, on the South Coast, the most common species is Sweet Pittosporum, *Pittosporum undulatum*. The name, Pittosporum is derived from Greek, meaning "pitch seed", referring to the resinous coating on the seed and undulatum, from the Latin unda, a wave or surge referring to the characteristic wavy edges of the leaves. Its common name is native daphne. It is a hardy and adaptable plant which appreciates most acidic soils and extra moisture yet can also withstand extended dry periods once established.



Its natural habitat consists of rainforest and moist eucalypt forest. It is a medium sized tree growing to 14 metres, with rough brownish bark. Its leaves are alternate or grouped together, elliptic in shape, 5-12 cm long and 2-3 cm wide. Leaves are usually dark green above, and new growth is bright green. The white, strongly perfumed flowers growing in clusters at the end of the branches are 10 cm long. The fruit is an orange globular capsule, about 10 cm in diameter and the seeds have a sticky coating.

I was surprised to discover through my research and talking to friends, that though it is a native species, it is widely considered as a weed. Many Councils, including our own, have listed it as a weed. According to their website, "the idea of a 'native weed' may seem like a contradiction, but regardless of its origin, native weeds can displace locally

native species and alter the habitat for our native animals, sometimes drastically".

There are several reasons for this classification: These trees grow rapidly, shading out other trees such as eucalypts and depriving them of sunlight. They have a very large root system, spreading their roots and depriving neighbouring trees of moisture. Unlike most natives, their seeds can germinate without needing fire, leading to rapid growth in areas that have been cleared. On the other hand, because it is so fast growing, it has been used to regenerate disturbed sites after fire and drought.

Sweet Pittosporum is also found in remnant littoral rainforest, which is an endangered ecological community, and in rainforests of the south coast of NSW. This habitat is important to bird species such as the Noisy Pitta and the few sightings of this species in the Eurobodalla have been in the understorey of thick stands of Sweet Pittosporum. This habitat is also important to other bird species including Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch, Rose Robin, and Superb and Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove.

Article reprinted with permission –ENHS newsletter 202, October 2024)(

Photos: Dave Kay



Wilhelm Bäuerlen – A Remarkable Legacy in Australian Botany

Tricia Kaye

Recently, Illawarra-based botanist Kevin Mills made an intriguing discovery—along with Jane Johnston he identified the origin of 155 plant specimens housed in the Berry Museum. The specimens were originally collected by Wilhelm Bäuerlen. Bäuerlen (pronounced Boyerlen) was an 19th century plant collector who made an important contribution to Australian botany, particularly in Southeast New South Wales. This was indeed a significant find!

A life dedicated to botany

Born in Neidernhall, Germany, in 1840, Wilhelm Bäuerlen was a professional plant collector. Though the exact date of his arrival in Australia is unknown, by September 1883, he was already sending specimens to Baron Ferdinand von Mueller in Melbourne. Based in the Shoalhaven region, Bäuerlen collected plants across Southeast NSW and Victoria.

Today, nearly 9,000 of Bäuerlen's plant specimens are preserved in Australian herbaria, with approximately 70 serving as type specimens. In addition to plants, he collected timber, gum, and insect specimens, some of which are now part of the Museum of Arts & Applied Sciences collection

Southeast NSW Collections

Around one-third of Bäuerlen's collections originated from Southeast NSW, representing approximately 1,300 species under current taxonomy—more than 10% of the plant species recorded in the region. Ten species are named in his honour, six of which are from Southeast NSW.

His earliest recorded specimen from the area is *Eucryphia moorei* (pinkwood), collected in Robertson in 1879. Just a few interesting examples of his collections include:

- ***Zieria baeuerlenii*** – Bomaderry Zieria, Endangered species, collected near Shoalhaven River in 1883, formally described only in 2002—120 years later.
- ***Telopea mongaensis*** –Braidwood Waratah, Iconic species collected near Braidwood in 1884.
- ***Correa baeuerlenii*** – Chef'S Cap Correa, threatened species endemic to the South Coast region, collected in Upper Clyde in 1884. Also emblem of FERBG.
- ***Pultenaea baeuerlenii*** – Budawangs Bush-pea, threatened species collected on Mt Curockbilly in 1886.
- ***Zieria tuberculata*** – Threatened species, collected at Mount Gulaga in 1889.
- ***Eucalyptus baeuerlenii*** – Rare local eucalypt, collected at Sugarloaf Mountain in 1890.



Wilhelm Bäuerlen, Lismore ca 1891
National Library Collection



Correa baeuerlenii - Type specimen collected in 1984 near Nelligen

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The New Bird Hide

Nicola Clark

Sadly, the 'old' bird hide was burnt out in the 2019/20 fires. When there finally came a pause in the frantic work entailed in redesigning, rebuilding, repairing and replacing structures and gardens alike, consideration was given to the possibility of a 'new' hide.

The old hide overlooked a pond which was riddled with reeds. The ducks didn't seem to like it much and it raised the question: where to put a new one? How about something different like a bush bird's hide?

Eventually it was decided to put it near the burnt out Orchid House because, amongst other things, it was near the creek where many birds had been seen. I was sceptical as to why the birds would leave a perfectly good creek to utilise an artificial bird bath? And artificial it would prove to be with a metal water feature and a stony dry creek bed. But ultimately the new garden was complete with great plantings and a beautiful Paul Dimmer sculpture donated by ERBG Friends.

Would birds really prefer metal to the muddy creek? I had to eat my words, they love it! No sooner was it all set up than a little parade of birds sat around the nearby bushes waiting for the courage to have a nice clean bath.

The first bird I saw having a splash was a Yellow Robin, followed by Brown Thornbills. The Rufous Fantails, summer nesting visitors, used the creek and then the nice clean bird bathing facilities, affording much better views than one would usually get.

While eating a hurried BLT in the hide I recently saw eight species of bird hanging around: Eastern Whipbird, Satin Bowerbird, Grey Shrike-thrush, Brown Thornbill, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, Yellow Robin, Golden Whistler and Superb Fairy-wren.



Brown Thornbill



Eastern Yellow Robin



Gippsland water dragon



Yellow-faced Honeyeater

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*Fluted bird's nest fungi
growing adjacent to the hide*

On other visits I have seen several more species, and of course the Water Dragon watches it all from a nearby fallen log.

Sometimes I have seen nothing, so you have to be lucky, birds don't always cooperate.



Eastern Whipbird

Photos: Nicola Clark

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A Solitary Life

Bäuerlen's dedication to his work often came at the expense of personal relationships. His diary from his wedding day in 1886 notes that he went collecting around Ballina—without any mention of his bride accompanying him.

In later years, he separated from his wife and daughter. He became embroiled in disputes with Curator Baker and other staff at the Museum of Arts & Applied Sciences, where he was employed. His declining health and dissatisfaction with a desk-bound job only furthered his isolation. By June 1905, he retired, and by November, he was banned from entering the museum except for public areas.

Wilhelm Bäuerlen lived in Redfern until his death in 1917 at the age of 77. Buried in an unmarked grave at Rookwood Cemetery, his final years were marked by solitude. Despite this, his extraordinary contributions to Australian botany endure as a lasting legacy.

Friends Committee 2024–25

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