

CORREA

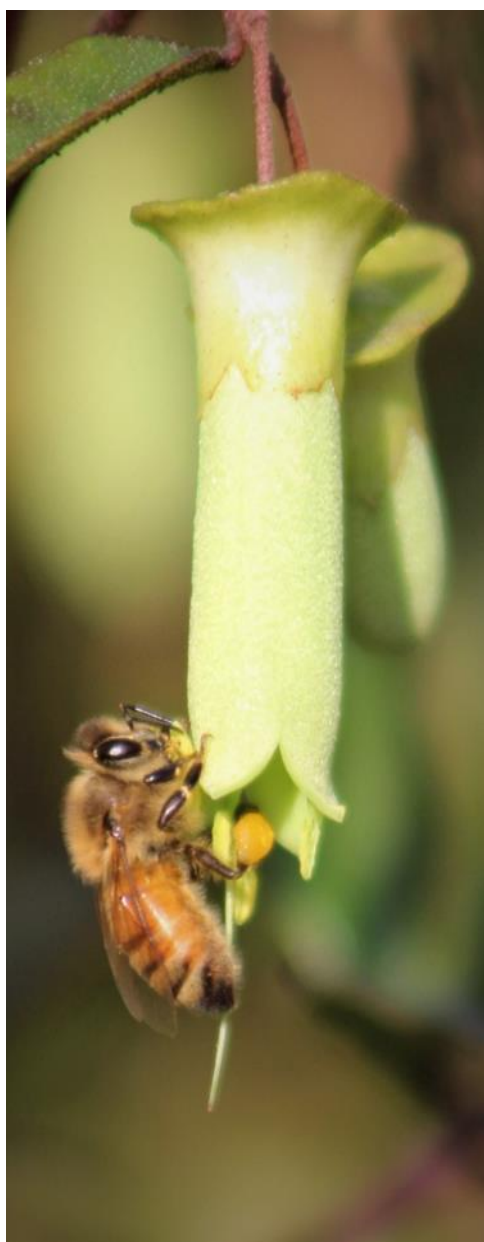


Friends of Eurobodalla Regional
Botanic Garden
Newsletter

May 2023



EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN



We invite you to enter the **2023 Photographic Competition**

Entry is free with prizes to be won
and a chance to have your image
feature in the Garden's 2024
Calendar.

Details available from
www.erbg.org.au or
the Garden's Visitor Centre
Open 9-4 Wednesday to Sunday
Phone: 4471 2544

Entries close 4pm, 29th September 2023

A Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden
initiative in partnership with Eurobodalla Shire Council

Front cover: Ken Foster
Decorative wren on nursery wall

President's report – Gabriele Harding



I have just spent the day in my garden working on autumn jobs and finding the weather just right for getting stuck into the tasks at hand. In my opinion autumn is a great time of year. Gone is the blazing sun and with the temperature cooling that little bit, the jobs feel a little less arduous. There are so many beautiful flowers out now – Crowea, Banksia, Brachyscome, Scaevola, Xerochrysum to name a few. Such an array of colour too. There is no shortage of gorgeous natives to have as show pieces in your garden – plants that perform well because they are adapted to our regional conditions be it weather patterns or soil type. Remember to check out the *Naturescape*

Gardens when you next visit ERBG. These four carefully designed spaces are bound to inspire your imagination and build your courage to create a garden theme using plants indigenous to the area and available to purchase at the ERBG nursery.

It is uplifting to hear from the Jenny Liney Scholarship recipients. It seems these enthusiastic students are settling into the 2023 study year and making good headway with all sorts of interesting projects whilst accumulating knowledge and skills preparing for assessment submissions. As a teacher of vocational studies, it is music to my ears to hear them comment that they are loving their studies and subject choices.

Your Friends of ERBG (FERBG) Committee has met each month to ensure membership perspective is represented as we work with Garden Manager Michael to support the conservation, recreational and educational goals set out in the strategic plan. The Garden Manager in turn informs the Friends about the Garden's events, gift shop and nursery trade and infrastructure updates.

FERBG's committee is tasked with managing its reporting requirements as well as holding member functions and outings. The next such function will welcome guest speaker Helen Moody. Helen has a new book soon to be released about the islands of the NSW south coast of which there are 61! Quoting the book flyer *The book is more than a travel guide. It tells of Aboriginal connections to the islands, the history of south coast exploration and the arrival of settlers and convicts. It covers geology, flora, lighthouses, shipwrecks, bird life and environmental values of the islands.* Friends are invited to hear Helen talk about the research gathering as she and Mike Jefferis led walks and kayak trips to these islands. She'll share a slide show as she takes us on the journey. The talk will be held on 3 June, 1.30-3.00pm, followed by afternoon tea. I hope you can come along.

Authors: Helen Moody with Mike Jefferis

ISBN: 9780646870601

Distributor: self-published

Paperback

Limp bound, section sewn, 120mm flaps

Width: 230mm Height 230mm

208 Pages

Sale Price: \$50

Postage direct from authors: \$13.50 for 1 or 2 books





Garden Manager's Report

Michael Anlezark

We are just at the end of a very busy Easter school holiday period which has included some glorious autumn weather.

February and March saw our newly formed Events Committee working away to lock in a great range of events for our second annual *From the Forest Festival*.

During this festival our visitors have been treated to nine different guided walks with themes that include fungi, behind the scenes, birds, Australian plants in literature, children's discovery and nocturnal wildlife.

The *From the Forest Art Exhibition* was officially opened by our Shire Deputy Mayor Alison Worthington at the Saturday evening launch which attracted 110 guests. Within the first ten days of opening we had sold over 30% of the art works and had almost 1700 people visit the exhibition.

All of the above plus music, food and creative workshops for children will make this event the most jam-packed and ambitious one we have ever held. It has attracted thousands of visitors with almost every activity fully booked. Our Events Committee is now working on events for June, July and August which will include a second hand book fair, evening wildlife walks and more children's activities.

Besides putting on amazing events we are also in the throes of upgrading all of our internal roads, some of our paths, installing some handrails to steps and we will shortly start to build a bridge across the creek in the Arboretum. This work is the result of a successful Council grant application to improve accessibility for all.

We have produced a draft of our next strategic plan that will guide us for the next five years. What is outlined in this document is ambitious and will require a lot of hard work which will be of huge benefit to our community, visitors to our region and for the conservation of our regional flora. I look forward to sharing this document soon.

Our visitor numbers continue to grow with nine out of the last ten months having the highest number of visitors ever recorded for that month. Also our volunteers' efforts are on the increase with volunteer hours recorded now back up to pre fire and covid levels.

I am going to sign off with a recent comment taken from our Visitor book –
[31/3/23 Been coming from the beginning - have never seen gardens so beautiful.](#)

Wow, what a reward for us all.

As always I am very happy to fill you in on what's happening in your Garden, just drop me line.

Till next time

Michael Anlezark

From the Forest Art Exhibition was officially opened by our Shire Deputy Mayor Alison Worthington



Ghosts of the forest

Dylan Morrissey



"Somewhere, in an autumn's rich soil, a mushroom will stand above ground and remind you of the strange life deep below." – Jarod K. Anderson

Being in a forest during the day, being bathed in soft green light, can be transformative to your mood and overall health. This is not just a personal anecdote, but many times now has been proven by scientific studies all over the world. In Japan, it is known as forest-bathing, *shinrin-yoku*.

The simple act of walking through a green landscape has been shown to reduce blood pressure. It helps your body's ability to fight off viral infections and has a positive effect on the body's parasympathetic system.

In addition, coming into contact with soil bacteria *Mycobacterium vaccae*, increases the release of serotonin in the brain, the chemical that makes us happy.

In summary: it's good for you.



Being in the forest at night, however, has a wholly different effect. As the sun dips below the hills and the air begins to cool, the hairs on your neck stand to attention. The birdsong, at sunrise so optimistic, takes on a mournful, almost melancholic tone as night descends. Your eyes widen to take in as much of the dying light as possible and your breathing becomes shallow. A startled wallaby jumps away, crashing through the undergrowth, and for a moment you're not sure which one of you was more alarmed.

continued next page

Continued from previous page



And as the light finally fades from view and the heavy black of night slips through the trees and envelops you, your eyes begin to adjust, and somewhere up ahead, a ghost drifts into view.

On recent forays into the Garden at night, we have been greeted with many wonderful sights. From Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) to duelling Sugar Gliders (*Petaurus breviceps ssp. breviceps*) and all manner of bird, amphibian, and mammal. The first night, there were so many frogs we were unable to hold a conversation or walk without looking where we were going for fear of treading on them.

Exploring the ERBG at night gives a whole new appreciation of the place. Pathways so familiar during the day are now cause for second thought. Roots and stairs easily navigable in the light turned into stumbling blocks for even the surest of foot. And the stars, far away from the hustle and bustle of Moruya or the Bay, form a rich tapestry across the sky that could easily be watched for hours.

So, on a still afternoon in February when Daniel and I stumbled across a large colony of Ghost Fungi (*Omphalotus nidiformis*) in the Arboretum at the base of a spotted gum (*Corymbia maculata*), the opportunity for a bit of night-time photography seemed too good to pass up.

And I think you'll agree, the results were certainly worth the hours we spent hunched over being relentlessly attacked by mosquitos.



Omphalotus nidiformis is both saprophytic and parasitic and is commonly found around the base of dead or dying trees. Its caps can grow to be 30cms across and grow in large clusters, often forming what looks a bit like a nest, hence the specific name, from the Latin *nidus*, "nest". It has a wide distribution from Tasmania through South Australia and up to southern Queensland in the east, and between Perth and Esperance in Western Australia.

The genus *Omphalotus* is cosmopolitan in range, and all species are bioluminescent. Unlike Oyster Mushrooms, to which they bear a passing resemblance, they are poisonous. Whilst not deadly, they will cause some rather unpleasant symptoms. (So no, do not eat them thinking you will develop a nice glow, as much of my family was sure would be the result).

In Australia they have been recorded growing on *Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Acacia*, and some introduced species such as *Pinus* but most commonly on Myrtaceae, especially Eucalypts. Usually fruiting in autumn, as the weather begins to cool, they are a common sight around the ERBG at this time of year.

Continued next page

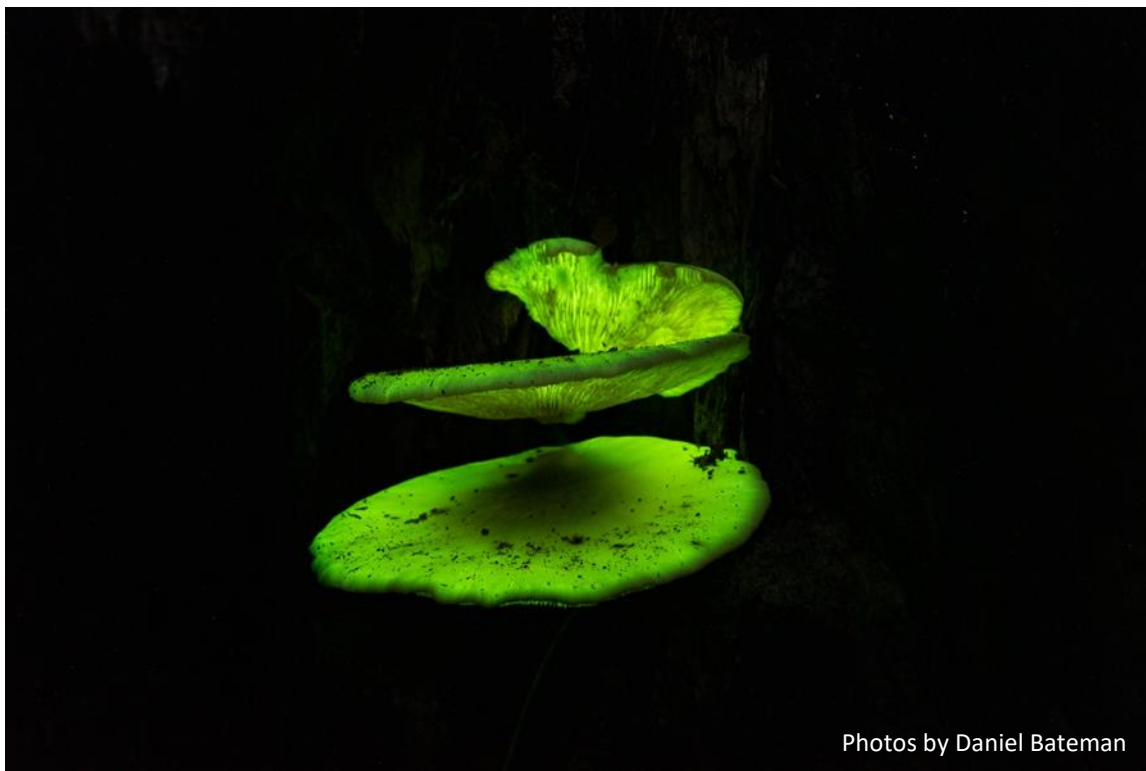
Continued from previous page

If you wish to see them, make sure you keep an eye out as we will be holding night walks at the Garden, but places are limited and fill up quickly.



continued next page

Continued from previous page



Photos by Daniel Bateman

For those interested, Daniel used a Nikon D5600 with a Sigma 10-20mm wide angle lens. It was attached to a tripod to get a crisp clear image without blur, and it was laid flat against ground level to achieve the desired shots. The settings he used were an aperture of f/7.1, and an iso of 800. The shutter was left open for about 2 minutes to let as much light on to the sensor as possible.

Autumn gardening

Dylan Morrissey



*Banksia spinulosa**

Ahhh, autumn, my favourite time of year. Cool nights and fresh crisp days with just enough warmth in the sun still to get a sweat up in the garden. With those icy cold winds already blasting up off the snow it might be easy to think it's time to light the fire and put your feet up for a few months, but not quite yet; there's always more to be done in the garden.

It's the perfect time of year to be getting young trees and flowering shrubs into the ground, for example: *Eucalypts*, *Callistemon*, *Grevillea*, *Correa*, *Leptospermum*, *Banksia* and *Melaleucas*.

Getting them in now while there is still a bit of warmth around in the soil will ensure a good amount of time to establish strong roots systems, ready for them to take off over spring. As always when planting, add a good layer of mulch around the plant (remembering not to mulch right up to the trunk) and water in well. At this time of year, I should think a deep watering once or twice a week for a couple of months should be enough for them to establish well.



Come in to the plant shop at the Garden now to find a good selection of these plants on offer.



*Photo: Michael Anlezark

Jenny Liney scholarship – News from the 2023 winners

The Jenny Liney annual scholarship supports Eurobodalla students commencing or continuing tertiary studies in a field related to the natural sciences such as botany, horticulture, conservation or environmental studies.

The scholarship honours the late Jenny Liney, OAM, in recognition of her contribution to the development and maintenance of the Wallace Herbarium at ERBG. Jenny's role as voluntary coordinator of the Herbarium over many years ensured that it continues as an important scientific collection of specimen plants from our region.

Raine Atkinson graduated from Moruya High School at the end of 2022, and is now studying a Bachelor of Animal Science at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, with an emphasis on sustainable wildlife management and conservation.

Mattea Kelly is studying a Bachelor of Science and Advanced Studies at the University of Sydney. She is in her second year, having graduated from St Peter's Anglican College at Broulee in 2021. Mattea majors in wildlife conservation and marine science.

After settling in to university this year, Mattea and Raine sent the following emails to the Friends Committee, through Sally Edsall, convener of the scholarship committee.

We wish them well in their studies for the remainder of this year.

Friends are asked to share knowledge of the scholarship amongst eligible young people they know, and to watch out for the call for applications later this year. Information can be found at <https://www.erbg.org.au/learn/jenny-liney-scholarship>

Hi, Sally and Friends of the Gardens!

Just thought I would send a check-in email to update you guys on how I am going!

I am in week five of the semester and starting to get into the gritty part of assignments and exams. I am enjoying my subjects this semester, especially my elective Zoology - so interesting! Recently, I have been volunteering with an Honours student, helping her out with her research on rehabilitated possums! This has been extremely exciting and involved

a couple of long nights/very early mornings of setting traps, checking traps and running some tests on captured possums. An absolute blast!

I was also wondering if as the mid-semester break comes up (around Easter time) whether you would like to check in face to face. Let me know!

I'm keen to hear what the Garden and you guys have planned for the year and keen to get involved!

I know in my interview we talked about holding some sort of day to talk to students about career pathways in environmental fields and I would be super keen to help organise/run some kind of event like this in the future!

Thanks so much and I hope all is well!

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page



Dear Sally and Friends of the Garden,

I'm writing to give you a quick little update on my first weeks of university. I've settled well here and made several great friends, some of which are in my course. I'm absolutely loving my studies so far, my classes are very interesting and I'm very much looking forward to driving more in depth into each topic.

The university campus and Wagga Wagga area are lovely. I'm very much enjoying being in this regional area of Australia that's so different from home. I definitely miss the beach though!



Recently I was fortunate enough to have a trip to a local sunflower farm. It was truly a beautiful and impressive sight. They had many sunflower fields across the property. I have attached some pictures for you.

I wish to thank you again for your support in making my university life possible and I look forward to my first official report to tell you all about uni so far.

Kind regards Raine.

Volunteers Turn Their Hand To Floristry



If you visit the Garden's visitor centre and café you will notice fresh native flower arrangements adorning tables and counters.

These vases of flowers are the work of a group of nursery volunteers who have taken this on and are now taking pride in the results of their exploration into 'flower arranging'. All the flowers and foliage are of course from our Garden. At certain times of the year there is a scarcity of flowers but the variety of foliage on offer means we are never without something for our arrangements.

Many of our visitors have made great comments on the arrangements and are interested in learning more about the particular plants used.

Here is a sample of these 'natural works of art' and our budding florists.



Red-bellied Black Snake Hunting

Geoff McVeigh

The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden is full of interesting life be it animal or plant. I and others have been fascinated by fungus and orchids. Other species vary from insects to reptiles to birds to what we commonly call animals. Look on iNaturalist and be amazed by what has been observed. Add your own sightings.

In January I watched a Red Bellied Black Snake apparently hunting frogs. It was in a pond which was little more than soft mud. It moved around on the surface leaving trails in the mud and slime. At times it disappeared quickly into what must have been holes under the surface. The snake seemed to dive straight into the mud. Sometimes its tail was left above water and its head later appeared two metres away.



I have a video of it underwater for over two minutes. When it surfaced it had either caught something and was pushing it through its body or it was breathing quickly.

I watched it for eight minutes the first time. It noticed my hand move my camera and rapidly left. Ninety minutes later I watched it for fourteen minutes.

Over spring, summer and autumn a snake can be anywhere in the Garden because they live there.

Insects can be worse than snakes. I recently had four leeches on my left ankle and two on my right but thankfully not at the same time and not in the Garden.



The snake in this photo is not a Red Bellied Brown Headed Green Snake but could be mistaken for one.

Snakes are beautiful, are protected and must be respected. They are usually timid. I have never been bitten by a snake because I do not touch them, pick them up or attack them. I photograph snakes and it is handy to have a good zoom lens.

Book Fair

Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 June 10am – 3pm

Join the hunt for the perfect book to get you through winter. Our annual preloved book fair is back, bigger and better, on the June long weekend!



Where: The Banksia room, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Deep Creek Dam Rd, Batemans Bay.

It's going to be everyone for themselves when doors open for our mega two-day second hand book fair, so put on your skates and sharpen your elbows.

Drop in to grab a bargain, or perhaps that special title that has been on the wish list for years.

What better time of year to curl up with a good read on the couch in front of the fire and get transported to another world and remember that funds raised go to supporting the Garden.

If you would like to donate some books for us to sell at the fair, please contact Dylan Morrissey on 02 4474 7471 or dylan.morrissey@esc.nsw.gov.au



Bathurst Gardeners' Club Spring Spectacular 2023

Saturday 28 and Sunday, 29 October 2023

Open Gardens 9:30 am to 5 pm

Live Music

Bus groups welcome (bus guides can be provided for groups of 10 or more)

Contact Terri Crumpler 0423 709 484

springspec@bathurstgardenclub.org.au

Friends Committee 2022–23

President: Gabriele Harding: gabriele.harding1@gmail.com

Vice President & Public Officer: Gail Stevens:
gailstevens54@outlook.com

Treasurer: Sue Cogger: cogger.sue@gmail.com

Secretary: Susan Magnay: susanmagnay@gmail.com

Ex officio: Michael Anlezark: Garden Manager: 4471 3348

Tricia Kaye Herbarium Curator: Tricia_Kaye@hotmail.com

Committee

Sally Edsall: sallyedsall57@gmail.com

Kate Mann: katemann@iinet.net.au

Peter Keogh: keoghp@gmail.com

Steve Winslade: steve.winslade21@gmail.com

Newsletter Trish Richardson: pararr1@bigpond.com