



FRIENDS OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Vol 29 No 2 Winter 2020



Rich Rewards

There are rich rewards for those who visit the Garden as the working bee volunteers discovered. The brolgas were dancing in the lagoon and calling as they flew over early every morning. The glorious native water lilies were still to be seen by keen observers, the sunrises were spectacular and a few red napped snakes and an eastern hooded scaly foot lizard were spotted in the mulch. The grasses were plentiful and the seed heads caught the sun. It is truly a wonderful time to visit. In the Gallery there is a beautiful book produced by the Glenmorgan Art Group to commemorate their 50 years of activity. What an amazing achievement this book is, a great record of members and their stories, and including some of their art works. The story of the Eastaus Flying Art School, where Merv Moriarty took Art to the Bush is really inspiring. Look out for this treasure **2020 Vision**.



Early morning at the lagoon



DATES for your DIARY: -

Spring Day if possible: Sunday August 23rd

Thanks to the Dalby Electorate Office of Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego for her support for our newsletter.



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Caretakers Corner

Winter has arrived. I don't like the cold much but it is a beautiful time at the Garden.

I am noticing more bird activity. The honeyeaters are making the most of the flowering grevilleas and eremophilas and the finches and doves are regular visitors for a drink at the bird hide. Don and I check the driplines daily and the perimeter fence weekly and far fewer repairs are needed now. Don hasn't been successful (yet) with getting the beloved old ute, Tilly, going. He has lost a lot of skin working on it and has even resorted to Google! He is not giving up yet but an auto electrician would be a big help. Are there any out there?

We are seeing more visitors as Covid restrictions are lifted and we take every opportunity to distribute brochures. Don is loving the new mower and it makes his job much easier. The planted areas of the Garden are looking much more inviting with the grass mown neatly, no more grass seeds in the socks!

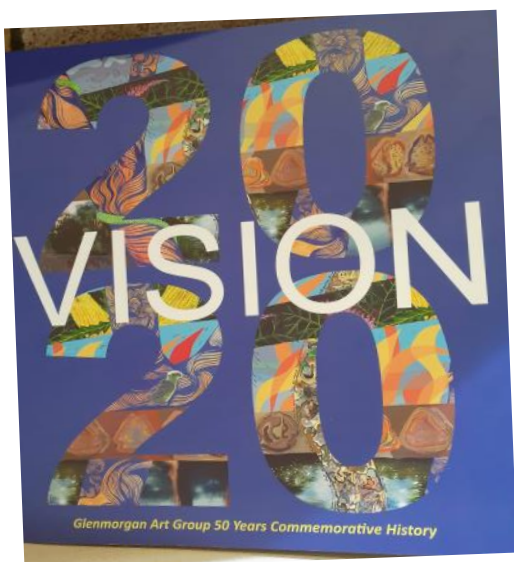
Dick has given me new plants for the Terpersie garden and it is looking better than ever. Sue brought out herbs and our vegetables flourish when the rabbits are kept at bay. Don has also taken to doing a little propagating in the shade house behind the seed room.

Please come and visit. Gail and Don



Accommodation Update

The windows in the kitchen and lounge room of The Quarters have been painted and the screens are being repaired (a very frustrating task). They will be installed before the warmer weather arrives. Mats have been donated for the bedrooms and the timber walls of the toilet received a preservation coat and are looking good. Avochie has been repaired after the termite attack and painting is the next task. **By late July it will be ready for guests.**



2020 Vision

*The Glenmorgan Art Group 50 Year
Commemorative History
Copies for sale in Gift Shop \$30*

Garden Renewal

There has been frustration with the loss of many plants over the last few years. Is it a watering issue, too much or not enough, too often or too close to the root? Is it a pH problem? Is it hard hydrosopic soil? Is it phytophthora?

We are trialing ways to enrich the soil in some gardens. Don has managed to attach rippers to the tractor and he has ripped areas to loosen the soil. Dead plant material has been burned on these areas, gypsum, old mulch and a little road base added, and then the area is ripped again. Sugar cane mulch has been added then chip mulch holds the cane in place. Will this help?

One garden bed was replanted and watered in with a weak molasses mix to encourage microbes and help with water absorption. In another area we placed a short length of pipe directly below the dripper to direct the irrigation water to the soil below the roots.

Perhaps the planting method needs revision. Apparently Dave Gordon used a drill or jack hammer to loosen the underlying rock to allow roots to search further for moisture and nutrient. All ideas are welcomed and we plan to trial more ideas in future working bees.

While there have been tragic losses in the Garden, there are some plants that seem to be happy with the conditions. *Hakea cyreana* is full of creamy white flowers, providing a feast for birds and bees. *Grevillea fililoba*, *preissii* and *thelemanniana* always look good and the *eremophilas* seem to flower whatever the weather. These flowers always draw the honey eaters.

June Working Bee

As soon as travel within Queensland was allowed a working bee was announced and 13 people ventured out to the Garden. The Gallery was the first area to be spruced up. Dead plants were removed, new plants replaced them, tired plants were pruned and the ponds were cleared of dead reeds so that the new green reeds could show themselves. The two beds near the Gallery door were ripped, extra soil and additives raised the beds and new Robyn Gordons were planted there. Other general tasks included soil testing, garden tools were repaired and oiled, plants and perching materials were added to the bird hide ponds, picnic tables were checked and repaired, the gardens at Avochie and others were improved and plans were made for the next few working bees. There is always lots to do and much is achieved with such willing, energetic workers.



A very welcome visitor

Rosemary Lovatt, the curator of the Chinchilla Botanic Garden, came out and spent a full day with us. It was much appreciated and we learned a lot. We were concerned about why so many large old Rusty Gums appeared to be dying or were already dead. Rosemary looked carefully at several and suggested that it might be wood moth. They carve furrows and bore holes in the trunks of trees, under bark. Because the drought stressed these trees, the insect attack has proven to be fatal in some cases. The two old Bendee trees are also struggling. On these trees Rosemary noticed bracket fungi which is a possible cause of their ill health.

Rosemary was generous with her knowledge and had many ideas about simple ways to improve the visitor experience and the Garden plantings. Evelyn, a new volunteer at Chinchilla, visited with Rosemary and shared her ideas about publicity too. Many thanks to Rosemary and Evelyn.



pH testing

Peter Kerr's demonstration of pH testing was most informative and is a model that should be replicated throughout the Garden to provide us with a much clearer understanding of the range of soils.

He chose a spot away from existing plants where the soil had not been disturbed recently. Using a crow bar and shovel, he dug a small neat hole about 40 cms deep. He removed a small sample of soil from the side of the base of the hole, tested it, then took another sample from the side of the hole about half way up and a third sample from the soil a few cms from the surface.

Results varied at the different depths but all soils tested indicated quite acidic soil.



DONATIONS

All donations of money and goods with a value of \$2 and over are tax-deductible.

Cheques payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Gift Fund.

Post to:

Nita C. Lester, PO Box 465 Mapleton, Qld 4560

**We really appreciate your Friends
Membership.**

**If you need to renew, please fill in the
form below, and we will update
your record**

Current Directors Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

DIRECTORS

Chairman Sue Akeroyd

Vice-Chairman

Secretary Betty Salter

Treasurer Betty Salter

Other Directors Cassie Robinson, Penny Grams, Nita Lester, Phillip Lester

Business Management: Betty Salter

Garden Experience: Penny Grams/Sue Akeroyd

**Horticulture, Conservation & Research
Manager:** Sue Akeroyd

Company correspondence to:

The Secretary,
PO Box 11014, Centenary Heights, Qld 4350

We welcome new members.
Why not introduce a friend or give a gift membership



Don't let us lose you—Renew or join here

I / We wish to remain / become a Friend of Myall Park Botanic Garden

Subscriptions and Renewals to 30 September 2020

- ☐ **Individual: \$15** ☐ **Single Life Membership: \$300** ☐ **Community Group: \$35**
☐ **Business: \$100 (with link to webpage)** ☐ **Business Life Membership: \$1000 (with link to webpage)** Please print:

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Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

I wish to add a donation of \$.....

(Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible)

Receipt required ☐

I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING WITH:

- ☐ Newsletter production (collect or write articles, layout, etc)
☐ Working bees
☐ Herbarium (helping with specimens, records etc)
☐ Promotion and Marketing
☐ Living Collection
☐ Retail
☐ Other (please indicate your interests)
.....

I wish to receive my newsletters by email..... Yes / No (please circle)

Total Payment enclosed \$.....

Payment may be made

1) either directly into our bank account:

Commonwealth Bank, Dalby. BSB 064-412 Account No. 1000 1195

Account name: Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd.

Reference: (please include your name and that it is for 'subscription')

2) or by cheque payable to 'Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd.'

Whichever method of payment you use, please send this completed form to:

Mrs B. Salter, PO BOX 11014 Centenary Heights. Qld 4350

Your articles, photographs, advertisements etc are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter.

Contact the Administration Officer
Email: myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com

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WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH PHOTOGRAPHS IN FULL COLOUR?



If you opt to receive it by email as a pdf file, then that's what awaits you. As well, you will be

helping to cut down the amount of paper we pay to transport it all over the country and the time taken by our volunteers to fold, staple and post each one.

Please email myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com with your email address which we will use in confidence only for this purpose.

Alternatively, newsletters may be downloaded directly from our website www.myallparkbotanicgarden.com



Hessian Garden bag
with
waterproof lining
\$6



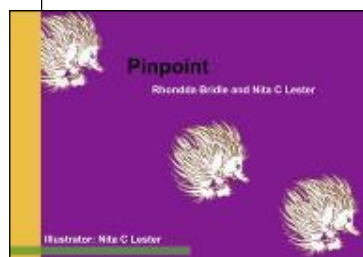
Four Bloom and Single Bloom Postcards **\$1.50**

SALE 50% OFF SELECTED ITEMS

BOOKS from our Catalogue

Order from the Garden and the profit stays here

Email or use form on page 10 not forgetting postage is to be confirmed



Pinpoint' Children's book by Rhondra Bridle and Nita C Lester; illustrated by Nita C Lester
Was **\$15** NOW **\$7.50**



Brigalow Birds book and CD

Birds of Myall Park Botanic Garden and surrounding region. PLUS With the aid of Brigalow Birds, you will be able to identify over 250 Australian bird species, many occurring throughout Australia.

Book Was \$33 Now \$16.50
CD WAS \$25 NOW \$12.50



Birdwings' New Home by Lynette Reilly, illustrated by Lois Hughes. Celebrates endangered butterflies

SOLD OUT!



For Sharp Eyes Only by Nita C Lester and Elaine Lyons: Illustrations show how our native animals are camouflaged in their surroundings

Was \$10 Now \$5

For latest information and pictures on 'Plants in the Garden' see our website -www.myallparkbotanicgarden.com

INFORMATION PAGE

Garden closed for maintenance 20 Dec—20 Jan each year
VISITORS WELCOME AT ALL OTHER TIMES

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2020

A - GARDEN ENTRANCE FEES

Garden and Gallery \$5.00 per person
FRIENDS and under 14 **FREE**
School children under 14 on excursion \$2
Official Guide \$50 plus Garden entry fees
Coach tours \$5.00 pp, driver and tour operator free
MPBG Friends Group Membership—each visit, one free entry, other members visiting at the same time 10% discount
Organised working parties—Free (by prior arrangement only)

B - ACCOMMODATION (Garden entry included)

For bookings, contact **Caretakers Ph 07 4665 6855 or email (May—October, advance bookings advisable)**

Friends Members 10% discount.
Tour organisers Free
Children under 14 half price, under 6 free.
Linen (if required) \$5 per person (bed linen, towels)

Avochie Cottage:

1 night - 1-2 people \$80 - each extra person \$20/ night
3 nights - 1-2 people \$220 - each extra person \$20 /night
1 week - 1-2 people \$480 - each extra person \$20/night
For above packages, a cleaning fee of \$20 will be added if necessary

Cleaning included for 5 nights or longer.

The Quarters: Rooms 1—4

(guests share kitchen and bathroom facilities)

per person: 1 night \$30 3 nights \$80 1 week \$180

Room 5 : 1-2 person 1 night \$60 -3 nights \$140-Extra person \$10pp p night

Cleaning NOT included in The Quarters packages, \$20 fee added if necessary.

Sole Use of The Quarters—p.o.a.

C - TENTS and VANS (Garden entry included)

FREE POWER

All sites: \$25 per site per night for 1-2 people. Extra person \$5.50

D - CATERING

Meals available Bottle Tree Inn, Glenmorgan ph 07 4665 6727 and General Store, Glenmorgan

E - GALLERY HIRE

Includes use of furniture, urn, power-points for equipment, fridge and Garden entry. Tea and coffee not provided.

\$100 first day, \$25 each extra day (includes cleaning)

\$10 per day for local non-profit community groups—please leave clean or pay \$20 cleaning fee.

Please discuss all arrangements when you book tours or accommodation.

On arrival, see Information in log box at Visitor Centre, or on-site caretaker.

Glenmorgan has basic provisions including diesel and unleaded fuel. Diesel and unleaded fuel are also available at **Surat** with card (PIN) and **The Gums**. Fuel sales at **Meandarra** are credit card (PIN) only.

ABOUT OUR ACCOMMODATION:

(Linen is not included. Ask about our linen service when you book.)

Avochie Cottage - (Right)

Renovated 3 bedroom cottage with 1 double and 2 twin rooms. Bath/ shower and toilet. Electric hot water system. Open fireplace in sitting room. New electric stove, microwave oven, crockery, cutlery, electric jug, fridge, frypan and toaster. Washing up and cleaning utensils supplied. Fans, air cooler, heater, basic furnishings.



The Quarters: (Right)

Renovated inside and out. Two verandahs, 4 small bedrooms (6 single beds) 1 large bedroom (1 double bed + 1 single with A/C). 2 bathrooms each with bath / shower, 2 toilets. Electric hot water. New electric stove, microwave oven, crockery and cutlery, fridge, electric jug, frypan and toaster. Washing up and cleaning utensils supplied. Fans, heater, basic furnishings. Open fireplace in living area.



Caravans/Tents: Connect to the power on-site and use toilet / shower facilities at the Gallery complex. Unpowered sites available.



FREE POWER

For all bookings, phone caretakers on 07 4665 6855 or email.

We ask you to leave the accommodation clean when you depart and to take all rubbish with you. (No collection here.)

CONTACTS

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myallparkbotanic@bigpond.com

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Don and Gail

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MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Every purchase helps the Garden



washer and microwave safe			
A	SERVING/DINNER PLATE 275mm	\$25	
B	SMALL PLATES 155 mm Robyn Gordon Sandra Gordon Merinda Gordon	\$13.50 \$13.50 \$13.50	
C	RICE BOWLS 115mm	\$13.50	
D	JUG 250ml, very fine and light	\$20	
E	GREVILLEA FINE CHINA MUG 270ml SOLD OUT	\$17.50	
F	DOROTHY GORDON MUG 300ml stands 100mm	\$15	
G	DOROTHY GORDON MUG 270ml stands 90mm	\$15	
H	Hessian GARDEN BAG with waterproof lining See also on page 7	\$6	
I	LATTE MUG heavy weight china Leadlight Design. Black on white contemporary style.	\$10	
	'AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWER PAINTINGS' Book of paintings by Dorothy Gordon	\$ 40	
	GREETING CARDS — featuring Dorothy Gordon botanical paintings	\$ 3.50 Single \$ 22 Set of 8	
	Unframed WILDFLOWER PRINTS by Dorothy Gordon (20x30)	\$ 4.50 each \$ 20 set of 5	
	2020 Vision	\$30	
NAME ADDRESS Cheques payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd 1) Post to Box 22 Glenmorgan 4423 2) Or directly into our bank account: Commonwealth Bank, Dalby. BSB 064-412 Account No. 1000 1195 Account name: Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd. Reference: (please include your name and that it is for 'gift shop')		SUB TOTAL	
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