



FRIENDS OF MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Vol 30 No 1 Autumn 2021



SPRING DAY SUNDAY 29th AUGUST 2021

This is the year to celebrate the history of the Garden within the history of the community. Dave Gordon planted the first of his huge collection eighty years ago. He admired the bush around him and was so taken with the native plants that grew and thrived in arid, and semi-arid areas and the dry tropics of Australia. He cared not for neat, formal gardens. He wanted to replicate the look of the undisturbed Australian bush while also showcasing the unusual and rare plants.

We will start the day with a Fun Run followed by morning tea and then pause to take a look at the tools Dave used and the methods he employed.

There will be a few surprises included in the programme so we urge you all to
save the date!



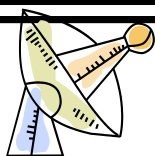
Another grower of our much loved Australian native plants has joined our volunteer ranks. Len White has been growing native plants for many years and has recently propagated some rare and endangered plants for the Garden.

Len is a champion of Australian native plants and has extensive knowledge, both practical and academic, of a broad range of species. Len is a valued volunteer and life member of Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee in Brisbane, where he teaches and trains other volunteers and propagates plants that are used in native habitat re-vegetation projects across south-east Queensland.

The Board is extremely grateful for Len's help.

**DATES for your DIARY: - Friends Working Bee—April 25th to May 1st.
Spring Day Sunday 29th August "Looking Back In Time".**

Thanks to the St. George office of Ann Leahy, MP, Member for Warrego, for her support for our newsletter.



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www.facebook.com/myallparkbotanicgarden

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NEW CARETAKERS ON THE WAY

Caretakers Corner

Unfortunately our time at the Garden is coming to an end and by mid April we will be hooking our trailer on to the back of the motor-home and heading north, before the cold weather arrives. We have really enjoyed our time here, greeting all the visitors and the volunteers and figuring out how everything works.

After almost a year of drought conditions it was wonderful to see the rain fill the empty dam and transform the Garden. Since about November 2020, we have had good rains and most of the plants are happy, though some prefer it dry!

The new caretakers **Rod and Julie Lee** will work with us for a short time to learn the ropes.

We will miss the people we have met while staying here, especially Cassie, Ben, Billy and MacGregor but we will be back from time to time.

We hope that Rod and Julie enjoy the caretaking role as much as we have.

GOING FORWARD...

Our AGM was held in Toowoomba on 29th November 2020. There were 13 attendees and 4 apologies. For the first time since the Garden became a registered company, Dr Nita Lester chose not to be re-elected to the Board. She has worked tirelessly for many many years and we are most grateful for her dedication. Thank you Nita. Now we must work towards maintaining the standards that she set.

The current Board members are listed later in the newsletter.

There was lively discussion at the meeting and plans made for new publications and research projects.



RESEARCH



The first research project was due to occur in January. Dr John Moss and Wesley Jenkinson BOIC/ESQ drove out to the Garden intending to study the moths, butterflies and mistletoe species. By the time they reached Cobblegun Creek, the water was over the causeway. Unfortunately they were forced to turn back but we hope they will return some day.

FINANCES!

Despite 2020 being a difficult year for the Garden, following the disastrous drought and then Covid 19 stopping all visitors, whom we rely on for accommodation and retail income, MPBG Ltd is probably no worse off than usual.

The 2019/20 financial year saw income of \$74,820 including the WDRC support of \$39,116 and \$15,100 from the Fed Govt as Covid 19 support, for which we are incredibly thankful. Accommodation income was \$9,950 as we welcomed the many Queenslanders who travelled to support regional areas.

Expenditure for the year was \$64,400 which included about \$20,000 for standard administrative costs like insurance, auditing, electricity, telephone, internet, pest inspection etc. Over \$8,000 was spent on Avochie Cottage to repair extensive termite damage. \$6,300 was spent on the actual garden with fuel, mulch, repairs etc. Other expenditure included items like Caretaker and office staff wages and retail purchases.

The Gift Fund balance was reduced considerably with the \$11,400 spent on dam de-silting and enlargement. The planned irrigation replacement scheme was put on hold – no water anyway, but must continue this year. Currently the gift fund has only \$4,500, with a term deposit of \$22,000. There have been no major donations in the past year.

We are thankful the WDRC has granted us \$28,500 towards the proposed Camp Kitchen, which will be a great asset especially for our campers and caravanners. We must spend at least that amount in this like for like type of grant, which we will take from the \$55,000 which we received from Tara Landcare when it folded. Much of the remainder of that money will probably go towards the irrigation replacement.

The Terpersie Cottage bathroom replacement has been another necessary expense in this financial year, \$17,000. So no more major expenses can be handled. There will always be a struggle financially, and lots of “wish lists” –it’s not easy!

BUNNINGS GENEROSITY

In November 2020 we were very lucky to receive a \$200 gift voucher from Dalby Bunnings. During a trip out west we made Bunnings a stop and spent the entire voucher buying tools and other supplies for the Garden. For the next working bee there will be sharp secateurs, pruning saws, mallets and mulch buckets.

Many thanks to Alana and the team at Dalby Bunnings.



Upgrading Terpersie Cottage

A long over-due re-vamp of Terpersie Cottage has begun. When Gail and Don decided that it was time to move on, an advertisement was placed on the web site "Jobs for Grey Nomads" and it was not long before Rod and Julie made contact. It was at this point that we became aware of the urgent need to renovate the bathroom in the cottage. A local builder was found who agreed to do the work while Don and Gail were taking a well earned break in late January.

Jane and Sue looked at their commitments and decided that they could paint the two bedrooms and the lounge room, during the same period, and the bathroom as soon as renovations were complete. Fortunately there was sufficient paint in stock due to a donation from Bunnings in Toowoomba during the previous year. Work began in earnest and, luckily, the weather was kind, in fact, it rained all one day and Sue and Jane abandoned the painting to dig holes to plant a few eucalypts which had been struggling with the humidity in Brisbane. The hole digging was much easier than usual and the soil was moist 45 cms below ground level!! Imagine that!

The cottage is transformed and ready for guests, with new curtains hanging too. It would be wonderful to see newer lounge chairs, a Queen size bed, a chest of drawers and a better wardrobe, if anyone had such items and could donate them it would result in a very comfortable cottage.

We have applied for a grant to have the external walls of Terpersie Cottage painted professionally but if we are not successful, who will bring a brush and help out??



A Camp Kitchen

We have been successful with a grant application to Western Downs Regional Council to construct a Camp Kitchen in the camping area. It is hoped that a shared facility will encourage campers to extend their stay and socialise with other campers to learn more of the attractions in the area. Within the facility would be a storage area and toilet. The space would be ideal for workshops and as a gathering place for volunteers who attend working bees. The storage area would house the tables and chairs used at functions held at the Garden and probably much more.

A notice board would be used to show lists of wildlife seen at the Garden or new plants added to the Living Collection.

Another addition to the camping area will be some brush screens to hopefully create separate spaces within the camping area to soften the look and to slow the dust eddies when vehicles drive along the road.

These and other tasks will be achieved during the Friends Working Bee from Monday 26th April to Saturday 1st May. Can you come for a day or a week?

Garden Report



Acacia glaucoptera, also known as flat wattle showing its amazing leaf structure. This wattle is quite uncommon in the wild.

The year of 2020 was severely disrupted in many ways and late in the year we found we had a lot of plants more than ready to be planted and not likely to remain healthy until the working bee in April 2021.

Rather than throw these plants away, and against conventional wisdom, the plants were added to the Living Collection by a keen group of volunteers.

The holes were dug much deeper than in previous years with gypsum added and mulch spread around the surface.

In January most of those plants were more than doubled in size and looking very healthy. Certainly the weather has helped and the vigilance of the caretakers.

A Tribute to Two Terrific Caretakers

When Gail and Don arrived at Myall Park I phoned on their first night to welcome them. Don's first words were "The Rhino tank is empty!" "I will come out the day after tomorrow" I said, and my husband and I drove out for moral support more than anything else as we knew nothing of the workings of the pump. By the time we arrived Don had figured it all out and the tank was quietly refilling! Don has been solving multiple problems ever since.

Don is the talkative one and he persuades the visitors to stay another night or listen to the stories of the Garden history or purchase some items in the retail space. Gail is the quiet organiser and it is she who sets the standard and will not accept anything but the best that is possible.

At one of the working bees we had piled up dead branches to do a small burn early the next morning. We agreed to meet Don at 6am but when we arrived the pile of sticks was not there. Don turned up and explained that he had moved the sticks to a less obvious area because Gail had explained that the remaining burnt patch would not be visually appealing. Quite right Gail. The kettle in Avochie needed replacement so on my next trip out I brought a black kettle. Gail put the new one in the Gallery and the older white one in Avochie because black was not the right colour for Avochie. Again, quite right Gail. Thank you both for caring so much for this small but significant Garden off the beaten track. Many of the visitors whom you helped in one way or another and made feel so welcome will return and spread the word to other travellers and in this way your caring will benefit the Garden long after you have moved north. Best wishes for future adventures!



Don on the new mower and ripping the hybrid bed in preparation for future plantings.



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

**Contact the Administration Officer
Cassie Robinson**

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 send Betty (see page 9) 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

Sale 50% off selected items



**Hessian Garden Bag
with
waterproof lining
\$ 6**

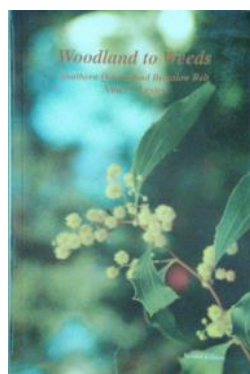


**Four bloom and single bloom postcards
\$1.50**



Pinpoint
Children's book by
Rhonda Bridle and
Nita C Lester
illustrated by Nita C
Lester
Was \$15 Now \$7.50

Email or use form on page 10 not forgetting to add one-off cost of **\$12 postage** per order



Woodland to Weeds
Southern Queensland
Brigalow Belt
Second Edition
By Nita C. Lester
\$49.95



For Sharp Eyes Only
by Nita C Lester and Elaine
Lyons. Illustrations show
how our native animals are
camouflaged in their sur-
roundings.
Was \$10 Now \$5

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

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 or direct deposit CBA

BSB 064 412 Acct 10204195

Post to: Mrs Betty Salter PO Box 11014, Centenary Heights Qld 4350

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 Jane Seddon

Treasurer Betty Salter

Other Directors Cassie Robinson, Penny Grams, Joan Wilkinson

Business Management: Betty Salter

Garden Experience: Sue Akeroyd

Horticulture, Conservation & Research Manager:

Joan Wilkinson

Company correspondence to:

The Secretary,

48 Raffles Street, Mt Gravatt Q 4122

We welcome new friends.

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 2021

- ☐ **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:

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

Receipt required ☐

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

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

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

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)
.....

INFORMATION PAGE

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

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2021

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**
(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 \$50 -3 nights \$130-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)

All sites: \$25 per site for first 2 nights \$10 per night after for 1-2 people. Extra person \$5.50 per night \$20 per site without power

D - CATERING

Meals available Bottle Tree Inn, Glenmorgan ph 07 4665 6727

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 singles). 2 bathrooms each with bath or 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.



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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Caretakers 07 4665 6855

Don

Directors/Managers

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FACEBOOK and WEB SITE

Keep up to date with the latest news,
workshops etc at

www.myallparkbotanicgarden.com

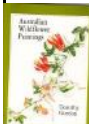
www.facebook.com/myallparkbotanicgarden



MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Every purchase helps the Garden



			No.	Sub total
A	Fine China Collection— all dishwasher and microwave safe 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' SOLD OUT Book of paintings by Dorothy Gordon Signed by Dave Gordon	\$ 38.50 \$ 42.50		
	GREETING CARDS— featuring Dorothy Gordon botanical paintings 	\$ 3.50 Single \$ 22 Set of 8		
	Unframed WILDFLOWER PRINTS by Dorothy Gordon (20x30 cm)	\$ 4.50 each \$ 20 set of 5		
	BOOKS and postcards— add titles and prices from page 7 please			
NAME		SUB TOTAL		
ADDRESS		DISCOUNT		
.....		SUB TOTAL . LESS DISCOUNT		
Cheques payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd Post to Box 22 Glenmorgan 4423 OR directly into our bank account: Commonwealth Bank, Dalby. BSB 064-412 Acct Number 1000 1195 Account Name: Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd Reference (please include your name and "gift shop")		POSTAGE	12.00	
		TOTAL ORDER		