



MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Vol 33 No 2 Winter 2024



CELEBRATING NATIONAL WATTLE DAY

Wattles are Amazing and have a special place in Australia's history. Wattle is incorporated in our Coat of Arms, its our National Floral Emblem and its colours are proudly worn by our national sporting teams and individuals.

The Acacia area of the Garden has been upgraded recently and has many interesting specimens in it, including some rare acacias. There are also six new larger aluminium signs in the area with some interesting information displayed.

On Spring Day there will be the fun runs again, free entry this year, delicious Morning Tea, including interesting snacks made from edible wattle seed. The Glenmorgan CWA have booked a stall, maybe others too, and the plant stall will include several new wattle varieties.

Michael Gilmour, the Vice President of the Wattle Day Association will be our guest speaker and there is an opportunity for visitors to learn how to propagate wattle seed and choose some seeds to plant on the day to take home.

Nature printing results in quite amazing coloured prints on paper or material. Robyn will let you in on the secrets and everything will be available for young and old to make their own prints.

Did you know that one of our Australian wattles was the first plant to grow and flower after the devastating bomb at Hiroshima. The Japanese people formed an association named the Hiroshima Wattle Appreciation Society and for many years sent yellow ribbons to Australia as a sign of renewal, hope, friendship, strength and resilience. Some of these ribbons will be on display at the Garden and you will be invited to create similar ribbons to tie up somewhere or pass on to others.

**DATES for your DIARY: -
Sunday August 25th SPRING DAY**

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



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Website: www.myallparkbotanicgarden.com
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CONTENTS

Diary Dates.....1	Seen at the Garden.....4	Beautifying Glenmorgan.....10
Spring Day & Fun Run.....1	Plant Profile5	Newsletter Information..... 10
Caretakers Corner.....2	April—May Working Bee.....6 & 7	Subs & Members renewal11
Rainfall totals.....2	Bees at the Garden.....8	Information page12
Generous donors.....2	More interesting links to the past..9	Merchandise.....13 & 14
Spring Day & Fun Runs.....3	The importance of compost.....9	

Caretakers Corner

Hello Everyone

It's Winter again—cool to cold nights—brisk and bracing first thing in the morning. Longing for the sun to warm everything up, including ourselves. The plants love it, more rain this year than for the last few years and day by day, the transformation is happening before my eyes. Flowers are popping out everywhere, the natives are blooming steadily. Can't wait for the riot of colour for Spring Day. So, come one, come all for Spring Day 25th August. It will be a ball.

So, until next time, Keep Blooming
Caretaker Jeff

PS: Plenty of camping
available and firewood as well.



Generous donors

The following people have allowed us to use their photos to showcase the Garden and it is appreciated very much. Thank you Robyn, Alan, David, Peter & Alan

David & Fay Brice have donated money and lots of hard work to upgrade the caretaker's cottage.

A big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who came to lend a hand at the recent working bee.

Rainfall totals for June 20mm
Totals since the rain gauge was replaced after the storm
in January 281.5mm



**START THE DAY WITH
THE
BEST PARK RUN**
through beautiful bushland
gardens
8:00am start for the
8.5km run
and
3.5km run/walk
9:30 start for the 750m
mini dash

**THINGS TO SEE, DO
EAT AND
TAKE HOME**
Plant, food and craft
stalls
Raffle with great prizes
Tour the historic buildings
and garden
Wander through the
Labrynth
Browse through the gift
shop and gallery
Breakfast and lunch food
available

**Celebrate
National
Wattle
Day
at**

**Myall Park
Botanic
Garden
Spring Day
Sunday 25
August 2024**

WATTLE DAY ACTIVITIES
Guest speaker from the Wattle
Day Association
Make your own Wattle Day
ribbon
Learn how to propagate wattles
Plant your own wattle to take
home
Yummy wattle seed treats to
purchase

**NATURE PRINTING
WORKSHOP**
Learn how to make
amazing prints using
natural plant material
Make a print to take
home
Suitable for all ages
All materials provided

Proudly sponsored by




MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN GLENMORGAN

SPRING DAY **25** August 2024

Janine Pechey Memorial Fun Run

The best park run ever!!!

followed by a fun day celebrating
National Wattle Day

**8:00am start for the 8.5km run
and 3.5km run/walk through the
beautiful bushland Garden.**

**9:30am start for the 750m Mini Dash
Free entry. Register on the day.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE SPRING DAY PROGRAM GO TO
WWW.MYALLPARKBOTANICGARDEN.COM



Seen at the Garden

Acacia bancroftiorum occurs in Qld to the north of MPBG with very bright yellow eye-catching ball shaped flowers. The 'leaves' have two small horns on one side .

Another wattle which is to be admired is *Acacia conferta* or Crowded-leaf wattle. These are smaller, more compact bushes and the flowers grow on short stalks.



to



Acacia bancroftiorum above and
A conferta to the left
Photos by Sue Akeroyd

Grevillea Merinda Gordon is one of the hybrids that occurred naturally in the Garden under Dave's care and attention. Sadly the Garden specimen died many years ago but recently several plants have been reintroduced and they are thriving. Here is Dave's daughter, Merinda herself, admiring the healthy plant which is named after her.



Plant Profile on a different scale



Ophioglossums

The recent good seasons have meant that over large sections of sheltered ground the *Cheilanthes* ferns have flourished, as have liverworts and other small plants growing amongst the grasses.

One interesting species noted during our recent Members working bee are these Adders Tongue Ferns or *Ophioglossum* sp.

It looks like a tiny lily plant with a flower spike coming into bud but it is a fern and the "bud" is the fertile frond which has little capsules that split and release spores. When dry it dies back to an underground storage tuber but with the good seasons they are up and about. Adders Tongue Fern species are found worldwide and whilst mostly terrestrial, there are species that live on trees, such as *O pendulum* (Syn *Ophioderma pendulum*), with long trailing fronds, is found on the east coast of Australia and in Malaysia.

A couple of interesting tidbits of trivia about these unusual ferns. One species *O malviae* from India is the smallest terrestrial fern in the world, whilst *O reticulatum* has the largest number of chromosomes of any species of plant and almost the most of any multicellular living thing.

Some species of *Ophioglossum* have edible leaves and are used as food in various parts of the world. Peter Kerr

This juvenile Blue-faced Honeyeater is feasting on the cactus fruit in the Garden which probably explains why the cactus is spreading!

But, who could deny this beautiful bird a snack?

His eye patch is green, which shows that he is a juvenile.

Photo taken by Alan Bell



April-May Working Bee

Firstly, a thank you to all who came and worked so hard. So much was achieved over more than two weeks.

There was still much to do after the severe storm on 1st January. Trees and branches littered the Trails, and there was damage to the numbered specimens in the Garden Walks. We worked around the Writer's Workshop which was in residence for the first weekend.

It is always daunting to arrive for the first working bee. No matter how much has been done since the start of the year, the Garden looks unloved and the task of restoring it to our previous visits for the next Spring Day, seems an impossibility.

Planting at Glenmorgan Kindergarten was our first project. Kieth and Bob had prepared the site the previous weekend, so planting was straight forward, and the area mulched and watered. The End of the Line planting had suffered in the January storm. The large *Hakea lorea* was blown over, exposing some of last year's April plantings to harsher conditions. In spite of this, many specimens are growing well and are noticed by the passers-by.

Huge weed piles were generated for the composting hub planned and prepared by Bob using deconstructed timber pallets. This has been built near the High Tank where the water source will be used to keep it moist. It is amazing how quickly the bulky weeds can be compressed. Bob also worked towards clearing unwanted and dead timber south of the High Tank in order to create an area for visitor star-gazing.

Another early project saw work start on the removal of the *Harrisia* cactus which has been spread by overland flooding along the lagoon road and by two and four-footed animals. The spines are several cms long and attach to shoes, clothing, and any exposed body parts. After a morning of digging out half of the outbreaks by the two of us, Jane decided to spray the rest with Pete's help. A ute-load of cactus was dumped in the quarry for burning. Any regrowth will be monitored as it is easy to miss in the long grasses.

Chain saws, mowers and whipper snippers were worked hard by Brad, Kieth, Bob, and Jeff. All hands helped to drag logs and trailer loads of cut weedy species to piles for removal. Logs were used as markers for the paths through the Garden Walks which were then mowed and whipper-snipped to give access to the Walk highlights. Specimen plants were tidied and broken limbs removed.

Signage and division markers were painted and restored – thank you Jane. Once weeding was relatively under control, planting could begin. Carolyn and Dick worked on the Acacia project. Plant labelling and signed pathways will display Dick's extensive array of Acacia species from all parts of Australia.

The heavily weed-infested Proteaceae division was cleared and planted with Pete's wide variety of propagated species and Alan Lee's grafted banksias, grevilleas and hakeas. The areas were mulched again with 'storm mulch' to reduce the weed regrowth. Large piles had been created by our hired mulcher and the local community who had donated their time and equipment to come and help in the clean-up after the storm. There was enough mulch for Marie and Robyn to mulch the Gallery gardens already weeded by Allen and the weeding team.



New signage on the cleared Chinchilla White Gums Walk and Jane spraying *Harrisia* cactus

Another project was the clearing of unwanted seedling grevilleas and other opportunistic species in the Gordon Grevillea section to the western end of the Garden. Grafted Gordon grevilleas and their parents were purchased using the Toowoomba Native Plants donation. A wide selection was sourced, and has added a comprehensive range of Gordon grevilleas and their parents which should create an outstanding display fitting to the area set aside by Dave Gordon, with the plan to allow natural hybridisation from a wide selection of grevillea species.

Merinda Gordon surprised us by being able to join the working bee. She enjoyed it so much, that she returned daily later in the week. She joined small teams to clear the Trails and make sure markers were in place. This was time consuming but necessary work. Phil and Judy joined in for their first working bee although both had visited the garden many times in the past. Phil was able to check all the stored records in the Gallery, which he had worked on as our legal advisor for many years.

Jeff had cut fallen obstacles before we arrived and was always available to help when he could spare the time. He and I spent a few hours visiting Garden divisions to learn the significance of the plantings in the older areas, the need to showcase special species, and the planning needed to achieve our presentation of the Garden to the visitors. His input was appreciated, and I am sure he will continue to enjoy his time here.

David organised work on Terpersie, the caretaker's cottage, with Faye helping. Minor repairs and the sanding filling and undercoating first and then in the last few days the whole cottage received two coats of paint. This was time consuming work, and all done with minimum disruption to Jeff and his friend staying in the cottage.

Noel and Mike replaced the guttering on the Seed Room. The painting was also finished there and is looking fresh and new to match the Glass House and hardening bays. A new and permanent water supply was installed to supply the Bird Hide pond and Pete's calothamnus plantings have added to the species variety in the eastern section of the proposed new Honeyeater Walk. It is a joy to work in the area as the bird song is never-ending.

Avochie Cottage garden had a thorough weeding, replanting and mulching, as did the Hybrid garden. All grist for Bob's new composting hub.

We all enjoy every minute spent and although the work is hard, the evening get togethers iron out the tiredness, and the camaraderie ensures that we will all return. We hope that Jeff can settle down now that we have departed. He has been so tolerant of the disruption and such good company. We hope he enjoyed it all as much as we did.

Until the next bee, Joan



Terpersie and the Seed Room showing the fresh paint work and new guttering

Bees at the Garden

We have had hives of bees at the Garden since 2009 when the late Alan Beil donated several boxes of *Austroplebeia australis* hives and set them up in the tank stand close to Avochie. Over the years a few of the hives succumbed to disease and had to be removed and the remainder are now spread into other parts of the Garden. One hive now resides in Janine's Garden close to the Mill Shed so that it can be observed by visitors. It is hoped that one day we can encourage the bees to grow another colony in the small box attached to the entry of the original hive.

Another of the hives is now established at Honeyeater and the bees there are very active, perhaps because there is more sun on the hive box.



When the students from Glenmorgan School visited last year, they discovered some *Hardenbergia violacea* leaves that had been cut by the leaf-cutter bee so we now know that those small bees enjoy our Garden too. These bees are solitary bees, they do not live in hives, but cut sections from soft leaves and insert the pieces in a hollow somewhere and lay their eggs between the leaf pieces.



Another solitary bee, a blue-banded bee was seen enjoying the nectar of a red grevillea flower at the Garden.

In May this year we observed another solitary bee visiting a boronia bush near the Gallery. This bee was a checkered cuckoo bee and she behaves like cuckoos in that she lays her eggs in a blue banded bee nest so that she does not need to raise her young!! What cheek.

Learn more about this bee at <https://australian.museum/learn/animals/insects>



More interesting links to the past

About five years ago, Doug visited the Garden and stayed in Avochie for a few days. He had lived there previously when he was around 13 or 14 while his step father, Harold Vines, did several painting jobs for Dave Gordon. He remembers the place fondly and still marvels that Dave took time to show him around and chat to him about all sorts of things. Here is one of the interesting photos that Doug took on his visit five years ago.



More recently we were contacted by Richard who discovered our facebook page and was delighted because he remembers staying at the Garden when he was around 5 years old. His father was hired as a farm manager and worked for Dave several times between 1981 and 1983. Richard clearly remembers his siblings and himself being taught water colour painting and other crafts by Dorothy.

The importance of compost

The most recent structure to be built at the Garden is a compost bin. Some wooden pallets were transported to site and Bob began to carefully construct a bin from the best pieces of timber. We have large piles of weeds after each working bee and it is important to capture the goodness held within so that the soil can be improved. The bin is in an excellent position close to the high tank, Garden Circuit and a water supply to keep the plant material damp.

There are other spots where food scraps can be used to improve the soil. In the garden between The Quarters and Avochie a large bucket, (with holes in its sides) is partly buried. It has a red wooden lid held down by a rock. Visitors staying in the accommodation are encouraged to add food scraps to this bucket with a little soil and water. The worms or tiny critters will aid in the composting of these scraps and feed the nearby plants. There is another small green bin half buried in the garden behind Avochie for the same purpose.



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

Contact the President

Sue Akeroyd 0415 291 225

Email: myallparkbotanic@gmail.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 the amount of paper we use and transport all over the country plus the time taken by our volunteers to fold, staple and post each one.

Please send Jane (see page 11) 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



Beautifying Glenmorgan

During the last few years we have been involved in establishing new gardens in Glenmorgan. The first garden we help plant was at the State School. The students helped and we all enjoyed the day very much.

The End of the Line garden was planted with help from the community on Anzac Day 2023 and this year we were pleased to be asked to plant a garden at the Kindy. Kieth is seen here finalising the planting. The shrubs are small now (they establish more easily if planted when small) but we hope they will grow and bloom along the full length of the fence. We will be back from time to time to weed and tidy.

The End of the Line garden is growing well and when these bushes are in flower they look wonderful.



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 Jane Seddon, 48 Raffles St, Mt Gravatt East Q 4122

**We really appreciate your
Membership.**

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

Current Directors

Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

DIRECTORS

Chairman Sue Akeroyd

Vice-Chairman

Secretary Jane Seddon

Treasurer

Other Directors Joan Wilkinson

Business Management:

Garden Experience: Sue Akeroyd

Living Collection : Joan Wilkinson

Company correspondence to:

The Secretary,

48 Raffles Street, Mt Gravatt Q 4122

Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd Membership Application 2024

Please complete the details below and return (with cheque if applicable) to:

Jane Seddon

Secretary

Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

48 Raffles Street, Mt Gravatt East, Qld 4122

or email to myallparkbotanic@gmail.com

Please indicate Membership type:

() Individual \$25 () Family/couple \$40 () club/organisation \$40 () Life \$400

Name.....

Second name if a couple

Club or organisation

Address.....

Email.....Phone.....

In making this application, I/we agree:

to support the purposes of MPBG; and understand that Members of MPBG are required as per our constitution Clause 4, to contribute an amount not more than \$10 (the guarantee) to the property of the Company if the Company is wound up while the Member is a Member, or within 12 months after they stop being a Member, to pay for the debts of the company (if any), and the costs of winding up.

Signature/s.....

Payment can be made by:

*Cheque payable to **Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd**, or*

EFT Payments: **BSB 064-412 Account: 1000 1195 “member application”**

INFORMATION PAGE

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

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2022

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
Organised working parties—Free (by prior arrangement only)

B - ACCOMMODATION (Garden entry included)

For bookings, contact **Caretakers Ph 0497 215 226**
(May—October, advance bookings advisable)

Tour organisers Free
Children under 6 free.
Linen (if required) \$5 per person (bed linen, towels)

Avochie Cottage:

1 night - 2 people \$100 - each extra person \$20/ night
For above packages, a cleaning fee of \$20 will be added if necessary

The Quarters: Rooms 1—4

(guests share kitchen and bathroom facilities)
per room: 1 night \$30

Room 5 : 1 or 2 persons \$80 per night

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

C - TENTS and VANS (Garden entry included)

All powered sites: \$25 per site for 2 people. Extra person \$10/day
Unpowered site \$20 per site for 2 people. Extra person \$10/ day

D - CATERING

Meals available Bottle Tree Inn, Glenmorgan ph 07 4665 6727
And End of the Line Café 0458 984 254

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)

\$20 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, please check in with the on-site caretakers 0497 215 226 and see Information in log box in the covered area near the carpark.

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. 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, 5 small bedrooms (6 single beds) 1 large bedroom (1 double bed + 1 single with A/C). 2 bathrooms each with bath or shower, 2 toilets. Electric hot water. 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.

Fire pit available but wood must be brought in or purchased from caretaker.



For all bookings, phone caretaker on 0497 215 226 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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Jeff Ryan myallparkbotanic@gmail.com

Caretaker 0497 215 226
Jeff Ryan

Directors/Managers

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Myall Park Botanic Garden

FACEBOOK and WEB SITE

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

www.myallparkbotanicgarden.com

Facebook...Myall Park Bushland
Botanic Garden



ORDER FORM



Fine china collection—all dishwasher and microwave safe.

ITEM		AMOUNT	NO	SUBTOTAL
1	Large plate 275 mm	\$27.50		
2	Small plate Robyn Gordon 155 mm	\$15		
3	Small plate Sandra Gordon 155 mm	\$15		
4	Small plate Merinda Gordon 155 mm	\$15		
5	Rice Bowl 115 mm	\$15		
6	Jug 250 ml very fine and light	\$20		
7	Dorothy Gordon Mug 300 ml stands 100 mm	\$25		
8	Three Grevillea Mug 300 ml stands 100 mm	\$25		
9	Latte Mug maroon and white	\$20		
10	Latte Mug black and white	\$20		
Cotton tea towels birds or flowers		\$20		
GARDEN BAG hessian with waterproof lining and logo		\$10		
Dorothy Gordon Greeting Cards individual card		\$3.50		
Dorothy Gordon Greeting Cards set of eight		\$24		
Dorothy Gordon prints A4 (or 4 for \$10)		\$3		
Dorothy Gordon prints framed		\$20		
Postcards and Bookmarks		\$1.50		
SCARVES soft cotton				
White background blue kingfisher		\$30		
White background blue wren		\$30		
White background golden wattle		\$30		
White background red bottlebrush		\$30		
White background red grevillea		\$30		
White background Gouldian finch		\$30		
Navy background golden wattle		\$30		
Navy background red kangaroo paw		\$30		
Beige background red grevillea		\$30		

ORDER FORM cont

Soft cotton scarves
180 x 75 mm



BOOKS	AMOUNT	NO	SUBTOTAL
<i>One Man's Dream: David Gordon and Myall Park Botanic Garden 2020 edition, a history of the garden</i>	\$20		
<i>GAG 2020 Vision Glenmorgan Art Group 50 year history</i>	\$30		
<i>Brigalow Birds Myall Park Region</i>	\$30		
<i>Taste of the Outback Australian Native Food cookbook</i>	\$12		
<i>Woodland To Weeds by Dr Nita Lester</i>	\$40		
<i>Outback photography by Scott Bridle, helicopter pilot</i>	\$65		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings by Dorothy Gordon second edition soft cover</i>	\$50		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings by Dorothy Gordon second edition hard cover</i>	\$90		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings by Dorothy Gordon first edition, boxed and signed by Dave Gordon</i>	\$150		
<i>Brachychitons by Kerry Rathie</i>	\$30		
<i>Bottle Trees and Boabs by Attila Kapitany</i>	\$42		
<i>Collection Connection Poems by Jock Douglas illustrated by Carol McCormack</i>	\$20		
Postcards & bookmarks	\$1.50		
BIRTHDAY CALENDAR with beautiful photos taken around the Garden	\$10		
<i>For Sharp Eyes Only</i>	\$7.50		
<i>Pinpoint</i>	\$7.50		
<i>Birdwings New Home</i>	\$10		
SUBTOTAL			
POSTAGE			\$20
TOTAL OWING			

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name.....

Email.....

Address.....

Phone.....

PAYMENT: Cheques payable to Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd
PO Box 22 Glenmorgan QLD 4423
OR Direct Deposit: BSB 064-412 Account 1000 1195 ref your name & "gift shop"
or contact Jeff at the Garden 0497 215 226