



MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Vol 33 No 1 Autumn 2024



Dramatic start to the New Year

It was New Year's Eve, time to party and celebrate with family and friends, but out at the Garden, Nature had other ideas. A wild storm or mini tornado descended on the Garden and the nearest neighbours. Trees were blown over or had the upper branches twisted off and flung far and wide. The Rusty Gums (*Angophora leiocarpa*) fared the worst though they are at their most colourful at present with old bark shed. The huge Silky Oak (*Grevillea robusta*) close to Terpersie was torn out of the ground and brushed the side of the building as it fell. A few tomatoes in the laundry trough were squashed! Close by, the large tank which supplies water to Terpersie was rent asunder with a split from top to bottom, exactly what caused this remains a mystery. It is very fortunate that we added a second tank last year and that no-one was at the Garden at the time.

It was difficult to enter the Garden because the pump house which has stood to the right of the entry grid for many years, was pushed over and landed on the road. All around the Garden, trees were down across the roads but fortunately the buildings survived intact, just a few windows broken by flying debris and roofs dented by flying branches.

Ergon reacted swiftly but because Cobblegun Creek was high, they flew over in a helicopter to survey the damage and switched off power to prevent accidents. A large Rusty Gum, not far from the buildings, fell and caught two power lines but they did not snap. The only broken power line was the small section taking electricity to the Camp Shelter.

There are some photos on the pages titled "Seen At The Garden".

DATES for your DIARY: -

Members Working Bee between April 28th and May 12th

Writers' Workshop in the Gallery Saturday 27th April

Spring Day Sunday August 25th "Wattles are amazing"

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



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Caretakers Corner

G'day everyone

I'm Jeff Ryan, the current Caretaker at the Garden. I hale from Stanthorpe and needed a change and more learning and growing on the path through this life.

When I started at the Garden there was no power so it was an interesting challenge from the get go.

In an earlier life I jackerooed on a property on the Meandarra/Condamine road and loved the area.

Applying for the position at the Garden was an easy choice to make. The vast amount of riparian vegetation, coupled with the enormous dedication of many people since the time of Dave and Dorothy Gordon, to establish, maintain and expand the diversity of Australian plants, it is an honour for me to be the current custodian.

More to come as I get to know the Garden more thoroughly.

Jeff



Wonderful help

Kirk from the council who arranged for Eric to bring a heavy bobcat to clear all of the roads of trees and branches.

All of the local people who came to help clear and chip the trees and branches around Gallery, Camp Ground and accommodation.

All of the members who drove from Brisbane to help



Rainfall report

The tornado smashed our rain guage but a new one replaced it on January 23rd and since then we received 98mm in January. Prior to the new guage, Glenmorgan received 34.8mm so perhaps our total is closer to 132.8mm for January 2024.

That explains why there is so much grass to mow!

So far in February, just 3mm!

Plans for this year

We began the year by welcoming a new caretaker. Jeff Ryan has accepted the role and is very keen to get to know all of the volunteers, the local people and to figure out all the tricks to keeping the Garden humming. The summer rains meant that the Garden was looking good when Jeff arrived, but of course the grass was knee high which meant lots of mowing.

Late last year we joined the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, after their big gathering in Dalby. The Garden is now registered as an "RV Friendly Destination" and all members of the club are given a 10% discount when they stay and show their membership card. We hope to welcome lots of their members when the weather cools .

The Subtropical Garden Club on the Sunshine Coast, gave the Garden a generous donation of \$1,000 and after much deliberation we decided to have seven aluminium labels engraved with interesting information about certain acacias. These signs are to be found in the newly developed Acacia area and we hope, will entice visitors to wander around the pathways to learn something new.

Another donation was made at our AGM. The Toowoomba branch of NPQ (Native Plants Queensland) donated money to be used in the Garden. It has been decided that this money will be used to plant all of the parents of our 4 Grevillea hybrids (Robyn, Sandra, Merinda and Dorothy). It is exciting and maybe one day a fifth hybrid will appear! We look forward to starting this planting when the weather cools.

We have also promised to brighten up the Glenmorgan Kindy with plantings along the front fence and hope to plant there during the working bee in April. Perhaps the children will lend a hand.

During 2023, we purchased new hooks for hanging pictures in the Gallery as the previous hooks required an allen key to adjust them and that was difficult to achieve without three hands. The new hooks are much easier to adjust. It was also brought to our attention that the lighting was not always adequate to really light the art works to best effect and so at the meeting in December, following the AGM, it was decided to purchase new spotlights. This has now been done and the lights will be installed in April.

Dorothy's paintings will look even better with the improved lighting.

We also made a decision to purchase wall mounted fans for the small rooms in The Quarters and to make up screens for the windows. With fans in place and screens on the windows, the small rooms should be much more comfortable for volunteers and visitors.

Another change decided at the AGM was to no longer offer a discount to members. It was a difficult decision but with fewer Board members, we must reduce complexity wherever we can. We apologise if members are uncomfortable with this decision.

Seen at the Garden



*Rusty Gum at Camp Shelter
with a top twisted off and all
leaves gone.*

*Terpersie tanks
Large one split asunder
and all water lost.*



Another Rusty Gum taking power lines down as it fell.



On February 17th eight members came from Brisbane, one car collecting a chipper on the way through Dalby, to join fifteen locals and some **very** big pieces of equipment to tidy up fallen trees and scattered branches from the main areas of the Garden. Chain saws worked hard to stay ahead of the jaws and loader which could pick up whole trees and moved them to a better spot to be cut into useable lengths or left to block no-go tracks.

The chipper took logs and trees up to 9 inches in diameter and spat out small chips!!! Everyone worked hard but there was a real sense of satisfaction and co-operation when we finished. **Thank you to every fantastic person there.**



Cactus eradication begins.....

On October 12th 2023 a few volunteers met with Greg Hohnke from Rural Services, Western Downs Regional Council to get further instruction on how to get rid of the cactus that is flourishing in parts of the Garden. Greg was a great instructor and not only demonstrated a range of methods but also let us practice them under his supervision. We now are fairly confident using three methods to poison various sizes of cactus using a spike (pictured), a drill and poison (pictured) or spray. We are grateful for the support of Western Downs Regional Council to tackle these invasive pests.



Greg also checked our herbicide stock and advised on the best herbicide to use with each appliance.

Since the visit from Greg, Brad, a wonderful volunteer, has built shelving for the herbicide store and the notes that Jane took while Greg was explaining things are now clearly displayed in the store room, making it much easier to tackle all types of cactus.

More acts of generosity

Doug Dobbin was a 'Friend' of the Garden for many years. He visited in 2009 and again in 2011 and perhaps on other occasions too. He took many beautiful photos and compiled two books which he had printed on quality paper and bound in hard covers.

Sadly he passed away in 2023 but donated the two books to the Garden so that visitors could continue to marvel at the beauty of the Garden through his eyes.

Some of the plants photographed by Doug are no longer surviving in the Garden but can still be appreciated.

Doug was a skilled photographer and even those of us who visit often, marvel at the beauty and serenity gained by browsing these books.



Joe Blatchly, President of NPQ Toowoomba passing a cheque to Sue, our President.



NPQ Toowoomba Branch

The organization of Native Plants Qld is another very supportive group as their mission statement aligns quite closely to our own.

At the AGM in December, the Toowoomba branch of this organisation presented us with a cheque for ongoing work at the Garden.

We decided that we would use the money given, to plant all of the parents of the Grevillea hybrids in a small section of the grevillea patch, and add clear signage. We hope to commence this project in the cooler months of this year.

Magic and Extra Water Storage

Avochie Cottage has a large green water tank which collects water from part of the roof. Close to the garage there was a second tank but it no longer held much water and was a breeding ground for mosquitoes. It was a rusty corrugated tank but lined with concrete so some of us thought it was too difficult to remove. Robyn, our volunteer artist thought it might be possible to paint a mural on the outer surface.

Bob Simpson looked at it and talked to Kieth and together they devised a plan. Work had begun by lunchtime of the following day. Slowly the tank was demolished and some of the broken concrete has been repurposed to create a reptile hideout, within sight of the Avochie verandah.

Once the tank stand was exposed, we realised that new timbers would be required, but the nine concrete pillars were still very solid. Bob phoned several timber merchants in the district, sourced the best timber and it was ordered along with a new tank.

The next visit to the Garden saw Bob and Kieth, collect the timber from Chinchilla and rebuild the stand within two days and the third visit, just prior to Christmas resulted in a brand new tank sitting on the brand new stand and ready to accept any offerings from the skies.

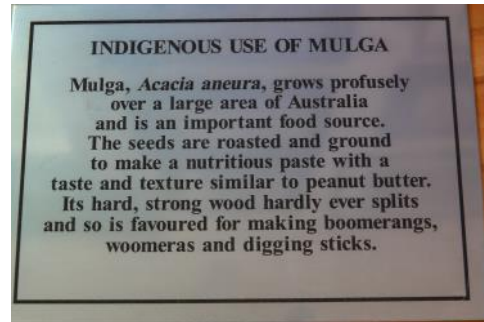
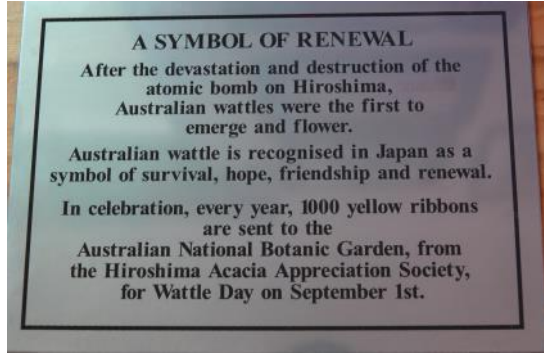
What a great achievement. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, magic happens!



Bob and Kieth with task completed. Photo taken by Kevin Pearce

SPRING DAY 25th August 2024

Spring Day this year will be all about wattles. Dick has been growing and planting new and rare varieties in the Acacia division of the Garden for the last few years and they are looking good. When we received a generous donation from the Sub Tropical Garden Club we decided to have new aluminium signs made with a little more detail about some of the plants there. Peter has also been busy growing wattles to plant in the Garden or sell on Spring Day.



New signage for the Acacia area, thanks to the Sub Tropical Garden Club.

Have you heard of the Wattle Day Association? Read the letter from Mike below and come to Spring Day to learn more about wattles.

Hello all

For the last three years I have been conducting Wattle Day activities around SEQ. During that time, I have managed to build a distribution list of approx. 100 people, but I have not been able to attract volunteers to assist me.

There are always plenty of encouraging words and gestures of appreciation.

The Wattle Day activities have been growing from year to year and they have promoted the celebration of National Wattle Day and our National Floral Emblem successfully.

The celebration of wattle received a further boost late in 2023 when the Brisbane City Council adopted the Brisbane Golden Wattle (*Acacia fimbriata*) as its floral emblem.

Unless I can attract some helpers, I will have to curtail the activities. Before taking that step, I am reaching out to some networks, including you.

The perfect outcome for me:

1. Attract at least 5 volunteers
2. Establish a formal Queensland Wattle Day group to provide authenticity.
3. Set up a social media platform for the Queensland Wattle Day group

Additionally, I do need assistance with organising walks, tree plantings, talks, general admin stuff, Please consider joining me.

Cheers

Mike Gilmour

Vice President and Queensland Coordinator

Wattle Day Assoc Inc

0416 185 153

Postal Address: PO Box 530 Mawson ACT 2606

W: <http://www.wattleday.asn.au/> or MyWattleDay.org.au

F: <https://www.facebook.com/WattleDay>

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

Plant Profile

Everyone familiar with the Garden will know the *Grevillea* 'Golden Lyre' as it spreads over several square metres in the garden near one corner of the Gallery. This hybrid grevillea originated in Fairhill Native Plant Nursery in Yandina from a cross between *Grevillea formosa* and *G Honey Gem* (which is itself a hybrid). It flowers continuously with spectacular large golden flowers. The shrub attracts bees, butterflies and birds (for nectar and nesting opportunities) and the flowers contain sweet nectar for us all to enjoy.



Another favourite of mine is the butterfly bush, *Petalostylis labicheoides*. Some say it is too common, but I call it resilient!



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, Peter Kerr, Phil Scott, Kieth Murray,

Business Management:

Garden Experience: Sue Akeroyd

Living Collection : Joan Wilkinson

Company correspondence to:

The Secretary,

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 2024

A - GARDEN ENTRANCE FEES

Garden and Gallery \$5.00 per person
Children under 14 FREE
School children over 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 **Caretaker 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 caretaker 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

Office 0497 215 226
Jeff Ryan myallparkbotanic@gmail.com

Caretaker 0497 215 226
Jeff Ryan

Director Managers
Sue Akeroyd 07 3349 8378 or 0415291225
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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 (or 4 for \$100)	\$27.50		
2	Small plate Robyn Gordon 155 mm (or 4 for \$50)	\$15		
3	Small plate Sandra Gordon 155 mm (or 4 for \$50)	\$15		
4	Small plate Merinda Gordon 155 mm (or 4 for \$50)	\$15		
5	Rice Bowl 115 mm (or 4 for \$50)	\$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 Gouldian finch, kingfisher, Grevillea or red eucalypt flower		\$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		

ORDER FORM cont

Soft cotton scarves
180 x 75 mm

BOOKS	AMOUNT	NO	SUBTOTAL
<i>One Man's Dream</i> : David Gordon and Myall Park Botanic Garden 2020 edition, a history of the garden	\$20		
<i>GAG 2020 Vision</i> Glenmorgan Art Group 50 year history	\$30		
<i>Brigalow Birds</i> Myall Park Region	\$30		
<i>Taste of the Outback</i> Australian Native Food cookbook	\$12		
<i>Woodland To Weeds</i> by Dr Nita Lester	\$40		
<i>Outback</i> photography by Scott Bridle, helicopter pilot	\$65		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings</i> by Dorothy Gordon second edition soft cover	\$50		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings</i> by Dorothy Gordon second edition hard cover	\$90		
<i>Australian Wildflower Paintings</i> by Dorothy Gordon first edition, boxed and signed by Dave Gordon	\$150		
<i>Collection Connection</i> Poems by Jock Douglas illustrated by Carol McCormack	\$20		
<i>Brachychitons</i> by Kerrie Rathie	\$30		
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			\$30
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 Acct 1000 1195 Ref your name & "gift shop"

Any questions please contact Jeff at the Garden 0497 215 226