



NEWSLETTER

Vol 35 No 1 Autumn 2026

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Who would visit in Summer?

It is usually very quiet when our Caretaker returns from his short break away. It is very hot and either very dry or if there has been rain then the grass is tall and in need of a cut and the humidity is high, making it quite uncomfortable. It is best to start work very early in the day and retreat to the A/C by 11am.

This year was quite different as seven people booked into the accommodation for more than a week in late January, just after the Garden reopened. Three of the visitors were from Sydney and the other four flew in from America!! There were no complaints about the heat, though they did lie low during the day.

Once the sun had set, they were busy searching for the elusive reptiles. On their very first night of exploration, they spotted a Woma. They were very excited as these snakes are quite rare, many of the locals and regular volunteers have not spotted one yet. They are a major drawcard to the area as these snakes are one of the largest apex native predators in the region and are only found west of Condamine and Glenmorgan. They have a robust build and can reach a length of two metres.

Perhaps we will have more herpetologists booking our accommodation in January & February. That may also mean more interesting photos to display.

DATES for your DIARY: -

Members Working Bee April 27th to May 9th

Spring Day Sunday August 30th

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



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Caretakers Corner

Welcome to the first Caretakers Corner for '26.

Most of Jan and Feb were very hot, 37 to 43 every day. The rain over this period all disappeared with the heat. The hole in the ground (dam) is about 1/3 full. Since the expansion in 2020 I believe it is much deeper and larger than it used to be but we haven't had inflow since April last year so this is its first test with a continued dry spell.

Some plants have died but most are doing well. Jane, Sue, Kieth, Hendrik and Dick have been here in recent weeks and have left positive results in their footsteps. Joan has put in 250 new plant labels over 4 days. Peter created them on the engraving machine and Dick joined label to backing to stake. Dick has also been tidying up E division and Kendrick has continued his 'Operation Acacia Crassa' thinning out. Sue and Jane have removed many drippers that no longer have plants near them and have saved over 2000 litres of water per week.

It's a challenging time, just have to keep doing the best we can.

Travelling season starts at Easter (April 3,4,5 & 6) with 20 plus members of Birds Qld here. Bookings have been pretty good and we've had more herpers (herpetologists) here than over the last two years. Their photographic results have been excellent. We even had four younger herpers from the USA visit. They loved it here. Good result so, until next time

'Keep Calm and Carry on'.

Jeffrey

THANK YOU

To all who help the Garden by whatever means:

volunteering at working bees, donating a little extra when paying membership fees, telling others about the Garden, bringing friends to visit, sending great photos for us to use to promote the Garden.

People help in so many different ways and we appreciate all. This is what makes the Garden special

Rainfall

January	43mm
February	43mm
Year to Date:	86mm



A recent visit to the park

There were a few things that needed to be completed in the renovated bathrooms before the tourist season really began and so Jane and I headed out to the Garden in early February.

It was hot and dry when we arrived. The trees looked stressed and tired and nothing moved very much. There was talk of rain but it did not look promising.

The bird hide pond harboured fat toads but no birds, frogs or honey bees were sighted.

Mid afternoon on our third day it suddenly started raining, big heavy drops and lots of them for perhaps 15 or 20 minutes. We stood outside, were drenched in minutes and we witnessed the world around us change. The gully near the Camp Shelter ran with several waterfalls, the trees shook off their lethargy and stood taller and brighter and the birds came out of hiding and performed aerial acrobatics for sheer joy. A large flock of rainbow bee-eaters entertained us with wide swooping flights then returned to the same perch and repeated their swooping. Even the wallabies came out to celebrate the rain and they watched us as we watched them.



After dark we ventured to the bird hide pond to catch some more toads but there were none. Instead a very loud cacophony of sound deafened us as we approached. The frogs were celebrating the rain and calling to one and all!

The toads must have been driven away by all the noise!

This is one of the frogs calling his colleagues at full volume. His back legs are quite blue.

Only 17 mls were collected that day but more rain fell in the ensuing days so the Garden is a little happier now.
Sue Akeroyd



Seen at the Garden



When looking at a scene like this, many people would immediately want to clear it, move the dead brush, whipper-snip the grass and generally 'tidy the mess up' but it was in this very spot that two small movements were noticed on a recent visit.

A pair of Brown Quails rushed into the dead brush and low growing plant on the left and then scampered through the tall grass into the dead brush in the background. In all four birds were seen and they appeared to be no bigger than a closed fist.

Brown quails are uncommon in the area and so it is important that the garden is not cleared and mown to look like a city botanic garden. Ours is unique, a botanic garden and a refuge for brigalow birds and animals and we must guard against too much clearing and 'tidying'.



Rod & Julie return to the Garden

Rod and Julie Lee were our Caretakers back in 2021 and here is what they had to say on their return:

We recently had the good fortune to return for a visit. Our first impression was just how dry everything looked. Yet, despite the harsh conditions, we saw hundreds of thriving arid-zone plants. For anyone passionate about unique and hardy flora, this place remains an absolute must-visit.

The birdlife continues to be just as impressive as we remembered. With many different bird species spotted during our stay, the area is truly a birdwatcher's paradise.

Accommodation keeps its charming, rustic feel, with cottages that reflect days gone by and offer a simple, authentic outback experience. The campgrounds have expanded since our stay, now featuring both powered and unpowered sites. During the cooler months, visitors can gather around campfires, soak up the serenity, and make good use of the well-equipped camp shelter. Water, as always, is precious in this region. Rainwater is used for showers, dam water for flushing toilets, and there is also a composting toilet in the camp ground.

For those travelling with their own setups, a convenient dump point can be found in nearby Glenmorgan, just a short 7 km drive away. While you're there, it's well worth stopping at End of the Line Cafe for a coffee, a bite to eat, or to pick up a few essentials. The town also boasts a welcoming hotel that serves hearty meals — perfect after a day exploring.

Whether you come for a quick day trip or choose to stay longer, there's something deeply special about this place. Be sure to chat with Jeff the current caretaker — full of knowledge and stories about the area.

We're so glad we made the trip back, and the experience reminded us why we fell in love with the place in the first place.

Rod, Julie & Gus (the dog) □

Julie, Gus and Rod enjoying a coffee in the new alfresco area of EOL Cafe



Plant profile

Back in 2015 or 2016, Peter Kerr planted several ***Eucalypt victrix*** plants in the garden beside the Garden Circuit, just west of the large Gumnut Walk sign, along with a new design in the irrigation system. The plants have all grown (albeit slowly) and that irrigation system has since been successfully installed all through the garden. These gums, with a common name of smooth-barked coolibah now create quite a spectacle as one passes Gumnut and heads towards the Grevillea section.

They grow naturally in Central and Northern WA and throughout NT.

There is nothing straight about the trunk of these trees, they are all growing in several different directions but their white trunks and plentiful leaf canopy make them quite spectacular.



Eucalyptus victrix

Wandering along Chinchilla White Gums

Chinchilla White Gum Trail begins quite close to Avochie. This trail, like Bed & Breakfast and Lake View take you past a variety of vegetation that occurs naturally in the area.

None of the plants here have been planted, apart from a group of Chinchilla White Gums (*Eucalyptus argophloia*) close to the end of the walk near Garden For All Seasons. These were probably planted in 1997 when the trail was created.

Along this trail you will pass many beautiful Rusty Gums (*Angophora leiocarpa*), growing over the sandstone escarpment. The trunks, quite pale for most of the year, turn bright orange in the cooler months at the end of summer. Large areas are almost covered with the clumping forms of lomandra, (*Lomandra confertifolia* subsp *pallida*) interspersed with the black-anther dianella (*Dianella revoluta*) with its blue berries, and the kangaroo grasses.

Other interesting sights along this trail are the many lichens. Coral or lace lichen (*Cladia retipora*) occurs on sandstone ridges. During dry conditions it is very difficult to see as it curls up and is a dull brown in colour—almost like crinkled paper. After a burst of rain, it swells quickly and glows a bright lime green. Many patches can be found along the Trail, as seen in the photo to the right



Lomandra confertifolia subsp *pallida* above and a vigorous *Dianella revoluta* amongst the kangaroo grasses (*Themeda triandra*)



Meet three Wonderful Volunteers

We are so grateful for the talented volunteers that generously give their time to keep the Garden looking good. The Garden could not operate without them. Some people have been volunteering for many years, like Dan and Wendy Johnston from Buderim who are also Life Members.

Dan and Wendy have been coming to the Garden for more than 20 years. They have an interest in native plants and initially heard about the Garden through the Society for Growing Native Plants, now NPQ, and so began volunteering regularly. They bring a wealth of skills and experience that they apply to pretty much any job going.

When asked what they most like about volunteering at the Garden it is meeting up with like-minded people from different places, sharing information and learning more about native plants. They appreciate the variety of jobs there are to do.

Thank you Dan and Wendy!



Another volunteer who deserves a very big 'Thank You' is our new Treasurer, Karen Blake.

Since stepping into the role, Karen has begun gathering important documents to load in the cloud so that they are all in one place and no longer stored in a box under someone's bed, or under several different beds!!!

Karen is also in the process of changing the Garden bank accounts to Bendigo Bank and that is a very long and convoluted process.

Because of the prevalence of scammers, every step is of necessity made much more difficult and time consuming.

Thank you Karen

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

Contact

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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, and post each one.

Please send Jane (see page 10) 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

EOL Garden

The End of the Line garden in Glenmorgan is looking quite wonderful now. The council staff have recently spent quite some time tidying it and weeding and mulching and the plants are thriving.

It was planted back in 2023 after the Anzac Day ceremony and many of the locals lent a hand. Ann Leahy also planted a gum there and on a recent visit, this gum had grown wonderfully. Below are the photos from planting day and on a recent visit.

A sand goanna is enjoying the warm, well hidden rock under the gum.



DONATIONS

All donations of money over \$2 are tax-deductible.
Our new Gift Fund Bank Account is:
Bendigo Bank
BSB 633 000
Acct 240 650 051

**We really appreciate your
Membership.**

**If you need to renew, please go to the
website or contact Karen at
myallparkbotanic@gmail.com**

Current Directors

Myall Park Botanic Garden Ltd

DIRECTORS

Chairman Jane Seddon

Secretary Sue Akeroyd

Treasurer Karen Blake

Other Directors Peter Kerr
Kieth Murray
Kurt Jones
Cassie Robinson
Tom Groat
Rodney Jones

Company correspondence to:

The President,
48 Raffles Street, Mt Gravatt Q 4122

Spring Day

It is only March and Spring Day is a long way off but plans have begun. The topic this year is 'What reptiles live here?' and there will be a new booklet available showing all of the reptiles and frogs that can be found at the Garden. Steve Wilson and Mike Swan are the authors and the information within the booklet is a result of the surveys they have conducted at the Garden over many years.

Steve will be the guest speaker and he will let us know why they are important and maybe tell us a little of their quirky habits and food sources.

There will also be live reptiles coming along for us to watch, perhaps touch and learn from. The team from Gold Coast Snake Shows will be bringing these characters and telling us more about each of them.

There will be the usual Fun Runs starting around 8am and several activities for children plus stalls, raffles and plentiful morning tea and lunch.

Save the Date:

Sunday August 30th



INFORMATION PAGE

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

MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN FEES 2026

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 \$120 - 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 \$40

Room 5 : 1 or 2 persons \$100 per night

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

C - TENTS and VANS (Garden entry included)

All powered sites: \$30 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. Please always use linen on our beds, ask about our linen service when you book.)

Avochie Cottage - (Right)

Renovated 3 bedroom cottage with 1 double and 2 twin rooms. 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. Two verandahs, 5 small bedrooms (6 single beds) 1 large bedroom (1 double bed + 1 single with A/C). 2 bathrooms each with 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 caretakers 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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