

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

NEWSLETTER

Number 55 March 2007





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|------------------------|------------------|
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The Friends Newsletter is published three times a year. We welcome your articles for inclusion in the next issue. Material should be forwarded to the Newsletter Committee no later than the first week of June for the July issue; September for the October issue; and February for the March issue.

Post material to the Newsletter Committee at the above address or, place in the Friends letterbox, located inside the Gardens' Visitor Centre between 9.00am and 4.30pm, Monday to Sunday. Editorial messages: telephone (02) 6250 9548.

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Cover: *Crowea exalata* Photo by A. McWhirter
 In late February *C. exalata* was flowering in section 112 along the main path. The *Crowea* cultivars with bigger, pinker flowers, Southern Stars and Coopers Hybrid, were flowering in section 240 opposite the Friends' lounge.

Photo by Murray Fagg



Welcome to the new Director

Anne Duncan comes to the Australian National Botanic Gardens from the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service where she has been Regional Manager for Southern Tasmania. In that role Anne was responsible for leading a regional team developing and implementing land, visitor and conservation management. This work ranged from Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean, through to the South-West World Heritage Area and major national parks, coastal and island reserves.

Anne has 20 years experience in conservation management and policy development at national, State and regional and remote community levels. She has worked with the Tasmania State Government, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Environment Australia, and regional community and business organisations. She has a particular interest in threatened species conservation, as well as the practical integration of business and environmental management systems.

Anne was born in Scotland, educated in Australia, and has Bachelors and Honors degrees in Science from the Australian National University and University of Tasmania. She is currently undertaking an Executive Master of Business Administration at the University of Melbourne. Anne is married and has two primary school aged children, Hamish and Fergus.

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THE BERNARD FENNESSY 'WHAT'S IN A NAME?' AWARD*

Bernard was a volunteer guide at the ANBG for many years. He loved the Gardens and he loved learning about the flora and fauna they contained. Most of all, he loved sharing his extensive knowledge of Australian plants and wildlife with visitors to the Gardens and he did so with enthusiasm and fervour. In his self-appointed role as teacher, he wrote for the ANBG Friends' Newsletter a series of articles on the theme 'What's in a name?' Shortly after Bernard's death in August 2006, to commemorate his valuable contribution to the Gardens as an educator and mentor, the Friends established the Bernard Fennessy 'What's in a name?' award.

The prize will be awarded to the author of an original unpublished feature article describing, in 800 to 1000 words, a living plant within the ANBG, as well as the origin of its name and, if applicable, the character and background of the person after whom it is named. The article must not describe a plant already included in the 'What's in a name?' articles written by Bernard and published in the Friends' Newsletter. A list of these plants is available on request.

Prize: \$500, to be awarded at the Bernard Fennessy Memorial Lecture at 12.30pm on Thursday, 9 August in the Gardens Theatre. (Speaker to be announced later.)

Publication: The winning article will be published in the July 2007 edition of the ANBG Friends' Newsletter, as well as on the Friends' website. The prize winner will be notified prior to publication.

Closing date: 15 May 2007

Entries: Please send (one entry only per person) to:
Bernard Fennessy 'What's in a name?' Award, Friends of the ANBG,
GPO Box 1777, Canberra ACT 2601

Or, electronically, to: friendbg@netspeed.com.au

Judging: Professor Ralph Elliott will assess the literary merit of the articles; technical accuracy will be evaluated by appropriate Gardens/Herbarium staff.

Further details: Please contact Andrew Walker on (02) 6254 6904

* This notice set in Bernard's favourite font, Helvetica



Poa fawcettiae Photo by Colin Totterdell © ANBG

Annual General Meeting

President's (abridged) Report 2006-07

Andrew Walker

The past year has been another good one for the Friends, largely due to the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Once again, our membership has grown, as has the number of people attending the many and diverse high-quality events in our attractive activities program. Importantly we have also been able to increase the level of our support for the Gardens.

At 1 February 2007 we had 1600 members, compared with 1451 at this time last year and 1309 the year before...

Our volunteers form the lifeblood of our success... The wealth of talent and experience of ANBG Friends volunteers, and the commitment and enthusiasm they bring to the work they do on our behalf is truly impressive. However, in common with many other community organisations, a large amount of the work we do falls on the shoulders of a few and we always need more of our members to become actively involved... Some of you may have seen some new faces assisting with Friends' events in the past few weeks (particularly amongst the friendly and persuasive 'bucketeers' at the recent Summer Sounds concerts) as a result. It's never too late to volunteer...



Guided walk with John Turnbull in the Gymnosperm Loop. Photo by Alan Munns

The volunteer guides are among our most active volunteers, bolstered by the 24 new guides who came on stream early last year... From the beginning of September 2006 to the end of March this year three walks per day have been incorporated into our regular program of scheduled guided walks... Whether this impressive performance can be maintained without further recruitment, in the face of the inevitable slow attrition in the number of our guides, has yet to be determined. Bruce Chapman, the convenor of the monthly volunteer guides' meetings for many years, resigned from the service late last year because of

his move to the South Coast. He did an excellent job for the guides and his strident "Order!..., Order!" at guides meetings will be sorely missed. Don Beer has agreed to take his place as convenor.

Sadly, two of our most respected volunteer guides, Bernard Fennessy and Tom Green, died during the past year. Both...loved to share their knowledge of Australian plants and wildlife with visitors to the Gardens. Tom had a special love for birds and was an enthusiastic leader of the popular Breakfast with the Birds walks... Bernard was one of our most active and longest serving volunteers and regularly contributed his *What's in a Name?* articles to the Friends Newsletter. To provide a 'living memorial' in recognition of his valuable contribution to the Friends and the Gardens, we have established an annual 'Bernard Fennessy "What's in a Name?" award'... (see p. 3)

The Growing Friends have flourished during the past year and, despite the drought, were once again able to hold two successful plant sales. After many years of faithful and efficient service, Malcolm Fyfe has decided to step down from his role as contact person for the Growing Friends and the reins have been handed over to the capable Kath Holtzapffel. Thank you Malcolm...

The Botanic Art Group has also continued to thrive, under the capable leadership of Robin McKeown, to the extent that it has expanded into two sub-groups, meeting on Wednesdays and Thursdays respectively...

The Friends organise a large and diverse range of events throughout the year and we now have two hard-working sub-committees, the activities sub-committee and the social events sub-committee, which share the considerable effort involved in ensuring the success of their programs. The activities sub-committee, under the capable leadership of Warwick Wright, looks after the varied program of talks by expert speakers, workshops, demonstrations and excursions. Invariably, he ensures that the educational diet offered by the Friends is both nutritious and well-balanced...

Louise Muir leads the social events sub-committee, which is responsible for the Friends' major



Barbara Daly with poster advertising her talk: *The 'What's in Flower?' Story* 19 October 2006. Photo by Jean Geue

social events... All these events involve catering of one sort or another, close liaison with Gardens staff and other organisations, as well as the recruitment and coordination of significant numbers of volunteer helpers. The fact that all these ventures were so successful is a testimony to the organisational ability and sheer hard work of members of this sub-committee...

This year the popular Summer Concerts, held over the five weekends from January 6, were even more successful than in previous years, with an increase of about 25% over last year in the donations and proceeds from the drinks table...



Summer concert

Photo by Alan Munns

Members may have noticed the enhanced appearance and expanded size of the November 2006 Friends' Newsletter... While the Friends have always paid for printing, we are now also responsible for its distribution costs and its graphic design. The improvements to the Newsletter largely result from the ideas and considerable efforts from Elizabeth Bilney and Anne Rawson... Elizabeth has decided to step down from Friends' Council and, after many years of efficient service, wind down her role with the Newsletter, and I would like to record the Friends' appreciation for her sterling work over a long period.

...This year we provided \$20,000 for the Cascades project which involved the restoration (including the incorporation of a new Flowform cascade) of the creek adjacent to the Visitor Centre... As foreshadowed in my report last year, the Friends' Council has agreed to change the funds allocation system... to a triennial allocation of \$90,000 to \$100,000...

The ANBG Friends Public Fund (to receive tax-deductible donations...) continues to grow, although we have yet to attract significant support from the corporate sector...

Other projects attracting financial support from the Friends during the past year have once again included the provision of book vouchers for Botanical Interns, and the annual Photographic Competition for High Schools and Secondary Colleges... Shirley McKeown, who is

responsible for organising this competition (and the Friends' website), has decided to step down from the Friends' Council but is happy to continue with these responsibilities. We are all very grateful for the significant contribution she makes....

We are grateful to the Gardens for making further improvements to the Friends' Lounge during the year. It is now air-conditioned, we have new carpet and it now provides a much more pleasant environment in which to meet other Friends and read the variety of material available.

Once again, there have been many staffing changes within the Gardens during the year, the most important being the departure of the former Director, Robin Nielsen, at the end of August... He was always a consistent supporter of the Friends and we wish him well for the future. Jim Croft acted in the Director position until Robin's successor, Anne Duncan, was appointed and we thank him also for his constantly constructive helpfulness. Anne has already indicated her strong support for the Friends and we look forward to a continuation of the mutually supportive environment we have enjoyed for many years. One of the best features of the environment within the Gardens is the friendly, cooperative assistance freely given by ANBG staff whenever we need it; it is something we should all foster and appreciate.

This is my last report as President of the ANBG Friends because I have come to the end of the maximum four year tenure allowed under our constitution for one individual to occupy that position. I have enjoyed my stint as President, largely because of the consistently strong support given to me both by Gardens staff and Friends' Council members and I step down with absolute confidence that my successor will attract similar levels of support. I believe that the Friends are very fortunate to have such a good Council working on their behalf. It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and committed team whose members work so well together and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for their dedication and sheer efficiency in performing the multitude of tasks within their various 'portfolios'.

A complete version of Andrew's report is available on the Friends' website at www.anbg.gov.au/friends/index.html. At the AGM the Director of the Gardens gave a report which is also available on the website.



'Repetition' by Rohan Thomson of Canberra College. Second Prize Open-Digital/Photographic Effects 2006.

A Framework for a Shared Vision

Anne Duncan, Director ANBG

An edited version of the presentation given by the Director at the Friends' AGM on 13 February 2007.

Introduction.

The presentation tonight will be about the challenges for the future, my vision for the future, a framework which might help in developing a shared vision for the future of the gardens and a comment on the role of the Friends in that vision.

Challenges for the ANBG

There are many challenges ahead for the gardens—climate change, national relevance, resources—are key ones. Climate change is a challenge not only for the ANBG site (which plants should we have in our collection?) but for the nation. We are working with other botanic gardens around Australia...to contribute to climate change adaptation planning. Leadership in this area is one way to increase our national relevance, key to our survival as a truly national institution. Resources will always be a struggle for a small entity within a large bureaucracy. The ANBG has to decrease its reliance on government and look further afield to add corporate sponsorships and partnerships into its resource base. To be an attractive proposition in that market means marketing ourselves as national and, indeed, delivering national level outcomes.

Director's 30 year vision for the ANBG

The following vision is a personal one and no doubt it will be further refined over the years ahead. However, the Director's role is to help the ANBG develop a vision *on behalf of the nation*. And I believe a key to success is to engage our national stakeholders in developing that shared vision. The elements of my vision are that the ANBG:

- Will have a **living collection** integrating:
 - plants for national ex-situ conservation priorities (conservation)
 - plants which we need to tell the stories we want to tell about Australian plants, biodiversity and culture (education and interpretation)
 - subtle landscaping to maximise visitor enjoyment and appreciation and blend in important aspects of Australian art and culture (landscapel/culture).
- Will be housed in a garden based on state of the art **sustainable horticulture principles**.
- Will be a centre of **horticultural excellence**, internationally and nationally renowned for research on propagation of Australian plants, providing training and information to the community and the horticultural industry.

- Will have a nationally renowned **Visitor Centre**, a window on the world of botany (a questacon of the plant world?) and into the virtual world of the ANBG's national and international activities. The messages and stories told inside the Centre will be integrated into the Gardens' story through subtle and **best practice interpretation**.
- Will have an **education program**, underpinning the Visitor Centre, and local education activities, which is nationally and internationally recognised as state of the art biodiversity education, and can be accessed via the web.
- Will be part of a thriving, nationally and internationally renowned **scientific collaboration**, involving international institutions, CSIRO, universities and land management agencies, which addresses both:
 - basic taxonomic and systematic research, necessary for us to catalogue and understand biodiversity
 - management oriented research about climate change impacts, mitigation strategies, ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation.
- Will use science to inform a web-based authoritative and comprehensive **encyclopaedia of Australian plants, botany and horticulture**, which is nationally and internationally recognised.
- Will be supported by a **strong network of national stakeholders**, a combination of government, corporate sponsorships and donations and strategic partnerships.

It is heartening that many aspects of this vision already exist, but many of these significant national outcomes, which are already being delivered, are not well known or perceived to be important.

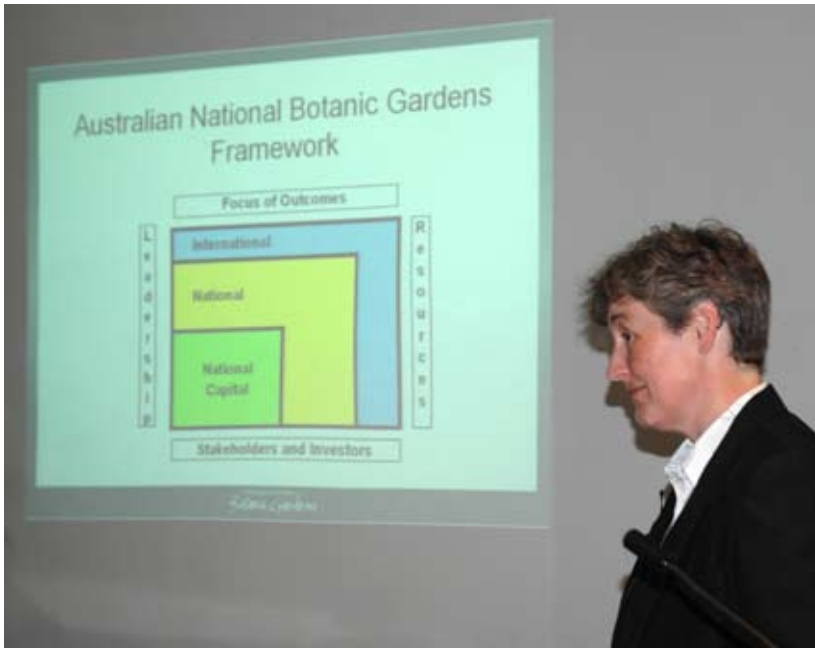
The framework for the future

The outcomes of the ANBG are delivered at three levels: national capital, national, and international.

National Capital

- the Living Collection as tourism/recreation in ACT
- education for ACT schools
- sustainable horticulture for ACT residents
- underpinned by national capital community support and engagement—this has principally been the important role of the Friends of the ANBG.

While this reflects a role in the Canberra region, there is still a 'national' component in this level of focus which is important to recognise, and which would most likely manifest itself in the need for a sense of 'national



Anne Duncan giving her presentation at the AGM with her diagrammatic representation of her framework.

excellence' in all aspects of the on-ground management of the ANBG.

National

- the Living Collection as conservation and science support
- leadership
 - science—botany, taxonomy, horticulture
 - botanical information management
 - ex-situ conservation
 - climate change adaptation
 - education
- national tourism icon
- part of the national culture fabric
- underpinned by national level stakeholder support and engagement.

International

- leadership
 - commitment to Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
 - botanical information management
 - commitment to Global Biodiversity Information Facility
 - taxonomy and systematics
 - ex-situ conservation
 - climate change adaptation
 - education
 - 'the pre-eminent botanic gardens of the southern hemisphere'?
- underpinned by international networks and partnerships.

These levels are not discrete but overlap significantly. In fact the Living Collection at the ANBG can be viewed as a

cornerstone supporting all the other outcomes. However it assists management to clearly identify what we need to deliver at each level and why we are doing it.

As an example—the living collection at the national capital level is just seen as a nice garden to walk in. However by taking leadership in ex-situ conservation and climate change adaptation, this means that the living collection is also delivering nationally significant outcomes. Further we could export our experience in climate change adaptation and ex-situ conservation planning and take a global leadership role in this.

A further example—education can be simply delivered as programs to ACT schools, but the materials and curricula can be delivered nation-wide via networks and partnerships, and accessed on the web, even internationally. Given the high visitation to botanic gardens, particularly by our urban populations, the role of botanic gardens in biodiversity education has been identified as a significant one at the global level.

The more we move into leadership projects, the more resources are required but the greater the possibility of corporate or strategic partnership arrangements, if wisely marketed.

Where do the Friends fit into this framework?

The Friends provide valued community support and assist with engagement at the national capital level. They have had a very significant role in building support for the ANBG in Canberra since their inception and in turning the focus of the ANBG outwards. The question I look forward to discussing further with the Friends is how can the ANBG work with the Friends in the future to add value to our current partnership?

Watering by Computer

Paul Janssens

The ANBG irrigation system was updated in 2006 with the installation of a new computerised central irrigation system, Irrigation Central Control (ICC). This system comprises a central computer which is radio linked to 15 controllers located throughout the gardens.

Previously, the gardens were watered by fifteen independent, stand alone controllers that staff programmed for the areas of gardens that they maintain. This 'old' style system had many limitations in effective water management. The controllers operated independently from each other and did not take account of water pressure deficiencies across the ANBG site. Nor did it turn sprinklers off when rain occurred and it offered little in reporting how much water was used in various sections and vegetation types throughout the gardens.

The new ICC system is a tool that offers best practice irrigation management. It has its own weather station which measures daily evaporation and rainfall (whenever that falls from the sky). If we have rain occurring during the night, when irrigation programs are running, the system will pause or shut down any irrigation that night.

There are ten water flow meters installed into the irrigation pipe network. These measure the amount of flow through various sections of the gardens and assist with managing pressure problems. They collect data on how much water was applied to various sections. These water meters will also pick up any leaks within the system and send an SMS out to one of our on-call trade staff to alert them to a problem. When the meters were first installed they detected a leak in the Rainforest Gully of about 500 litres per hour or 12 kilolitres per day. This leak has now been fixed, thanks to the new system.

Staff can operate sprinklers with a portable hand held radio to test sprinklers. This is very efficient compared to the old way of either having two staff testing sprinklers or visitors being accidentally watered when sprinklers were being tested.

There is more work required on the irrigation pipe network and to source alternative water for irrigation, so I will provide more information on this in future newsletters

Gardens' Field Trips in the Alps

Joe McAuliffe



Chionogentias muelleriana ssp. *alpestris*

Photo by Joe McAuliffe

Short Alpine Herbfield is the most specialised alliance of the alpine herbfields. It is characterised by *Plantago gracialis*, *Neopaxia australasica*, *Caltha introloba* and snow-patch mosses, amongst other species. Back when cattle freely grazed the Australian Alps the short alpine herbfields suffered extensive damage. Later rehabilitation and stabilisation efforts failed to successfully re-establish the alliance. Today, and somewhat unexpectedly, the short alpine herbfields have not only failed to recolonise former habitat but are continuing to decline. It is probable that climate change is a major contributor to this.

The ANBG is currently investigating opportunities to further advance both our knowledge of short alpine herbfields and ways in which ex-situ collections can help lead us to further understand what the climate change impacts are on this beautiful and highly threatened alliance.

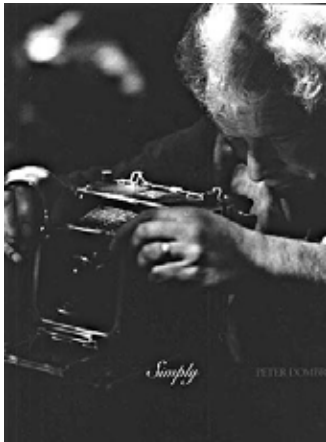


Pentachondra pumila

Photo by Joe McAuliffe

From the Bookshop

with Tom Butt, Shop Manager



Simply
by Peter Dombrovskis
Sandy Bay, West Wind
Press, 2006
95pp. hardcover, colour
photographs
ISBN: 0 9586833 5 2
RRP \$110.00

In 1950, at the age of five, Peter Dombrovskis arrived in Australia with his Latvian mother as a refugee. He came from a European tradition where nature was the source of the sublime and the spiritual. For Peter, photography became all-consuming.

For most of the time that he worked photographing the wilderness, he used a plate camera, a Linhof Flatbed Field Camera. It was large and heavy and each sheet of 4x5 inch film had to be loaded into a dark slide. This was not the 'happy snapping' of a 35mm SLR tourist. The Linhof, a technically more sophisticated version of the nineteenth century plate cameras, forces you to consider every shot, viewed upside down on the ground glass screen. With not enough room in your survival pack of water and food for the luxury of two more sheets of film so you can 'bracket' the exposure, it is one shot, and one shot only.

The large format camera, with its ability to alter the picture plane, became in Peter Dombrovskis's hands, the tool to change a generation's thinking. His photography has had an impact on the course of Australian history—'Rock Island Bend', with its surging power and mystical atmosphere, became the icon of the 1982-83 'Save the Franklin' campaign. Along with many others of Peter's photographs, it reminds us that some wild places are 'sacred', and that for our own sanity and survival we must respect and protect them.

Simply contains 60 unique images, beautifully reproduced in full colour on premium grade real art paper, manufactured from sustainable plantation forests, totally chlorine free; an essay by Gael Newton, Senior Curator of Photography, National Gallery of Australia; a preface by Patricia Sabine, Head of Photographs, Film and Sound, Australian War Memorial.



Key Guide to Australian Wildlife
by Leonard Cronin
Jocana Books, Allen and
Unwin, 2007.
240pp, paperback, colour
illustrations, glossary, index
ISBN: 9781741750751
RRP \$35.00

Leonard Cronin is one of Australia's foremost natural history authors. Trained as a biologist, he is a prolific writer of books and articles about the Australian flora, fauna and environment, bringing his own fascination with the natural world to the general reader.

This is the first in a new series of six authoritative guides to Australian flora and fauna by renowned natural history author, Leonard Cronin. Years in the making, Cronin's *Key Guide to Australian Wildlife* provides a fascinating insight into our rich and varied plant and animal life. From the deserts to the rainforest and Great Barrier Reef, readers will find a wealth of information on commonly encountered and landmark species rolled into one handy volume.

Aimed at travellers and as a home reference, Cronin's Key Guides are easy for anyone to use. Each species featured is illustrated by one of Australia's most renowned natural history illustrators.

Distribution maps show you locations, and easily-understandable, yet carefully researched and scientifically accurate, text gives details about physical features, habits and habitats. More than 600 species are intricately described and illustrated, including all the venomous snakes, fascinating reptiles like the thorny devil and saltwater crocodile; frogs and turtles; our beautiful kangaroos, possums, gliders, platypus and koala; raptors, parrots, owls and other birds of the waterways, forests and deserts; visually stunning reef fishes, corals and other marine life; strange and fascinating spiders, molluscs, beetles, butterflies and other invertebrates; towering trees of the forests; giant strangler figs; delicate blooms of the heaths and high country; palms, cycads, ferns and a whole array of our unique plant life.

Friends Briefs

New Friends' Council

At the AGM held on 13 February seven positions on the Friends' Council became vacant—President, Vice-President, Secretary and four Council members. The two remaining Friends' positions on the Council—Treasurer, Bev Fisher and Council member, Louise Muir—were filled at the 2006 AGM and continue for another year.

Seven nominations were received before the meeting for the vacant positions and, since there were no late nominations from the floor, all those who had nominated were taken to be elected. The outcome of this is that there are two new faces on the Council, David Coutts and John Connolly, and a reshuffle of responsibilities amongst those remaining. Elizabeth Bilney and Shirley McKeown, both former Council members, decided not to renominate this year. The vacancies were filled as follows:

President: Alan Munns
Vice-President: Barbara Podger
Secretary: David Coutts
Council members: John Connolly
David Mellowship
Andrew Walker
Warwick Wright

Of the new faces, David Coutts has an agricultural science and policy development background and has been a volunteer guide since 2002, while John Connolly is a retired physicist with a strong interest in Australian plants and their propagation. Of those stepping down from Friends' Council, Elizabeth Bilney, after many years of sterling service, has decided to wind down her role with the newsletter but to continue to be available as a 'back-up'. Thankfully, Shirley McKeown has offered to

continue with her responsibilities for the Friends' website and the annual schools' photographic competition. We appreciate the valuable contributions they have made when serving on Friends' Council and are very pleased that both intend to remain actively involved with the Friends.

New Membership Secretary

David Mellowship has decided to relinquish his Membership Secretary position for the coming year but will continue to serve on the Friends' Council. The Membership Secretary position involves a lot of attention to detail and sheer hard work, particularly at membership renewal time, and we are very grateful to David for his consistently efficient service over several years. Barbara Scott, who has already been heavily involved with Friends' membership matters for some months, has kindly agreed to replace him. Welcome aboard, Barbara!

Friends Public Fund

The end of the financial year is fast approaching and now is a good time to consider making a tax-deductible donation to the ANBG Friends Public Fund, established to provide support for projects that will enhance the Gardens. The first project to be financed by the Fund, the new Rock Garden Shelter, will be officially opened on 29 March by Her Excellency Mrs Marlena Jeffery. Previous donors to the Fund will be included among those invited to attend this important occasion.

Membership Subscriptions

At the recent AGM, members were advised that our membership subscriptions would be increased from 1 August 2007, but that we would now be able to choose to take out membership for one, two or five years, with the latter two options being offered at reduced rates. The new annual subscription rates will be \$45 for individuals and \$60 for households. Full details of the new rates and fee structure will appear in the July Newsletter.



Photo by Murray Fagg

Congratulations, Alison!

Until the recent AGM the Friends had only one life member, Anne Joyce, who played a key role in establishing the Friends in 1990 and in ensuring that we had a healthy future. Last year the Friends' Council decided to implement its recently formulated policy on Life Membership of the Friends, that it be offered to members for the 'provision of exceptional service as a Friend of the ANBG'. We have several worthy candidates for this honour within the ranks of our volunteers but Council unanimously agreed that Alison McKenzie should be approached to see whether she was happy to accept it. She is happy, and said at the AGM that she felt very privileged; everyone who knows her is very pleased too. The citation on her Certificate of Life Membership says:

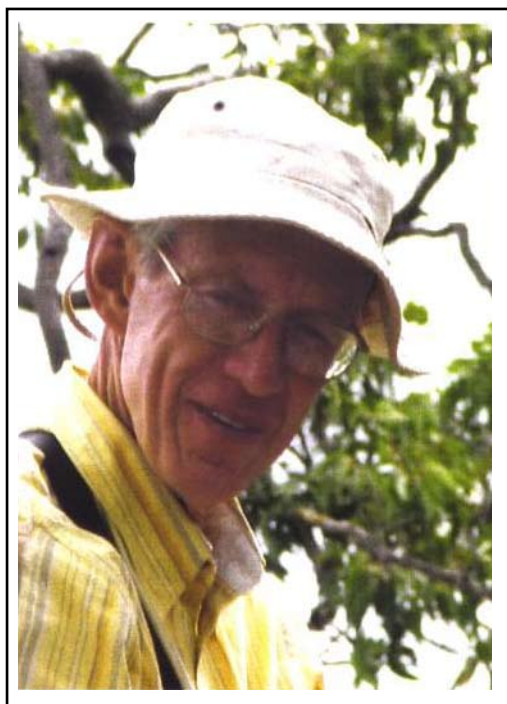
In appreciation of your outstanding service as an active volunteer for the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens since its establishment in 1990

The Friends particularly appreciate your organisational skills, your practical common-sense and 'no fuss' approach to the many tasks you undertake and your consistent and warm-hearted willingness to help and encourage other volunteers within the Gardens, especially the Volunteer Guides

To accompany her certificate, Alison was also given a gold parking permit for the Gardens. Congratulations, Alison! Long may your contribution to the work of the Friends continue.

Tom Green

23 October 1944 - 15 January 2007



Tom Green died suddenly on 15 January 2007 and his life was celebrated at a gathering at the Botanic Gardens on 19 January.

‘Thankyou for joining with us to celebrate the life of Tom Green. He meant different things to all of us, but we will all remember him as a loyal, reliable, considered gentleman and a *gentle man* with a love of his family, friends and the natural world....’

‘Tom was a passionate bird watcher throughout his life and in retirement. This became the theme that connected some wonderful travel in Australia and overseas and linked him to a network of special, like-minded friends.

‘All his life Tom wanted to be a farmer. Consistent with this, Tom trained at Roseworthy Agricultural College and then worked with the Eastern Eyre Peninsular Weeds Board, the Agriculture Department of South Australia and then CSIRO at the Ord River, Narrabri and finally, Canberra...’

‘It may surprise some that in earlier days, Tom won prizes for rifle shooting and was a teetotaler, however this last was a characteristic that did not survive his encounter with beer and red wine!’

‘Tom had remarkably good health through his life, allowing him to be physically very active and to contribute to many causes and other peoples’ lives. We are grateful that his good health continued to the very end.’

The Cockatoo

Don Beer

It's not the sort of thing that Tom Green did, but...

Don Beer



The cockatoo has a strident, uncultivated voice but this coarseness is misleading—it is a most respectable bird. Its habits are regular, in fact, its life is ‘governed by routine’, according to one naturalist. Unlike many of its fellows, it has only the one mate during its breeding life—no playing around here. It does not gallivant during the day but rests pretty much in the one area. Of course it likes to eat out for dinner, and also for breakfast. In the evening it enjoys getting together with friends, always in the same place, even the same tree, with the same group. These gatherings can produce considerable merriment; some of it no doubt not quite innocent, for the cockatoo is a very competent mimic. It may go off for a long holiday during the season but returns to the same spot, even to the same house or hollow, to raise its children. It will maintain its home very effectively, carrying out repairs from year to year—the neighbours can never complain about the state of the house next door. Its reward for this very proper lifestyle is that it lives for an unusually long time—or perhaps it just seems that way.

Weeds or Volunteers?

Included amongst the many definitions of weeds presented in Geoff Butler’s recent fascinating talk to members on ‘Australian Plants as Weeds’ was this definition:

a species that ‘volunteers’ in artificially modified habitats...

Perhaps this is something all our hard-working volunteers need to consider...!

What was in flower, March to July 2006



These photos are of plants described in 'What's in Flower this Week', compiled for many years by Barbara Daly. Numbers in square brackets are the Sections in the Gardens where the plants can be found. Ask in the Visitor Information Centre for a map.

1. 17 March *Eremophila christopheri* [302] Photo by D.Greig
2. 4 April *Hemiandra pungens* [100A] Photo by Murray Fagg
3. 15 April *Eucalyptus landsdowneana* [15R] Photo by Murray Fagg
4. 28 April *Anigozanthos* 'Bush Glow' [174, 210] Photo by A.Lyne
5. 5 May *Myoporum floribundum* [15R] Photo by Murray Fagg

6. 12 May *Acronychia littoralis* [104,114] Photo by A.Lyne
7. 19 May *Lechenaultia biloba* [174] Photo by Murray Fagg
8. 26 May *Dracophyllum secundum* [191] Photo by Murray Fagg
9. 2 June *Hakea laurina* [20] Photo by d.Greig
10. 16 June *Dryandra quercifolia* [100C] Photo by Murray Fagg
11. 23 June *Darwinia meeboldii* [174] Photo by Murray Fagg
12. 14 July *Grevillea rhyolitica* subsp *rhyolitica* [191H] Photo Murray Fagg
13. 21 July *Baeckea crassifolia* [155] Photo by A.Lyne