

# CORREA



**Friends of Eurobodalla  
Regional  
Botanic Garden  
Newsletter**

**February 2024**



## Welcome to the first Correa newsletter of 2024

Gail Stevens – President



Last year Friends successfully sought grants for easily erectable marquees and the establishment of a Wellness Walk within the Garden. Friends will also contribute funds to enable a total of four marquees to be purchased and to cover the shortfall for the Walk.

Friends purchased PA systems including a mobile PA system which can be used on guided Discovery Walks; blinds for the BBQ Pavilion; the grasstree sculpture at the Visitor Centre entrance; and contributions to the marquees and Wellness Walk – a total of \$30,600. Additionally, Friends contributed \$5,000 to the Visitor Centre sinking fund; a donation of \$65,500 from the retail profit from the shop and we continue to cover the costs for volunteer refreshments.

In this coming year Friends have allocated \$30,000 to cover a bird hide sound panel and water feature and directional signage. Potentially Friends will also be seeking grant funding to retro fit the Garden boundary fence to ensure a safe home for the Eastern Quolls the Garden is hoping to reintroduce. The fence will help keep out foxes and feral cats – a win for all the wildlife in the Garden.

The Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, through receipt of tax deductible donations, continues to support young people interested in horticulture and environmental science to study courses they are passionate about, via the Jenny Liney Scholarship. Donations to the Public Fund also meant the Herbarium was able to secure a trinocular camera/microscope to assist with their work.

Friends will continue to raise funds through the sale of the popular Garden's calendar but this coming year no photographic competition will be held.

The bushfires and COVID created unavoidable barriers to offer talks to members. This year will see the series of talks restarted and I encourage you to keep an eye out for them. The Events Committee, with Heather Haughton and me representing Friends, is now in its second year with more events planned and *From the Forest* returns. Watch this space.

Last year I ran two 2-day training courses to help community members find funding sources and write grant winning applications. I hope to conduct two more this year. The only charge is to cover the cost of the room – that money goes to the Garden. Once dates are set a notice will go out. We received positive feedback from those attending the early ones so do consider taking part.

Finally, I want to thank our 388 members for your support of the Garden, whether simply through your membership fees, or your support for Friends' efforts to assist the Garden in so many ways – donations, hands-on support through a range of volunteering or making preserves for our shop. Everything you do continues the long history of community support which is the essence of ERBG and has been since the beginning.

*Note: Introductions to Gail Stevens, GlynisWhitfield, Sharon Winslade and Luke Sweedman start next page.*

2024 ERBG  
calendar  
Now only  
\$5



Front Page photo: Ken Foster

## Meet Gail Stevens – President

Our *Correa* editor thought that as well as introducing a number of new committee members to readers, some might be interested to hear from some long termers. My name is Gail Stevens and I was elected President in the most recent AGM.

I joined the Friends in 2010 when the ongoing sustainability of ERBG was a matter being considered by Council. While I didn't know much about the history of the Garden or the community action that helped create this wonderful natural asset, I was concerned the product of many hours of hard work by a small paid workforce and many volunteers could be closed.

Fundraising was very hands on: sausage sizzles, trivia nights and raffles. A fund for a purpose-built herbarium to safely store the more than 13 000 specimens was the goal. Funds were also utilised to help the Garden operate as efficiently as possible including purchasing a number of Gators to help staff and volunteers get around the site.

Recruited to the committee in 2010, I was impressed by the "can do" attitude of committee members. The various issues were tackled in a cooperative way with the committee collaborating according to the areas of particular expertise. The committee continues to take this approach to the various issues we need to address.

My background both as a former public servant and community consultant with experience in both assessing and writing funding applications made the task of sourcing grants and writing funding submissions a natural fit for me. Over the years I've been involved with applications that have resulted in funds for the Playspace, the regional seedbank, interpretive signs, volunteer grants, accessible pavilion and Visitor Centre redevelopment.

The Garden has faced a number of challenges over the years, including the 1994 and 2019 bushfires and the 2010 destructive windstorm. Each time staff and community volunteers have helped to restore the Garden. When COVID meant no-one could visit the Garden, volunteers took 4,000 plants home to ensure their survival. With such commitment from staff and community, I am honoured to be on the committee of such a vibrant community based organisation. We have a number of vacancies on the committee this year so if you might be interested in joining the committee as we head into the next phase, both for Friends and the Garden, please feel free to contact me through [friends@erbg.org.au](mailto:friends@erbg.org.au)

While I have contributed where I can, I am absolutely in awe of some of our Friends who have volunteered almost from the beginning of the Garden and continue to do so. Perhaps no longer digging garden beds or laying tracks but certainly still serving a valued role at Meet & Greet, propagating, managing the stocks in the plant shop and creating Friends' popular jams and preserves to raise funds for the Garden.

## Meet Glynis Whitfield



I am now a proud retiree after having worked in small business my whole life. At retirement I spent a year travelling around a lot of Australia, although COVID-19 lockdowns curtailed that a bit. So I still have the NW quarter to see!

During my travels, I visited quite a few Botanic Gardens, from Hervey Bay to Busselton. I find botanic gardens to be relaxing places of great beauty and they help tell the story of the local place. Just about every small town has at least a park where you can sit under a tree and have your morning coffee.

I discovered the ERBG probably 15 years ago and loved it so when I decided to move here permanently, I knew I wanted to be involved. I built a house in Moruya so am starting from scratch with the intention of planting out a wholly native garden. I see the ERBG as a wonderful resource for me to find local flora to get me going in my own garden. I am looking forward to being more involved with the Garden and am excited by some of the ideas in the planning stages.

## Meet Sharon Winslade



I first visited the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden back around 2010. We were living in Canberra and building at Rosedale, and I wanted to see what the local flora had to offer our semi-bushed block. I must have spent two hours at the Garden taking pics of the vast and wonderful range of flowering plants that were growing at the back of the original building.

We have since retired to our house at Rosedale, and lost most of the bush in the 2020 fires. So after some substantial landscaping we have since replanted most of the available land around our house with natives. My husband Steve and I wouldn't describe ourselves as keen gardeners but we always seem to be outside doing something to the garden. I keep buying small native plants and growing them up - and we find somewhere to put them on the block or give them away to friends and neighbours! Steve joined the

Friends Committee in 2022 and I joined as a casual vacancy some time after, and we have continued as Friends Committee members this year.

I am a Friend of the Garden because I think that native is the only way to garden here in the Eurobodalla. The Garden is such a valuable asset to showcase and protect our collection here on the South Coast. I am a Friends Committee member, because I can contribute governance and financial, project and corporate management expertise and experience to the mix of skills that support the Friends to continue to be the strong and successful organisation that it is.

The Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden has a solid membership base of nearly 400. Friends are locals, and from up and down the South Coast and Canberra. I am keen to promote membership of the Friends to everyone as it's an organisation with a wonderful and unique history. The Friends have contributed and continue to contribute substantially to the Garden, which is one of our icons here in the Eurobodalla. I think we should all be a Friend!

## Meet Luke Sweedman



After gaining a Certificate from Ryde School of Horticulture then a Diploma in Nursery Management from Massey University in New Zealand, I left NSW and took a punt on going with my young family to Western Australia hoping to get work.

I found my dream job in 1990, working for the finest native Botanic Garden in WA, (and arguably, one of the ten best gardens in the world) at Kings Park in Perth, employed by the WA government.

My role was the plant and seed collector travelling throughout WA sourcing plant material and curating the growing seed bank. I was only the third person to hold the position since 1965 when the Gardens began.

In 1993 the Friends of Kings Park began and now has around 1500 members. All staff were made Friends, and we all helped to develop the organisation. I ran ten Botanical Collection Expeditions across 10 years in WA and all the participants were given Friends memberships.

I retired in 2021 after 31 years of service. Over this time I made 9669 plant collections including over 2000 duplicated seed collections for the Millennium Seed Bank in the United Kingdom, the largest native seed bank in the world.

*continued next page*



## Garden Manager's Report



Well what a wet summer and a great growing season – yes I know particularly for weeds!

It's hard to believe that just a few months ago we had to stop planting because of the dry and had strong concerns about summer and a potential fire season.

Needless to say, with the welcome rain this season, we have resumed plantings throughout the site and have had a collective sigh of relief about the huge reduction in fire risk.

With a busy Christmas holiday period behind us planning is now underway to finalise the events and activities for our next major event *From the Forest*.

For two weeks over the Easter school holidays from April 13 -28 the Garden will be alive with activities to celebrate our beautiful South Coast Forests. There will be music, workshops, storytelling, poetry, behind the scenes tours and our *From the Forest* Art Exhibition. The work of 21 of our region's best artists will be showcased in the Banksia Room.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see and buy special pieces crafted from a range of materials including glass, paper, canvas, fabric, wood and metal and all inspired by our Forests.

Tickets to events will be on sale from March 15 through the Garden's website and we hope to see you there. If you would like to give us a hand during the event we would love to hear from you.

We are also keen to hear from those that would like to help us out with our education programs particularly our Year 4 school program. If you have some time and would like to play a part in creating, nurturing and inspiring future generations of nature lovers then this is the job for you. Or if you would like to become one of our Visitor Centre volunteers we have some vacancies. You don't have to be an expert in anything as we provide training and support and you get to meet people and play an important role as an ambassador for the Garden.

If you would like more information on any of these roles please contact me [Michael.anlezark@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Michael.anlezark@esc.nsw.gov.au) and I will put you in touch with the right person to get things moving.

That's all from me for now so till next time, happy autumn.

Michael Anlezark

Manager

---

*Continued from previous page – Luke Sweedman*

I discovered a number of new wild plant species in WA including a beautiful weeping tree Acacia, a bright purple Calandrinia and I was the co-discoverer of a mallee eucalyptus species, which was subsequently named after me, *Eucalyptus sweedmaniana* from Cape Arid in WA.

I was especially grateful to be made a life member of the Friends of Kings Park. I retired to Dalmeny with my partner Anne in 2021 to be closer to my daughter and the grandkids.

I feel as a committee member I can continue to fuel my passion for native plants and help by growing the Friends and the Garden over its next significant era. I believe we should showcase the species of this region by building our living collections and encouraging everyone to plant local species in home gardens and in the shire for a better sense of place.

I hope to see the Friends swell in number to become prominent as a group providing support for the Garden and also to have a say in conservation issues that apply to our region.

## Quarterly talk for members

### The Power of Citizen Science – from Global to Regional to Local

A global movement with local impacts, citizen science is crucial for advancing knowledge. This presentation will discuss citizen science and use case studies to illustrate the value of citizen science to both science and society.

- **Annie Lane** – Global, national and regional initiatives including the *Budawang Coast Atlas of Life* which focuses on the biodiversity of the South Coast and recently chalked up 100,00 records.
- **Tricia Kaye** – Local initiative “Life in the ERBG” – and what we are learning about our Botanic Garden.
- **Phil Warburton** – Local citizen scientist who has made new discoveries of insect life both locally at the ERBG and regionally.

Followed by questions from the floor.

**Date: 9 March**

**Time: 1pm**

**Venue: Banksia Room ERBG**

## From the Forest

An event celebrating the resilience, beauty and bounty of our South Coast Forests.

Over two weeks the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden will host exhibitions, storytelling, music and workshops paying homage to the forests, the lungs of our nation, important places that play a role in the lives of countless generations, past, present and future.

**April 13 – 28, 2024**

**Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden  
Deep Creek Dam Rd Batemans Bay**



## Brian Cant, marmalade maker extraordinaire!

Heather Haughton



Brian Cant is one of ERBG's longest serving volunteers. He and his late wife Noela were amongst the earliest workers in the Herbarium when it was located on an upper floor of the ESC chambers in the late 1990s. Now aged 96, Brian continues to be actively involved with ERBG but as a prodigious marmalade maker!

Second strings to his bow include his famous Mustard Pickles, Lilli Pilli Jelly, Lemonade Chutney, Fresh Lime Chutney and Onion Jam.

Many of us have savoured his output and continue to appreciate his expertise.

Brian and other Friends who cook the preserves on sale at the ERBG shop are always on the lookout for fresh fruit from backyard trees.

If anyone would like to contribute (before the cockatoos get there!) please contact me, [h@haughton.id.au](mailto:h@haughton.id.au)

I would also be glad to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list for our irregular Chopathons when five or six of us gather around an extended dining-room table to peel, core, slice and dice fruit in preparation for cooking up into jams, chutneys, relishes – you name it.

We hold Chopathons in Lilli Pilli, usually but not always on a Monday morning. Oh, and we conclude with morning tea!

These are the sub-species of the genera Marmalade that Brian has produced over the years:

Cumquat  
 Chunky Cumquat  
 Orange  
 Two Fruit (Orange & Lemon)  
 St Clement's (also Orange & Lemon!)  
 Seville Orange  
 Mogo Seville Orange  
 Blood Orange  
 Dark and Moody Orange  
 Wild Orange  
 Two Fruit (Orange and Grapefruit)  
 Seville Orange & Grapefruit  
 Grapefruit  
 Grapefruit and Ginger  
 Grapefruit and Lime  
 Orangello Grapefruit  
 Ruby Grapefruit  
 Three Fruit (Grapefruit, Orange & Lemon)  
 Lemon  
 Lemon and Ginger  
 Lemon Chilli  
 Lime  
 Lime and Ginger  
 Mandarin  
 Imperial Mandarin  
 Honey Murcott  
 Mandarin  
 Quince  
 Tangelo





## Life in the ERBG – Citizen Science in the Botanic Garden

Tricia Kaye

It's just over two years since the inception of *Life in the ERBG* – an iNaturalist project in the Botanic Garden. With 102 dedicated observers contributing, we've amassed approximately 3,000 observations, documenting an impressive 740 species. Some do a little and others do a lot, but it all adds up. Collectively, these efforts have provided us with the most extensive and detailed insight into the diverse life inhabiting the Garden.

We are not merely identifying life within the Garden; we're actively constructing a living record of changes occurring throughout seasons and years. This includes tracking the flowering patterns of plants, identifying pollinators, and much more.

For example, the Neon Cuckoo Bee was only recently described as a pollinator of *Spiranthes australis*, the Ladies Tresses orchid. And here we have a picture of it in action near the Spotted Gum Pavilion.

The project has revealed many uncharted life forms at the Garden – insects that have never been photographed in the wild before, and another not seen in NSW for 55 years. And an amazing array of fungi.

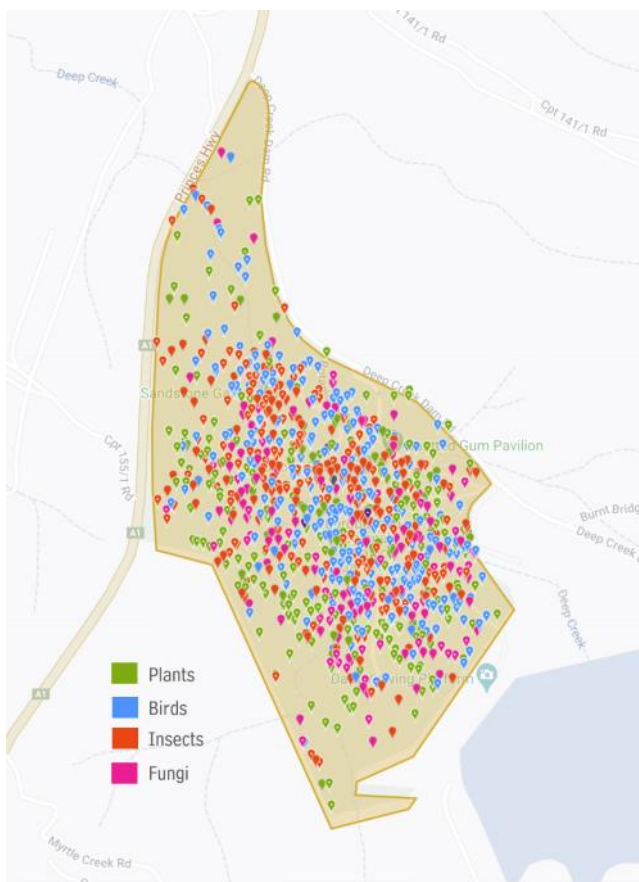
Using iNaturalist, observers take photos on their phone or camera, and upload them either on the phone app or desktop. iNaturalist uses AI coupled with a community of observers to assist in identification.

But you don't have to be an observer to benefit – just grab a coffee in the cafe, check out what people have been observing, then follow the map to see for yourself!

To see the latest, go to <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/life-in-the-erbg>



Neon Cuckoo Bee feeding on *Spiranthes australis*, the Ladies Tresses Orchid  
Photo: Dylan Morrissey, Feb 2023



Map of iNaturalist observation in the ERBG – February 2024



## Budawang Coast Atlas of Life – a South Coast Citizen Science Initiative

Annie Lane



Budawang Coast Atlas of Life (BCAL) is a regional citizen science project. Its primary objective is to learn about and document biodiversity on the South Coast from Kiama to Moruya. We share information, host seminars and workshops, and work with scientists to fill information gaps and help answer research questions.

BCAL has been running for about five years and in early January 2024 we notched up 100,000 biodiversity observations recorded in the Budawang Coast Atlas of Life. This effort was the sum of many, with 4000+ contributors,

ranging from everyday people interested in nature to amateur naturalists and professional scientists.

Citizen science is an activity where people who do not normally consider themselves scientists engage voluntarily in the process of collecting, and in some cases analysing, interpreting and sharing, scientific information. By harnessing the power of the collective effort of many volunteers, citizen science projects can generate large amounts of data over space and time that would be difficult or impossible for professional researchers to collect alone. For example, BCAL volunteers have worked side by side with scientists gathering information in order to better understand the geographic distribution and behavioural ecology of gang gang cockatoos, the impact of 2019/20 bushfires on selected threatened plant species, and the health of mangroves on Clyde River.

Citizen scientists have made some amazing discoveries. Among them, a new species, in fact a new genus, of peacock spider was found by Stuart Harris in the ACT and subsequently named *Maratus harrisi*; local fungi expert Teresa Van Der Heul discovered a new slime mould, now known as *Tubifera vanderheuliae*; and bushwalker David Noble discovered the Wollemi pine in the Blue Mountains National Park in 1994. Phil Warburton, South Coast photographer and amateur entomologist, has captured the very first known images of no less than nine insect species, all in the Budawang Coast region! This is a remarkable achievement and valuable contribution to science.



More broadly, citizen science is a significant global movement. Participation rates globally and in Australia have skyrocketed over the past 10 years or so. This is mostly thanks to advances in technology, especially the development of smart phones and user-friendly Apps. Participation rates spiked in response to bushfires and COVID.

BCAL uses iNaturalist as its recording platform, which is one of the world's most popular nature apps. Once a logged observation is verified to species level by skilled volunteer identifiers, that record then flows to Australia's national biodiversity database, Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), where it is available to all. The ALA derives over half of its records from citizen science. Many other platforms contribute data to ALA including some that are specific to particular groups such as eBird, FrogWatch and Fungimap.

ERGB is a wonderful indoor and outdoor venue for citizen science events. BCAL has hosted several events at ERGB, including a seminar involving presentations by local experts on various topics followed by an orchid discovery walk, during science week last August. We look forward to holding more events on the South Coast in 2024. Stay tuned!



Dr Annie Lane is BCAL Chair and Chair of the Australian Citizen Science Association.

Photos: BCAL hosted a series of events at the ERGB during Science Week 2023 – a seminar on citizen science, iNaturalist training and an orchid walk led by Dylan Morrissey.



## Reptiles in the ERBG

Geoff McVeigh

This is the season for Reptiles in the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden.

They are lovely animals but care should be taken with them. They are not toys - do not pick them up. Like all animals they will defend themselves. Observe them but give them space. Most will move off when they see you. Some reptiles are small and others large. Reptiles that I have observed in the Eurobodalla Region Botanic Garden are:



Delicate Garden Skink



Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink



Yellow-bellied Water Skink



Jacky Dragon



Water Dragon



Red-bellied Black Snake



Diamond Python



Goanna



## Creating a Garden for Wildlife – notes from a talk by Di for the Moruya Garden Club

Di Clark



*Bursaria spinosa*

One of the joys of living in this area is that we are surrounded by natural bushland and it is possible to create a garden that will encourage the local wildlife to visit or stay. My passion is for native plants and I would recommend aiming for a mostly native garden to encourage wildlife.

There are three things you will need to provide:

### Shelter

Shelter can be shade, prickly plants for small birds, wind protection; tall trees for viewing platforms and hollows for nesting. Logs for lizards and invertebrates. Litter for all sorts of creeping insects and fungi. It depends what you are trying to attract. Blue tongue lizards are always welcome as are birds, butterflies, insects, amphibians and mammals. Be aware of domesticated animals and how they may upset your visitors. Keep cats in at night. Provide rocks and logs as quick hiding holes for ground dwelling critters. *Bursaria spinosa* is a great example of a prickly plant that provides dense shelter and food for insects. Just remember to place prickly plants away from paths. Many of our local pea plants are prickly as well. Try *Lambertia formosa* for a medium shrub with beautiful red flowers and dark green pointy leaves.



*Lambertia formosa*

### Food

I prefer to provide food in the form of plants, other animals and fungi as opposed to putting out seed for birds etc. Generally, any plant can provide food for animals and insects. It doesn't have to be a native plant. Many of our pollinators have adapted to a wider range of plants to choose from. But there are those that evolved alongside the plants in their area and those plants have also evolved with the local soils. I am trying to incorporate a few local (nearby Rosedale), and indigenous plants (South Coast Region). I do have many exotics and also plants from all over Australia.

Some plants provide food in the form of nectar to birds, mammals and insects and there are others that are eaten. Large flowered grevilleas will provide nectar for large, aggressive wattle birds, so if it's small birds you are after you will need to provide shrubs with hidden flowers and places to hide nearby. Thorny plants are ideal. Other small birds are seed eaters and rely on grasses and other plants going to seed.

The environment around us is full of these relationships between organisms and there is still so much for us to understand. We need to try and get more ladybirds, bees and other insects back into the garden by providing an all year supply of food and a safe place to live.

*Continued next page*

Continued from previous page

## Water

Water may be a pond or small water bowl. The smaller the bowl/bath the more often you need to clean it out. If you top up a bird bath regularly this will help reduce the number of mosquitos that can breed in the water. Also provide a stick or rock for animals so they can get out if the sides are slippery.

You may be afraid that a permanent pond will attract snakes to your garden. This is a possibility, but you probably have them passing through anyway. Be aware of your behaviour around the pond and try to create an area that gives the snake an escape route if disturbed. You might need one too.

Ponds may also be noisy with frogs at night. Think about placement and also your neighbours.

Water is also an essential breeding ground for some animals and may provide the link between parts of an insect's lifecycle – dragon flies for example.

This is a very brief, general view of a huge subject. There are many references and organisations that will help you gain a better understanding of what is required, many of them available at the local library, or why not visit the ERBG and see what is growing in the Wildlife Naturescape Garden.

## Book suggestions

*Birdscaping Australian Gardens: using native plants to attract birds to your garden.* George Martin Adams.

*Habitat: a practical guide to creating a wildlife-friendly garden.* A. B. Bishop.

*The Wilderness Garden.* Jackie French.

*Attracting Wildlife to your Garden.* Rodger Elliot.

## *The Dhurga Dictionary and Learner's Grammar: a southeast coast, NSW Aboriginal language.*

*Sally Edsall*

Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2022.

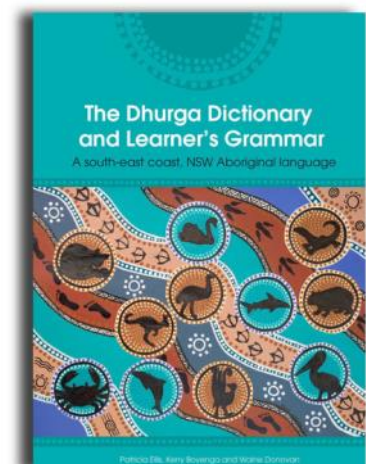
This book by authors Patricia Ellis, Kerry Boyenga and Waine Donovan is a treasure trove of local First Nation language and culture. While it is a primary resource for Yuin people learning their language and for the teaching and learning of the Dhurga language, it is also great for anyone interested in local Indigenous culture. Language is culture and a repository of local knowledge.

The Dhurga people are part of the Yuin people, and the Dhurga language is used by many Aboriginal communities of the South Coast. It is a great research effort, much of it actively undertaken while staff at Broulee Public School and Vincentia High School were involved in a joint project to teach Dhurga as a community language.

The book has sections on who the Yuin people are, pronunciation and spelling, parts of speech, making sentences and other grammatical concepts. There is a Dhurga to English dictionary, and English to Dhurga word finder by category, which is beautifully illustrated. Categories include the human body, plants, birds, clothing and shelter, colours and much more.

Highly recommended for anyone interested in local Aboriginal language and culture.

Available at the Garden Shop \$34.95





## Stingless Bees in ERBG

Peter Abbott

Pollinator week in November was celebrated in the Garden with presentations, exploratory walks and much talking about the wide range of insect pollinators at work. The weather was also kind enough to allow us to answer a question that several Garden visitors have been asking: Just what is happening inside that funny little coloured box sitting on a post down from the Visitor's Centre?

The box, of course, is home to a colony of native stingless bees. These little black bees live in a hive and have a social structure just like honey bees – one queen bee with lots of female worker bees and male drone bees. All other native bees in this region live solitary lives, with the females making small nests in the ground or in old borer holes in trees or in the hollow stems of old plants. While there are 12 species of native stingless bees in Australia, just one lives this far south – its name is *Tetragonula carbonaria*.

The first thing you notice about this bee is that it is tiny – just 4.5 mm, which is why it only needs a small home. But that home is busy and contains more than 5,000 bees, many of them out collecting pollen and nectar on a sunny day. During Pollinator Week we were able to open the hive and get a look at the interior design. We could do this safely with a close audience because, as the name implies, these bees have no sting – considerate of them!

The box hive is designed as two small boxes, one on top of the other. When the colony expands to fill the hive, it can be divided by splitting the boxes along the joint. This design also allows us to see the inside workings of the hive with minimal damage to the hive structure.

The picture of the inside shows a spiral structure of brood cells that grows upward as the colony expands. Each of the cells contains an egg laid by the queen and some pollen and nectar to feed the growing larvae. Around this spiral brood is a structure of grape-sized storage pods containing either honey or nectar to sustain the colony through the winter months. The small blue box on top of the two-box hive is partially separated by a baffle plate that allows the bees to enter and store extra honey inside which, under good conditions, can be harvested by us. In this southern region of their normal range, extra honey is not so common. The native bee honey has a unique acidic flavour quite unlike normal honey, and even more delicious!

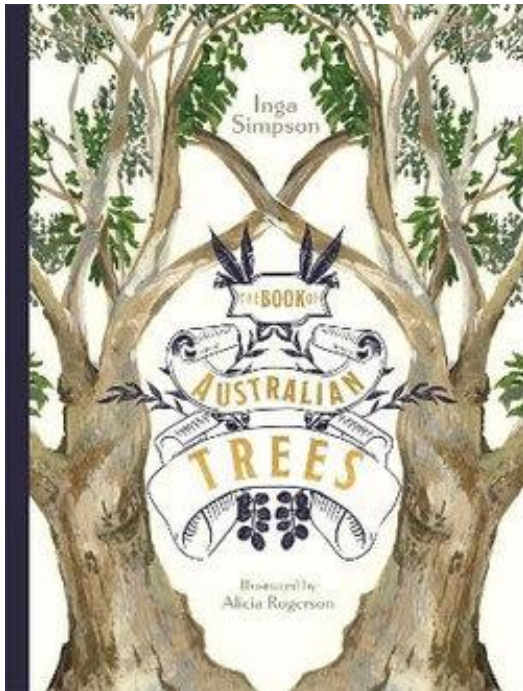
Stingless bees can be seen in the Garden and elsewhere in the region foraging on a wide range of plants. They seem to like the red-flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia*, which is becoming more common in Eurobodalla. They also live in natural hives in tree hollows, but these are usually difficult to spot. Hives of stingless bees are very popular in suburban gardens in coastal regions to our north and with a little more care they can be just as happy in the Eurobodalla shire.



Stingless bee boxes  
Photos: Peter Abbott

## The Book of Australian Trees by Inga Simpson

Sally Edsall



Available in the Garden shop \$26.99

*The Book of Australian Trees* by Inga Simpson, illustrated by Alicia Rogerson, Hachette Australia, Sydney, 2021

This book is a fantastic introduction to some of the most iconic Australian trees, primarily for children, but great for adults too. Inga Simpson is a Eurobodalla- based writer, and so many of the trees are local.

She writes “Trees tell stories about places. Australia has some of the tallest, oldest, fattest and most unusual trees in the world...

“When you first stand in a forest, the trees all seem the same. But if you look more closely, they are each a little different, like people.”\*

This large format book, with beautiful illustrations by Alicia Rogerson, is very accessible which helps you to begin that understanding of the following iconic species, many of which are found locally (botanical names are also given): Spotted Gum, Red Ironbark, Grey Gum, Brush Box, Rose Gum, Bunga Pine, Coastal She-oak, Queensland bottle Tree, Illawarra Flame Trees, Moreton Bay Fig, Antarctica Beech, Karri, Old man Banksia, River Red Gum, Mountain Ash.

For more information see [Hachette Australia](#)

### Friends Committee 2023–24

**President: Gail Stevens:** gailstevens54@outlook.com

**Vice President & Public Officer:**

**Treasurer: Sue Cogger:** cogger.sue@gmail.com

**Secretary:**

**Membership secretary: Chris Bendle:** chrisbendle7@gmail.com

**Ex officio: Michael Anlezark:** Garden Manager: 4471 3348

**Tricia Kaye:** Honorary Herbarium Curator:

#### Committee

**Steve Winslade:** steve.winslade21@gmail.com

**Sharon Winslade:** sharon.winslade@gmail.com

**Luke Sweedman:** luke.sweedman@gmail.com

**Glynis Whitfield:** glyniswhitfield9@gmail.com

**Newsletter:** Trish Richardson: pararr1@bigpond.com