



CORREA

Friends of Eurobodalla
Regional
Botanic Garden
Newsletter

May 2024

Gail Stevens – President



Despite an El Nino, and a shift of rainfall away from the east coast forecast for our part of the country, we have experienced some good rainfalls in the first part of this year. The Garden reflects this, looking lush and, of course, well cared for thanks to staff, Friends and volunteers. If you haven't visited recently, treat yourself to a wander in the Garden, maybe a coffee in the café and don't forget to visit the shop. All shop profits benefit the Garden and the Merchandising Committee are constantly on the lookout for locally produced goods that meet the shop's cultural and responsible retailing policy.

The Australian Government has changed the rules relating to environmental funds, and that includes the Friends of ERBG Public Fund. The Register of Environmental Organisations has been abolished and along with it the need for the Friends to have a separate Public Fund. Donations will now be made directly to the Friends, and will continue to be tax deductible. Donors will be issued with an official receipt which clearly shows the donation is tax deductible. All donations received are reserved for Garden related needs.

Due to the change Friends' Constitution will need to be amended. Checks have been undertaken with NSW Department of Fair Trading and it is not necessary for Friends to amend the Constitution immediately. Consequently a decision has been taken to include the constitutional amendments in the agenda for the Annual General Meeting rather than call a special meeting.

Friends' next quarterly talk will be held in the **Banksia Room** starting at **1.00pm** on **Saturday 22 June**. Presented by Annie Lane and Tricia Kaye members will be treated to a presentation on the Budawang Coastal Atlas. You are encouraged to stay for afternoon tea and a chat after the talk. Also check out **page 13** of the newsletter for information about another talk later in the year sponsored by Friends.

Having successfully written grant applications for the Visitor Centre redevelopment and with much of the required infrastructure for the Garden now in place, Friends will be reviewing our strategic plan to ensure our future direction complements the targeted strategic direction of the Garden's five year strategic plan. This is key to ensuring we are in the best position to support ERBG achieve its goals.

And finally, I am happy to answer any questions from members of Friends regarding decisions taken by your committee. Friends' Committee contact details are at the end of *Correa*.

Meet Chris Bendle



My name is Chris Bendle and I am currently working as Membership Secretary for the Friends. In the past I have fulfilled the role of Committee Secretary. I am on the Friends Committee because I want to support the Garden. I greatly enjoy being part of such a fantastic community facility and seeing the results of the work that everyone puts into it.

Probably the thing I am most proud of achieving during my time on the Committee is putting the work into obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient Item 1 (DGR 1) status for the Friends. It was quite a complex process given there were a number of possible avenues. We resolved to seek the status through the Register for Environmental Organisations as it most closely aligned to the goals of the Friends. Not only has achieving DGR1 status broadened our grant application opportunities, it has meant donations are tax deductible. This allows Friends to focus expenditure on the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

Friends support the annual Jenny Liney scholarship assisting young people to pursue tertiary study in horticultural and environmental sciences, and this past year we purchased a trinocular camera microscope to assist our Herbarium volunteers. We would not have been able to do either without having obtained DGR 1 status for the Friends.



Garden Manager's Report

Michael Anlezark

Well autumn is well and truly upon us with some absolutely glorious weather and the urge to get out in the garden and do some of the more strenuous jobs put off over summer is irresistible. It's also a good time to plant while there is still a bit of warmth in the soil.

We have had a busy Easter at the Garden with record visitor numbers over the month of April and our *From the Forest Festival* was great success. Below is a recap of it all .

From the Forest Festival Recap

Now in its third year our *From the Forest Festival* which occurs over the Easter School holidays has been a fantastic success. Around 5,500 visitors over the two week period took advantage of some beautiful autumn weather and great event activities.

The festival kicked off with our art exhibition featuring the works of 21 of our amazing regional artists. What a privilege it was to showcase our local artists with almost 2,000 people viewing the exhibition and many taking home a unique and treasured artwork.

Being able to hold the exhibition in our Banksia Room is proof of good design in that the space can be a serious art exhibition one day and a training room or birthday venue the next.



Janet Kininmonth's gorgeous glass creations



Art exhibition

Kids' activities were well booked and included discovery walks, fungi craft, the *Big Fun Explorers Club* and the *Possum Detective Show* put on by the talented *Eaton Gorge Theatre Company*.



Big Fun Explorers Club



Possum Detective Show

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For those a little older there was a *Spotlight Wildlife Walk*, *Exploring the Forest Floor* tour, behind the scenes tour and a propagation demonstration.



Spotlight Wildlife Walk



Ghost Fungi by night



Ghost Fungi by day

The Garden became the culture capital of the South Coast offering art, poetry, the *Deep River Choir* and finishing the festival with a glorious Sunday performance by the *Eurobodalla Chamber Orchestra*.



Be sure to mark your diary for *From the Forest 2025*, April 12 – April 27.

The next event on our calendar is the very popular book fair which is an important fundraiser for the Garden. More details from Dylan are further on in this newsletter.

Till next time Michael Anlezark, Manager ERBG.

Meet Sue Cogger



My husband and I retired to the Bay in September 2011. He is an agronomist and he joined Friends and put our names down to volunteer. At the induction people introduced themselves and outlined their interest and area of expertise if applicable. They were all keen to work in the nursery but when it was my turn I said *I don't do gardens*. But I had been an office manager for a medium size architectural practice in Sydney for the previous 20 years.

Not long after I was approached and agreed to assisting with the magazine, it was realised I would be a good fit for the Treasurer who was resigning. About this time my husband took a short term contract in PNG and I was left in a new area not knowing anyone. I took on the role as a gateway to meeting people, to fill in time and to keep the grey cells ticking over. Well, it has certainly ticked those boxes and more. I still remember my first visit to Coles where I met up with someone I knew from the Garden!

I was initially a little frustrated with the committee as every time I questioned or raised anything I was told it was a matter for the management committee – a ghost from the past. I was impressed with the hardworking members of the committee and their drive. They had money in term deposits saving for this dream ... a Herbarium. It seemed to be going nowhere and I felt for Jenny Liney and her team, sharing their area with shop storage, the tea room etc. Things kept ticking over, the shop was a walkway and the bulk of Friends income was from plant sales.

Michael came in as Garden Manager and kicked us up a gear, taking a more commercial approach to the Garden. A working group was formed to get the Herbarium and Visitors Centre renovations shovel ready. Friends under the expertise of Gail Stevens applied for and received grants. Who would not want to stay involved with what was shaping up to be an interesting development? This was a joint venture with Council and I was part of the working committee – something I found extremely satisfying. We did not always agree but respected each other's viewpoint and arrived at a consensus.

Lynne Anlezark, Chris Bendle and I became involved in the retail aspect of Friends. Friends were no longer receiving the proceeds from plant sales so we had to start looking for other income sources to support the pending build. Many a Monday and Tuesday was spent tackling the old cash register – I think my love of enigma movies occurred after that encounter. I am now on the merchandise committee that works hard to introduce new products, sustainably and locally produced where possible. My sarcastic NZ based daughter was heard to comment last Christmas as gifts were opened ... *"Oh Christmas by the Garden"*!

The buildings are there, they look great and function well. I think it is a standout regional success story and I am proud of the small role I played in making it all happen.

I continue to serve on the committee because I feel I have and will be able to contribute to the community through this group. I enjoy the mental stimulation the position offers and I enjoy meeting up with the Friends, members and volunteers. While I don't do gardens I do do accounts.

My commitment will have to remain as my grandchildren refer to the Garden as Nana's Gardens! Considering I don't do Gardens



Honeycomb Coral Slime Mould found near the new bridge over Rees Creek, next to the Arboretum

Photo: Geoff McVeigh

Discovering Eucalypts at the ERBG on National Eucalypt Day 23 March 2024

Anna
Jarrett

Here in the Eurobodalla Shire we're surrounded by beautiful forest. We're all familiar with our south coast signature spotted gum, but how many other trees do we know the name of? The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden is a perfect place to learn more about some of the main eucalypts growing in our area.

Tricia Kaye, ERBG Herbarium Curator, is developing a self-guided Eucalypt Discovery Trail so that we can explore and get to know the diversity of trees growing in the Garden at our leisure. I joined Tricia and a group of 14 other people on a guided walk—and-talk on March 23, to celebrate *National Eucalypt Day*.

There are approximately 850 species of eucalypt in Australia with 100 or so species found on the south coast. Each tree is unique, and yet to the untrained eye, many of the trees may look the same. So how do we get started with identifying eucalypts? Tricia led us through a process of recognising bark, fruit, buds, leaves and tree habits. The hardest part about identifying gum trees is knowing how to get started.

This pilot *Eucalypt Discovery Walk* focused on seven naturally growing species (i.e. not planted) in the Deep Creek gully behind the Visitors Centre. Together we stood under each tree and looked from the trunk base up into the canopy, practising the art of noticing key identifying features. Our observations led to fascinating discussions about post fire regrowth, the Big Tree Registry, good fire management, conservation, koala trees and so much more.

By the end of the tour, we were all feeling more confident to identify some of the trees on the *Eucalypt Discovery Trail*. Our minds were full of new information, and tools, for continuing our own journeys of walking with, studying and appreciating eucalypts.

Filling up with the wonder of eucalypt trees, the take-home message is also understanding the value of our trees. The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden is a perfect place to have some tree time and enjoy all that trees offer us including beauty, joy, shade, habitat and lessons in resilience!

Anna Jarrett ajstory@ozemail.com.au



There are several beautiful old-growth river peppermints (E. elata) near the Bird Hide



The group focused on bark and leaf characters for identification of seven naturally-occurring species

Plants for sandy soils

Heather Haughton

Correa invited some members of Friends of ERBG to contribute observations on growing plants on sandy soils. We thank Lynne McVeigh, Fran Anderson and Barbara Roberts for sharing their experiences, and hope other members can glean some useful information from them.

Starting out with the soil, **Lynne McVeigh** initiates the piece with her usual honesty:

“We don’t know whether our method is the best as our success rate is only about 50%. Usually when planting a new plant, we dig a deep hole in the sand and add soil/clay that we’ve brought from Canberra plus lots of organic matter. The total area front and back is covered in newspaper with woodchip all over it. Our thinking was that this reduced the ground (sand) heating and reflection from the sand into the plant.”

According to **Barb Roberts**, “I have improved the sand over time with mulch, but I do get a lot of salt winds from the north-east, and my garden is on an old sand dune.” To which conditions, Barb attributes mixed results but goes on to say she has “had successes especially with the naturally occurring species.”

Which brings us to the great mulch debate. **Fran Anderson** notes that: “We do not add any fertiliser as we always intended to only plant natives and only use mulch in the early days. Now, leaves from the Callistemons, Acacias and Banksias provide a very good coverage. We only water in very hot dry conditions, and then only the young developing plants. All the medium size shrubs need to be pruned regularly, but despite this still manage to get a bit out of hand sometimes.”

Successes:

In **Lynne’s** garden, these are the success stories:

Lomandra longifolia – Initially slow-growing but vigorous growing during the wet years. It has self-seeded and seedlings are easy to remove or transplant. Excellent local plant as it grows well anywhere.

Coastal rosemary *Westringia fruticosa*: white and cultivars for other colours have all grown well. They need to be pruned to prevent them becoming woody and straggly.

Tea tree *Leptospermum scoparium* grew slowly but no problems.

Grevillea ‘Moonlight’ *Grevillea whiteana* cultivar has large attractive flowers and a long flowering period.

Old Man Coastal Banksia *Banksia serrata* (self-seeded) – we keep trimming it to below two metres, so it never produces cones.

Chef’s Cap Correa *Correa baeuerlenii* grew well for years then started to die-back; recovered when pruned.

White Correa *Correa alba* growing well.

Woolly Bush *Adenanthos sericeus* (thriving) which has to be cut back from other plants as it spreads considerably.

Fruit Salad Plant/Forest Phebalium *Phebalium squamulosum*.- attractive flowers.

Barb notes that: “Correa alba is endemic and C. reflexa are okay, and I have plenty of naturally occurring Rhagoda and Lomandra, also Myoporum and Leucopogon [shrubs]. Lilli Pilli - Syzygium are good and Hibbertia scandens, and several of the Callistemons and Melaleucas.”



Hibbertia scandens

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Fran Anderson is having success with the following species as well as with various plants named above:

Trees like two *Callistemons* (attractive to Lorikeets), *Hakea macraeana*, *Acacia coventyi*, *Banksia integrifolia* (which attracts Wattlebirds) and *B. ericifolia* (attracts Black Cockatoos); low-growing species like *Dianella caerulea*, *Lomandra longifolia*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Isopogon anethisoli* and *Philotea myoporoides*; various shrubs such as *Kunzea ambigua* (attracts bees), *Myoporum boninense*, *Westringia fruticosa*, *Correa alba*; the climbers *Hibbertia scandens* and *Pandorea jasminoides* (for the Crimson Rosellas).

Tips from Lynne:

She believes that Wax flower *Philotea myoporoides*, although well established, would have died if it hadn't been watered during very dry times. Two young red bottle brushes in a sunny exposed position did not grow much for the first few years but thick tan bark mulch around the bases (and over the entire area), helped them to flourish. On the other hand, Lynne points out that "Fan Flower *Scaevola* was growing well until we put new pine mulch around it. Upon reflection that was a bad idea, but our other native plants didn't seem to suffer. Deua Flame *Grevillea rhyolitica* died, perhaps because it was close to Colorbond fence. Happy Wanderer *Hardenbergia violacea* (self-seeded) died when we put mulch around the plant, although it struggled throughout its life. It was also close to Colorbond fence."

Barb says she has had little success with Grevilleas, but look at the birds attracted to her garden: Honeyeaters: (Eastern Spinebill, Leuwin, Yellow-faced, Wattlebird); Red-browed Finch, Eastern Yellow Robin, Whipbirds, White-browed Scrubwren, Bowerbirds mostly female or juvenile, Crimson Rosellas and King Parrots but fewer since the fires and Currawongs.

To have a look at suitable plants for sandy soils, visit the *Naturescape* project at ERBG and head for the Coastal Garden plot.



Correa reflexa



Banksia integrifolia



Grevillea rhyolitica



Chrysocephalum apiculatum

Photos: Di Clark

Butterflies in the ERBG

Geoff McVeigh

Butterflies are widely found around the world except in Antarctica. Butterflies are colourful and patterned. They appeared in fossils which were 200 million years old.

They have four stages of life which are as eggs, larvae, pupae and adult. At the pupae stage they are subject to attack by wasps and other insects. The Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly has a symbiotic relationship with specific ants which protect the larvae or pupae from predation in wattle trees. The larvae and pupae secrete food for ants.



This photo shows the outer wings of the Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly which are relatively plain.



This photo shows the inner wings of the Imperial Hairstreak Butterfly which are a surprise.

Butterflies move pollen from one plant to another and so help flowering plants reproduce.

Other Butterflies that I have seen in the ERBG are Brown Ringlet, Wonder Brown, Common Brown, Meadow Argus, Australian Painted Lady, Common Grass Blue, Splendid Ochre, Bright Copper, Southern Silver Ochre, Caper White, Lilac Grass Skipper, Green Grass Dart, Dingy Grass Skipper, Varied Sword Grass Brown, Varied Dusky Blue and Cabbage White.

Don't forget to put your photos on [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org).

Photos: Geoff McVeigh

Is *Blakella* the new *Corymbia*? It's anybody's guess

Tricia Kaye

In January 2024 a team of scientists headed by ANU botanist Mike Crisp declared a new genus of eucalypt – *Blakella*. If this proposal is adopted by the botanical community, the spotted gum would become *Blakella maculata* – less than twenty years after it was officially renamed from *Eucalyptus maculata* to *Corymbia maculata*.

Eucalypts are a complex group, with over 800 species and many hybrids. Since the 1970s sub-generic groupings have been generally accepted and aid significantly with identification.

In 1995, Hill & Johnson proposed *Corymbia* as a separate genus on the basis that the group was more closely related to *Angophora*. This proposed version of *Corymbia* lumped together the two sub-generic groups of *Corymbia* and *Blakella*.

In opposition, Brooker of CSIRO proposed there should be one *Eucalyptus* genus with all species including *Angophoras*. He argued that DNA analysis would reveal more complexity over time. He also did not agree with the lumping of the *Blakella* sub-generic group in *Corymbia*.

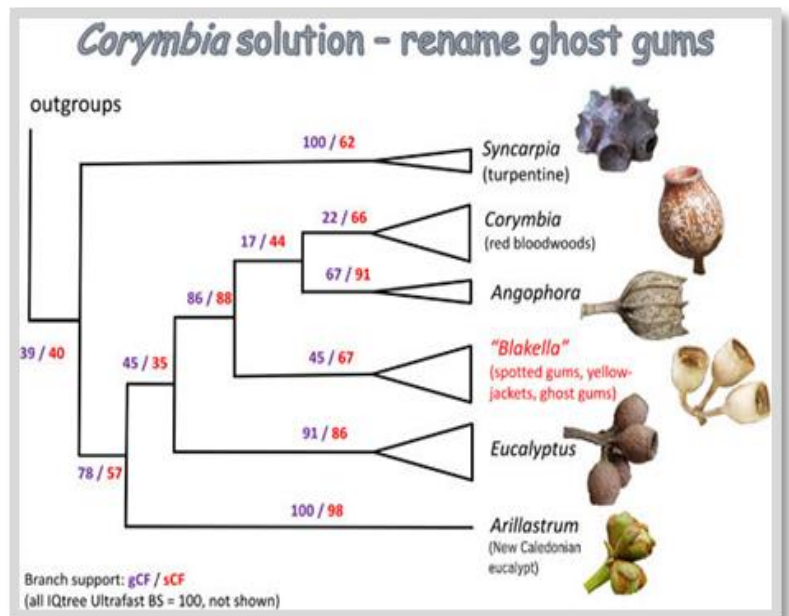
Hill & Johnson's *Corymbia* was formally accepted in 2006, around 10 years after it was first proposed. So will *Blakella* now be accepted? In some sense it supports Brooker's point that spotted gums did not belong with the red bloodwoods.

In February this year, Dean Nicolle responded with a classification similar to Brooker, lumping all species (including *Angophoras*) into one genus of *Eucalyptus* with 11 sub-genera.

These proposals are two sides of the same coin – if you accept that *Angophora* is a valid genus, then you must also accept that *Corymbia* and *Blakella* are valid (Crisp et al., 2024). Or you don't accept *Angophora* and put them all together in one genus (Nicolle, 2024) and accept that there is no perfect classification at the genus level on current knowledge.

But given that *Angophora* has been well accepted for over 200 years, it seems unlikely that it will be rejected now. And if everything is lumped, some species would need to be renamed to avoid duplication, leading to more complexity.

Would acceptance of *Blakella* necessarily mean more splitting? Probably not of *Blakella* and *Corymbia*, since they appear to be discrete entities. But the *Eucalyptus* genus would still have ~700 species – a tempting thought for evolutionary biologists armed with ever more powerful analytical tools.



New research proposes a new eucalypt genus, *Blakella* to be split off from *Corymbia*



If the proposal is formally accepted, spotted gum will be named *Blakella maculata* and not *Corymbia*

Superb Fairy Wrens

Jennifer Liney

In memory of Jennifer Liney (1931– 2022) OAM, Honorary ERBG Herbarium Curator for 25 years.

Have you seen the very small gardeners bouncing about the lawns and flower beds, in and out of the Café, across to the Herbarium and outside again? They have become so used to the big gardeners and visitors that they take no notice, busily going about their own affairs, picking up crumbs, small insects and generally tidying up.

In early winter, these small gardeners all look the same – mousy brown with dark blue under the tail. It is not easy to tell male from female, and there does not appear to be any dominant individual. But in late winter and spring, relationships begin emerging, family groups congregate and claim territories. One of the males adopts a dominant position, commences to put on his breeding plumage and starts practising chasing the girls.



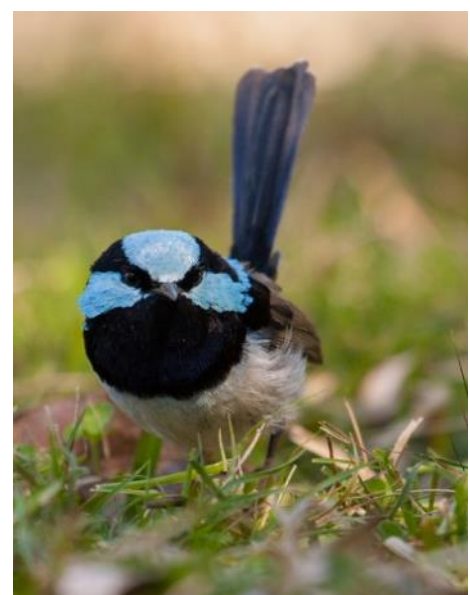
The girls, too, begin looking around for the most likely lad, but not necessarily in their own family group. The ladies cast their nets far and wide, but seek to keep their straying ways secret from the family dominant male.

By the time spring is well advanced, the ‘boss’ looks splendid in vibrant blue, black and off-white. He commonly perches atop emergent shrub stems and surveys the family members moving about below, all the time looking for an attractive female, who may, or may not, agree to accept his favours.

In due course, nests are constructed, eggs are laid and chicks hatch. It is fortunate that father Superb Fairy Wrens do not have access to DNA screening; if they did, there could well be ructions in the family, for some of the chicks do not quite belong. In fact, the girls have been surreptitiously fancying other, more desirable boys in neighbouring groups.

There is a purpose to this promiscuity. Ingrained in all species is a drive to produce future generations. There must be a healthy gene pool for this to be successful. Mating outside the immediate family group is one way of ensuring that genetic diversity is maintained, so that there is every chance that safety of the species is assured.

Meanwhile, our Garden’s Wrens continue bounding about outdoors and in, unconcerned by the amusement and interest they give to the people around them, doing all the things that Superb Fairy Wrens do in their special place in the natural world.



Photos: Jennifer Liney

Exploring the Forest Floor – Autumn Walk & Lab Session at the ERBG

Tricia Kaye

During the ERBG's recent *From the Forest Festival*, the Herbarium offered a walk and lab session to explore the forest floor – fungi, lichens, slime moulds, ferns & invertebrates. Sofia Zvolanek came down from Sydney to help – Sofia has identified over 80,000 fungi on iNaturalist, including many at the Garden. We started with a walk through the Garden and finished in the Herbarium to look at some finer details. Morning and afternoon sessions were fully subscribed.

As it turned out, Sunday 21 April was a perfect day – the sun was shining, and fungi were on full display after some good autumn rain. Over 40 “species forms” of fungi were spotted - about one-third of all that have been spotted at the Garden, and Sofia found quite a few tiny fungi and slime moulds we hadn't noticed before.



Some highlights from the day – photos Geoff McVeigh, Sofia Zvolanek, Tricia Kaye.
See more amazing fungi observations on *Life in the ERBG*: bit.ly/erbg-fungi

Restoring Koala Habitat in the NSW South Coast Koala Management Area



Friends will sponsor a seminar on the *South Coast Koala Project*. The seminar is planned for later this year so please keep an eye out for it.

The ultimate goal of the project is the re-wilding of koalas to our region, with the first step being habitat mapping and revegetation of key areas. You might find this [link](#) to NSW Department of Environment and Heritage interesting background reading.

How many fungi have you found in the Garden?



Ghost-fungus



Bolete



Emperor Cortinar

Like more details? Go to [iNaturalist](#)



**EUROBODALLA
REGIONAL
BOTANIC
GARDEN**

Book Fair

**Saturday 8, Sunday 9 and Monday 10 June
from 10am – 3pm.**

Join the hunt for the perfect book to get you through winter. Our annual pre-loved book fair is on again over the June long weekend!

Where: The Banksia room, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, Deep Creek Dam Rd, Batemans Bay.

What better time of year to curl up with a good read on the lounge in front of the fire and immerse yourself in another world.

You'll be sure to find something unique to read at this three-day second-hand book fair. Drop in to grab a bargain or find that special book that's been on your wish list for years.

All funds raised will go towards supporting the Botanic Garden.

If you would like to donate some books for us to sell at the fair please contact Dylan Morrissey on 02 4474 7471 or email dylan.morrissey@esc.nsw.gov.au



Friends Committee 2023-24

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