

## Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. Conference



Port Augusta Golf Club  
Hamilton Road  
Port Augusta West



18th & 19th August 2012

***MANGROVES, MYALLS AND MORE***



## Conference Programme

FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### Registration and Welcome

**4.30 – 6.00** Delegates may register and collect a Conference Bag at the ***Wadlata Outback Centre***.

***Do take the opportunity to look through the state-of-the-art tourism display of northern SA covering its history and unique tourist spots ...“take a virtual tour of northern SA”.***

**NOTE:** ***Free admission to the interpretive displays at Wadlata Outback Centre, for all Conference attendees***

**5.00 – 6.00** Civic Reception, ***Wadlata Outback Centre***,  
41 Flinders Terrace, Port Augusta



# **“MANGROVES, MYALLS AND MORE”**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**CONFERENCE VENUE      Port Augusta Golf Club, Hamilton  
Road,                                      Port Augusta West**

**8.00 – 8.30**              Registration

**8.30 – 8.45**              Welcome and setting the scene by President of  
The Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic  
Garden, Port Augusta Inc.                      **Mr John Zwar OAM**

## **Welcome to Country**

**8.45 – 9.45**              Keynote Speaker – Professor Chris Daniels, Director, Barbara  
Hardy Institute, Division of Information Technology,  
Engineering & the Environment, University of South Australia  
***“Backyards: the most important room in the house”***

**9.45 – 10.15**              **M O R N I N G   T E A**

**10.15 – 11.00**              **Mr Jeff Reid:** Coordinator of COOTS (Conservation of Our  
Threatened Species) Australian Plants Society SA  
***“Mangroves - Where the sea meets the land”***

**11.00 – 11.45**              **Dr Carolyn Ireland:** Director of Australia’s Rangeland Society  
and member of the Dog Fence Board  
***“Western Myall”***

**11.45 – 12.30**              **Dr Peter Hayman:** Principal Scientist, Climate Applications, at  
the South Australian Research and Development Institute  
(SARDI)  
***“Goyders Line; a brief history, current relevance and future  
shifts”***

**12.30 – 1.15**              **L U N C H**

**1.30 – 2.15**      **Dr Nita Lester:** PhD (Science), PhD (Education), BA, FACE, JP (Qual) Senior Lecturer and Convener, Griffith University Mt Gravatt Campus; Botanist Queensland Government  
***“Myalls, Brigalows and Butterflies”***

**2.30 – 3.15**      **Dr Dean Nicolle:** Consultant Arborist, Botanist and Eucalyptologist, from Currency Creek Arboretum SA  
***“Eucalypts from the Deserts and other Harsh Environments in Australia”***

**3.15 – 3.45**      **A F T E R N O O N   T E A**

**3.45. – 4.30**      **Professor Don Bursill AM:** South Australia’s Chief Scientist, one of our most respected water scientists and water management experts  
***“Our Water Supply and the Importance of the River Murray”***

**4.30**              Conference close for the day

**6.30 for 7.00**      **D I N N E R**  
**Port Augusta Golf Club**  
Hamilton Road, Port Augusta West

Dinner Speaker      **Dr John Read:** Ecologist, Environmentalist and Author  
***“MORE than Just Pretty Plants”***



## SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012

### NOTE: Garden

commencing at The Australian Arid Lands Botanic

7.00 – 9.00

Bird walk followed by breakfast at AALBG

9.00 – 10.30

Guided walking tours of AALBG

10.30 – 10.45

Return to Port Augusta Golf Club

10.45 – 11.00

**M O R N I N G T E A**

11.00 – 11.45

**Peter Langdon:** 'Birder' and local Bird Artist

*"25 years of Birding at the AALBG"*

11.45 – 12.30

**Ms Valmai Hankel PSM,** Australian Historian and former State Library of South Australia Librarian

*"The murdering camel: a glance at some 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers who travelled from or near Port Augusta, 1839 to 1859"*

12.30 – 1.30

**L U N C H**

1.45 – 2.45

AGM of the Association of Friends of BG

- Intro to *Campsis* - Janet Thomson
- Acknowledgement of Mr Steve Hopper AC

2.45 – 3.00

**A F T E R N O O N T E A**

3.00 – 4.30

Brief presentations by visiting Friends Groups:

Sale, Melton, Maroochydore and Geelong

4.30 – 5.00

2014 Conference announcements and presentation

5.00

**C L O S E O F C O N F E R E N C E**





## Conference Speakers



**Chris Daniels** is Professor of Urban Ecology at the University of South Australia.

He is the Director of the Barbara Hardy Institute, Division of Information Technology, Engineering & the Environment, University of South Australia, a major research institute, with a large research agenda focused on creating sustainable communities. He facilitates and conducts research into the relationship between humans, the communities we build and the natural environment.

He is the Presiding Member, of the Adelaide & Mount Lofty Natural Resource Management Board.

Chris was educated in zoology at the University of Adelaide and the University of New England. Chris has held academic positions at the University of California, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide before accepting the chair of Urban Ecology at Uni SA. He is married with two children and lives in Adelaide. He is a prolific publisher, with eight books published and over 120 scientific publications. In 2005 Chris, with Catherine Tait edited the Book *Adelaide Nature of a City*. The second book in this series, *Adelaide Water of a City* was published in 2010. Both books have won numerous awards including the Whitley Award and awards from the Planning Institute of Australia, Stormwater Industry and Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. Other books published by Chris include *The Possum-tail Tree*, *The Ferocious Fluteplayers*, *A Guide to Urban Wildlife* and several edited volumes on the evolution of air breathing. Chris teaches undergraduate and postgraduate zoology and supervises a large number of research students each year. He is a member of several journal editorial boards and zoological societies including the Royal Society of SA. He holds honorary positions at Zoos SA and the SA Museum. Chris has always had an abiding interest in reptiles, particularly lizards, and is a passionate communicator to the general community, about science and the environment. Chris has held regular sessions on 891 ABC Radio and from this relationship Chris conducted field trips with ABC listeners 'Into the Backyard' and has run "operation" surveys over the past four years. He won the South Australian Premier's Science Award for communication and education excellence in 2007 and received the medal for his contributions to natural history and conservation from the Field Naturalists Society of South Australia in 2010. He is Patron of the Unley City Council *Adopt a Tree* Program and Patron of the South Australian Junior Field Naturalists Society.

His presentation is ***"Backyards: the most Important Room in the House"***

Chris will analyse the role of backyards in conserving biodiversity, how we have come to having the biodiversity we do have, and where is it going in a future with smaller or no urban open space. His presentation will discuss the wildlife that share our space and will also focus on why backyards are so important for communities and what we need to do as we move towards high density communities.





**Jeff Reid** Coordinator of COOTS (Conservation of Our Threatened Species) which is the conservation group of the Australian Plants Society.

He is a Life Member and a past President of the Australian Plants Society SA, formerly S.G.A.P. (Society for Growing Australian Plants). He has been the President, Vice-President, Councillor and active member of the Society for many years.

He now concentrates fully on conservation work, and is the coordinator of the well known COOTS group, which is the conservation group of the Society. Jeff has created five large COOTS conservation projects over the years around South Australia, and they all involve the protection of many native species. Projects like Lands End at Cape Jervis, Pine Point on Yorke Peninsula, Hope Valley Reservoir, Port Parham, and the Adelaide Airport.

As well as his COOTS projects he is actively involved in all Society events, including the very popular Plant Sales and Flower Shows which are held in autumn and spring at the Wayville Showgrounds, Adelaide. Promotion of the Australian Plants Society is very high on Jeff's agenda. He writes articles for various publications, on occasions, he participates in talk-back on radio, and can be found at the Royal Adelaide Show giving demonstrations on Australian plants in respect to their propagation and growth in gardens, and of course his COOTS projects. All his talks and workshops are well supported with slides and practical demonstrations found to be most advantageous to persons with a keen interest in gardening, and how plants grow.

His presentation is ***"Mangroves – Where the sea meets the land"***

This will be an opportunity to understand more about the fragile area along our coastlines where the sea meets the land itself.

It will concentrate on a number of plant species that can be found at the first line, in particular the mangroves (*Avicennia marina* – The Grey Mangrove). There are also many Samphire species that survive in this environment.

The second line of species where land meets the sea, are the hardy coastal plants that are able to tolerate these particularly harsh climatic conditions.

I will discuss the mangrove species, where it is found, and its many attributes; in particular how it survives where no other plant can ... there are interesting reasons why.

I will also discuss how Mangroves are successfully propagated, and how this knowledge had been gained at one of the projects where the mangrove species once existed, but had been completely wiped out and how we are able now to re-establish the species.

The main focus will be of course the reasons why the line of mangroves along our coastlines is so important, and why we must do our utmost to retain them.

The mangroves at Port Augusta are a magnificent example of habitat as will be observed during the boat tours as part of the conference programme.





**Dr Carolyn Ireland** Director and Secretary of Australian Rangeland Society, member of the South Australian Dog Fence Board, a Sessional Commissioner for the Environment, Resources and Development Court of South Australia, a rangeland botanist and ecologist involved in land use and other natural resource management issues. Her doctoral research led to the award of a PhD concerning the sustainable management of the Western Myall (*Acacia papyrocarpa*) woodlands in South Australia under pastoral land use. For ten years a member of the Pastoral Board of South Australia, Carolyn participated in the evolution of a system of pastoral land management which is arguably of international best practice. As a member of a number of Government boards and committees she was influential in the integration of diverse community interests and Commonwealth and multi-state administrations leading to the formation of the

Lake Eyre Basin Coordinating Group for the ongoing integrated natural resource management of the Basin. She was also a member of the South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board for six years. As an independent practising professional, Carolyn developed her consultancy, Ireland Resource Management Pty Ltd into a self-sustaining enterprise, servicing contracts as diverse as peer review and advice for the Environmental Impact Statement of the imminent expansion of the Olympic Dam mine to vegetation surveys of the islands of remote Lake Gairdner National Park. As a staff member of North Flinders Mines Ltd she was responsible for the Environmental Impact Statement in relation to the proposed development of the Dead Bullock Soak Mine in the Tanami Desert region of the Northern Territory.

Her passion is integrated natural resource management, especially in arid areas. These lands, particularly in Australia, contain some of the world's most intact ecosystems and natural biological diversity. In her spare time she involves herself with family, digging for fossils, photography and travelling with her husband to remote corners of Australia and the world!

Her presentation is **"Western Myall"**

**The Western Myall – (*Acacia papyrocarpa* Benth.)** is a characteristic and important overstorey species of the chenopod shrublands in South and Western Australia. A major occurrence of these woodlands is found on calcareous soils in the 150-300 mm annual rainfall zone to the north-west of Spencer Gulf and it is also prominent along the margins of the Nullarbor Plain in Western Australia. It is a long-lived tree forming low open woodlands of individuals and small groves; the older members of the population have branches that become procumbent with age, a distinctive and most attractive characteristic of the species.

In the early 1990s, the Western Myall was widely perceived to be under threat and there were concerns about the future sustainability of the species. In the Whyalla area in South Australia where the species had been well studied, evidence suggested that the population was aging and recruitment being suppressed, apparently by herbivores. Compared to the pre-settlement era, the Western Myall woodlands were subjected to sheep grazing, rabbit infestation and much increased kangaroo populations. The author undertook Honours and PhD research projects to investigate the sustainability of the Western Myall across the major part of its range in South Australia and thus provide a basis for land management strategies which would ensure its survival.

The paper addresses many of the aspects of this research, including recruitment of the Western Myall, flowering, formation and fate of the seed and the importance of rare rainfall inundations and the actions of harvester ants. It will examine the effects of the major herbivores – rabbits, sheep and kangaroos – in an historical context and also look at the long lifespan of the species and why this is so important for its survival. The studies were undertaken just before the release of rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) (calicivirus) in Australia and the paper will reflect on some subsequent observed changes.







**Dr Peter Hayman:** Principal Scientist in climate applications at the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) based at Waite Institute, a position he has held since 2004. Prior to moving to Adelaide he was coordinator of climate applications for NSW Agriculture. He is an agricultural scientist with an interest in applying climate information to dryland and irrigated farming systems with a recent focus on impacts and adaptation to climate change in the irrigated wine grape industry and low rainfall grains industry.

His presentation is: ***“Goyders Line; a brief history, current relevance and future shifts”***

In 1865 George Goyder, Surveyor-General of South Australia, drew a line of reliable rainfall that came to be used to separate cropping and extensive grazing land.

Although sometimes misunderstood as a line beyond which wheat could not or should not be grown, it is better understood as indicating the increased risk of wheat growth beyond the line.

Goyders Line has become an icon of sound resource planning in drought prone climates and a cautionary tale against overconfidence that arises from a run of above-average rainfall years. There has always been a fascination with the margin between the arable and the desert; the ‘safe inner’ and the ‘dangerous outer’. That the location of this margin may shift with climate change resonates with people’s perceptions of risk and the danger of climate change.

This study builds on earlier work that used long term climate data to model wheat production in a transect running from south of Orroroo which is on Goyders Line to the more arid regions north of Goyders Line. It stands to reason that a warming and drying trend will lead to a southward shift of the risk and return of wheat production that was previously associated with practices and land values adjacent to Goyders Line.

It is a general ecological principal that ecosystems move pole-ward and uphill in warming episodes. This is complicated by smart, adaptive human beings especially when they have a sense of place and a suite of technology from farming methods and new varieties. The shift will be the result of an arm wrestle between climate change and technology improvement.

This presentation will report on:

- 1 how we have used spatial climate data and crop simulation models to study the consistency of Goyders Line as it extends west across the top of the Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas and East across the Murray Mallee
- 2 a survey of over 300 farmers, students and policy decision makers on where they see Goyders Line in 2030 and 2070
- 3 a series of focus groups from farmers living on Goyders Line in the Murray Mallee, Upper North (Orroroo) and Upper Eyre Peninsula where we worked on a map of land values to discuss the interaction of soil type, climate and farming practices.

Goyder was an extraordinary individual and ahead of his time in thinking about climate risk and reliability. It is this contribution rather than simple shifts of lines on maps that is his greatest contribution to coming to terms with our variable and changing climate.

*Nidumolu UB, Hayman PT, Howden SM, Alexander BM (2012) Re-evaluating the margin of the South Australian grain belt in a changing climate. Climate Research 51, 249–260.*





**Dr Nita Lester** *PhD (Science), PhD (Education), BA, FACE, JP (Qual)* Senior Lecturer and Convenor, Griffith University Mt Gravatt Campus; Botanist Queensland Government.

Nita is a Board Member of a number of companies, and is Chair of the Myall Park Botanic Garden. She is also a Graphic Designer and Artist and her works are represented in public and private collections throughout Australia and overseas. She has a keen interest in the preservation of the environment and sustainability for future generations of all plants and animals

*Her presentation is: “**Myalls, Brigalows and Butterflies**”*

This paper considers the proposition that the relationships between the elements of an ecosystem must be understood if biodiversity is to be protected. Within the Southern Queensland Brigalow Bioregion, the rich brown soils and the semi-arid climate dictate the makeup of the diverse populations of plant species such as Acacia, (Brigalow, Myall), Allocasuarinas, Eucalypts and Grasses. The old growth colonies provide an environment for a wide variety of birds, reptiles and invertebrates such as butterflies, cicadas and ants. Members of this fauna collection include the threatened Brigalow Butterfly. Findings indicate that all elements must be protected if the biodiversity is to be successfully preserved.





**Dr Dean Nicolle** Consultant Arborist, Botanist and Eucalyptologist, Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia

His presentation is ***"Eucalypts from the deserts and other harsh environments in Australia"***

#### Summary

The Eucalypts (genera *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia* and *Angophora*), with around 900 different species, are a component of most natural Australian landscapes, being absent only from small rainforest pockets in the wettest areas of eastern Australia and being largely absent from some parts of the arid interior. The Eucalypts are almost exclusively Australian, with only a handful of species extending to the islands to the north of Australia, and only a few species not occurring naturally in Australia at all.

The diversity of habitats occupied by the Eucalypts is paralleled by the diversity of form between species in the group, varying from massive forest trees to rockery shrubs, and with equally impressive diversity in bark, foliage and floral type. Because of the presence of Eucalypts in most Australian landscapes, they are widely believed to be highly adaptable to a range of site conditions. However, this is generally not the case, as the majority of species are restricted in natural distribution and are highly site specific. The habitat preferences and tolerances of different species are often poorly understood. For example, the Great Victoria Desert, with its east-west-running longitudinal sand dunes, supports an amazing diversity of nearly 50 Eucalypt species, whereas the Simpson Desert, with its north/south-running longitudinal sand dunes, supports no Eucalypts species except for coolibahs and red gums in watercourses on the margins of the desert.

The diversity of habitats occupied by the Eucalypts can be highlighted by some of the more extreme habitats occupied by different species, many of which have not been trialled at all in cultivation. This seminar will take you on a photographic tour through some of the harsher habitats in terrestrial Australia, and highlight some of the different Eucalypt species that have evolved to not just cope, but to thrive in such habitats.

We will travel from South Australia's highest peaks - Mt Woodroffe and Mt Morris in the arid north of the state, and other exposed mountain ridges in the arid interior to see species such as *C. eremaea* (range bloodwood), *E. flindersii* (Mallee Red Gum), *E. lucens* (Shiny-leaved Mallee), *E. minniritchi* (Round-leaved Mallee), *E. repullulans* (Chrysophase Mallee) and *E. sparsa* (Northern Ranges Box). We will be taken to rocky cliff faces and other 'no-soil' sites such as the iron-rich ridges of the Pilbara to see species such as *C. aparrerinja* (Central Australian Ghost Gum), *C. punkapitiensis*, *C. flavescens* (Wrinkle-leaf Ghost Gum) and *E. Brachyandra* (Tropical Red Box). And we will travel the expanse of the desert sandplains to see a diversity of species including *E. canescens* (Ooldea Range Mallee), *E. gongylocarpa* (Desert Gum) and *E. wyolensis* (Lake Wyola Mallee).





**Professor Don Bursill AM** SA Chief Scientist; one of Australia’s most respected water scientists and water management experts.

Don Bursill has had some 40 years’ experience in the water industry in Australia. For most of that time he has worked for the South Australian Water Corporation, stepping down at the end of 2005 as its Chief Scientist – a position he had held for 17 years. His experience was focused mainly on water quality, water treatment and water resources management. He led a national team that was successful in establishing the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment under the Australian Government’s Co-operative Research Centres Program and was CEO of that Centre from its commencement in 1995 until retirement in December 2005.

Don has been an Adjunct Research Professor at the University of South Australia since 1993, a position he still holds in the University’s SA Water Centre for Water Management and Reuse.

From 1996 through to the end of 2010 he chaired the Water Quality Advisory Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council which sets the national drinking water quality guidelines, among other functions. He also chaired the committee that developed the risk management structure for the current national water recycling guidelines.

Don is President of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Water Association and was a member of the South Australian Premier’s Climate Change Council from 2008 until January 2011. He is a director on the Board of the Playford Trust, which provide scholarships for postgraduate study in science and engineering.

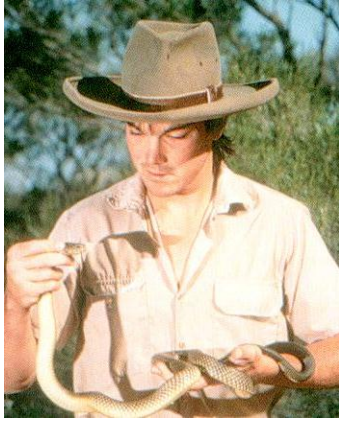
He has been recognised with a number of awards including a Member of the Order of Australia, an Honorary Doctorate of the University of South Australia and the Peter Hughes Award from the Australian Water Association – all in recognition of his services to water research and water resources management in Australia. He has a CSIRO Medal for water research and two awards from the South Australian Water Association for innovation in water research, including the Premier’s Medal. He is South Australia’s Senior Australian of the Year for 2011 and Citizen of the Year for the City of Tea Tree Gully (2011). In April 2011 he was appointed to the position of South Australia’s Chief Scientist.

His presentation is ***“Our Water Supply and the Importance of the River Murray”***

This talk will present a number of key facts about available water resources in South Australia with an emphasis on water sources for public water supplies. An overview of the water challenges faced by SA in the past decade will accompany comment on the decisions taken to address these challenges. The importance of the River Murray to South Australia will be highlighted and an assessment of the current proposals under the Murray Darling Basin Plan will be presented.







**Dr John Read** Ecologist, Environmentalist and Author

Dinner Speaker: ***“MORE than just pretty plants”***

John Read lives on a private 260 sq km Mallee reserve on South Australia’s Eyre Peninsula with his ecologist wife and their three girls.

He has been researching the ecology of the South Australian arid zone for over 20 years, publishing over eighty scientific papers on topics as diverse as rare plants, venomous snakes, kangaroo entrails and radiation impacts to frogs.

John has also co-founded several conservation initiatives and has written inspirational books on two on these projects, Arid Recovery at Roxby Downs (Red Sand, Green Heart) and Tetepare Island (The Last Wild Island), the largest uninhabited and unlogged island in the South Pacific.

His current interests include effects of climate change on desert reptiles, developing control techniques for feral cats and invasive weeds and the roles of miners, pastoralists and conservationists in outback conservation.

He is both passionate and pragmatic about his work and research interests and enjoys being provocative – so be warned!







**Mr Peter Langdon** Birder and local Bird Artist.

Peter grew up in Port Augusta West in the '50s and '60s. He was interested in natural history and birds in particular, from an early age. He has spent most of his working life in the pastoral industry and it was while working in the bush and seeing lots of birds, that he joined the South Australian Ornithological Association, the oldest such organisation in Australia, formed in 1899. This year Peter received a Platinum Membership certificate in recognition of 41 years of continuous membership of the SAOA, or Birds SA.

His presentation is: ***“25 years of Birding in the AALBG”***

As well as recording the birds he saw, Peter noticed other creatures. He found the seventh (at the time) Giles Planingale, a mouse-sized marsupial, in the State, the first MacDonnell Range Rainbow Fish west of Lake Eyre and the first Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat in central South Australia. Through these discoveries, he got to know the relevant staff at the South Australian Museum, learnt to skin birds and did some “collecting” for them.

Peter also held an A-class Bird Banding licence for many years, working with well-known “bander” Wally Klau OAM. It was with Wally that he discovered an Orange-bellied Parrot, a rare and endangered species, at Chinaman’s Creek just south of Port Augusta. Peter has been involved in many bird surveys for DENR (Department of Natural Resources) and other institutions (Atlas of Australian Birds, 2020 wader count), and has run bird identification workshops.

Peter was drawing and painting birds at an early age and now you will find his pictures of birds on many walls in Port Augusta and, since accepting commissions, across the world as well. He has been a member of the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden committee for two periods over the years. Very early in the life of the ‘Friends’, he watched the difficulties faced as funding opportunities were sought, with little success. His contribution, several years ago, was the donation of one of his paintings for a raffle and this drew a big sum of money. He is currently working on a series of paintings to display at Blinman as part of the exhibition, *A Brush with Art*, being held throughout the Flinders Ranges this spring.

In the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, the Bird Hides also feature Peter's art work. Greeting cards and posters of his paintings can be found in the shop at the AALB Garden's Visitor Centre (and there is a card in your conference bag).





**Ms Valmai Hankel PSM** Australian Historian and Librarian

Valmai Hankel worked in the State Library of South Australia for over 43 years until she retired in 2001, having been awarded the Public Service Medal in the 1996 Australia Day Honours List. She is the first woman President of the Friends of the State Library of South Australia in its 80-year history. In 2012 she was awarded the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia's John Lewis Gold Medal, an honour she shares with Sir Edmund Hillary and Sir Douglas Mawson. It is only the 24<sup>th</sup> since the award was first made in 1947, and she is its only living recipient. Writing the introductions to the reprints by the Friends of the State Library of the journals of several Australian inland explorers has enabled her to get to know better some of her heroes, such as John McDouall Stuart and Alfred Howitt. She is working on a book about her wine experiences and her outback travels, tentatively titled '*Into the Red*'. Since retiring she remains in demand as a public speaker, and has been a regular guest on ABC radio and elsewhere since the 1970s. She has conducted extensive research into our early explorers over many years; and has ventured 'off the beaten track' on numerous occasions to follow in their footsteps and gain a better understanding of the obstacles they faced. As a former librarian specializing in rare books, she has played a central role in the republication of the diaries and accounts of early explorers and has been a strong advocate for the preservation of our significant geographical collections.

In her spare time she breeds part-Arabian ponies at her property in the rain shadow of the hills, and travels each year alone in the outback in her Landcruiser.

Her presentation is ***"The murdering camel: a glance at some 19th century explorers who travelled from or near Port Augusta, 1839 to 1859"***

Exploration of South Australia north and west of Port Augusta was spasmodic from 1839 to the early 1850s, but in the three years from 1856 to 1859 the country was almost swarming with explorers, with no fewer than nine expedition parties in the field. Eyre's horseshoe lakes puzzle was solved, and the pastoral potential of the country (or lack of it) was revealed. Some explorers even appreciated the country's striking vegetation.

While names associated with the region such as Eyre, Horrocks, Stuart and Warburton are reasonably well known, others are not. Their stories deserve to be remembered today.



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC

Will be held

on

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012 COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM

At

The Port Augusta Golf Club

PORT AUGUSTA WEST

Ro Noone

Admin Officer

20 July 2012

President Janet Thomson Admin Officer Ro Noone Address: PO Box 983, Geelong VIC 3220

E [info@friendsbotanicgardens.org](mailto:info@friendsbotanicgardens.org) W [www.friendsbotanicgardens.org](http://www.friendsbotanicgardens.org) ABN 9967025064 Inc. A0026805Z

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC A0026805Z

PROXY FORM



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2012

Please complete all relevant information in BLOCK letters. Where a direction is given the relevant box should be marked **X**.

**1. Appointment of Proxy**

I, (name of authorised person appointing proxy).....

of (address) .....

being the .....(office held)

of the .....(name of Member Organisation)

appoint as Proxy.....(name of person appointed)

or, if no person is named, the Chairman of the Meeting as the proxy of the said Member to vote in accordance with the following directions (or, if no direction is given, as my proxy sees fit) at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Incorporated to be held at The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at 2 p.m. on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Augusts 2012 and at any adjournment of that Meeting.

**2. Voting Directions to the Proxy**

(1) To confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. For  Against

(2) To receive the Committees' reports. For  Against

(3) To elect members of the Committee For  Against

(4) To receive the financial statements for the year ended ..... For  Against

**3. Signatures**

President or Secretary of Member appointing the proxy so to act.

Signature ..... Date .....

Signature of person appointed as the proxy .....Date .....

**THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY BY 12.30 P.M. ON SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012**

**20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2.00 p.m. 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

**Port Augusta Golf Club**

**Port Augusta West**

**AGENDA**

Apologies

1. To confirm the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.
2. To receive the President's Annual Report for 2011-12.
3. To receive/consider the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2011.
4. To elect the Officers of the Committee of Management.
5. To elect the Ordinary members of the Committee of Management.
6. Special Business

Amendment to the Statement of Purposes and Rules

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution:-

'That the definition "Financial Year" in Rule 2.1 be amended as follows:-  
"Financial Year" means the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>'

That Rule 9.3 be amended as follows:-

'The annual general meeting shall be held on such day, time and place as the Committee determines, but not later than 31<sup>st</sup> August'

*Note:*

*The above amendments are necessary following the Special Resolution of the Committee at its meeting on 5 March to change the financial year of the AFBG from 1 January – 31 December to 1 April - 31 March. This change was thought necessary as there was less likelihood when linking the AGM in with a conference that an extension of time would need to be sought as was the case this year.*

7. To appoint an auditor for the ensuing year.
8. To carry out any other business for which due notice has been given.

Admin Officer, Ro Noone 18/7/2012



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



On behalf of the Committee of Management I have pleasure in presenting the annual report for the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. Officially this report should be for the year ended 31 December 2011 however as it is now nearly 8 months since the year's end, I have extended it to include what has happened so far in 2012.

In March, the COM resolved that the financial year of AFBG be changed from 1 January – 31 December to 1 April – 31 March each year and that the current financial year be extended to 15 months (1 January 2012 – 31 March 2013). This means that the AFBG Rules 2.1 and 9.3 need amendment (see Item 6 on the AGM agenda) and that the membership year will now also be from 1 April – 31 March meaning that current subscriptions will be extended to 31 March 2013.

It is pleasing to report that membership of the Association remains at 52 – ACT 2 members, NSW 10, NT 1, Qld 4, SA 2, Tas. 2, Vic. 29, WA 1, NZ 1 – and we continue to seek new members. This year we were very pleased to welcome back the Shepparton Friends whose new garden has been named the Australian Botanic Garden Shepparton.

The COM has met on a regular basis with the last two meetings using the RBG Melbourne's conference telephone very successfully. This has meant that interstate committee members did not have to travel to the meeting thus saving a great deal of time and expense.

During 2011 the COM responded to the suggestions made by delegates at the Mildura Conference in May 2010 and put in place a more stable administration by employing an Administrative Officer, Ro Noone, on a contract basis. The Administrative Officer supports and simplifies the role of COM members and in particular what had been the very onerous role of the Secretary. Ro has been gradually getting to know people in the botanic gardens community and has had the opportunity to visit a number of gardens this year.

Professional help was secured to renew and manage the website. The new website with a new logo was developed by Wordsworth Communicating with the assistance of Mandy King, Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. The work of improving and adjusting the content of the website is ongoing. Members who do not have an independent website may take up the option of a static web page within the AFBG's, however only 3 members have chosen to do this so far. We would like to see all members brighten the website by adding their garden photos to the 'Gallery'. Currently only 3 have done so.

We are very grateful to Anne Rawson of the Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens for her offer early in 2011 to edit *Campsis*, the AFBG's newsletter, and to make improvements to it. Seventeen members, a record number, contributed to the last edition of *Campsis* produced in May. It is always an inspiration to read these contributions and learn of all the innovative ways in which Friends' groups attract and interact with members of their communities, involving them in a range of different programs in their botanic gardens. The effectiveness of these programs and the dedication and commitment of the various Friends' groups is highly commendable and absolutely wonderful.

The Information Kit, which can be accessed on the AFBG's website, has been updated and continues to serve as a useful tool particularly for smaller and newly established groups. It is anticipated that the presentation will be improved in due course.

Closer links continue to be forged between the AFBG and Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ). The BGANZ Council invited an AFBG representative to speak at the BGANZ Albury Congress in October 2011 and supported our delegate registration. Annie McGeachy (Geelong BG) represented the AFBG and spoke on the structure, role and expanding size of the Friends' network. The AFBG was asked and subsequently offered a reciprocal opportunity for a BGANZ Councillor to participate in the AFBG conference at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Annie, Alex Smart (RBG Cranbourne) and I (RBG Melbourne) have also attended several BGANZ regional meetings in Victoria during the year.

In May this year Warwick Wright (Australian National Botanic Gardens) and I met with Anne Duncan, President of BGANZ, and Eamonn Flanagan, BGANZ Executive Officer, in Canberra, to discuss ways in which our two organisations might work more closely together. Areas of discussion included AFBG members participating in BGANZ regional meetings and congresses and our respective organisations contributing to each other's newsletters.

A great deal has been achieved over the last 18 months for the benefit of members, however the enthusiasm generated in Mildura and the quality of recent *Campsis* contributions plus the attractive new website, is yet to translate into Committee representatives. Given the core of the COM has served for 7 – 10 years, the AFBG urgently needs new blood. It should be noted that the AFBG COM uses teleconferencing.

What of the AFBG's future, do members feel it is relevant? There may be an opportunity for the AFBG to secure some recurrent funding to maintain the organisation. Before proceeding we need, first, to ensure committee succession, and second, in the event that funding is available, to decide how it might best benefit the Association and its members. WHAT is your opinion?

I am retiring from the committee at this AGM having served for 12 years. It has been a most enjoyable and enriching experience, meeting like-minded Friends from all over Australia, learning and increasing my understanding of the pleasures and challenges that are part of running a successful Friends' group, being inspired by what groups achieve, visiting many wonderful botanic gardens around Australia and networking with others in the botanic garden community.

Our very able Treasurer, Graeme Caple (RBG Melbourne), is also retiring from the COM and I thank him very much indeed for his contribution and for keeping us on a sound financial footing!

On behalf of you all I would like to thank all the Committee members for their input and commitment to furthering the interests of the AFBG and its members. They have been a wonderful group to work with. Thank you also to Anne Rawson for the work she has done in producing *Campsis* and thus keeping us all in touch. And a big thank you to Ro Noone for all that she has done since her appointment as Administrative Officer in May 2011. I am truly grateful to you all for your support and friendship.

Janet Thomson  
**President**

**ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 2011

		<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>			
	<b>CASH AT BANK</b>		
1-1100	Bank Account	5,782.83	3,969.02
1-1160	Fixed Term Deposit	8,000.00	12,053.02
1-2000	Trade Debtors		1,235.00
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>13,782.83</b>	<b>17,257.04</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>			
	2011 Dues Paid in Advance		1,200.00
2-4200	2012 Dues Paid in Advance	1,660.00	
	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,660.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>
<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		12,122.83	16,057.04
<b><u>EQUITY</u></b>			
3-8000	Retained Earnings	16,057.04	14,629.35
3-9000	Current Earnings	-3,934.21	1,427.69
<b><u>TOTAL EQUITY</u></b>		<b>12,122.83</b>	<b>16,057.04</b>

TREASURER'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Association's financial reports are presented as follows:

1. The Profit & Loss Statement for the 12 months ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.
2. The Balance Sheet as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.
3. The Use of Funds statement for the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

The Use of Funds shows the Association has \$13,782.83 of available cash at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011. That is, the Association is currently financially sound.

Some comments on the contents of the reports are:

1. The Profit & Loss Statement:

- Some \$1,660 of year 2012 Membership Subs were collected between November and year-end in 2011. This value is to be seen in the Balance Sheet under 'Dues Paid in Advance'. They will appear as income in the Profit Statement at the end of 2012.
- The income share from the 2010 May Conference was a major contributor to our profitability two years ago. It is anticipated that the Association will derive an income share from the August Conference this year in Port Augusta.
- Interest of \$735.57 was earned on the Term Deposit.
- There were a small number of significant expenses during the year.
  - The Association's website was completely renewed at a cost of \$1,180. This was a 'new' cost to the Association.
  - The Web Hosting charges (the cost of maintaining the new website cost \$325 a quarter for the last 3 quarters of 2011. This was a 'new' cost to the Association.
  - The cost of employing, on an hours-worked basis, our very efficient Administrative Officer, Ro Noone, was \$2,301.25. This was a new cost to the Association.

2. The Balance Sheet:

- There was nearly \$5,800 in the bank at the end of the year. It is currently nearly \$5,000. Some of this money will be used to finish paying for the development of the new Association Website.
- The Fixed Term Deposit has been reduced to \$8,000. As the Use of Funds statement shows, \$4,788.59 was not rolled over. Instead, it was kept back in the bank account to cover anticipated costs. These are described above.
- As previously mentioned the Dues Paid in Advance is the value of the 2012 Membership Subs collected before 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. They will appear in next year's income. They are shown as a 'liability' because, if the Association had been in some way wound up prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011, the monies would have been owing to the gardens who had paid them!

3. Use of Funds Statement:

This shows that the Association started 2011 with \$3,969.02 in the bank account.

During 2011, this was increased by:

- Members paying their 2011 dues,
- The retention of \$4,788.59 from the Term deposit balance,
- The actual receipt of the income share from the 2010 Conference,
- 2012 Dues received before 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011,
- a very small bank interest.

During 2011, some \$6,700.17 was spent (itemised in the Profit/Loss report).

This left the bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011, at \$5,782.83.

The financial reports have been audited. The Auditor's Report is available if anyone is interested in reading it. The Auditor is satisfied that the financial reporting is accurate.

## Sponsors

Thanks to these organisations that have generously supported the event.



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