



FRIENDS OF THE CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL ARBORETUM AND GARDENS (CIAG) INC

D A T E M A Y 2 0 0 9 | V O L U M E 4

Our AGM is quickly approaching and as I reflect back on the past twelve months, I feel compelled to thank everyone involved with the Friends of the CIAG. The last year has been a very successful one, and our Association is steadily growing.

At our first AGM, March 2008, we were a fledgling association on the verge of planning our first events. Since that time we have represented our association at Floriade, sharing information with over 22,000 people over four weeks. With the inclusion and support from our stakeholders during that time; STEP, FACTA, ANU Research and NBPCA, we were able to provide detailed information to the community about the future planning of the Arboretum. To our delight we found the vast majority of those who visited our marquee were both interested and supportive of the project, and many voiced their interest in being able to visit the site.

The response generated from our time at Floriade only strengthened our resolve to move forward with our plans to host our first major event, a Gold Coin Donation Family Fun Day.

On 15 March, a superb autumn morning, we launched our first Festival of the Forests, beginning with a Family Fun Run. The race start declared by Susan Hobson, Olympian and Commonwealth Games representative, and the winning prizes presented by Canberra's own Rob De Castella.

STEP celebrated their official tree planting ceremony on their own Lot 100, with the Chief Minister, guests and children planting the first trees.

We then enjoyed Agnes O'Shea's, (affectionately known as Aunty Agnes) Welcome to Country. This was followed by my welcome on behalf of the Friends of CIAG to Chief Minister Jon Stanhope who officially opened the day. We also heard from our Patron John Mackay, and there was good representation from the Governing Board members on the day.

A classic and antique car parade and display heralded the rest of the day's events, with kite flying, environmentally sustainable

exhibits, train rides and games for the children, not to forget the fire truck rides, and the Walking for Pleasure group. The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection displayed several stunning examples from their fabulous range, and there was live entertainment on stage throughout the day.

We were entertained by big bands, the School of Music, indigenous dance, individual interviews and the wonderful Australian singer, Katie Noonan.

The highlight to the day was the organised bus tours around the site. The public enthusiasm for the tours and generated by the tours was clearly identified in our surveys filled out on the day. Over half of attendees at the Festival went on tours and that this was the most important reason people gave for coming on the day.

We estimate 5,000 people enjoyed the open day, and we acknowledge and thank our wonderful sponsors for their unwavering support; ACT Government, ACTEWAGL, Yarralumla Nursery, Hellenic Club of Canberra, Supabarn, and Bel Air Drycleaners.

Our Friends of CIAG volunteer force is quickly expanding, and the support offered for both Floriade, and again for our first major event, Festival of the Forests, has been extraordinary. To all, I extend my very warm thanks. An Association does not thrive and grow without the support of its members and volunteers.

Please take note of our Yearly Calendar for the next activities, and I welcome you all to our AGM to be held 19 May 2009. Our guest speaker will be Max Burke, speaking on Arboreta of the World.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM, or at one of our many activities,

Sherry Mc Ardle - English

Chairperson





A SPADE AND A SEEDLING AND WE BECOME PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE TREE WE WILL PLANT...

By Cathy Robertson, President, Southern Tablelands Ecosystem Park Inc.

The Southern Tablelands Ecosystems Park (STEP) Inc is the newest partner to join the Arboretum. We are a community organisation that links organisations, professionals and enthusiastic volunteers through our vision and goals to assist with the protection and long term sustainability of the ecosystems of the Canberra Region and the wider southern tablelands. STEP intends to do this by being an ecosystem recovery and education centre for southern tablelands species and habitats centred at the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens.

STEP is attracted by the opportunities in the Arboretum's marvellous public spaces for involving the community in its entertainment and educational facilities: the Arboretum is a vast public park comprising 250 hectares of walking paths, roads, viewing platforms and picnic areas for the use of present and future generations. The STEP garden fits within this space as a smaller harmonious unit within the overall Arboretum, sharing its amenities and resources such as learning spaces, events areas and picnic places.

The theme for the first Festival of the Forests, "conservation, biodiversity and sustainability", is a great example of the close connection between STEP and the Arboretum. STEP was invited to host an early morning event in the Festival program, in partnership with the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope. We had a glorious time creating local history with a tree planting ceremony.

Before taking the spade to plant the *Eucalyptus blakelyi* seedling in its new home, the Chief Minister gave an inspiring speech, welcoming the hundred invited guests who came to celebrate the arrival of the Arboretum's newest partner. He demonstrated the support of the Territory Government for STEP's vision by promising to arrange for the construction of the ephemeral water body in the low lying area of the site, to ask the Arboretum landscape architects to prepare sketch designs for this element in consultation with the STEP group. He also stated his commitment for an additional STEP forest to be included in the Arboretum and for the Government to work with STEP to seek the incorporation of the adjacent yellow box/red gum remnant woodland into the STEP forest.

The Chief Minister finished planting his tree and plantings by lots of other groups and individuals followed: children and parents from Evatt Primary School; conservation groups, land care groups, Maxine Cooper, the Commissioner for the Environment; MLAs Mary Porter, Carolyn Le Couteur and Alistair Coe.



*John MacKay introducing the STEP event and addressing guests at the STEP Tree Planting Ceremony.
(Photo by Jean Geue)*



In fact a really large number of guests eagerly took up the invitation to plant a tree and about 55 trees were planted in total. A refreshing bush morning tea rewarded the participants.

Maxine Cooper read a lovely poem to us all about a tree and finished off by saying:

“Yet a tree is mute evidence of history.

Today we are part of the history of the tree we will plant.

We are recreating Canberra’s future.

*As Ian Lowe says in his book – A Big Fix:
‘The future is not somewhere we are going.
It is something we are creating!’ “*

STEP intends to make its contribution as strong as possible to the regional effort to implement on ground conservation strategies and to inform and guide policy-making in relation to regional habitats and their biodiversity. We particularly wish to support the involvement of primary aged children to establish youth pathways to education about biodiversity, conservation and sustainability. STEP and affiliated community organisations and their members are active in contributing to the research and policy making for biodiversity. Through our community tree planting at the Arboretum on 15 March, STEP honours those eminent community members who have contributed to the ACT Lowland Woodland Conservation Strategy, the ACT Lowland Native Grassland Conservation Strategy and the ACT Aquatic Species and Riparian Zone Conservation Strategy. Those far sighted policy-makers include the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope, House of Assembly Committee members such as Mary Porter, previous MLAs

such as Mick Gentleman and current MLAs such as Greens Caroline Le Couteur and Liberal MLA Alistair Coe. We wish to honour those who have contributed as scientists and ecologists such as Jenny Bounds, Geoff Robertson of the Conservation Council, Dr David Shorthouse, Professor David Lindenmayer of the ANU Fenner School , Anne Duncan of the Australian National Botanic Gardens and Dr Maxine Cooper. And finally we should not forget the many on-ground organisations such as Friends of the Grasslands and the Australian Native Plants Society, Landcare and Parkcare groups, the territory and regional government groups.

STEP also wishes to acknowledge the many community groups that have lobbied to achieve action to assist in the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities, and to increase resilience including organisations such as the Conservation Council of the ACT Region and Kosciusko to Coast.

Because ecological connectivity runs across jurisdiction lines, STEP has looked across the border and into our neighbouring lands. There are corridors of ecosystems that cross our borders and this challenge is an emerging one — just as urgent, just as in need of our collective care and attention, as the challenges we have jointly confronted before. It is only by working in this way — together, sharing our resources and our knowledge — that we will meet this new challenge and adapt to our changing world.

If you or your group would you like to come along and become part of our local history by planting a tree just send an email to: tlawson@home.com.au



NATIONAL BONSAI AND PENJING COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIA AT THE FESTIVAL OF THE FORESTS 2009

By Grant Bowie

The NBPCA displayed two bonsai from the national collection plus the Kato Stone (a gift from Japan) at the Festival of the Forests.

We had four guides talking to the public about the Arboretum in general and our specific part of the project. Many questions about bonsai were asked and answered and hardly anyone got away without a brochure detailing our temporary location in Commonwealth Park.

All the feedback about the Arboretum and the open day itself was very positive and the day provided us with an opportunity to promote ourselves to the local Canberrans.

The site of the Arboretum itself was of course the hit of the day and we look forward to the future of the project and our part in it.



Craft ACT in collaboration with the National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia presented the works of ceramicists John Heaney and Ian Jones at the Collection from 28 March to 2 May 2009. This symbiotic exhibition highlighted the ceramicists respect of Japanese culture and the profound beauty of the Bonsai Collection. More than 40 people attended the opening.





PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 2009

By Rosalind Ransome, Project Director,
Chief Minister's Department

This year, 2009, will be our busiest year yet for the Arboretum project. Not only do we have 20 additional forests to be planted, we will be constructing the Central Valley ceremonial garden landscape, pedestrian facilities at Dairy Farmers Hill and within the Cedar Forest and further developing the entrance landscape.

Some of you may have noticed the planting preparation has commenced along the Tuggeranong Parkway. The first stage is the removal of the *Pinus radiata* trees. We have found that the best way to remove the trees is to pull the young trees straight out of the ground, roots and all. So that nothing is wasted, this material is then shredded and used to mulch our trees. Several fabulous rock outcrops have been revealed within the future forest lots, some covered with *Hardenbergia violacea* (Native Sarsaparilla) and other native shrubs. We will leave these intriguing areas intact as secret gardens within our future forests.

The majority of forests to be planted this year are located along the Tuggeranong Parkway and on the slopes below Dairy Farmers Hill. A new area on the northern edge of the Himalayan Cedars will be opened up this year. As this area is sufficiently sheltered, several flowering trees will be located here. This quiet retreat between the mature forests of Himalayan Cedars and Cork Oaks will eventually have a distinct character from the rest of the Arboretum.

Planting will commence this autumn and continue through into spring. The open-rooted deciduous trees will be planted in winter.

The following forests will be planted this year:

Central Valley

- Lot 6 *Acer saccharum* (Symbolic)
- Lot 12 *Jubaea chilensis* (Threatened)

Parkway below Dairy Farmers Hill

- Lot 21 *Eucomia ulmoides*, Rubber Tree (Threatened)
- Lot 22 *Quercus palustris* 'Freefall' (Host forest to threatened species *Quercus acerifolia*)
- Lot 25 *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, Dawn Redwood (Threatened)
- Lot 26 *Platanus orientalis*, Oriental Plane (Threatened)
- Lot 27 *Picea abies*, Norway Spruce (Symbolic)
- Lot 28A *Grevillea robusta*, Silky Oak (Ethnobotanical)
- Lot 58 *Acer buergerianum*, Trident Maple (host forest for conservation species *Acer buergerianum* spp *formosanum* Taiwan Trident Maple)
- Lot 59 *Liquidambar orientalis*, Liquidambar
- Lot 60 *Araucaria bidwillii*, Bunya (Ethnobotanical)
- Lot 66 *Fagus sylvatica*, Beech (Symbolic, national tree of Denmark)
- Lot 67 *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Horse Chestnut (UK HC suggestion)
- Lot 74 *Pyrus calleryana*, Callery Pear
- /75 (Ethnobotanical)

Cedar Forest, northern slopes

- Lot 37 *Ficus carica*, Fig (Ethnobotanical)
- Lot 38 *Cornus kousa*, Japanese Flowering Dogwood (Ethnobotanical)
- Lot 39 *Magnolia grandiflora*, Southern Magnolia (Symbolic)
- Lot 40 *Albizia julibrissin*, Persian Silk Tree (Ethnobotanical)

Cork Oak eastern edge – clean up and inter-planting

- Eucalyptus scoparia*, Wallangarra White Gum (Threatened)
- Eucalyptus lacrimans*, Weeping Snow Gum (Threatened)
- Eucalyptus michaeliana*, Hillgrove Spotted Gum (Threatened)



FACTA GUIDED WALKS

FACTA has begun its interesting and varied program of walks for 2009. Walks will be held at Westbourne Woods on:

14 June 2009

- guide Jim Shirley
- historical perspectives

12 July 2009

- guide Tony Fearnside
- identities and oddities

9 August 2009

- guide Jim Laity
- trees for parks in Canberra

13 September

- guide Paul Dann
- food and fodder from trees

To attend any of these guided walks meet at the entrance of the Royal Canberra Golf Course, Bentham St, Yarralumla at 9.30am. The walks will be finished by midday.

Also note that details of our winter dinner, next Bendora trip and other trips will be posted on our website.

For information: 6288 7656 or the FACTA web site
<http://sawapl.tech.officelive.com/Facta.aspx>

FESTIVAL OF THE FOREST OPEN DAY PROVIDED VARIETY FOR ALL INTERESTS AND AGES



Photos by Nathan English

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 ACT URBAN SERVICES

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Photos by Nathan English



FRIENDS of the CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL ARBORETUM and GARDENS Inc.

Membership Application Form

Yes, I/we wish to become a Friend(s) of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens Inc.

1. Title..... First Name..... Last Name

2. Title..... First Name..... Last Name

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel (h)(w).....

e-mail.....

Membership arrangements (please indicate)

- Friend.....no cost
- Contributing Friend.....Single \$25
- Household\$30
- Contributing Concession\$20
- Association or Club.....\$50
- Corporate Friend\$2000

not registered for GST

Payment details for contributing members:

Cash Cheque

Cheques payable to the Friends of the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens Inc.

\$.....

For any enquiries contact

Jocelyn Plovits

Secretary

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