

President's Report

National Tree Day was held across Australia at the end of July. The Friends always celebrate this day and we have reminders of previous such days all around the Gardens. This year, with financial and physical support from the management of the Waste Facility, we decided to combine National Tree Day with an Open Day.

We planted trees, took people on guided tours through the established part of the Gardens, and had free food and drinks for all the participants. Everyone who came was given a plant and the children were given a certificate - an award for planting their trees - and then were all fed and given pictures to colour. They clearly enjoyed this. We had plants for sale which had

been propagated by Rose and her volunteers. This stall is a great attraction, especially as Rose always has plants suitable for small gardens - not everyone has room for a rainforest giant in their garden.

A LOT GOING ON

As you can see from this brief account there was a great deal of activity. As well as planting and the associated activities - digging the holes, adding fertiliser, mulching and watering the plants - visiting planters needed instruction and supervision. It was all the action in the barbecue area - cooking the sausages and onions, serving visitors, keeping an eye on the hot water for tea and coffee and ensuring that the children got their food and drinks. We also had CDs, post cards, cards and car stickers for

sale and someone needed to be there. More people were needed to greet our visitors, and others at the plant stall. And having someone as a parking attendant is so essential - with limited parking this is a seriously important job. As well as being there on the day, there is a lot of work involved in planning these days. Plants have to be sourced and acquired, garden beds prepared, stocks of mulch and soil organised. Brochures and

photos have to be printed, displays organised and signs prepared; food purchased, tables and display tents erected ... and much, much more. This time we were missing three of our valued committee members so we had to work extra hard to cope without them.

NEED FOR BACK UP

This event made us realise how important it is for us to have a backup person for every role and other members to support them.

As the Gardens develop the call on Friends to be there dealing with the public will increase. Not just for on site events but for all the behind the scenes work. Also there will be presentations to be prepared for community groups and educational programmes for school students. Once again we are putting out a call for more hands (and the bodies that go with them). As you can see, supporting our project does not necessarily involve getting down on hands and knees in the mud, there are many other activities which need to be done.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting is coming up at 9am on Saturday 13 August, at the Gunnawannabe Cafe on Union Street, South Lismore. I hope that as many members as possible will attend. Please think about the talents and interests you have and consider using them for the benefit of our project. You don't necessarily have to be on the Committee but a willingness to help in your particular area when help is needed would be very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the AGM - it would be wonderful if we ran out of chairs!!

Jan De Nardi



Photo Mary McDermott

Denis not only did his usual cooking sausages job this time but, with Margaret Smith away, he organised all the food

Recent Visiting Groups

The Friends have recently welcomed two community groups to the Gardens. The Tenterfield Naturalists group came at the end of June. They are in process of establishing a Botanic Gardens in Tenterfield. They are still at the very early stage and were very impressed at how much we have already achieved. The second group came from the Bangalow Garden Club. An email from one of their members, Judy Baker, describes their reaction to the visit.

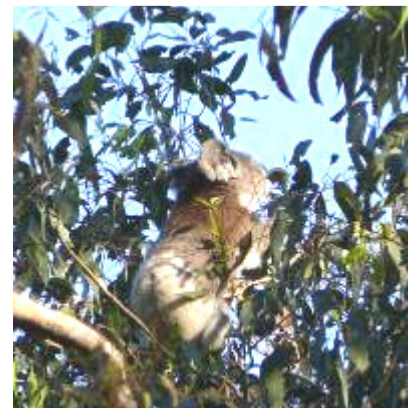
Thanks for giving us a great tour of your Botanic Gardens. We were most impressed with all the work that's been done - obviously a very dedicated band of 'Friends'. I thought it was great to see how your plantings have settled in to develop characteristics of the rainforest, complete with lots of birds and wildlife. So good to see healthy koalas looking very much at home. Judy also supplied us with a some of her photos of the Gardens, including the three with this story and the Stinging Tree image on page 6.



Pat Offord introducing the Bangalow group to our Gardens

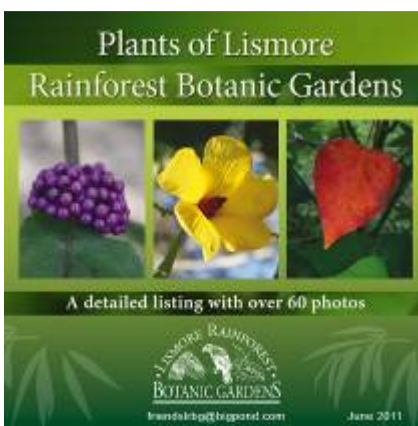


A real Blinky Bill pose



Enough of visitors... off to eat!

NEW CD OF RAINFOREST PLANTS



Peter Gould has put a huge amount of work into a detailed listing of rainforest plants which is now available on CD - *Plants of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens*. Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens

aims to eventually have growing a complete collection of the rainforest plants known to occur within 200 kms of Lismore. This CD records many of those plants along with some of the non-rainforest species to be found among the plantings of the Gardens. Not all of the plants listed are currently in our collection and some of those listed are not strictly rainforest species but rather plants of forest margins and clearings.

The colour-coded listing is designed as an accessible, quick reference guide, a tool for home gardeners and landholders who want to restore native vegetation on their properties and to identify suitable

replacements for potentially weedy, exotic plants in their gardens. It is in spreadsheet format and contains several lists, each on a separate sheet. These include Complete Listing, Vines, Endangered Species, Bird Attracting Plants, Timber Trees Butterfly Attracting Plants as well as detailed references.

Clicking on a tab will open a sheet detailing plants with those characteristics or references for further information. The disk also contains over 60 photos of rainforest plants. Annette Deal our graphic artist prepared the cover. The CDs are available on work days, or from Marie Matthews – 66895261 or mariemattthews1@bigpond.com Cost \$10 plus postage.

Discovery Trail Stage 1

Rose's Wednesday group, with some help from the Green Jobs Corps and the Waste Facility staff, have completed the main work on the discovery trail in Stage 1. It has been a huge job with rocks to be moved and positioned and gravel to be spread and unexpected problems of construction to be overcome. There are still a couple of small ponds to be furnished and areas to be planted. The trail will give a round track from Grandis Picnic area, through the southern side of rooms 3 and 4 and along to the bitumen track - with a couple of side paths to points of interest.

***Callicarpa pedunculata* or**

Velvet Leaf has been successfully propagated by Rose's team. A plant of rainforest edges it is a tall open shrub with tiny pink flower clusters along the stems. These develop into purple berries which remain on the plant over winter. If pruned back at the start of spring it will grow compactly. Because this plant is in the same family as Lantana, it is sometimes cited as a "Lantana replacement". However, is not as vigorous or drought-tolerant, nor is it as spiky, so it may not be a good replacement on its own, but deserves to be in the mix with other hardy, prickly plants.

Ref. Save Our Waterways Now Inc

The Friends now have for sale postcards as well as stickers and greeting cards. They are available at work days or contact Marie

Talk at Workers Club

In June, Geoff Walker and Marie Matthews gave a power point presentation and talk at Lismore Workers Club to a group of people from Lismore Garden Club. There were over 50 people present and great interest was shown in what has been achieved at the Gardens and also in some of our rarer plants. They would like to hold a meeting there in the near future.



Construction of footbridge over Grandis Creek nearing completion

Data Base Manager

Judy Lawlor – our trusty data base manager is giving up her role. When Calder Chaffey died several years ago Judy agreed to take over his job of recording the position of every tree planted in the Gardens with a GPS reading, compiling this information in a data base and printing out and attaching semi permanent labels. Judy had to learn how to use the GPS and then to work out Calder's system on the computer. But eventually she conquered it all and has been a regular figure, with her sister Margaret Smith, moving around the site on work days, with her folder and little GPS machine, finding and noting all the newly planted trees. With an increased work load in her real job she finds she no longer has the time to do the GPS-ing. So it is with great regret that she has handed it over to others. We will miss her and very much appreciate what she has done. Three of our members have agreed to move into this role – Peter Gould and Mary Harrison to do the GPS-ing and Mary McDermott to maintain the data base... it takes three people to replace to Judy!!



Judy at work in Stage 2 area

The winter period represents a time of dormancy. And now that an early burst of warmth has arrived, plants are starting to bud-up for growth and/or flowering, and seedlings (weeds and natives) are starting to germinate. And that is why it is a good time to fertilise your plants at home. The additional nutrients will help the new buds in developing successfully. *Damian Butler*

Our Bolwarra bennettii has six buds on it. Jan De Nardi is going to take to the flowers with a paint brush this year to encourage fertilisation!

PATRICIA WILSON has been involved with the Gardens for a long time. She was one of those on the early steering committee who went around looking for possible sites and also inspecting established gardens to get ideas that could be applied to the embryonic Lismore Gardens. At one time she inspected a botanic garden that had been set up very



successfully on an old waste landfill site - it made the idea that our site be at Lismore Waste seem a real possibility. Pat is unique in our membership in that she turns up for work days wearing white and in spite of getting right into everything goes home still looking neat and spotless. Though there was one day when we found a couple of little bits of mud on her jeans! Here she is helping to clear a large rock from a new track that is going into the Wilson Park Species Garden.

***Senna acclinis* & bees**

In 1998 entomologist Geoff Williams presented a paper on 'Bee pollination in the threatened Australian shrub Senna acclinis'. As this is a plant that has been successfully propagated and grown in our Gardens the following information is of particular interest.

'Senna acclinis is a gap phase shrub primarily restricted to subtropical rainforest remnants in coastal New South Wales and Queensland. Aspects of the reproductive ecology of Senna acclinis were studied in a small population in littoral rainforest on the NSW north coast. Senna acclinis was found to be pollinated by a taxonomically diverse assemblage of generalist native bees. Three of these, Amphylaeus nubilosellus, Hylaeus turgicollaris and Lasioglossum polygona, were observed to buzz pollinate flowers. Although apparently self-compatible, the anthers do not readily release pollen unless vibrated.

Conservation of remaining Senna acclinis populations may be dependent on the availability of a pool of pollinators capable of releasing pollen from the poricidal anthers, the elimination of exotic Senna species from rainforest remnants, and the presence of appropriate microhabitats such as canopy gaps and sunlit margins.'

Full text of this paper can be found http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/___data/assets/pdf_file/0005/58046/Cu n5Wil767.pdf



Senna acclinis showing flower and long black flat pod

'Senna acclinis was probably always a rare plant and is now very rare, due primarily to the clearing of its rainforest habitat' (Harden, 2002). It is classified as Endangered under the Threatened Species Conservation Act, NSW - NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, 2002.

To preserve this species

- : Find a place for this butterfly attracting shrub in your garden
- : Get to know your Sennas - don't remove plants without knowing what they are!
- : If you find Senna acclinis growing on your land contact NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- : Remove introduced weeds from around rainforest remnants
- : Keep stock out of rainforest remnants

The Introduced weed Senna septemtrionalis (Senna x floribunda) or Smooth Senna resembles *S. acclinis* but can be distinguished from it as follows:

- Flowers of introduced senna have 6 or 7 stamens not 10
- Pods are cylindrical not flat
- Leaves – pinnae are in 3 to 5 pairs not 5 to 7

From Peter Gould

Next Work Morning Sunday 28 August

Starting 8am
Contact Pat 6629 1435

Wednesday Group

Each Wednesday 8am start till end of August, then 9am.
Contact Rose 6622 6558
Bring hat, gloves & something for morning tea.

A letter in the NR Echo..... 'Garden Joy'

On visiting our Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens for the first time on their open day last Sunday, I was so pleasantly surprised by what I found. Over the next hour and a half I was taken on an educational tour through the gardens, all of which were of our local area native trees, plants and palms. Our guide made our tour an interesting lesson about our local flora and fauna. And there is so much planned for future work in the Gardens which is mostly achieved by volunteer garden lovers. I am sure our Rainforest Botanic Gardens will become one of our visitors' highlights in the near future. I so enjoyed my outing there. Thank you to all the energetic and interesting volunteers.

Brenda Smith Goonellabah.

Death of Founding Member.... *Mary Harris*



Mary Harris died on 21 April in Grafton. A retired science teacher, she was unbelievably active in many community organisations in the Lismore district. But from the early 1990s her big passion was the establishment of a world class Rainforest Botanic Gardens for the Lismore Region. She was on the original Steering Committee and, with her husband Bert, travelled vast distances attending conferences, visiting other regional botanic seeking ideas and information, searching locally for a possible site for the Gardens. She prepared grant applications, liaised with Lismore City Council, and other government and non government organisations, and established the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. She was seriously involved in the development of a Vision Statement for the Gardens and supervised the production of a Capability Study and Management Plan for the Gardens site. She organised and supervised the first planting at the gardens in 2002.

Mary took on the role of Chairperson of the Gardens sub-committee of the LCC Civic Pride Panel. Over time this committee became the Management Committee of the Gardens and Mary chaired it until she retired because of ill health in 2007.

Mary had a clear vision that a Rainforest Botanic Gardens in the Lismore region would be an

invaluable asset for the whole community and, using her considerable organisation, interest in rainforest and networking skills, kept the project flowing smoothly. She regularly attended work days, very much a hands-on participant. But it was her passion, persistence and dynamism that really drove the manifestation of the Gardens' dream. She made her mark in a big way and the Gardens, with their established trees, pathways, bridges, and more recently discovery trails and specialty gardens - though still a work in progress - have become a beautiful place to visit. They are a credit to her. Mary's input will always be appreciated. She was someone special.

Wildlife in the Gardens

Birds are a year round feature of the gardens. One of the main reasons for this is the existence of local habitat and the expansion of this habitat in the way of on-site ecological restoration, and Gardens. One of the most distinctive sounds at the Gardens at the moment, is the "falling leaf song" of the male Scarlet Honeyeaters, *Myzomela sanguinolenta*. Their breeding season occurs between June and January, their nests made in to a "...cup of bark-shreds, spiders' web, in foliage to 10m" (small tree sized). Prickly vegetation (i.e. a tangle of spikey untidy shrubs etc), is a perfect refugee for small birds fleeing the grasp of cats (with or without bells), dogs and local currawongs. I frequently hear Red-browed Finches, *Neochmia temporalis*, in the grassy regenerating dry rainforest areas above the upper fern gully area, and more recently in the Wilson Park Planting. Similarly, I have noticed Double-barred Finches, *Taeniopygia bichenovii*, above the upper Fern Gully area (in the grassy open areas). Brown Thornbills, *Acanthiza*

pusilla, are one of the more commonly heard small insectivores that forage in the more mature stands of regenerating local vegetation in the LRBG. I came across a Noisy Pitta, *Pitta versicolor*, in the Pine Forest on the 5 August; and had previously noticed one in Fern Gully Creek near the bridge a couple of months ago.

Here is a list, not comprehensive, of the birds I've noticed in the LRBG over the last couple of months : Lewin's Honeyeater, Spangled Drongo, Pheasant Coucal, Torresian Crow, Australian Magpie, Grey Butcherbird, Pied Currawong, Noisy Miner, Rainbow Lorikeet, Eastern Rosella, Bar-shouldered Dove (mainly from the Pine Forest), White-headed Pigeon, Laughing Kookaburra, *Spotted Turtle-dove (exotic species), Australian Wood Duck, Grey Fantail.

Koalas, Swamp Wallabies, Bandicoots and Short-eared Possums are year round residents at the LRBG. Koala's can be found in the Gum Forest, Uncommon Plants Garden, Stage 1 (particularly Room 3 north and south), The Glen, and in the grassy regenerating dry rainforest areas above the upper Fern Gully in the mature Forest Red Gums. Possums are only evident by chance encounters with the occasional animals sleeping in low vegetation... and their droppings! Wallabies can be found early in the morning or late in the afternoon in the garden areas eating a range of native ground covers, weeds and indigenous plants. Bandicoots are seldom encountered, but their digging habits do not go unnoticed. As the LRBG develops and grows in terms of diversity of plant species and habitat complexity, so too will the diversity of other life forms increase. Happy habitat creating!

Damian Butler, FLRBG Gardener
Ref. Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. (1997). *The Graham Pizzey & Frank Knight field guide to the birds of Australia*. HarperCollinsPublishers, Sydney.

National Tree Day

National Tree Day was very successful this year, with 87 trees and other plants going in to both our Useful Plants and our Sunny Slope Gardens. Very enthusiastic families came with their children who thoroughly enjoyed planting with us (we enjoyed it too).



Hayden getting seriously into digging

We had offers of planting from groups of people from other countries as well, very interested in what we were planting – ‘why include this plant?’ and ‘where would it grow best?’ We were able to give information on whether a plant is edible or maybe was used for weaving or possibly used as a medicine by the Widjambul people.

Some of the terrain in this newly opened up area of the Gardens is difficult to manoeuvre in, like crossing wet spots when working on the edge of hills with the pond below. Lots of soil, mulch and water needed to be carried to these areas and it made for quite a strenuous event. We all learned a lot on the day and enjoyed sharing our beautiful garden with the public. I encouraged people to come back later in the year and check to see how things are growing, especially bring the kids who will to see the plants thriving, which may in turn get them into gardening later in life. This is what happened to me with my Nana, and I’m hoping that some of this passion for plants will rub off on my grandkids too. They worked tirelessly with us on the day, I was very proud of them concentrating so hard on planting, running back and forth picking up things we needed and not giving up till everything was done. Thanks Ella and Maia.

Rose Hand

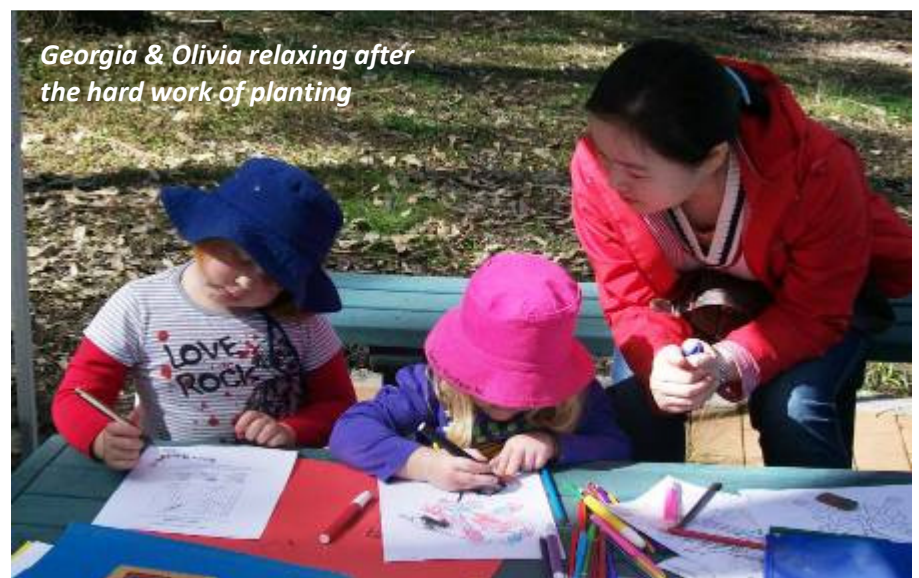
Giant Stinging Tree - *Dendrocnide excelsa*

Geoff Walker

The Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens have several young Giant Stinging trees (*Dendrocnide excelsa*) and the sharp glass-like needles on their large leaves and young trunks cause all of us to avoid touching them. The excruciating stings from green, or even the dead leaves win no friends from amongst the staff or visitors. At the moment (Winter 2011) they stand as high as 2 metres surrounded by wire guards and marked with warning tapes. So why do the Gardens grow these stingers? Our stingers are all self sown. They are part of the original rainforest of this area and are usually found in disturbed areas. They grow very fast and can reach 40 metres in height. Their large leaves form a dense head which closes over as a canopy. At midday a mature Giant Stinger would not allow sunlight upon the forest floor so deterring weed germination. Birds, particularly Regent Bower Birds and Green Catbirds favour the small fruits. The fibrous root-bark was rolled and rubbed by local Aborigines into light cords for fishing and for weaving. Our young giant stinging trees are voraciously attacked by black spiky caterpillars. They feed on the underside of the leaves until little other than the outlines, remain. In turn these insects entice birds to feed. I wonder if the writhing masses of young black caterpillars



are immune to the primed needles and what of the feeding birds? Our Stingers have germinated from the casual droppings of visiting birds. These are being monitored. Should these irritating native plants become a problem to workers and to visitors they will be restricted to out-of-the-way locations. There is always the concern that a bare-legged visitor wearing thongs, may walk through a drift of fallen brown leaves from an overhead stinger. Just for the record, *Dendrocnide moroides* (The Gympie Stinger) grows northwards from Drake district, west of the Gardens. *Rainforest Plants 2&3* by N. & H. Nicholson, *Terania Rainforest Publishing Rainforest Trees & Shrubs*, Harden G., McDonald W. & Williams J., *Gwen Harden Publishing 2006*
www.sassafras.id.au/dendroex.tml



Georgia & Olivia relaxing after the hard work of planting

What's in a Name? *Acacia* or - ? Jan de Nardi



Acacia elata Cedar Wattle
a wattle of this area
Photo Flickr Kate's Photo Diary

If you had listened carefully last week, you would have heard a collective sigh of relief from botanists all over Australia. Thanks to a decision made at the XVIIIth International Botanical Congress in Melbourne, Australia gets to keep the name *Acacia* for our national floral emblem (and the other 999 species which grow in Australia).

There is quite a long history to this decision. The very first *Acacia* named was *A. nilotica* from Africa. It was named in the eighteenth century by Linnaeus, a Swede who introduced the concept of genus and species and the relationships that implied. As Europeans explored further around the globe, they brought home with them, specimens and seeds of the new plants they discovered in their travels. They found many more plants which fitted the original concept of *Acacia*, and eventually we had some 1400 species – about 150 in Africa, the Middle East and India, 95 in South-east Asia and the Pacific and 185 in Central America, and the rest, about 1000, in Australia.

In the second half of the twentieth century, as botanists studied the group, especially using new molecular techniques, it became obvious that the large genus *Acacia* consisted of more than one distinct group. Most Australian species were

one large group, while there were discussions as to whether there were 2 or 4 groups among the species in the rest of the world, but there was agreement that there was certainly more than one genus involved.

Then came the question of the name. In botanical nomenclature (the naming of plants), there is a Rule of Priority, which says that the first named species in a genus is regarded as the type species i.e. it represents the characteristics which distinguish that genus from all others. The type species is always to be included in that genus. The type species of *Acacia* is *A. nilotica*, from Africa, and following the Rule of Priority, the African species should remain in the genus *Acacia*, and the Australian species should be removed to another genus – *Racosperma*. Thus, the name *Acacia* would stay with the small number of African species, and the much larger group, a characteristic part of the Australian flora, would have to be renamed. This would lead to a great deal of confusion, as Australian *Acacias* are now widespread in the world, and are involved in forestry and other industries, and they would all have to be renamed.

Fortunately, there is an answer. If there is general agreement among botanists from around the world, that the confusion and difficulties

caused by strict application of the Rule of Priority outweigh the principles involved, then exceptions can be made.

There were interesting points made on both sides of the argument. You might say there are many more species in Australia than anywhere else; that it is a particularly widespread genus, and comprises a large part of the Australian flora; that it is our national floral symbol, and gives us our distinctive green and gold Olympic colours. On the other hand, the type species is African, and it is an iconic genus in the landscape there – the flat topped trees in the Serengeti, eaten by giraffes is an *Acacia*, and the 'fever trees that thickly beset the great grey green greasy Limpopo River' are *Acacias*.

After many years of debate and meetings, including in-depth discussion at a previous International Botanical Congress, with botanists from all over the world joining in, a decision was finally made in Melbourne. The Australian species of *Acacia* is to retain the name, and a new species, *A. penninervis*, will replace *A. nilotica* as the type species. The other species in Africa and Central America will be renamed – probably either *Vachellia* or *Senegalia*, depending on their characteristics and where they are found. Not everyone is happy with the decision, but at least a decision has been made!

Jan de Nardi

Ref: Transcript Ockham's Razor ABC RN 10 July 2011

<http://worldwidewattle.com/infogallery/nameissue/genussplit.php>

In the introduction to his booklet, *The Meaning of Botanical Names of Plants in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens*, Calder Chaffey has a good explanation of the history and use of names of plants. It is certainly worth reading if one is unsure of what it is all about. The Friends still have this booklet for sale at \$13 plus postage.

Contact Denis Matthews Phone 6689 5261
Email friendslrbg@bigpond.com

Report from LCC Waste Facility Liason Officer

A lot has happened in the last few months. Budget for 2011/12 was passed by Council including the planned Education Centre in which the Gardens will have an office and use of a presentation area. Cement slabs have been laid to take picnic tables and benches in the Gum Tree Forest. Both sides of the entrance road have been thickly mulched, improving the appearance of the road but also giving protection to the young trees - reducing weed growth and maintaining moisture. The wall of the pond in the Speciality Garden has been raised. This will give a larger, deeper pond – good to look at and easier to maintain. We are still waiting approval from Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water re the phytocapping project in the old landfill cells on the left hand side of the entrance road. Once this is received we can start preparing the site for planting. The Gardens Management Committee will be consulted re selection of trees. At present the site is being used as temporary storage for soil being removed from Conway Street in its current upgrade.

Kevin Trustum, Waste Education and Development Officer



Keira proudly displaying her beautifully coloured in butterfly on National Tree Day

ORGANISER'S REPORT

Planting has continued through the colder months particularly in the Useful Plants, Sunny Slope and the Discovery Trail gardens .

There is often a misconception about the Useful Plants Garden. Some people think that the planting is confined to bush tucker plants but is a much more varied collection of plants. It includes plants used by Indigenous People, early white Settlers and present day inhabitants of this area. We have sourced information from a variety of books, the internet and local knowledge. We would welcome any further information from interested people.

The current Green Jobs Corps finishes this week. They completed several plantings and laboured over a bridge which is nearly completed. The bridge approaches and handrails are to be added soon. This bridge provides a safe pathway into the Discovery Trail built by Rose and her wonderful team.

I would like to pay tribute to her dedication, planning and sheer hard work. Not only did she organise to select and collect suitable rocks at the quarry but she propagated many of the plants in the surrounding gardens.

The pond in the Useful Plants garden has a new causeway which will raise the level about 30 cms. This will improve the pond appearance and support growth of aquatic plants such as water lilies.

Linda St Clair is leading a team to reattach all the permanent labels in Stage 1. These labels were attached to posts with adhesive about three years ago and have been falling off in alarming numbers. Linda is securing the labels with screws.

I would like to thank Phil, Charlie and Kevin for the support and heavy work done for us over the last few months and also the trusty, versatile group of people who turn up every last Sunday of the month to do their bit.

Pat Offord

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>things to do>recreation>Botanic Gardens

FLRBG AGM

Saturday 13 August 9am
at Gunnawannabe Café
Union St South Lismore

Mulch for sale?

I recently received a query about the availability of mulch or compost for sale to the public from Wyrallah Road RRF. Mulch is currently **NOT** available through Council. Tryton does sell a small amount to the public. Council will likely have mulch early next year and at the latest from May 2012 when the Tryton contract runs out. *Jenny Dowell*

Why do Giant Stinging Trees cause so much pain?

'Were these virulent defences aimed at mammals of a bygone era, the giant Diprotodons of ancient rainforest, perhaps? It is interesting that many native mammals and birds are not deterred by the stinging hairs, while the relative new comers to Australia: humans, dogs and horses are adversely affected.'

Marina Hurley PhD Eco Magazine Dec 2000