
GARDENS GAZETTE

August 2024

Newsletter for Friends of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens Inc



**LISMORE
RAINFOREST BOTANIC
GARDENS**

In this Issue

- Costa visits on BGANZ Botanic Gardens Day
- Excursion to Firewheel Rainforest Nursery



MEET THE FLRBG COMMITTEE

Executive

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Friends of Lismore Rainforest

Botanic Gardens

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LISMORE NSW 2480

Cover photo:

Topknot Pigeons on Banglow Palm

Photo: Phil Jarman

NEW EDITION FLRBG GREETING CARDS FOR SALE!

ONLY \$20 A SET OF 12!

12 beautiful full colour cards featuring new photos, taken by the Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens, of local plants and animals. Cards have been left blank for to write your own message. Our card set makes a perfect and thoughtful gift too!

To purchase a set, send an email: publicity@friendslrbg.com.au

Card 1: *Sensory Garden* Photo: Florence Treverrow

Card 2: *Alyxia ruscifolia* Prickly Alyxia Photo: Phil Jarman

Card 3: *Pavetta australiensis* Photo: Florence Treverrow



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge those who are supporting us financially and/or with their knowledge, skills and experience.

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Interactive Landscapes

Bruce Jobson Plumbing,
Limpinwood Gardens Nursery,
RBG at Mt Annan,
Ben De Nardi Paper Plans,
Firewheel Nursery,
Burringbar Rainforest Nursery,
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Accurate Tree Solutions,
Wild Dog Dingo Services,
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Peter Lucena Engineer,
Lismore Garden Centre,

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Lismore City Printery,
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and all who have supported us in
any way including some who have
requested to remain anonymous.
We couldn't do it without you –
THANK YOU!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've been busy and it shows. The Gardens are looking healthy and spring is well under way in our region.

After an autumn which brought above average rainfall, winter was sunny and this enabled the Friends to complete many tasks and projects. The bridge between rooms 5 and 6 is under construction and a new display area on the eucalypt lawn is a popular spot to appreciate our local grasses and ground covers. We were unsuccessful in receiving a grant for a new, large equipment shed, which has DA approval. Undaunted, the committee is continuing to apply for funds for this, as well as an irrigation system for the site.

We participated in the **BGANZ Botanic Gardens Day** by offering plant sales and seven guided walks on May 26th. **Costa Georgiadis** spent time with the Friends as we prepared to welcome the public and spoke highly of the great work of the volunteers, visiting the rainforest, the nursery, the children's activities, the Hoop Pine Forest and the myrtle rust experimental areas. Here is a link to his video, produced by the media team at Lismore City Council. <https://youtu.be/bfEmJ9cNKdw>

Roundabout Theatre's 'Understory' drama project was a great success, with over 200 young people and their families enjoying the interactive performances throughout the April school holidays. We wish Roundabout Theatre all the best in presenting this show in other settings in the future. <https://understory.roundabout.net.au/>

This year we anticipate the renewal of our Memorandum of Understanding with the Lismore City Council. A workshop held in June reset our management plan for the next five years and has helped us to prioritise our goals. We continue to work in partnership with the staff at the Waste Facility in work, health and safety matters, educational activities and maintenance issues. The LCC's media team is enhancing our social footprint. The assistance of our specialist gardener, **Damian Butler**, working alongside the committee, is very important.

The Friends enjoyed a visit to **Firewheel Rainforest Nursery** recently and it is hoped that some future workshops can give our nursery volunteers valuable assistance in seed collecting and germination.

We are very grateful for the energy and commitment of the wonderful group of volunteers who so willingly contribute with their many and varied skills. We'd love to have many more, so please consider joining us on Wednesday mornings at 8 am till 11 am.

Tracey Whitby

publicity@friendslrbg.com.au

FLRBG August 2024



Top to bottom: **Costa** and **Margaret** preparing for kid's floral art
The new path being constructed by **Patrick** at Interactive Landscapes to replace the flood damaged path in the Sensory Garden

Firewheel Rainforest Nursery's Owner & ecologist, **Mark Dumphy**
Small-Leaved Bolwarra flower *Eupomatia bennettii*





RAINFOREST CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE

Four members of the Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens attended the **Rainforest Connections Conference** at Ballina from the 4th to the 6th of June.

Rainforest Connections 2024 was the first conference in over two decades dedicated to the restoration, rehabilitation and management of Australia's unique rainforest habitats. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates from a wide range of backgrounds including scientists, program managers, on-ground practitioners, community members and specialists implementing projects in the field.

The conference was opened with a welcome to country by Bundjalung elder **Auntie Julia Paden**, followed by a video presentation from the **Hon. Penny Sharpe**, NSW Minister for Energy and Climate Change, Environment and Heritage.

Dr Tony Parkes, past President of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, spoke about its project to ensure a greater genetic diversity and resilience to climate change of all planting stocks used in the regeneration of rainforests. This project has been running for seven years and is now about halfway towards its goal of creating a seed plantation of thirty threatened species and thirty-three significant structural species of rainforests. The seed orchard will act as a living storehouse of genetic diversity.

There were many presentations over the next three days with topics including myrtle rust, the fossil history of the Gondwana rainforests and eucalypts, the great Eastern Ranges project, 30 by 30 landscape restoration, the history of the Big Scrub, indigenous connections to rainforests and the impact of climate change on indigenous communities. There were also presentations on rainforest fauna including moths, frogs, turtles, birds and bats.

Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens had a poster on display and we developed fruitful connections with a good number of attendees, who also participated in a guided tour of the Lismore Botanic Gardens.

Proceedings of the conference have not yet been released, but should be available shortly on the Rainforest Connections website:

<https://rainforestconnections.com.au/presentations>

Peter Gould
Curator

”The
GLORY of
gardening:
hands in
the **dirt**,
head in
the **sun**,
heart with
NATURE.

To **nurture**
a garden
is to feed
not just
the **body**,
but the
SOUL.”

Alfred Austin

SCHOOL'S WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY JUNE 2024

On 6th June over 100 students from Goonellabah, Modanville and Nimbin primary schools spent the day learning about our waste facility and the things we can do to use water more wisely.

The theme for this year was "Land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience. Our land. Our Future", a big topic.

Activities for the students included a Resource Recovery bus tour, guided walks in the Botanic Gardens, paper craft, and making wax wraps. The Rous Water catchment model trailer demonstrated the importance of our water catchment and how removing vegetation is affecting the health of our waterways.



Top to bottom: Guide Phil with students in Sensory Garden
Paper craft making slinky lizards

Students watching the experiments at the Rous water catchment model
Guide Ken with a group learning how the gardens were restored from waste land
Students making wax wraps to avoid soft plastic use

VOLUNTEERING AND LEARNING.

The volunteers spent a wonderful morning at the **Firewheel Rainforest Nursery** in Dorroughby recently to observe and learn about seed raising. Firewheel has over 350 species of rainforest plants available for ecological restoration, cabinet timber plantations, bush food and grass species for gardeners and landscapers. They also manage major projects for government and industry partners. Owner and ecologist, **Mark Dumphy**, is *President of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy*.

The nursery has also published two wonderful books, compiling decades of experience in their field, *Australian Rainforest Seeds* and *Subtropical Rainforest Restoration Manual*.

The nursery team from the Gardens was fascinated by the detailed examples of ways to best achieve higher rates of seed germination. The group learnt about the roots of rainforest plants in tubes and to recognise the differences in types of roots. It was very informative and easy to follow the techniques and methods used. The friendly people at Firewheel are always very willing to share their decades of accumulated knowledge with us all.

Jenny Wilson, the Friends LRBG nursery coordinator said, *"I was overwhelmed by the extensive roles Firewheel plays in supplying healthy plants to so many organisations such as Landcare. The information about the Rainforest Conservancy and its plans to increase diversity, and therefore resilience, in plants to best withstand effects of climate change, was very reassuring and inspiring."*

Plans to maintain the strong links between the Friends and Firewheel include workshops to assist volunteers in their work at the Gardens. The volunteers have been reimagining their very small nursery to include some of the ideas at Firewheel to facilitate their work and are very keen to work more closely in the conservation of our local rainforest plants.



Top left: **Marie Glover**, Nurseryhand talking with volunteers **Florence** and **Pauline**
Top right: **Joel Bowmer**, seed propagator and horticulturalist
Left: In the plant hardening off area





Top: Firewheel Nursery has over 350 species of rainforest plants

Middle: **Pauline**, Gardens nursery volunteer chatting with **Jo Ierace**, Nursery Manager at Firewheel Rainforest Nursery

Bottom left: **Hamish Webster** horticulturalist and nurseryhand

Bottom right: Vice President **Hazel** celebrated her 90th birthday



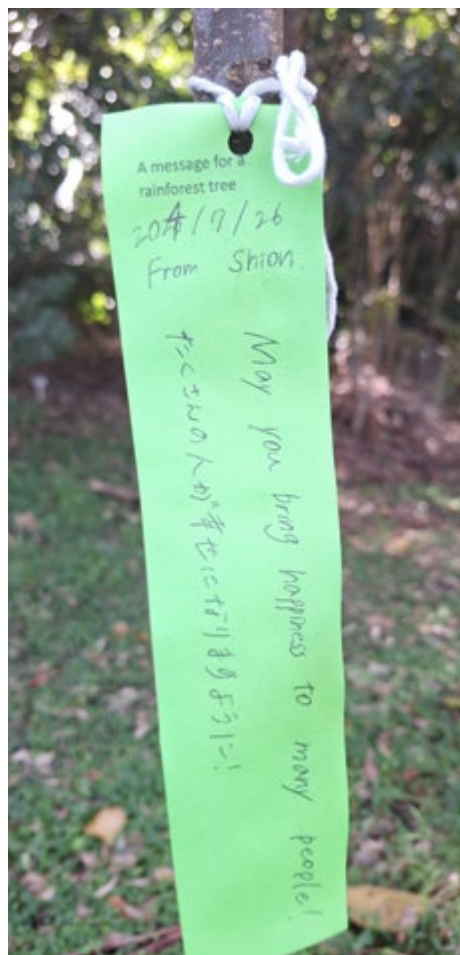
LISMORE'S SISTER CITY STUDENTS VISIT

Lismore City Council's sister city relationship with Japanese city, **Yamato Takada**, is the Council's most significant and actively maintained relationship.

The official Sister City agreement was signed in 1963, marking the first Sister City relationship between Australia and Japan and the oldest in our country.

Lismore's ongoing friendship with Yamato Takada has played a major role in the reconciliation between Japan and Australia.

The annual Sister City Student Exchange Program is a continuing legacy of the Sister City Agreement. Visiting our beautiful natural sites is always the highlight. The five students and their chaperone, **Issei Uno**, enjoyed a quiet, guided wander around the Botanic Gardens, were presented with a sprig of wattle and wrote a message to their favourite tree to celebrate National Tree Day.



Top right : Our Japanese visitors on Palm Gully Lookout.
Middle left: **Mina Yamamoto** with her favourite tree, a tiny *Hovea*.
Middle right: **Shion Ishijima** with his messaged tree
Left: Shion's message 'May you bring happiness to many people'.

"To **plant** a garden is to dream of **tomorrow**."

Audrey Hepburn

TREE PROFILE

- Peter Gould

ARCHIDENDRON HENDERSONII

Common Name:

WHITE LACEFLOWER

Family: **FABACEAE** (Sub Family
MIMOSOIDEAE) / **MIMOSACEAE**



White Lace Flower is a medium sized tree, up to 18 m tall, and 60 cm in diameter. The trunk is light brown, and somewhat buttressed.

It grows in riverine and lowland subtropical rainforest and in littoral rainforest, on a variety of soils including coastal sands and those derived from basalt and metasediments.

White Lace Flower is a medium sized tree, up to 18 m tall, and 60 cm in diameter. The trunk is light brown, and somewhat buttressed. It grows in riverine and lowland subtropical rainforest and in littoral rainforest, on a variety of soils including coastal sands and those derived from basalt and metasediments.

There are two geographically separated populations. The southern population occurs from Alstonville to the Nerang River in Queensland, whilst the northern population is found north of Mackay. It is not common and is listed as Vulnerable in NSW.

Leaves have one pair of pinnae; pinnules usually six per pinnae, usually opposite but lower ones sometimes alternate, lanceolate to ovate, 4-13 cm long, 2-6 cm wide, apex blunt or acute, asymmetric, glabrous, concolourous, upper surface glossy, lower surface duller; petiole 1-3.5 cm long, sunken gland on petiole.

Fragrant, fluffy creamy-white flowers appear in bunched heads with at least ten flowers. Flowers are 6 to 8 cm in diameter, the calyx being 4 to 5mm long. The stamens are 25 to 35 mm long.

The striking pods are woody, orange, oblong and curved. As they develop, they split and curl to reveal glossy, 5 mm long, black seeds displayed against the red or yellow interior of the pod.

Links:

<https://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswf&lvl=sp&name=Archidendron~hendersonii>

References:

Harden, G., McDonald, B. and Williams, J. 2006, *Rainforest trees and shrubs: A field guide to their identification*, Gwen Harden Publishing, Nambucca Heads, NSW

Floyd, A.G. 1990, *Australian Rainforests in New South Wales (Vol 1)*, Surrey Beatty and Sons, Chipping Norton, NSW

Archidendron hendersonii

White Lace Flower

Top: Fluffy flowers

Bottom: the beautiful seed pod below

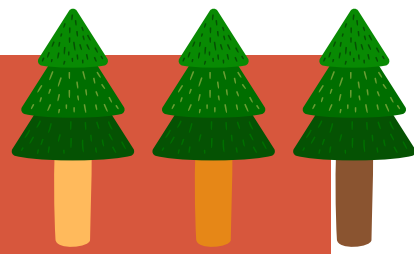
Photo: Marie Matthews



The Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens Nursery

is open for plant sales every **Wednesday** from **9.30 am to 11.30am**. Please bring cash.

Only local rainforest plants are for sale and availability depends on open day sales.



FROG-FRIENDLY GARDENS WORKSHOP



Richmond
Landcare
Inc.

Richmond Landcare Inc. is delighted to invite community members to a **"Frog-Friendly Gardens"** workshop, at the **Education Centre, Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens**.

This informative event, presented in collaboration with **Flo Gardens**, offers a unique opportunity to learn about creating habitats that support our native frog species.

The workshop will provide participants with valuable knowledge on how to make gardens more welcoming to local frogs. Presenters from Flo Gardens will share their expertise on the specific needs and threats faced by native frogs, and how gardeners can take support them flourishing in their gardens.

Event Highlights:

Informative Presentations:

Gain insights from experts on creating effective frog habitats, understanding frog needs, and addressing the environmental threats they face.

Guided Tour:

Experience a special twilight tour of the **Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens**, observing existing frog habitats and draw inspiration for your own garden.

Light Refreshments:

Enjoy complimentary refreshments while engaging with other nature enthusiasts.

Event Details:

Date: **Thursday, September 19, 2024**

Time: **5:00pm – 8:00pm**

Location: **Education Centre, Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens**

Cost: **\$10 per participant**

Ages: **Suitable for all ages**

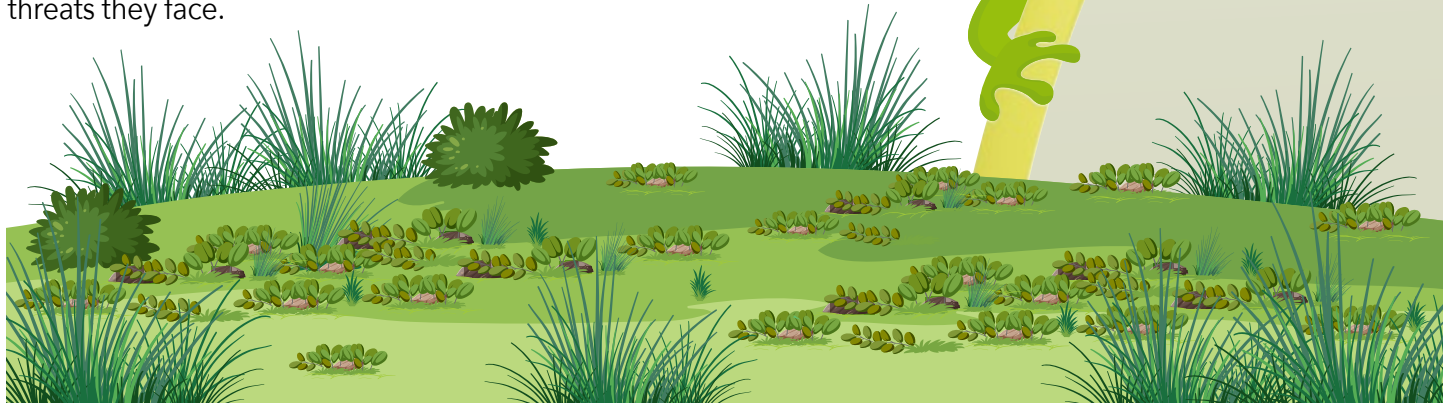
Note: This event is open to all ages, however children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets:

<https://events.humanitix.com/frog-friendly-gardens-workshop>

On Saturday 10th August we held our Bird-Friendly Backyards workshop at the **Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens**. It was a fabulous day of learning all about our native birds and how we can support them in our gardens, packed with useful information and interesting anecdotes from **Rodney Falconer**, from Birdlife Northern Rivers.

A special thanks to him, as well as the Friends of Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens, and FRRR, whose funding through the Strengthening Rural Communities Program made the event possible.



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS CONFERENCE

Members of the **Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens** came together for their biennial conference, held over four days at the **Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden** on the Sunshine Coast in Southeast Queensland. The gardens are located on Kabi Kabi land and the welcome to country was delivered by **Briana Hanson**.

I represented the **Friends of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens** and had an opportunity to meet and mix with representatives of Friends groups from Mackay in Queensland to Adelaide and Perth. The theme of the conference was "*The Challenge of Change*", recognising the new challenges that climate change and changes in demographics are posing to botanic gardens.

The facilities at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden are outstanding and reflect the strength of commitment of the Sunshine Coast Council and the Friends to the creation of a botanic garden that functions as a tourist attraction, an education hub, a recreation space and as a centre for plant science. The garden covers 82 hectares with extensive walking tracks, an Arts and Ecology Centre, including a cafe and shop, and an impressive sculpture collection.

The next conference will be held in August 2026, hosted by **Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens**.



Peter Gould
Curator

Top right: Garden sculpture in the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Garden.

Pavilio fuscus Fuscous Swallowtail butterfly on *Micromelum minutum*, laying eggs on one of its main larval host plants.
Photo: Phil Jarman



BUTTERFLIES ARE INTRIGUING. INVITE THEM INTO YOUR GARDEN.

Butterflies appear incredibly fragile but are capable of extraordinary feats of endurance. Their exquisite colours and patterns are a warning to predators of their extreme toxicity. As caterpillars, they consume some of the most toxic plants known and use these toxins for their own defence. As pollinators, they are crucially important to the health of many of our native plants.

Butterflies have a few, simple needs. They must have both host plants for caterpillars to feed on, and nectar plants for the adults. If you plant the right food plants they will find them. They like sunny spots, sheltered from the wind, with flat rocks to rest and sun themselves.

Butterflies obtain water and salts by 'puddling' or sucking them up from moist soil. You can create a puddling site by burying a plastic container filled with coarse sand and topping it up with water from time to time.

Some of the butterflies which visit gardens in the Northern Rivers, and use the nectar and leaves of local rainforest plants as food are mentioned on our website. Follow this link. <https://friendslrbg.com.au/images/newsletters/Brochure%20Butterfly%20Plants%20ORANGE%20Apr%202018.pdf>

SNAPSHOT- COSTA VISITS THE GARDENS



Top: Costa, Peter Gould, Curator, Ken Wilson & Phil Jarman from Guiding team & Nathan Dee LCC media team. Middle: Costa & Jayden in nursery. Costa & Peter in the Myrtle Rust eradication experimental area. Costa admiring Graeme's native Blue banded bee tee shirt. Bottom: Costa with volunteers before the day began