



www.friendsbgadelaide.com

JANUARY 2025

From the President, Greg Lane

The Christmas new year period has seen a number of changes from previous years. The Botanic Gardens have increased visitation, the opening hours are extended, we have a world class event that enhances the Gardens on site.

We have new or revamped cafes and dining areas. People, especially local, that have never visited our gardens have turned up. The environment that our Botanic Gardens offer is unique. Even though we are suffering a seriously dry spring and summer, the Hort. Staff are keeping the gardens looking great. Many that visit for the first or have been absent since when they were young need encouragement to come back.

The Friends volunteers offer a friendly face, directions, information visitors seek or did not know. We are the public face of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium and The Friends - we may be the only people they speak with on their visit.

You represent the Friends and BG&SH every time you make contact with visitors in the gardens. Their experience will influence any re-visit and potential word of mouth endorsement to others.

Gift Shop Manager

Gift Shop Convenor in North Lodge

Given the increasing activity in the Friends Gift Shop in North Lodge in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, we are seeking the services of a **Manager** for the Gift Shop. This is a new position for which retail experience would be most useful and knowledge of, and experience with, modern 'point of sale' systems would also be beneficial.

The Manager would report to a small dedicated Shop Committee and make recommendations about purchases. Stock control and invoicing would also form part of the duties of the position.



In addition, working with a very enthusiastic group of volunteers in the shop makes this a most interesting position. A small honorarium is payable.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they could undertake this role and would be pleased to supply further information.

I may be contacted on either ejmarg@bigpond.net.au or **0411 600507**.

Ed McAlister

INTRODUCING A NEW SPONSOR

We are pleased to inform members that, from receipt of this Newsletter, you will be able to avail yourselves of the services of a new sponsor.



The Sponsor is 'Frame Works' at Shop 4, 84 Glen Osmond Road, Parkside. Ph 0460 36697, amelita@frameworksplusgifts.com

and there is plenty of parking available.

Proprietors are offering 10% discount on all framing for members and 20% discount for members of the Botanical Art Group. This discount can be availed of by producing your current Membership Card.

I trust many of you will take advantage of this generous offer, a sample of which can be seen in the North Lodge Gift Shop where we have framed one of Jan Woodman's most recent offerings.

Ed McAlister

MEMBERS MEETING COMMENCEMENT FOR 2025

Marg Davy, Vice-President

Tuesday 4 February at 7.15 pm
Goodman Lecture Theatre

We will hear Mark Oborn, from the staff of the Botanic Gardens; our 2024 Gwen Thomas recipient travelled to Singapore to give a paper he presented on our behalf.

Come and support him and hear
GLOBAL CONGRESS IN
SINGAPORE
EXPERIENCE OF A
LIFETIME



Come and support him and the Friends

Third Monday Book Club

There are vacancies in the Third Monday Book Club

We meet on the Third Monday of the Month at 1.30pm in the kitchen of North Lodge

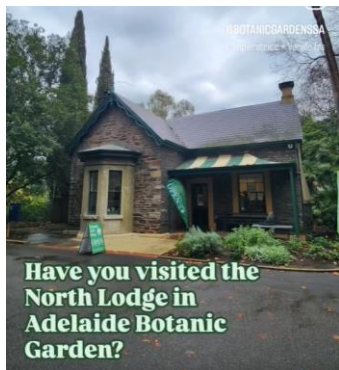


We pay \$2 each week to go towards the Friends and refreshments and \$20/ year to the St Peters library for the borrowing of our books. Books are supplied by the library and cover most genres. It is a relaxed atmosphere with many interesting discussions.

For queries ring Helena 0412781449 or just come on the Third Monday for a try.

North Lodge, Ed McAlister NORTH LODGE

North Lodge activities have continued as normal since our last Newsletter with Gift Shop meetings being held there on a fortnightly basis and the Book Clubs and Mah Jong groups continuing to enjoy their activities in the Lodge. The Security System for the Lodge was upgraded on 7th of January.



Friends Gift Shop, continues to operate well and many of the extra visitors coming for the Chihuly Exhibition, who enter via the Friends Gate, call in to the Shop seeking information, about both the Exhibition and the Garden itself. Some of these visits result in extra sales, with the Jan woodman and Helen Leitch prints proving popular. I seem to be visiting my local Post Office very frequently to purchase postal tubes for people taking posters interstate and overseas. A chore which I am very happy to undertake!

We have increased our range of merchandise and have seen pleasing sales from most of these products. All Friends members may not be aware that we sell BGSB books on consignment. We make a small profit on these publications, but it was pleasing to note that during the year 2024 we returned \$3,619.40 to the Gardens. While this may be only a small amount in the overall Gardens' budget, I am sure it will be found useful. More importantly, I believe it demonstrates the co-operative partnership which exists between the Friends and the BGSB.



One very pleasing activity which occurred on 1st of December 2024 was a get-together organised by the Shop Committee in North Lodge for Shop Volunteers. It appeared to be very well received by the 25 or so people who attended. So much so that there seemed to be a move for some of the group to meet, on a quarterly basis, in each other's homes.

We look forward to seeing you in the shop and, even more importantly considering volunteering in the Shop, even if only once a month. Full training will be given and I believe you will find it interesting, as well as knowing that you are assisting the Friends to help the BGSB achieve its Mission Statement.

Ed McAlister

Hands on Hort Adelaide, Geoff Mower

The Hands-on Hort Team at Adelaide Botanic Garden meets every Tuesday morning from 9am to 11am, to assist ABG staff with general garden maintenance, including weeding, raking, pruning, tidying beds, and more.



For further information please contact the Friends Office.

Hands on Hort Wittunga, Helena Jenkinson,

As there has been a change of staff and the weather has been just what the weed growth loves.

Wittunga desperately needs some more willing helpers. Tuesday from 9 to 12.

Photo: Eileen Harvey

Doesn't have to be a permanent commitment even a once-off visit would be very welcome. Cuppa is provided.

Contact Helena Jenkinson for further information 0412 781449 or helenaj@esc.net.au.



Hands on Hort Mt Lofty, Helen Milne

The 'Hands on Hort' group at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden has been in operation for approximately four years. Meeting on the first Thursday of each month.

If you would like to contribute a few hours of your time, once a month, to maintaining an interesting part of the Mt Lofty Garden, please contact the Friends Office for details.

Botanical Photography Group, Anna Lester and Geoff Mower, Convenors

The Photo Group is an enthusiastic group of keen photographers whose interests lie in photographing not only plants and flowers, but also the wider aspects of garden photography, including wildlife, scenics, architecture, macro, etc.

We welcome all skill levels and have members who use all types of equipment from smartphones to DSLRs and mirrorless cameras. The Group meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Friday mornings.



Erica, Wittunga Botanic Garden. G Mower

Our first meeting for the year will be Friday February 14th, in the Goodman Building on Hackney Road. We will be sharing and discussing our recent images, and thinking about activities for the year ahead.

We welcome anyone keen to capture the beauty of our Gardens photographically to join our friendly and relaxed group.

Please contact Stephanie in the Friends Office on 8222 9367, or email friendsabg@internode.on.net for further details.

Botanical Art Group, Silja Zarins, Convenor
Our beautiful cards and artworks are always for sale at North Lodge Gift Shop.

Preparation has started for our 2025 biennial major exhibition to be held in the National Wine Centre during November.

If you are interested in joining us, join the Friends and visit us on any Saturday between 12 and 4pm in the Goodman Lecture room.



Garden Guides, Margaret Swincer, Guide Leader

Guides meet monthly to schedule Free Walks at:

Adelaide, Daily 10.30am, meet by the guided walk sign in front of the Schomburgk Pavilion

Botanic Park, Weekly Mondays 2.00pm, meet at Friends Gate North Lodge ABG.

Mount Lofty, Weekly Thursdays 10.30am, meet at the lower car park.

Wittunga, Weekly Tuesdays 10.30am, meet car park off Shepherds Hill Road.

Booked walks at a time / date negotiable for all Gardens and Botanic Park and bus tours of Mount Lofty. Booking information is through the Friends or ABG websites.

Please note that all booked walks are to be prepaid

Plant of the month- Margaret Swincer

Bauhinia forficata

A genus with lovely flowers and intriguing shaped leaves features in the Adelaide self-guided walk for February.

The Dead House to Wine Centre path will take you near the significant art piece, Black Spring by Andy Goldsworthy. Look beyond Black Spring to see the Brazilian orchid tree, *Bauhinia forficata*, from the sub-tropics to tropics of South America where it is a fast-growing, pioneer species.



Deciduous or semi-deciduous, it reaches up to 9m tall with twisted ascending branches that droop at the ends. Its bilobed dark leaves are widely used in Brazilian folk medicine to treat diabetes and cardiovascular disorders.

The beautiful, white, 8 to 10 cm wide, orchid-like blooms appear from spring through summer and are followed by flat, dark brown seed pods. Look out for other Bauhinia species such as the red orchid (*Bauhinia galpinii*) from South Africa, on the main path between the Friends Gate and Ficus Walk.

Key Dates for 2025

- **24 Jan** Articles due for next Gazette
- **4 Feb Tues** General Meeting
- **23 March** Plant Sale at Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **15 April** Twilight Talk

Growing Group, Milton Bowman Convenor
The Growing Group is busy at Mt. Lofty Botanic Garden propagating plants.

Plant Sales are on the **4th Sunday** on each month from March to November.

The next sale is on **Sunday 23 March 2025** from 10.30am to 1.30 pm. at Mt. Lofty BG, in the Chris Steele-Scott Pavilion, just beyond the lower car park.

A full list of plants is available on the Website www.friendsbgadelaide.com

Visitor Information Centre (VIC)



The ABG continues to attract large numbers of visitors: local, interstate and overseas travellers.

Many of these are first time visitors and they often look for interaction with a friendly face to help with a variety of enquiries.

The Chihuly Information Booth (CIB) is well attended and can answer all enquiries regarding the fantastic exhibition we are privileged to have until the end of April.



There are numerous other enquiries which are better answered by a Volunteer in the VIC, and takes pressure off the CIB and the wonderful staff at Diggers.

Having offered to become the Coordinator, I supply some background information.

Most of my working life has been spent in the Horticultural industry, I did my training through TAFE in the late 1970s. I also have qualifications in nursing, childcare, permaculture and waste management. I have recently retired and now able to spend more time volunteering in the ABG. I completed my Guide training in 2024, work with two of the ABG Hort groups I am a member of the Friends Committee and undertake some Chihuly shifts. Any excuse to spend time in the Garden!

The VIC is in need of more volunteers to be the friendly faces helping to ensure the visitors to the Garden have the best possible experience. If you are interested in becoming a VIC volunteer, please send your details and preferred shift times to Stephanie.

Angela Toone

MahJong In North Lodge

Have you ever thought about learning to play Mah Jong.

Come and join us in North Lodge in the beautiful Adelaide Botanic Garden

Every Monday
from 10am – 1pm

Learn to play with Friends Club members
Ring June on 0438 220043 or come along any Monday.



- **27 March** Plant Sale Mt Lofty Botanic Garden
- **May** History Festival Guided Walks in all 3 Gardens ABG, MLBG & WBG
- **6 May** Lunchtime Talk