

Friends Funded Projects



Linda Beveridge

The main aim of the Friends is to support the Gardens, and financial support is a very important part of how we do that. Since the Friends was formed in 1990 we have contributed \$1.6 million in financial support, and funded many, varied projects. The Public Fund was established in 2004 as a way for the Friends to receive tax-deductible donations.

In addition to the items featured on the map (which can be used as a lift-out for a self-guided walk to explore some of the Friends projects), the Friends have funded other projects related to the ANBG's goals: including garden features, research projects, conservation of Australian native plants and natural and cultural heritage, learning interpretation and enjoyment, and national and international relations. The funds have come from multiple sources, including memberships, donations to the Public Fund and many Friends' activities.

The funded projects support the goals of the ANBG in a number of areas. Special plants, gardens and an environmental monitoring system (2010–11, \$49,000), X-ray assessment of legacy collections of the National Seed Bank (2018–19, \$15,200) and the Threatened Species project (2016 to 2018, \$25,719) are examples of contributing to **showcasing and conservation of Australian native plants**.

To complement those goals, Friends have funded assistance with **research** projects, such as three stages of the Alpine research project and symposium report (2010–11 to 2014–15, \$67,495). Several alpine plants on display in large pots near the Visitor Centre have been grown from seed collected during the Alpine research project. The Norfolk Island project is currently underway (\$15,000 a year for three years) plus some volunteer research assistance, and the Thermal Tolerance of Australian Native Plants research (2019–20, \$25,000 to date) is underway, too.



Bindi Vanzella

Anne Campbell, Meredith Cosgrove and Adrienne Nicotra collecting seeds as part of the Alpine Research project.

The Friends also funded the *Climate Watch* signs in the Gardens (2011–12, \$2,731), for a citizen science project that contributes to national research.

A key role for the ANBG is to provide a **gateway for knowledge about Australian plants**. Friends have made valuable contributions to gateways and their enhancement over the years, for example

- to the Fungi Website <https://www.anbg.gov.au/fungi/> (2001 and 2005, \$14,150)
- the Bryophyte Website <https://www.anbg.gov.au/bryophyte/> (2005, \$6,350) as well as
- the Australian Lichen Website, and the later Lichen Digitisation project <https://www.anbg.gov.au/lichen/> (2010–11 and 2017–18, \$36,150), and
- more recently, the *Find a Plant* app <https://www.anbg.gov.au/fap> (2019–20, \$13,636).

Many Friends and other visitors come to the Gardens to **learn more about, interpret and enjoy** Australian native plants in various ways. Interpretive signs along the way have been funded by Friends over the years, as well as self-guided walks such as:

- the *Aboriginal Plant Use Trail* which can be downloaded from the website <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/aboriginal-trail/> (2012–13 and 2015–16, \$11,259)
- the *Eucalypt Discovery Walk* <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/walks/eucalypt-walk> (2012 to 2014, \$18,114)
- the *Birds of the ANBG* brochure by artist Frances McMahon <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/faunal/birds/index.html> (2011, \$8,000), and
- *Flowers, Fruit and Foliage* (previously known as *In Flower This Week* from 1999 - 2016), is prepared by volunteers with a new version each fortnight. The latest, and previous, versions are available on the Friends website at <https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/FlowersFruitFoliage>.

A prototype for children's guided walks (2003, \$3,000) was a project that has lived on in various forms, including *Who lives here?*, a booklet available from the Visitor Centre and from the ANBG website. https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/education/programs/pdfs/who_lives_here_book_layout.pdf

So many children (parents and grandparents, too) greatly enjoyed the Carramar Koalas (2018–19, \$5,000), which was a special attraction to the gardens.

30 years of Friends funded projects at the Australian National Botanic Gardens



1 Bottle Tree at front entrance to the Gardens
2004 | \$8,000

2 Grassy Woodland Garden signage
2010–11 | \$8,550

3 Friends Cascades
2006 | \$17,000
The Cascades were opened in 2006 by Dr Robert Boden, a former Director of the ANBG. The honour of starting the Cascades, with a trickle of water, was the prize in a lucky draw, and went to the daughter of one of the gardeners.

4 Video wall and film in foyer
2019–20 | \$52,143

5 *Macrozamia moorei*
2004 | \$6,000
Transported from Queensland.

6 Flora Explorer
2011–12 | \$36,000 | Electrically powered people mover
2013–14 | \$3,700 | Audio system installed
Tours every weekend and public holidays and some school holidays. Booked tours available.

7 Drinking Fountain
2013 | \$5,400

8 Clock
2010–11 | \$1,300
Erected to publicise Guided Walks.

9 Crosbie Morrison Amphitheatre shelter
2010–11 | \$47,300
Used by school groups primarily but also by public.

10 Section 131 – Ellis Rowan garden bed
2003 | \$5,000
Redeveloped by Gardens staff to display plants suitable for cool climate home gardens.

11 Botanic Resource Centre
2008 & 2015–16 | \$5,350
Set up costs and new computer. Opened by Friends' Patron, Marlena Jeffrey.

12 Friends Lounge
For use by all Friends. Small library.

13 Banksia Garden
2018 to 2020 | \$98,000
2018–20 | \$17,200 committed (Public Fund)

14 Growing Friends
2007 to 2020 | \$20,340
Equipment costs including water tank, canvas for area, and shelving.

15 Paperbark Treehouse
2014 to 2018 | \$246,700
Treehouse including feasibility study and landscaping.

16 Conservatory
2018–19 | \$18,600
Interpretation consultant.

17 Red Centre Garden artwork
2012–14 | \$115,000
Friends' Canberra Centenary gift to the Gardens, a centre-piece of the Red Centre Garden. Grandmother's Country by Teresa Purla McKeenan.

18 Termite Mound in Red Centre Garden
2013 | \$4,320 (Public Fund) | \$6480

19 Rock Garden Lawn Shelter
2007 | \$38,400
Opened by Marlena Jeffery, Patron of Friends, in November 2007. First project of the Public Fund.

20 Asteraceae Garden development
2014 | \$13,000
Opened in November 2014 by Lady Cosgrove, Patron of Friends.

21 Sundial
2001 | \$4,000

22 Rock Garden project
2002 | \$8,000

23 Bottle Tree project
2005 | \$8,500

24 Seed Bank
2011 to 2019 | \$93,183
Specialised equipment.

25 Ferns and palms for Rainforest Gully
2002 | \$8,500

26 Palms for Rainforest Gully
2003 | \$6,600

27 Fogging system and extension for Rainforest Gully
2004 and 2009 | \$18,700

28 Rainforest Lighting
2011–12 | \$30,000

Climate Watch trail signage
2011–12 | \$2,731
Various places in the Gardens.





ANBG ©

The Eucalypt Discovery Walk includes brochure and interpretive signs along the way.

The Friends have provided stereo display microscopes in the Visitor Centre and the Education Centre to assist with learning about botany (from 2003 and 2016–17, \$11,500).

For many people a guided walk or a ride on *Flora Explorer* is an intrinsic part of the enjoyable visit and to learn more about the plants and the Gardens. The guided walks are available each day that the Gardens are open. Over the years Friends have contributed to Volunteer Guides' expenses (such as uniforms and professional development) (2001 to 2020, \$43,268).

The Thursday Talks have been a popular way to learn more about recent developments in botanic and other environmental sciences for more than 14 years, and Friends have funded theatre equipment such as the hearing loop, video projector, data projector and screen (2012–13 to 2019–20, \$24,194).

Scholarships or bursaries, and more recently book vouchers for Botanic Interns, are other aspects of learning that have been supported by Friends over the years (pre-2001 to the current year, \$18,288).

Many friends, as well as the Friends of ANBG, have provided garden seats which add to the enjoyment of the Gardens, for example the Sydney Basin seating (2001, \$4,500). The electric scooters add to the enjoyment of the Gardens for less mobile people (before 2001 to 2017–18, \$17,948).

Valuing and conserving natural and cultural heritage: the Gardens has benefited from Library book grants (from 2005 to 2017, \$10,127). One of the books, *The Banksias*, by Celia Rosser will be on display at the Banksia Centre for some Friends events at the Banksia Garden. If you wish to view a book at another time please contact the librarian.

Highlights of any year are the exhibitions by the Botanic Art Group and the Photographic Group, and the Schools Photo Competition. Selected botanic art and botanic photography works are purchased by the Friends for the ANBG's collection (2010–11 to 2019–20, \$6,425) and the Friends have provided prizes for the Schools Photo Exhibition since 2003 (2003 to 2019, \$48,443). The Friends also contributed to the Seed Bank Exhibition last year (2019–20, \$8,826). A purchase this year for the ANBG collection, *Banksia solandri* by Susan Grieves, will be on display in the Banksia Centre, too.

The Gardens also **facilitate and collaborate in national and international policy and practice**, which the Friends supported through the years; for example, full or partial sponsorship of national and international conferences, and attendance by some key speakers.



Brian Moir

Banksia solandri by Sue Grieves, purchased from the Botanic Art exhibition, being presented to Dr Judy West, Executive Director ANBG by Max Bourke AM, President of Friends ANBG, for the ANBG collection.

Further details about Friends Funded Projects are available at http://www.friendsanbg.org.au/Projects_List_start_present

These successful projects have been made possible by Friends members, and valuable donations to the Public Fund that are also tax-deductible. The Friends are supporting a number of other projects for the ANBG and if you would like to contribute to this further support you can donate to the **Public Fund** online or go to the website https://www.friendsanbg.org.au/fundform/public_fund.html