

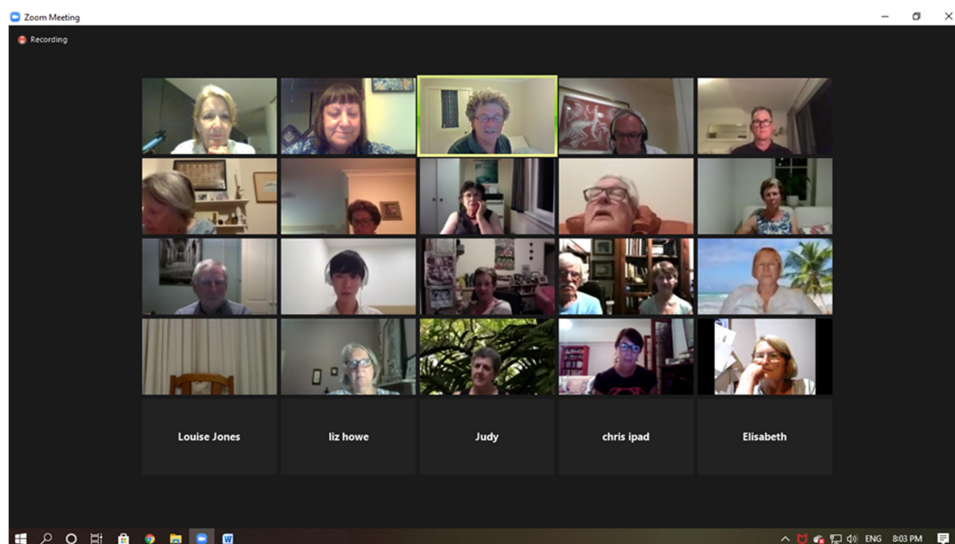


- Garden updates from the November Zoom Get-together
- Our guest speaker, Paul Nicholson talks about Australian Rainforests
  - The November Working Bee in action
    - Our Stony Range Outing
  - Dates for upcoming Get-togethers and Working Bees
    - News from our friends and affiliates
- **Late breaking news – our December get-together will be in person!**

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### The November Get-together was via Zoom

Another successful Zoom get-together with 27 participants. Our members were joined by some of the volunteers that work with Paul Nicholson, our guest speaker, at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens.

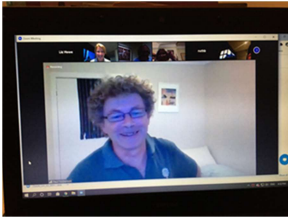


### A little of what was discussed:

- Lois Clarke updated us on the Tree Project, our initiative of recording the nearly 100 species of trees in Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden. We'll be introducing them one by one in our newsletters and on our website from December.
  - With the sponsorship funds received from the Freshwater Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank we are printing Membership Cards and a Pull-up Banner to be used at our get-togethers and indoor events.
  - Our December get-together will be face to face! So, please come along and collect your Membership Card.
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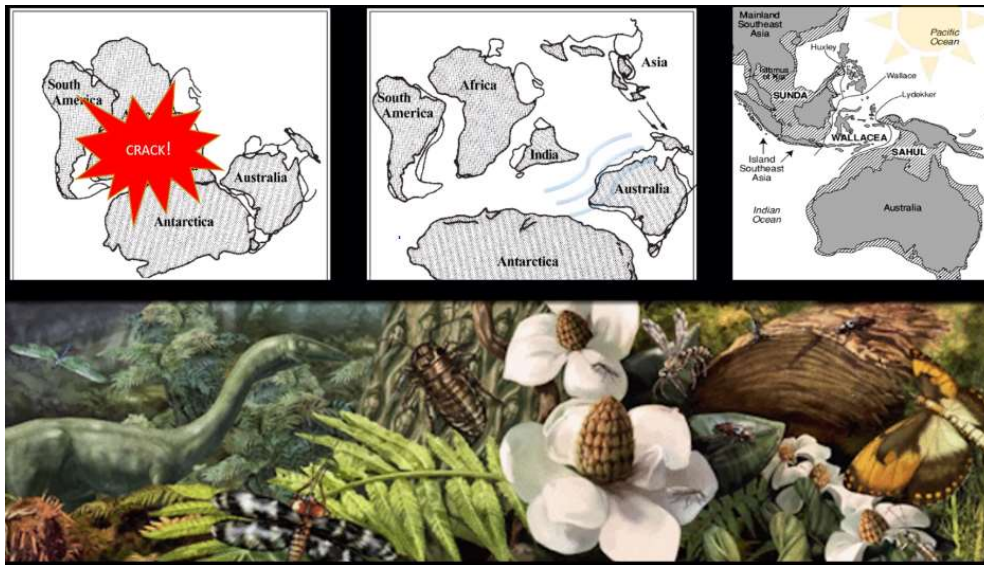
## The Story of Australian Rainforests by Paul Nicholson, our guest speaker

“Few ecosystems capture the imagination as rainforests.” With those opening words, Paul captured our imagination as well.

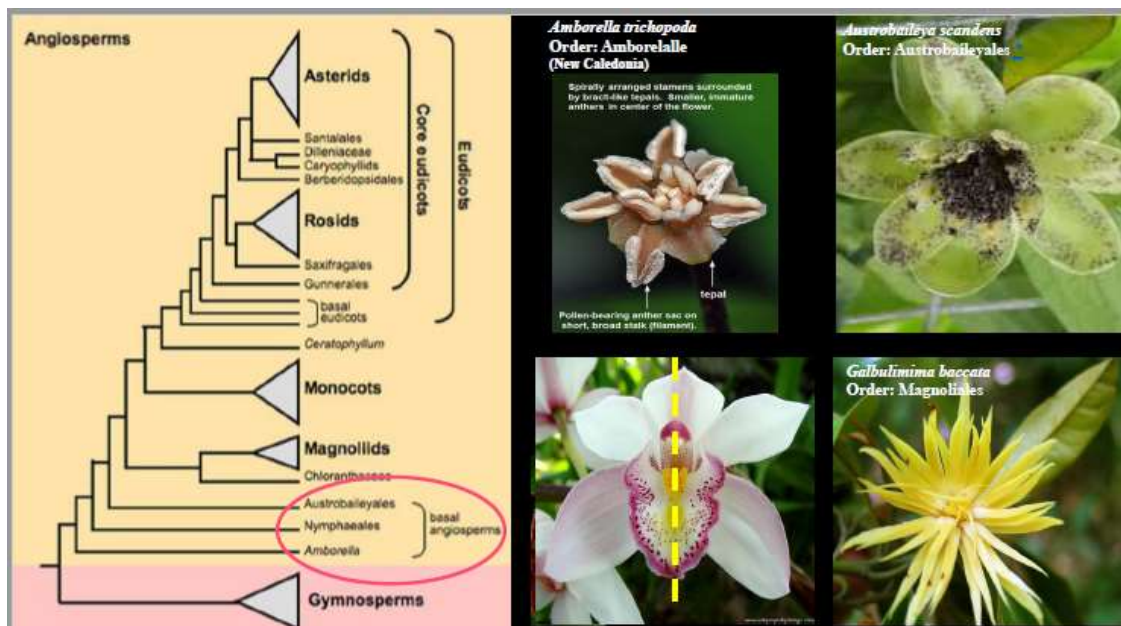


Paul admitted that he was fascinated with rainforests for a long time, not only as display areas but also as centres for biodiversity and research and wanted us to celebrate these amazing ecosystems, understand the challenges they face and learn what we are doing to conserve them for future generations with him.

- **Australian rainforests are rare and ancient:** Dating back to the super continent of Gwondana and after Australia's separation from Antarctica and then settlement, only remnants remain

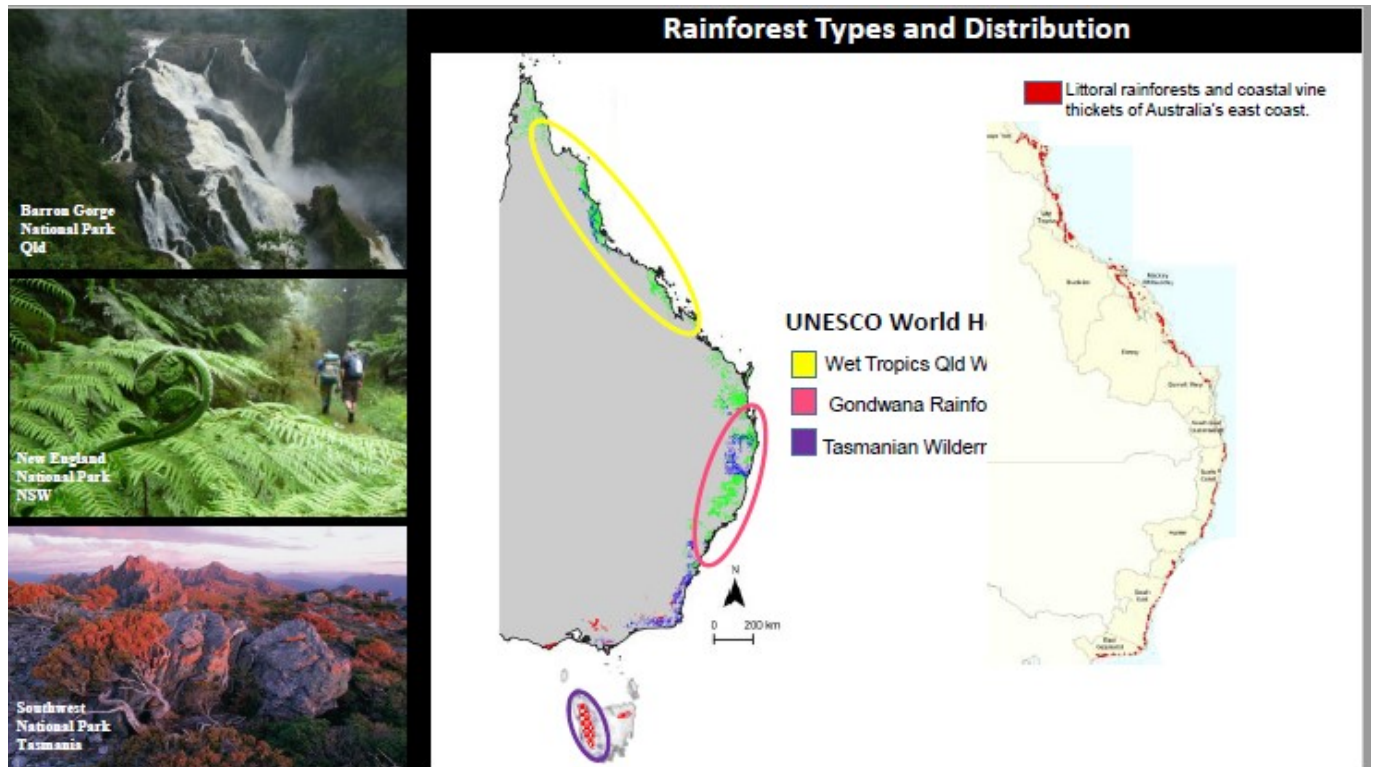


- **Ancient plant lineage:** They contain representatives of some of the oldest flowering plant lineages on the planet, leading some researchers to claim they are the oldest rainforests in the world. They are now declared World Heritage Areas.
  - There are only 400 flowering plant families worldwide.
  - In Australia we have 17 of the 28 basal angiosperms, some of which have ancient plant lineage.



- **Australian rainforest areas:**

- the Tropical in the Daintree;
- the Subtropical on the Queensland-NSW border;
- the warm Temperate around Minnamurra;
- the cool Temperate in Tasmania;
- the Littoral rainforest and coast vine thickets down the eastern coast are also included.



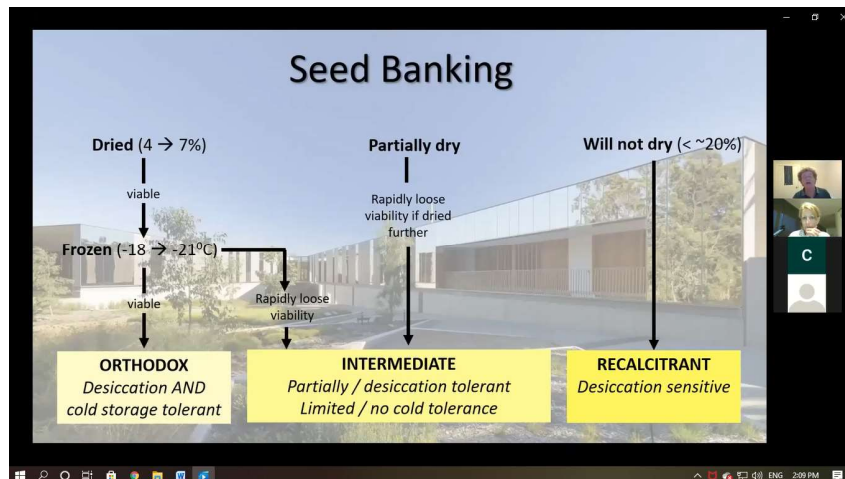
- **Concerns that many rainforest species will become extinct:**

- stress from drought, e.g., risk of fire as other species such as eucalypts and acacias move in;
- vulnerability to pathogens such as Myrtle Rust;
- propagation and seed distribution difficulty because many plants rely on birds such as the fruit dove and the limited number of Cassowary for seed distribution.



- **Conservation efforts by Royal Botanic Garden Sydney:**

- RBG Sydney has an extraordinary living collection of Australian rainforest species, in fact, 25% of the trees in the garden are subtropical rainforest trees and include a large number of heritage specimen trees and flowers.
- scientists at the Australian Institute of Botanical Science are working to better understand their ecology and ways to preserve their seed and germplasm for the future.
- the Rainforest Seed Conservation Project at Mt Annan is working on the problem that rainforest plant seeds are difficult to dry and preserve and some do not remain viable when they are frozen; they are also trialling tissue culture as a way of growing new plants.



Paul's presentation was so much more encompassing that we encourage you to view it here.

**About Paul Nicholson:** Paul Nicholson is the site coordinator for Volunteer Programs at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Paul has worked at the Botanic Garden for 26 years, commencing as a horticultural apprentice in 1993 and working as a horticulturist and senior horticulturist for over 20 years. He is now responsible for over 200 volunteers at the Sydney Garden and delivers specialised tours and community education activities.

### The November Working Bee



We split into groups to tackle different areas of the Garden – from the entrance at the top south-west corner of the Garden, to the native Australian garden alongside Sydney Road, from the stairway leading down to the large bed surrounding the Crepe Myrtle – it was an incredibly productive day.



There was the gathering of the never-ending rubbish, the pruning of hedges, the lopping of overgrown branches, and the weeding, lots of weeding, under the supervision of our friendly Butcher Bird as he patiently waited for us to finish so he could grab his late morning snack from the recently turned soil.



### The Outing at Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden

Our tour started at the entrance where a breathtaking Queensland Tree Waratah was in full bloom.





Stony Range has been developed, mainly by volunteers, since its opening in 1961. One of them, Eleanor, was our guide. She has been working there each week for the last 30 years as a volunteer and was the Range Curator for 15 of those years. Through her many years of volunteering at the Stony Range Botanical Garden, Eleanor regaled us with her detailed knowledge of the plants and trees in the Garden as well as anecdotes and a historic time line that included photographs.



The garden includes 19 themed areas across three main micro-climates including a rain forest gully, a sandstone heath and cascades as well as being home to many varieties of ferns, beautiful big gums, bush tucker plants, orchids, and other natives.



We walked in dappled sunlight, through the Sensory Garden, magnificent grasslands and a tropical rainforest, then up and down the several cascade walks.



We were lucky to see so many wildflowers including some in the Flannel Flower Garden. Eleanor showed us photographs of the devastated garden after a bush fire but also an after photograph of the slopes covered with flannel flowers because as we know they need fire to propagate.





Along the way we saw several native bee hives located in abandoned tree trunks.



And what fun when we were introduced to the Bird Wheel – turn the dial and you can hear some of the birds that call Stony Range their home.



The tour finished at the Nursery where members snapped up some native plants, lemon myrtle salt and homemade jam made from their Davidson's Plum tree.

We saw so much in our two hour tour, too much to picture here, but we all agreed that it warranted staying awhile or coming back on another day.

## Dates for our upcoming Get-togethers and Working Bees

**Our last Monthly Get-together for 2020 will be held on Monday December 21 starting at 7:00 p.m.**

We are now able to celebrate the end of a tumultuous year in person with food, drinks, door prizes and more. Keep your eye out for an email update.

**Please note: there will be no get-together in January but 2021 dates will be published in an upcoming newsletter and on our website.**

Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Time
December	19th	9.00-11.30am

### 2021

Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday	Time
January	16th	9.00-11.30am

### Working Bees

Held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

For 2021, we are hoping to introduce an extra Working Bee each month so check back for our updated calendar.

## Other news

**The Biodiversity Street Project:** One of our members, Nicholas Farrar, and his company The Growing Trend (<https://thegrowingtrend.com>), is working on connecting Business with Biodiversity through their Biodiversity Street Garden Project you may have seen popping up in streets of Manly.

Currently the biodiversity gardens are creating awareness to the importance of Biodiversity in our communities. If you wanted to support a garden at home or in the office please get involved.

Please take a look at their link and share. <https://thegrowingtrend.com/pages/biodiversity-street-project>

**Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens:** Catch up with other Friends groups around Australia by reading their November Magazine *Eucalypt* [here](#).

We also receive two e-Newsletters monthly – if you'd like to subscribe to them or have us forward them to you, you please let us know. They are always an interesting read.

**Garden Clubs of Australia:** Their Annual Report celebrates their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It's a wonderful read so we've attached the PDF alongside our newsletter.

**Save the Manly Ferries:** Candy Bingham, a proud FIPBG member, and her organization Good for Manly is mounting a campaign to Save The Manly Ferries and would like your support. Here's how:

1. [Log onto their webpage](#) to sign the petition to NSW Parliament and send an email to Transport Minister Andrew Constance & Local MP James Griffin. (You will find background information and facts on this page as well).
2. Volunteer to help with letter-box drops and other tasks by registering with Julie [HERE](#). Be sure to include your availability in December and/or January, your name, address, phone number and email address and if you would prefer somewhere near home or happy to do any area.
3. Make a donation towards the cost of the campaign [HERE](#).

**The Climate Act:** If you're interested in more information about this Act, introduced to Federal Parliament by Zali Steggall, please check out the following two websites.

[https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/why\\_we\\_need\\_a\\_climate\\_act\\_now](https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/why_we_need_a_climate_act_now)

<https://climateactnow.com.au>

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Keep up to date with happenings at Ivanhoe Park Botanic Garden  
by visiting our website anytime

**[www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com](http://www.friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com)**

Or email us at

**[info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com](mailto:info@friendsivanhoeparkbotanicgarden.com)**

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