



## **BHG Seminar Saturday 14 September 2019**

Queensland Herbarium  
Brisbane Botanic Gardens  
Mt Coot-tha Road  
Toowong QLD 4066



*Colonial Botanist FM Bailey SLQ neg 160401*

### ***Flora - collecting, recording, preserving and research***

**9.45am:** Registration and book sales (cash only)

**10.00am:** Morning session – completed in the late 1990s, the facility in which we are holding our seminar today is just the latest in a series of buildings that have housed one of our oldest institutions, the Queensland Herbarium (BRI). Our host for the day, Gordon Guymer, Director since the early 1990s, will share with us not only its current role and responsibilities but also its rich history dating back to the 1850s. This session will include a behind the scenes tour and a chance to take a closer look at some of the treasures from both the extensive specimen collection and the working reference library

**12 noon:** Light lunch and book sales

**1.00pm:** Afternoon session – this will follow our usual BHG seminar format with our guest speakers presenting on various aspects of our chosen theme for the day (refer over). We will fit in a short break for a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit

**4.30pm:** Close

**As there is limited seating at the venue we will be taking telephone reservations for this event on a first come first served basis. Once confirmed our usual payment arrangements - cash, cheque made payable to Brisbane History Inc or Direct Debit - Westpac Bank, BSB 734 000, A/C No 093887**

**Members/Students \$20.00, Non Members \$25.00**

**Telephone: Andrew 0421 344 503**

**Location** The Queensland Herbarium is part of the Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens complex accessed off Mt Coot-tha Road, Toowong. It is approximately 150m from the entrance off the main road, the last building on the right before the controlled vehicular access to the gardens proper (opposite side of road to the Planetarium). Free car parking is available within the complex and in the overflow area opposite the main entrance. There is a bus stop within the complex, please check with TransLink for Saturday timetables and connecting services

## ***Flora - collecting, recording, preserving and research***

**Dale Arvidsson - *Flora from our past, flora for our future - the History of Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha.*** Since the foundation stone was unveiled in 1970, Brisbane Botanic Gardens Mt Coot-tha has become Australia's leading subtropical botanic gardens. This presentation looks at some of the key milestones and achievements of the botanic gardens and explains why this much loved part of Brisbane is so important for both the history of amenity horticulture and the future of native species conservation

**Marion Mackenzie - *A treasury of trees – Sherwood Arboretum.*** In the years following World War I Queensland benefited from the coming together of a Governor concerned about conservation; an energetic group of foresters, botanists, scientists and naturalists; and a growing number of timber merchants and furniture makers concerned about dwindling supplies of commercial timbers. The Queensland Forestry Association formed in 1922. The Association moved to establish an Arboretum of Queensland native trees to promote the need for their preservation. Governor Sir Matthew Nathan opened the Sherwood Arboretum in March 1925. Despite numerous setbacks, it continues to uphold the values established by its founders and remains one of the living treasures of Brisbane. This presentation outlines the context of its formation and subsequent changes

**Bill Palmer - *Sherwood's illustrious history in biological control.*** One of the world's worst weed problems, the dreaded prickly pear, was solved on the banks of the Brisbane River at Sherwood by introducing a moth and other insects from South America. Sixty million acres of Queensland's best farm land was reclaimed and the effort made the history books. Since that campaign, several other serious weeds (such as Noogoora burr, parthenium, groundsel bush and ragweed) have been controlled by biological control projects from the Alan Fletcher Research Station. This talk traces the history of the research station from its establishment in the 1920s to its closure in 2010

**Judith McKay - *Ellis Rowan: a flower-hunter in Queensland.*** Ellis Rowan was Australia's most celebrated flower painter of her day. Based in Melbourne, Rowan began exhibiting her flower paintings in about 1873. After meeting the world-travelling English artist Marianne North in 1880, she took up a life of travel and adventure, stressing the importance of painting her subjects in their natural setting. She travelled to Queensland in 1891, 1892, 1911, 1912 and 1913 to make a fairly systematic record of the flora. In 1912, upon exhibiting her work in Brisbane, Rowan successfully challenged the state government to buy 125 paintings which are now in the collection of the Queensland Museum

**Darryn Schneider - *Ernest Smith a field naturalist.*** Ernest Smith was born in England in 1887, but his family emigrated to Australia 5 years later. Ernest lived a curious life. He was brought up in a working class family, and became a plumber and tinsmith. But he had a curiosity about the natural world, and when opportunity came he made it his passion. He became the well-known eccentric of the Fassifern Valley, writer of Nature Notes for the local newspaper, and devoted member of the Queensland Naturalists' Club. His collection of specimens became a small natural history museum in his home in Kalbar, and his contributions to institution collections have been of significant scientific value. His influence is still felt in the community where he lived and he is remembered in the scientific community as 'Kalbar Smith'

**Janet Spillman - *The Bailey dynasty of plant scientists.*** If Britain's most famous botanists are Sir William Hooker and his son Joseph Dalton Hooker, Australia can be proud of its own dynasty of plant scientists, the Bailey family. Not only did Frederick Manson Bailey collect and name local flora, he also formed part of government organisations and commercial interests that established a farming and forestry economy for the emerging colony. Along with his son John, and his grandson Cyril Tenison White, FM Bailey helped create a professional class of botanists that have served Queensland well. He learned his knowledge of plants from his father John, South Australia's first Colonial Botanist and the Curator of Adelaide's Botanic Gardens. A consideration of the growth of professional botanic science during the nineteenth century throws up differences as well as parallels between the Hooker and Bailey families