



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

10 February 2017

Myall Park Botanic Gardens

This week at Friday Environment Forum - 10th February: Guest speaker will be *Dr Nita Lester*, who is a botanist, graphic designer and publisher as well as Chair of the Board of Directors for *Myall Park Botanic Gardens*. Dr Lester will give an overview of the development of the gardens which led to Myall Park being placed on the Queensland Heritage Register in 2012.



Myall Park Botanic Gardens are a drawcard for birds and bird lovers

She will also discuss the current focus and direction for future development of Myall Park Botanic Gardens.

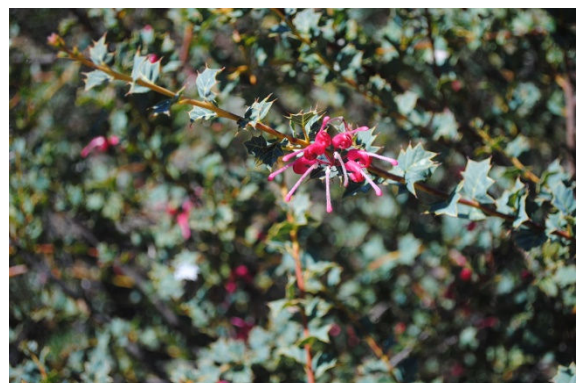
Myall Park Botanic Gardens is situated in the Western Darling Downs Region of Queensland, some 400 kilometres west of Brisbane.

Noted as the place where the Gordon grevilleas, 'Robyn', 'Merinda', 'Sandra' and now 'Dorothy Gordon' were first cultivated, it is a drawcard for Australian plant and bird enthusiasts. The property, acquired in 1926 by the family of David Gordon, was once part of a "prickly pear selection".

Over the years it was a sheep property that ultimately became a botanic garden for the conservation of arid and semi-arid plants thanks to the efforts of David Gordon, his family and friends. With a passion for growing Australian plants, Dave Gordon began seed collecting and experimental plantings in the 1950s, choosing vulnerable, inland species for conservation when their natural habitat was threatened by land clearing and grazing practices. Wife Dorothy Gordon was both an artist and art teacher. Her stunning botanical watercolour works drew further attention to the beauty of the garden at a time when Australian plants were newly recognised as worthy garden specimens.

Today's visitors to Myall Park Botanic Gardens enjoy the serenity and beauty of mature plantings that attract over 200 species of birds as well as a myriad of insects and other fauna. Self-guided interpretive walks through the park, provide greater understanding of the natural environment whilst artistic installations add interest to the experience.

Join the audience at Noosa Parks Association Environment Centre, Wallace Park Noosaville this Friday 10th February. Friday Environment Forum commences at 10.30am although everyone is welcome to arrive at 10am when coffee and chat are on offer. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.



Grevillea Merinda Gordon was developed at Myall Park

All welcome.