



BOTANIC NEWS

AUTUMN 1985

'The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne has been formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them wherever possible.'

A very warm welcome to all our Friends and best wishes for 1985. We have tried to make this year's programme as diverse and interesting as members have come to expect, and hope you will join us on as many occasions as possible. Particularly, we draw your attention to our fabulous Autumn visit to Canberra — see enclosure and tour details. Book early and save disappointment.

Our new format. Instead of our quarterly Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne we are producing two new publications, a seasonal newsletter *Botanic news* which will include a calendar of Friends' events, and the *Botanic* magazine containing articles, items and book reviews of botanical and horticultural interest.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

VISIT TO 'COORA COTTAGE' - MERRICKS

Sunday 10th February, 1985, at 12 noon

Friends are invited, in conjunction with members of the Herb Society, to visit 'Coora Cottage', an outstanding nursery specialising in herbs. Open to the general public once a year only, Friends are delighted to have this special opportunity for their own viewing.

Started as a small family concern about ten years ago, 'Coora Cottage' now covers more than two hectares with over 500 different herbs from all over the world being grown there. Take your own picnic lunch and plan your arrival for 12 noon when the Thompsons will give an introductory talk. You may then wander around the nursery at your leisure and possibly purchase plants which will be on sale.

Tickets at the gate \$2.00

TWILIGHT GATHERING — PROVINCIAL GARDENS OF VICTORIA

Talk by Mr Art Truter, Landscape Planner,
State Forests and Lands Service

Tuesday 5th March, 1985, at 5.30 p.m.

Astronomer's Residence, Birdwood Av. Sth. Yarra

A member of the Provincial Botanic Gardens' Rejuvenation Committee, Mr Truter will provide an overview of the State's provincial gardens and describe some of the restoration work being undertaken for the sesquicentenary celebration.

Art Truter trained as a landscape architect in Arizona, undertaking postgraduate work at Fontainebleau. He worked on a number of projects in Hawaii, Honduras and Central America before coming to Melbourne some 12 years ago to work on the Urban Strategy Plan for the City of Melbourne. Recent assignments include the Goldfields Reserve Network, Goulburn River concept plan, the concept plan for Westgate Park and the provincial botanic gardens. Art's diverse background ensures an interesting evening. Do join us.

Wine and cheese will be served.

RSVP for catering: 211 8979

Friday 1st March Tickets at the door \$3.00

THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 27th March, 1985, at 7.30 p.m.

The National Herbarium, Birdwood Av. Sth. Yarra

Agenda, minutes of the 1984 Annual General Meeting and nomination forms are being sent to members separately.

A chicken and champagne dinner will be held in the grounds of 'Garden House', the Director's Residence, at 6.00 p.m. prior to the meeting. Coffee and biscuits will be served in the Herbarium later. To obtain tickets for the dinner, please apply to the Ticket Secretary on the enclosed form.

RSVP.

Wednesday 20th March

The Ticket Secretary Tickets \$8.00

AUTUMN TRIP TO CANBERRA

Saturday 13th April, 1985 — Wednesday
17th April, 1985,
(Five days inclusive)

Canberra in the Autumn is noted as being one of Australia's outstanding beauty spots, add to this some interesting lectures, visits to unusual and beautiful private gardens, the Australian National Gallery, the High Court, the National Library, and morning tea at Government House with Lady Stephens - to name a few of the planned activities — and you have a truly memorable tour. Certainly a trip not to be missed! Friends will be accommodated at University House, Australian National University, Canberra, where excellent twin share or single rooms are available.

The overall cost of the tour will be \$260.00. (Single room an additional \$20.00 per night.) This covers transport, two evening meals including a special dinner with speaker, and two lunches.

To secure your booking, please forward deposit of \$60.00 as soon as possible, making cheque or money order payable to the: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and send to:

The Tour Secretary

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens
C/- The National Herbarium of Victoria
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, 3141.

Balance to be paid by Friday 22nd March.

The bus will leave the National Herbarium at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday 13th April, departing Canberra Wednesday 17th April at 9.00 a.m.

For further details see accompanying sheet. Itinerary with more detailed information will be forwarded on request.

All enquiries to:

Golda Isaac

80 5640

Nancy Hayward

387 6885

Booking form on the bottom of the
accompanying sheet. Closing date
is Friday 22nd March.

EVENING LECTURE — UNUSUAL PLANTS

Illustrated Talk by Arnold Teese,
Yamina Rare Plants Nursery, Monbulk.
Monday 6th May, 1985, at 8.00 p.m.

National Herbarium, Birdwood Av. Sth. Yarra
The Yamina Nursery specialises in rare and unusual plants and has outstanding collections of rhododendrons, camellias, conifers and maples. Mr Teese has entitled his talk 'Choosing the Best Plants for the Garden', a topic that should have a wide appeal for all Melbourne gardeners.

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP for catering: 211 8979

Friday 3rd May Tickets at door \$3.00

VISIT TO TOM GARNETT'S GARDEN & NURSERY

'St. Erth', Blackwood (near Trentham)

Sunday 12th May, 1985, 12.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Mr Garnett, well-known garden writer for the Age and author of the recently published *Stumbling on melons*, will speak to the Friends on their arrival at 'St. Erth', and show them over his garden.

A bus will leave the Herbarium at 12 noon returning by 5.30 p.m., and it is suggested members have an early lunch before embarking and bring a picnic afternoon tea. Warm clothes are essential.

RSVP:

Monday 6th May

The Ticket Secretary

Tickets \$13.00

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Don't forget that the Friends' 1985 subscription is now due. Please fill in the enclosed subscription form and return it with your payment and a self-addressed, stamped envelope as soon as possible.

NEW LOGO FOR FRIENDS

The new logo of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, portrays a tree with its shadow reflected in an ornamental lake and a stylised swan.

This design illustrates the concept that we as Friends reflect with support and interest our world famous garden.

David Wilkinson
Friends' Committee

FRIENDS' NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE IN THE GARDENS

CHILDREN'S PACKAGE \$4.00

(black and white swan poster,
Junior Friends badge, colourful
activity sheets)

GREETING CARD 75c each

(featuring a water colour of
the rare *Sophora toromiro*, by
Jenny Phillips who also illustrated
Tom Garnett's new
book, *Stumbling on melons*.)

\$4.00
for
a set

POSTCARDS

(Oak lawn, Ornamental lake,
Fern Gully)

20c each

All publications can be bought at the
Friends' Information Desk on weekends or at
the Herbarium Office during the week.