



BOTANIC NEWS
AUTUMN 1986

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I encourage all Friends to attend the forthcoming Annual General Meeting at the National Herbarium on Monday April 7. The Friends have successfully concluded a very active 1985 and are looking forward to an even more active 1986, given that we expect our Trust Fund to be inaugurated with the Friends pursuing major projects on an organised basis. During the Annual General Meeting your Committee will report on 1985 results and proposed 1986 activities, and your input to this discussion of 1986 onwards is most crucial.

The Friends congratulate Dr David Churchill on his appointment to broader responsibilities within the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands. His expanded duties will take on board State wide gardens and arboreta and the co-ordination of the management of these important community facilities. The Friends have enjoyed their association and support provided by Dr David Churchill and Mrs Sylvia Churchill and we know they will continue to be members and supporters of the Friends. The Friends also welcome Mr John Taylor as the recently appointed manager of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

I look forward to your participation at the Annual General Meeting. This will be followed by an illustrated talk by David Wilkinson, Architect, and Friends' Committee member, which I am sure will be most interesting given the title 'House and garden: relationships'. I also welcome your participation in the program of activities which your Committee has in view for 1986.

Frank Phillips

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES 1986

'THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 7 at 8.00 p.m. National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

Following the meeting David Wilkinson, Architect, and Friends' Committee member, will give an illustrated talk entitled -

House and Garden : Relationships.

As mentioned previously, David was the recipient of one of three yearly Australian scholarships to attend the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and its satellite garden,

Wakehurst Place, Sussex. David recently re-visited his old haunts and what he has to say should be extremely interesting.

Supper will be served.

Friday, April 11 to Monday, April 14 (incl.) 'Western Districts Gardens Tour'.

This tour has proved of great interest and we regret that no vacancies remain as it was fully booked out within two days!

THE IMAGE OF BOTANIC GARDENS

Talk by Professor Carrick Chambers, Professor of Botany, University of Melbourne. Tuesday, April 22 at 5.30 p.m. at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. Jointly with the Voluntary Guides.

From their earliest beginnings for herbal remedies, Botanic Gardens have served society in a variety of ways. Our contemporary gardens must be involved in a wide range of activities, educational, horticultural, landscape management, as well as conveying the fascination and beauty of plants. They can no longer be regarded as mere passive museums of living plant specimens.

Wine & Cheese 5.30 p.m., Lecture 6.00 p.m.

RSVP: April 18, 1986

Golda Isaac 817 5640

Robina Dickenson 20 8398

Tickets at door	Members & Guides . \$4.00
	Non-Members \$5.00

THE HISTORY OF EMBROIDERY

Talk by Mrs Joan Hossack, Thursday, May 29 at 10.30 a.m. at National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

Mrs Hossack is a noted artist and speaker and we can be assured of an interesting session.

Morning Tea will be served.

RSVP: May 26, 1986

Sylvia Churchill 63 3564

Golda Isaac 817 5640

Tickets at door	Members \$3.00
	Non-Members \$4.00

MORE HELP NEEDED!! PLEASE!!!

Happily our membership and activities are increasing, consequently we need help in the following:

The Friends' Shop (in the Kiosk) has recently been completed. We need more voluntary assistance for extended opening hours — especially week days. If you can help please ring Brenda Owen, 560 4414.

Safe and Till. If you know of a small safe and/or cash till tucked away and not in use they (or it) could be used most successfully in the Friends' Shop.

Newsletter. Volunteers are needed to assist in distribution: Contact Beth Higgs 850 5908 or Golda Isaac 817 5640.

SOME FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, June 25 at 11.00 a.m. At Garden House, the home of Dr and Mrs David Churchill in its beautiful setting in the Royal Botanic Gardens. A Social Luncheon with Friends and their friends, with an added bonus — 'Western District Tour Recollections'. A Trading Table too — for your surplus plants, books, 'creations' etc. Further details in next Newsletter.

Tuesday, July 29 at 10.30 a.m. at National Herbarium. A talk by Mrs Barbara Williams on John Wedgewood and his floral painting on china. Details later.

Tuesday, September 9 at 5.30 p.m. at National Herbarium. Talk by Dr Sophie Ducker.

October 9 - 19: An Exhibition of Botanical Art. Colin Woolcott and Jenny Phillips.

October 22, 29, November 5 and 12: Education Seminars.

In addition we have one or two other functions of great interest yet to be finalised.

PLANT PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE BOTANIC GARDENS

**Date: Saturday, April 5 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
plus, Tuesday, April 22 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.**

**Venue: National Herbarium Hall and
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.**

Join several of the Botanic Gardens horticulture staff for an introduction to equipment for close-up photography, followed by a practical session photographing plants in the Botanic Gardens. The evening session two weeks

later will provide participants with the opportunities to review their slides and analyse the results. Aspects to be covered during the sessions include: landscape and close up photography; colour; what equipment is available and where to get it; flash photography; depth of field; light and balance.

As part of the Saturday session participants will also learn about the work of the Botanic Gardens in horticulture, and aspects of the botany of some of the plants photographed.

Participants should bring their own S.L.R. camera, film and tripod.

Fee:

\$5.00 to cover refreshments and materials provided.

Booking is essential. Please send details with your name, address and phone number. Please include the \$5.00 fee, with your booking and make cheque payable to: Department Conservation, Forests and Lands.

Mail to: Education and Interpretation Section,
Royal Botanic Gardens,
Birdwood Avenue,
South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

VALE

Richard Thomas Martin Pescott, 7th Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and David Churchill's pre-decessor, died on Saturday, February 22 1986, after a long battle with arthritis.

Dick Pescott was born in Melbourne in 1905. In 1929 he graduated as a Master of Agricultural Science and following 15 years with the Science section of the Department of Agriculture became Director of the National Museum of Victoria. In 1957 he was appointed Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, a position he held until his retirement in 1970.

Apart from horticulture Mr Pescott was also particularly interested in insects, being at one time both government Botanist and government Entomologist. A keen naturalist he was also a member of the Zoological Board and of Healesville Sanctuary. A talented author he wrote many books, including *W.R. Guilfoyle, 1840 - 1912 — The Master of Landscaping* and *The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne*.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs Pescott and her daughter and to his many relatives and friends.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Don't forget that the Friends' 1986 membership subscription is due. Please fill in the enclosed form and return it with your payment as soon as possible. Otherwise please hand the leaflet to a Friend and invite them to join.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Fryer's Nursery, 589 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, and 'Idaho' Nurseries, 410 Waverley Road, East Malvern, offer special discounts to Friends on production of their current membership card.

FRIENDS' PROJECTS

Some of the projects with which the Friends have been involved:

'Save the Lake'	Initiated and assisted by Friends.
Friends' Shop at Kiosk	Founded by Friends.
Herb Garden	Cash Contributions.
Notice Board in Gardens	Donated by Friends.
Exhibition of Botanical Art	Organised by Friends.
Glass Show Cases in	
Herbarium	Donated by Friends.
Herbarium Equipment	Contribution.
Friends' Room in	
Astronomer's Residence	Fitted out by Friends.

'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.'