



BOTANIC NEWS

AUTUMN 1988

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I do hope that all members had an enjoyable Christmas and I extend very best wishes for 1988. It should prove to be yet another exciting year for the Friends. Membership is continuing to expand and as members will be aware activities advertised in this issue of *Botanic news* suggest that there will be something of interest for everyone. Your elected Council expects to put forward an encouraging report for the 87/88 year when we hold our Annual General Meeting in May, as well as a status report on our Trust Fund now that the brochure has been launched. Gifts to the fund are being sought from individuals and corporate sponsors towards the initial major projects through 1988, namely, the automatic watering system, the redevelopment of Long Island, improvements to the central lake and fern gully and the establishment of a collection of rare and endangered species. All told a target of \$670 000.

As already advised to members our hard working assistant secretary Mrs Joan Nesbit has decided to step down from that role. Joan of course will continue to maintain close links with the Friends as a member and supporter of our activities. May I again on behalf of all members extend our thanks to Joan for a job well done. I am pleased to advise that Miss Margaret MacGregor has joined our team at the secretariat, based at the old Astronomer's Residence, as our part-time Executive Officer. Margaret, a member of the Friends, has been helping in our shop since just after it opened and brings to her role extensive experience in the operation of associations and councils. Her experience includes responsibilities with the Australian Dental Association, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and more recently as secretary to the Board of the Council of Adult Education. I'm sure Margaret will bring expertise and drive to our secretariat, improving our ability to provide worthwhile services and activities for our members. On your behalf I extend a very warm welcome to Margaret.

I look forward to meeting members during forthcoming activities and working with you towards our objective, namely, to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.

Frank Phillips

President



MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

MORNING COFFEE AND GUIDED WALK

Thursday March 17 at 10.15 a.m. at the Kiosk, Royal Botanic Gardens.

An informal social gathering with coffee at the Kiosk, after which the Voluntary Guides will take groups on guided walks.

RSVP	Friday March 11
Lesley Clark	277 3984
Beth Higgs	850 5908
Members & Guides	\$2.00
Non-Members	\$3.00

GUILFOYLE GARDEN TRIP FOR FRIENDS AND GARDENS STAFF

A unique opportunity for the Friends to share a day with the Gardens staff has been arranged for Tuesday March 22 and should prove to be a very enjoyable occasion. Three Guilfoyle gardens have been selected — the Colac Botanic Gardens; Mooleric at Birregurra, the garden of Mr and Mrs Robert Ramsay; and Turkeith also at Birregurra, the garden of Mr and Mrs Lockie Gordon.

The tour is close to full, but if you are interested please ring Golda Isaac 817 5640 — there could be cancellations.

For further details please see Summer Edition of Newsletter.



PIRIANDA GARDEN OLINDA

April 24

These beautiful and well known gardens will be dressed in all their autumn glory at this time of year.
(Melway Map 122 — A12)

It is proposed to make this a picnic. Take your own car, bring your own lunch, or barbeque gear and food if you prefer. We shall meet at 11.30 a.m. in the car park area.

It is expected that a guide will be available to conduct and inform.

RSVP	Monday April 18
Members & Guides	\$5.00
Non-Members	\$6.00
Golda Isaac	817 5640
Agnes Fulton	836 9183



PERENNIAL BORDER — DONNA SOMERVILLE

Wednesday May 18 at 10.30 a.m.

Meet for coffee at Astromoner's Residence, adjacent to the La Trobe Cottage.

Donna, a gardener at the Royal Botanic Gardens, will speak of herbaceous and perennial plants with particular reference to the very fine collection in our Botanic Gardens.

RSVP	Monday May 16
Booking form enclosed. Numbers are limited	
Members & Guides	\$5.00
Non-Members	\$8.00

BOTANICAL BOOKS AND PRINTS

We are privileged to be given the opportunity on Wednesday June 15 to see and browse over some of the rare botanical books and prints housed in the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

There will be three sessions: 10.30 a.m., 2.00 p.m. & 6.00 p.m. Meet before each session in front entrance hall of the Library.

RSVP	Wednesday June 8
Booking form enclosed. Numbers are limited to 15 per session.	
Members & Guides	\$3.00
Non-Members	\$4.00

NEPAL AND THE HIMALAYAS

Wednesday July 6 at 10.30 a.m.

At this morning coffee party Mrs De Lacy Lowe will speak and show slides of her trek from Kathmandu to 16,500 feet up in the Himalayas to the Valley of the Dudh Cosi.

RSVP	Monday July 4
Venue to be advised. Booking form enclosed	
Members & Guides	\$4.00
Non-Members	\$5.00

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

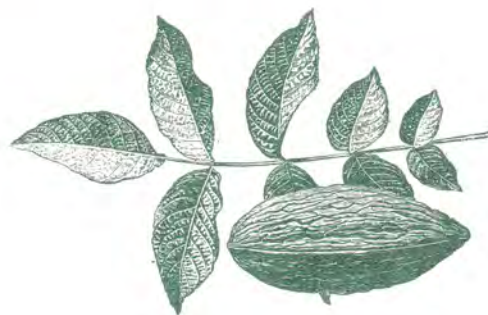
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1988 ARE NOW DUE for everyone not holding 1988 membership. Please fill in the enclosed subscription form and return with your payment as soon as possible. A Membership Card will be forwarded with the AGM notification, however should you wish to receive your card immediately please include stamped, self-addressed envelope with your payment.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday May 30, 1988. Please note this date in your diary.

An official notification of the AGM will be forwarded as a separate mailing.

Nomination forms for election to the Council may be obtained from the Executive Officer. Nominations must be in the hands of the Secretary by Friday April 15, 1988.



RECENT ACTIVITIES

Friends Christmas Party on 10/12/87 at the Kiosk. A very happy and relaxed party and for the first time, NO RAIN!!

"The World is my Garden" — 21/1/88 at Merton Hill. Roy Lancaster's talk and slides greatly appreciated; voted one of our best functions.

"Wind in the Willows" — 5/2/88 — preceded by a byo picnic tea.

FRIENDS' OFFICE

The Executive Officer, Margaret MacGregor, will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

The office telephone number is 650 9424 Ext. 234.

"FIRST IMPRESSIONS: THE BRITISH DISCOVERY OF AUSTRALIA"

To mark the Bicentenary of European settlement in Australia, the British Museum (Natural History) is bringing a marvelous exhibition of natural history artefacts to Australia. The exhibition is to be opened by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in the Museum of Victoria on April 28 and will be on view until the end of June. It will then travel to the other major capital cities.

The exhibition contains many original sketches and paintings including works by Sydney Parkinson, Ferdinand Bauer and John Gould. There are herbarium specimens collected by Sir Joseph Banks at Botany Bay in 1770 and the first platypus sent to England by Governor Hunter.

To complement the exhibition, a self-guided walk through the Gardens has been developed to look at some of the plants the first European explorers found, the ways they were used by the Aborigines and the use later made of them by the European settlers.

The walk will be available in May and June. It starts on the Oak Lawn by the 'F' gate entrance and is clearly marked with special signs.



Banksia serrata, Saw Banksia, drawn by Sydney Parkinson, Botany Bay 1770. Original held by British Museum (Natural History)

SNUGGLEPOT & CUDDLEPIE

The May Gibbs — Peg Maltby exhibition hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens over a five week period late last year proved to be a great success. 50,000 Melburnians of all ages came to see it, some to be acquainted for the first time with the delightful characters created by these wonderful artists, others for nostalgic "re-union" with their childhood memories.

Beautifully staged, the exhibition and shop took many months to put together and required the patience and co-operation of all sections of the Gardens Staff. Botanists, office personnel, administrators, maintenance workers and gardeners were united in their support and encouragement, many going out of their way to help. Their contribution was very much appreciated, especially by the shop managers who worked with them.

The Gumnut Shop, magnificently run by Dale McDonnell and Jenny Phillips made the whole exhibition possible, the proceeds more than covering the total cost of the exhibition which had been funded in the first instance by the Maud Gibson Trust.

To Dale and Jenny, congratulations and special thanks, the Friends and the Gardens were indeed lucky to have the benefit of their imagination and special skills.

Ninety-five volunteers (Friends and Voluntary Guides) manned the shop seven days a week for the five week period showing their loyalty and support for the Gardens, a heart warming experience for all.



FROM THE GARDENS

A lot of tree work has been undertaken in the Gardens over the last few months. The magnificent *Quercus canariensis*, outside the Director's gate, has received a lot of attention. The tree was planted by William Guilfoyle on his appointment to the Gardens in 1873 and was feeling its age. Now the dead wood has been removed, several branches cabled and "fertilizer injections" administered. The injections of nutrients and minerals are made directly into the trunk, using a new American technique. As well, the asphalt around the tree's base will soon be removed to aerate the roots.

The new oaks on the Oak Lawn are flourishing: the *Quercus acuta*, Japanese Evergreen Oak, has doubled in size over the last year. Of course autumn is one of the best times to visit the Oak Lawn and to look at the contrast between the evergreen and deciduous species.

The huge *Cyprinus macrocarpa*, Monterey Cypress, on the Hopetoun Lawn has also been cabled recently. This enormous specimen always draws comments from American visitors who are more familiar with the stunted examples on the wind-swept Monterey Peninsula in California.

Unfortunately one of the biggest trees in the Gardens, the old *Populus deltoides*, Cottonwood, on the Eastern Lawn, was beyond saving following severe storm damage in January. Allan Gardiner, former Superintendent, recounted that that was the tree which toppled over during the record floods of 1934 and was hauled upright again with a tractor! It did well to last another fifty years.

Eve Almond

Interpretations Officer

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Fryers' Nursery, 589 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn,
Idaho Nurseries, 420 Waverley Road, East Malvern and
The Arts Bookshop, 1067 High Street, Armadale offer special discounts to Friends on production of their current membership card.

Just a reminder that a 10% discount is available at the Friends' Shop in the Gardens on purchases of \$20.00 and upwards.

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