



BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

AUTUMN 1995

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 1995 begins, it is an occasion to review our activities in the interests of our new members and of our magnificent Gardens. The year just past was one of many changes. We now have better and more commodious quarters, we have upgraded our equipment, the Friends' Shop has a better position and greater space, and we have a record number of members. Best of all, we have earned a record income, and accordingly we are able to support projects in the Gardens to a larger extent than ever before.

The Gardens themselves are clearly showing the benefits of increased funding and skilled administration under the new Board. With the aid of the new watering system they have survived the summer in excellent shape, and both the buildings and the garden beds have been extensively rejuvenated.

All this should spur us to increased effort this year. The Gardens' needs are endless, and there are plenty of projects which the Friends can support. The rejuvenation process must go on, and we know that there are important plans being developed both for increased research and more extensive and effective services for visitors.

Since the Friends were first formed to contribute both personally and financially to the maintenance of our Gardens, we have given our support to 65 projects at a cost of \$310,000 over the past eight-and-a-half years. Since June of last year the Friends have provided \$40,000 worth of

projects including \$16,000 to the restoration of the Rose Pavilion. In addition the Trust Fund has contributed \$27,000 to the printing of Volumes 1, 2, 3 and 4 of *Flora of Victoria* and \$6,000 to the printing of *Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia*. Looking back at that achievement should inspire us to renew our efforts this year and make it the best ever.

The Friends' Shop adjacent to the Tea Rooms has been doing excellent business. From July to December 1994, our sales were well above budget and the net surplus for that six months was almost as great as the annual surplus for 1993-94. This success arises from the expertise of the manager, the enthusiasm of the casual staff and the wonderful support provided by our 45 volunteers.

We welcome Helen Fahey, who has joined us to work in the Friends' office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Helen's work history includes long stints at The Age and with Natalie Miller (Sharmill Films/Longford Cinema), with recent years being devoted to publicity.

Sir Rupert Hamer
President

FROM THE BOARD

The Premier, Hon. Jeff Kennett, officially activated the Royal Botanic Gardens' new automatic irrigation system at a special ceremony on the Eastern Lawn on 18 January, 1995. He was accompanied by the Minister for Conservation and Environment,

Hon. Mark Birrell. When the Premier turned on the switch, the lawn sprinklers came on in a carefully orchestrated display, marching down the Princes Lawn and across the Central Lawn to stop at a safe distance from our guests on the Eastern Lawn.

The irrigation system enabled us to keep the Gardens looking green and well cared for during the prolonged dry weather last year. It has also enabled our horticultural staff to devote more time to maintaining and improving the gardens. In his speech the Premier praised the RBG for our achievements during the past two years and the fine condition of the gardens and lawns. The RBG Board gratefully acknowledges the funding received from the Victorian Government, corporate sponsors and a charitable trust which enabled the system to be installed.

The Board has decided to change the title of the Cranbourne Garden to *Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne* to define more clearly its identification with the RBG. There is a widespread misconception locally that the garden is managed by the local government authority or by the Cranbourne Friends group. The new title will raise the Gardens' status and assist in its promotion to Government, sponsors and donors.

Minister Birrell launched the Masterplan for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne on 23 February at the Stringybark Picnic Area. The plan sets out a development framework for Cranbourne over the next 10-15 years which has the goal of

creating the finest native gardens in Australia. The first stage of development will focus on the Australian Garden, an area of 25ha in the northwestern part of the site. We are seeking a capital grant from the Victorian Government to enable major works to commence on this garden later this year.

We have also recently appointed a team of landscape architects, led by Taylor & Cullity Pty Ltd and Paul Thompson, to prepare the overall landscape design for the Australian Garden. It will be an innovative and colourful series of gardens showing the marvellous diversity of colour, texture and shape of the Australian flora, and exploring how these plants influence our lives, culture and surroundings. The first two or three of these gardens will be planted in mid-1995 with a grant from Melbourne Parks and Waterways. There is already plenty to enjoy during a visit to Cranbourne - but the bush and wildflowers will soon be complemented by many new developments.

In late 1994 the Board established a system for appointing Honorary Associates of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Such appointments recognise the individuals' special skills and knowledge and their wish to contribute to the institution through research, practical assistance, curation of collections, or in other tangible ways. Four Honorary Associates have been appointed now: Alastair Watt (conifers), Bill Woelkerling (marine algae), Helen Aston (aquatic plants) and Arthur Thies (bryophytes). We appreciate their past contributions to the RBG and welcome their continuing participation in our botanical and horticultural activities.

W R M Irvine
Chairman

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

FRIENDS' FILM LUNCHEON *COUNTRY LIFE*

Thursday 23 March at 11.00am

Trak Cinema, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak

For 22 years, Sally and her Uncle Jack have struggled to maintain their sheep station while financially supporting Sally's father Alexander, a widower living in London. When Alexander, whom they believe to be a distinguished writer, returns with his beautiful young new wife, the lives of the family and their friend, Dr Max Askey, are thrown into turmoil. *COUNTRY LIFE*, a gentle and moving tale of clashing cultures set in the harsh beauty of the Australian landscape, stars Sam Neill, Greta Scacchi and John Hargreaves.

Lunch (sandwiches, cake and tea/coffee/drinks) will follow the screening. Parking in Tintern Avenue or Safeway carpark.

Admission \$11.00

RSVP by 16 March on enclosed booking form

GROWING FRIENDS SALE

Saturday 25 March

10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 26 March

10.00am - 3.00pm

Observatory Site

Our next sale is on the last weekend in March. Be early if you want something special. At the Spring sale, 196 people were queued when the gates opened at 10.00am.

The Nursery has been looking wonderful throughout January and February following the warm weather and rain. Members are invited to come to the Nursery (behind the Astronomer's Residence) on Fridays between 9.00am and 1.00pm. However the Nursery will be closed two weeks prior to the Autumn sale and the week following - these dates are 17, 24 and 31 March.

DISCOVERIES AMONG THE FUNGAL COLLECTIONS IN THE NATIONAL HERBARIUM

Illustrated talk by Dr Tom May

Wednesday 29 March at 8.00pm

At the National Herbarium Hall

In 1990 the Friends funded a Mycologist to work at the Herbarium for six months to sort out the vast collection of fungi which had never had full-time curation. This appointment went to Tom May, who was well-qualified to deal with this gigantic task. We will hear, and see, some of the wonderful discoveries he made along the way.

Tom is now a full-time member of staff.

Supper will be served

Admission: Friends \$8.00

Others \$10.00

RSVP by 24 March on enclosed booking form

COCKTAIL PARTY AND PREVIEW OF BAUER EXHIBITION

Thursday 6 April 1995

6.00 - 8.00 pm

At the National Herbarium Hall

You are invited to attend a Cocktail Party and special preview of an exhibition of prints by Ferdinand Bauer, noted illustrator of plants, animals and landscapes.

In 1800 the artist accompanied Matthew Flinders and Robert Brown as botanical draughtsman on the "Investigator". Of Bauer's 2073 drawings completed

on the five-year voyage, 1540 were of Australian plants.

The prints are being brought to the Gardens by Noleen Glavish of Nokomis, who has been given rights by the British Museum to produce these limited edition prints. They will cover 30 subjects, and will be for sale.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 7 April to 7 May.

Admission including catalogue: Friends \$10.00 Others \$12.00

RSVP by 31 March on enclosed booking form.

BUS TOUR TO NORTH EAST VICTORIA

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 April 1995

Unfortunately this trip planned for January had to be postponed due to drought conditions, dust storms and exceptionally hot weather. An extra day has been added for the rescheduled tour.

Leaving the National Gallery at 9.00am, we will travel by bus as far as Mulwala, spending two nights at the Mulwala Motel. We will visit the Warby Range State Park as originally planned, then we will have time to explore the Mulwala-Rutherglen area. Kay Fairley, a well-known Friend who lives in Benalla, is arranging our itinerary which will include visits to several wineries and a fascinating native plant nursery.

The cost of \$190 twin-share (\$40 extra for single supplement) includes transport, accommodation, breakfasts and dinners. We should be back in Melbourne by 6.00pm.

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 28 March.

AUTUMN IN THE DANDENONGS. BUS DAY TRIP TO MT EVELYN AND OLINDA

Thursday 27 April

Cherrygarth, Mt Evelyn At the time of our delightful spring trip to Cherrygarth, Friedl Gardner invited us to return to admire this garden's autumn beauty. Again, we will have the privilege of seeing the fine collection of trees, shrubs and perennials providing foliage interest and colour artistically selected and sensitively cared for by Friedl.

A light lunch at the Bide Awhile restaurant in Olinda is included.

Mernda Heights, Olinda This superb garden, established in 1937, has a wealth of deciduous trees, including a fine collection of maples amongst self-

seeding plants which have naturalised. The view to Western Port, the perennial borders, the laburnum walk and the new vineyard are not to be missed.

The bus will leave the National Gallery, St Kilda Road, at 9.30 am sharp, and arrive back at the Gallery at approximately 4.00 pm.

Cost of \$30.00 includes transport, morning tea, lunch and admission to Mernda Heights with afternoon tea.

RSVP by 20 April on enclosed booking form.

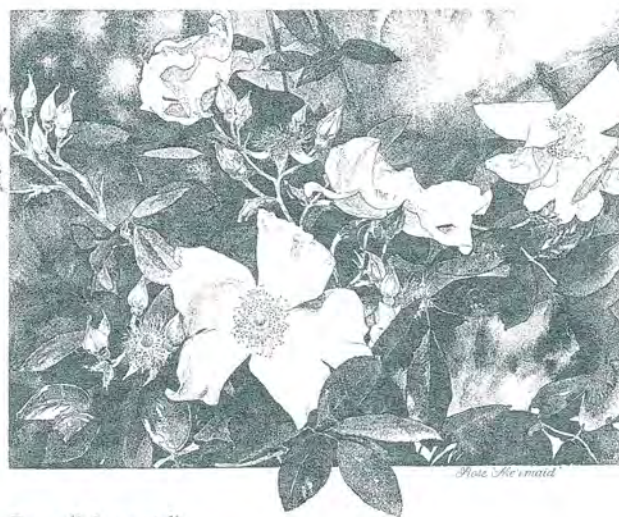
NANCY TICHBORNE'S FLOWERS

Talk, book launch and lunch

Tuesday 2 May at 12.30pm

At National Herbarium Hall

Nancy Tichborne is a New Zealand artist and landscape designer. We are honoured that her publishers, Lothian Books, have chosen a Friends' function to launch Nancy's volume of sumptuous paintings of flowers and gardens.



Rose 'Mermaid'

The full-colour book reproduces 60 watercolours, together with commentaries by the artist that illustrate the symbiotic relationship between her gardening and her art. They reveal an intimate observation and appreciation of the subtleties and textures of nature.

Nancy Tichborne's informal talk focusing on 'The Artist and the Garden' will hold much interest for artists, gardeners and lovers of beauty.

A basket lunch will be served at 12.30pm followed by the talk.

Cost: Friends \$10.00
Others \$12.00

RSVP by 26 April on enclosed booking form.

*A meeting for all our artist members, Friends
and others interested.*

PLANT NAMES, FERNS AND SEAWEEEDS



Illustration by Anita Barley

Tuesday 16 May 1995

from 10.00am

At the National Herbarium Hall

*"Not only flowering plants...some botanical topics and
ideas for botanical artists"*

PLANT NAMES: What to put - or not to put - on our
drawings and paintings.

By Dr Roger Spencer, Senior Horticultural Botanist at
the RBG.

FERNS AND SEAWEEEDS as subjects for botanical
art.

By Golda Isaac and Iona Christianson.

Morning coffee from 10.00am Speakers 10.30am-
12.30pm

Friends \$5.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 9 May on enclosed booking form.

LOW WATER, NOT JUST LESS WATER, WITH AUSTRALIAN PLANTS

Illustrated talk by Rodger Elliot

Thursday 25 May 1995

at 8.00pm

At the National Herbarium Hall

Foremost authority on our native flora, Rodger Elliot,
will give us helpful advice on keeping our gardens
looking good throughout the year, with an accent on
reducing water use. He will take us on a journey
around Australia, showing us where different species
grow, and how they will cope in our gardens.

Supper will be served.

Admission: Friends \$8.00

Others \$10.00

RSVP by 19 May on enclosed booking form.

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS WORKSHOP

Monday 20 March 1995 at 1.00pm

Classes for 1995 with WANDA McPHERSON will re-
commence at the Astronomer's Residence on Monday
20 March at 1.00pm, when you will learn how to make
a floral applique cushion. Further classes will be held
on 3 April, 8 May and 5 June.

Cost - \$10.00 per class. New members welcome.

Jenny Phillips Painting Classes

Second semester beginning 26 April. For further
information, please phone

645 9585, 054 22 6490 or 015 511 410.

WILDLIFE PROWL IN THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, CRANBOURNE

Saturday 18 March 1995

at 3.30 pm

This outing will be conducted by PETER BROWN,
Lecturer in Wildlife Management at Deakin University,
on Saturday 18 March at 3.30pm for a 4.00pm start.
Meet at the Works area offices.

Bring the whole family - also BYO insect repellent,
torches, appropriate clothing, walking shoes and food
and drink for after the walk. Barbecue facilities will be
available.

Numbers limited. Bookings must be made by
contacting RBG Cranbourne on (059) 96 3782.

GARDENS OF EUROPE - A TRIBUTE TO FERDINAND von MUELLER

6 - 27 May 1996

(Itinerary next newsletter)

In 1996, the 150th birthday celebrations of our Royal
Botanic Gardens coincide with the anniversary of
Baron von Mueller's death one hundred years earlier.
The Friends have arranged a tour of Europe which will
incorporate visits to Mueller's birthplace in Schleswig
Holstein near the Danish border, and Tönning and
Husum where he lived. There'll be an opportunity to
meet members of the Ferdinand von Mueller Society,
who are also commemorating this year.

It should be a very exciting tour, both historically and
culturally, as famous cities and gardens are being
visited along the way, including Budapest, Vienna,
Prague and Berlin. If you are interested, please contact
Destination Management, 50 Kingaroy Street,
STAFFORD, 4053.

BENALLA CONFERENCE FOR VICTORIAN FRIENDS

All people interested in botanic gardens are invited to attend the 5th annual conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc. in Benalla.

On 29 and 30 April, speakers will address the way ahead for regional botanic gardens. They include the Minister for Conservation and Environment, Hon. Mark Birrell, and RBG Director Dr Philip Moors.

A keynote address will look at "Roses Round the World", while Conservation Plans for Historic Public Botanic Gardens and Landcare will be under the spotlight also.

Visits to some interesting local gardens and galleries are included in the program. The Benalla Friends have devoted considerable time and energy to organise this weekend, and we encourage RBG Friends to attend.

For a brochure about the conference, please contact the Secretary, Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 589, Benalla, 3671.

BOTANICAL ART IN BERWICK

The Berwick District Arts Council is sponsoring an exhibition of botanical paintings at Southside in Berwick Village from 8 March to 1 April.

The council is very keen to feature work from our Botanical Illustrators Group, and the exhibition will be widely promoted. There is no entry fee, and a commission of 10 per cent will be taken.

Any artists who would like to exhibit should contact Jenny Phillips (054 22 6490) or Jane Bray, Secretary of the Berwick Arts Council (707 1408).

Don't be deterred by the opening date. New works for sale will be accepted throughout the duration of the exhibition



The RBG summer holiday program was a great success, with the Fairies at the Bottom of the Garden a magical drawcard. Clare the Fairy and Friends will return in the Easter school holidays. Photo by JOHN KROTOP courtesy RBG.

LYDIA'S GROWING LEGACY

Just before Christmas, Lydia Bartlett resigned as co-ordinator of the Growing Friends. Lydia nurtured the Growing Friends and the Nursery for almost five years and has been instrumental in it growing from a small group to its current size with the ability to run two major sales a year, the last sale in October grossing \$25,000. Growing Friends' activities also include sales from the Nursery throughout the year and a regular cuttings program in the RBG.

Lydia has not missed an opportunity to assist the RBG, whether by raising funds through sales or by returning plants to the Gardens - always giving of her knowledge and time.

We are sure that you will all want to join in congratulating Lydia on a tremendous and excellent job. We hope that she will enjoy having the load lifted from her shoulders and have fun just getting her hands dirty on the potting bench. Since the beginning of the year, Sharon Beaman has been running the Nursery and already the shoulders are showing signs of strain.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR

4 - 19 November 1995

As described in the summer Botanic News, this two-week springtime tour through the North Island should be a wonderful experience. Accompanied by Rosalind Harker of New Zealand Nature Expeditions Ltd you will visit the Bay of Islands, many private and public gardens and experience the natural beauty and culture of this fascinating country. The trip will be undertaken at a leisurely pace and in comfort.

Cost - \$2,950 includes return air fare, all accommodation, transport and most meals. \$598 for single supplement. Ring Friends' office for an itinerary. To ensure a place on the tour send \$100 deposit by 28 March; the balance is due by 29 September.

An autumn tour of the South Island is being planned for 1996.

1994-95 SUBSCRIPTION

If you have a yellow renewal form in your envelope, this means that, according to our records, you have not paid your current subscription. Unless your subscription is received by the end of March your name will be removed from our mailing list. Only current members will be entitled to receive the special discount to the Mozart concerts.

NEW LOGOS FOR MELBOURNE AND CRANBOURNE



In late 1994 the RBG Board approved the designs for new logos for RBG Melbourne and RBG Cranbourne. They have been created by Brian Sadgrove, a well known designer in Melbourne with considerable

experience in designing corporate marks.

The design work was generously donated to the Gardens by Brian Sadgrove and Pacific Dunlop.

In the new logos, Brian has sought to emphasise the "place" represented by each of the Gardens. The design for RBG Melbourne incorporates a simplified map of the site, including the Ornamental Lake, with a stylised tree representing this characteristic element of Guilfoyle's landscape designs. The tree motif is repeated in the logo for RBG Cranbourne, forming the design link between the two logos and the two Gardens. The three trees in the Cranbourne logo represent the bushland already there, as well as the native gardens yet to be developed.

Both designs present strong, clean images which can be readily reproduced by printers, computers and photocopiers. They can also be used as retail brands or trademarks at each Garden.

Over the next couple of months you will see the new logos appearing on RBG stationery, signs and publicity.



Calling Friendly Cooks

Our energetic, smart band of caterers would welcome new members. If you would be interested in joining this happy group, Pat Wales would be delighted to hear from you on 822 5221.

MOZART BY MOONLIGHT

17 - 25 March

As noted in the Director's Report, Friends will be entitled to purchase \$30 tickets at \$25 for these concerts, at which musicians will be dressed in period costume and provide a narrative with the music.

Please phone the Friends' office on 650 6398 for booking details.

GREECE

4 - 21 October, 1995

'A Botanical Journey' has been organised by the Friends of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens to explore from Athens into the mountainous NW region of Greece.

Cost is \$4,980, with financial benefit going to our Royal Botanic Gardens for any tour participant who belongs to the Melbourne Friends.

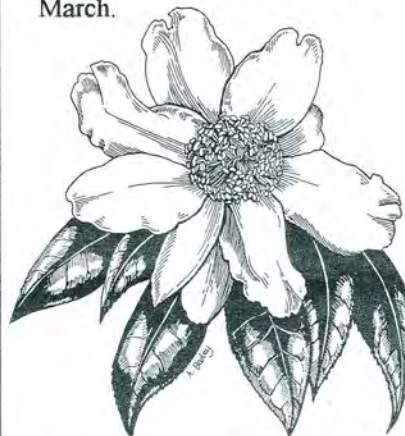
Contact Destination Management if you are interested. Address: 50 Kingaroy Street, STAFFORD, 4053.

FORGOTTEN PLANTS

Two plants were left behind in the coach after the Mornington Peninsula trip on 20 January - a Russian Sage and a Catmint, Six Hills Giant. Please contact the Friends' office for their safe return.

Plant Portraits

Botanical watercolours by Jenny Phillips and eight artists currently attending her classes are on exhibition at Buda, Castlemaine until 30 April. Beth Higgs, Foundation President of the Friends, opened the show on 5 March.



DAYLESFORD FRIENDS

A public meeting was held on 4 February to discuss the possible formation of a Friends group at Daylesford, and an interim committee was formed. Four Melbourne Friends - Eve Brunner, Beth Higgs, de Lacey Lowe and Lawrence Cohn - were delighted to be present and to answer questions about the functions and purpose of a Friends group. They also enjoyed a guided tour of the beautiful Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens, led by Joan Falkender, followed by lunch.

It is hoped the budding Daylesford organisation will be represented at the Association of Friends Conference at Benalla on 29 and 30 April, 1995.

International Alpine Garden Conference

The New Zealand Alpine Garden Society will host this conference in Christchurch from 5 - 10 January, 1996.

For further information contact the Friends' office on 650 6398.

Free Music in the Gardens

Three free concerts will be presented on the Central Lawn, by the Lake, in March.

Saturday 18 March 2.00 - 4.00pm
Marimbas 'n More
Performance and public participation

Sunday 19 March 2.00 - 4.00pm
Les MS
A capella in many styles including Jazz and Folk

Saturday 25 March 2.00 - 4.00pm
Salvation Jane
Vocal harmony and satire presented with a great sense of fun

FREE GUIDED WALKS

Next time you are in the Gardens, why not take a guided walk with one of the Voluntary Guides? Walks leave from the Gardens Shop at 11.00am and 1.00pm every day except Mondays and Saturdays (and Good Friday). Relaxed and informative, the walks feature seasonal highlights, the Gardens' history and more.

Groups of six or more should give one week's notice for these walks. Walks at other times or with special themes may be arranged, with up to four weeks, notice. Donations are welcomed.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Council Christmas Lunch - 13/12/1994

Friends Christmas Dinner - 16/12/1994

Christmas Twilight Picnic in the Gardens - 20/12/1994

Mornington Peninsula Day Trip: Arthurs Seat, "Heronswood" and Twilight Christmas Tea at Cruden Farm - 20/1/1995

Film/Luncheon: "The Secret Garden" - 23/1/1995

Selection Criteria for Exhibiting Botanical Art: Anita Barley, Ian Clarke, Celia Rosser - 21/2/1995
Botanical Illustrators - classes and workshops with Jenny Phillips, Anita Barley and Mary Gregory.
Botanical Embroiderers Workshops.

Telephone Number to Change

Please remember that in May our telephone number will convert to an eight-digit number, with the addition of a '9'. Our number will become 9 650 6398.

Cappie Tavary (left, back row) was farewelled by fellow members of the Friends' Activities and Catering Sub-Committee on 27 January at the home of Judy Woodfull. Cappie is returning to Texas this month.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

The Gardens Shop in the Herbarium has introduced a 10% discount for Friends, in recognition of our contribution to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Remember that Friends are also entitled to a 10% discount on purchases from the Friends' Shop totalling over \$20.

The following businesses very kindly offer special discounts to Friends:

Current membership cards must be shown in order for you to receive these discounts.

Fryers' Nursery
589 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn
5% off plants only

Idaho Nurseries
410 Waverley Rd, E. Malvern
10% off plants only

The Gardener's Bulleen Nursery

105 Bridge St, Bulleen
5% off seedlings
10% off potted plants

Town and Country Gardens
1280 Malvern Rd, Malvern
10% off everything

The Arts Bookshop
1067 High St, Armadale
Holmesglen College of TAFE
inc. the Victorian Schools Nursery
585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley
10% off everything

Canterbury Species Garden
7 Byron St, Canterbury
10% off everything

The Gardeners Corner Store
190-192 New St, Brighton
10% off everything

Collectors Corner
Springvale Rd, Keysborough
10% off all plants

Kew Nursery
Cnr High & Gladstone Sts, Kew
10% off all plants

Wolf Tools
675 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills
10% discount

Burwood Garden Patch
1418 Toorak Rd, Burwood
10% discount.





Botanic News is produced quarterly for the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

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

Patron:

His Excellency the Hon. Richard E. McGarvie

President of the Council of the Friends:

Sir Rupert Hamer

Vice Presidents:

Eve Brunner,

Durham Smith

Secretary:

Lawrence Cohn

Treasurer:

David Baumgartner

Editor:

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OFFICE

Margaret Howes

Joan Baumgartner

Helen Fahey

C/- National Herbarium

Birdwood Avenue

South Yarra Vic 3141

Tel: (03) 650 6398

Fax: (03) 650 7723

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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

There will be an additional theatrical event in the RBG this year - 'Mozart by Moonlight' will be staged for six performances between 17-25 March. It is a musical/theatrical production presenting selected aspects of Mozart's life and music, all in the delightful setting of the Central Lawn on a balmy autumn evening. The program features Patrick Thomas, The Melbourne Mozart Players led by Spiros Rantos, pianist Brachi Tilles, and singers from the Victoria State Opera including Joanna Cole and Roger Howell. Friends of the RBG will receive a special discount on ticket prices (see details on page 6)

'Romeo and Juliet', which has received great critical acclaim, will continue until approximately 23 April at the Observatory site. A short season of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' will run until 12 March.

Unfortunately, another special event planned for the Gardens in March - the Festival Day - had to be cancelled. Despite strenuous efforts by the RBG and Melbourne Rotary, we were unable to secure funding for the event. However, the many good ideas developed with the Friends, Voluntary Guides and Plant Craft Cottage will be kept in mind for future events.

We have been reviewing the opening and closing times of the gates at RBG Melbourne to improve access for visitors and simplify the number of seasonal changes. From 1 March 1995 a new annual schedule will apply to both major and minor gates:

Opening

All year, every day 7.30am

Closing:

November - March 8.30pm

April 6.00pm

May - October 5.30pm

The new seasonal changes in closing times will be co-ordinated with the beginning and ending of daylight saving.

Recent visitors to the Herbarium Building will have encountered ladders, drop-sheets and general paraphernalia associated with the refurbishment of the Herbarium Hall, Gardens Shop and entrance foyer. The redecoration was completed in late February. We are very pleased with the smart appearance and better facilities for visitors to the building and users of the Shop and Hall. I am particularly grateful for the donation of \$8,800 by the Friends to purchase the new chairs for the Hall. They have greatly improved the comfort of all those people sitting in meetings there!

Volume 2 of the *Flora of Victoria* was published in December. Edited by Neville Walsh and Tim Entwisle, and with eight other contributors, and illustrated largely by Anita Barley, it is a magnificent book dealing with about one third of the plant species in Victoria. It has been printed and produced wholly in Melbourne. Sales have been strong and reviews very favourable. Work is well advanced on Volume 3, with publication planned for 1996.

The Friends have provided generous grants for each of the volumes prepared so far (Volume 2 is available from the Gardens Shop at a special discounted price).

Tattersalls have provided \$10,000 for an 'access audit' of the Gardens, to identify aspects affecting visitors with mobility problems or sensory impairment. An action plan will be developed and a pamphlet produced to detail Gardens' facilities for people with disabilities.

Philip Moors
Director