BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SPRING 1992

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On 23 July the Board held a reception in the Herbarium Hall to celebrate their arrival on the scene. Although no bands or bunting were in evidence, this occasion marked an important step forward for our Gardens. Both the Minister Barry Pullen and the Board's Chairman Bill Irvine, in their short speeches, made reference to the significance of this milestone.

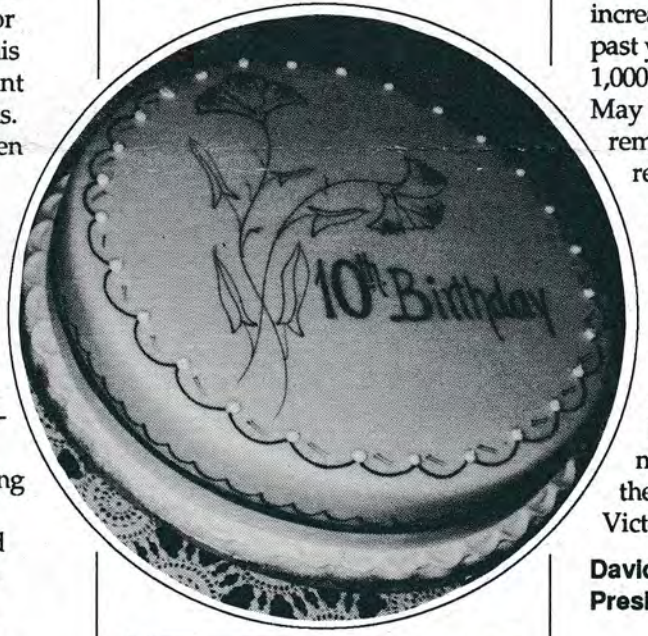
On 3 August the Friends honoured the Board and celebrated our tenth anniversary at a gala reception. It was a grand occasion. Among the special guests were His Excellency the Governor and Mrs McGarvie and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Richard Meldrum. We are happy to report that His Excellency has agreed to be Patron of the Friends.

Money from the Herald-Sun Revitalisation Appeal is now being spent on the following projects:

Californian Garden	**$35,100**
Grass Garden	**$7,500**
William Tell Group	**$33,000**
Indigenous Promontory	**$17,000**

The Friends have contributed $15,000 towards this appeal to cover the planning expenses for these projects. There are many other projects in the pipeline which the HWT Trust is looking to support. Sir Rupert Hamer is Chairman of this Trust and I am also a trustee.

The State Budget delivered on 12 August included a sum of $4.957M for the Royal Botanic Gardens - an increase of about $1.9M on 1991-92. An additional sum of $700,000 has been allocated for the watering system, for the first year of a two-year project.



The Friends 10th birthday cake, and President David Wilkinson.

Following a hearing at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, we have received a permit for additions and refurbishment at the Gardens Kiosk. Planning can now proceed for the work to be undertaken next winter. The permit will enable the Kiosk to continue to hold evening functions.

Each year our activities and endeavours grow in number and interest. With the success of all these events, our membership increased by 18 per cent in the past year, and reached more than 1,000 - a very satisfying situation. May I give you a gentle reminder that membership renewals are due; we value your support, and hope you will continue to enjoy our varied program of activities. Under the new Board, we will adopt a higher public profile. This should attract more members not only from the metropolitan area but also the general populace of Victoria - the Garden State.

David Wilkinson
President

"THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION"

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

Wednesday 9 September - 6.30 for 7.00pm

This exhibition and sale of contemporary watercolour paintings, drawings and prints by Victoria's leading botanic artists and their students will feature works by Anita Barley, Jenny Phillips and Celia Rosser. It will be opened by Emeritus Professor Nancy Millis AC, MBE.

Members: $8.00
Others: $10.00
Of necessity numbers will be limited. RSVP by 1 September on enclosed booking form.

SPRING PROGRAM

HISTORIC FILMS

The first two series of these remarkable films attracted a large and enthusiastic audience. They depict a year in the restoration of a walled Victorian Kitchen Garden set in Chiltern, Berkshire, in the UK.

The films are narrated by Peter Thoday and last one and a half to two hours. We see the garden as it was in Victorian times with a life of great affluence. The first two series followed labour intensive techniques carried out from January, when the ground was icy cold and there was a battle to produce sufficient food for the household and staff, until July's over-abundance.

The growing methods of the day included many hints for today's organic gardeners. The third series covers August until November, and the fourth completes the year with December, repeating 'The Preparation of the Banquet' (shown last year). It will conclude with an excellent film of Kew Gardens. **The third series will be shown on Wednesday 2 September and the fourth on Wednesday 30 September at 8pm at Merton Hall, 86 Anderson Street, South Yarra.**

Supper will be served.
Members: $5.00 (per series)
Others: $8.00 (per series)
RSVP: Fourth Series 28 Sept. on enclosed booking form

BOTANIC ART WORKSHOPS

Monthly: 8 September; 13 October; 10 November
With botanic artist, Anita Barley

The Botanic Art Workshop members were sad to lose Jenny Phillips as their guide/teacher/supervisor. Jenny has gone to France to paint for a year. We shall look forward to her return with interest and enthusiasm. Anita Barley, the Herbarium's distinguished botanical illustrator, was welcomed back to lead our workshop.

Weekly: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 September; 7, 14, 21, 28 October; 4, 11, 18, 25 November

A new group of enthusiastic botanic artists is now working at the Astronomer's Residence each Wednesday from 10am to 3pm. For further enquiries contact Louise Coronel, 827 5910

"THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION" EXHIBITION

Thursday 10 September to Sunday 27 September 1992

Mondays-Saturdays 10am - 4pm
Sundays 11am - 5pm
Together with works by Victoria's leading botanic artists - Anita Barley, Jenny Phillips and Celia Rosser - paintings and drawings by the talented and enthusiastic members of the Friends' monthly Botanic Art Workshops will be presented at this exhibition. Not to be missed!

The 'extended auction' of an original watercolour by Celia Rosser will be an exciting additional feature of the exhibition. Celia, of Banksia fame, has painted this work especially for us. Although she is celebrated for two published volumes of Banksia art, Celia's original work is rarely offered for sale.

Starting from a declared reserve price, we will display the amount progressively bid during the course of the exhibition (while preserving the anonymity of bidders). At the close of the exhibition on 27 September, the highest bidder will become the fortunate owner of a rare botanical art treasure.

For further details see enclosed sheet.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED
Botanical Illustration Exhibition
10 to 27 September 1992

If you can spare a few hours to help at the desk, please phone Margaret or Julie 650 6398

Room For Two More!

THE GRAMPIANS & LITTLE DESERT TOUR

Thursday 1 October to Wednesday 7 October 1992
If you are interested in joining this outstanding tour (as described in Winter Botanic News) please contact the Friends office (650 6398).

GROWING FRIENDS SPRING PLANT SALE

Saturday 10 October 10am to 4pm
Sunday 11 October 10am to 3pm

Once again our hard working, dedicated Growing Friends have produced a wonderful range of unusual and interesting plants to be sold at their Annual Spring Sale. *Your Garden* magazine in October will feature 10 interesting plants for the home garden available from Growing Friends but not readily obtainable through nurseries. These may be purchased only at the Sale.

The plant sale will take place on the lawn in front of the Astronomer's Residence. See enclosed flyer for further details.

NEWCOMERS' WELCOME

Wednesday 16 September at 10.30am. Separate invitations.

HISTORIC FILM

Fourth and last of this series. Wednesday 30 September at 8pm. Details in previous item.

BOOKING FORM - SPRING 1992

BOTANIC ART EXHIBITION LAUNCH
Wednesday 9 September

No. of Members	@	$8.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$10.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 1/9/92

HISTORIC FILM
Wednesday 30 September

No. of Members	@	$5.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$8.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 28/9/92

SPRING GARDEN LUNCHEON
Tuesday 13 October

No. of Members	@	$13.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$15.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 5/10/92

DR ALFRED LAU
Thursday 15 October

No. of Members, etc.	@	$4.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$6.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 12/10/92

MORNING COFFEE with KAY FAIRLEY
Monday 9 November

No. of Members	@	$3.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$4.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 6/11/92

FLORA OF CANARY ISLANDS
STEPHEN FORBES
Monday 23 November

No. of Members	@	$4.00	.....
No. of Others	@	$5.00	.....

Total $..... RSVP 20/11/92

Please indicate which activities you wish to attend and return this form with your remittance and self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.
National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, Sth Yarra 3141
Telephone: (03) 650 6398

Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME: .....

TELEPHONE NO: .....

SPRING GARDEN LUNCHEON
TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 1992

Join us on a visit to *Cumbrae*, the garden of Christobel and John Wark and *Colinton*, the garden of Margaret and Arthur Goode.

Cumbrae combines both beauty and charm. It is a family garden with mature trees and attractive landscaping together with a profusion of fruit trees and vegetable beds - a practical and productive garden with remarkable views from what is considered to be the highest point in Melbourne. Morning coffee will be served here.

Colinton was the creation of Edna Walling with an input from Ellis Stones at a later date. It has been lovingly maintained by Margaret Goode and her staff for over 30 years. It is a unique property featuring a blend of mature trees, shrubs and well maintained beds. The garden encircles a handsome two-storey Tudor style house. A basket lunch will be served in the courtyard surrounding the pool.

Join us on a visit in your own car, or ring the Friends' Office should you require transport.

Meet at 10.30am at *Cumbrae*, 117 Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn. At approximately 12 noon we will arrive at *Colinton*, 92 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury. (Parking in Avenue Athol).

Members: $13.00 Others: $15.00

RSVP: 5 October 1992 on enclosed booking form

DR ALFRED LAU

A Botanist from Mexico with a keen interest in plant research, Dr Lau has travelled extensively - particularly in Mexico and the Americas - collecting cacti seed and plants, orchids and related plants for study. His home has become a Mecca for visiting botanists, plant enthusiasts and plant friends.

Conjointly with the Royal Botanic Gardens, the Friends have arranged a meeting with Dr Lau as guest speaker. Dr Lau's talk with cover tropical orchids with habitat emphasis and other tropical plants and, hopefully, a little of his general research and of his life work with Mexican Indians. Dr Lau and his wife have lived in Mexico for 36 years. They have dedicated their lives to the welfare and education of boys from the various indigenous tribal regions of Southern Mexico. The talk will be supported by slides. Supper will be served.

Thursday 15 October 1992 at 8.00pm in the lecture theatre, Merton Hall CEGGS, 86 Anderson St, South Yarra.

Admission: Friends, Guides and Staff $4.00
Others $6.00

RSVP: 12 October on enclosed booking form.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The sixth Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Monday 26 October 1992 in the Auditorium of the National Herbarium at 8.00 pm.

Further details will be sent to members in October, with a copy of the annual report. Nominations for Council closed on 26 August.

The Friends are delighted that a member of the Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Pauline Ladiges, Professor of Botany at the University of Melbourne, has agreed to be our guest speaker (after the brief business session). Professor Ladiges has entitled her talk "The role of research at Herbaria and Botanic Gardens - 'systematic' botany and the case of the eucalypts".

The AGM talk will be preceded by Dessert and Coffee from 7.00pm

MORNING COFFEE WITH KAY FAIRLEY

Our indefatigible traveller and plant lover, Kay, will share with us (informally) her experiences on a recent boat trip around the Kimberley. (Kay, of Benalla, is a member of the Friends' Activities Committee.) She travelled with a group of naturalists from Western Australia - 12 passengers in all - and three crew. The journey began in Broome - sailing into rivers, sounds, visiting islands (all uninhabited and each one unique) - and finished, after two weeks, in Wyndham.

Members: $3.00 Others: $4.00

Monday 9 November at 10.30am at the Astronomer's Residence - adjacent to LaTrobe's Cottage, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

RSVP: 6 November on enclosed booking form

FLORA OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

Monday 23 November at 8pm, at the National Herbarium

Illustrated talk by Stephen Forbes, Principal Horticultural Scientist at the National Herbarium

The Canary Islands maintain an astonishingly diverse flora varying from arid succulent shrubland to wet loro forest and alpine heathland. In Spring 1989 Stephen joined an expedition from Bonn Botanical Gardens to Tenerife. His talk, illustrated by slides, will present a cross-section of the flora of the Canary Islands, and discuss the potential and problems of the flora in cultivation.

Supper will be served.

Members: $4.00 Others: $5.00

RSVP: 20 November 1992 on enclosed booking form

RECENT EVENTS

MORNING COFFEE - JUDY ANN STEWART

John Taylor, Acting Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, was guest speaker at a Morning Coffee Party held at the South Yarra home of Judy Ann Stewart in May. Judy Ann and her friends raised $1011. We are very grateful for this gesture and the excellent result. Perhaps other Friends could consider arranging similar small functions!

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Beechworth Tour Reunion held at Murray and Pat Wales' home - 26 June.
Talk by Dr Roger Spencer - 'The Grey Garden' - 18 June
Volunteers' Morning Coffee - 7 July
Newcomers' Welcome - 8 July
Talk by Prof. Johannes H. Voigt - 'Baron von Mueller' - 15 July
Talk by Rob Ferber - 'Californian Plants' - 27 July. (News of Rob's visit came too late for notification of his talk in the Winter Botanic News.)
Reception to welcome new Board and celebrate 10th anniversary of the Friends - 3 August.
Talk by Peter Lumley - 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' - 11 August
Film Luncheon - "The Doctor" - 24 August

WEEKEND SEMINAR

The second weekend seminar for Friends and other support groups of Victorian (and Albury) Botanic Gardens on 23 and 24 May, was judged a great success. Fourteen Gardens were represented. We are pleased to report that an umbrella organisation "Association of the Friends of Botanic Gardens, Victoria" was formed. Lawrence Cohn, Secretary of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. was appointed to the Interim Committee. The Seminar was arranged by the Melbourne Friends; it is expected that a similar event will be held in May 1993 in Ballarat.

Lawrence has produced a comprehensive 11-page record of proceedings which may be obtained from the Friends office for $3.00.

Editor

The Friends welcome our new Editor, Mrs Heather Ironmonger. Heather has had many years' experience with publications and community information at the Department of Conservation and Environment. She replaces Dianna McClellan and will be responsible for the Friends quarterly Botanic News and for the Botanic Magazine.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Make a note of the date and join us for this happy and relaxed end of the year 'get-together' on Friday 18 December. All details in Summer Botanic News.

SOME 1993 EVENTS

We are planning a one-day trip to the Peninsula in January and a visit to three Dandenongs gardens in February. Friends' bookings are a possibility for two summer theatrical performances in the Gardens: *Wind in the Willows* and *Twelfth Night*.

NORTH EAST TASMANIA TOUR

Monday 8 to Monday 15 February

The North West Tasmania Tour last February was so successful that a number of members expressed a desire to return. An exciting eight-day tour has been planned, covering the North Eastern section of Tasmania.

Flying to Launceston, we will stay there for three nights. During that time we will visit public and private gardens, historic George Town, and the Bridestowe Lavender Farm. Accompanied by a Ranger, we will spend a day visiting the Great Lakes area including Liffey Falls, Pine Lake and drive to Lake Augusta to view the alpine heathlands.

Then down the East coast to Coles Bay, where we will stay at the lovely Freycinet Lodge for two nights, exploring Freycinet National Park for a day. Next we will stay at Cradle Valley Lodge for two nights. En route we will visit Campbell Town, Ross and the spectacular Mole Creek Caves. Peter Sims, who joined us on our previous visit, will guide us at Cradle Valley.

Cost: Approximately $1,120 twin share accomm.
$1,535 single accomm.

This includes return air fare, accommodation, all main meals, entrances to gardens, transport and guides.

Deposit: $250 now, which enables your air fare to be purchased at current prices.

Balance: by 1 January 1993. Booking in order of receipt. Numbers limited to 20.

Payment of deposit to Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra. 3141
Enquiries: Lesley Clark 807 3984

AUTUMN WESTERN DISTRICT GARDEN TOUR

Thursday 25 to Sunday 28 March 1993

Note these dates in your diary and join our Western District Garden Tour which includes Warrnambool and Port Fairy. We will re-visit *Dalvui, Bortkoi* and *Woolongoon* and inspect several new gardens in the Warrnambool area, including an exceptional native garden. We are planning two special dinners to link up with Regional Gardens Friends' groups.

GROWING FRIENDS

As well as the Annual Spring Plant Sale on 10 and 11 October, Friends are given the opportunity to purchase choice plants at the Growing Friends' nursery every Friday between 10.30am and 12 noon, except in October. Now is your chance to buy plants before the sale crowds. The nursery is located beyond the Weights & Measures building (at the rear of the Astronomer's Residence).

FRIENDS SHOP

Several of our treasures (namely volunteers) have recently retired, and we are urgently searching for replacements. Specifically, for the first Thursday of each month from 10.30am to 4.30pm but **most urgently** one or two people are needed for the fourth Sunday of each month from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Sundays are very busy, especially during the summer months when the shop is often packed, and it is most important that we are fully staffed. I will happily train anyone who hasn't had any shop experience. WE NEED YOU!

PS. A selection of $1.00 Christmas cards will be on sale soon.... so get in early.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS!

The following nurseries and bookshop 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, East 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. Victorian Schools Nursery
585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley
10% off everything

FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

Botanic News is printed 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

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David Wilkinson

Vice Presidents:
Golda Isaac, Lesley Clark

Secretary:
Lawrence Cohn

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David Taplin

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The fruits of the Herald-Sun Gardens Appeal are now beginning to show, as planning proceeds for projects such as the Californian Garden (near C gate) and the rockery and garden next to the William Tell shelter.

We have been particularly fortunate to have Rob Ferber of Caltech University, California in Melbourne for two weeks, assisting with the planting plan and the interpretation of the Californian Garden. Rob spent time with Warren Penna (RBG Senior Gardener) last year while he was at Huntington Botanical Garden on exchange. This has been an excellent opportunity for Gardens and Herbarium staff to share Rob's extensive knowledge of the Californian flora.

Projects funded by Priority Victoria are also steaming ahead. One major achievement has been the installation of a new computer aided draughting system (CAD) which will be used for all future mapping of the Gardens. CAD will significantly increase the flexibility and efficiency of the Gardens' mapping system, enabling information on the Gardens' census to be directly linked to maps. Utilities in the Gardens such as water mains and gas pipes will also be mapped using this system. It has been partly funded by the Herald-Sun Gardens Appeal.

The rare and threatened plants micro-propagation program is also progressing. Andrew Batty spent a week in July at the Australian National Botanic Garden gathering information on the best techniques for terrestrial orchid propagation. This information will be used to germinate seed from some of Victoria's rare and threatened orchids.

Work on the Melbourne Indigenous Seed Bank continues, with Jane Robinson at the helm. Seed is now available for approved vegetation projects and facilities for individuals to clean and store seed are also being provided. For more information, phone Greening Australia on (03) 654 1800.

The Priority Victoria project at the Cranbourne Botanic Garden - the construction of boardwalks - is also well underway with 13 additional staff working on this task.

The area on the Eastern Lawn for the XERISCAPE garden (trademark name for gardens using practical design principles to conserve water) has now been prepared. An irrigation system has been installed and planting will begin in spring. Melbourne Water is funding this garden.

The contract for the design of the Gardens' irrigation system has been signed and awarded to Hydro-Plan and Dare Scroggie consulting engineers. Planning can proceed for this $1.3m system, which will not only increase the efficiency of watering in the Gardens but will release gardeners from the tedium of hand-watering for other more creative work.

A new publication, *The Plant Collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens*, will be available by late September. It describes some of the major plant collections and provides a different context in which visitors can explore the Gardens. Other publications recently printed include the *Census of Victorian Plants*, an updated history booklet and a self-guiding walk booklet called *A Garden Promenade.* They may be obtained at the Visitor Centre.

Roslyn Semler
Public Programs