



BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SPRING 1993

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are all sad to say farewell to Margaret MacGregor, who has served the Friends with such cheerful dedication and efficiency for the past six years. We will miss her soft Scottish burr in the office and at the Council table, and we wish her a happy holiday in Scotland. As her successor, we welcome another Margaret – Margaret Howes – who joined us in the office on 24 August.

The Friends' membership has recorded a net increase of 11 per cent in the past 12 months. We are preparing a new leaflet to attract more people to our group, and will distribute it widely. We are also designing a card for gift subscriptions, and would urge you to consider giving a Friends' membership as a birthday or Christmas present, or perhaps as a 'thank you'. This card will be available before the end of the year.

Recently our Council was approached by a Friend wishing to donate a seat to the Royal Botanic Gardens as a memorial to her parents. Following discussions with the Director, who believes visitors to the Gardens would benefit greatly from an increased number of seats, this idea has been developed and adopted by the Friends as an ongoing program. I am happy to announce this new tax-deductible scheme by which Friends will be invited to donate seats for use in the Gardens. A sum of \$1,000 will cover the cost of a durable Messmate iron-framed seat, a small plaque, and maintenance in perpetuity.

The Friends Council has resolved to donate a seat, and will be happy

to make necessary arrangements for gifts from members.

The Gardens suffered a tragic loss when the William Tell Rest House was recently destroyed by fire in an act of vandalism, shortly after it had been completely renovated with funds donated by the Gas & Fuel Corporation through the Herald-Sun Appeal. Fortunately there has been very little damage of this nature in the past century and a half, and we hope this was just an isolated incident.

The Friends' Shop is operating well in its new larger and more central location in the Kiosk area, after a well-managed move from its former cramped premises. Friends should pay a visit, and encourage others to do so, to view the fine display of goods from which we hope to derive even more income in the summer season.

Sir Rupert Hamer
President of the Friends

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The destruction by fire of the William Tell Rest House in the early hours of 10 July was a shock to the Gardens and our visitors. This beautiful building, with its historical links to William Guilfoyle and his travels in Europe, had been re-opened for only three weeks after being renovated. Police have not identified the cause of the fire. The shelter was insured and the Board has decided that it will be replaced by a replica.

Work has commenced on the three projects being sponsored by Pacific Dunlop Limited in 1993-94. A conservation report has been

prepared for F-Gate Lodge (adjacent to the Herbarium) and the surrounding area, which will guide our plans for developing the new Visitor Centre there. Plans are being drawn up for the first stage of repairs to Gardens House (the former Director's Residence situated behind the Herbarium). These will concentrate on external works, including painting the building and repairing the roof. Applications have been invited for the third project, a post-doctoral research fellowship for three years to make use of the botanical collections in the National Herbarium of Victoria.

Work has been completed on the Business Plan and the Corporate Plan, two major documents which will shape the next few years of the Royal Botanic Gardens' activities. The Business Plan sets a budgetary framework for our operations from 1993 until our Sesquicentenary in 1996, and the Corporate Plan establishes our overall priorities and goals for the next five years. Copies of the Corporate Plan will be publicly available, probably in late September.

Following a restructure in the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Mr Don Saunders, Director of National Parks, has replaced Mr Tim Harding as departmental representative on the Board. Tim wrote the discussion paper that led to the establishment of the Board, and subsequently made a valuable contribution as a board member in our first year.

W.R.M. Irvine
Chairman of RBG Board

SPRING ACTIVITIES

Spring in South Gippsland Friday 3 September

There may be last-minute vacancies for this bus trip. If you are interested, ring the Friends' office immediately.

"A CURIOUS STYLE FROM NATURE"

**Botanical Porcelain in
England and Australia**
*An illustrated lecture by a
world authority on ceramics*

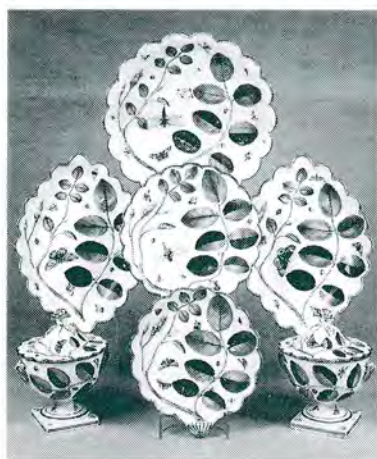
JOHN SANDON

**Wednesday 15 September
2.00 pm - 4.00 pm**

**National Herbarium Hall,
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra**

John Sandon, Director of Ceramics at Phillips Fine Art Auctioneers, London, has written many books on this subject.

John will refer to early Meissen, Chelsea (Hans Sloane) Derby dessert services and the botanical sources (discussing artists responsible), culminating in Royal Worcester with designs by Ellis Rowan copied on to porcelain for the Sydney dealers Flavelle Bros. He will be showing many original paintings by Ellis Rowan preserved in the Worcester factory archives.



If you have a special piece of porcelain you would like John to evaluate, please bring it with you. Refreshments will be served. Friends \$10.00 Others \$13.00 RSVP by 13 September on enclosed booking form.

GARDEN GATHERING

*Ideas for occasional
flower arrangers*

**TALK, FLORAL
DEMONSTRATIONS AND
LUNCH WITH
SYLVIA CHURCHILL**

**Monday 27 September 1993
from 11.00 am**

**At the National Herbarium,
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra**

The Friends' Activities Subcommittee members are delighted that Sylvia Churchill, wife of the former Director of the RBG, Dr David Churchill, will present this floral demonstration and talk.

Sylvia's demonstration will include suggestions about arranging flowers from your garden and how to make the most of an unexpected gift.

Sylvia's interest in floral arrangement began in 1970; she has exhibited on the show bench and enjoyed giving workshops in Melbourne and country Victoria. She was founding convener of St Paul's Cathedral Flower Guild and assisted with numerous flower exhibitions including Victoria's 150th birthday celebration of flowers on an island in the Royal Botanic Gardens, at the World Congress Centre and the Exhibition Buildings.

Our capable, enthusiastic catering members will provide lunch.

Friends \$11.00 Others \$14.00

RSVP by 21 September on enclosed booking form.

ADVENTURES ON CAPE YORK PENINSULA WITH DR JIM WILLIS

**Wednesday 6 October
at 8.00 pm.**

**At the National Herbarium,
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra.**

Dr Jim Willis and his wife Mavis have recently returned from a trip to Cape York Peninsula. Come and share some of their wonderful experiences at an illustrated talk given by Dr Willis.

Supper will be served.

Friends \$5.00 Others \$7.00

RSVP by 4 October on enclosed booking form.

GROWING FRIENDS' ANNUAL SPRING SALE

**Saturday 9 and Sunday 10
October**

Please see enclosed dodger.

HANDMADE LACE - FLORAL DESIGNS

**Monday 18 October - 10.30am
At the National Herbarium,
Birdwood Ave, South Yarra**

Mrs Patricia Begg (McNair), popular speaker and demonstrator, has once again accepted our invitation to visit the Friends.

Do join us for a fascinating talk about the intricacies of the beautiful art of handmade lace.

Mrs Begg will concentrate on lace featuring floral designs.

Morning coffee/tea from
10.30 am to 11.00 am.

Friends \$6.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 14 October on enclosed booking form.

BIRD WALKS 25 - 31 October

The Gardens Voluntary Guides will conduct bird walks during Bird Week. Contact the Visitor Centre in the Herbarium for further details.

MALLACOOTA WITH DR JIM WILLIS 26 - 30 October

This popular trip is fully booked. We regret that many Friends were disappointed.

COURTYARD GARDENS OF SOUTH YARRA

**Friday 5 November
10.00 am - 4.00 pm**

We are to have the special pleasure of visiting seven small gardens in South Yarra, thanks to the generosity of their owners. They demonstrate how very different design approaches can

successfully create a garden within a limited space. Entry tickets to the seven gardens, together with detailed maps, will be available on 5 November at 'C' gate (in Anderson Street and opposite Merton Hall) or just inside at the Refreshments Table in the vicinity of the Tecoma Pavilion (through 'C' gate and the Rose Garden to the right). The courtyard gardens are within easy walking distance from 'C' gate and entry to each garden will be obtained by the showing of one's ticket anytime between 10 am and 4 pm.

Dr Philip Moors, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium, will speak briefly to the garden viewers at 11.00 am at the Tecoma Pavilion.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available in the Rose Garden between 11.30 am and 2.30 pm (enter 'C' gate).

Friends \$20.00 Others \$24.00

BUS TRIP TO MOUNT MACEDON GARDENS

Sunday 14 November 1993

Two very special gardens at Mount Macedon, 'Forest Glade' and 'Lewisham', will be open to the Friends. En route we'll visit the Gisborne home of a Friend, Isobel Hood, for morning tea/coffee. After this break, we'll move on to 'Lewisham', owned by Gilli Raftopoulos, an interior designer, garden and landscape consultant. Her beautiful new garden contains rare and exotic plantings, a series of lakes and waterfalls, and many birds. It is not normally open to the public.

After exploring the garden and having lunch, we'll move on to 'Forest Glade', a different style of garden which was established in 1942.

Until 1971 this 4.2 ha property belonged to Mr and Mrs Laurie Newton, who created and developed the beautiful garden. They introduced many rare and interesting plants including weeping maples. Of particular note is the Dove Tree from China (*Davidia involucrata*) and a well established purple-leaved form of the English Oak. More recent additions under new ownership include a Japanese garden, bonsai house, fish ponds, a bird aviary and many fine statues.

The original house, and the garden in its immediate vicinity, were victims of the 1983 bushfire. A new house has been erected on a different site. The major part of this old garden, with its countless exotic trees and shrubs, remained intact.

Time permitting, we plan to make a short visit to Tristania Nursery at the foot of Mt Macedon.

Please bring BYO lunch, a thermos with tea/coffee, a rug and comfortable walking shoes.

Join the bus at 9.00 am sharp at the front of the National Gallery, St. Kilda Road. We plan to be back at the Gallery by 5.30 pm.

Price: \$26.00 (Covering transport, entry fees and morning coffee).

RSVP by 8 November on enclosed booking form.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

Tuesday 16 November

At the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

Meet in the Herbarium Hall at 10.00 am for coffee.

The first speaker will be Marc Mamet at 10.30 am.

The topic is 'Brushes for watercolour painting – their construction, use and care'. He will also talk about coloured pencils, and show samples of both brushes and pencils. Mr Mamet represents Cormack's, a company which imports art materials.

At 11.30 am Beverley Graham will tell us about 'Design and Composition in Botanical Art'. Beverley is well known as a botanical artist and designer of cards and stationery using Australian flora. Her design of the first 'Thinking of You' postage stamp was one of Australia's most popular issues.

After BYO lunch there will be an opportunity to see work by botanical artists. Please bring your work with you for display and discussion.

Coffee and tea provided.

Friends \$5.00 Others \$12.00

RSVP by 12 November on enclosed booking form

HAZEL LE ROUGETAL

A Heritage of Roses

Friday 19 November at 8.00 pm.

At the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

Mrs Hazel le Rougetal, Vice President of the Historic Roses group of the Royal National Rose Society of England, will be the keynote speaker at the 8th International Heritage Roses conference in Adelaide in November. She has accepted our invitation to give an illustrated talk to the Friends in Melbourne.

Mrs le Rougetal has made an extensive study of the spread and development of the rose throughout the world; she has been a regular contributor to publications including the prestigious Country Life. Recently she gave the James Mason Lecture (the main Rose Show lecture) in four British cities and has lectured in USA, Bermuda, Europe and New Zealand.

Supper will be served.

Friends \$10.00 Others \$13.00

RSVP by 17 November on enclosed booking form.

BOTANIC MAGAZINE

Preparation of the next *Botanic Magazine* is well advanced. We are very grateful to one of our members, Ellen Mercer, who has accepted responsibility for seeking advertisers. Any Friends who could suggest the names of possible advertisers are asked to contact Ellen on 876 1179, by 7 September, or leave a message in the office on 650 6398.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 22 November at 8.00 pm
Dessert and Port from 7.30 pm
At the National Herbarium

Nominations for election to the Council will close on 22 September. One Vice-President, the Secretary and three ordinary members of the Council are to be elected. Nomination forms may be obtained from the Friends' office. Further details of the meeting, at which the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Dr Philip Moors, will be guest speaker, will be sent to Members early in November.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 17 December 1993

Please note date in your diary. Full details in Summer Botanic News

CHINA '94

23 April - 15 May 1994

An itinerary enclosed with your Newsletter gives details of this very exciting trip. Under the leadership of Dr Ben Wallace of the National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, and his wife, Xiaomei, it should be the experience of a lifetime. The tour is reasonably flexible providing alternative interesting things for you to do should you not wish to participate in all activities. Maximum number on tour - 20 people, minimum 15 people.

Enquiries to Lesley Clark (807 3984)

or Ken Osetroff, Destination Management (07) 359 6651

Note: This is not a tourist garden tour and does include walking in native forests, climbing monastery steps and high alpine meadows above the tree line. It may be inadvisable for people with heart problems and breathing difficulties to undertake this tour.

COMING EVENTS 1994

(Details in Summer Botanic News)

*Day trip to Mornington Peninsula and Dame Elisabeth Murdoch's Cruden Farm, Thursday 13 January 1994

*A Special Walk with the Voluntary Guides

*A Day Trip to Wilson Botanic Park at Berwick

*Seminar on Plants for the Melbourne Climate

*Dr Hugh Johnson - British author, gardener and vigneron

*Cranbourne Gardens, day trip

*Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Seminar in Geelong, May 1994

Creative Botanical Embroidery Workshops

Would any members interested in joining classes in creative botanical embroidery in 1994 please contact the Friends' Office (650 6398). Highly experienced tutors from The Embroiderers Guild of Victoria have very kindly agreed to take the classes teaching a range of stitching techniques. We would like to know whether you are a beginner or more advanced.

PACIFIC DUNLOP SPONSORSHIP

Pacific Dunlop Ltd has become the first major corporate sponsor for the Royal Botanic Gardens, with the magnificent sum of \$2.2 million to be donated over 10 years. The sponsorship celebrates the centenary of Pacific Dunlop's foundation in Victoria and is the largest donation ever made by the company. Details of the three projects being supported for 1993-94, to a value of \$500,000, are described in the Chairman's report on page 1.

The announcement on 18 June was marked by the planting of two trees: the Premier, the Hon. Jeff Kennett, planted an *Aesculus californica* (a Horse Chestnut) and the Chairman of Pacific Dunlop, Mr John Gough, planted a *Lomatia hirsuta*, a native of South America.

GROWING FRIENDS

Friends are reminded that they can usually buy plants from the Growing Friends' collection on Friday mornings between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. However, purchases will not be possible on 1, 8 and 15 October while the Growing Friends prepare for their Annual Spring Sale. This will be held on Saturday 9 October from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and Sunday 10 October from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. (See enclosed flyer).

Among the treasures being offered at the sale are superb irises from the Royal Botanic Gardens' iris bed, together with a range of salvias and other hardy and colourful perennials.

The Growing Friends' nursery is situated on the Observatory site, north of the Astronomer's Residence. The Growing Friends would like to thank Darren Edwards, former RBG gardener, who has now joined the staff at the Melbourne Zoo. Darren's ever-willing and enthusiastic assistance, advice and time has been greatly appreciated. He will be missed and we wish him well. We're delighted to report that another gardener, Warren Penna, has volunteered to take on Darren's role.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Terry Smyth: Illustrated talk - 'Collecting Seed in China' - 9/6/93

Winter Solstice Dinner at the Herbarium - 18/6/93

William Tell Rest House - Re-launching - 22/6/93

Dr Tim Entwistle - Algae in Australian Streams and the French Connection - 12/7/93

Rob Cross and Films - Sequoias, Redwoods and The Butchart Gardens in North America - 20/7/93

Charles Turner - Plants for Paper Making - 28/7/93

Council Farewell Lunch for Margaret MacGregor - 10/8/93

Botany & Conservation Framing for Botanical Artists - 24/8/93



Margaret MacGregor

We are sad to lose Miss Margaret MacGregor, the Friends' efficient and friendly Executive Officer for the past six years. We extend to Margaret our warmest good wishes for her retirement and for a wonderful holiday in her native Scotland. We are pleased that she will keep in touch as a Friend of the Royal Botanic Gardens.
Thank you Margaret!

Mrs Margaret Howes – Executive Officer

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Margaret Howes has been appointed to succeed Miss Margaret MacGregor. She will work in the Friends' Office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Howes has had extensive secretarial experience in Victoria, South Australia, the United Kingdom and South Africa and was most recently Secretary to the Head of the School of Botany in The University of Melbourne. She has an interesting, if indirect, link with our group, in that her father, Dr Colin Robjohns, was an initiator of the Adelaide Friends and was their editor for 10 years. We welcome Mrs Howes to our midst and look forward to a very happy association with her.

Sir Rupert Hamer bids farewell to Margaret MacGregor, watched by Beryl Williams and Joan Baumgartner, with whom she had worked in the Friends' office

WINTER SOLSTICE DINNER

The Winter Solstice Dinner on 18 June, we are proud to announce, was one of our most successful events. The long and hard work of transforming the Herbarium Hall from its natural state to an inviting, glittering, colourful and 'exotic' Dining Hall was well justified. The excellent caterers (Table Matters), the donated drinks and raffle items, the noted speaker (Mr Keith Dunstan) and the sense of goodwill all added to the general feeling of *bonhomie*.

The Activities Sub-committee would like to thank most warmly all who assisted in many and varied ways – including staff members of the Royal Botanic Gardens and National Herbarium; the caterers and their staff; Keith Dunstan; the sponsors – Table Matters, Mr Party Hire and Mitchelton Wines; and the donors of the raffle items – Callil's Restaurant, The Friends' Shop, Growing Friends, Hilton on the Park, Idaho Nurseries, Jeffrey's Book Shop, Macmillan Education Australia, and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

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

The following nurseries and bookshop very kindly offer special discounts to Friends.

Current membership cards must be shown 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

FRIENDS' SHOP

After a successful move to our new shop premises, we are hoping to see even more Friends visiting us. We have a range of new cards with beautiful scenes from the Botanic Gardens, and unusual cane and metal baskets. There are also attractive new green windcheaters with collar and front-buttoning, sporting the Friends' logo.



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

Patron:
His Excellency the
Hon. Richard E. McGarvie
**President of the Council
of the Friends:**
Sir Rupert Hamer
Vice Presidents:
Eve Brunner, Lesley Clark
Secretary:
Lawrence Cohn
Treasurer:
David Taplin
Editor:
Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OFFICE
Margaret Howes
Joan Baumgartner
Julie Maddock

C/- National Herbarium
Birdwood Avenue
South Yarra Vic 3141
Tel: (03) 650 6398
Fax: (03) 655 2350

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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

The most visible project in the Gardens at present is the installation of the automatic irrigation system. The system will revolutionise our watering of lawns and plants, enabling us to deliver the right volume of water in the right place at the right time. We expect to reduce the total amount of water used and to free garden staff from the tedious summer task of dragging around sprinklers and hoses.

The project is being funded mainly by a special grant from the Victorian Government, with additional sponsorship from Pacific Dunlop Limited, Melbourne Water and the L.R. Nelson Corporation. At present the new ring mains are being installed by the contractors, Planned Irrigation Projects. They are making steady progress laying the large pipes which will carry water throughout the Gardens. Once the mains have been laid the smaller lateral pipes will be installed to the lawns and gardens. The project, now about 20 per cent complete, should be finished – weather permitting – by mid-March 1994.

The Trig Point Lookout at Cranbourne Botanic Garden is finished now. Its striking metal and timber design provides unrivalled views across bushland and ponds in the Garden to Western Port and Port Phillip Bay, the City, and the Dandenongs. It is sure to become a major local tourist attraction, and is yet another reason for visiting these delightful Gardens.

The Lookout will be opened officially on Saturday 11 September 1993 by the Hon. Mark Birrell MP, Minister for Conservation and Environment. Its construction was funded by a grant from the Parks and Waterways Program of Melbourne Water, with assistance also from the Maud Gibson Trust.

The Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Garden now has its own nursery which

was opened by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch on 27 June 1993. It has been constructed by a keen group of Friends with a grant from the Parks and Waterways Program of Melbourne Water and assistance from local Cranbourne firms with materials. The nursery will be used to propagate plants collected in the Gardens to provide stock for sale to support the activities of the Friends.



Returning to South Yarra, the Temple of the Winds – one of the Gardens' most beautiful buildings – has been completely refurbished. Designed by William Guilfoyle and erected in 1901, the Temple soon became a popular promenading spot for Sunday visitors, with extensive views across the Yarra to Richmond. Over the years trees and undergrowth have obscured this view, and hidden the Temple itself. Some of the sight lines have now been carefully opened up once again, and the Grey Garden below the Temple has been extended. The building itself has been repaired and repainted with another grant from the Parks and Waterways Program. It now looks splendid, and will be a focus of interest from Alexandra Avenue and the nearby banks of the Yarra. Later this year we plan to install floodlights to highlight the Temple at night – and create a new visual symbol for Melbourne.

Philip Moors, Director