

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SPRING 1994

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The restored William Tell Rest House was officially re-opened on 12th July by Mr Keith Fitzmaurice, past Chairman of the Gas and Fuel Corporation. In fact it is in many ways an improvement on its predecessor, which was destroyed, in that the new version has attractive windows and therefore gives better protection. Also, several of the trees which were badly damaged by the fire have been removed, giving the Rest House a beautiful view across the Lake. The surrounding garden has also been renovated, so that in its new paint, the Rest House is a real ornament to the Gardens. We are most grateful for Gas and Fuel's sponsorship, through the Herald-Sun Gardens Revitalisation Appeal, which enabled the original structure to be renovated in 1993.

The Friends are closely involved in the planning of an Autumn Festival in the Gardens on the weekend 3/4 March next year, which is designed to show off the Gardens in their many aspects, and to bring many thousands to enjoy them. The Growing Friends will conduct their Autumn Sale that weekend, and the Festival will feature a Concert in the Myer Music Bowl on the Saturday night, being sponsored by Rotary; all proceeds will go to the Gardens. The Friends are also sharing in the planning for the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of the Gardens and the commemoration of the centenary of the death of Baron von Mueller in 1996. In particular, the Friends have undertaken to conduct the "Baron's Ball" in Government House on 28 June 1996, to mark the long association of the Gardens with its neighbour - an association which, of course, continues. The ball is particularly

appropriate because of the Baron's great love of dancing. The Friends' Office is now fully established in the Astronomer's Residence and the staff is relishing its greater space and convenience on the ground floor.

In particular we welcome Anne Wilson, who has taken the place of Julie Maddock. Julie is moving to full time employment after some years of devoted service to us, for which she has our full admiration and gratitude.

Sir Rupert Hamer
President of the Friends

FROM THE BOARD

Friends may have seen a recent article and editorial in *The Age* about a major capital project to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the RBG in 1996. Although supportive, the report was somewhat premature, because the project is still being considered by the Victorian Government and a decision is several months away.

The exciting proposal - with the working title 'Gallery of Gardens' -

would link the Observatory Site to the RBG by the addition of the triangle of land currently managed by the City of Melbourne. The new developments could include a series of display gardens designed by the world's best landscape designers, a new entry plaza and visitor information centre, exhibition areas, botanical art studios, auditorium, shop, restaurant, and cafe. Money from the retail facilities, auditorium and entry to the display gardens will assist the Gardens to become more self-supporting, but there would be no entry fee to the main Gardens. The existing historic buildings on the Observatory Site would be refurbished for new uses.

A detailed review has been completed of the structure, position requirements and job classifications of the Research and Herbarium Division in the Royal Botanic Gardens. The review was undertaken to improve the Division's structure, introduce broad-banding to job classifications, and enhance comparability of the Division's positions with those in other Australian herbaria.



Rod Dunstan, RBG Education Officer, and Dr Philip Moors with members of the Council of the Friends, at the presentation of the Yamaha Buggy donated by the Friends for education activities.

FROM THE BOARD *continued*

The Division now has three branches - Collections, Research and Library - each of which reports to the Chief Botanist, Dr Jim Ross. The branches will assist in creating better career paths, greater accountability and job satisfaction. Each branch will be led by a manager. Other changes include improved classifications for scientific positions and the creation of a Research Scientist classification to recognise and encourage excellence in research. Positions in the new structure have been filled internally, except for that of Research Manager, which has been nationally advertised. Dr Don Foreman has been appointed as Collections Manager and Helen Cohn as Library Manager.

There has been a lot of activity at Cranbourne Botanic Garden recently. The Victorian Government has provided a capital grant of \$284,000 over two years to construct a new nursery and works depot there. These facilities will be essential for future developments at the Garden now being incorporated into a long-term Masterplan. Cranbourne and South Yarra staff have begun investigating the facilities needed in the new buildings and their design. We hope construction will commence early in 1995.

Mark Jenkins has taken up his appointment as Ecologist at Cranbourne. His background in research and teaching will be particularly valuable. One of his first tasks is to assist the RBG in submissions to the Environmental Effects Statement being prepared for the proposed east-west arterial road link at Cranbourne, which could be constructed along Ballarto Road at the northern boundary of the Garden. The first meeting of the EES Consultative Committee took place on 5th August; the full EES process is likely to take 9-12 months.

Staff numbers at Cranbourne have been boosted by the arrival of five people for six months under a government Jobskills program. They will be working on several projects, especially the planting out of 'buffer' zones of native species in the northwestern sections of the Garden.

WRM Irvine, Chairman

SPRING ACTIVITIES

BROKEN HILL AND SUNRAYSIA TRIP

3rd-9th September

We wish those members of this trip an interesting and stimulating seven days.

AN ORCHID HUNT IN THE CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN

Saturday 10th September

This bus trip will start from the front of the National Gallery in St Kilda Road at 10.00am.

We can stroll at will, or follow the Loop Walk (approx. 1½ hours) before our BYO lunch - barbecues are available. At 2.00pm we shall join the Friends of the Cranbourne Garden on an orchid hunt.

Much has been achieved at this wonderful native garden since our last visit; we are sure that you will be pleasantly surprised. As there is no shelter at Cranbourne, please come prepared with protective clothing should the weather outlook appear doubtful.

We plan to leave Cranbourne at 4.30pm.

Cost: \$17.00

RSVP 7th September on enclosed booking form or phone 650 6398

A SPRING STROLL THROUGH THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Wednesday 21st September 1994 at 2.15pm

Following the enjoyable Autumn and Winter Strolls in the beautiful grounds of Government House, we have planned the Spring walk. We shall have an opportunity

to see the gracious ballroom and will have afternoon tea at the Mews (in Government House grounds) with the members of the Women of the University Fund.

Government House garden, comprising 11.3 hectares of turf and garden beds, has been managed by the RBG since 1986. The original garden was designed by Joseph Sayce in 1872 and modified by William Guilfoyle in 1873.

We shall meet at the gates of Government House in Government House Drive just before 2.15pm.

Cost: \$8.00 (an entree card will be forwarded on receipt of booking)

RSVP 14th September on enclosed booking form

A Celebration of Auriculas

Tuesday 27th September at 10.30am

For details see under 'Botanic Illustrators'

FLORAL DEMONSTRATION BY CHRISTINE IRELAND AND LUNCH

Wednesday 28th September at 11.00am at National Herbarium Hall

Christine Ireland is a fifth-generation member of a family whose association with floristry in Melbourne dates back to 1854. She is the great-grand daughter of one of the original Ireland settlers. Christine is a trained secondary teacher, a co-owner of the Geoff Ireland School of Floristry and has been part of her family business for more than 20 years. She has also produced instructional floristry videos and regularly demonstrates flower arranging.

The emphasis of Christine's demonstration for the Friends will be on entertaining, formal and informal; she will look at a variety of themes and festive occasions incorporating both Australian and overseas trends. The demonstration and talk will be followed by a lunch prepared by our catering committee.

Cost Friends \$12.00 Others \$15.00

RSVP by 22nd September on enclosed booking form

GROWING FRIENDS PLANT SALE 8th and 9th OCTOBER

The Growing Friends will hold their Spring Plant Sale on Saturday 8th October from 10.00-4.00 and Sunday 9th October from 10.00-3.00. Come early and make sure of those 'terrific temptations'.

As usual it will be held in the grounds of the Old Melbourne Observatory in Birdwood Avenue.

This year we will have a special collection of perennials, from the reconstruction of the Perennial Border within the Royal Botanic Gardens. As well, there will be more Chinese rhododendrons and many other interesting plants.

Friends are welcome to avoid the crowds at the sale by coming in on any Friday morning to our nursery area. However, the nursery will be closed after 23rd September while we prepare for the sale.

THE GARDENS OF THE ARTISTS

**Mt Evelyn and Upper Beaconsfield
Tuesday 11th October 1994 - Bus day trip**

We are privileged to have the offer to see two truly beautiful gardens, sensitively created by rare people.

Cherry Garth, Mt Evelyn ...the home of Freidl and Godfrey Gardner.

From the moment you step inside the gate you feel completely enveloped in an oasis of stillness and beauty. Over 35 years, Freidl, an artist, has transformed a three-acre orchard into a garden of character whose design is informal and flowing, imbued with a wonderful sense of mystery and anticipation.

A steep slope contains two dominant reflective ponds (tarns) which adjoin a natural fern gully. It is a plant lover's joy. Freidl's father was a foundation member of the Victorian Iris Society, and she has lovingly continued with his collection. Natives and exotics complement each other and groups of Mollis Azaleas and Species Rhododendrons provide continuity, with planting tone on tone to harmonise with the whole landscape.

Morning tea will be provided.

Dewhurst Farm, Upper Beaconsfield

Judy and John Roberts have combined their cattle property with a wonderful garden that Judy has created through her love of botanical illustration and a fascination with peonies.

Herbaceous peonies are grown for the cut flower market, both locally and for export to America and Japan. She has built up a collection of rare tree peonies and sells a limited number of the plants each year. These flower in September and October.

Judy has an artist's eye for detail and thoughtful planting. Her groupings of the specialist plants, and those she obtains from seed through her travels and affiliation with nurseries throughout the world, are an inspiration to those who visit the garden.

BYO lunch to eat here, with tea and coffee provided. You might like to bring your own cup.

The bus will leave from outside the National Gallery, St Kilda Road, at 9.30am sharp and arrive back at the Gallery at approximately 4.15pm.

Cost \$25.00 includes morning and afternoon refreshments

RSVP by 4th October on booking form

Opening of Botanic Art Exhibition

Wednesday 12th October 6.30-8.30pm

See under Botanical Illustrators

Morning Coffee at Gardens House

and

The Botanical Illustrators Exhibition

Tuesday 18th October 1994 at 10.00am

To celebrate our opportunity to be amongst the first to view the newly-renovated Gardens House, Friends are invited to Morning Coffee.

The Director's residence was built in 1856 on the recommendation of Dr Ferdinand Mueller, as his home and office. It was occupied by subsequent Directors and their families until the retirement of Dr David Churchill in 1991.

Substantial additions and alterations were made over the years; a speaker from the Herbarium will tell us how the building has evolved. We'll also learn about the new landscaping, which includes bold subtropical foliage plants.

Gardens House retains a wonderful Victorian charm. With its extensive drive and secluded gardens, it is still unknown to many people.

The entrance gates in Dallas Brooks Drive beside the Herbarium will be open on this occasion.

We'll also visit The Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition in the Herbarium Hall.

Cost: \$8 includes entry to exhibition

RSVP: By 12th October on enclosed booking form

LONDON'S ROYAL PARKS TODAY

Mr Tom Wright

Thursday 3rd November, 1994 at 8pm at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra.

Mr Tom Wright, noted English garden historian, will give an illustrated talk on *The Role of the Royal Gardens Commission in London's Royal Parks Today*. Tom Wright is a member of this Commission and advises on such gardens as Hampton Court and Regents Park.

Tom is making his second visit to Australia and while in Melbourne will undertake projects relating to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Fitzroy Gardens. He is a regular judge at the Chelsea Flower Show, and succeeded the well-known Christopher Lloyd as Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at the University of London. He is a consultant to the National Trust and the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley.

Supper will be served

Cost: Friends \$8.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP 2nd November on enclosed booking form

CHINA TOUR - YUNNAN PROVINCE

Thursday 17th November 1994 at 8.00pm at the National Herbarium

Sue Keon-Cohen, Geoff Cleary and Neil Thomas

An illustrated talk and video of the recent Friends' tours to China

Sixteen members of the Friends travelled to China this year and had the experience of a life time. Sue, a Friend, and Geoff, a Nurseryman from Canberra who has his own gardening programmes on radio, will speak of their experiences on this botanical tour. Much cultural and social knowledge was gained along the way. Neil Thomas, also a Friend, travelled on the second tour in May and will show us his video of this great tour.

Supper will be served

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP 15th November on enclosed booking form

A Friends farewell to Julie Maddock, with Judy Woodfull, Dr Durham Smith and Dr Philip Moors also in the photo.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 7th November

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens will be held on Monday 7th November at 8.00pm at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra. Please note that this is later than the date previously notified.

Nominations for Council are called for, and must be received by the Secretary, Mr Lawrence Cohn, at the Friends' Office by 7th September. Please phone the office (650 6398) if you would like a Nomination Form.

All details will be included in a separate Annual General Meeting mailing on 7th October.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 16th December 1994 7.00pm at the Naval & Military Club, Little Collins Street, Melbourne

Full details to be included with the Annual General Meeting mailing

TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS PICNIC IN THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Tuesday 20th December 1994

We would particularly welcome new members to this event. Full details in Annual General Meeting mailing.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS' FESTIVAL

Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th March 1995

The Gardens are holding a grand Festival in the Gardens on this first weekend in March 1995. The Friends are to be involved in all sorts of ways and require help during February, on the weekend, and for the week following the Festival.

Both administrative and practical assistance will be required. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Friends' Office on 650 6398 and leave your name and telephone number. We will be most appreciative.

Further details of the Festival in the Summer Newsletter.

Anne Scott Wilson, Julie's successor.



**SPRING 1994 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

Orchid Hunt-Cranbourne Garden
Saturday 10 September at 10am

No. of Tickets @ \$17.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 7/9/94

**Spring Stroll - Government House Grounds
and Afternoon Tea at the Mews**
Wednesday 21 September at 2.15pm

No. of Tickets @ \$8.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 14/9/94

Botanical Illustrators Speakers
Tuesday 27 September at 10.30am

No. of Friends @ \$5.00ea. _____
No. of Others @ \$10.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 21/9/94

**Floral Demonstration, Christine Ireland
and Lunch**

Wednesday 28 September at 11.00am

No. of Friends @ \$12.00ea. _____
No. of Others @ \$15.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 22/9/94

Please return this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141
Cheques/Postal orders payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

**SPRING 1994 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

Mt Evelyn and Upper Beaconsfield
Tuesday 11 October at 9.30am

No. of Tickets @ \$25.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 4/10/94

Exhibition Opening
The Art of Botanical Illustration
Wednesday 12 October at 6.30pm

No. of Tickets @ \$10.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 5/10/94

Gardens House and Exhibition
Tuesday 18 October at 10.00am

No. of Tickets @ \$8.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 12/10/94

London's Royal Parks Today
Mr Tom Wright

Thursday 3 November at 8.00pm

No. of Friends @ \$8.00ea. _____
No. of Others @ \$10.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 2/11/94

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**SPRING 1994 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

China Tour Illustrated Talk
Sue Keon-Cohen, Geoff Cleary, Neil Thomas
Thursday 17 November at 8.00pm

No. of Friends @ \$8.00ea. _____
No. of Others @ \$10.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 15/11/94

Family Day
Sunday 27 November 10.00am-3.00pm

Special Activities 10.00am-12.30pm
No. of Children 5-8 years ☐
No. of Children 9-12 years ☐
Total No. of Children @ \$8.00ea. _____
Total: \$ _____
RSVP 21/11/94

RSVP

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entree tickets to be posted by return mail. Otherwise your name will be recorded on a list available at each function to verify your payment.

Please return this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141
Cheques/Postal orders payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS (VICTORIA) INC.

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A very successful Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc., arranged by the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc., was held at the Salvation Army Institute, Geelong, on 14th and 15th May. The Conference had the theme 'Growing together towards 2000', and was attended by about 80 people, most of whom were members of Friends groups or represented local authorities. It was particularly pleasing that several came from Adelaide, Sydney and Canberra.

The conference was opened by Mr Bill Dix, Chief Commissioner of the City of Greater Geelong, and the keynote address, on *The role of Botanic Gardens in the community*, was given by Dr Brian Morley, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Other speakers were:

Mrs Chris Steele-Scott, Marketing Officer of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens - *A close association*

Mrs Fay Marles, Deputy Chancellor of the University of Melbourne - *The extent and value of volunteering*

Mr Richard Barley, Manager of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne - *A state of change*

Mr Mark Trengrove, Geelong - *Conservation and the value of indigenous flora in Botanic Gardens*

Mr Ian Rogers, Manager of the Geelong Botanic Gardens - *The Geelong Botanic Gardens' experience and future direction*.

Their addresses have been published in the Proceedings of the Conference. One session was devoted to a workshop on the subject *Problems in your Botanic Garden and how they can be resolved*, and during another session an opportunity was given to take a guided tour in the Geelong gardens. On the Saturday evening a very pleasant dinner was held at the Geelong Club.

During the Conference the second annual general meeting of the Association was held, and Mr Brian Chandler, President of the Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens, was elected President of the Association. The fifth annual conference will be held in Benalla in April 1995.

The Geelong Friends are to be congratulated on the success of the conference, the result of much hard work on their part.

FRIENDS SEATS

Since the last *Botanic News*, the number of memorial seats donated to the Gardens through the Friends' scheme has doubled. Shortly there will be 10 such seats placed in selected spots within the Gardens, with two more on order. Most recently, seats have been donated by T.N. Barwell, Stannard Clark and Jess and Geoff Reed. Peg Jones and John Watkins have given a seat in appreciation of the happy times they have spent in the Gardens, while Geoff and Jess Reed have given two seats, one in memory of Jess' mother and the other commemorating John Batman, a pioneer of Melbourne. It is hoped that descendants of the Batman family may be able to be present at the dedication of this seat.

Anyone wishing to obtain more details is welcome to phone the office on 650 6398.

COMPUTER COCKTAILS

The Gardens' close neighbours, the Melbourne - South Yarra Group, are holding a gala cocktail party on Wednesday 14th September to raise money for the Royal Botanic Gardens computer project. The Group have undertaken to provide \$3,500 for a computerised 'plant directory' to assist speedy location of specific plants in the Gardens.

The party will be held at the Fawkner Club Hotel, 52 Toorak Road West, from 6.30pm. The cost of \$25.00 per person includes drinks, savouries and musical entertainment by a pianist and a string quartet.

RSVP to tel. 820 9688 or 867 1691, or by writing to PO Box 59, South Yarra 3141.

SOUND CONSULTANT

At last! The acoustics in the Herbarium auditorium are greatly improved thanks to the expert input of Mr Ron Harnath of Balwyn.

As Mr Harnath refused to accept a fee for this much-appreciated work, the Council of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens has offered him Honorary Membership of the Friends for five years. Thank you Ron.

Jayne Salmon, President of the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, with key figures at the opening of the Association of Friends Seminar: (from left) Ian Rogers, Bill Dix, and Dr Brian Morley.



FAMILY DAY

Sunday 27th November 1994 10am-3pm

The Friends have planned this special day to celebrate *The Year of the Family* in the Gardens. There will be many different activities so children, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbours are all invited.

10am-12.30pm on Oak Lawn

- Fun-filled things for children such as The Weird and Wonderful Plants Trail; a fossil hunt; herb bread and potpourri making; the Bush Tucker Trail; and painting and craft activities. We'll have separate groups for children 5-8 years and 9-12 years. Rod Dunstan, who conducts the RBG's hugely successful education activities, will be organising these sessions.

Bookings for the children are essential.

Cost \$8 per child. Numbers are limited so you will need to be quick. Fill in the enclosed booking form.



10am-12.30pm

- Guided walks with the Voluntary Guides will commence from the Western Lawn. Take a walk while the children are 'doing their own thing'; or you can join the children if you prefer.
- The Plant Craft Cottage will be open.
- Craft Activities for children will be run by members of the Plant Craft Cottage on the Western Lawn.

12.30-1.30pm on the Hopetoun Lawn

- Join us for a BYO picnic. The view from here across the lake is superb. Light refreshments will be available for purchase from the Rose Pavilion.

1.30pm on the Princes Lawn

- We can watch, and then join in, as members of the Victorian Folk Music Club perform bush dancing to the music of the Billabong Band.

It will be a fun day - these are just a few of the activities in store for you, so come and join us. In particular, we look forward to introducing children to the wonders and plant secrets abounding in the Gardens.

Please note that bookings and pre-payment are requested **only** for the organised children's activities listed first. RSVP by Monday 21st November. This will ensure we have ample people to entertain the children on the day.

A small contribution will cover costs for your participation in other activities. Please pay on the day as you enter the Gardens at F Gate, next to the Herbarium in Birdwood Avenue. We'll distribute maps to show clearly where the various activities will be held.

Children 5-14 years, \$1 (if not involved in Oak Lawn activities)

Adults and children over 14 years, \$2

Children under 5, free



SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

The Visitor Centre 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

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

The Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition

This year's Melbourne International Festival will spotlight Botanical Art, with two exhibitions celebrating the talent of Victorians working in this exacting art form.

The Art of Botanical Illustration, proudly presented by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, will feature works by members of *Botanical Illustrators*. We founded this group in 1992 to nurture and give due public recognition to our established and emerging botanical artists. The 150 exquisite illustrations on display will include works by Victoria's most acclaimed botanical artists including Anita Barley, Jenny Phillips, Beverley Graham, Bernadette Lim, Judy Roberts, Celia Rosser and Helene Wild, to mention just a few!

Flower decorations for the exhibition will be generously donated by Kevin O'Neill.

All works will be available for sale

Unframed illustrations, limited edition prints, cards and selected gifts will also be for sale at the exhibition, together with some items from the Plant Craft Cottage.

Venue	National Herbarium of Victoria
Date	13th-30th October
	Saturday to Wednesday 10am-5pm
	Thursday and Friday 10am-8pm
Entry	\$2.00

Classifying Nature, a Melbourne International Festival Exhibition at the Westpac Gallery, will display works by Anita Barley, Jenny Phillips, Celia Rosser and Margaret Stones, brought together to introduce the genre of botanical art to members of the general public who might not be familiar with it.

Date	13th-30th October
	Monday - Saturday 9am-11pm
	Sunday 11am-5pm
Admission	free



Exhibition Opening

The Art of Botanical Illustration

It is with great pleasure that we invite members to attend the official opening of this Friends' special exhibition.

The exhibition will be opened by Celia Rosser, noted as the foremost botanical artist working in Australia today. The occasion will provide an opportunity to meet the exhibiting artists and to view and purchase their fine works before the exhibition is open to the general public.

Venue	Hall of the National Herbarium of Victoria
Date	Wednesday 12th October
Time	6.30-8.30pm
Tickets	\$10 per person including refreshments
	RSVP by 5th October on enclosed booking form

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS DAY

Tuesday 27th September in the Herbarium Hall
Morning coffee from 10.00am.

10.30am A Celebration of Auriculas
with Penny Dunn and Gwenda McDougall

11.30am Paper for the Botanical Artist
with Marc Mamet

There will be a display of Joan Law-Smith's
watercolours.

Bring work with you for display and discussion. BYO
lunch if you wish.

Refer to Winter *Botanic News* for further details.

Cost: Friends \$5.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 21st September on enclosed booking form

**BOTANICAL DRAWING AND PAINTING
CLASSES WITH JENNY PHILLIPS**

4th Semester 1994. 9 weeks beginning
Wednesday 5th October

Last semester was very successful with a wonderful mix
of students. Some had not held a pencil for 40 years,
while others were commercial artists and art teachers.
This exciting variety of talent and ability is a great
stimulus and inspiration to all of the artists. Everybody
will be able to see the results of two very busy years
since the 1992 Exhibition this October in the Herbarium.

Would anybody interested in enrolling in the classes
please telephone the Friends' office on 650 6398 or Jenny
on 054 226 490 and leave your name and number.

**ANNOUNCING..... THE BOTANICAL
ILLUSTRATORS LIBRARY**

The Botanical Illustrators now have a small library, which
was made possible by a grant from the Friends of the
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. There are books on
botanical art, plant identification and plant nomenclature.
The library is in a bookcase in the Friends' Office.

Members who wish to borrow a book should enter
details in the Borrowing Book which is in the office.

Donations of books or periodicals to enrich the
collection will be happily received.

Contact Margaret Sherwin Ph: 822 2059

HELEN LEITCH EXHIBITION

5th November - 4th December

Due to pressure of demand for activities using the
Herbarium Hall, the Helen Leitch exhibition scheduled for
November/December has been transferred to the
Westpac Gallery in the Arts Centre.

It's a Rare Thing presents a serious conservation
message about Australia's endangered flora and fauna in
whimsical watercolours.

Open Mon.-Sat. 9am-11pm

Sundays 10am-5pm

Free admission

PORTRAITS OF OLD ROSES

12th-27th November 1994, 10am - 5pm

Portraits of Old Roses will be an exhibition and sale of
botanical watercolours of roses selected from nearly 90
varieties planted at Como and listed by the landscape
gardener William Sangster in his diary of 1862. The
Friends' Botanical Illustrators were invited to participate
in this event, and many of them will be exhibiting.

Place Como, 16 Como Avenue, South Yarra

Cost Adult \$7, Conc. \$4.50, Child \$3.50, Family \$16.50

National Trust Members free of charge.

A NEW LIFE FOR GARDENS HOUSE

The refurbishment of Gardens House is scheduled for
completion on 23rd September, just in time for the
inaugural RBG sponsors' dinner on 6th October.

The house will be marketed as one of Melbourne's most
exclusive and beautiful venues for small meetings and
private functions.

It will incorporate a 'board room' upstairs to seat 28 and
two adjacent 'break out' rooms. The restored balcony
will offer spectacular views, just revealed after the
removal of dense bamboo, across the Gardens towards
Richmond. Downstairs will present a comfortable
reception area, an elegant entrance hall and a dining
room that will also cater for 28. The lawn outside the
house will be ideal for private garden parties for larger
groups.

The designers, Nexus, have chosen a mix of traditional
and modern furnishings and finishes for the interior of
the house. Inspiration has come from the Gardens, with
rich greens, reds and yellows the predominant shades.

Further information about hire of Gardens House is
available from Tracie Laws at the Herbarium.

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Australian Bark Art - 15/6/94 Ms Robyn Gibson

*Volunteers - Morning Coffee and Walk with Voluntary
Guides* - 20/6/94

An Approach to Elm Management - Dr Peter Yau - 23/6/
94

Fossil Evidence of Ancient Forests in Antarctica - Dr
Andrew Drinnan - 12/7/94

*A Winter Stroll through the grounds of Government
House* - 17/7/94

FRIENDS' SHOP

We're now back to our summer opening hours, 10.00-5.00
daily. We look forward to seeing you. Our enclosed
leaflet gives you a taste of the wonderful range.

Jill Swann, Manager

Botanical Embroidery Workshop

An enthusiastic group continue to enjoy classes with
Wanda McPherson from the Embroiderers Guild of
Victoria. On Monday 19th September a technique
combining embroidery and painting is being taught.
Contact the Friends' Office on 650 6398 if you are
interested.



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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His Excellency the
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Registered by Australia Post
Publication No. VBH 5419
ISSN No. 08170-650

Printer:
Print Bound
167 Roden Street
West Melbourne 3003

Printed on
100 per cent recycled paper
Australian made.

FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

The narrow bed running along the southern boundary of the Royal Botanic Gardens is being re-developed as the Australian Rainforest Border. It will display hundreds of rainforest plants from eight major rainforest ecosystems of eastern Australia. The displays will be arranged as a 'journey' between F Gate and D Gate - you will walk from the highland rainforests of Tasmania through the temperate rainforests of Victoria and New South Wales to the subtropical and 'dry' rainforests of Queensland.

The plants are being collected in the field by RBG botanists and horticulturists, or obtained from other botanic gardens and research institutes. Many species have not been grown in Melbourne before, so their performance will be monitored with interest. Work this winter has involved the careful removal of several trees in what will become the Queensland sub-tropical and dry rainforests. The trees have been taken out because they are old or inappropriate in that particular display. All are well represented elsewhere in the RBG collections. An automatic misting system has been installed in sections of the border, and new paths and a short boardwalk constructed. Much new Victorian material will be planted out in spring. The entire display will take at least another two years to complete. The project is being funded by an anonymous donation to the Herald-Sun Gardens Revitalisation Appeal.

Rod Dunstan, our Education Officer, is delighted with the smart new 'buggy' which has been donated to the Royal Botanic Gardens by the Friends. The converted golf buggy enables Rod to transport his equipment and class materials around the Gardens for his tremendously popular school programs. We are most grateful for

this donation, which greatly increases Rod's ability to make use of all parts of the Gardens in these programs. As I mentioned in the last issue of *Botanic News*, the RBG's school education services have expanded enormously in the past 18 months. This donation will enable us to do even more to introduce the delights of plants and the Gardens to children.

Recent visitors to the Gardens will have noticed the restoration of the Rose Pavilion. This project is being sponsored by 12 corporate associates of Pacific Dunlop Limited, in order to mark the company's centenary last year. Careful investigations by the conservation architect have ensured that the pavilion will be returned to its original beauty, including once more being entwined with roses! Just before the work was due to commence, the architect discovered previously unknown photographs of the interior of the building. These revealed that the walls and ceiling were panelled with the same moulded pine boards as the interior of the William Tell Rest House. We have therefore been able to incorporate this attractive feature into the restoration, together with replicas of the original stone panels between the columns on the outside of the pavilion. The restoration will be completed in September.

Philip Moors
Director

ARE YOU FINANCIAL?

Please check whether you have paid your annual subscription. A number of membership renewals due on 30th June are outstanding.

A phone call to the office (650 6398) would enable you to renew painlessly by means of a credit card payment. Thankyou.