



# BOTANIC NEWS

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FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

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SPRING 1997

## OBSERVATORY GATE

Funding for Observatory Gate received a magnificent addition on 19 June when our Minister, Hon. Marie Tehan, announced a grant of \$2 million to the project from the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund. The total funds available will now enable construction and landscaping to proceed. The Board has recently called tenders for the works and hopes that construction and renovations on the Observatory site will begin some time in September. Construction is planned for completion in mid-1998, followed by several months for landscaping and commissioning. The grand opening is scheduled for early 1999.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm particularly pleased to welcome David Adam to his new role of Chairman of the RBG Board, as he has been a member of the Friends for several years. We look forward to a continuing productive association with the Board.

In preparation for the commencement of work on the Observatory Gate project, we are scheduled to move from our present office to temporary accommodation in the Great Melbourne Telescope Building by 12 September. We expect it will be nine to twelve months before our new home, Observatory Lodge, is ready for occupation. In the meantime, access and space will be very limited, so we ask Friends needing to contact the office to do so by phone, mail or fax rather than in person, please.

During the winter months our Activities sub-committee organised an array of outstanding meetings for the Friends: Margaret Cone talking on 'The Symbolism of Flowers and Fruit as Depicted on Oriental Porcelain'; Terry Smyth describing her third visit to China on a plant collecting expedition; Michael McCoy, on the wonderful 'Hascombe' garden at Mount Macedon, and Wendy McRae on 'Antique Jewellery with a Botanical Theme'. I'm also delighted to report that a second Tasmanian trip in November was arranged to meet the demand, and two extra sessions filled for the State Library visits in August.

We are greatly indebted to our Activities sub-committee who arranged this program, and to our hard-working caterers who provide us with excellent refreshments. A special vote of thanks must go to Lesley Clark who, as convener of the sub-committee, has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Friends. Lesley has just returned from the Friends' trip to Costa Rica, and we look forward to hearing of her experiences.

Several months ago we witnessed a rare event - the publication of a *Draft Landscape Master Plan* for the RBG, the first for any major botanic garden in Australia. On behalf of the Friends I made a brief response, and we all look forward to the final version and its implementation.

I'm sure Members will have enjoyed reading the latest issue of *Botanic Magazine*, and on your behalf would like to express appreciation for all the voluntary work that went into its production - the writers, artists and photographers, the editor Heather Ironmonger, the advertising 'manager' Ellen Mercer and the the mailout team. We are very grateful to our advertisers whose support helps to defray the printing costs, and hope Friends will do business with them. Extra copies of *Botanic Magazine* may be purchased in the Friends' and Gardens' Shops.

Our distinguished Friend Dr Sophie Ducker was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours, and Jocelyn Houghton, a very active Growing Friend, was recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to Community Aid Abroad. On your behalf I sent congratulations to both these members.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the full and varied range of functions planned for the next three months.

**John Harper**

## RBG ON LINE

There's now an RBG Home Page on the internet. Its address is <http://www.rbgmelb.org.au>. Information on the Friends is included and will be expanded.

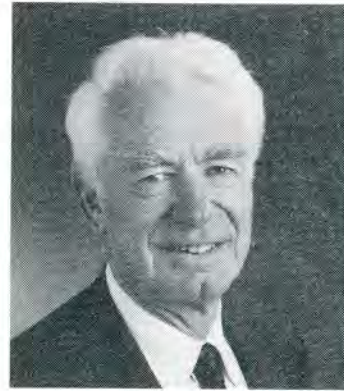


## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I am delighted to have been appointed Chairman of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board, following the retirement of the inaugural Chairman, Mr William Irvine, in June. He has provided strong leadership for the RBG during the last five years, which have seen the rejuvenation of the whole organisation and the initiation of many important new projects at both RBG Melbourne and RBG Cranbourne. His guidance and judgement have been most important in enabling the RBG to make such impressive progress in re-establishing itself as what many believe to be Australia's leading botanic garden. The Board joins me in thanking Bill for his contributions and in wishing him and Susan a rewarding retirement in Tasmania.

The next few years will see further developments and new projects at the RBG. I look forward to participating in them, and to working with the Friends to strengthen community support for the Gardens. They are part of the essence of Melbourne, much loved and enjoyed by well over a million visitors each year. I know - because living nearby, I'm fortunate to be able to stroll through them regularly.

The vacancy on the Board arising from Mr Irvine's retirement has been filled by Dr Brian McNamee. He is



David Adam

Managing Director of CSL Limited and has a medical science and business background. I welcome him to the Board and the contributions he will make to the RBG's future management.

The Board and the Minister recently approved the new five-year Corporate Plan for the RBG, covering the financial years 1997-98 to 2001-02. The plan sets the objectives and priorities for all parts of the organisation for the next five years as we move into the new millennium and embark upon new capital, scientific and horticultural projects.

**David Adam**  
Chairman

## Spring Activities

### **FIFTY YEARS' GARDENING FOR THE RICH AND FAMOUS: The life's work of Russell Page**

Illustrated Talk by David Wilkinson

**Thursday 11 September at 8.00pm**  
**In the McNerney Room, Stonnington,**  
**Toorak Campus, Deakin University**  
**336 Glenferrie Rd, Malvern**

David Wilkinson, a former Friends' president, has just returned from two years in France.

In May 1996 David, an architect with a strong interest in landscape design, and his wife Bibi were invited to join a group of 20 to tour some French and Italian gardens designed by the internationally acclaimed Russell Page. Starting from the island of Capri, there followed what David describes as 'nine of the most exhilarating days of my life'.

'Since reading *The Education of a Gardener* by Russell Page when I was a student', he continues, 'I have always found myself in agreement with his design philosophy. So to have this opportunity to see so many of his gardens, meet so many of his clients, walk

down so many paths between hedges, gaze at banks of tree peonies, marvel at subtle changes of level terraces, listen to fountains and babbling brooks...etc, was a rare privilege.'

Supper will be served.

Cost: Friends \$8.00 Others \$12.00

Parking in Somers Avenue, or in Stonnington grounds (entry from Glenferrie Road).

RSVP on enclosed booking form by Monday 8 September

### **CHAMPAGNE, CHICKEN SANDWICHES AND CAKE AT CINEMA COMO** **FILM - *For Roseanna***

**Wednesday 17 September at 6.30pm**  
**cnr Chapel St and Toorak Rd, South Yarra**

In the tradition of *Cinema Paradiso*, *For Roseanna* is a black comedy about undying love, property shortage and the pitfalls of good intentions. Starring Mercedes Ruehl, Jan Reno and Polly Walker, the film is set in an



Italian village where the inn proprietor will stop at nothing to ensure that his beloved wife Roseanna is buried in the local cemetery.

Following the screening, a supper of champagne, chicken sandwiches and delicious cake will be served.

Cinema Como is served by several tram routes and parking is available at the Como carpark (enter from Chapel Street or River Street off Toorak Road). Cinema patrons may pay only \$1.20 for parking by producing their parking card for validation at the box office.

Cost: \$18.00

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 10 September.

### **GUIDED TOUR OF NATIONAL HERBARIUM**

**Wednesday 24 September**

Cathryn Coles, Manager, Collections, of the National Herbarium has very kindly offered to arrange for groups of 20 people to view the inner sanctum of the National Herbarium not open to the public. Some of the highlights will be a visit to the Library with its treasures, an opportunity to see some of the 'special' collections, and a chance to see how the Volunteers help, for instance, in mounting specimens.

Three groups will go through: (1) 10.00am - 11.00am; (2) 1.00pm - 2.00pm; (3) 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Meet on ground floor of National Herbarium - towards the back, near the photocopier.

Cost Friends \$5 Others \$10

RSVP on enclosed booking form by Wednesday 17 September

### **THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LOWER YARRA**

**An Illustrated Talk by Dr David Beardsell**

**Thursday 2 October at 8.00pm**

**Motor Works Gallery,  
Melbourne Grammar School,  
39-41 Arnold St, South Yarra**

Those who attended our Association Conference in April will welcome another opportunity to hear Dr David Beardsell, who has spent 20 years developing Australian plants for horticulture.

On this evening he will trace the natural history of the Lower Yarra from Hawthorn to the river's mouth at Hobsons Bay. He'll picture the plants and animals existing before European settlement, and illustrate the changes, both good and bad, from that time to the present.

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00

RSVP by 30 September on enclosed booking form



### **GROWING FRIENDS SPRING PLANT SALE**

Saturday 11 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 12 October, 10.00am - 3.00pm



*Wendy McRae (second left) displayed wonderful antique jewellery with a botanical theme when she spoke to the Friends in August.*

*John Harper photo*



## **BRIDGE DAY AT GARDENS HOUSE**

**Monday 13 October 10.30am - 3.00pm**  
**Gardens House, Dallas Brooks Drive,**  
**South Yarra**

For the first time, we have organised a Bridge day. Solo or Five Hundred players are also most welcome. We are fortunate to have Gardens House for this day.

Play will take place between 10.30am and 3.00pm - we will provide a basket lunch and wine. Please organise a group of four and bring your cards and scorers.

Numbers will be limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Cost: Friends \$15 Non-members \$20  
 RSVP by 6 October on enclosed booking form.

## **GUIDED TOUR OF RIPPONLEA AT ELSTERNWICK**

**Thursday 23 October at 10.00am**

Join us for a delightful morning at Ripponlea. Tour the gardens with the head gardener, see the magnificent interior of this National Trust mansion and have lunch.

Meet at Ripponlea at 10.00am for tea/coffee in the Archery House. The gardens tour will be conducted by John Stevenson, who has had 18 years' experience as Head Gardener. This will last for one hour and will be followed by a tour of the newly refurbished building.

A basket lunch will then be served either in the Archery House or on the western verandah according to the weather. You may view the gardens again at leisure.

If coming by car, please park in Elm Street, the side street off Hotham Street. The area is served by bus routes 216 and 219 and by rail to Ripponlea or Elsternwick stations.

Cost: Friends \$13 Non-members \$15 (covers morning coffee, lunch and guided garden tour) PLEASE NOTE: Admission charges to Ripponlea are extra: \$8 adult, \$5 concession, but free to National Trust members.

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 13 October

## **PLANTS OF THE SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS AND ANTARCTICA** **Illustrated Talk by Janet Limb**

**Tuesday 28 October from 10.15am**  
**Mueller Hall, National Herbarium**

Janet Limb will give an illustrated talk about a 25-day expedition and cruise in which she participated, to explore the sub-Antarctic islands and Commonwealth Bay. Janet's trip included Mawson's hut, the Mertz Glacier and Macquarie Island.

The flora and fauna of these remote islands are particularly interesting; magnificent mega-herbs like *Stilbocarpa polaris* and *Pleurophyllum hookerii* were just some of the plants she observed.

Janet, a member of the Friends, worked as a volunteer guide at the Zoo for 12 years. As a result, she developed a strong interest in the inter-relationship between plants and animals, their evolution and adaptation to their environment.

Morning coffee from 10.15am. Talk at 10.45am  
 Cost: Friends \$8 Others \$12  
 RSVP by 21 October on enclosed booking form.

## **MUELLER-INSPIRED GARDENS** **Bus trip on Thursday 30 October**

We will visit three gardens in the Healesville area which were influenced by Baron von Mueller - *Tara Rise*, *The Hermitage* and *St Fillans*.

We are most fortunate to have the company of John Hawker, a Friends Councillor and Horticulturalist with Heritage Victoria who was involved in setting up the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees.

**Leaving the National Gallery at 9.00am sharp**, we will travel to Healesville where we will have refreshments at Grandma's Kitchen. Not far away is *Tara Rise*, owned by Bruce and Betty Lockwood. The original cottage, still standing, is more than 100 years old; the present home was built in 1936. The garden is noted for its great Californian redwoods and Himalayan cedars.

Following a trip to England and Europe in 1990 the Lockwoods were inspired to create extra features in the garden, such as two small lakes (now home to many species of ducks) connected by a bridge, a knot garden, a Laburnum walk, a fernery and an orchid house.

We will have lunch at our next stop, *The Hermitage* at Narbethong. *The Hermitage*, a pleasure resort built in 1894 by the internationally-renowned photographer John William Lindt, is now owned by Val and John Stafford, who offer bed and breakfast accommodation. Mueller, as President of the Royal Geographical Society and friend of Lindt, officially opened *The Hermitage* in the year before he died. The property is included in the Victorian Heritage Register, and Baron von Mueller is reputed to have designed the landscape layout. Two trees on the property are listed on the National Trust's Significant Tree Register - a Mountain Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*) measuring 10.8m in girth, and the largest and oldest *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans' known in Victoria, with a girth of 3.6m.

Nearby *St Fillans*, owned by Helen and Rex Goulding, is another beautiful and historic garden which has nine superb classified trees.

We should return to the National Gallery by 5.30pm.  
 All-inclusive cost: \$48  
 RSVP on enclosed booking form by 24 October.



**SPRING IN THE SEYMOUR / YEA AREA  
BUS TRIP TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES -  
HABBIES HOWE AND MURRUNDINDI  
Thursday 13 November**

Leaving the National Gallery, St Kilda Road, at 9.00am sharp, we firstly visit *Habbies Howe*, a 750-hectare farm set in a beautiful valley just out of Seymour and owned by Anita Simon (a Friend) and her husband Henry. Here we will have coffee/tea before our guided tour. The house was built in 1842 from bricks kiln-fired on the property. The old garden had a lot of stonework done in the 1920s (the owners think by Edna Walling). November is a lovely time to visit, with spring flowers and white wisteria.

We will have lunch at Marmalades in Yea, a classified building which still has the counters, flour bins and fixtures from its original life as Purcell's Grocery Store, built 1887. Then we'll move on to *Murrundindi Station* (c1847), also classified by the National Trust, and owned by David Adams. There is an old homestead, the original small stone cottage, the stable and coach house, the woolshed and a cypress-hedged rose garden. *Murrundindi Station* was sold to Harry Campbell Gordon in 1912 and much of the present beauty must be attributed to this man. In 1965 the property was purchased by Stanley Livingstone who also contributed to the improvement and maintenance of the estate.

We should return to the National Gallery at approximately 5.30pm.

All-inclusive cost: \$48

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 7 November.

**FRIENDS' ANNUAL MEETING  
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium  
Monday 17 November at 8.00pm**

**FIELD TRIP TO RBG CRANBOURNE  
Tuesday 18 November  
See Botanical Illustrators Section**

**Symbols of Survival, Gardens and  
Architecture**

Exhibition of oil paintings  
by Marjorie Gillespie  
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium  
Thursday 20 November  
to Sunday 23 November  
11.00am - 5.00pm  
Entry free. Donations welcome  
Proceeds to Friends of the Royal  
Botanic Gardens.

Champagne Reception for the  
Opening of  
***Symbols of Survival, Gardens and  
Architecture***

An exhibition of paintings in oils  
by **Marjorie Gillespie**

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium,  
Wednesday 19 November  
5.30 - 8.30pm

*"Marjorie Gillespie is a painter of unpopulated landscapes, mysterious, deserted, and poetic architecture and evocative forsaken vistas."*  
This quote from Diane Milstead (1987) hints at the unique qualities of Marjorie's impressive works.

Marjorie paints mostly on commission, her works held in boardrooms, offices and private homes around Australia and overseas. Solo exhibitions in galleries in Sydney and Melbourne have included exhibitions on behalf of the National Gallery Women's Association (1974) and the National Trust Women's Committee (1987). We are delighted to have the opportunity to display Marjorie's works for the benefit of our Royal Botanic Gardens.

\$20 per person. All proceeds to Friends of the  
Royal Botanic Gardens

RSVP on enclosed booking form by  
Wednesday 12 November

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND  
NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL**

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Monday 17 November in Mueller Hall, with an election for several places on the Council. Members are elected for a two-year term so that only part of the Council is replaced each year. This year there are vacancies for three ordinary members, a Secretary and one Vice-President. If you wish to nominate someone please contact the office for a nomination form. Nominations must be lodged with the Secretary by close of business on Friday 17 October, 1997, in order for them to be printed in the Notice of Meeting which is sent to Members with the Annual Report.



# A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY

## FRIENDS CHRISTMAS DINNER THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

Last year's function in the RBG Reception Centre overlooking the Ornamental Lake was such an enchanting evening that we made an early booking to secure the popular venue for our 1997 dinner. Make a note of the date, and look out for details with the annual report mailout at the beginning of November.

# TRAVELS

Details of the Friends' trip to the **South Island of New Zealand** (27 March - 10 April 1998) are set out in a leaflet included with this *Botanic News*.

Another option for those months is a tour of **California and Arizona** with the Friends of RBG Cranbourne. Led by Rodger and Gwen Elliot, the tour will take in both gardens and the natural beauty of western USA, including the Big Sur Coast, Redwood forests and desert regions. Acclaimed gardens displaying plants of their region, and others where Australian native plants are being grown, will be a focus; they relate particularly to Cranbourne developments and the Californian Garden at RBG Melbourne. For details, write to the Friends of RBG Cranbourne, C/- GPO Box 185, Cranbourne 3877, or phone 9879 1427.

Closer to home, enjoy a sumptuous champagne breakfast with the Friends of the **Castlemaine Botanical Gardens** and a horticultural jaunt around these historic gardens, led by *Age* garden writer Kevin Walsh, on Cup Day, 4 November. Book by 27 October. Details on 03 5472 1382 or 03 5472 4041.

# FRIENDS SHOP

*Dear Friends,*

The shop is looking sparkling and beautiful, having just been repainted inside - it is now lime green limewash and aubergine full gloss and it looks wow!

It's Trade Fair time again and we will soon be mountain climbing over the stock boxes in my office.

The 1998 Australiana calendars are all in stock for early overseas posting - \$9.95 including an envelope, and our \$1.00 Christmas cards will be here early in September.

We have:

- \* Dozens of new books including children's stories, books on cooking, hiking, gardening and a variety of amusing miscellaneous titles.
- \* Picnic baskets, Goretex picnic shoulder packs and amazing clear picnic cases all set up for four places.
- \* New wheat-filled heat trivets perfumed with either cloves or cinnamon (\$19.95).
- \* Calico shoe bags, hand painted with Australian wildflower designs and beautifully packaged in cellophane.
- \* A variety of gardening gloves for men, women and children, and beautiful new hand-carved Australian birds including kookaburras, pelicans and parrots - a lovely gift for overseas business clients.

As always, we look forward to seeing you.

*Jill Swann*

# BACK NUMBERS OF BOTANIC MAGAZINE

*We have some spare copies of Botanic Magazine which members may obtain by phoning the Friends office on 9650 6398. They are Volume 6, published in 1995, and Volume 3 from 1988.*



*The Friends group who toured to Costa Rica had an exciting time in a humid 'tropical paradise' amid lush vegetation, birds and other animals. They're pictured in Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean coast.*



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## MUELLER'S TABLE

The Director has acquired an antique table, once owned by Baron von Mueller, with \$4,050 remaining unallocated from the proceeds of the 1996 Grand Ball. The table will be an important addition to the RBG's collection of Mueller memorabilia and will be displayed in Gardens House. It has been in the collection of the Friends of Horatio Jones; it is uncertain whether Mueller gave the table to Jones in his lifetime or bequeathed it to him.

## GUILFOYLE AWARDS

Guilfoyle Awards have been presented to SANDRA BECKWITH, Landscape Planner, for her outstanding performance in planning and producing the draft Master Plan for RBG Melbourne, and LOUISE RUGGIERO for her exceptional customer service in the Gardens' Shop. The Team Award was won by the group who co-ordinated the development of the RBG's Certified Agreement (a workplace agreement on staff conditions and salaries): Cathryn Coles, Stephen May, Patricia Quinn, Peter Symes and Colin Walker. These Awards, now in their third year, recognise outstanding achievements by RBG staff.

## ALGAE

Two former Herbarium staff members, Doris Sinkora and Helen Aston, have had the rare honour of having new genera named after them. *Astonia*, a new genus in the family Alismataceae occurring in Cape York, was named after Helen in recognition of her distinguished record in studies of Australian aquatic plants. For Doris, who curated the algae collection, it's *Sinkoreana*, a genus of red algae which occurs from Japan to South-eastern Australia.

While on the subject of algae, RBG staff members Tim Entwisle and Simon Lewis, together with Jason Sonneman of Monash University, have just produced *Freshwater Algae in Australia* - a world first. It's an easy-to-use guide, with more than 300 colour photographs, line drawings and simple illustrated keys to aid identification. Production of the book has been generously supported by the R E Ross Trust. The book is available in both soft and hardcover at the Gardens' Shop.

## HERBARIUM STAFF IN PRINT

At the beginning of September we hail the achievement of Dr Roger Spencer as copies of his *Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia, Volume 2* arrive from the publishers, University of NSW Press. Covering 74 families of popular flowering plants and many tree groups, this planned four-volume reference series represents the prodigious horticultural knowledge which Roger is able to impart as Senior Botanist at the RBG.

Another important recent publication is the *Catalogue and Bibliography of Australian Macrofungi Vol. 1* by Dr Tom May. It appears in the new *Fungi of Australia* series - the fungi equivalent of a Flora. The previous comprehensive catalogue of fungi was published in 1895. Tom says that in the intervening century there's been about a two-fold increase in numbers of recognised species, but it is known that there are many fungi 'out there' still to be discovered and catalogued.

Jeffrey Jeanes has just produced a revised nomenclature for *Orchids of Australia*.

## FRIENDS WINTER ACTIVITIES

Film Luncheon - *Microcosmos* - 18 June  
The Symbolism of Flowers and Fruit as depicted on Oriental Porcelain - 25 June  
Terry Smyth's Collecting Expedition to China - 30 June  
Christmas in July - Bus trip - 16 July  
The Context of Plants - 24 July  
Antique Jewellery with a Botanical Theme - 7 August  
Botanical Art in the Rare Books Collection of the State Library - 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 August  
Botanical Illustration classes  
Botanical Embroiderers workshops

### Australian Federation of Friends of Museums Inc.

The Melbourne Friends are members of the Australian Federation of Friends of Museums Inc. This means that members of the Friends can take advantage of reciprocal arrangements with other members of Friends of Museums. Identification stickers are available which can be attached to your membership cards and which will assist in gaining entry, access to lounges, discounts at shops and the various other reciprocal benefits that may apply from museum to museum. Please call the Friends' office (9650 6398) if you would like one of these stickers.



## SPRING 1997 BOTANIC NEWS BOOKING FORM

### THE LIFE'S WORK OF RUSSELL PAGE

Illustrated talk by David Wilkinson  
Thursday 11 September at 8.00pm  
McInerney Room, Stonnington, Toorak Campus,  
Deakin University

No..... of Friends @ \$8.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
No..... of Others @ \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Monday 8/9/97

### CHICKEN, CHAMPAGNE AND CAKE FILM EVENING: *For Roseanna*

Wednesday 17 September at 6.30pm  
Cinema Como, cnr Chapel St & Toorak Rd, South Yarra

No..... @ \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Wednesday 10/9/97

### GUIDED TOUR OF NATIONAL HERBARIUM

Wednesday 24 September  
Please note preferred time/second preference as **1** and **2**

10-11am ☐ 1-2pm ☐ 2.30-3.30pm ☐

No..... of Friends @ \$5

No..... of Others @ \$10

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Wednesday 17/9/97

Please return the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.

Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRING 1997 BOTANIC NEWS BOOKING FORM

### NATURAL HISTORY OF THE LOWER YARRA

Illustrated Talk by Dr David Beardsell  
Thursday 2 October at 8.00pm  
Motor Works Gallery, 39-41 Arnold St, South Yarra

No..... of Friends @ \$8.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
No..... of Others @ \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Tuesday 30/9/97

### BRIDGE DAY AT GARDENS HOUSE

Monday 13 October, 10.30am - 3.00pm  
Gardens House, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra

No..... of Friends @ \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No..... of Others @ \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Monday 6/10/97

### RIPPONLEA GARDENS AND HOUSE GUIDED TOUR

Thursday 23 October at 10.00am  
Hotham Street, Ripponlea

No..... of Friends @ \$13 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No..... of Others @ \$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLUS House entry:

General admission: No..... @ \$8 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Concession: No..... @ \$5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Free to National Trust members  
(Membership No.....)

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Monday 13/10/97

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Illustrated talk by Janet Limb  
Tuesday 28 October from 10.15am  
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

No..... of Friends @ \$8.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No..... of Others @ \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Tuesday 21/10/97

### MUELLER-INSPIRED GARDENS

Bus trip to Healesville area on Thursday 30 October  
Leaves National Gallery at 9.00am SHARP

No..... @ \$48 each

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Friday 24/10/97

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entree card 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 the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.

Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_



SPRING 1997 BOTANIC NEWS  
BOOKING FORM

SPRING IN THE SEYMOUR-YEA AREA

Bus trip on Thursday 13 November

Leaves National Gallery at 9.00am SHARP

No.....@ \$48 each      Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Friday 7/11/97

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS: FIELD TRIP  
TO RBG CRANBOURNE

Tuesday 18 November, 10.00am - 3.00pm

No.....@ \$5 each

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I require a lift

☐ I could take  
passengers

RSVP by Tuesday 11/11/97

SYMBOLS OF SURVIVAL, GARDENS AND  
ARCHITECTURE: AN EXHIBITION OF PAINT-  
INGS IN OILS BY MARJORIE GILLESPIE

Opening in Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Wednesday 19 November, 5.30-8.30pm

No.....@ \$20 each

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Wednesday 12/11/97

Please return the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.

Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPRING 1997 BOTANIC NEWS  
BOOKING FORM

COCKTAIL PARTY AT GARDENS HOUSE

Tuesday 2 December, 5.30 - 7.30pm

No..... of Friends @ \$20.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No..... of Others @ \$24.00      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by 25/11/97

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS

Term 4      \$40      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entree card 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 the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.

Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

SPRING 1997 BOTANIC NEWS  
BOOKING FORM

BUS TOUR INFORMATION

Please note that you must have an entree card to join any bus tour. If you have sent your money with a stamped self-addressed envelope but have not received a card, please check with the Friends' office on 9650 6398 prior to the day of the tour to ensure you have been allocated a seat on the bus.

If you are unable to join a bus tour due to something unforeseen such as ill-health, please notify the Friends' office on 9650 6398 as soon as possible; we sometimes have a waiting list for trips. Your cheque will be refunded if your place can be filled.

If you have to make a last-minute cancellation, it is important for you to leave a message on the answering machine at the Friends' office before 9.00am. This will avoid a repeat of previous situations when a bus has delayed its departure, waiting for people who have booked but who fail to arrive.



## MEMBERSHIP

During the year to 30 June 1997 we welcomed 265 new Members but were disappointed that more than 300 Members did not renew their subscriptions. As a result the number of 'paid-up' Members fell from 1392 to 1340. In recent years the number of Members has grown steadily, and many have been Members for a long time, so it is particularly disturbing that so many have, in this latest year, remained Members only for a short time. Because the primary purpose of the Friends is to support the Gardens in various ways we are anxious to increase our membership, and so urge those Members who have not yet done so to continue their support by renewing their subscriptions without delay.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pensioner, Country or Student members who wish to subscribe as a couple should note that the total subscription amount for that category is \$28, not twice the amount of \$20.

## RENEWALS

Please check inside your *Botanic News* envelope for a renewal notice. If you believe a renewal notice has been sent in error please contact the office.

## DISPLAY CABINETS FOR SALE

The Friends have two large modern cabinets, purchased on request for the Herbarium reception area some years ago but no longer required.

They are suitable for a gallery, museum, antique centre or similar use - of glass, with glass shelves and sliding front panels - approx. 200cm tall, 145cm wide and 48cm deep.

If you're interested or can suggest a possible buyer, please phone the Friends asap on 9650 6398.

## FIRE BLIGHT

Further laboratory testing, both in Australia and Germany, has confirmed the presence of the fire blight bacterium, *Erwinia amylovora*, in three plants at RBG Melbourne. These plants have been removed, together with another 15 or so nearby susceptible plants, as a precaution. More precautionary removals are being undertaken to limit the opportunities for the bacterium to spread.

Plant pathologists are stressing that although the causative organism has been isolated in Melbourne (and also in Adelaide Botanic Gardens), no outbreaks of fire blight disease have been found. This is unusual. It may be because the bacterial strain is benign, or is inhibited by other micro-organisms, or is subject to sub-optimal environmental conditions. Research is continuing to investigate those possibilities. The German fire blight expert, Prof Klaus Geidar, who visited RBG Melbourne on 3 July, has not previously encountered a situation where *Erwinia amylovora* is present but there has been no generalised outbreak of fire blight disease.

RBG staff continue to work closely with Agriculture Victoria officers in monitoring the susceptible plants and in arranging additional surveys of the Gardens and surrounding areas in spring. The flowering of susceptible plants and warmer spring weather provide better conditions for the growth of *Erwinia* and the possible appearance of fire blight disease.

Enquiries about fire blight should continue to be made to Agriculture Victoria at Knoxfield.

## BENEFITS FOR FRIENDS

**Both the Friends' Shop and the Gardens' Shop offer a 10 per cent discount on members' purchases over \$20.**

The following businesses very kindly offer special discounts to Friends. *Please note: only a member presenting his/her signed current membership card may claim a discount. CARDS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE.*

### Fryers' Nursery

589 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn  
5% off plants only

### Idaho Nurseries

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

### Bulleen Art and Garden

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

### 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

### Green Gables Nursery

1039 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill  
10% off all items except specials

### Garden of Eden Nursery

33 Ferrars Street, Albert Park  
10% discount off everything

### The Cottage Garden Nursery

cnr Macedon Ave & Doncaster Rd  
North Balwyn  
\$20 per tray of seedlings  
(8 punnets), 5% off all plants





*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.

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His Excellency the  
Hon. Sir James Gobbo, A.C.  
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**FRIENDS' OFFICE**  
Margaret Howes  
Joan Baumgartner  
Helen Fahey

C/- National Herbarium  
Birdwood Avenue  
South Yarra Vic 3141  
Tel: (03) 9650 6398  
Fax: (03) 9650 7723

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## FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

The Draft Landscape Master Plan for RBG Melbourne received general approval, including a very positive public meeting on 28 May. Twenty-nine submissions were made, including one from the Friends Council. The submissions raised several issues about some specific proposals in the plan, but the broad thrust of the plan and its recognition of the heritage values of the Gardens have been widely supported. We are now evaluating the points made in the submission, in collaboration with the Reference Panel of external experts. Once this is done we will have the final version of the Master Plan completed in 3-4 months, when we can begin implementing it.

Down at Cranbourne, we expect that the Environmental Effects Study into the proposed East-West Road Link will be released any day. Two of the options being considered for a four-lane arterial road – both in the Ballarto Road 'corridor' – would have highly damaging impacts on the wetlands, bushlands and plants and animals in the northern part of RBG Cranbourne. Significant lengths of both road options would cut a swathe through the Gardens. Other sections would be within a few metres of the new Australian Garden, greatly diminishing visitors' enjoyment of it. We will need the Friends' help – collectively and individually – to make sure these road options are firmly rejected by the Government. I will keep you posted about the outcome of the study and the assistance needed from you.

Still at Cranbourne – but good news this time. We have recently welcomed Andrew Grant as the first Assistant Director (Cranbourne Gardens). The growth in the

volume and scope of activities at Cranbourne has necessitated establishing it as a new Division in RBG's structure. Andrew is a botanist by training and joins us from Parks Victoria and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Interviews have been completed for the inaugural Director of the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, which is being established at Cranbourne with funding from the Baker Foundation.

Andrew Laidlaw has been appointed Landscape Planner at RBG Melbourne, following Sandra Beckwith's departure to work overseas. Stephen May resigned as Business Manager recently to take up an appointment as finance manager of a suburban shopping centre development. We wish Sandra and Stephen well in their future careers. Damien Adams has been appointed to succeed Stephen May as Business Development Manager.

We have been pleased to welcome back Dr Jim Grimes, our 1996 inaugural Mueller Fellow, who has now left the New York Botanical Garden to take up a position at RBG Melbourne as a Senior Botanist. And we say bon voyage to Education Officer Rod Dunstan who leaves on 20 September for three and a half months in the USA, UK and Germany on a Churchill Fellowship.

We've come to expect outdoor theatrical productions in the Gardens during summer; now there's an indoor winter season of drama in the Herbarium Hall. The Vault Theatre Company will present *Camille* until 20 September at 8.15pm from Tuesday to Saturday and 6.15pm on Sundays. Bookings are essential on 9685 5111.

**Philip Moors**  
**Director**