

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SPRING 1998

JOHN HARPER



Sadly, this *Botanic News* does not include a message from our President, John Harper. John died on 7 August, after a courageous fight against cancer. As his illness developed, it cost John a determined effort to summon the strength to attend Friends' functions but, characteristically, his thought

was not for himself but for anyone present who might be disconcerted by his apparent shortness of breath or difficulty in standing. The selfless devotion and practical support of John's wife Marjorie was very important in enabling him to maintain his activities for so long.

He engaged in business for the Friends until a week or so before his death, attending to letters and reports, and presiding over meetings of the Shop sub-committee at home when he was no longer able to come into the Gardens.

John was a member of the Economics Department at the University of Melbourne from 1958 until his retirement in 1990, after which he continued to participate actively in a number of community, university and social welfare organisations.

He joined the Friends' Council in March 1994, and succeeded Sir Rupert Hamer as President in November 1996. John's association with the Friends meant a great deal to him, and we, in turn, greeted with joy his agreement to become our President. He also presided over the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens of Victoria at the time Melbourne hosted its conference in 1997. John was wise in leadership, gentle yet firm, respected by the Gardens' managers, and admired by the Friends. He will be greatly missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Marjorie and the Harper family.

At a Thanksgiving Service on 15 August at Trinity College Chapel, the Gardens were very well represented, in the congregation of 300 or so, by Members and staff of the Friends, together with the RBG Director and some Board members.

The Friends will place a seat in the Gardens in appreciation of John's association with us. Please send your donation, noting that it is for John's memorial seat, to the Friends' office, with cheques made payable to the Friends of the RBG, Melbourne Trust Fund. Donations are tax deductible, so make sure you include your address for a receipt.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS

Thank you to more than 360 Members who responded to our recent survey - a very high percentage as surveys go. Your comments are reassuring, thought-provoking and will be extremely valuable as we plan future Friends' strategies and activities.

Not unexpectedly, nearly everyone joined the Friends to support the Gardens. Overwhelmingly, people want to know more about the RBG, see behind the scenes, hear from those who work in the Herbarium and tend the garden beds, learn about the Collections and rare plants, absorb the history....

The aspects of Friends' membership that people 'enjoy the most' are (in this order): talks, *Botanic News* and *Botanic Magazine*, the Botanical Illustrators and their exhibitions, day trips, and the Growing Friends, including their sales.

It was regretted that so few people can belong to the Growing Friends (necessarily limited by the nursery's small space) and that opportunities do not exist for hands-on work in the Gardens (but see p.7 for notice of a small step in this direction).

We are urged to attract younger members, and conduct activities for young people and older children (a nucleus of our younger members had already been contacted to pursue this aim).

On the other hand, some of our most enthusiastic supporters confessed to being in their eighties and nineties!

SPRING ACTIVITIES

SPRING IN AND OUT
OF THE GARDENS

Tuesday 15 September
at Gardens House
Viewing: 2.00 - 5.00pm
Reception: 6.00 - 8.00pm



Gardens House, filled with flowers, promises to make Tuesday 15 September a very special date for the Friends.

You and your guests are invited to a reception between 6.00 and 8.00pm, to share the flower-filled elegance of Gardens House with the Governor (our Patron) and Lady Gobbo, the Director and members of the RBG Board, Friends and florists.

Many of Melbourne's leading flower people will generously donate arrangements for display in Gardens House, most of which will be offered for sale in a silent auction. We are grateful to the following, who have agreed to support this function: Bosky Blooms, Bountiful Garden, Domain Flowers, Otto Fauser, The Floral Art Society of Victoria, Flowers Vasette, Fresco House and Flowers, Georges, Ivy's Flower Shop, Market Import, James Morrison, Mont Albert Florist, North Melbourne Florist, Kevin O'Neill Flowers, Panache Flowers, Karen Rose, The Sogetsu School of Ikebana, Town and Country Gardens.

In addition, the Friends' 'resident florist' Robyn Tymms will arrange a bowl of flowers from the Gardens, while flowers from RBG Cranbourne will be presented by Dianne and Warren Worboys.

Drinks and savouries will be served.

If you can't come to the evening party, the floral arrangements will also be on view between 2.00 and 5.00pm.

Under the new management arrangements for Gardens House, it may not be feasible for the Friends to hold fund-raising functions there in future. So don't miss this opportunity to see the former Director's Residence in party dress, and perhaps take home some beautiful flowers.

Please respond quickly! RSVP for the reception by Wednesday 9 September on enclosed booking form

Cost: Reception 6.00–8.00pm \$15 per person
 Afternoon viewing 2.00–5.00pm \$5 per person
 payable at the door. Booking unnecessary.

To visit Gardens House, which is behind the Herbarium, enter from Dallas Brooks Drive.

NOTABLE BRITISH GARDENS
TWO ILLUSTRATED LECTURES BY
NADA JENNETT

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium
Thursday 24 September, 5.30pm for 6.00pm
Tuesday 6 October, 8.00pm

Nada Jennett is a biologist, garden designer, tour leader and Senior Tutor in Garden Design and Garden History at the English Gardening School, Chelsea Physic Garden. She lives near Bristol.

We are extremely fortunate that, during a visit to her daughter in Melbourne, Mrs Jennett has offered, with great enthusiasm, to 'walk us around' some well-known British gardens. Her theme: 'What meaning have the great gardens of the past for us today as we near the millennium?'

Two lectures have been planned, as follows:

The 'Trendsetter' Gardens of Twentieth
Century Britain

Thursday 24 September at 5.30 for 6.00pm

The rich heritage of design concepts and plant use as illustrated by famous gardens eg. *Hidcote Manor*, *Sissinghurst*, *Great Dixter*; cottage gardens; and contemporary gardens of Rosemary Verey and John Brookes.

RSVP by 18 September on enclosed booking form

From Botanics to Brookes

Tuesday 6 October at 8.00pm

A look at the botanic garden - eg the Chelsea Physic Garden, a 'Paradise Garden' of the past - and how ideas changed through the Romantic landscape to Victorian displays and plantsmanship, then the return to hardy plants, and finally to the wilder, natural garden concepts of today, with the emphasis on conservation, native plants and national identity. What next? Examples included: John Brookes' garden at Denmans, Beth Chatto's garden, gardens in Europe and USA.

RSVP by 1 October on enclosed booking form

Cost for each lecture: \$10 Friends \$12 Others

Please note that refreshments will be served before the September lecture, and supper after the October talk.

WOODLAND PLANTS A Talk by Penny Dunn

Tuesday 29 September
Refreshments at 5.30pm
followed by talk at 6.00pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Penny is the owner of Florilegia Nursery at Mt Macedon, and has lived there for 20 years. She has had a particular interest in the study of woodland plants during all this time, and will bring some plants to illustrate this talk.

She holds the Primula Collection for the Ornamental Plant Collection Association.

Cost: Friends \$8.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 24 September on enclosed booking form

GROWING FRIENDS SPRING PLANT SALE

**G.F. NURSERY
SPECIAL OPENING**
12 September, 10 - 2pm

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Sunday 11 October, 10.00am - 3.00pm

The sale will again be held in the Royal Botanic Gardens around the Dahlia Bed near E Gate on Birdwood Avenue. There is a great variety of plants this time - something for every garden type. The 'specials' listed on the enclosed flyer will be reserved for the sale, but all other plants are available to members who want to shop on Fridays between 10.00am and 1.00pm. Note that as is usual at sale times, the Nursery will not be open on the two Fridays prior to, and the Friday following, the sale - that is 2, 9 and 16 October.

However, it will be open for all our members on **Saturday 12 September** between 10.00am and 2.00pm. This is, in particular, to present a pre-sale preference opportunity to members who are at work and thus unable to visit the Nursery on Friday mornings. Current signed membership cards must be shown. We have arranged this special opening in response to comments in our survey. If it proves worthwhile, we'll adopt this practice before each sale.

To find the nursery, enter the RBG Works Area between E and F Gates, off the Australian Rainforest Walk. Turn left immediately; we are behind the cream brick building.

Recently the Growing Friends have donated
* \$1000 worth of plants for Government House gardens
* 13 beautiful *Helmholtzias* (unobtainable from any other source) to Cranbourne Botanic Gardens
* and various plants for our own Botanic Gardens

Sharon Beaman
Convener, Growing Friends

GALLERY AND GARDENS TOUR MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Sunday 18 October

We hope some of our members who are office-bound on weekdays will join us for this interesting Sunday bus trip. It will combine gardens on canvas at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery with two contrasting 'living' gardens which are not generally available for public viewing.

Leaving from outside the National Gallery at 9.00am sharp we'll first visit *Moat's Corner* at Dromana, the garden of Friends member Jean Duncan. We'll have tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival. This garden has meandered further and further from the old farmhouse, so that around every corner is a new surprise: nooks and crannies, water ideas and special plantings.

Next we'll move on to *Meadowood* at Red Hill South, the home of Wendy Fleetwood. Wendy, who is a professional garden designer, has laid out her five-year-old garden for specific effects and to fulfil the particular requirements of soil, climate and the total picture. We'll have lunch in her garden (cover provided if it's wet).

At the Mornington Gallery we'll have a guided tour of *Backyards and Boundaries: 'It is the garden that delights most!'* This exhibition traces the representation of the garden through the period 1840 - 1930 by such notable artists as Eugene von Guerard, Ethel Carrick Fox, E. Phillips Fox, Ellis Rowan, Arthur Streeton, John Glover, Frederick McCubbin, Rupert Bunny and Dorrit Black.

The bus should return to the National Gallery by 5.30pm.

Cost: \$40 includes coach, morning tea, lunch and entry to gardens and gallery.

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 9 October.

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

EXHIBITION AND SALE
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium
22 October - 8 November 1998



OPENING RECEPTION
Wednesday 21 October 6.00 - 8.00pm

MEET THE ARTISTS
Thursday 22 October at 10.00am
See Botanical Illustrators section Page 6



JAPAN AUTUMN GARDENS TOUR
Departs 7 November. Phone the Friends office
(9650 6398) for a brochure

SPRING TOUR: GRAND MANSIONS AND GARDENS OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT

7 - 9 November. Please note change of date

On this bus tour we will explore some of the most beautiful gardens, in their full spring flourish, and houses in country Victoria. The Western District is justly famous for its grand 19th century mansions with their garden and park settings.

Our tour director is Paul McIntyre, who, having been born at *Narrapumelap* (one of the properties to be visited), has strong ties with the Western District.

Some of the properties we will visit are:

- * *Murndal*, c.1845-1914, owned by the Winter-Cookes
- * The neo-gothic bluestone mansion, *Narrapumelap*, 1873, being brilliantly restored by Paul's brother Kevin, and set in a vast park. Kevin has introduced an extensive tree replacement program, planting hundreds of trees, all of European, American and Asian origin. He has also designed extensive garden beds and built some picturesque follies
- * *Minjah*, built in 1870; it is surrounded by elms, oaks and cedars, linden and kurrajongs, believed to have been planted by Charles Scoborio who worked on the property in 1869 before he became Curator of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens
- * *Purumbete*, beautifully situated beside a lake and once the family home of the Manifold dynasty
- * *Merrang*, a classical bluestone building which overlooks the Hopkins River
- * *Woolongoon*, whose magnificent gardens are tended by the well-known garden writer, Luki Weatherley. One of its trees, included on the National Tree Register, was planted by the Poet Laureate, John Masefield, in 1934. In addition to the many interesting shrubs and perennials, traces remain of the original kitchen garden.

The special feature of this tour is that we meet the owners of all the properties, having lunch or morning/afternoon tea with them. Another highlight will be dinner with the Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens on the Saturday evening.

Cost: \$460 per person twin share; \$499 per person single room. This covers all expenses: coach travel, all meals including morning and afternoon teas, two nights' motel accommodation at Hamilton and Port Fairy, and all entry fees.

Leaving from the National Gallery at 9.15am **sharp** on Saturday 7 November, we will arrive back at the Gallery on Monday about 6.30pm.

RSVP with payment in full by Friday 23 October on enclosed booking slip.

If you'd like details of tour conditions (insurance, cancellations etc) and an itinerary, please contact the Friends' office.

FRIENDS OF THE RBG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ILLUSTRATED TALK BY TRACIE LAWS

**Tuesday 10 November at 8.00pm; dessert from 7.15pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium**

Not only is this a free meeting, there are other attractions as well!

First off, we serve dessert and port from 7.15pm. After the speedily transacted official business - the important reports and election of office bearers - we are to have a talk about developments on the Old Observatory Site.

Tracie Laws, RBG Divisional Director of Public Programs and Development, will briefly outline the history of the Observatory site (did you know of Dr Mueller's vehement opposition to the siting of the Observatory next to *his* Gardens?), and explain how the astronomical buildings of the 1860s will be converted for public use or restored for inspection as we approach the new century. Tracie will also describe the facilities to be enjoyed in the new building under construction, and show us a landscaping plan. Here is an excellent opportunity to keep abreast of this major development at the Gardens.

Formal notice of this meeting will be sent out towards the end of October.

DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Workshop conducted by James Morrison
Tuesday 17 November at 10.30am, followed by lunch
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium**

We are very happy to have James Morrison join us to demonstrate some of his great and innovative ideas for the Christmas table.

James has been credited with masterminding wonderful flower decorations for Designex, the Interior Designers Fair, and has been linked with Kevin O'Neill Flowers for many years. He is a very successful artist, and has a long and important association with the Friends. Susan Nicholls from Kevin O'Neill Flowers will assist in the demonstration.

James promises to show us how to prepare clever items using material that you have in your own garden. We will be pleased for you to contribute by bringing something suitable from home, ie. leaves, seed pods, fruit, flowers and twigs.

The workshop will be followed by a delicious sandwich lunch.

Cost: Friends \$18.00 Others \$22.00
RSVP by 12 November on enclosed booking form

BUS TRIP TO GLENARA, MT MACEDON AND ERINVALLE IN SPRING

Tuesday 24 November
Leaving the National Gallery at 9.00am sharp

First, we will travel to *Glenara*, a lovely old garden at Bulla with a recently-restored folly. It was the home of Alister Clark, and some of his roses survive despite the depredations of wallabies. We will have morning tea there.

Then on to Mt Macedon, and a delightful garden at *Lime Tree House*. This garden was completely destroyed in the bushfires in '86, but has been beautifully restored with some most unusual trees and plants and neat box hedges.

We will have lunch at Nandy Tearooms in Mt Macedon, and there'll be an opportunity to briefly visit Stephen Ryan's Dicksonia Rare Plants nursery. After lunch we hope to meet some Gisborne Friends at their fledgling Botanic Gardens. The Gardens have close links with Gisborne in New Zealand and feature a striking Maori totem as well as New Zealand plants.

Our final stop will be *Erinvale* at Gisborne. Built around 1870, *Erinvale* was in recent years the home of Susan Irvine, who established one of Australia's greatest rose collections in its hillside garden. Among more than 1000 plants are species roses, old fashioned roses, David Austin roses and once-lost varieties bred by Alister Clark. They should be at their peak of bloom. The garden boasts a host of superb trees, including an oak, elms and walnut trees well into their second century.

We should return to the National Gallery about 5.30pm.

Cost: \$40 includes coach, morning tea, lunch and entry to gardens

RSVP on enclosed booking form by Friday 13 November.

THE FRIENDS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 2 December at 7.30 for 8.00pm
Terrace Restaurant, Royal Botanic Gardens

As this has proved to be one of our most pleasurable functions, in the beautiful setting overlooking the Ornamental Lake, we have again arranged to wind up the year's activities in the Terrace Restaurant.

Please mark the date in your diary and look out for an invitation with the annual meeting mailout in late October. Perhaps you would like to give friends or family an early Christmas gift by bringing them to this dinner. New members will be especially welcome.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Invitations have been sent out to recently-joined Friends to attend a New Members Welcome at 10.30am on 9 September in Mueller Hall. We hold a function to greet and 'orient' new members twice a year - one in the morning and the other in the late afternoon.

If you have joined the Friends in the past couple of years but have not been able to attend a welcome, please telephone the office (9650 6398) if you would like an invitation for this occasion.

* * * * *

We were concerned to receive two or three comments on our survey forms about a perceived unfriendliness at our meetings. We have since provided name tags for everyone at each function, and would invite new members, or indeed any members who do not know any fellow Friends, to identify themselves to committee members. We will make sure you are introduced to others and thus hope to make you feel more welcome.

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS

New members of the Friends are most welcome to join this group which meets monthly, between 1.00 and 3.00pm on Mondays, in the Whirling Room of the Great Melbourne Telescope Building.

Wanda McPherson of the Embroiderers' Guild is our instructor. Wanda encourages those wishing to begin embroidery as well as those who have experience. In coming months, 'blackwork' is being taught and a Christmas item will be made; members may wish to bring their own embroidery and receive help.

Next term dates: 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 7 December. Bring basic sewing kit. \$40 per term.

Book on enclosed form

OBSERVATORY PRECINCT*

Good progress continues to be made with the Observatory project. Construction and refurbishment works are expected to be finished by the end of September. Landscaping of the site will begin soon, and much of it will be undertaken by RBG staff. Nursery staff have for months been propagating and sourcing plant material for the new garden displays. At this stage, we expect the Friends' move to Observatory Lodge to take place about mid-October.

All the planning permits and agreements have been issued for re-locating La Trobe's Cottage to its new site near the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, on the southern side of Birdwood Avenue - the move scheduled for late August.

Some Friends will have seen that the City of Melbourne is widening and renovating the Tan Track between Observatory Lodge and the Herbarium building. The works are scheduled for completion in early November.

* This is the newly-approved title for the site; 'Observatory Gate' will in future refer only to the lockable gate inside the symbolic gateway, still to come.

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

Our biennial exhibition opens in Mueller Hall on Thursday 22 October - note date change.

On display will be over 170 recent works by members of the Friends' Botanical Illustrators' group, who include many of Australia's most accomplished botanical artists. Presented by the Friends to promote the work of these talented artists and to raise funds in support of the Gardens, the exhibition will appeal to admirers and collectors of fine art as well as gardeners and plant lovers.



22 October to 8 November.
Open daily 10.00am - 5.00pm
Admission \$3 incl. catalogue

Australian Waterlilies
by Margaret Saul



Alyogyne Huegelii
by John Armstrong

EXHIBITION OPENING RECEPTION AND PREVIEW

To be opened by John Patrick
Wednesday 21 October, 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

(enter through adjacent marquee)

Admission: \$15 (includes catalogue and refreshments)

RSVP by 14 October on enclosed booking form

Unfortunately, we have not secured a major sponsor for this year's exhibition. If anyone could suggest a knight in shining armour or a generous arts patron who might help, please contact Louise Coronel on 9827 5910.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS WORKSHOPS

For members of these workshops, held in the Whirling Room, the program for the next three months will be:

8 September: Helene Wild will talk about orchids

6 October: Anita Barley workshop

(NB First Tuesday of this month)

10 November: Dianne Emery workshop

TUESDAY PAINTERS' GROUP (THE WHIRLY BIRDS)

This informal group meets on two or three Tuesdays each month in the Whirling Room. Several Friends have joined the group recently, and other new members are always welcome.

Anyone interested in joining should telephone Mary Gregory on 9836 8587. Cost is \$2.50 per day.

MALI MOIR, one of our members, received an Honourable Mention at the exhibition of the Wildlife Artists Society of Australasia which opened on 1 August. Mali worked at the RBG as an illustrator for *Flora of Victoria* for several years.

MEET THE ARTISTS FOR COFFEE ON OPENING MORNING

Thursday 22 October, 10.00am - 12.00noon
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

On the first morning of the exhibition we will be hosting a morning coffee in the adjacent marquee. Exhibiting artists will be on hand to discuss their work and the intricacies of their exacting art form, and to personally conduct tours of the exhibition.

Cost (includes catalogue and morning coffee in marquee):
Friends \$10 Others \$15

RSVP by 14 October on enclosed booking form

DIANNE EMERY'S CLASSES IN BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION - TERM 4

The Tuesday night class will begin on 13 October and will run for a 10-week term, 2 1/2 hours per week. Day classes for the Spring term will commence on Wednesday 21 October. The Wednesday and Friday morning classes will run for three hours per week.

All classes are held in the Whirling Room Studio on the Old Observatory Site. The cost is \$180 for Friends, \$200 for others.

One-day introductory workshops in botanical illustration will be offered in the September school holidays; the dates being considered are Saturday 19 September and Friday 2 October; hours 10.00am - 4.00pm. The cost will be \$60 for Friends and \$70 for others. All materials will be provided.

For further details phone Dianne on 9523 5397 or the Friends office - 9650 6398.



In a week of bitter cold and rain, the Growing Friends sorted and wrapped plants as they were lifted from the old Perennial bed. Then on 27 June, they assisted the RBG gardeners at a sale which raised almost \$6000 towards the development of the new Perennial Border. It has now been replanted.

Photo by David Cash

GARDENS RENEWAL

Work has proceeded rapidly with laying out and planting the new Perennial Border. The new bed will be larger and different in shape from the old one, with much unwanted bamboo and other vegetation removed, and a crescent-shaped path constructed at the edge of the garden. With excellent assistance from the Growing Friends, a successful public sale of plant stock from the previous border was held on 27 June. The sale raised almost \$6,000 towards the cost of constructing and planting the new bed. The RBG is most grateful for the grant of \$15,000 from the Friends to cover the balance of the costs. Planting-out and mulching has virtually been completed, and the finishing touches are being made to the path. Once these jobs have been finished, the lawn in front of the garden will be refurbished.

Progress is also clearly evident in the creation of the New Caledonian Garden near E Gate. Bamboo and other plants not required for the collection have been removed, together with most of a large clump of papyrus in the Nymphaea Lake. A new path through the bed is being constructed, incorporating a boardwalk section with an attractive view across the lake.

The bluestone steps at the foot of the Hopetoun Lawn have been rebuilt as part of the general up-grading of paths (funded through the Government's three-year capital grant). The old steps were poorly designed, and have been replaced by a new alignment incorporating three flights of steps separated by landings.

BALLARTO ROAD, CRANBOURNE

The EES Panel has completed its report on the proposed Cranbourne East-West Road Link and submitted it to the Minister of Planning. It is likely that Minister Maclellan will reach a decision by the end of August and then make a public announcement.

TWO VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR PERENNIAL BORDER

A totally new Perennial Border has been established in the Gardens. The design incorporates a change in shape and emphasis, using strong colour and foliage. The project is sponsored by the Friends of the RBG.

The Melbourne Gardens Division is inviting two volunteers (who must belong to the Friends) to participate in a trial program of working alongside its qualified horticulturists to assist in maintaining the Perennial Border. On-the-job training and supervision will be provided. You need to be willing to commit to four hours (8.00am - 12 noon) one day per week from October 1998 to July 1999.

People interested should ring Dall Martin on 9252 2337 for an application form and position description. Applications should be forwarded to Dall Martin, Administrative Assistant, Melbourne Gardens Division, by close of business on Friday 18 September. Interviews will be held between 28 September and 9 October.

Council Elections

The end of the financial year has come and gone and it is time for the Friends to look to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10 November, and the election of office bearers and other members of the Council. Members of Council are elected to serve for two years. This year four members of the Council retire—Sharon Beaman, John Hawker, Janet Thomson and Catherine Trinca. All are eligible for re-election and other Members may stand for election if they so wish. Sadly there is a vacancy for the office of President and the office of one Vice-President and the Treasurer also fall vacant. Nomination forms for all positions are available from the Friends' Office, and must be returned by Friday 9 October.

Joan Baumgartner, Assistant Treasurer

Joan's departure was signalled in the last *Botanic News* and it was with considerable sadness that we farewelled her in mid-August. She had been a part-time staff member since 1989, working in four different Friends' offices over the years.

It is hard to estimate the worth of someone like Joan who works away quietly, with no fuss or drama, keeping the accounts for the Friends accurate and balanced. This has become no easy task as the Friends has grown and more groups have developed, each requiring its own set of figures. With assistance from her family, Joan has mastered the computer and all accounts are now computerised. This has been essential for the Friends as it would be hard to find either an auditor or a treasurer who would take on accounts for an organisation as large as the Friends if the accounts were not on computer. As a tribute to Joan's computer and accountancy skills the auditor was, this year, able to finish the audit well within the three days which had been set aside.

We all wish Joan a happy retirement and will certainly miss her gentleness and kindness. She has promised to call and see us.

In turn, we welcome Jean Woodger as her successor. Jean is a Friend and a Botanical Illustrator with wide book-keeping experience.

A GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS: ANNE'S GARDENS FIND A HOME

It was always Anne Marie Graham's hope that her paintings of the Royal Botanic Gardens could be kept as a cohesive collection, and it was disappointing that a place could not be found for them at the Gardens.

However, thanks to the generosity of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, they have found a home in the vicinity. Dame Elisabeth has acquired 40 paintings for the National Trust, and in time they will be on public display in the building presently occupied by the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art in Dallas Brooks Drive. (La Trobe's Cottage will shortly be moved to a site adjacent to ACCA, the two buildings forming a strong presence for the National Trust.)

The paintings are currently on tour to regional galleries in Victoria. They formed a stunning exhibition at Gallery 101 in Collins Street, where the Friends enjoyed a private viewing on 29 June; we are indebted to Anne and the Gallery Director for the success of this occasion.

Sir Rupert Hamer opened the exhibition and launched the 128-page book, *A Garden for all Seasons*, which depicts this artist's very individual view of the Gardens. Published by Craftsman House, it contains 63 colour plates, together with essays by Jane Clark, Juliet Peers and Helen M. Cohn.



Now Joan Baumgartner can smile! No more Friends' accounts to settle, no more columns to reconcile... Among Council members farewelling Joan on 18 August were Sir Rupert Hamer and Lawrence Cohn.

Photo by Janet Thomson

FROM THE FRIENDS' SHOP

John Harper was the convener of the Shop sub-committee throughout his Presidency. He took an active and caring interest in every part of its day-to-day management. He regularly visited the shop, encouraging the trialling of new ideas.

He and Marj. Harper joined us for our annual Shop Christmas Picnic when the shop staff, volunteers and sub-committee enjoyed a get-together. We will miss John; he was always courteous, thoughtful, helpful and patient.

Jill Swann, Manager

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS IN THE RBG

In September, the most spectacular signs of Spring are presented by the magnolias, azaleas, viburnums, wisteria species and Vireya rhododendrons. It's also the month to admire the lillypilly hedge in flower. On a more modest scale, the flowering bulbs make their entrance, followed by the subtle shades of iris in October and November.

During this three-month period, make sure you also visit the Southern Chinese Collection, the Water Conservation Garden and the Grey Garden. There's a good opportunity to see how the Californian Garden is developing during October and November, and to experience the fragrance of the Herb Garden.

Other highlights in late Spring: the Australian Rainforest Walk, all rhododendrons, horse chestnuts on the Central Lawn, Echiums near the Tea Rooms and the Temple of the Winds, the New Zealand Collection, the delicate Species Rose Collection and the Hybrid Tea Roses.

On presentation of your Friends' signed membership card, you may obtain *A Garden for all Seasons* in the Gardens Shop at the discounted price of \$58.50. Also available are a range of Anne Graham cards and a print.

SPRING 1998 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

SPRING IN AND OUT OF THE GARDENS
Tuesday 15 September 6.00 - 8.00pm
RECEPTION AT GARDENS HOUSE

No.....at \$15 TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 9/9/98

NOTABLE BRITISH GARDENS

Illustrated talk by Nada Jennett
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium
Thursday 24 September at 5.30pm

No.....of Friends @ \$10 \$
No.....of Others @ \$12 \$

RSVP by 18/9/98 TOTAL: \$

Tuesday 6 October at 8.00pm

No.....of Friends @ \$10 \$
No.....of Others @ \$12 \$

RSVP by 1/10/98 TOTAL: \$

WOODLAND PLANTS Talk by Penny Dunn,
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Tuesday 29 September at 5.30pm for 6.00pm

No.....of Friends @ \$8 \$
No.....of Others @ \$10 \$

RSVP by 24/9/98 TOTAL: \$

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 1998 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

GALLERY AND GARDENS TOUR
MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Bus trip, Sunday 18 October, leaving
National Gallery at 9.00am

No..... @ \$40 TOTAL: \$
RSVP by 9/10/98

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION
EXHIBITION: PREVIEW AND OPENING RECEPTION
Wednesday 21 October, 6.00 - 8.00pm

No.....@ \$15 TOTAL: \$

MEET THE ARTISTS AT MORNING COFFEE

Thursday 22 October, 10.00 - 12 noon

No.....of Friends @ \$10 \$
No.....of Others @ \$15 \$

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 14/10/98

WESTERN DISTRICT TOUR: MANSIONS AND
GARDENS. 7 - 9 November

Leaving National Gallery at 9.15am

No.....Twin share @ \$460 \$
No.....Single room @ \$499 \$

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 23/10/98

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 1998 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

DECORATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS
James Morrison Workshop and Lunch
Tuesday 17 November at 10.30am
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

No..... of Friends @ \$18 \$
No..... of Others @ \$22 \$

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 12/11/98

GLENARA, MT MACEDON, ERINVALE

Bus trip, Tuesday 24 November
Leaving National Gallery at 9.00am

No..... at \$40

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 13/11/98

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS' WORKSHOP

Term commencing 14 September \$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.

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SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE

SEPTEMBER

FREE ILLUSTRATED TALKS about Australia's rare and threatened plants and fungi
Monday 7 to Friday 11 (except Wed) at 7.00pm
Mueller Hall. Contact: 9252 2300

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE VOLUNTARY GUIDES: EXTRAORDINARY TREES
Thursday 10 and Sunday 13 at 10.30am
Contact: 9252 2300

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALKS WITH ABORIGINAL GUIDE
Thursday 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11.00am.
Contact: 9252 2358

PLANT CARD WORKSHOPS
Plant Craft Cottage, Saturday 12 at 10.00am
Contact: 9509 8231

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
5 - 12 years:
Monday 21 September to Friday 2 October
Contact: 9252 2358

PAPERMAKING FOR KIDS
6 - 12 Years
Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24
Plant Craft Cottage
Contact: 9397 2107

OCTOBER

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE VOLUNTARY GUIDES: DISCOVER THE RAINFOREST
Thursday 8 and 29, Sunday 11 at 10.30am
Contact: 9252 2300

BIRD WALKS
Sunday 25 at 9.00am, Tuesday 27 at 8.00am,
Saturday 31 at 8.30am
Contact: 9252 2300

PAPERMAKING WORKSHOP
Plant Craft Cottage, Saturday 10 at 10.00am
Contact: 9836 7871 (before 6.00pm)

SPRING FESTIVAL AT PLANT CRAFT COTTAGE: FREE CRAFT DEMONSTRATION /WORKSHOP
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 at 10.00am
Contact: 9650 3235

CHILDREN'S WEEK: FREE FAMILY FUN DAY
Sunday 25 October from 11.00am
Contact: 9252 2300

NOVEMBER

GUIDED WALKS WITH THE VOLUNTARY GUIDES: DISCOVER THE RAINFOREST
Sundays 1 and 8, Thursday 5 at 10.30am
Contact: 9252 2300

TWILIGHT STROLL
Tuesday 10, Wednesday 18, Thursday 26 at 6.00pm
Contact: 9252 2300

CAE WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO GROWING HERBS
Saturday 14 at 9.30am
Contact: 9652 0611 (CAE)

WHAT'S ON IN THE RBG

In response to suggestions in our survey and as a service both to our Members and to the Gardens, we will attempt to provide a brief list of Gardens events to accompany each issue of *Botanic News*.

Please note that most events incur a charge and require prior booking, so it's important that you contact the listed phone number. Also, please appreciate that, after *Botanic News* goes to press, it is likely that additional events may be arranged for late in the quarter.

**RICHARD BARLEY
OUR JOLLY GOOD FELLOW**

Congratulations to Richard Barley, Divisional Director, Melbourne Gardens, who has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship.

It will allow him to visit a range of botanic and public gardens in the UK and Europe, particularly to investigate strategies for the management of mature gardens as sustainable landscape. Richard expects to spend about two months overseas in mid-1999.

PLEASE CALL US!

Our survey form invited Friends able to volunteer help to note their telephone number (in which case we are in the process of contacting them) or to call the office.

It is frustrating to report that we have quite a few forms containing offers of help, but no contact number. We are most keen for these Friends to follow up their intentions by calling the office on 9650 6398.

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), 10% off all
other plants

Banksia Hill B&B

RMB 5349, Horsham, 3401
10% discount on accommodation



The exuberant Jane Edmanson (right) gave a lively hands-on demonstration of plant propagation to Friends on 5 August. She was welcomed by Janet James, Convener of the Activities sub-committee.

Photo by Anita Simon

**SUB-ANTARCTIC ISLANDS -
THE GALAPAGOS OF
ANTARCTICA**

19 November - 1 December 1999

Would you like to experience the natural wonderland of the sub-Antarctic - the flora and fauna of these islands - aboard the vessel *Akademik Shokalski*? A recent talk at the Herbarium by the expedition leader Rodney Russ has captured the interest of at least two Melbourne Friends, and we understand that the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney are enthusiastic about organising a block booking.

You may obtain details from
Heritage Expeditions (NZ) Ltd,
P.O.Box 20 219, Christchurch, NZ.

Membership

June and July have seen the transfer from our old data base to the new one, Access, on our new computer. The Secretary and office staff have spent much time to make the transfer as accurate as possible. If you receive a reminder for a subscription due in your envelope and have already paid your subscription, please contact us so that we can rectify our error as soon as possible.

We are pleased that the number of Members whose subscriptions were paid up-to-date at 30 June this year was 50 more than at the same time last year.



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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Heather Ironmonger
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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

During June I visited several leading botanic gardens and research institutes in the United States, including Missouri, New York and Chicago Botanic Gardens, the Arnold Arboretum (Boston), and Longwood Garden (Philadelphia). I also attended the annual conference of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.

Having visited a cross-section of gardens and arboreta and having met staff from many others, I was struck by the similar challenges facing US and Australian institutions. We are all seeking to be more effective and efficient, to increase our financial resources, to offer stimulating educational programs, to contribute to the conservation of plant biodiversity through scientific and horticultural projects, and to provide well-kept gardens and pleasurable experiences for our visitors. All the institutions I visited have substantial programs to raise financial support from endowments, bequests, major donors and members. There is an amazingly strong philanthropic tradition in the US which encourages such programs, but elements from them can be transferred to Australia – and especially to Melbourne, where there is also a history of philanthropy. I believe the RBG must broaden its non-government financial base by setting up an endowment fund and a bequests program, the income from which would be used for capital or recurrent projects, and by establishing a major donors' society. These initiatives will take time to grow into significant sources of funding, but they must be started as soon as practicable. Following this study tour, and my previous one in 1996, I continue to be confident about the standards displayed throughout the Royal Botanic Gardens. It is right to

claim that our institution is one of the world's great botanic gardens. The design and care of our landscapes, the effectiveness of our educational and scientific programs, the diversity of our public programs, and the administration of the organisation are all equal to the best I have encountered.

Dr Mark McDonnell and his family have arrived in Melbourne for him to take up his appointment as the founding Director of the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE). Dr McDonnell delivered two papers on ARCUE and urban ecology at the meeting in Baltimore of the Ecological Society of America, shortly before his departure.

The second Mueller Fellow, Ms Judith Hart, took up her appointment on 3 August. She is collaborating with Neville Walsh in the preparation of an interactive computer key for the Victorian alpine flora. The project will test the practicability of developing similar, but larger, electronic projects based on the RBG's *Flora of Victoria*. The Friends' grant in support of the Mueller Fellowship for 1998 is most appreciated.

The past 12 months have seen much progress and many achievements by the RBG. On 3 July we held our annual staff function to celebrate the achievements of the past financial year. Two buses transported Melbourne staff to Cranbourne. The 1998 Guilfoyle Awards were presented, together with humorous presentations by each Division about their activities for the year. Cranbourne staff hosted inspections of the Australian Garden, Trig Point Lookout, Wylie's Creek, Nursery/Works area, and other sections of the site. The function was most successful, and clearly displayed the excellent achievements in 1997-98 and the strong morale among RBG staff.

Philip Moors
Director