



**BOTANIC NEWS**

**SUMMER 1985**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

1985 has been another active year for the Friends. Membership is now approaching some 400, and during the year a number of major activities were successfully followed through including a tour to the Botanic Gardens in Canberra and, more recently, an exhibition of Botanical Art. It is also pleasing to report that our new shop is now open at the Kiosk within the Gardens and hopefully this will result in increased sales and a heightened awareness to visitors of the Friends' role and activities.

It is anticipated that at our Annual General Meeting, March 1986, your Committee will be able to announce the creation of our long awaited Trust Fund. The Taxation Commissioner is now giving our proposal what we understand to be favourable consideration and we expect to be given the "green light" in the near future.

I would like to personally thank all members for their active support and involvement in our various activities during the year. Details of these activities are summarised elsewhere in the *Botanic News*. It is most appropriate at this time to recognise the hard work and time put in by all of those members of the elected Committee plus the advisory groups. Their enthusiasm and dedication enables the Friends to provide the services that members now enjoy as well as promote our overall objective, that of stimulating further interest in the Gardens and the National Herbarium and to support and assist them wherever possible. In this area we recognise and thank Dr David Churchill and Mrs Sylvia Churchill for their support during the year. Also I am very pleased to be able to report that the Minister for Conservation Forests and Lands and The Department recognise the Friends as having a role in the recently announced project to extend and improve the existing National Herbarium. The Friends will be more than pleased to assist in this project as we all recognise the overdue nature of these improvements, and I invite your interest in this project.

On behalf of your Committee may I extend to all members of the Friends and readers a very happy Christmas with our very best wishes for the New Year. Let's all make 1986 a year during which we will encourage increased use of our magnificent Gardens and do everything possible to further the important role they play within our community.

Frank Phillips

## FRIENDS ACTIVITIES 1986

### THE WAY THINGS WERE

Talk by Mrs Beth Gott, Tuesday, 11 February at 10.30 a.m. at the home of Mrs Kay Fairley, 76 St. George's Road, Toorak.

Beth trained in Botany at Melbourne and London and is an authority on plants utilised by the Aborigines and is currently running a training programme for Aboriginal women.

Beth's talk will make an interesting start to the coming year, and an added attraction Kay's beautiful National Trust flat.

Morning tea will be served.

RSVP 6 February

Golda Isaac 817 5640

Iona Christianson 870 3940

Tickets at door.

Members ..... \$4.00

Non-members ..... \$5.00

### VISIT TO CRUDEN FARM

Wednesday, 12 February

We have been invited to join with the Guides to visit Dame Elisabeth Murdoch's garden Cruden Farm at Langwarren. We regret the number must be limited to forty. Please ring Beth Higgs on 850 5908 by 30 January to confirm your booking. A cheque for \$5.00 payable to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens can then be sent. Please note that transport is not provided.

### 'THE FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 19 at 8.00 p.m. National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave., South Yarra.

Agenda, minutes of the 1985 Annual General Meeting and nomination forms will be forwarded in the New Year.

David Wilkinson, Architect and Friends' Committee member will give an illustrated talk entitled —

House and Garden : Relationships

David was the recipient of one of three yearly Australian scholarships to attend the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and its satellite garden, Wakehurst Place, Sussex, for a period of two years.

Supper will be served.

## SOME COMING EVENTS FOR 1986

Victorian Autumn Trip to Hamilton  
April 11 to April 14 inclusive.

Members will visit gardens of interest en route and while in Hamilton as well as the renowned Hamilton Art Gallery.

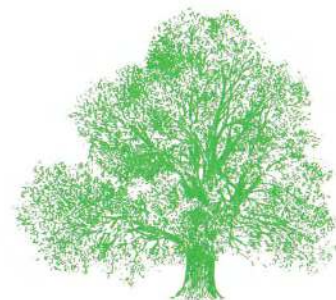
Thursday, 29 May at 10.30 a.m.

The History of Embroidery; a talk by Mrs Joan Hossack.

Tuesday, 29 July

Mrs Barbara Williams will speak on John Wedgewood, who introduced floral painting on china.

Further details of the above activities will be contained in our Autumn *Botanic News*.



## GARDENS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

Please note that a series of lectures on 'The state of the garden', as announced in the Spring issue of *Botanic News*, is to be offered in the second half of 1986.

## HERBARIUM EXTENSION PLANS

The Herbarium extension plans and one model, with the three proposed options, are available for viewing at the Herbarium until the end of January. Friends and the public are encouraged to comment.

## AVAILABLE FROM OUR SHOP

POSTCARDS ..... 20c each  
Four designs

GREETING CARDS ..... 40c - 80c each  
Four designs

POSTERS ..... \$1.00 - \$3.50 each  
Five designs (wildflowers, swans, trees, map of the gardens)

GUIDE BOOKS ..... \$2.00 and \$5.00 each

MAUDE GIBSON FLOWER PRINTS .... \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00

GUIDE BROCHURES ..... 30c each  
Covering seasonal walks, birds, trees, endangered plants, succulents, history of the gardens, roses, etc.

CHILDREN'S PACKAGE ..... \$3.00 each  
Black and white swan poster, Junior Friends' badge, colourful activity sheets

### ACTIVITY SHEETS

May be purchased separately.

*Hours of opening (Flexible):*

*Saturday 1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

*Sunday 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.*

## SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Fryer's Nursery, 589 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, and 'Idaho' Nurseries, 410 Waverley Road, East Malvern offer special discounts to Friends on production of their current membership card.

## 'PLANTS AND PEOPLE' DISPLAY

A collection of various plants used by people is in the special display glasshouse, near the nursery and workshops until Christmas.

Plants being exhibited include, beverage plants such as coffee and tea, food plants such as pineapple, wheat, sugarcane, and potato, plants used as flavourings and timber plants such as teak.

A special highlight is a number of wooden bowls carved from Mahogany, Olive and Blackwood timbers. These bowls were handcrafted by Mr David Cummings of Beaumaris, who kindly donated them for the duration of the display.

## SUMMER IN THE GARDENS

Although Spring is the most colourful time to visit the Gardens, a variety of shrubs and trees produce quite spectacular flowers during the Summer months.

Along the Australian border, plants belonging to the *Baeckea*, *Epacris* and *Lomatia* genera flower during this period.

Shrubs producing colourful displays in the garden beds include, Hibiscus, Hydrangeas, Fuschias and Buddleja.

Other plants flowering at this time are listed below.

- \* *Calodendrum capense* — South Africa  
"Cape Chestnut"
- \* *Erythrina crista-galli* — South America  
"Cockscomb Coral Tree"
- \* *Jacaranda mimosifolia* — North Argentina  
"Jacaranda"
- \* *Grevillea robusta* — N.S.W. QLD.  
"Silky Oak"
- \* *Acacia elata* — N.S.W.  
"Cedar Wattle"
- \* *Tristanopsis laurina* — VIC., N.S.W., QLD.  
"Kanooka or Watergum"
- \* *Melaleuca genistifolia* — W.A.  
"White Feather Honey Myrtle"
- \* *Gardenia thunbergia* — South Africa  
"Thunberg Gardenia"
- \* *Brachychiton acerifolius* — N.S.W. QLD.  
"Flame Tree"
- \* *Lagerstroemia indica* — China  
"Crepe Myrtle"
- \* *Clethra arborea* — Azores  
"Lily-of-the-Valley-Tree"
- \* *Eucalyptus ficifolia* — W.A.  
"Red Flowering Gum"
- \* *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* — Tropical Asia  
"Chinese Hibiscus"

John Beetham  
Botanic Gardens

*"The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne has been formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them wherever possible."*