

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SUMMER 1995-96

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The great event of the Spring was undoubtedly the opening of the new Seed House in the Gardens. At a cost of \$56,054, of which the Trust Fund contributed \$15,000, this was the largest single donation made so far by the Friends for the enhancement of our Gardens. It brought the total of the Friends' financial support for such projects this year to a record figure of more than \$80,000 and an overall total of \$370,166.

As the Director of the Gardens, Dr Philip Moors, has emphasised, the new Seed House is a custom-built structure, operated by the most advanced technical equipment, including computer-operated climate control. The old Propagation House had become quite inadequate for the needs of the Gardens; the new Seed House provides much more space, and plants raised there will be used throughout the Gardens for years to come.

The Spring Sale of plants by the Growing Friends in October was another great success, with increased attendance and record takings of \$28,000. This superb achievement by a group of dedicated and expert Friends serves to highlight something that should never be forgotten - that the influence of the Friends through 'networking', through continual contacts in the community, and through stimulating and motivating others, is a vital and growing element in the success and stature of the Royal Botanic Gardens. We can, and do, rally support and activate interest

from many diverse groups in a wide range of activities; and all this support depends absolutely on the generous and willing dedication of time and skills by a band of highly motivated citizens in a true leadership role.

It is proper - and indeed necessary - that the volume and importance of this endowment should be fully appreciated. I am glad to say that it is so recognised by the Director and the Board, and by most - but not all - of the Gardens staff. There are so many ways in which we can assist and support each other - and our magnificent Gardens is the beneficiary.

The Friends have just completed a record year, with every activity contributing. The Friends' Shop increased its turnover to \$552,000, an increase of 36 per cent; the Botanical Illustrators substantially increased their input; the Growing Friends made \$42,000 for the year; the Activities Committee was very active, and membership of the Friends is the highest ever.

It has been a magnificent achievement and our heartfelt congratulations go to all those who contributed so much of themselves to bring it about.

**Sir Rupert Hamer
President**

GROWING FRIENDS

The Spring Sale raised a record sum of \$28,000. Note the autumn sale date in your diary:
23 - 24 March 1996



Photos by Jane Wing

Scenes at the Seed House opening: Sir Rupert Hamer with Dr Philip Moors outside, and Friends inside, inspecting its high-tech facilities.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - W R M Irvine

Work has started on the designs for the Garden Gate developments on the Observatory Site. The Board has appointed an architectural team led by Peter Elliott, who designed the dramatic new Robert Clark Conservatory in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The landscape architect for the project is Chris Dance and the conservation architect is Peter Lovell. Sketch designs have been developed for the site, including the entry and Observatory Lawn, forecourt, paths through to the Gardens and the 'footprint' of the new building. The designs take maximum advantage of the existing features of the site, with its open spaces, mature trees and heritage buildings. Garden Gate will be a boon for the RBG, and create an appealing new visitor destination, together with the Shrine and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

Staff have recently prepared a Living Collections Policy for RBG Melbourne. The policy provides a systematic scheme for developing the existing collections and establishing new ones. It is a key component of the RBG Melbourne Masterplan, underpinning the assessments to be made in that document on future management of plant collections, tree replacement and landscape features.

A Working Group led by Philip Eggleston and assisted by many horticultural and botanical staff assessed each of the 80 or so groups of plants at RBG Melbourne which had previously been loosely described as "collections". Thirty-five of these were assessed as meeting the criteria of the Living Collections Policy and will be maintained and enhanced in the future. Many plants in collections assessed as not meeting the criteria will nevertheless continue to be held in the gardens because of their landscape or heritage importance, or because they are essential elements of the vegetational structure of the gardens. The only change is that in future they will not be described as comprising a collection within RBG Melbourne. The assessment has also identified plants which meet none of these criteria, and therefore in due course can make way for new collections.

The RBG has appointed as its inaugural Mueller Research Fellow Dr Jim Grimes from the New York Botanical Garden. Dr Grimes will spend four months at the National Herbarium during the second half of 1996. He has an international reputation for his research on legumes, and while at the RBG he will be studying the development and morphology of flowers in several species of *Acacia*. The Board is delighted with Dr Grimes' appointment as the first Mueller Fellow and looks forward to his collaboration with our botanists.

The program of events for our Sesquicentennial celebrations next year will be announced by Minister Mark Birrell MP at a media function at Gardens House on 8 December. Led most ably by Nancy Staub, RBG staff have put together a diverse program of activities, commencing with Foundation Day on Sunday 25 February 1996. From then until November there will be events to appeal to everyone - music, theatre and sculpture, several exhibitions, a research expedition, scientific conferences, horticultural talks, historical displays in the Gardens - and of course the Baron's Ball being organised by the Friends. A full program of events will be available from the RBG in December. 1996 promises to be a wonderful commemoration of our 150th Anniversary.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES



FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 15 December 1995 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

You will have already received your invitation to attend our Christmas dinner, to be held this year in the Garden Room at Leonda by the Yarra, Hawthorn. This invitation is open to you and your friends, so we hope many will gather for a final get-together for the year.

Complimentary floodlit car parking is available for guests.

If you have not received an invitation, please contact the Friends' office.

RSVP by 12 December on enclosed booking form.

A VISIT TO 'THE JOHNSTON COLLECTION' IN EAST MELBOURNE

Thursday 25 January 1996 at 10.00am and 2.15pm

The Johnston Collection - in effect a Decorative Arts Museum displaying the possessions of a former antique dealer - was bequeathed to the National Trust. Anthony Knight, Director of the eclectic Collection, has arranged it with imagination and theatrical flair, and will guide us.

Meet in the lobby of the Hilton on the Park, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne 15 minutes prior to departure of bus (9.45am or 2.00pm), which will take us to the 1860 residence housing the Collection. The tour lasts approximately one and a half hours.

Maximum number in each group: 16 people. The bus will return you to the Hilton. Refreshments provided.

Cost: \$10

RSVP by 19 January on enclosed booking form

THE SECRET GARDEN

Friday 2 February 1996 at 7.30pm
State Theatre, Victorian Arts Centre

A limited number of tickets has been secured in 'A' Reserve stalls for this performance of *The Secret Garden*, starring Marina Pryor, Anthony Warlow and Philip Quast. Hurry and make sure of your booking.

Cost: \$65 per seat
 RSVP by 26 January 1996 on enclosed booking form.

A SUMMER'S DAY ON THE BELLARINE PENINSULA

Monday 5 February 1996

Come and spend a summer's day wandering through three delightful gardens, lunching by the seaside, enjoying the views and picking blueberries.

Leaving from outside the National Gallery, St Kilda Road at 9.00am sharp, our air-conditioned coach will take us, firstly, to Wirruna Nursery and Gardens at Wallington for morning tea. We can enjoy Judy and John Bailey's adjacent low-maintenance private garden and the display garden, planted to complement the nursery.

Then we'll visit 'The Forge', Janine Hurse's charmingly landscaped garden fronting the original blacksmith's cottage in historic Queenscliff. Janine worked with Jim Ross on hoveas in the Herbarium, and in the Gardens, in previous years, and describes hers as a 'plantsman's garden'. This is a fine example of pleasing coastal planting.

After lunch at Cafe Brodetto, Queenscliff we will visit Coombe Cottage, belonging to Mr and Mrs G. Keys. Behind the 1856 Georgian-style house is a restful meandering garden, protected by a leafy canopy of oaks and *Grevillea robusta* and featuring artistically-placed ponds hidden in unexpected corners.

Our summer's day will conclude at Tuckerberry Hill, Drysdale. You may pick blueberries, enjoy the magnificent views or browse through the world of blueberries: recipe books, jams, chutneys and toppings are available to buy if you wish, together with fuchsia and blueberry plants.

We will arrive back at the National Gallery at approximately 5.30pm. The all-inclusive charge for bus, morning tea, lunch and entrance fees will be \$35.

RSVP by 29 January 1996 on enclosed booking form.

Botanical Illustrators Lecture:
ELLIS ROWAN - HER LIFE AND ART
Tuesday 6 February from 10.00am.
 Refer to Page 6 for details.

A SUMMER WALK THROUGH THE BOTANIC GARDENS

Wednesday 14 February 1995 at 5.00pm until 6.30pm

Join the Voluntary Guides for a leisurely walk through the Royal Botanic Gardens commencing from F Gate near the National Herbarium.

This later time on a hot summer's day can be quite magical, and you may like to follow it with a picnic tea with family and friends.

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 9 February.
 No charge.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting, held on 13 November in the Herbarium Hall, was attended by about 70 members and several visitors. The President commented on the successes of the year to 30 June 1995, mentioning particularly the Friends' Shop, the exhibition of botanical art, the sales of plants propagated by the Growing Friends, the many functions arranged by the Activities Sub-committee and the gifts made to the Gardens by the Friends. He thanked all those who had worked hard during the year to make it such a success, and noted the contribution of the retiring Vice-President, Durham Smith. The report of the Council and the audited accounts for the year to 30 June 1995 were then received. It was noted that the figures of salaries in the General and Shop statements, although correct in total, had been incorrectly subdivided in such a way as to inflate the salary figure for the shop, and therefore to reduce the apparent profit of the shop, by about \$4,600.

John Harper was elected as a Vice-President, Lawrence Cohn as Secretary and Philip Ayton, Lesley Clark, Louise Coronel and Heather Ironmonger as ordinary members of the Council.

An item of special business was a proposal to establish new classes of Member - 'Life Member', for persons who wished to pay a lump sum in commutation of annual subscriptions, and 'Group Member', for groups such as clubs that wished to support the Friends. This required a change in the name of the existing class of 'Life Member', of whom there are now eight, to 'Honorary Life Member'. This proposal was accepted.

After the formal business had been dealt with, Mr John Landy gave a most interesting talk, illustrated with his own slides, on 'Orchids and Carnivorous Plants of the Anglesea Heathland'. The evening ended with a light supper, arranged by members of the Activities Sub-committee.



**Garden Party
at
Gardens House
on
Monday 26 February 1996**

You are invited to join us at any time between
4.30pm and 7.30pm

Enjoy an elegant afternoon at Gardens House in the Gardens to launch the Friends' celebrations for this special 150th anniversary year. Entertainment will be provided by the dance band ANONYMOUS.

Hats were once *de rigueur* at garden parties - this is the perfect occasion to flaunt yours if you still possess one! Bring family and friends to this historic setting, not generally open to the public.

Afternoon tea, drinks, savouries and desserts will be served in a marquee on the lawn.

A birthday cake will be cut at 6.00pm

Cost:	\$12	Adults
	\$5	Children 7-15 years
	\$25	Family

RSVP: Monday 19 February on enclosed booking form

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The 6th annual conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Vic.) Inc. will be held on 27 and 28 April 1996. Friends of Wilson Botanic Park at Berwick will host the weekend.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

A gift of Friends' membership would make an ideal Christmas present for someone on your list.

Phone the Friends' office on 9650 6398 and we'll arrange to send a membership card with your greeting.

A GRAND BALL

The Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens invited the Friends to organise a fundraising Ball which will celebrate the 150th birthday of the Gardens and also commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. Baron von Mueller, a scientist of international repute, was Director of the Botanic Gardens Melbourne from 1852 to 1873, and Government Botanist from 1853 until his death in 1896.

The Ball will be held in the beautiful ballroom at Government House on Friday 28 June 1996, close to the date of the Baron's birthday. (He was born on 30 June 1825.)

Admission: \$150 per person including \$100 tax-deductible donation.

To be included on the invitation mailing list, please ring the Friends' office, Margaret Howes or Helen Fahey, on 9650 6398.

GARDENS OF EUROPE '96 - a tribute to Baron von Mueller

6 - 27 May

This tour will take us from Budapest through Vienna, Prague, Dresden and Berlin to Rostock, Mueller's birthplace. We will meet with members of the Baron von Mueller Society and will be shown the apothecary where he worked and the school he attended.

Sara Maroske, who is on the staff of Melbourne University's Department of History and Philosophy of Science, will be in our party. Sara has been working at the National Herbarium for the last six years on the Mueller Correspondence Project, and she will share her extensive knowledge with us at relevant points.

If you do not have an itinerary, please contact the Friends' office on 9650 6398.

Cost of tour: \$7,700.

LAWRENCE J. COHN LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Lawrence Cohn, Secretary of the Friends, was elected a Life Member at the annual meeting on 13 November - an honour richly deserved.



Lawrence joined the Friends in 1983 and was a member of the Steering Committee. After a convivial lunch at the RACV Club, Beth Higgs (convener of the Interim Steering Committee of the Friends) and Eve Brunner persuaded Lawrence to join the Council of the Friends as its business Secretary. The 1986 Winter *Botanic News* records his appointment as Secretary stating that his duties were 'to assist in the managing of our continuing expansion and the introduction of our Trust Fund'. Beth and Eve, together with all Friends, have never regretted the invitation.

Lawrence's professional (actuarial) background, his wisdom, together with his personal dedication of time and ability and his characteristic meticulousness (a great comfort to the Friends' editor!) have brought us a quality of service which will be well nigh impossible to replace. Lawrence is the Secretary of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Vic.) Inc. and this year he has been a member of the Working Group initiated to facilitate communication and co-operation between the Friends' Council and the Gardens administration.

After he completed his secondary education at Trinity Grammar School, Kew, Lawrence's mathematical talent pointed to a career as an actuary, and he joined the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia Ltd in 1936. He was called up four days after the outbreak of war in 1939, and served for more than six years in the telegraphy and coding branches of the Royal Australian Navy. Then he resumed his studies and his association with National Mutual, becoming chief actuary in 1971. At his retirement in 1982 he was a director and deputy general manager of the company. A long interest in computers began for Lawrence in 1955 and he is believed to have written the first program used by an Australian life insurance company.

Lawrence has held numerous positions of leadership in national and international professional bodies. He also acted as an honorary consultant to the Law Reform Commission and was a part-time member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal from 1983-89.

Music and literature, genealogy and narrow boating (in canals) figure largely in Lawrence's list of interests, but the Friends (and the Gardens, where one of his three daughters is Librarian) have been fortunate to command a large amount of his time.

BEST-EVER RESULT FOR GROWING FRIENDS SALE

The Growing Friends Spring Sale was wonderfully successful. \$28,000 was raised over the weekend of 14-15 October. This is the best result achieved for a weekend sale. The plants looked healthy and lush and many were flowering, which made the display attractive and tempting.

If the queue of 200 people at the gate at 10.00am is any indication, the Growing Friends sale is still very special - no-one wants to miss out on our rare and unusual plants.

So many people worked to make the Growing Friends sale a success - the Activities sub-committee and other Friends worked feverishly at point-of-sale, the RBG gardeners provided the layout and helped move the plants to the lawn, and a special thanks to the gardeners who gave their time to provide horticultural advice to customers.

It is now almost two months since the sale, and the nursery is again filling rapidly. There are perennials and irises from the RBG trial beds, and plants that were not quite ready for the Spring sale are now in full growth. Visit the nursery (behind the Astronomer's Residence) any Friday between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

HELP NEEDED

The Friends have been fortunate in having a wonderful Catering Group which has given us delicious suppers at our meetings, as well as morning coffees, afternoon teas and the occasional lunch. Pat Wales has been heading this team for the past three years and we thank her and her members for their great contribution.

Pat, Peg Jones, Margaret Morgan, Beth Griffith and Margaret Campbell are stepping down at the end of this year, in most cases due to family ill health. Fortunately Anne Weber and Helen McLean can continue and a new recruit, Joan Jacoby, has been initiated, but we need more helpers.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone able to assist. (The cost of ingredients used in the preparation of food is reimbursed, and you don't need to be a gourmet cook.) Benefits of belonging to the Group include free attendance at our functions and warm friendship.

Please contact the Friends' office on 9650 6398.

Ballarat Day Trip

The trip planned for 12 November was postponed until Autumn, near the time of the Ballarat Begonia Festival. Further details in next newsletter.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

ELLIS ROWAN: HER LIFE AND ART

Illustrated talk by Dinah Whitaker
Tuesday 6 February 1996 from 10.00am
National Herbarium Hall

A fascinating illustrated lecture looking in depth at the life and art of Ellis Rowan, (born in Victoria 1848, died 1922). Ellis was a remarkable woman who was both a botanical and wildlife artist, a writer and an intrepid explorer.

Dinah Whitaker is a volunteer guide with the National Gallery, who has undertaken extensive research into the life and times of this popular and fascinating artist.

Everyone is welcome! These quarterly meetings are never limited to the Botanical Illustrators.

Morning tea/coffee from 10.00am
 Dinah Whitaker talk 10.30am

Admission: Friends \$5.00
 Others \$10.00

RSVP: 2 February on enclosed booking form



Early in 1996, the rooms currently in use by our various Botanical Illustrator groups have to be vacated for extensive renovations and alterations as part of the new developments planned for the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Unfortunately this means we shall be without Jenny Phillips' popular classes in the Gardens next year, and Anita Barley's monthly workshops, together with the weekly Wednesday group, will be relocated to temporary accommodation in the old telescope building.

However, the fact that we will be working towards our exhibition in October should serve as a distraction over this unsettling period.

Thank you to all our artist members for your support and enthusiasm over the past year. I hope we can continue to meet and enjoy each other's company at our quarterly meetings in the Herbarium Hall next year, and that everyone is able to take part in some way with The Art of Botanical Illustration.

Louise Coronel, Convener

Exhibition Bulletin

As a feature of our exhibition next October, we would like to include short captions under the pictures with information about the subjects illustrated, enhancing the horticultural and botanical aspects of the display.

Could prospective exhibitors please keep this in mind when preparing their work for submission. We will be seeking the following kind of information:
 Botanical name and common name; parts of plant illustrated; country or region of origin of species; growing characteristics and conditions; height, etc.

More details on the exhibition application form.

Monthly workshops with Anita Barley

25 artists have enjoyed Anita's guidance this year and most, if not all, will want to continue into next year, meeting on the second Tuesday of each month from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

This ongoing activity may have only a very few places available, if any, for 1996, so please ring the Friends' office to register your interest if you would like to join.

Cost \$110 for 10 workshops commencing Tuesday 13 February, to be paid with enclosed form (for continuing members). Prior to the first workshop, please register at the Friends' office for directions to new location.

Informal Wednesday Painting Group

This group will continue to meet in 1996, but because the accommodation will be temporary and possibly not as comfortable as that in the Astronomer's Residence, the charge will be reduced to \$25 for a 12-week term.

The first term commences on 17 January, probably still in the Astronomer's Residence, but please contact Mary Gregory on 9836 8587 for final details of the location, or if you are interested in joining the group.

FRIENDS' SPRING ACTIVITIES

Garden Designs in the Mediterranean Climate.

John Patrick - 19 September

Albury/Canberra/Bowral Tour - 27 September-3 October
Rare and Interesting Plants of Spring. Stephen Ryan - 4 October

Growing Friends Plant Sale - 14-15 October

Bus Trip to Toolangi Forest and the 'Singing Gardens' - 25 October

Weekend of Roses in Mildura and Renmark - 28-29 October

Birds of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Dr Philip Moors - 31 October

Tour of New Zealand (North Island) - 4-19 November
 Annual General Meeting and talk by John Landy - 13 November

Newcomers' Welcome - 16 November

Botanical Illustrators. *A Celebration of Proteaceae.* Dr Andrew Douglas - 21 November

The Chemicals in Plants. Dr Claude Culvenor - 21 November

Botanical Illustrators - classes and workshops with Jenny Phillips and Anita Barley
 Botanical Embroiderers' Workshops

VALE DR JAMES HAMLYN WILLIS A.M.



On Friday 10 November 1995, the Friends lost a very great friend when Dr Jim Willis died peacefully after a short illness.

Jim was a Life Member of the Friends of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, an honour rewarding his unselfish devotion to the group. He gave excellent illustrated talks whenever asked, meticulously prepared and beautifully presented. He had the ability to bring his subject to life, and make you want more.

On six occasions Jim was the guide on our tours to all parts of Victoria. There was Mt Buffalo/Falls Creek in 1989, Wilsons Promontory in 1989, Portland in 1990, Central Western Goldfields in 1991, Beechworth in 1992 and Mallacoota in 1993.

One could not have found a better guide than Jim. He named plants, imparted a wealth of knowledge and shared interesting and, often, amusing stories of his early experiences in the area. When people learned that the Friends were going to be in their area with JIM WILLIS, rangers, plant collectors, naturalists and botanists were among those eager to catch up with him; his presence opened doors to places which would not otherwise have been seen. To hear reminiscences with these friends, often over the microphone in the bus as we went along, was an absolute joy.

Jim also joined the Friends' tour in North Borneo in 1993, and yes, he was one who climbed Mt Kinabalu. Such was his enthusiasm! At last count he had given 19 talks about this trip, so that his dear wife Mavis, who did not accompany him that time, felt she had been on the tour.

Jim and Mavis joined the Friends' tour to North East Tasmania in 1993 and thoroughly enjoyed revisiting some of his old haunts in his beloved Tasmania.

Jim was born in Oakleigh in 1910, but lived in Stanley, Tasmania, from 1914 until 1924. He returned to Melbourne to complete his secondary education, then trained for forest service at the Victorian School of Forestry, Creswick. It was at Creswick that he had the good fortune to meet Mavis, his life-long companion

and friend. Mavis knew where all the rarest orchids were to be found, and this shared interest led in due course to a wonderful marriage that lasted 62 years.

Jim was transferred to the Lands Department in 1938 and worked at the Herbarium until his retirement in 1972. In 1961 he was promoted to the position of Assistant Government Botanist, and for the last 16 months of his service he was Acting Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

In 1960 Jim was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion 'for special study and for increasing knowledge and appreciation of natural history in Australia'. In 1973 he received the Royal Society of Victoria's Research Medal. In 1974 a Doctorate of Science was conferred on him by the University of Melbourne for published work, including a *Handbook to plants of Victoria* (two volumes) as a major thesis. This remained the definitive reference until the Flora currently in the course of publication by the RBG.

Jim was the author of 852 publications, among them the original descriptions of 42 new species of Australian plants. He belonged to 16 scientific and cultural organisations, trusts and advisory panels and in 1989 won the Australian Institute of Horticulture's Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding contributions to various aspects of horticulture in Australia.

In 1995 Jim was awarded an A.M. in the Queen's Birthday Honours and received his medal at Government House on 6 October.

Others will write of his international standing as a scholar, botanist, horticulturalist and field naturalist; for the Friends, it was a privilege to have known this wonderful, humble man!

Lesley Clark

ELM ALERT

Look out for elms (on public land or private property) which have shot-holes in their leaves or skeletonised leaves. This condition may indicate the presence of elm leaf beetles.

Please report sightings to your local council. The Friends of the Elms have issued an instruction sheet, available from nurseries, which gives full details of how people can deal with elm leaf beetles on their own property. Timing is crucial, as action is required in December at the latest. For information, please contact Ralph Neale, 9890 5764.

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS WORKSHOP

Classes with Wanda McPherson will commence on Monday 18 March 1996 at 1.00pm, and will be held thereafter on the second Monday of each month. The first activity will translate spring flowers into embroidery. If members have favourite flower photographs or pictures they would like to use as inspiration, then please bring them along. Anyone wishing to join the group should contact Lesley Clark, tel. 9807 3984.

FRIENDS' SHOP

The Gardens are looking absolutely beautiful - as I write this, the lawns are being mown, groups of cygnets are pottering around the lake's edge with their parents, the sun is shining warmly and a blue wren is showing off madly around our shop window.

Christmas is steadily drawing closer, and this year I had a special look for presents that men can give women (often a difficult and nerve-racking decision) and good-quality stocking fillers for children. Amongst our stock we have

- * a lovely range of calendars, sketch books, day books and address books, an interesting selection of cookery books, bird books and, of course, gardening books.
- * a wonderful collection of post-card books featuring 30 Redouté flower, rose and fruit paintings.
- * a new range of teatowels (one is printed with a glorious display of Christmas lilies)
- * big tubes of hand and face cream with aloe vera, vitamin E, rose seeds and geranium oil; rose talcum powder and soap tablets.
- * and, of course, Christmas cards.

Our front window will display Santa and his reindeer for the children - large and small! After Christmas we will be back in Australiana and Gardens gift mode for the summer.

From all the staff and volunteers at the Friends' Shop, warmest Christmas greetings and best wishes for a prosperous 1996.

*Jill Swann,
Shop Manager*

The Friends' Shop

We would love you to come and work with us as a volunteer. One day a month is all we require, from 10.00am to 4.30pm. Training given. Lots of hard work and plenty of entertainment - nice people too! Please telephone Jill Swann, Shop Manager: 9820 1125 (business hours)

MEMBERSHIP

It is pleasing to report that there has been a steady increase in the number of new Members and that the change to a twelve-month subscription appears to be working well. Would all Members please check to see if there is a renewal form with this *Botanic News*. If your subscription was due on 1 July 1995 please renew at once, so we can continue to send Friends' material to you.

If your membership number is greater than 2999, please note that a new number will be allocated to you, as the data base is being re-organised.

Eve Almond

Eve Almond was farewelled at the Gardens on 10 November. Formerly an Interpretations Officer, Eve did not gain a position in the restructure of the Public Programs and Development Division earlier this year, and is now working as Volunteers' Co-ordinator at the Museum of Victoria.

Eve had been employed at the Gardens for 13 years. As she said at her farewell, she is missing the physical environment of the Gardens, the work and her former colleagues. She is certainly missed by the Friends. Eve was one of the 10 people at the 1982 meeting which led to the formation of the Friends; we have always valued her dedication, her exceptional knowledge of the Gardens, and her generous assistance over the years.

This association has continued with Eve's agreement to take part in the lecture series the Friends and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria have planned for 1996.

A number of Friends attended Eve's farewell, and we send her all good wishes for the future.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY

The National Dahlia Society of Victoria has offered half-price admission to Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens for the State Dahlia Championships and Floral Art Display early next year.

The Show will be held at the Mount Waverley Community Centre on Saturday 24 February from 2.00pm to 7.00pm, and Sunday 25 February from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

This special offer is a token of the friendship and excellent working relationship between the RBG and the Dahlia Society. Friends need to show their membership card to gain this concession.

Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Inc. invite us to join them for these activities:

Christmas Party

Sunday 10 December at 12 noon
Meet at the Stringy Bark picnic area. BYO lunch followed by a special walk. BBQs available.

Night Prowl

Saturday 24 February at 6.00pm
Meet at Stringy Bark picnic area for BBQ dinner. Enter via rear gate (Cemetery/Stephensons/Ballarto Roads). The main gate closes at 5.00pm for the public. For all the family. Children welcome. Search for nightlife in the CBG. BYO food, drinks, insect repellent, torches, appropriate clothing and walking shoes.

Please bring a plate for supper after the walk.
Bookings must be made by phoning the Gardens on 059 96 3782.

The Quest for the Rose

You may be interested to know that the 'Rose' series which the ABC produced earlier this year on Sunday afternoons is to be repeated. The first of the series of six commences on Friday 8 December 1995 at 6.00pm.

SUMMER 1995/96 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

CHRISTMAS DINNER at Leonda, Hawthorn
Friday 15 December at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

No. of persons @ \$47.00 ea _____

RSVP 12/12/95 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

VISIT TO JOHNSTON COLLECTION
Thursday 25 January

Please tick preferred tour time for

Bus departure at Hilton

9.45 am ☐ 2.00pm ☐

either time acceptable ☐

No. of persons @ \$10.00 ea _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

RSVP 19/1/96 _____

ANITA BARLEY CLASSES

Renewal Fee \$110 ☐

Please return this form with remittance and stamped self-addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., C/- 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:.....

SUMMER 1995/96 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

THE SECRET GARDEN
State Theatre

Friday 2 February at 7.30pm

No. of tickets @ \$65.00 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

RSVP 26/1/96 _____

TRIP TO BELLARINE PENINSULA

Monday 5 February at 9.00am

No. of persons @ \$35 ea _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

RSVP 29/1/96 _____

ELLIS ROWAN – Her Life and Art

Tuesday 6 February at 10.00am

National Herbarium Hall

No. of Friends @ \$5.00 ea _____

No. of Others @ \$10.00 ea _____

RSVP 2/2/96 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Please return this form with remittance and stamped self-addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., C/- 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:.....

SUMMER 1995/96 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM

**SUMMER WALK THROUGH THE ROYAL
BOTANIC GARDENS**

Wednesday 14 February at 5.00pm

No. of persons _____

No charge _____

RSVP 9/2/96 _____

GARDEN PARTY AT GARDENS HOUSE

Monday 26 February 4.30 – 7.30pm

No. of Adults @ \$12.00 ea _____

No. of Children 7-15 @ \$5.00 ea _____

No. of Family tickets @ \$25.00 ea _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

RSVP 19/2/96 _____

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entree tickets to be posted by return mail.

Otherwise your name will be recorded on a list available at each function to verify your payment.

Please return this form with remittance and stamped self-addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., C/- 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:.....

SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT IN THE GARDENS

INTO THE WOODS

7 December to 31 March:
Monday to Saturday evenings
Central and Palm Lawns

MOZART BY MOONLIGHT

9 - 16 December
8.00pm nightly except
Sunday 10 December at 6.00pm
Western Lawn near F Gate

ROMEO AND JULIET

20 December to 24 February
Monday to Saturday evenings
Old Melbourne Observatory Grounds,
off Birdwood Avenue

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

27 December to 3 February
Monday to Saturday, 11.00am and 6.00pm
Hopetoun Lawn. Enter through F Gate

THE SECRET GARDEN

27 December to 3 February
Monday to Saturday, 11.00am and 6.00pm
Eastern Lodge. Enter from Anderson Street

FAIRIES, FOXES AND OTHER FLYING THINGS. A school holiday program for 3 to 8-year-olds conducted by RBG Visitor Programs staff

2 - 27 January
Monday to Saturday, 9.30am and 11.30am
Duration 90 minutes
Book on 9252 2358 office hours

MOONLIGHT CINEMA

4 January to 31 March
Wednesday to Sunday at 9.00pm
Western Lawn, near F Gate

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS

22 January to 31 March
Monday to Saturday evenings
Depart F Gate

TWILIGHT WALKS. A Feature Walk with the Gardens' Voluntary Guides.

6, 13, 20 and 27 February
Tuesdays at 6.00pm
Tours depart D Gate, opposite corner of
Domain Road and Park Street
Free of charge, but bookings appreciated

Further details from Reception Desk at the Herbarium or in the daily papers



Ferdinand Bauer's Botanical Illustrations

Prints from the highly successful exhibition of Ferdinand Bauer's work in April - First Light in 200 Years - can still be obtained. Noleen Glavish of Nokomis Publications has the prints on permanent display in her Fitzroy gallery and can be contacted on 9486 1756 for an appointment.

Full colour catalogues are available from the Gardens Shop, tel. 9655 2341.
Please mention your association with the Friends when speaking with Noleen.

HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, will present a lecture series as part of the 150th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The series will explore many aspects of RBG history and will complement the special edition of the RHSV Journal which will be published for the 150th anniversary. The Journal will be launched on 21 March, Descendants' Day, when the Gardens will honour former Directors, senior staff and their descendants at an afternoon ceremony.

The dates and speakers are as follows:

21 March at 6.00pm

Prof. Weston Bate

Public Perceptions of the R.B.G.

17 April at 8.00pm

Mr Richard Aitken

Gardens' Buildings & Adornments

23 April at 8.00pm

Ms Eve Almond

Picturing the Gardens

8 May at 8.00pm

Mr Darren Watson

'Propagators, Seedsmen and Boy Labourers': Staffing the Gardens, 1846 - 1970

20 May at 8.00pm

Dr Andrew Brown-May

Indifference, Audacity and Disobedience: Social Landscape and the Suppression of Nuisances in Mueller's Botanic Gardens, 1850s - 1870s.

All lectures will be held in the National Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

Further details will be provided in 1996.

MUELLER COMMEMORATIVE TOURS

To commemorate 100 years since the death of Baron von Mueller, Australis Nature Tours, in collaboration with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, are organising four specially-designed tours to places in Victoria visited by Mueller on his journeys of exploration. Each tour will be accompanied by an experienced naturalist or historian who is familiar with Mueller's extraordinary travels and discoveries.

The proposed tours are:

September 1996:

Grampians to Mount Hope. A five-day tour. Easy grade. Leader Dr Tony Lee.

October 1996:

Far East Gippsland. A six-day tour. Easy-to-moderate grade. Leader Ian Endersby.

Late November/early December 1996:

Mt Buffalo and the Warby Ranges. A four-day tour. Easy grade. Leaders Mark Burrows and Jill Dawson.

Late November/early December 1996:

Victorian High Country. Six-day, camping and 4WD tour. Moderate to difficult grade. Leader Linden Gillbank.

Full itineraries of each tour will be available from the Friends' office early in 1996. Specific enquiries can be directed to Dr Tony Lee of Australis Nature Tours (phone 9888 6081, fax 9888 6082).

Members of the Friends will be offered a five per cent discount off the cost of each tour. Another five per cent of the cost will be contributed to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Remember that your Friends' membership entitles you to some very worthwhile discounts.

The Friends' shop adjoining the Gardens' Tea Rooms and the Gardens' Shop in the Herbarium both offer a 10 per cent discount on purchases exceeding \$20.

The following businesses very kindly offer special discounts to Friends.

Current membership cards must be shown in order for you to receive these discounts.

Fryers' Nursery

589 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn

5% off plants only

Idaho Nurseries

410 Waverley Rd, E. Malvern

10% off plants only

The Gardener's Bulleen Nursery

105 Bridge St, Bulleen

5% off seedlings

10% off potted plants

Town and Country Gardens

1280 Malvern Rd, Malvern

10% off everything

The Arts Bookshop

1067 High St, Armadale

Holmesglen College of TAFE

inc. the Victorian Schools Nursery

585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley

10% off everything

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

(opposite Town Hall)

10% discount on all items except specials. Does not apply to Frequent Buyer cardholders



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

Patron:

His Excellency the
Hon. Richard E. McGarvie
President of the Council
of the Friends:
Sir Rupert Hamer

Vice Presidents:

Eve Brunner,
John Harper

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Treasurer:

David Baumgartner

Editor:

Heather Ironmonger

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

RBG staff have completed installing a real East Gippsland rainforest in the atrium of the new headquarters for Esso Australia at Southbank.

Nursery staff have been propagating and growing on plant material for 15 months and have been maintaining tree ferns and other plants collected under permit. The project has enabled our staff to demonstrate their horticultural expertise for a commercial client. Josie Vaganian, Nursery Supervisor, has managed the horticultural aspects of the project. Both Esso and its landscape consultants have praised RBG for the quality of our work and professionalism in delivering and installing several thousand plants on time, on budget and in prime condition. The Friends hope to arrange guided tours there for members early in 1996.

We have farewelled several staff in recent months. Sally Hirst has taken up the senior executive position of General Manager, Marketing and Development, with Melbourne Parks and Waterways. Sally brought considerable creativity and innovation to RBG, especially in developing our activities in visitor programs, fundraising and marketing. Andrew Porter has been appointed Director of the 1996 Castlemaine Festival. He has been a most successful fundraiser for RBG during the past two years, in that time raising over \$1 million for specific projects including the 1996 celebrations. Philip Eggleston and Colin Pratt recently left to pursue careers in the private sector. Our team of LEAP employment scheme trainees completed their six-month placement at the Gardens, gaining horticultural skills and knowledge. Eve Almond, currently seconded to the Museum of Victoria, has been appointed Volunteers Co-ordinator at the Museum. We wish all these people success in their future careers.

Installation of a new irrigation system has been completed in the Fern Gully.

It has been integrated into the gardens-wide system, and replaces a sprinkler system which had reached the end of its useful life. The old system could not be computer-controlled and therefore could not be linked into the automatic watering system in 1994. Funds for the new system have been generously provided by the John T Reid Victorian Charitable Trust. Our ability to manage the watering of plants in the Fern Gully more effectively will make this part of the Gardens even more lush and appealing.

The first volume of Roger Spencer's *Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia* was launched on 29 November. Published by University of New South Wales Press, the four-volume series will deal with all plants in cultivation in this region. Volume 1 includes the ferns and conifers. The Friends have generously supported funding for the botanical artists working on the project, for which we are most grateful. The text for Volume 2 has just been completed and it will be published in 1996.

Construction of the four lakes along Wyllies Creek has commenced at RBG Cranbourne. The walls for two of the dams are partially completed, with over-flow pipes and control structures installed and compaction of the clay cores to the dams under way. Weather permitting, both dams will be finished by the end of the month. Engineering and other design works are being finalised for the remaining two dams, and work will start on these as soon as the current construction is completed. Funds are being provided by Melbourne Parks and Waterways and the Government capital grant to RBG Cranbourne for 1995-96. The lakes will be a major feature of the southern part of the gardens, where the Botanic Collection will be developed in the years ahead. They will allow us to display wetland plants and also provide habitat for waterbirds and wetland animals.

Philip Moors
Director