

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

SUMMER 1996-97



Louise Coronel, Convener, with Ron Webb, Corporate Affairs Manager of Esso Australia, at the opening of the Botanical Illustrators' exhibition which raised more than \$30,000 for the Friends.

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

As I reflect on my past four years as President of the Friends, I feel privileged to have been associated with such a devoted and enthusiastic group of supporters of our magnificent Gardens.

The voluntary effort contributed so gladly by the Growing Friends, the Friends' Shop, the Botanical Illustrators and the Activities sub-committee are worth many thousands of dollars; taken with our membership fees, we reached a surplus this year, for the first time ever, of more than \$100,000. The historic Grand Ball at Government House contributed another \$46,000 to the Gardens. I'm pleased to learn that some of the ball proceeds have been allocated to the Jim Willis Studentship and the Mueller Fellowship funds.

The Friends generally are in very good shape, with the Friends' Shop enjoying a record turnover and a record profit exceeding \$57,000; the Growing Friends having two highly successful plant sales producing a net surplus of more than \$49,000; wide-ranging meetings, excursions and lectures organised by the Activities sub-committee; and a magnificent exhibition put on by the Botanical Illustrators. Our membership has reached a record level.

All this effort, of course, is entirely directed to the enhancement of our Gardens for the funding of projects which the Gardens could not otherwise afford. The level of this support has now reached a total exceeding \$342,000, together with additional substantial donations from the Friends' Trust Fund and the proceeds of the Grand Ball.

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the Council, on the sub-committees, the volunteers and the members for their friendship and their co-operation, and I would like to wish my successor, John Harper, every success in leading this fine organisation to even greater achievement. He has already served on several sub-committees of Council with great success, and I am sure he will enjoy every support from the great band of practical achievers who constitute the Friends.

Sir Rupert Hamer

Sir Rupert Hamer's presidency of the Friends, and the Gardens' 150th anniversary celebrations, are hard acts to follow! On the other hand, this is a fortunate time to become President, because of the heightened profile achieved by the Friends and the Gardens in 1996.

Sir Rupert filled his role with energy and dedication and has strengthened our ties with the Gardens' administration. We are most grateful for his leadership and are glad that, as Immediate Past President, he'll have a continuing association with the Friends' Council. I'm confident that the momentum of 1996 will lend purpose and direction to our activities next year.

The planned Observatory Gate development will necessitate a move for the Friends' office and the nursery of the Growing Friends. We look forward to renovating then occupying Observatory Lodge on Birdwood Avenue, once work in the Observatory site commences. In addition, the Growing Friends will transfer their plants and labours to a smaller space within the Gardens' nursery yard. Fortunately the Friends' Shop by the Tea Rooms and Lake will not face a similar disruption. The shop had a record year. Its outstanding results reflect Jill Swann's innovative management and the most generous and dedicated service of volunteer staff.

The Botanical Illustrators could be excused for resting on their laurels for a while following the outstanding success of their October exhibition. However, they are making the most of the interest engendered in this art form by the show, and have launched a new series of classes with Dianne Emery.

Planning is well advanced for the annual gathering of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) on 19 and 20 April 1997. It is Melbourne's turn to host this meeting, and I hope many of you will take advantage of the chance to meet with fellow Friends from all over the state. It's always a very rewarding conference and we are delighted that Professor Carrick Chambers, recently retired Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, has agreed to be our keynote speaker.

I look forward to my term as President, and welcome the newly-elected members of Council while thanking those who have retired. I would always be pleased to hear from members any ideas or comments you'd like to offer about the Friends and our programme. Meanwhile, I hope to meet many of you at our special Christmas dinner on Wednesday 18 December.

John Harper

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to thank the Friends for donating up to \$2,000 worth of artworks for the State Botanical Collection from the biennial exhibition recently staged so successfully by the Botanical Illustrators Group. The purchased works by Dianne Emery and Helene Wild are significant additions to the collection. The Friends will make this donation at each future

exhibition in order to provide regular additions of high-quality art to the State Collection and to preserve for future study and enjoyment the talents of the enthusiastic group which the Friends have nurtured. I congratulate Louise Coronel and her organising committee for mounting the exhibition during our anniversary year, and the artists for their talented and beautiful works.

The 1996 Commemorative Conferences were held at the University of Melbourne from 30 September until 5 October. About 300 people participated in four associated meetings: the Scientific Savant, Proteaceae, the Mycology Conference, and Beyond the Floras. Each conference was highly successful and displayed the energy and new research directions being pursued by the RBG. We received much praise from overseas participants and expect there will be considerable benefits from collaborative projects started as a result of the conferences. The Governor, Premier and Minister for Conservation and Land Management each participated by opening meetings or addressing participants.

A highlight was the appearance of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller at the dinner for the Scientific Savant conference – Campbell McComas donated his services to the RBG and thoroughly entertained the dinner guests.

Volume 3 of the *Flora of Victoria* was launched on 3 October by our Minister, Mrs Tehan, at the Beyond the Floras conference. This is the second of the taxonomic volumes and includes the Eucalyptus species. Text for the final volume is well under way, and publication is expected in the first half of 1998. The RBG Board greatly appreciates the grant of \$10,000 from the Friends to assist the publication of Volume 3.

After a thorough investigation of all the issues involved, the Board has accepted the need for a change in the underground alignment of the Domain Tunnel beneath the Yarra. The re-alignment became necessary when the constructors, the Transfield-Obayashi Joint Venture, discovered unreliable tunnelling conditions along the original alignment in the Domain just beyond G-Gate (on Alexandra Avenue). The new route is approximately 15 metres south of the old one, taking the underground line of the tunnel from just outside the boundary of the Gardens to just within it. The tunnel will be at least 17 metres under the most northwesterly section of the Huntingfield Lawn. There will be no construction works at all within the Gardens, and in fact the altered alignment will not be evident above ground. Construction of this section of the tunnel is expected to begin in 1998.

W R M Irvine
Chairman

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

A GARDEN FOR THE HEART

Art Exhibition by Christine Johnson
Tuesday 10 December
Gardens House

The Friends have pleasure in inviting you to view this exhibition of oil paintings of flowers and scenes in the Gardens at Gardens House between 10.00am and noon on 10 December. No charge!

Christine is an accomplished artist and teacher. One of her large works hangs in the Australian Embassy in Paris. The daughter of Elvala Ayton, wife of the Friends' new Life Member Philip Ayton, Christine plans to be present at our viewing from 11.00am.

To arrange a viewing on another date (until 31 January) please phone the artist on 0419 033 102.

COSTA RICA INFORMATION SESSION

Thursday 12 December at 8.00pm

A slide show and information night about Costa Rica, including a 20-minute video on Poas Volcano National Park, will be held on Thursday 12 December at Merton Hall, Melbourne Girls Grammar School at 8.00pm. Meet in the seminar room off the Ross Hall foyer. Please let us know if you wish to attend this free presentation by Destination Management by phoning 9650 6398.

This will give you an idea what to expect should you join the Friends' tour to Costa Rica between 1-18 August 1997.

See page 11 for further details.

FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday 18 December at 6.30pm

You will already have received your invitation to attend our Christmas dinner, to be held this year at the Royal Botanic Gardens Reception Centre (by the lake). Enjoy a three-course dinner and drinks in this beautiful setting. The invitation is open to all in this 150th anniversary year, so you may like to bring *your* friends to celebrate Christmas together with the Friends.

Well known garden identity John Patrick will add a special touch to the occasion with a talk about the joys and perils of acting as an overseas tour leader.

Please advise us if you have any special seating requests or dietary requirements.

RSVP by 14 December on enclosed booking form.

TWO MACEDON GARDENS, WITH WINE TASTING AND DINNER AT COPE WILLIAMS WINERY, ROMSEY

Bus trip on Friday 17 January

This summer afternoon and twilight trip will begin with a visit to the beautiful garden at *Hascombe* with its wonderful old trees, notably a huge horizontal elm and a rare maple, and enchanting formal pond. This important garden has been lovingly maintained by its successive owners over the years.

Next we'll continue to *Duneira* which is considered to be one of Victoria's most breathtakingly beautiful gardens. Its features include an avenue of elms, oval lawn, small holly maze with secret gardens, and an important sculpture collection which has been added in recent times.

Then on to Cope Williams Winery at Romsey, the scene of many serious social cricket matches. We will be greeted with savouries and a wine tasting, to be followed by a tour of the winery or a leisurely stroll around the gardens. Our visit there will conclude with an early dinner in the charming restaurant. The meal will include home cooked meats and vegetables, assorted salads from the gardens and freshly baked Romsey breads. Cakes with berries and cream and coffee will follow. Wines at dinner will be available by the glass or bottle at an additional cost.

The bus will leave from the National Gallery, St Kilda Road at 1.00pm. Our estimated time of return is about 8.00pm.

All inclusive charge for bus, garden entrance fees, savouries, wine tasting and dinner will be \$55. Book early as numbers are limited. Perhaps this trip would be a great gift idea for a friend or family member!

RSVP: Monday 6 January on enclosed booking form.

TWILIGHT PICNIC IN THE GARDENS
Friday 21 February 1997, 5.45 - 8.15pm

Bring your family, friends and food for an end-of-summer picnic in the Gardens near the Rose Pavilion. The Friends will serve strawberries and cream to top up your meal, and music will be provided by the dance band *Anonymous*, which was so popular at our February garden party.

Enter by F Gate near the Herbarium or H Gate in Alexandra Avenue.

Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$15 for a family
 No charge for children under 14 years.

RSVP: 19 February on enclosed booking form

Marianne North - Victorian Artist
Wednesday 26 February from 10.00am

See Botanical Illustrators section

VISIT TO ESSO ATRIUM

We have had an overwhelming response for the rainforest atrium tour on 11 December, and when our numbers reached 140 on 18 November, Esso asked us to rule off the list. So we apologise to those still intending to book.

If you have reserved a place but are unable to attend, please let the Friends' office know (tel. 9650 6398) as we have a waiting list of people eager for cancellations.

Ticket holders have been requested to assemble OUTSIDE the Esso building, on the river side - not in the foyer.

The Friends are very grateful to Esso for the privilege of this inspection day.

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS' WORKSHOP

The last class for 1996 will be held on Monday 9 December. The theme will be Christmas decorations. Please bring your basic sewing kit; materials will be supplied. New members welcome. Cost \$10.

The first class for 1997 will be held on Monday 17 March at the Astronomer's Residence from 1.00pm until 3.00pm, and then on Monday 14 April and Monday 12 May. Throughout the year classes will be held on the second Monday of each month unless affected by public holidays.

Wanda McPherson from the Victorian Embroiderers' Guild is the group's instructor. Cost per term: \$30.

NEW ZEALAND TOUR
Change of Date

The tour of New Zealand's South Island, listed in last *Botanic News* to take place in November 1997, has been re-scheduled for March/April 1998. In autumn, the weather is at its best and the colours are breathtaking.

GREAT RESULT FROM GROWING FRIENDS SALE

The Growing Friends' Spring Sale in October was very successful. About 4000 plants were sold and the total takings were \$23,500. To ensure they had first choice of the treasures, many people arrived before 10.00am to join a queue that stretched almost to the Herbarium. It is particularly hoped that these 250 people were able to buy the plants they desired.

Thanks to all those Friends and RBG staff who gave their time over the sale weekend. Special thanks to RBG gardener Warren Penna and all those who moved the plants to the sale site on that hot, exhausting Friday.

Gift Vouchers are available from the Friends' Office or the Nursery. This could be your Christmas gift solution!

Remember that members of the Friends may visit and buy from the Growing Friends nursery (we're still on the Old Observatory site at present) on most Friday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm.



FRIENDS' SHOP

Dear Friends,

We are ready for Summer with

- * Hats, sunscreen, fly nets, new gardening gloves, waterproof garden kneelers and matching aprons
- * An interesting selection of calendars and 1997 diaries, and new books on such varied subjects as climbing, historical Victoria, Vietnam and sailing boats
- * Beautiful picnic baskets

We send you our thanks for your support in making 1996 a record-breaking year for the Shop, and wish you a blissfully hot and happy Christmas.

Jill Swann, Shop staff and all of our 40 volunteers

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If your subscription was due at the end of June, please find the reminder slip in your envelope and respond accordingly, otherwise we will have to remove your name from our mailing list.

You should also find a reminder, if you have not already paid, for subscriptions due between August 1996 and January 1997.

Please note Life Membership is now an option - ring the office on 9650 6398 for further details.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

This year's exhibition was a stunning success. During the four weeks, more than 3700 visitors attended and 104 of the 176 exhibits were sold. Our profit, in the vicinity of \$30,000, owes much to the generosity of our sponsors and the time devoted by our members.

The exhibition was opened on 9 October by Prof. Pauline Ladiges to an appreciative audience of 270 guests and Friends. The excellent standard of work on display was recognised by the acquisition of six outstanding works for the State Collection, which is held at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Works by Dianne Emery and Helene Wild were purchased with a gift of \$2000 from the Friends. Paintings by Judy Roberts, Bernadette Lim and Mary Gregory were acquired through a donation to the Gardens from the Pappas family. Christine Payne's fascinating print of the Wollemi Pine was purchased through the Director's discretionary budget.

Esso Australia, delighted by the illustrations of rainforest plants growing in the atrium of their Southbank headquarters, selected five works to add to their collection. We congratulate both the RBG and Esso on their vote of confidence in the exceptional talent of our artist members.

We are indebted not only to the exhibiting artists, but to many others who made essential contributions: Esso Australia in particular, together with Becton Corporation, ExpoHire, Wingara Wine Group, Harry the Hirer, Brough Petersen, Deans Art and Phillip Murphy who were generous and supportive sponsors.

Friends who helped in particular ways were Marina Albert, Isobel Allen, Beryl Black, Pat Brass, Jo Brownell, Lois Brunt, Marg Castle, Iona Christianson, Caroline Cornish, Alwynne Fairweather, Bev Graham, Mary Gregory, Sue Hart, Cathy Hossack with sons, daughters and friends of exhibitors (catering), Judy Jarman, Cam Knuckey, Esma Lawley, Andree Leffers, Julie Maddock, Carol Morris, Robyn Tymms, Rachael Vodicka, Helene Wild and RBG Voluntary Guides. Thanks also to Trish Williams of the Joshua McLelland Print Room and Ian Clarke, RBG botanist, who selected the final 176 works for display from 280 submitted by the members.

Louise Coronel



BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS CLASSES FOR 1997

To be held in the Old Telescope House Whirling Room Studio, Royal Botanic Gardens

If you are interested in translating your love of plants into paintings or illustrations, botanical art classes with Dianne Emery are being offered in 1997 to both beginners and those with experience.

Classes will begin in the second week of February, and will run on a term basis of eight weeks. They will be offered on a Tuesday, Wednesday and/or Friday depending on numbers.

Dianne has taught botanical illustration at Burnley and at Prahran Campus of Swinburne University for a number of years, and her outstanding painting of Medlars at our recent exhibition was the choice for the Friends' donation to the State Collection.

Cost per term: Friends \$180 Others \$200

For further information and bookings, please contact Dianne Emery on 9523 5397.

MARIANNE NORTH - VICTORIAN ARTIST 1830-1890 Talk by Barbara Burr

Wednesday 26 February from 10.00am
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Barbara Burr, from the UK, specialises in speaking about the life and travels of Marianne North and has offered to talk to us during her visit to Australia.

She will follow in the footsteps of Marianne North, intrepid English explorer and flower painter, who was advised by Charles Darwin to visit Australia before completing her famous collection of paintings. These are now housed in a special gallery at Kew Gardens in London. After visiting four Australian cities, Barbara will go to California, where Marianne North painted many of the native plants.

Morning Coffee from 10.00am. Talk 10.30am

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Others \$12.00
Bookings essential. RSVP by 19 February on enclosed booking form



Two notable botanical artists, Margaret Stones (left) and Anita Barley, when Margaret Stones spoke to the Friends at the Motor Works Gallery in October

MONTHLY WORKSHOPS WITH ANITA BARLEY

On the second MONDAY of each month from 10 February to 8 December inclusive.

Old Telescope House Whirling Room Studio from 10.00am - 3.00pm.

Anita will continue these workshops in our new venue as an ongoing activity for 25 enthusiastic artists. Three or four vacancies may be available for 1997; please telephone the Friends' office on 9650 6398 to register your interest in joining this group.

Cost: \$120 for 11 workshops, to be paid with booking on enclosed form (for continuing members only).

RSVP by 28 January 1997

INFORMAL WEDNESDAY ART GROUP

An opportunity for artists to meet and work together on an informal basis; no instruction is given but a great deal of support and friendship is given freely!

This group will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 3.00pm in 1997. Initially we plan to meet in the Astronomer's Residence as previously, however it would be wise to check with Mary Gregory on 9836 8587 regarding the venue.

The charge will remain at \$25 to cover costs for a 12-week term commencing Wednesday 15 January. Phone Mary Gregory on 9836 8587 to reserve a place.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the Friends was held in the Mueller Hall on Monday 11 November, and was attended by 46 Members and visitors. Sir Rupert Hamer, our President for four years, retired in accordance with our Rules and was succeeded by John Harper. Our warmest thanks go to Sir Rupert, who has been a very active President and a tower of strength.

Philip Ayton and Eve Brunner, both very long-standing members of the Council, also retired from the Council. As Philip retired half-way through his term of office the Council will appoint a new member of Council to take his place. Eve did not seek re-election. They have both contributed unstintingly to the activities and well-being of the Friends for many years. The opportunity was taken to thank Philip and to elect him as an Honorary Life Member, an honour given to Eve several years ago. Unfortunately, Eve was not present to hear an expression of appreciation as she was recovering from surgery in hospital.

Louise Coronel was elected as a Vice-President*, David Baumgartner was re-elected as Treasurer, and Caroline Cornish and Sharon Beaman were re-elected as ordinary members of the Council. New members elected to the Council were John Hawker and Janet Thomson, who were warmly welcomed.

After the formal meeting Mrs Marie Tehan, Minister for Conservation and Land Management, addressed the gathering. She described the Royal Botanic Gardens as a jewel in her portfolio. Mrs Tehan had earlier served as Shadow Minister, and felt 1996 was a very auspicious year for her to return to this area of responsibility. In thanking the Friends for their efforts, the Minister stressed the need for a balance between the Government, Board, Director and staff with the devoted volunteers who represented the community in a productive partnership. We are grateful for her interest in the activities of the Friends.

The evening concluded with our new President, John Harper, thanking Sir Rupert Hamer for his leadership and dedication to the Friends' affairs during his four years as President.

* Caroline Cornish was elected as the second Vice-President at the Friends' Council meeting on 19 November.

MEMBERSHIP

The annual report for the year ending 30 June 1996 showed that we had 1,392 financial Members. We are delighted that by 7 November 122 new Members had joined the Friends. However, more than 200 whose annual subscriptions fell due between 1 July and 31 October had not renewed; if you are one who has fallen behind we urge you to catch up as soon as you can.

Council Profiles

John Harper joined the Council of the Friends in March 1994 and has served as Convener of our Shop Committee.

As an economist at The University of Melbourne, John's chief interests were in public finance and social economics. He was an associate of the Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research and co-author of *People in Poverty: a Melbourne Survey*.

Since retirement from the position of Associate Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce in the University and Chairman of the Council of St Hilda's College, John served on the Coode Island Review Panel (Chairman, John Landy) and is currently Senior Fellow of St Hilda's College, President of the Melbourne University Commerce Alumni Society, Trustee of the Ronald Henderson Research Foundation and President of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens of Victoria.

John Hawker is Horticulturist with Heritage Victoria, within the Department of Infrastructure. He worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens between 1982-90, and helped co-ordinate the rejuvenation programme of provincial botanic gardens associated with Victoria's sesquicentenary. He was also responsible for the establishment of the Register of Significant Trees during that period, and currently sits on the Significant Trees and Gardens committees of the National Trust.

As a Churchill Fellow in 1989, John studied the conservation and management of botanic and historic gardens in Europe and Britain.

Janet Thomson has been a Voluntary Guide at the Gardens since 1989, most recently serving a two-year term as Convener of this group.

She has had extensive involvement with voluntary organisations over



PHILIP AYTON
LIFE MEMBER

Philip Ayton joined the Friends in 1984, became a Council member and has been active ever since. He convened the Membership sub-committee and worked with the Activities group, notably helping to develop sound equipment for the Herbarium Hall.

More recently, he has made a major contribution as Convener of the Projects and Finance Committee, and as a member of the Liaison Working Group, formed two years ago to improve communication between the Friends and the Gardens' administration.

In this role, Philip's business experience has been invaluable. He was general manager and director of a chemical company, Henry H. York and Co., then first chairman and managing director of BASF Australia until retirement in 1980. (The photograph above dates from about that time!)

Philip was President of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce from 1973-75, served on several government boards and was a founding member of the Australian-German student exchange. He served 25 years with the AIF and CMF, retiring with the rank of Colonel.

the last 15 years, including being President of the Malvern Community Information Centre and Vice-president of the Victorian Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

Janet grew up on a large property near Holbrook in New South Wales and attributes her long-term interest in gardening to her grandmother.

EVE BRUNNER

Here is a summary of the tribute paid to Eve Brunner by Beth Higgs, foundation President of the Friends, at the Annual Meeting.

We accept the resignation of Eve Brunner with great reluctance.

Eve was Vice-President on three occasions and became an Honorary Life Member in 1991. She joined our newly formed Friends shortly after we were launched in 1982 and, after 20 years as Bursar of Ormond College, brought to us her energy, her considerable expertise and unparalleled dedication.

Eve was a volunteer in our first commercial enterprise, a forerunner of our present very successful Friends' shop. Later, and for many successive years, she convened the Activities sub-committee. She was also our money lady – checking our budgets, watching expenses and always there to count the money from the Growing Friends' Plant Sales. Eve was involved with the *Botanic News* for many years.

The formation of the Association of Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Victoria is perhaps the achievement closest to Eve's heart. She personally promoted the formation of Friends' groups for several regional gardens.

It was fitting that the most recent event to receive the benefit of the Brunner expertise should have been the major social event of the 150th Anniversary of the Gardens – The Grand Ball – a wonderful climax to Eve's years of service. Sponsored by the Gardens Board and organised by a committee jointly led by Eve, it was a truly magnificent success and Eve's contribution has been enormous.

She has given unstintingly of her time and applied her very considerable talents to many tasks which have arisen over the years. Her gentle, quiet charm and dedication to the Friends and the Gardens have endeared her to all.



Michael Silver photo

Dr Ducker receives the Mueller Medal from the Premier, the Hon. Jeff Kennett, with RBG Director Dr Philip Moors looking on.

MUELLER MEDAL

Congratulations to longtime Friend and associate of the Gardens, Dr Sophie Ducker, who has been awarded the 1996 Mueller Medal by the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

The citation described Dr Ducker as "an international authority on Australian seaweeds and seagrasses who has made many contributions to marine botany". It also cited her studies of the way 18th and 19th century explorers of Australia contributed to the subject - studies made possible by her extensive knowledge of European languages.

FRIENDS' ANNIVERSARY WINE

A few cases of our special wine bottling are available as we go to press. We suggest you telephone the office (9650 6398) if you're interested in ordering.

Those who have already reserved wine are asked to call the office to arrange collection.

JIM WILLIS STUDENTSHIP

Christina Flann has been chosen from an extremely strong field of candidates as the inaugural Jim Willis Student. She is completing the fourth year of her Bachelor of Arts/Science course at Monash University; with her enthusiasm for botany, her excellent academic record and her strong interest in conservation and youth organisations, she is a worthy first recipient.

Neville Walsh, RBG Senior Botanist, will supervise Christina's project. She is to confirm the distinctness of, and formally describe, the rare unnamed lowland swamp entity of the genus *Bracteantha*, formerly part of the Everlasting Daisy genus *Helichrysum*. The outcome will be an account of the genus suitable for publication in Volume 4 of *Flora of Victoria*.

From The Editor

The editor would like to thank the Secretary of the Friends, Lawrence Cohn, who produced the Spring *Botanic News* while she was overseas.

If any friends with journalistic, editing or advertising experience would like to assist with Friends' publications, please contact the office on tel. 9650 6398.

DONATION

John and Christobel Wark, whose garden *Cumbræ* in Yarrbat Avenue, Balwyn was recently on show for the Australian Open Garden Scheme, have generously donated the proceeds of \$900 to the Friends. We greatly appreciate this gesture.

THE COLLIN ROBJOHNS GATES

Margaret Howes, our executive officer since 1993, has a long-standing association with the concept of Friends of Botanic Gardens. Her father, Dr Collin Robjohns, founded the Adelaide Friends in 1977 - the first such group in Australia.

Margaret and her sister Gwen (who is heavily involved as a volunteer with the Friends' North Lodge Shop at the Adelaide Gardens) attended the opening ceremony of the Collin Robjohns Gates at the Mount Lofty Garden in the Adelaide Hills on 15 September. The Governor of South Australia, Sir Eric Neal, officiated.

The magnificent gates, in elaborately sculptured iron, were designed by a local sculptor, Greg Johns. He found his inspiration for the design in Collin Robjohns' autobiography *My Several Lives*. The pillars are made of cobblestones which came out as ballast in the sailing ships of last century. The gardens by the gates are landscaped with plants which originated from China in recognition of Collin Robjohns' missionary service.

More than 30 Adelaide Friends visited the Gardens at South Yarra and Cranbourne on 23 October, and were welcomed at a lunch arranged by our Friends.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

A gift of Friends' membership would make an ideal Christmas present for someone on your list. Phone the office on 9650 6398 and we'll arrange to send a membership card with your greeting.

**SUMMER 1996-97 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

CHRISTMAS DINNER

**Wednesday 18 December at 6.30pm
RBG Reception Centre**

No.....@ \$55.00 each
Total \$

RSVP by 13/12/96

**BUS TRIP: MOUNT MACEDON
GARDENS AND ROMSEY WINERY**

**Friday 17 January 1997
Leaving National Gallery, St Kilda Rd
at 1.00pm**

No..... @ \$55 each

Total \$
RSVP by 6/1/97

Please return this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.
Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL: _____

**SUMMER 1996-97 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

**TWILIGHT PICNIC IN THE GARDENS
Friday 21 February 1997, 5.45 - 8.15pm**

No.....@ \$5.00
Family ticket @ \$15

Total: \$

RSVP by 19/2/97

**MARIANNE NORTH -
Talk by Barbara Burr**

**Wednesday 26 February from 10.00am
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium**

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

Total: \$
RSVP by 19/2/97

Please return this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.
Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL: _____

**SUMMER 1996-97 BOTANIC NEWS
BOOKING FORM**

WORKSHOPS WITH ANITA BARLEY
(This form for continuing members only)

Payment for 11 workshops \$120 ☐

RSVP by 28/1/97

**BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS
WORKSHOPS**

March - May

Term 1 Fee: \$30 ☐

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

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

Please return this form with remittance and stamped addressed envelope to: Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., National Herbarium, Birdwood Ave, South Yarra 3141.
Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/Postal orders payable to:
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TEL: _____

SUMMER IN THE GARDENS

A new production of *Hamlet* will be staged, using the Observatory building as a backdrop, during summer. Other cultural events include *Concerts by Moonlight* over three consecutive weekends in December, a return season of *Moonlight Cinema* on the Western Lawn starting after Christmas, the eleventh season of *Wind in the Willows* and the return of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. These musical and theatrical attractions will be complemented by other events in our *Summer Salute* program starting on 1 December and going through until 26 January. Children's activities and holiday programs, music, behind-the-scenes tours of the National Herbarium, and plenty of other exciting activities are planned, including the official opening of the Australian Rainforest Walk.

Throughout this period our exhibition *In the Footsteps of Mueller* will be open in Mueller Hall. The exhibition interweaves the botanical work of the Gardens past and present with a display about the Northern Territory expedition held last April to commemorate Mueller's explorations there with the Gregory brothers in 1855. The exhibition will display paintings made as a result of this year's expedition by John Wolseley, Anita Barley and the late Lin Onus, together with photographs by Bill Bachman from *Australian Geographic*. The Friends were a major sponsor of the trip – so come and see the exhibition of the expedition!



FRIENDS SPRING ACTIVITIES

- Garden Ornaments* - Stephen Ryan. 19 September
- In the Footsteps of Ferdinand von Mueller* - Sara Maroske. 23 September
- Botanical Illustrators.
- The Art of Botanical Illustration*
 - Exhibition opening and preview - 9 October
 - Introduction and special viewing with the
 - National Gallery Society - 10 October
 - Exhibition and sale - 10 October-5 November
- Growing Friends Spring plant sale - 12-13 October
- The New York Botanical Garden* - Dr Jim Grimes. 16 October
- Day trip to *Barunah Plains* and *Strathbrae* - 21 October
- A Special Event* - Margaret Stones. 24 October
- Newcomers Welcome - 8 November
- Annual General Meeting and talk by Hon. Marie Tehan - 11 November
- Bus Trip to West Gippsland - 14 November
- In the Footsteps of Mueller* - Exhibition preview. 21 November
- Spring Walk in the RBG with the Voluntary Guides - 21 November
- Mueller Tours to Far East Gippsland and Victorian Alps
- Botanical Illustrators workshops with Anita Barley
- Botanical Illustrators classes with Dianne Emery
- Botanical Embroiderers workshops with Wanda McPherson

DAHLIA SHOW

The National Dahlia Society of Victoria offers Friends of the RBG half-price admission to their State Dahlia Show, which will also include displays of lilliums, begonias, floral art, garden books and a free cheese and wine tasting from producers of south-west Victoria.

It will be held at the Mount Waverley Community Centre on 22 February from 1.00pm to 6.00pm, and 23 February from 10.00am to 3.30pm.

The Society has a bed of Australian-raised dahlia varieties within the Royal Botanic Gardens near E Gate.



*Prof. Carrick Chambers, former Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, took part in a trip to Costa Rica last March, led by Ken Osetroff. They discovered some excellent specimens of *Blechnum buchtienii*.*

COSTA RICA is a nature lover's dream come true. You can make a leisurely-paced, fully accommodated journey there in August 1997 on a tour arranged for the Friends by Destination Management. *Ken Osetroff from Destination Management has provided the following details about this little-known country.*

Located just north of the Panama Canal with coasts on both the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean, Costa Rica enjoys a climate compared to that of a never-ending springtime. The peaceful, stable and democratic government of Costa Rica disbanded its military in 1949 and devoted funds to the protection of its incredibly diverse flora and fauna in national parks and biological reserves. Costa Rica now has more of its land mass protected by national parks and conservation areas than any other country in the world.

Here are 1200 species of classified orchids with hundreds yet to be listed, more than 900 species of ferns, 30 species of heliconia and 9000 species of higher plants.

For the latest detailed information about Costa Rica, phone Ken on (07) 3359 6651 and he will return your call.

BUS TOUR INFORMATION

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

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

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

THIRTY GARDEN SEATS

It is now two-and-a-half years since Mrs Marjorie Cameron initiated the Friends' project to place seats in the Gardens, and we expect the thirtieth seat to be placed before Christmas. It is a great response and the Gardens assure us that there is room for plenty more seats.

The cost is \$1,000, which covers the cost of seat and plaque as well as maintenance in the future. The size and number of words on a plaque is decided by the donor. Some seats have been donated as memorials, while others mark a happy association with the Gardens enjoyed by people very much alive - both the reasons for the donation and the inscription on the plaque vary in each case. Please phone the Friends' office on 9650 6398 if you'd like details of the Garden Seat Scheme.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

Remember that your Friends' membership entitles you to some 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

Garden of Eden Nursery

33 Ferrars Street, Albert Park
10% discount off everything



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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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

Our landscape planner at South Yarra, Sandra Beckwith, and her assistant, Kirsten Bauer, are close to completing the first draft of the Masterplan for the Melbourne Gardens. The plan embodies a coherent vision for the future of the Gardens, recognises the established heritage and cultural values, and sets out achievable objectives for managing and improving the Gardens in the years ahead.

Sandra's previous experience in being a co-author of the Masterplan for the Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens has been of great benefit in preparing the RBG document. The City of Melbourne released the Treasury and Fitzroy Gardens plan on 15 October 1996, when it was announced that Sandra and her co-author, Ron Jones, had received a National Project Award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

Planning and fundraising for the Observatory Gate continue, and until they are finalised we will not be able to set a construction timetable. We will again be having a season of outdoor theatre on the Observatory site during summer, and over the next couple of months the Growing Friends will be moving their nursery to Nursery Lodge beside the Works Depot in the Gardens.

Noel O'Keefe and Paul Gallagher left the Gardens in September, and we wish them both success in their future careers. They each made important contributions to the rejuvenation of RBG Melbourne, for which I am most grateful. The work structure of Botanic Gardens Division is being assessed at present, having been in place for two years, to determine if any 'fine-tuning' is needed, and their two vacancies will be filled after the assessment is completed.

Jo Mayall has been appointed Administrative Assistant in the Public Programs and Development Division, and Cara Chatfield has been

appointed as Assistant to Nancy Staub. Jo Mayall, Tracie Laws, Jane Wing and Stephen May have recently moved to E-Gate Lodge, which has been refurbished. The new extension at the rear of the lodge is being constructed as a training project by students at Holmesglen TAFE. The refurbishment has been funded through a grant to RBG from Sotheby's Decorator Show House.

The Voluntary Guides celebrated their 15th birthday at a function at the Tecoma Pavilion on 11 October. One of the original Guides and Conveners, Connie Hoffman, planted a *Butia* palm on the Eastern Lawn near The Mounds to celebrate the anniversary. The special guided walks prepared for the Sesquicentenary have been very popular, especially the Mueller Walk. The Guides have been a marvellous asset to the Gardens, giving much pleasure and information to thousands of our visitors.

Sophie Garrett has taken up her position as Volunteers Co-ordinator and is developing a 1997 programme with the Voluntary Guides. She works three days a week from Nursery Lodge. Sophie has had curatorial experience in the United States and has worked with volunteers at the Museum of Victoria. After an initial assessment and training period for the Guides, Sophie will recruit a further group, and will also liaise with Sandra Day who co-ordinates the Herbarium volunteers.

We congratulate Carol Guthrie, one of the seconded teachers in the Public Programs and Development Division, who has been named the 1996 Environmental Educator of the Year by the Victorian Association for Environmental Educators. The award is in recognition of Carol's work over a number of years with Laverton Park Primary School and the local community in revegetating McCormack Park, Laverton.

Philip Moors
Director