



Botanic News

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

A12827T

SUMMER 2000-01

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday 11 December at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Lyceum Club, Ridgway Place, Melbourne

There's still time to book for the Friends' Christmas dinner. A special attraction will be our guest of honour, KEVIN HEINZE, who will reflect on how the challenges of his chequered adolescence led him into gardening. Kevin, a great raconteur, is held in affectionate regard by generations of Victorians, and it will be a joy to share some of his philosophy and experiences. His success in introducing children to gardening is particularly inspiring. We will have copies of Kevin's newly-published book, *Cheerio for Now*, available on the night.

You are welcome to invite friends and family to this occasion which will wind up the Friends' activities for 2000. The cost includes a festive three-course meal, pre-dinner drinks and wine with dinner, GST, and the chance to win a lucky door prize.

Cost per person: \$55

RSVP on booking form by Thursday 7 December.

SUMMER WEEKEND TRIP TO MT BUFFALO

26-28 January

Celebrate Australia Day with a holiday weekend visit to Mt Buffalo, revelling in the wildflowers and fresh mountain air. As we go to press, places are still available for this tour. Please phone the office on 9650 6398 for details.



OPENING NIGHT AT THE BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS EXHIBITION



Top: Louise Coronel, exhibition co-ordinator and Dianne Emery, teacher of botanical art for the Friends.

Above: Bev Williams from Numurkah with her watercolour, *Swainsona formosa*.

Helen Burrows admires Rita Parkinson's paintings. *Yucca gloriosa* (centre) was purchased for the State Botanical Collection

Photos by Lesley Skinner

THE GARDENS' BAT-DRIVEN CRISIS

*Can you imagine Melbourne without the Royal Botanic Gardens?
If the flying-foxes stay, we won't need to imagine...*

The Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne is facing one of the greatest threats in all its 154-year history. Flying-foxes are causing this crisis – they are inexorably destroying the Fern Gully, one of Guilfoyle's most beautiful creations. Now the destruction is spreading to islands in the Ornamental Lake and other parts of the Gardens. The damage, noise and smell are making thousands of visitors avoid these areas, spoiling their visits and the beauty of the Gardens.

We began implementing a management plan approved by the Government earlier this year, but in May had to discontinue it because the flying-foxes were proposed for listing as a threatened species in Victoria. Their conservation status has still not been resolved, but meanwhile the damage has continued and the number of flying-foxes is mounting. Each summer the colony increases through breeding and immigration. Last year peak numbers reached over 8,000 in a colony covering more than a quarter of the Gardens. This summer numbers will probably go even higher.

Already many Friends have written to the Gardens sharing their concerns about this crisis. Copies of all your letters, together with many received from other worried Victorians, have been sent to our Minister, the Hon. Sherry! Garbutt.

But we need to continue making Victorians aware of this most serious threat to the survival of their incomparable Gardens. You can assist with this important task by joining our community campaign—*Our Gardens. Now and Forever.*

Help save the Gardens by:

- Writing to local papers
- Writing letters to the editor at *The Age* and *Herald Sun*
- Making calls to talkback radio
- Discussing the crisis facing the Gardens with your family, friends and work colleagues.

Please telephone Carmen Greenway at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne on 03 9252 2375 to register your support and to receive more information about this crisis and ways in which you can help save our Gardens. Please don't stand by as one of the silent majority.

Make yourself heard.
Help us keep these Gardens forever. Act now!

Philip Moors



ACQUISITIONS FOR THE STATE BOTANICAL COLLECTION

For the third time, the Friends' Council made a grant for the purchase of works from *The Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibition for the State Botanical Collection. The selection was made by a panel of five, and as Dr Philip Moors said, "our choice was made hard by the uniformly high quality of the works on display". Four paintings were purchased with \$2500 from the Friends, and a fifth with RBG funds. A sixth was given by an anonymous donor.

Jill Thurlow, Acting Library Manager, explains that botanical art is an important means of encapsulating scientific information and as such forms an integral part of the State Botanical Collection, which is held in the Herbarium. The collection reflects primarily the native Australian and horticultural flora (although not necessarily to the exclusion of other flora).

The works purchased by the Friends are as follows:

EDYTA HOXLEY: *Ramalina inflata*, *Teloschites chrysophthalmus*, *Canoparmelia privinata*—three

lichen species (watercolour and pencil). This is the Collection's first representation of lichens; the magnification made it a particularly interesting work.

ORA MOLENAAR: *Grevillea 'Poorinda Queen'* (watercolour). A classic example of botanical art, with detailed dissections.

RITA PARKINSON: *Yucca gloriosa* (gouache). Gouache is an unusual medium for contemporary botanical art and it has not been represented in the State Botanical Collection before.

DOLORES SKOWRONSKI-MALLONI: *Cedrus libani* (watercolour and pencil). The use of watercolour and pencil combine to show the detail of the dissections. The fact that the work represents the Cedar of Lebanon in the RBG adds to its interest.

The first three artists are new to the State Botanical Collection; a previous work by Dolores was purchased in 1998.

A pencil drawing of *Swainsonia formosa*—Sturt's Desert Pea—by ELLEN HICKMAN was purchased by the RBG.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again this Spring the Friends have had great success with their regular major events—the Growing Friends Plant Sale and the biennial Botanical Illustrators exhibition, *The Art of Botanical Illustration*.

This year each was splendid. The exhibition, held in Mueller Hall with a great marquee outside erected for the opening night, displayed a greater array of very beautiful and botanically precise paintings than ever before; altogether 98 were sold. The Plant Sale was overflowing with lovely things which swiftly found new homes in new gardens. The success of each event is a great tribute to the talent and skills of so many of our Members. They and all those other Members who in various ways made possible the success of these events deserve warm congratulations. We are also indebted to Charles McCubbin for his thought-provoking words at the exhibition opening, expressing his deep-felt concern for the environment.

About 80 Friends attended our annual meeting on 13 November at which David Plant was elected Vice-President in place of Louise Coronel, who has completed her four-year term. We also elected two new Honorary Life Members—Anita Barley and Sharon Beaman.

Following the close of formal proceedings five RBG staff members provided brief, varied and fascinating accounts of how Friends' grants have assisted them in their work.

HELEN COHN said that the resurgence of botanical art under the auspices of the Friends had presented the opportunity for the work of nine contemporary artists to be acquired for the State Botanical Collection. This collection takes its place alongside the library collections and specimens as working tools for those studying Australia's flora.

Another Friends-supported project—the cataloguing and indexing of the Willis papers donated by Jim's family—was just completed; 77 boxes were about to return to the RBG Library, and the catalogue would be on CD Rom.

A third Friends' grant has allowed Helen to work full time for 12 months on research for a history of the Herbarium.

DR JIM GRIMES conveyed the excitement of botanical detective work. In delving into the Herbarium's legume collection, he has recognised clues that led to the identification of valuable type specimens and other hitherto-unknown treasures. He applauded the Friends' support for the curation of the legume collection.

STEPHEN PATERSON brought along murky specimens to illustrate how the silt accumulation in Central Lake is being dealt with. He also described the benefits from the Friends/EcoRecycle project to instal bins to separate rubbish: operation costs were reduced as less material went to landfill; the amenity of the Gardens was improved, and a positive message about recycling was provided to visitors.

DEAN STEWART stressed the honour and responsibility he felt in filling the first Aboriginal position in the Gardens, especially as the site held great cultural significance for his people. While many international visitors took part in his Aboriginal Heritage walks, Dean felt it was very important, also, for Melburnians to realise 'what was in their own backyard'!

MICHAEL McNABB outlined the prospect of replacing outmoded 50-year-old propagating facilities in the RBG Nursery with a new state-of-the-art glasshouse. There are also plans for a preparation room, and for more benches to consolidate 'hardening off' material in one zone. Tenders are being called.

Dr Philip Moors thanked the Friends for their remarkable commitment, and shared our pride in hearing the uplifting reports from his staff. He also told of how Members could continue to assist in the struggle to resolve the very serious problem of fruit bats in the Gardens.

I am sorry to report that the Hon. John Button has found it necessary to resign from the Friends' Council, due to pressure on his time from many commitments. He made a very useful contribution to our strategic discussions about the future of the Friends., and I'm glad that he has assured us of his continuing interest and support.

One aspect of our future is in **your** hands. It would be a marvellous celebration of the new century, and a sign of your appreciation of the Gardens, for every Member to recruit a Friend as we move into 2001. A Christmas gift of Friends' membership would extend seasonal goodwill for 12 months!

To all Friends, my best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Sir Ninian Stephen



Holly drawn by one of our Botanical Illustrators, Barbara Knight.

Summer Activities

WHAT'S NEW?

Wednesday 31 January at 10.00am

Catch up with some new gardens and other features in the RBG. Meet at Gate Lodge, the Friends' abode on Birdwood Avenue opposite the Shrine, at 10.00am. The RBG's Andrew Laidlaw will talk to us about his design for the landscape around our Victorian cottage, which should all be in place by then. We'll also inspect the new herb garden recently installed behind the Observatory Café, the new entrance gates donated by the Simon family, and the Magic Pudding sculpture.

Since Spring 1998, following the refurbishment of the Perennial Border financed by the Friends, one of our Members — Leanne Barnes — has worked there as a volunteer gardener every Wednesday morning. Late summer sees this garden at its best. Leanne, together with Sandra Hodge, the RBG staffer responsible for the Perennial Border, will talk to us about its evolution and the plants growing there.

Refreshments will be served.

Cost: \$10 (incl. GST)

RSVP by Monday 29 January on booking form

SUCCULENTS—THE UNEXPECTEDLY BEAUTIFUL

**Illustrated talk by Diana Morgan
Wednesday 21 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium**

Diana Morgan, one of our Members, has long been closely involved with gardens and plants. She started the Heritage Rose Society in Victoria, helped to set up Open Garden Days with the National Gallery Women's Association, has been a great supporter of our Botanical Illustrators' exhibitions and is an active member of the Australian Cacti and Succulent Society, of which she has been the Honorary Secretary.

Over the last 30 years Diana has developed an interest in plants suitable for Australian gardens. She believes that we grow a lot of plants that are unsuitable for our conditions, and that there are many good alternatives we don't use.

Diana has an extensive knowledge and special love of cacti and succulents, including experience in growing and propagating them. Her enthusiasm opens up new

possibilities for the dry garden in terms of shape, texture and colour.

The talk will be illustrated with slides, including many of plants from Diana's own garden, where she has an extensive container-grown collection. The unexpected beauty of these plants, their shape and impact will enthrall you.

Refreshments will be served prior to the talk.

Cost (incl. GST): Friends \$11 Others \$16
RSVP by Friday 16 February on booking form

MUSEUM ENCORE

**Guided tour and lunch
Tuesday 6 March at 1.00pm**

Following the popular response to our Melbourne Museum tour in November, we have arranged another in March. By then, we're told, all planned exhibits should be in place except for the dinosaurs! Of particular interest and topicality will be *Forging the Nation*, an exhibition opening on 2 March, concerning the first 20 years of Federation.

Those who would like to begin with a light lunch should meet first at 1.00pm in the Balcony Café overlooking the main foyer—lunch of your choice at your cost. **The tour will commence at 2.00pm from the foyer near the cloakroom.**

Enter the Museum from Rathdowne or Exhibition Streets.

Cost: \$8 incl. GST (Museum entry still reduced rate for this date)

RSVP by Thursday 1 March on booking form.

NEW MEMBERS' WELCOME

We will hold a **late-afternoon** welcome for new Members in February or early March, with Daylight Saving allowing time for a pleasant guided walk in the Gardens after refreshments and our 'information session'.

Those who have joined the Friends since our last welcome in October will automatically receive an invitation. If you were unable to be present on that morning or for a previous welcome, and would like to join us this time, please telephone the office on 9650 6398.

Botanical Illustrators

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

FOUR-DAY BEGINNERS WORKSHOP WITH DIANNE EMERY

16,17,18,19 January 2001
10.00am-3.30pm (flexible finish)

This intensive course is aimed at those interested in an introduction to botanical art. Perhaps it may particularly attract those whose interest was awakened by the recent exhibition *The Art of Botanical Illustration* at the Herbarium. Such people might like eventually to join a class, but have had no experience with the specific drawing and painting skills involved.

Over the four days students will begin to develop skills in outline drawing and foreshortening, tonal work and the rendering of surfaces, basic colour work and paint application.

The cost will include paint, watercolour paper and brushes, although students will be asked to provide drawing materials. Classes will be held in the Whirling Room Studio, Observatory Gate.

Cost (incl. GST and painting materials): Friends \$160, Others \$180.
For enrolments or more information contact Dianne on 9523 5397.

FOUR-DAY ETCHING WORKSHOP FOR BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

We are proposing to run a four-day etching workshop on 29-30 January and 5-6 February 2001, in association with the Victorian College of the Arts.

Following the success of last January's workshop, we have decided to offer another that will extend the skills of those who attended in 2000, but also introduce the basics for those who are new to etching. Those who attended our earlier workshop may like to further develop their knowledge of the medium by using aquatint, mezzatint, dry point and colour.

Beginners will be taken through the basics of preparing plates, preparing drawings, drawing on the plate, etching and printing. We will split this workshop into two two-day sessions to allow the necessary drawing time in between.

All materials will be provided and are included in the cost. These will include copper plates, grounds, drawing needles, aquatint, acid, printing inks and printing papers, plus expert tuition from the Victorian College of the Arts printmaking department.

This is a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the superb teaching available. We are also hoping that some of the work produced will be shown in our Black and White Botanical Art Show later in the year.

Summary:

Dates: 29-30 January, 5-6 February
Times: 10.00am-4.00pm (flexible finish)
Cost (incl. GST, equipment and materials): \$325.00
For enrolments and more information contact Dianne Emery on 9523 5397.

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TERM CLASSES will recommence in the week beginning 12 February. Please note that, for Term 1, drawing only will be taught at Wednesday a.m. class.

For dates, times and costs plus detailed information about workshops and course costs please contact the Friends' office on 9650 6398 or Dianne Emery on 9523 5397 for a list.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS SEASONAL PROGRAM

For the Botanical Illustrators' 2001 program we are introducing a series of quarterly 'seasonal' events of interest to all our artist Members. These will include visits to the Gardens to look at the plant collections 'through the eyes of an artist'.

Autumn 2001:

The Perennial Border with Anita Barley
Tuesday 13 March

Meet at the Whirling Room at 10.00am
\$5.50 per person (incl. GST), pay on the day
RSVP by phone to Friends' office—9650 6398

Anita will take us over to the Perennial Border to meet a staff gardener and look in detail at the plants and flowers in their autumn profusion. Afterwards we will return to the Whirling Room Studio to draw and paint specimens collected from the garden. BYO lunch and stay for the day if you would like.

TUESDAY PAINTERS (The Whirly Birds)

offers an opportunity to work with other botanical artists in an informal group which meets most Tuesdays in the Whirling Room Studio at Observatory Gate. This group enjoys sharing ideas and techniques in a supportive atmosphere.

All enquiries welcome; contact Rita Parkinson on 9821 5883.

Notes from the Gardens

With the summer coming into full swing we have had the benefit of some really useful spring rains for the first time in several years. As a result the plants generally are in fine spirits. Summer provides us with the opportunity to experience extremes of conditions within the Gardens. The exposed, semi-arid, xerophytic sites are at their hottest, with the full summer sun beating down. To get an idea of the sorts of plants which enjoy these testing conditions, take a trip to the Temple of the Winds and Grey Garden area, the Water Conservation Garden, the Arid Garden, or parts of the Californian Garden. In contrast, the cool leafiness of the Oak Lawn can provide the perfect escape from the trials of a hot Melbourne day. The newly-opened Southern Chinese Collection also provides a cooler microclimate to restore the spirits, as does the cooler end of the Australian Rainforest Walk, along the southern boundary of the site. If you can time your visit for the period when the misters hiss into action, all the better!

The Perennial Border starts to put on a show from December, with the peak period from January to March. It presents an interesting mixture of perennials in the traditional sense, with a rich array of more permanent species. Notably, semi-succulent material has been included in the design to provide strong shape and form, while the towering *Echiums* offer vertical emphasis (when they haven't been blown over!).

Summer will also see the newly-developed Species Rose Collection in its first flowering season. Already this collection has added greatly to the landscape and botanical interest of the Eastern Lawn area.

Several large rectangular tracts of *Themeda triandra* (Kangaroo Grass) are being planted in the Eucalypt Lawn. Three thousand individual plants have been propagated from stock conserved from the Old Observatory Site. They are intended to provide a new design feature, while being contextually appropriate for the collection of various eucalypts.

The Kangaroo Grass will remain unmown, while the remainder of the lawn will receive the usual treatment. It flowers through summer and into autumn, so will provide quite a display in the warmer months.

Richard Barley

GROWING FRIENDS

It is pleasing to report that, after a disappointing result in Autumn, the Growing Friends' Spring Plant Sale was a great success with takings exceeding \$26,750. The amount was particularly gratifying given that the always-popular succulents were in quarantine and had to be withdrawn from the sale. Thanks are due to the other members of the Friends who staffed the 'check-outs', counted money and sold raffle tickets. Gardens staff were particularly helpful when we set up and dismantled the sale, also in providing botanical information to buyers. Thanks also to the Education Unit who loaned trestles. We trust that everybody felt their efforts were rewarded by the amount raised.

Our Autumn Plant Sale will take place on 17 and 18 March 2001.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Janet Morrison, one of the foundation members of the Growing Friends. Janet was devoted to the group and took responsibility for the writing of labels for all the plants in the pre-computer days, and the organising and pouring of morning tea. The latter was a much-appreciated task, particularly for those who arrived at 7.30am.

Members are urged to remember the Growing Friends when it comes to Christmas presents. If you are unsure which plant to buy, there are always Gift Vouchers available. You may visit the Nursery (beside the RBG Works Yard) on Friday mornings between 10.00am and 1.00pm.

Best wishes for Christmas and the coming year, and thanks to all those who have supported us throughout 2000.

Photo by Bronwyn Morris



HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

These tributes were paid to the two new Honorary Life Members at our annual meeting on 13 November.

SHARON BEAMAN. Lydia Bartlett explained that Sharon was so impressed by the knowledge she encountered upon joining the Growing Friends in October 1989 that she enrolled for the Certificate course at Burnley and gained the highest marks for the year.

Sharon stepped into the Co-ordinator's role at the beginning of 1995—a busy year, with further expansion of the nursery on the Old Observatory site.

In 1997 the Gardens required the Growing Friends to move to a new space within the Gardens. As Co-ordinator, Sharon had to devote a great deal of time planning this move and liaising with various RBG Divisions and tradespeople. The move took place in conjunction with the Autumn plant sale, in itself a busy time. Lydia alluded to the constant calls on the time of the Co-ordinator in addition to the Friday morning sessions—for instance, tending the pots after severe wind or storms. For years Sharon recorded the names and numbers of every plant in the nursery—a laborious task before a computer was acquired. At the same time, Sharon was running her garden design and maintenance business, while shouldering so much responsibility for the Growing Friends.

Sharon also represented the Growing Friends for eight years on the Council of the Friends, where her down-to-earth common sense was valuable.

ANITA BARLEY. Louise Coronel said that students who attended Anita's course at Burnley in 1988 formed a close-knit group and continued to paint together informally. In mid-1990 they became attached to the Friends, with Anita as a regular teacher; she was working as Botanical Illustrator at the National Herbarium at the time.

With encouragement from Anita, who always had confidence in the group's talents and abilities, the Friends held what was to be the first of the biennial *Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibitions in September 1992. Louise said that Anita's exquisite paintings have been a feature and drawcard in all five *Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibitions, as well

as other successful major exhibitions staged by the Friends in 1983, 1985 and 1991.

'Although regular lessons given by Anita ceased when she retired from the RBG to have Georgina and move to Woodend, she has always been willing to give workshops and classes when she has been free to do so, to initiate activities and to join with social occasions', Louise added.

Louise said that Anita has given support and inspiration to countless aspiring botanical artists through her involvement with the Friends, as well as encouragement to the aims and ambitions of the Friends' organisation.

She quoted the following tribute from Mary Gregory, a long-standing pupil, who said that as an almost-beginner in the field of art, she found Anita's classes to be a revelation.

'I remember the basic principles of drawing that she made so clear, and her words "you only have to draw what you see". I remember her generosity in supplying a wonderful selection of flowers as subjects and sharing with us her own marvellous work and techniques—her modesty ensuring that we weren't terminally discouraged! I remember that she always found something positive to say

about every piece of student work and that she encouraged persistence, while the integrity of her own work led us to be as botanically accurate as possible.'

Mary said that Anita's influence has been profound. 'She has been our inspiring teacher whose quiet, sensitive personality has endeared her to us all.'



Anita (left) and Sharon

RAFFLE RESULTS

From the Botanical Illustrators Exhibition

1ST PRIZE—*Banksia Grossa* by Celia Rosser (donated by Celia Rosser).

Mrs Sally Smyth, Montrose

2ND PRIZE—*Xanthorrhoea Australis* (grass tree) by Beverley Graham (donated by Beverley Graham).

Mr C. Stephanse, St Kilda Road

3RD PRIZE—*Australia: 300 Years of Botanical Illustration* (donated by D & J Brownell).

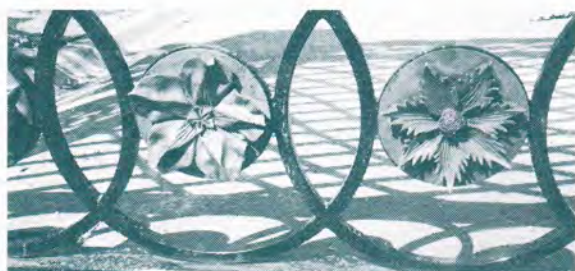
Ms V Hammond, Essendon

4TH PRIZE—Porcelain plate with orchid illustration by Helene Wild (donated by Helene Wild).

Mrs G. Forwood, Deepdene



The Observatory Gates—a significant, creative Gardens' adornment



Detail of some of the decorative 'knuckles' of botanical themes on the gates; they were designed by the sculptor's wife, artist Leanne Tregear. A brass koala, of special significance to Henry Simon, is to be added.

CRANBOURNE—GOOD NEWS!

At Cranbourne, the prospects for starting Phase 1 of the Australian Garden project have been boosted by a magnificent grant of \$2 million from the Colonial Foundation. Commencing the project will depend, however, on a successful outcome for our application to the Community Support Fund for \$8.1 million, and a decision is expected before the end of this year. Importantly, the Colonial Foundation grant will enable us to build a visitor centre as part of Phase 1, providing visitors with information and interpretive displays, educational facilities, entrance and ticket facilities, and shop and café.

A new pavilion named in honour of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch was officially opened at RBG Cranbourne in October. The handsome timber structure is sited on the Wylies Creek walking trail in the southern section of the Garden and has attractive views southeast to the Strzelecki Ranges. It was constructed by RBG Cranbourne staff and funded by the Maud Gibson Trust. Dame Elisabeth was a member of the Trust for many years and has been involved in many aspects of the development of RBG Cranbourne.

THE OBSERVATORY GATES

A Tribute to Henry Simon 1920-1998

Imposing iron gates marking the entrance to the Gardens from the Observatory Gate precinct were dedicated on 17 October to the memory of Henry Simon, a Member of the Friends. Designed by sculptor Darryl Cowie, they feature beautiful bronze and glass ornamentation, and were donated to the Gardens by Henry Simon's wife Anita and his family—a tribute to his spirit and his achievements.

Born in Bavaria in 1920, Henry was sent to England when the political situation in Germany worsened. After war broke out, his attempt to enlist was unsuccessful because of his German birth certificate and he was subsequently deported, joining that distinguished band of 'Dunera Boys' who have contributed to all aspects of Australian life.

Despite being forced to leave two countries by the time he was 20, Henry was always optimistic and declared 'There are no problems in life, only challenging situations'. Internment in Australia became a positive experience for him, when he continued his educational studies. He was a highly cultured man, spoke four languages, and had a deep knowledge and love of music and literature.

Henry founded Koala Shoes in 1945 after service in the Australian forces; he had studied shoe-making in England at the age of 15. From humble beginnings, this enterprise eventually employed more than 400 people and was the largest wholly-Australian children's shoe manufacturer in Australasia. Making 2,500,000 pairs a year, Henry drily called himself a 'simple cobbler'.

In 1997 the Friends visited the beautiful garden of *Habbies Howe*, a property near Seymour, where Henry ran sheep and cattle. Soon after selling *Habbies Howe* in 1998 and returning to Melbourne to live, Henry had a fatal heart attack while playing tennis. He achieved much in his life, but also gave much, being a generous anonymous donor who hated publicity.

Mueller's German Melbourne

Fascination with the Baron continues to inspire researchers, with *Baron von Mueller's German Melbourne* published recently by La Trobe University. Essays by Rod Home and Sara Maroske focus on von Mueller, while others relate to 19th century achievements in areas such as the sciences, the visual arts and community networks. Phone 9836 2917 for information.

SUMMER 2000-2001 BOTANIC NEWS BOOKING FORM

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday 11 December at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Lyceum Club, Ridgway Place, Melbourne

No.....@ \$55

Any special seating requests?.....
.....
.....

TOTAL: \$

☐ I would like a vegetarian meal

RSVP by 7/12/00

WHAT'S NEW?

Wednesday 31 January at 10.00am

No.....@ \$10

RSVP by 29/1/01

TOTAL: \$

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entrée card to be posted by return mail. Otherwise your name will be recorded on a list available at each function to verify your payment.

Please return the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped self-addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, Gate Lodge, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra 3141. Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/postal orders payable to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL.

SUMMER 2000-2001 BOTANIC NEWS BOOKING FORM

SUCCULENTS, UNEXPECTEDLY BEAUTIFUL
Wednesday 21 February at 7.30 for 8.00pm

No..... of Friends @ \$11 \$
No..... of Others @ \$16 \$

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 16/2/01

MUSEUM TOUR/LUNCH
Tuesday 6 March at 1.00pm

No..... @ \$8 for tour

TOTAL: \$

RSVP by 1/3/01

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entrée card to be posted by return mail. Otherwise your name will be recorded on a list available at each function to verify your payment.

Please return the relevant section of this form with remittance and stamped self-addressed envelope to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, Gate Lodge, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra 3141. Telephone: (03) 9650 6398

Cheques/postal orders payable to: Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens

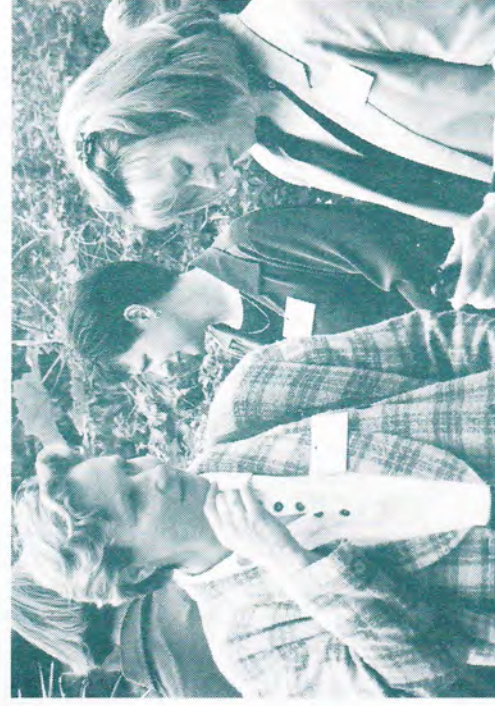
NAME

ADDRESS

TEL.

Photos by
Geoff Hardy

WELCOME
TO NEW
MEMBERS
6 October



SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE

DECEMBER 2000

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK

Thursdays and Fridays at 11.00am
Sundays 10 and 24 at 10.30am
Groups by arrangement.

GARDENS HIGHLIGHTS GUIDED WALK

Sunday to Thursday, 11.00am and 2.00pm
Fridays at 2.00pm

FLORA EXPLORER

Special walks arranged by RBG horticultural staff and
Voluntary Guides
Fridays at 11.00am

OBSERVATORY TOUR

STARS, COWS AND SPIDER WEBS
Wednesdays at 2.00pm

THE NIGHT SKY EXPERIENCE GUIDED TOUR

Tuesdays at 9.00pm

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

From 27 December
Tickets: 9650 1500, Ticketmaster

ROMEO AND JULIET

From 19 December
Tickets: 9650 1500, Ticketmaster

MOONLIGHT CINEMA

From 15 December
Tickets at D Gate or Ticketek 132 849
Information: 1900 933 899

JANUARY 2001

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK

Thursdays and Fridays at 11.00am
Sundays 7 and 21 at 10.30am.
Groups by arrangement.

GARDENS HIGHLIGHTS GUIDED WALK

Sunday to Thursday, 11.00am and 2.00pm
Fridays at 2.00pm

OBSERVATORY TOUR

STARS, COWS AND SPIDER WEBS
Wednesdays at 2.00pm

THE NIGHT SKY EXPERIENCE GUIDED TOUR

Tuesdays at 9.00pm

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Until 27 January
Tickets: 9650 1500, Ticketmaster

ROMEO AND JULIET

Throughout January
Tickets: 9650 1500; Ticketmaster

MOONLIGHT CINEMA

Throughout January
Tickets at D Gate or Ticketek 132 849
Information: 1900 933 899

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM PLANTS, PUDDINGS AND POSSUMS

Monday 22 to Thursday 25;
10.00am and 12.30pm
Contact: 9252 2358

FEBRUARY 2001

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE WALK

Thursdays and Fridays at 11.00am
Sundays 4 and 18 at 10.30am.
Groups by arrangement.

GARDENS HIGHLIGHTS GUIDED WALK

Sunday to Thursday, 11.00am and 2.00pm
Fridays at 2.00pm

OBSERVATORY TOUR

STARS, COWS AND SPIDER WEBS
Wednesdays at 2.00pm

THE NIGHT SKY EXPERIENCE GUIDED TOUR

Tuesdays at 9.00pm

ROMEO AND JULIET

Throughout February
Tickets: 9650 1500, Ticketmaster

MOONLIGHT CINEMA

Throughout February
Tickets at D Gate or Ticketek 132 849
Information: 1900 933 899

Gardens Highlights Guided Walks do not require prior bookings except for large groups. Meet at the Visitor Centre, Observatory Gate.

PLEASE NOTE that most events incur a charge and require prior booking. It is important that you contact the appropriate phone number. Unless otherwise noted, the number to ring for all listings is 9252 2300. Please appreciate that, after Botanic News goes to press, it is likely that additional events may be arranged for late in the quarter.

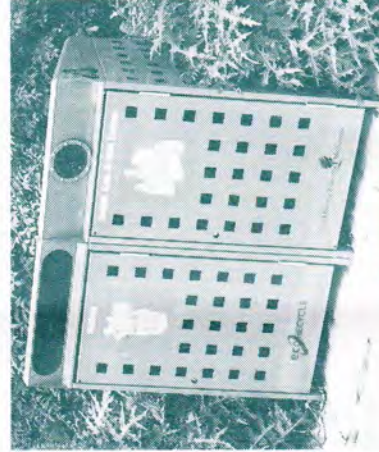


Photo by Virginia Henderson

RBG rubbish is receiving attention.
New bins to separate rubbish have been funded by EcoRecycle Victoria and the Friends.

Minister Sherryl Garbutt launched the Green Waste Recycling Centre in September. Photographed on the splendid observation deck with Dr Philip Moors and Ian Coles from EcoRecycle Victoria by David Cash.



THE GARDENS IN PRINT

Work is under way on the writing and photography for a full-colour 'coffee-table' book on RBG Melbourne. It will be published by Allen and Unwin, with a target publication date of the third quarter of 2001. The text will be prepared by Deborah Morris, with photography by Greg Elms and graphic design by Elizabeth Riley.

The first issue of the RBG's newsletter is about to be published. It is entitled *Floreo* (Latin for 'to be in one's prime; to prosper, flourish, bloom; to be reputable') and will (initially) appear three times a year in November, March and July. It will be 8-12 pages in length, all in colour, and have articles and features about the full range of RBG activities at both Melbourne and Cranbourne. We are discussing with the Friends options for distributing *Floreo* to all Members, to give them even more information about the activities of the RBG.

BUNCE, BUNYAS AND BEYOND

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens will host the annual conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) from 15 to 17 June 2001. It will mark the 150th anniversary of the Geelong Gardens, and will coincide with an exhibition of botanic art at the Geelong Art Gallery.

With the recent appointments of Rob Small as General Manager of Environment and Recreation and of John Arnott as Curator at the Geelong Gardens, things are looking up and the Friends are full of enthusiasm as they plan their conference. Note the date in your diary!

A storm felled a large tree in the Timboon garden of Marnie Macmillan just before the Friends' visit in September. Her canine companion Harold surveys the damage.

Photo by Duncan Ironmonger



Friends' Bargain Sale

We still have some items from the Friends' Shop for sale at heavily discounted prices.

Plasticised Aprons: Dark green (\$6, or \$5 for children's size); red or yellow with bee or ladybird design (\$6)

Cotton Polo Shirts with logo, navy, long (\$20) and short sleeved (\$18), men's and women's sizes

Linen tea towels with pink heath or black swan design (\$8)

Call into our office, Gate Lodge, to make your choice.

FRIENDS' BENEFITS

The Gardens Shops offer 10 per cent discount on Members' purchases over \$20. The following businesses kindly offer discounts to Friends on PRIOR presentation of their signed current membership cards, which are not transferable.

Gills Nurseries (all branches)

1 Centre Rd, East Brighton
390 Balcombe Rd, Beaumaris
cnr Bay/Graham Sts, Pt Melbourne
589 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn
5% off plants only

Idaho Nurseries

410 Waverley Rd, East Malvern
10% off plants only

Bulleen Art and Garden

6 Manningham Rd West, Bulleen
10% off plants, 5% off other goods

Town and Country Gardens

1280 Malvern Rd, Malvern
24 Whitehorse Rd, Balwyn
10% off plants only. **Note Change**

The Arts Bookshop

1067 High St, Armadale

Holmesglen Nursery

585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley
20% off everything

The Gardeners Corner Store

190-192 New St, Brighton
10% off all plants

Collectors Corner

Springvale Rd, Keysborough
10% off all plants

Kew Nursery

Cnr High & Gladstone Sts, Kew
10% off all plants

Burwood Garden Patch

1418 Toorak Rd, Burwood
10% discount

Garden of Eden Nursery

33 Ferrars St, Albert Park
10% off everything

The Cottage Garden Nursery

Cnr Macedon Ave & Doncaster Rd
North Balwyn. 10% discount,
also 8 punnets for \$22 (GST incl)

Piccolo Gardens

356-360 Punt Rd, South Yarra
10% off all items (park in Lang St)

Banksia Hill B & B

RMB 5349, Horsham, 3401
10% discount on accommodation

*Essendon Garden Centre

1060 Mt Alexander Rd, Essendon
10% off plants only

***Denotes newcomer to list**



BOTANIC NEWS is produced quarterly for 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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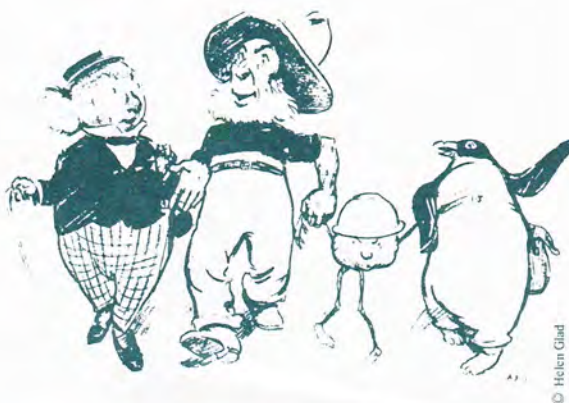
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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

Away from the depredations of the flying-foxes, fortunately there have been a number of good things happening. One has been the highly successful *Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibition in Mueller Hall. The talent and creativity of the artists has been greater than ever, and just goes to confirm how vibrant a school of botanic art has developed in Melbourne through the combined efforts of Louise Coronel, her group of botanical artists and teachers, and the Friends.

Recent visitors to RBG Melbourne will know that contractors are at work removing silt and accumulated debris from Central Lake – the first such clean-up, as far as we know, since the lake was constructed by Guilfoyle over a century ago. The silt is being sucked out of the lake bed and pumped to the nearby Green Waste Recycling Facility. There the water is separated centrifugally from the silt, cleaned and returned to the Ornamental Lake. The silt, once dry, is being taken by small trucks to the RBG Works Yard, and from there for disposal. This extraction and treatment method has a minimum impact on the Gardens (especially, no heavy trucks trundling through the Gardens). The Trustees of the Friends' Trust Fund have made a grant of \$120,000 from the Helen

Johns Bequest to this project; a further \$10,000 will be applied from the Pacific Dunlop Limited sponsorship. I am most grateful for this marvellous financial support which is enabling a long-overdue task to be carried out.

In the centre of what will become the Children's Garden, the delightful *Magic Pudding* sculpture by Louis Laumen was unveiled on 16 November. It depicts the four main characters from Norman Lindsay's enduringly popular children's story. The sculpture has been a project of the Future Focus Group of the Committee for Melbourne and has been sponsored by ASPECT Computing Pty Ltd.

Two important new horticultural projects at RBG Melbourne have also been opened recently—the Southern Chinese Collection on 25 October and the Species Rose Collection on 14 November. Both projects have required a great deal of collecting, landscape design and construction, propagation and horticultural management by RBG staff, and it is very satisfying now to see them completed so successfully. This first stage of the Southern Chinese Collection has been funded by a major grant from the Sidney Myer Fund, and the Species Rose Collection by a South Yarra family. The Friends supported collecting trips to southern China by Terry Smyth, RBG horticulturist, during which she obtained many of the species in the new garden.

Philip Moors