BOTANIC NEWS

WINTER 1992

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The *Herald-Sun* Botanic Gardens Revitalisation Appeal raised $149,433.76 over two months. Ongoing donations should lift the final total to approximately $400,000. The *Herald-Sun* is to be congratulated on the success of this appeal and the publicity given to our Gardens.

The Age of 13 February 1992 initiated the story on its front page titled **FUNDING CRISIS AT BOTANIC GARDENS**. The media highlighted the crisis which resulted in the Minister, the Hon. Barry Pullen, not only funding the shortfall, but promising $1.2 million for the Watering System (which we, the Friends, had initiated in 1988 with a $10,000 feasibility study and report). In addition a $900,000 Unemployment Relief Plan is to be instituted shortly at the Gardens.

The Appeal Trust meets regularly, under the experienced Chairmanship of Sir Rupert Hamer. The other Trustees are Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the Hon. Peter Howson, C.M.G., Mr. John Taylor, (Manager of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne) and myself.

Your Council of the Friends is supporting this appeal with $15,000 over 12 months for an officer to plan how the money should be spent. Projects to which the Trustees are directing funds include:

	Cost Estimate
Californian Garden	$52,000
Grass Garden	7,500
William Tell Groups	48,000
Australian Border Rainforest Stages	13,000
Indigenous Promontory (aquatics)	22,000
Turf Renovation	2,000
Govt. House Border	14,000
South African Garden	20,000
Conifer Border	36,000

The Inaugural Chairman of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Mr. William Irvine, hosted a cocktail party by the Nymphaea Lake on 30 April to celebrate the success of the Appeal, and thank all who worked so hard.

Lynch's Restaurant 'Gala Garden Luncheon' Committee and Sponsors raised $27,850 on 1 April.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Board takes over formally on 1 July 1992. Under the Chairmanship of Mr William Irvine, Chairman of the National Australia Bank, its members are:
Mrs. Marian Brookes, (Deputy Chair) a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society; Mrs. Anne Latreille, Garden Editor of *The Age*; Mr. John Patrick, Horticultural Consultant; Mr. Frank Phillips, Australian Chemical Industry Council Chief Executive and past President of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens; Dr. Pauline Ladiges, Senior Lecturer in Botany at The University of Melbourne; Mr. Tim Harding, Acting Director of Flora & Fauna in the Department of Conservation & Environment.

David Wilkinson, ***President***

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 26 October 1992
Further information in the Spring *Botanic News* and in a separate mailing.

NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL - AGM
Under the rules of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. nominations for Council should be received by the Secretary not less than 60 days before the Annual General Meeting.

Application forms for nomination to Council are available from the Friends' Office, telephone 650 6398.
Nominations should be accompanied by a brief *curriculum vitae*. These should be received in the office by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 26 August at the latest.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS NO INCREASES
The Council has decided, in view of current economic conditions, not to increase the level of subscriptions for the next 12 months.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

BOTANIC ART WORKSHOPS
9 June, 14 July, 11 August
With Botanic Artists **Jenny Phillips** and **Anita Barley**.

The 41 members in the two classes will exhibit their work in the Friends' Exhibition in September.
Enquiries to Louise Coronel - 827 5910

THE GREY GARDEN
Dr Roger Spencer
Thursday 18 June at 10.15 am at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

We are delighted that Dr. Roger Spencer, Horticultural Botanist at the National Herbarium, has agreed to speak to

Friends about Grey Gardens and in particular the Grey Garden in our Royal Botanic Gardens. Roger explains that a Grey Garden is a way of coping with difficult sites.

Roger began working at the RBG 18 years ago as a gardener in the Conifer Section. He experimented with the shallow and impoverished soil around the Temple of the Winds and the Grey Garden is the result. The Grey Garden is situated in an exposed, hot and dry area, with poor soil which holds very little water or nutrients. Grey foliaged plants adapt readily to such an area and are termed 'xerophytes'. This type of garden could be the solution to such a problem in your own garden.

Voluntary Guides will conduct a tour of the Grey Garden after Roger's talk. Morning Coffee will be served.
Members: $4.00 Others: $5.00
RSVP: by 16 June on enclosed booking form.

VOLUNTEERS "THANK YOU" MORNING COFFEE
Tuesday 7 July at 10.30 am. Separate invitations.

NEWCOMERS' WELCOMES
Wednesday 8 July and Wednesday 16 September at 10.30 am. Separate invitations.

FERDINAND VON MUELLER IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN
THE MAKING OF A SCIENTIST AND A MIGRANT

Wednesday 15 July 1992 at 8.00 pm
Herbarium Hall, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.

The Friends are delighted that **Prof. Johannes H. Voigt** of the Historisches Institut, Universitat Stuttgart, has agreed to speak to us and show slides. We are indebted to Prof. Rod Holme of the History and Philosophy of Science Department at the University of Melbourne for making this possible.

Prof. Voigt will speak of Ferdinand von Mueller's early years in Germany, his upbringing and education prior to emigration to Australia in 1847. Prof. Voigt was born and lived for some years in the district where von Mueller lived prior to coming to Australia. He will report on recent work in Germany in connection with the 'Correspondence of Ferdinand von Mueller' project in which Prof. Voigt is one of the collaborating researchers.

Prof. Holme is the co-ordinator of this project aimed at editing at least 20,000 letters for a 20 volume publication - *'The Correspondence of Ferdinand von Mueller'*.
Supper will be served.
Members: $8.00 Others: $10.00
RSVP: 10 July on enclosed booking form

RECEPTION - A 1992 HIGHLIGHT

A reception to welcome members of the first **Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens** and celebrate the **10th Anniversary** of the establishment of the **Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens** will be held at the National Herbarium on Monday 3 August at 6 pm. Come and support us on this special occasion - guests welcome!

For further details see enclosed invitation.
RSVP: 31 July on enclosed booking form

'WITH SILVER BELLS AND COCKLE-SHELLS AND PRETTY MAIDS ALL IN A ROW'
HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Mr. Peter Lumley, former long time Senior Horticultural Botanist at the National Herbarium, will talk about plant strategies - that is, the various ways in which plants devote their limited resources to surviving and reproducing. These strategies comprise, in part, coping with the physical environment and its changes, also with the presence of other plants and animals. The strategies approach starts from a study of individual plants rather than plant communities. It is therefore appropriate for gardens. Key studies have been carried out in North Wales where Peter spent six months study leave and by a research unit set up in Sheffield by Peter's late uncle. Peter will concentrate on two topics - the ageing of gardens and the constraints of the Melbourne climate.
Supper will be served.

Tuesday, 11 August at 8 pm at the National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra.
Members: $4.00 Others: $5.00
RSVP: by 8 August on enclosed booking form.

FILM/LUNCHEON: 'The Doctor'

Monday 24 August at Trak Cinema, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak (Melway Map 2M 6E).
'The Doctor' starring William Hurt is the story of a surgeon who became an ordinary patient in his own hospital and then became an extra-ordinary doctor. From

the director of the Academy Award winning 'Children of a Lesser God' comes an excellent real-life drama. The film commences at 11.00 am followed by lunch (sandwiches, cake & tea or coffee) at approximately 1.00 pm. Parking is available in Tintern Avenue or in Safeway's Car Park.
Members: $11.00 Others: $12.00
RSVP: by 19 August on enclosed booking form.

HISTORIC FILMS

The first two series of these remarkable films attracted a large and enthusiastic audience. They depict a year in the restoration of a walled 'Victorian Kitchen Garden' set in Chiltern, Berkshire, in the UK.

The films are narrated by Peter Thoday and last one and a half to two hours. We see the garden as it was in Victorian times with a life of great affluence. In the first two series we followed labour intensive techniques carried out from January, when the ground was icy cold and there was a battle to produce sufficient food for the household and staff, until July's over-abundance. The growing methods of the day included many hints for today's organic gardeners. In the third series we cover August until November, and in the fourth we complete the year with December, repeating 'The Preparation of the Banquet' (shown last year). We will conclude with an excellent film of Kew Gardens.

The third series will be shown on Wednesday 2 September and the fourth on Wednesday 30 September at 8 pm at Merton Hall, 86 Anderson Street, South Yarra.

Supper will be served.
Members: $5.00 (per series)
Others: $8.00 (per series)
RSVP: Third Series 28 August
Fourth Series 28 September
on enclosed booking form

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens present .....

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION
10-27 SEPTEMBER 1992

"The Art of Botanical Illustration: An Exhibition and Sale of Work by Contemporary Botanical Artists and Students" will be presented by the Friends in the Hall of the National Herbarium. You will see the exceptionally fine work of the artists who have been members of the Botanic Art Workshops for several years, and the lovely work achieved by those who have been drawing and painting in this genre for only a short while. The Exhibition will also include the

outstanding work of Anita Barley, Jenny Phillips and Celia Rosser, under whose expert guidance the Workshops have been conducted.

The Exhibition is being sponsored by VicHealth, which has linked the event to the Diabetes Institute. A small Friends' Shop in the Hall will have for sale cards, prints etc. featuring the art of botanical illustration including items from work on exhibition.

A Function will be held on Wednesday 9 September at 6.30 pm to launch the exhibition. Full details in Spring Newsletter.

DR. ALFRED B. LAU - a foremost cacti expert from Mexico - will speak to Friends and others at an evening gathering in mid October being organised by the Friends in conjunction with the Royal Botanic Gardens. Full details in Spring Newsletter.

THE GRAMPIANS & LITTLE DESERT IN THE SPRING
Thursday 1 October - Wednesday 7 October, 1992

A seven day tour in the height of Spring takes us to The Grampians where we will have the privilege of being guided by Rodger and Gwen Elliott, both specialists in Australian Flora. We will stay in comfortable motel accommodation in Halls Gap. On the fifth day we will proceed to Whimpey's Little Desert Lodge near Nhill where Whimpey and his staff will show us, proudly, their part of the world. As well as Whimpey's famous Mallee Fowl, he now has rare silky desert mice and sugar gliders.

Numbers limited to 24.
Twin Share: $625.00 Single: $785.00
The above amounts are all inclusive. Note the Little Desert Lodge has only four single rooms available.

Reservations are in order of application.
Deposit of $100 and balance by 1 September, 1992.
Further information from Lesley Clark 807 3984

NORTH EAST TASMANIA

A tour to this beautiful and fascinating part of Tasmania is being planned by the Friends. Subject to sufficient support, it will be arranged for mid-February 1993.
If you are interested would you please contact the Friends' Office - 650 6398.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Botanic Art Workshops 2 classes on Tuesdays 10 March, 14 April, 12 May.
North Borneo Tour 11 March to 1 April
Historic Film "A Victorian Kitchen Garden" 18 March (1st series)
Second Peninsula Day Trip 24 March
Growing Friends' Autumn Plant Sale Saturday 28 March
Day Garden Tour to Yea & Murrundindi with the Benalla Friends - 7 April.
Afternoon Tea with Friends of Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens 12 April
Historic Film "A Victorian Kitchen Garden" 13 April (2nd Series)
Autumn Tour with Dr. Jim Willis to Beechworth & Districts 24-28 April
Visit to Sydney Botanic Gardens Illustrated talks by Melbourne Botanic Gardens Staff 12 May
Film/Luncheon - 'City Slickers' 19 May
Gardens of Europe Tour - May
Weekend Seminar for Victorian Botanic Gardens Friends and other Support Groups 23 and 24 May

GARDEN STAFF VISIT TO SYDNEY RBG

On 12 May Gardens staff gave illustrated talks on their four-day tour to Sydney last November. Exciting projects are being carried out in the Sydney Gardens, Mount Tomah and Mount Annan. Our staff were very stimulated by this trip, which was partly funded by the Friends.

TOURS

The recent tours to North West Tasmania, North Borneo (with Ian Fisher) and to Beechworth (with Dr. Jim Willis) were highly successful and enjoyable. We regret that lack of space has forced us to omit details.

The Friends express their thanks and appreciation to:

* **Mrs Anne Nadenbousch** of the Garden Walk Nursery in Brighton who gave the Friends two Standard Iceberg Roses to be raffled at her Rose Show on 25 and 26 March. The raffles raised $446.75.

* **'Plants Naturally'** the Wholesale Nursery for the generous donation of two trays of plants for these raffles.

* **Mr John Mustaeres** who donated a painting to the Friends which was auctioned at Lynch's luncheon on 1 April. Proceeds $850.

* **Mrs Margot Kroyer-Pedersen** for the gift of a painting which will be either raffled or auctioned at a Friends' function later this year.

* **Owners** who have opened their gardens to the Friends on some of our recent Garden Trips to the Peninsula, Yea and surrounding area, Benalla, Wangaratta and Yackandandah.

* **Miss Beryl Williams** who, in a voluntary capacity, has assisted in the Friends' Office on an average of 3-4 hours a week since 1985. We extend to Beryl and to her brother Roy, who has been indisposed, our warmest good wishes.

JULIE MADDOCK

We welcome Mrs. Julie Maddock who has joined the Friends' Office. Julie will operate our computer, amidst a myriad of other jobs, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

DIANNA McCLELLAN

Ms Dianna McClellan has relinquished her position as Honorary Editor for the Friends Botanic News and the Botanic Magazine, of which we are justly proud. The Council held a small reception to express our appreciation for Dianna's wonderful efforts over the past ten years. Dianna was presented with a Celia Rosser print.

GROWING FRIENDS

The Growing Friends held their first Autumn Plant Sale on Saturday 28 March following very successful Spring sales. Unusual and popular perennials, bulbs and shrubs were eagerly bought by an enthusiastic crowd. An intensive publicity drive helped our excellent result of $10,100. Our sales will continue 'for Friends only' each Friday between 10 am and 12 noon, whilst we pot up a wonderful collection of plants for our **SPRING SALE** on **10 and 11 October 1992.**

FRIENDS' SHOP

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW
Handbag size address book on special for Friends
These rare items are usually $16.00.
I have 24 only for you at $12.00. Please add $2.50 to your cheque if mail order.
We look forward to seeing you in the shop.

Jill Swann - Manager

VOLUNTARY GUIDES

Would anyone who applied in 1991 to be a Voluntary Guide at the RBG and has not yet received confirmation, please apply again, in writing, to the Convenor, C/- The Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra 3141.

FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

The Priority Victoria employment scheme will provide us with 29 people for 12 months - 16 gardeners, 4 nursery workers, a Scientific Officer in the Herbarium and 8 people in the Horticultural Botany section (who will assist with planning, records - for both Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens - and computer mapping). In addition a Commonwealth New Start Program has enabled Cranbourne Garden to employ 12 unskilled workers for a period of six months. They will help construct a series of boardwalks in the Arboretum and the Australian garden. Some extra projects, held up by inadequate staffing, can now go ahead.

The design for a Xeroscape Demonstration Garden sponsored by Melbourne Water has now been drawn up. Xeroscape is a trademark for garden design using plants which have low water requirements, along with water-conserving horticultural practices such as the use of mulch, well-planned irrigation and appropriate maintenance. The Xeroscape garden will be located on the northern side of the Eastern Lawn, next to the Cycad Bed. It will consist of both exotic and native plants, most of which are easily obtained from local nurseries.

Rapid progress has been made in the Californian Garden (near the Arid Garden) over autumn. The rockery area is now complete and an irrigation system has been installed.

The Tasmanian Rainforest area at the western end of the Australian Border has now been planted and benefits from the irrigation system sponsored by the Friends.

Roslyn Semler, *Public Programs*

This brochure is printed on recycled paper.

"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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