



BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

WINTER 1994

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's been a change in plans for the Friends' accommodation. We will not now move to Gardens House in mid-1994, but instead will enjoy larger premises on the ground floor of the Astronomer's Residence, in rooms once used for school education purposes. We expect to be installed there by the time you receive this newsletter, and are planning some refurbishment. We'll remain in the Astronomer's Residence at least until the end of 1994.

Our staff will be much more comfortable in these new quarters, and there'll be an extra room available for Friends to attend to business without interrupting Margaret, Julie and Joan. The old upstairs office will be available to Gardens staff, Friends and other groups for small meetings.

The Director has stated that the Growing Friends will be able to remain on their present site until the end of this year, and probably until after their plant sale in March 1995. A decision about the long-term location of the Growing Friends will be deferred until after the future uses of the Observatory Site become clearer and general accommodation requirements have been reviewed.

The Growing Friends are to be congratulated on yet another most successful weekend plant sale. We are grateful to members of the Gardens' staff who assisted in the setting up; these sales are a fine example of co-operation between the Gardens and the Friends.

The William Tell Rest House is almost complete and there will be an official re-opening soon – probably in the spring. This extensive renovation was financed originally by the Gas & Fuel

Corporation, as part of the Herald-Sun Appeal, and the rebuilding after the fire was made possible by insurance.

We are delighted that the new 1994 Telephone Directory now being distributed carries on the front cover a beautiful photograph graced by three members of the Council of the Friends, Eve Brunner, Lesley Clark and Caroline Cornish, with Roslyn Andrew from Visitor Services Division.

The presence of this book in practically every home in Melbourne for an extensive period will serve as a welcome reminder of the magnificent asset which our Gardens represent, and will undoubtedly bring many more visitors to enjoy their beauty and tranquillity.

Sir Rupert Hamer
President of the Friends

FROM THE BOARD

We have recently appointed a landscape planner, Philip Eggleston, to prepare a master plan for the future management of the Royal Botanic Gardens. This plan will guide our activities at South Yarra for many years to come, and will deal with issues such as the increasing senescence of nineteenth-century plantings in the Gardens, the changing expectations of our visitors, and opportunities for future developments. Preparation of the plan will take about 18 months. Philip will also be involved with landscape planning aspects of other current projects at the Royal Botanic Gardens, such as the Australian Rainforest Border. Philip has considerable experience in open-space, landscape and garden planning, most recently with Melbourne City Council.

The Automatic Irrigation System is now in the ground and operating fully. The lawns and garden beds are recovering rapidly from the inevitable disturbances during the installation, helped by Melbourne's extended mild autumn this year. The paths have been resurfaced and the kerbs repaired. The benefits to the Gardens and staff are great, and are already becoming apparent. The Board acknowledges the services provided by our project consultants, Hydro-Plan, and the skilful and careful installation of the system by Planned Irrigation Projects. This vital project was funded largely by the Victorian Government, together with sponsorship from Pacific Dunlop, L.R. Nelson Corporation, John T. Reid Charitable Trust, and Melbourne Water.

The 150th anniversary, in 1996, of the founding of the Royal Botanic Gardens is fast approaching. For some time the Board and RBG staff have been putting together a program of events to celebrate the Sesquicentenary, and also to commemorate the centenary of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's death. We have recently appointed a co-ordinator, Nancy Staub, to finalise the range of activities planned. She has extensive experience in developing and organising public events, most recently at the National Gallery of Victoria. The Friends of the RBG will be contributing to the 1996 program and organising several of the events. Nancy will be working with the Board's 1996 Committee, and with the Friends and other support groups, to ensure we have the best possible celebrations.

W.R.M. Irvine
Chairman

WINTER ACTIVITIES

AUSTRALIAN BARK ART

Wednesday 15 June, starting with morning coffee at 10.30am

National Herbarium

Robyn Gibson will give an illustrated talk on Australian Bark Art dating from the time of the pioneer settlers until today. She will speak on the historical aspect of this unique art form, show how bark paintings are made, and discuss the material she uses (mainly from the many varieties of *Melaleuca*).

Robyn is the founder of the Victorian branch of Art in Bark, sponsor of a bark work competition at the Royal Melbourne Show, and has been teaching this art form for the last 10 years.

The Plant Craft Cottage Group will join us.

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 13 June on enclosed booking form.

Volunteers Morning Coffee and Walk with the Voluntary Guides

Monday 20 June at 10.30am

Separate invitations

ELMS

An Approach to Elm Tree Management

Dr Peter Yau

Thursday 23 June at 8.00pm

National Herbarium

Dr Yau is an arboriculturist with the City of Melbourne. He gained his B.Sc(Hons) at Hong Kong University, his MSc at Oxford University and his Ph.D at the University of Melbourne as well as a Grad. Dip. Bus. Admin. at Swinburne University of Technology. His main research interests are trees - growth physiology, root suckers, root damage, soil and water relations, growth regulators, elm pests and diseases and tree diseases in general.

Dr Yau has presented many papers and is the author of many scientific publications including, most recently, the book *Tree Management Guide to Avenues and Boulevards*.

Supper will be served.

Admission: Friends \$6.00 Others \$8.00

RSVP by 20 June on enclosed booking form

FILM LUNCHEON - Into the West

Tuesday 23 August at 11.00am

Trak Cinema, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak

A delightful, scenic Irish film about two small boys, their grandfather and a beautiful white stallion.

Lunch (sandwiches, cake and tea/coffee) will follow.

Parking in Tintern Avenue or Safeway car park.

Admission: Friends \$11.00 Others \$12.00

RSVP by 17 August on enclosed booking form.

FOSSIL EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT FORESTS IN ANTARCTICA

Dr Andrew Drinnan

Tuesday 12 July at 8.00pm

National Herbarium, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

Andrew Drinnan, prior to becoming a lecturer in Botany at the University of Melbourne, worked in America and Canada where he studied fossils to determine the evolution of plants. In 1991-92 he was in Antarctica and brought back to Melbourne a ton of rock from which he is now extracting fossils and examining the vegetation.

Andrew will give an illustrated talk about this fascinating frozen continent.

Supper will be served.

Admission: Friends \$6.00 Others \$8.00

RSVP by 8 July on enclosed booking form.

A WINTER STROLL THROUGH THE GROUNDS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Sunday 17 July 1994 at 2.15pm

Following the happy Autumn stroll in the beautiful Government House grounds and afternoon tea at the Mews with the Women of the University Fund, we have planned the Winter Stroll in the grounds. We'll also have an opportunity to see the gracious ballroom.

We shall return to the Astronomer's Residence for afternoon tea.

Numbers are limited.

Cost: \$7.00

RSVP by 12 July on enclosed booking form.

BROKEN HILL AND SUNRAYSIA TRIP

3 - 9 September, 1994

Come fly North with us and escape Melbourne's winter for a week in early September.

We fly to Broken Hill with Southern Australian Airlines and explore Broken Hill. We will have an all-day outing to Mootwingee National Park, where we will see spectacular desert mountain ranges, natural galleries of Aboriginal paintings and engravings, and visit secluded gorges and rockholes which attract an abundance of wildlife. We will then spend a night at Mungo Lodge in Mungo National Park and visit the famous Walls of China.

On we move to the Sunraysia area, where we will stay for three nights at the Grand Hotel in Mildura. One day will be spent visiting Hattah National Park; on another we will take a relaxed cruise on the Murray River to Trentham Estate Winery where we'll tour the winery and have a barbecue lunch.

Before flying home from Mildura we will visit the Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens and make contact with members of their newly-formed Friends group. These gardens have made great progress in the comparatively short time they have been established.

These are just a few of the interesting things planned for this trip. Maximum number on tour is 25.

Cost: \$985 twin share; \$1079 for single accommodation.

This cost includes return air fares, transport, accommodation, most entrance fees and all meals except lunches.

Deposit of \$100 or full amount can be sent now to the Friends' Office. Bookings strictly in order of receipt.

Balance of payment by 1 August 1994.

Enquiries to Lesley Clark (807 3984)

AN ORCHID HUNT IN THE CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDEN

Saturday 10 September

We've arranged a bus trip to the Cranbourne Botanic Garden, where we'll join their Friends group on an orchid hunt at 2.00pm.

We'll leave from the front of the National Gallery at 10.00am, giving us time to stroll or walk the Loop Walk (1½ hours) before a BYO lunch. Barbecues are available. We plan to leave Cranbourne at 4.30pm.

Much has been achieved at this wonderful native garden since our last visit, and we are sure you will be pleasantly surprised.

Cost: \$17.00

RSVP by 1 September on enclosed booking form.

FLORAL DEMONSTRATION BY CHRISTINE IRELAND AND LUNCH

Wednesday 28 September at 11am National Herbarium Hall

Christine Ireland is a fifth-generation member of a family whose association with floristry in Melbourne dates back to 1854. She is the great-grand daughter of one of the original Ireland settlers.

Christine is a trained secondary teacher, a co-owner of the Geoff Ireland School of Floristry and has been part of her family business for more than 20 years. She has also produced instructional floristry videos and regularly demonstrates flower arranging.

The emphasis of Christine's demonstration for the Friends will be on entertaining, formal and informal; she will look at a variety of themes and festive occasions incorporating both Australian and overseas trends.

The demonstration and talk will be followed by a lunch prepared by our catering committee.

Cost: Friends \$12.00 Others \$15.00

RSVP by 22 September on enclosed booking form.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Incorporated
Monday 3 October 1994 – details in special mailing.

Botanical Illustrators Exhibition – 13-30 October

Helen Leitch Exhibition – November and December

Family Day – Sunday 27 November

Christmas Dinner – 16 December

Twilight Christmas Picnic – 20 December

GROWING FRIENDS

The Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale held in perfect weather on 20 and 21 March drew a large crowd of eager plant buyers. The final result was a very satisfactory \$17,600.

We wish to thank Warren Penna for his excellent layout and organisation of the sales area, and the Gardens staff who moved all the plants.

Terry Smyth, Curator of the Chinese Collection, proved to be a lively interviewee on two talkback radio programs discussing the Chinese rhododendrons and, incidentally, the sale. We are grateful to her for giving up her personal time for these interviews.

We also wish to thank David Floyd of Lundstrom Dickson & Associates, chartered accountants of Box Hill, for the supply of three marquees used at the sale.

We acknowledge the assistance of Bennison MacKinnon & Associates Pty Ltd, who provided two notice boards to publicise the sale.

Our thanks also to Eve Brunner and the Activities Sub-Committee for their support. The introduction of Bankcard facilities was a success.

The Growing Friends welcome some new members to the potting bench.

FRIENDS' SHOP

In June and July, the Friends' Shop will close at 4 pm.

Throughout February, March and most of April, tourists continued to arrive at our door in large numbers. Melbourne played host to a string of big conventions, sporting events and artistic gatherings, and the Friends' Shop benefited greatly. The appearance of Italian market umbrellas over the outdoor tables has created a much softer atmosphere in front of the shop area.

The most-asked question is no longer about the location of the toilets, but "where has von Mueller's statue gone?"

If you are taking a winter trip overseas, we have an interesting range of Australian-made gifts.

We look forward to seeing you.

Jill Swann
Manager

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr R.J.A. (John) Harper has been appointed to fill the casual vacancy created when Mrs Golda Isaac stepped down from the Council.

John was, for many years until his retirement in 1990, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics in The University of Melbourne. He has had a distinguished career not only as lecturer and Associate Dean, but also as an author. He has been particularly interested in the subjects of poverty and social welfare and was a joint author in 1970 of *People in Poverty: a Melbourne Survey*. He was Chairman of the Council of St Hilda's College for eight years. In 1991-92 he served on the Coode Island Review Panel.

John created a large garden in North Balwyn 34 years ago, and tries to spend at least one hour working there every day.

The number of Ordinary Members of Council was increased by one, and the Friends' editor, Mrs Heather Ironmonger, was appointed.

Mr David Baumgartner has succeeded Mr David Taplin as Treasurer. Council expressed appreciation of David's excellent work for the Friends since taking up the position of Treasurer in 1988.

SPARE PARTS

Golda Isaac is 'running in' a new hip, while Dr Jim Willis is scheduled for a hip replacement operation at the end of May. We wish them both a speedy recovery and increased, painless, mobility.



Mrs Margaret Cameron, pictured here with Sir Rupert Hamer, on the seat she donated to the Gardens in memory of her parents, Charles and Sacie Forbes. The Friends' sponsorship of a scheme for donation of seats evolved from Mrs Cameron's suggestion. To date, the Friends have donated two seats, and others have been given by the Liley family and Mrs Enid Shann. Two more have been promised. Details about the scheme may be obtained by telephoning the Friends' Office on 650 6398.

Temporary Closure of Tea Rooms

The Tea Rooms building next to the Friends' Shop will be closed for approximately two weeks from 14 June so that the parquet floor (damaged in last summer's storm) can be repaired. For this period, the refreshment service will operate in a marquee to be erected outside the Kiosk.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

The Visitor Centre Shop in the Herbarium has introduced a 10% discount for Friends, in recognition of our contribution to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Remember that Friends are also entitled to a 10% discount on purchases from the Friends' Shop totalling over \$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

Canterbury Species Garden

7 Byron St, Canterbury

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

WINTER 1994 BOOKING FORM

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

**Australian Bark Art - Robyn Gibson
National Herbarium**

Wednesday 15/6/94 at 10.30am

No of Friends @ \$8.00 _____
No of Others @ \$10.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 13/6/94

**Elms - Dr Peter Yau
An Approach to Elm Tree Management
National Herbarium**

Thursday 23/6/94 at 8.00pm

No of Friends @ \$6.00 _____
No of Others @ \$8.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 20/6/94

**Fossil Evidence in Antarctica
Dr Andrew Drinnan
National Herbarium**

Tuesday 12/7/94 at 8.00pm

No of Friends @ \$6.00 _____
No of Others @ \$8.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 8/7/94

**Winter Stroll - Government House Grounds
Sunday 17/7/94 at 2.15pm**

No of Friends @ \$7.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 12/7/94

**Film Luncheon - Into the West
Trak Cinema**

Tuesday 23/8/94 at 11.00am

No of Friends @ \$11.00 _____
No of Others @ \$12.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 17/8/94

**Broken Hill and Sunraysia
3-9 September 1994**

No @ \$100 deposit _____
No @ \$985 twin share _____
No @ \$1079 single _____
Total \$ _____

**Cranbourne Botanic Garden - Orchid Hunt
Saturday 10/9/94 at 10.00am**

No @ \$17.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 1/9/94

**Floral Demonstration and Lunch
Christine Ireland
National Herbarium**

Wednesday 28/9/94 at 11.00am

No of Friends @ \$12.00 _____
No of Others @ \$15.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 22/9/94

**Botanical Illustrators Speakers
Tuesday 27/9/94 at 10.00am**

No of Friends @ \$5.00 _____
No. of Others @ \$10.00 _____
Total \$ _____

RSVP 21/9/94

**Botanical Art Exhibition
National Herbarium
13-30 October 1994**

Please send me an entry form for Friends' Exhibition
'The Art of Botanical Illustration' Please tick ☐

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) 650 6398

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

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) 650 6398

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

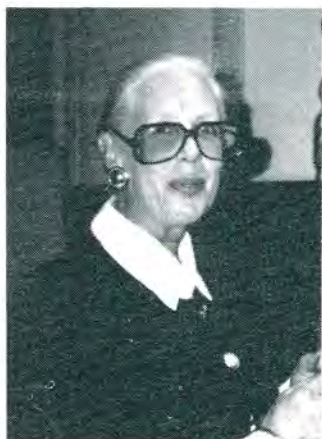
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL: _____

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

Botanical Artists Forum with Jenny Phillips-Goode - 15/2/94
A Guilfoyle Walk with the Voluntary Guides - 9/3/94
Horticulture in the 1990s - Dr James Hitchmough - 11/3/94
Visits to the Victorian Tapestry Workshop (Celia Rosser's Banksia tapestry) - 16/3/94, 7/4/94 and 27/4/94
Council Luncheon to farewell David Taplin, Treasurer - 22/3/94
Day Trip to Anneli & Peter Rickards' 'Downunda', Mt Duneed; Elaine Mitchell's property 'Kennington' at Ceres and Jenny Smith's Eastcott Nursery and Violet Farm at Ceres with the Meat Market Craft Centre Friends Group - 23/3/94
Growing Friends Autumn Plant Sale - 26 & 27/3/94
Film Luncheon - 'Enchanted April' at Trak Cinema - 28/3/94
An Autumn Stroll through the Gardens of Government House and afternoon tea at the Mews with 'The Women of the University Fund' - 13/4/94
A Tribute to Autumn - Talk and floral demonstration with Gilli Raftopolous of 'Lewisham' and Stephen Ryan of 'Dicksonia Rare Plants' - 20/4/94
Morning Coffee and Guided Walk with National Gallery Society Members - 12/5/94
Telecom Reception for launching of White Pages - 12/5/94
The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Fourth Annual Conference in Geelong - 14 & 15/5/94
Newcomers' Welcome - 16/5/94
Day Trip to 'Lyndale Park' - Tallarook - 22/5/94
Botanical Illustrators Forum with Lincoln Kerr and Tom May - 24/5/94
Botanical Embroidery Workshops have been held regularly following the first one in February.
The two China Tours and the "Gardens of Europe 1994 Tour", with Friends participating, commenced during May.



The Herbarium Hall was transformed with wonderful furnishings and plants when interior designer Gilli Raftopolous and specialist nurseryman Stephen Ryan presented A Tribute to Autumn in April.



THE GARDENS' HERITAGE

A slide presentation and walk through the Gardens led by the Voluntary Guides.

Sunday 26 June, 11am and 2pm starting from the Herbarium Hall

Bookings essential (Phone 655 2341) or enquire at the Visitor Centre in the Herbarium Building.

Walks are free but donations are welcomed.

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The Guides' Gardening Book Sale on 9 May raised approximately \$500.

AFTERNOON GUIDED WALKS

During winter 1994 the Voluntary Guides are offering afternoon walks in addition to the regular 10am and 11am walks.

Walks start from the Visitor Centre at 2pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please note that subscriptions are due for renewal to take your membership through to 30 June 1995. Please return the enclosed renewal form and your membership ticket will be sent to you.

The Friends is gaining new members every week, but we would like to have still more members to take part in the many activities organised by the Friends. If existing members become aware of any others who might like to join, please contact Margaret Howes on 650 6398 and we can then send a membership brochure to tell them all about us.

**Friends' Annual General Meeting
3 October 1994**

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

The Botanical Illustrators meeting in September will be a rare opportunity to see some of Lady Joan Law-Smith's beautiful watercolours. Something not to be missed.

The third semester of Botanical Illustration classes with Jenny Phillips-Goode will commence on Wednesday 20 July. Anyone interested in these classes should please phone Jenny on (054) 22 6490, or contact the Friends' office.

Our spring meeting on 27 September will have wide general appeal, so we hope to see many Friends as well as members of the Botanical Illustrators group.

It will begin with . . .

A CELEBRATION OF AURICULAS

Tuesday 27 September at 10.30am
National Herbarium Hall, South Yarra.

Auricula have been favoured by botanical illustrators since the 17th century. Such famous names as Alexander Marshall, George Ehret and T. Robins are associated with them, and they are to be the subject of the first talk at this meeting. **Penny Dunn** of Florilegia Nursery, Mt Macedon, will tell us about their history and cultivation. She hopes to have some plants in flower at the time. Penny specialises in the raising of *Auriculas*.

Following Penny's talk, the artist **Gwenda McDougall** of Faux Impressions Gallery, Brighton, will demonstrate her use of *Auricula* in her designs for cushions and upholstery materials. She will bring samples of these and her original decorative watercolours from which the fabrics are printed.



Grey-edged *Auricula*

Wood engraving from *The English Flower Garden*,
 2nd edition 1889 by W. Robinson

Paper for the Botanical Artist. 11.30am

Marc Mamet, already known to the Botanical Illustrators Group since his address on brushes at our meeting in November 1993, will speak on the subject of water-colour paper, its composition, weight and qualities.

Bring work with you for display and discussion, especially those members who have tackled the drawing of *Auricula*.

There will be a display of paintings by Joan Law Smith to view at this meeting.

Meet in the Herbarium Hall for morning coffee from 10am. The talks on *Auricula* will commence at 10.30am and the one about paper at 11.30am. BYO lunch if you wish.

Friends \$5.00 Others \$10.00

RSVP by 21 September on enclosed booking form.



THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION EXHIBITION

Herbarium Hall
13 - 30 October 1994

Applications from our members to present their work at this exhibition are now invited.

The exhibition will be included in the International Festival of the Arts 1994 programme and we will be seeking approximately 150 original works of botanical art of the very highest standard from amongst our Botanical Illustrators. All works must be available for sale.

If you are a financial member of the Friends and would like to submit works for selection to the exhibition, please indicate on enclosed booking form to receive further details and an application form.

Completed application forms must then be returned to the Friends' Office by 31 August 1994.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for assistance, to ensure that we put on a stunning exhibition this year.

Are you, or is someone you know, able to assist in some way, however small, with any of the following?

Sponsorship

Setting up, equipping and/or staffing a small exhibition shop

Advertising and publicity

Supplying materials, lighting, labour

In particular we are looking for vast quantities of calico or cotton lining material.

All contributions will be acknowledged.

I would love to hear from you if you can help with any of the above matters or with many other tasks.

Louise Coronel

Convener, Botanical Illustrators

Telephone: 827 5910



Botanic News is printed quarterly for the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

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

Patron:
His Excellency the
Hon. Richard E. McGarvie
**President of the Council
of the Friends:**
Sir Rupert Hamer
Vice Presidents:
Eve Brunner,
Durham Smith
Secretary:
Lawrence Cohn
Treasurer:
David Baumgartner
Editor:
Heather Ironmonger

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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

We have recently welcomed two newcomers to the gardening staff. Noel O'Keefe has joined us to take up a new position, as Co-ordinator, Melbourne. He is responsible for the day-to-day management of the horticultural staff and their work at the South Yarra gardens and at Government House. He brings extensive experience in public gardens and commercial horticulture together with plenty of enthusiasm and new ideas.

Our second appointee, Scott Green, has reversed the usual trend - he has moved from Queensland to Victoria! Scott takes up the senior arboricultural position vacated at the beginning of this year by Stephen Fitzgerald. Scott has worked in, on and under trees in Australia and England, and comes with a wealth of specialist expertise. The appointments of Noel and Scott complete the recruitment to management positions within the new Horticultural Technicians' structure.

The William Tell Rest House has risen from the ashes of the fire in July 1993. The building is nearing completion, and will be as faithful a replica as we can manage. Fortunately the photographs and plans from last year's work on the original building have helped greatly in achieving this. We all look forward to seeing this charming shelter restored to the shores of the Ornamental Lake.

The fine autumn weather has brought plenty of colour to our trees, and visitors to the Gardens.

Many school groups have been enthusiastically at work on the Oak Lawn under the energetic guidance of Rod Dunstan and his teaching assistants. Rod's new courses - Art in the Gardens, Aboriginal Plants and Ancient Plants, among others - have been most successful in attracting many schools to send classes. In fact, he's having trouble keeping up with the bookings. Last year 10,800 students visited in nine months, and by the end of Term 2 this year at least

6,000 will have come to enjoy the Gardens. It's a delight to see such a positive response to Royal Botanic Gardens' educational initiatives.

Following the public display of the plans and model of the proposed new Visitor Centre at F-Gate, we received a number of submissions - both supporting and criticising the development. We are having further discussions, especially with the Historic Buildings Council and the National Trust, about the submissions and the Gardens' need for better visitor facilities at F-Gate.

For most of April I was on leave, making a family visit to relatives in England. I took the opportunity to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley. Both visits gave plenty of ideas for our Gardens here. I was particularly interested to hear from the Director, Prof Ghilleen Prance, how RBG Kew has coped very successfully with its reorganisation as a British equivalent of a statutory authority. Kew's experiences in dealing with many similar issues will be helpful here, and it was excellent to renew the links between the two institutions.

Philip Moors
Director, RBG

APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNMENT BOARDS

The Minister for Conservation and Environment, the Hon. Mark Birrell, has advertised for expressions of interest from people who could be considered for appointment to boards and advisory groups within his portfolio.

These include the **Board of the Royal Botanic Gardens**.

A confidential register of prospective appointees will be compiled to assist the Government in making future appointments. We suggest that any Friends interested in learning the criteria for selection seek further information from the Minister's Office by writing to Private Bag 12, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002