

Winter 2009

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS of the ROYAL BOTANIC
GARDENS MELBOURNE INC.

FEATURE

Dame Elisabeth's Birthday Celebration
page 3

COMMEMORATIVE TREES

In the RBG
page 12

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although it's four months since the horrific February bushfires, this is the first opportunity I have had to express my sympathy on behalf of the Friends to all those who lost so much at that dreadful time, and to say that our thoughts have been very much with you. It has not been possible to ascertain just how many Members were affected by the fires, although we do know of one whose garden was destroyed. Just how the Friends might best be able to help people whose gardens have been affected by fire is currently under consideration.

A highlight of the Friends' events program in February was the launch by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch of the Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury's beautiful book *A Gardener's Life*. Following the launch, Lady Salisbury, a professional designer of gardens and landscapes, delighted a packed Mueller Hall as she told us about a number of the gardens she has designed and those she has restored, including the historic and magnificent garden at Hatfield House, her home from 1972 until 2003. Lady Salisbury accompanied her lively talk with splendid images of these gardens. See page 15 for further details.

In case some Members are wondering, information about Lady Salisbury's talk did not appear in *Botanic News* as the Friends were not asked to host the occasion until after the Summer edition had been sent out. However, full details of the book launch and the talk were posted on our website and flyers were made available in the RBG Melbourne Visitors' Centre and elsewhere.

An exciting initiative of the Friends in 2007 was the introduction of the Friends' Scholarship Scheme for all staff employed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Board. Late in April we were fascinated to hear details of their respective projects from the inaugural Scholarship winners, Meg Hirst and Peter Symes. Their projects took them in opposite directions – Meg to Western Australia and Peter to the south-west of the United States. Both spoke with passion and enthusiasm about what they had seen, learned and achieved during the time they were undertaking their research. There's no doubt that the Friends can take pride in having introduced the Scholarship Scheme which provides such wonderful opportunities for RBG staff to broaden their knowledge and experience. Articles about their projects have appeared in *Botanic News*; Peter's in the last edition and Megan's in Spring 2008. Applications for this year's Scholarship are now being sought and we look forward to the Friends' Annual General Meeting on 16 November when the winner or winners will be announced.

It's always a great pleasure for the Friends of the RBG Melbourne to be involved in activities with the Friends of the RBG Cranbourne. Several of our Members are taking the opportunity to join a bus trip to Mildura and the surrounding area organised by the RBGC Friends over the Queen's Birthday weekend, and in June another joint activity is planned on Sunday 14 at 2.30pm. As part of the Cranbourne Friends' winter lecture series, Dr Philip



Photo: Cathy Trinca

Moors will speak about the role of botanic gardens around the world. Following his talk, afternoon tea will be served and then two research staff, Dr Zoe Smith and Dr Mark Newbound, from the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, a Division of the RBG based at the University of Melbourne Botany School, will bring us up to date on the projects in which they have been involved. This promises to be a fascinating afternoon, so don't miss it. For further information see page 10.

Some birthdays are definitely worth celebrating! One which falls very much into this category is the 90th birthday of Honorary Life Member Lawrence Cohn, on 19 June. Lawrence, a Trustee of the Friends' Trust Fund, was Secretary of the Friends from 1983 until 2001 and served on many of our committees. He had a major input into the drawing up of our constitution, steered us through incorporation and the complexities of the introduction of GST and represented the Friends at many meetings with the management of the Gardens. Above all, he is a dear and

valued friend of many of us. On behalf of the Friends I wish him a very happy birthday.

Rain the week before, bright sunny weather on both days, eager customers and a very wide range of beautifully propagated plants ensured that the Growing Friends' Autumn Sale on 2 and 3 May was a great success. Congratulations to the Growing Friends whose hard work resulted in a profit of a little under \$22,000. This was about \$1000 better than the 2008 Sale. It was a very good result and our thanks go to their convener, Juliana Horsfall, and all the Growing Friends as well as those other volunteers who helped during the sale.

Janet Thomson

FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

Contents

Botanic Birds	4
From Gate Lodge	5
Events	6
Cranbourne Lectures	10
Book Review	11
Gardens	12
Illustrators	14
From the Members	15

Front cover: Cootamundra Wattle,
Acacia baileyana.
Back cover: Liquidambar leaf.
Photos: Jennifer Marshall



Photo: Mark Wilson

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch's Birthday

Our Patron, Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, attended an afternoon tea hosted by the RBG Board at Gardens House on 4 March to mark her 100th birthday. Representatives from the Gardens' support groups, including the Friends of RBG Melbourne, were also present to celebrate this wonderful anniversary. The Board's Chairman, Elaine Canty, presented Dame Elisabeth with a painting, pictured left, of *Lilium primulinum* by Susan Jarick, which had been exhibited at the Friends' Art of Botanical Illustration Exhibition last November. As a permanent commemoration of her centenary, Dame Elisabeth (pictured bottom left with Dr Philip Moors) planted an *Araucaria angustifolia*, the Parana or Candelabra Pine, an endangered species from southern Brazil, on the Western Lawn in the presence of many RBG staff and a contingent of print and television media.

Weather, Fire and Water

Regrettably, as we all know, January and February were particularly hot and dry – four days had maxima above 43°C, with the hottest at RBG Melbourne being 46.6°C on Black Saturday, 7 February. Rain was scarce too – only 1 mm in January and 3.2 mm in February. The extreme weather scorched many plants at RBG Melbourne, but cooler, damper weather in March has enabled most to recover. Scorching of Australian Garden plantings was less severe.

RBG Cranbourne was closed on 7 February because of the fire danger. Staff spent the day on fire patrols and assisting DSE and Parks Victoria with fire patrols off-site (there were no fires at RBG Cranbourne). No RBG staff were directly affected by the bushfires, but sadly several had friends who died or lost their homes. Gardens staff held successful in-house events to raise funds for victims of the fires, and all of us have been distressed by the devastation caused to so many Victorian families and communities.

Both the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens were closed on 3 March due to the predicted extreme heat and high winds; however the weather did not turn out to be as severe as predicted and neither site suffered any significant damage.

The Ornamental Lake in RBG Melbourne is 30 per cent full, the lowest level ever recorded, and large areas of mud have been exposed. Lake levels have been declining for several years due to the low rainfall. We are continuing to develop a storm-water harvesting scheme to supply biofiltered water for the lake, keeping it at or near capacity and enabling water to be circulated through Gardens' waterbodies, including the restored Guilfoyle's Volcano. The Myer Foundation has donated major funding for this project, and we are seeking additional grants from government stormwater management programs.

Construction work has just commenced on renovating Guilfoyle's Volcano, and over the next months you will see

access paths, rock work, a boardwalk, and plantings take shape. We expect the project to be completed in early 2010, and are most appreciative of funding for the project from The Myer Foundation, the Friends, and individual donors.

Sustainable Gardens Book

In February, CSIRO Publishing released *Sustainable Gardens* by Rob Cross and Roger Spencer, both horticultural botanists at RBG Melbourne. The book explains the basis for sustainability science and environmental accounting of resource use, and demonstrates how home and public gardens can contribute to a sustainable future through food production and enhancement of local environments. The 342-page book is in full colour, retails for \$39.95, and has already sold more than 600 copies. Extracts will form a monthly column called 'Gardening for Life' by Roger and Rob in the 2009 issues of the popular gardening magazine *Australian Horticulture*.

Gates Now Close at Sunset

In 1995, set closing times were introduced at RBG Melbourne, varying with the time of year and daylight saving. However, this system has not proved entirely satisfactory, especially with changes to the dates for daylight saving in each of the last three years.

Therefore, after 5 April, RBG Melbourne has reverted to the pre-1995 system of closing the gates at sunset. Although variable throughout the year, there is a general

community understanding of the timing of sunset. Effective darkness is at the end of 'civil' twilight, approximately 30 minutes after sunset. The gates will continue to be closed by the RBG's security contractor, and since it takes 30-40 minutes to close all the gates, full closure of the Gardens will generally coincide with darkness.

Philip Moors



Above: Azure Kingfisher
Below: Noisy Miner

Photos: Bruce Sandie



Odd Times, Odd Birds

The continuing dry and the very low water levels in the lakes have certainly had an impact on the bird life in the RBG. One obvious effect has been the continuing increase in the Indian Myna population, which seems to have been accompanied by a decrease in the number of Blackbirds, White-browed Scrubwrens, Blue Wrens and Silvereyes. Yet some species have survived well. The Swamp Hens seem not to have been greatly affected, and the number of Swans, including cygnets, is at its highest level for four or five years.

In spite of, or perhaps because of, these strange weather conditions, we have also had some surprises over summer and early autumn. For example, a pair of Masked Lapwings spent more than two months around the mudflats near the Terrace Tearooms. This bird had not been sighted in the Gardens for some years. Recently a small number of Noisy Miners (a native bird, no relation to the exotic Myna) have been seen around Gate Lodge. These are the birds that occupy the background sound track of every major golf tournament held around Melbourne. They are very territorial and if they move further into the Gardens they would certainly clash with their cousins, the Bell Miners, who are equally territorial. It is the first time that the Noisy Miners have been recorded in the RBG during its whole history.

Perhaps the most interesting sightings occurred in March. For many years bird observers had been used to seeing the

Rufous Fantail at this time of the year. This bird, cousin to the resident Grey Fantail, visits Victoria over summer from the far north. It is reasonably common at this time, for example, on the Mornington Peninsula. In March to early April it begins its journey north again, travelling as far as North Queensland and even to Papua New Guinea. After an absence of four years, it appeared again this March, right on cue. As can be seen from the photograph, it is an exquisite bird, with an orange-red eyebrow and lower back and tail. It hawks insects on the wing, fluttering in and out of the foliage, spreading its tail in flight with brilliant colour seeming to light up in the sunlight.

During the same month we were visited by an Azure Kingfisher. This is a smallish bird of the rivers and streams, especially the Murray and the Goulburn, and is regularly seen along the Yarra. It generally sits on a low branch above the water, diving to catch small prey such as fish or yabbies. There have been occasional

visits to the Gardens, but the bird seldom stays more than a day or two. It is another bird of brilliant colouration, with flashing azure back and rufous underparts. It is impossible to mistake it for any other Kingfisher.

For many of us, however, the highlight of the month was the sighting of a very different bird, a pair of Grey Goshawks in their white morph. This bird was last recorded by von Mueller in the 1860s. It is a largish bird of prey, more usually associated with the Otways and similar habitats around the State. In its white morph this bird is spectacular indeed: snowy white plumage set against a dark bill with deep orange cere, orange legs and flashing crimson eyes. It stayed in the Gardens for two days or so before heading off to other pastures. The sight of the smaller male sitting in a tree above the Dump, calling while the female hawked around the Ornamental Lake, will be treasured for a long time.

Tony Delves/ David Plant



Rufous Fantail nesting

Photo: Bruce Sandie

FROM GATE LODGE

The Staff at Gate Lodge, Virginia, Marguerite and Jackie, often wonder how they would manage without the support of the wonderful team of volunteers who carry out a great variety of tasks for the Friends' Office. Every week a special group come in to help with reception duties, processing new memberships, membership renewals and reminders, various forms of filing and the many tasks associated with the administration of the Botanical Illustration classes run by the Friends. The staff value the dedication, expertise and good humour of these regular volunteers and would like to thank them all for their contribution. They also thought our members would like to know a little about them, especially as one will probably answer the telephone next time you ring the office.



Bronwen Merrett

After retirement, Bronwen was briefly a Growing Friend. It seemed a wonderful antidote to years in libraries and archives where she spent most of her working life after studying history

and fine arts at Melbourne University. She worked first in the Manuscript Section of the National Library of Australia, Canberra, and then spent many years at RMIT as Art and Architecture Faculty Librarian, and finally a decade as Manager of Public Access at the Public Records Office Victoria.

For the Friends, Bronwen has helped devise a registration program for Botanical Illustration students, and has also set up the archives for the Friends' files.

At home, Bronwen potters in her own small garden. She also reads, goes to concerts and films and travels as often as possible.



Annette Robinson

Annette combines two of her passions in her voluntary work for the Friends: numbers and plants! She formerly worked as Registrar at MacRobertson Girls High School and has had positions in Information Technology, marketing and administration.

Annette has three children, lives in Middle Park, has a Science degree (maths of course!) and enjoys cycling around the

Lake on her way to the office on Fridays, where she employs her enthusiasm for numbers to record all payments on the computer and prepare all incoming monies for banking – a process that requires great accuracy and efficiency.

Her other interests include music, theatre and calligraphy.



Liz O'Keefe

Liz O'Keefe, originally from Winslow in western Victoria, is a resident of South Yarra. Each Friday morning she walks through the Gardens to the office of the Friends. As she says – it is such a lovely way to start the day.

Liz worked in higher education administration for many years, most recently at The University of Melbourne. She retired as Manager of the University's International Relations Office in 2007.

Her work at the University stimulated a lasting interest in China, and this year she is studying Chinese Politics and Society under the Community Access program. Liz carries out general office duties for the Friends.



Chris Trumble

Born in Melbourne, Christine has spent periods of her life in Geelong, Adelaide (where she finished her schooling), and also in Sydney, but she has her roots well and truly planted in Melbourne's soil. She has had a love of plants and gardens since childhood, and Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens has long been one of her favourite places. In her youth, Chris worked for the ANZ Bank, and later in the Administration Department of Kilvington Girls' Grammar for many years. She retired at the end of 2007 and is happy that the skills learnt during her working years can continue to be used in assisting the Friends with the administration of Botanical Illustration classes and general office duties. Chris is mother to two sons and grandmother to two grandsons. She is a keen walker and also enjoys a good film now and then, cryptic crosswords and reading, with a particular fondness for 'armchair' travel. She also loves music and going to a variety of concerts.

Photos: D Hancock and A Reed

EVENTS



Gardens Of Paradise:

Gardens of Roberto Burle Marx and Juan Grimm in South America

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE BY WARWICK FORGE

Wednesday 24 June at 6.00 for 6.30pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

COST: \$25 Friends \$15

RSVP by Friday 19 June

on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:

www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org.

Join us for a glass of wine and
savouries before the talk.

In Chile the brilliant gardens of Juan Grimm are spectacular, featuring great sheets of water, vistas and garden rooms. They always respect the landforms and native flora, about which he is passionate.

In Rio de Janeiro, we see the gardens of Roberto Burle Marx who had such a major impact on landscape design in many countries. His public works, such as the Copacabana Promenade and Parque de Flamengo – which extends for

1,200,000m² – are important for the beach-loving psyche of this sensuous city. But in his breathtaking private gardens we see the artist closely at work, blending great swathes of plants with mountains, lakes and dwellings.

Warwick Forge is a publisher and Director of the Australian Landscape Conference. He will be introduced by Mr Peter Watts, former Director of the Historic Houses Trust in Sydney.



Winter Fit Friends Ramble

MUSEUM TO MUSEUM

Thursday 25 June at 10.00am sharp

Meet in the forecourt near entrance of
Old Treasury Building – City Museum

COST: \$25 Friends \$15

RSVP by Monday 22 June

on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:

www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

This will be an interesting ramble through the streets and laneways of the city from the City Museum at the Old Treasury Building to the Museum of Melbourne. We'll head along Spring Street to Parliament House and down Little Bourke Street, stopping by historic Gordon House.

Walking on to the Telstra Building, via Punch Lane, we will view the large tapestries created by the world-renowned Victorian Tapestry Workshop.

We'll then ramble through the Gardens to the Melbourne Museum and have coffee in the café. Heading back to the Treasury, we'll pass St Patrick's Cathedral, St Peter's Anglican Church and the German Lutheran Church. Tasma Terrace, home to the National Trust, is on our way back, and we will finish by walking along Treasury Place with its great statues of our former parliamentarians and lovely views of the Treasury Gardens.



Winter Feast of Films

Thursday 2 July at 9.30am

The Lodge, Melbourne Grammar School

355 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne

Morning Tea 9.30am

Films commence at 10.00am

COST: \$25 Friends \$15

RSVP by Friday 26 June

on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:

www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Book early as numbers are limited for
this event

Join us in the pleasant surrounds of The Lodge at Melbourne Grammar to view two excellent one-hour films of wonderful gardens. Because this event is being held during the school holidays, there is some parking available to us within the grounds.

The first film is *The Quiet American Gardener – Hidcote Manor*. Hidcote is one of the most admired and inspirational gardens in the UK. Its creator, Major Lawrence Johnston, had an artist's eye and a passion for

plants and created a beautiful garden framework in which to show them off.

The second film is *Gardeners' Views Volume 2*. We continue our visit to some of Britain's best gardens included in the British Open Garden Scheme. From the grandest of castles to the tiniest of courtyards, we will see the treasures of Devon, Cornwall, Kent, Norfolk, Worcestershire, Suffolk and many other counties.

EVENTS



Winter Talking Plants

CYMBIDIUM ORCHIDS

Thursday 9 July at 10.00am
Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive
COST: \$15 Friends \$10
RSVP by Wednesday 1 July
on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:
www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org
Refreshments will be served during
the morning.

Please note this Talking Plants event
is being held on a Thursday. There
will be no access to the Growing
Friends' nursery on this day.

Cymbidium Orchids are a
temperate climate orchid
flowering from May through
to September. Grown in pots,
they produce many spectacular
long spikes of flowers and
may be brought indoors whilst
flowering. Blooms vary in
colour from white to bright
yellow, lemon, pale pink, bright
pink, deep red and lime green.

A representative of the
Cymbidium Orchid Society of
Victoria will discuss the
morning's topic, show some

beautiful examples of orchid
flowers and give us some hints
on cultivation. All those
attending are invited to bring
some of their favourite flowers
along to show and share.

The morning will be held in
Domain House and will be an
informal gathering of Friends
with a common interest in
plants and gardening.



Gardens Of Japan

ILLUSTRATED TALK BY JOHN PATRICK

Tuesday 14 July at 6.00 for 6.30pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium
COST: \$25 Friends \$15
RSVP by Friday 10 July
on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:
www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org
Please join us for a glass of wine and
savouries before the talk.

In a country with regions that
extend from sub-tropical to alpine,
the flora of Japan is one of the
richest and most beautiful in the
world, yet a limited range of
plants is used within her gardens,
renowned for their combination
of artifice and nature. However,
the use of stone, water, moss
and gravels in combination
with choice plants makes them
a garden-lover's paradise.

John Patrick will describe
his recent tour of Japanese
gardens during cherry blossom

season. This included the four
cities of Kyoto, Nara, Kanazawa
and Tokyo, which offered
contrasting views of Japanese
culture and history from tiny
minimalist gardens and
traditional culture in Kyoto to
Tokyo, where tradition marries
contemporary style and mores.
We will explore the best of
Tokyo's gardens, including
Happoen, an exquisite garden,
and enjoy descriptions of
delicious Japanese food.



Winter Guided Visit

TO THE GROWING FRIENDS' NURSERY

Friday 24 July at 10.00am
Meet at Gate Lodge (opposite Shrine)
COST: \$5 MEMBERS ONLY
RSVP by Wednesday 22 July
on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:
www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org
Bookings are essential as numbers
will be limited.

This visit is particularly suitable
for new members and others
who are not familiar with the
whereabouts and workings of
our Growing Friends' Nursery.
We will gather at Gate Lodge
for morning tea and the
opportunity to meet other like-
minded gardeners, and then be
guided down to the nursery.

Winter is the perfect time to
plan for your Spring garden as
trees and shrubs are best
planted at this time of the year.
If you plan to buy a number of

plants, think about bringing
some strong carry-bags or your
market trolley to help carry
your purchases home.

EVENTS



Winter Insiders' Walk

INSIDE THE NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF VICTORIA

Tuesday 28 July at 10.00am
Meet at Gate Lodge (opposite Shrine)
COST: \$15 MEMBERS ONLY
RSVP by Thursday 23 July
on enclosed booking form or
download a booking form from the
Events page on our website:
www.rbgrfriendsmelbourne.org

After morning tea at Gate Lodge, we will walk to the Herbarium to observe the intricate and detailed work mounting specimens carried out by dedicated volunteers. The Manager of Collections, Dr Pina Milne will then discuss the work of the scientists and the importance of the Herbarium specimen collection not only to their work, but also to historians and botanical artists. A selection of Herbarium specimens will be on display

and Dr Milne will entertain you with the stories and discoveries associated with this unique collection.



Self-Drive Spring Ramble

IN THE GRAMPIANS

3 Days, 2 Nights in Hall's Gap

Saturday 3 to Monday 5 October
COST: \$330 twin share, \$298 triple share, add \$119 to twin for single supplement - MEMBERS ONLY
Full details are available at the Friends' Office. Phone: 9650 6398
Meet at Domain House on Friday 28 August at 10.00am for morning tea to finalise financial arrangements and receive all information and maps required. A deposit of \$50 is required. Please use the enclosed booking form.

In Western Victoria's dramatic Grampians, wildflowers transform the mountains and valleys into a floral wonderland from late winter to early summer.

After arrival at our very comfortable Hall's Gap motel, little driving will be necessary. After lunch we will visit the Hall's Gap Wildflower Exhibition which includes flora from the whole Grampians district. Afterwards, from the Mount William carpark, we climb to view the Mt William and Serra

Ranges at sunset. The next day we will enjoy the displays and films at the Brambuk Centre. We will then visit the Silverland Falls and later have a picnic before setting off on the Wonderland Walk to the Pinnacle. On the third day, well-informed local guides will lead two walks, one concentrating on orchids. Neither walk is long or difficult but reasonable fitness is required.

Photo: Bette Devine. Thanks to Victorian National Parks Association.



Highgrove and Gardens of Scotland

4 – 19 August 2009
COST: \$8990pp (twin share)
Land content only
For a detailed itinerary please contact the Sydney Friends' Office on 02 9231 8182 or email Friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Friends of the Gardens in Sydney are repeating their successful trip of 2008 to the UK including Highgrove, Prince Charles' private estate. The tour takes in the Scottish capital, staying in Edinburgh for four nights with a very special visit to the Garden of Cosmic Speculation for a day.

Highlights include the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland; the Millennium Garden in Norfolk designed by Piet Oudolf; Beth

Chatto's garden in Colchester; Westonbirt Arboretum; Kew Gardens and Wisley.



Natural Landscapes and Gardens of New Zealand

9-20 November 2009

TOUR PRICE: Land Content Only:

\$4480pp (twin share);

\$990 single supp.

12 days: Auckland (4 nights), New Plymouth (3 nights), Christchurch (4 nights).

Full details are available by contacting
Australians Studying Abroad

Tel. 9822 6899

Freecall: 1800 645 755 (outside
Melbourne Metro only)

Email: info@asatours.com.au

Website: www.asatours.com.au

Australians Studying Abroad, in association with the Friends, are conducting a superb 12 day tour to both islands of New Zealand in Spring of 2009.

Andrew Laidlaw, Landscape Architect of the RBG

Melbourne, will be our host.

Andrew has been responsible for many new RBG projects, the most recent of which is the highly acclaimed Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. He is well known outside our organisation for his work in both radio and television.

Andrew's particular interest in native flora has led him on a number of bushwalking tours to New Zealand's North and South Islands. His current role as a garden designer, coupled with his plant knowledge, will give garden visits a special appeal, and allow a deeper appreciation of the gardens to be visited.

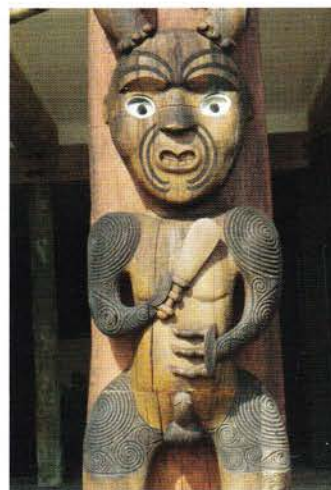
The program will be enhanced by NZ's most important gardeners, including Robert Watson, who will introduce us to the private gardens of Christchurch, and Sir Miles Warren, who will show us his own garden. On Waiheke

Island, near Auckland, we will discover a selection of notable contemporary gardens by world renowned Ted Smith, who will accompany us on the day.

Trish Bartleet will show us her original garden designs which display a distinctive New Zealand identity.

In addition to private gardens of Christchurch and Auckland, we will also visit the volcanic slopes of Mt Egmont over two days, exploring several gardens including Pukeiti, a 320ha. rainforest abutting the National Park. A local botanist will take us on a walk to observe the progression of plant species and learn about the distinctive vegetation of this spectacular park.

In addition to visits to special gardens with natural landscapes, and traditional and formal gardens, the tour will also include a visit to a heritage homestead in Gordonton and a walking tour of historic Christchurch. A highlight of the tour will be a visit to the famous Christchurch Botanic Gardens. This will conclude with a talk by the Director, followed by late afternoon drinks with members of the Friends and Guides of these beautiful gardens.



EVENTS

Friends of RBG Cranbourne

LECTURE SERIES 2009 DAY ONE

Sunday 14 June at 2.00pm
Mueller Hall, Royal Botanic Gardens
Melbourne
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra
Jointly hosted by Friends of RBG
Cranbourne and RBG Melbourne
Cost: \$15 Members \$12
(includes afternoon tea)

Lecture One: The Role of Botanic
Gardens Around the World

DR PHILIP MOORS



Dr Moors is Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Since his appointment to the RBG, there have been many major developments at the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens. During his tenure, science has gained a renewed emphasis through botanical, ecological and horticultural study. He has also fostered a dramatic improvement in the education program, with the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden in the Melbourne Gardens an excellent example. The Australian Garden at Cranbourne is also renowned for its innovation.

Another major achievement has been to encourage all at the RBG to look beyond their immediate working environment, especially by supporting small botanic gardens.

Lectures Two and Three:

DR ZOE SMITH AND DR MARK NEWBOUND



Zoe and Mark are young, enthusiastic postgraduate researchers from the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology (ARCUE), which is a Division of the RBG based at the University of Melbourne Botany School.

Zoe's talk will bring us up to date with her research on the 'Influence of Landscape Fragmentation on the Genetic



Structuring of Populations of the Endangered Daisy *Senecio macrocarpus*'. This plant is now largely restricted to a number of disjoined railway reserves.

Mark will present 'Problems and Possibilities for Fungi in Urban Woodlands' – his findings from two years of fungal surveys in red gum woodlands in and around Melbourne. Recent research has really served to highlight the importance and value of fungi in myriad situations.

DAY TWO

Sunday 16 August at 2.00pm
City of Casey Offices
Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren
(Melway Map 110 D4)
Lecture One: Global Warming and Our Water Supply

PROFESSOR NANCY MILLIS, AC, MBE, FTSE

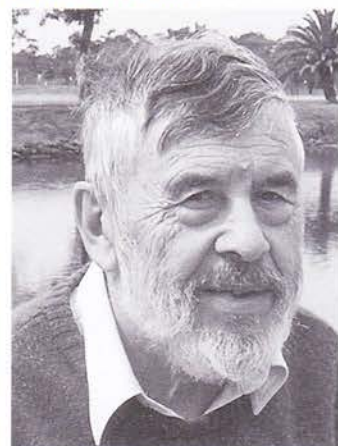


Nancy Millis was Professor of Microbiology at the University of Melbourne 1982–1991. She is one of the pioneers of the study of fermentation technology in Australia, her early work on cider leading her to become a judge at Victorian wine shows. Her interests are wide-ranging: she has been a member of the Board of Management of the former Fairfield Infectious

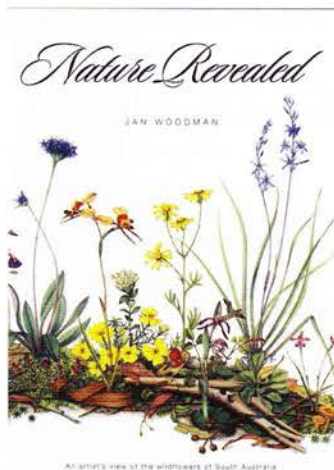
Diseases Hospital; the Australian Water Advisory Resources Committee; the Co-operative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology, and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences. She was appointed Chancellor of La Trobe University in 1992 and was one of the five scientists featured on Australian stamps in 2002.

Lecture Two: 'Insect Watching'

IAN ENDERSBY



Ian Endersby is a man of many interests, one of which is a fascination with the insect world. Natural history has been Ian's hobby since he was a boy, and he remains a keen student of plants, birds and insects. As fellow Friends of RBG Cranbourne will know, he is always entertaining and generous in sharing his interest in and enthusiasm for the bizarre and funny things that insects do. In 2002 Ian was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion for his contribution to natural history and the assistance he has given to various societies in administrative roles and in encouraging their field studies. In this lecture Ian will tell us about fascinating aspects of insect behaviour.



Nature Revealed: An Artist's View of the Wildflowers of South Australia
Jan Woodman
RRP \$49.90
ISBN: 1 9210 0882 2

Jan Woodman is no stranger to the RBG Melbourne. Her work has been exhibited five times since 1996 in the *Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibitions. She also has a close association with the Botanical Gardens of Adelaide where she learnt her craft, has worked closely with staff at the Herbarium and is an honorary life member of the Friends of the Botanical Gardens of Adelaide.

In the past she has translated many of her beautiful paintings into cross stitch embroidery charts which she has published in a series of books.

Her most recent publication is an intimate pictorial record of the flora of her home state. In wanting to document the exceedingly diverse flora of South Australia she joins botanical artists from the early voyages of discovery such as Leschenault de la Tour and Ferdinand Bauer. She also plays a role in expanding the knowledge about this flora. Her passion is for the smaller herbaceous plants, and she enjoys painting these in groupings amongst associated mosses, ferns, fungi and leaf litter.

The plants are organised by habitat. Each beautifully detailed painting is accompanied by a commentary about the occasion of her discovery of the plant. For those who are interested in trying their hand at botanical illustration she explains her process in some detail and there is even a section on how a painting is made.

Terri Kay



Great Speakers

AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE

The conference is again being held at the Camberwell Centre on 11-15 September 2009. The theme of the conference is **Designing the Liveable Garden** and some wonderful international speakers are featured:-

Rosemary Alexander, Principal of the London School of Design at the London Physic Garden, who will be holding Masterclasses; *Louisa Jones*, the leading writer on Provençal gardens, cuisine and lifestyle; *Marta Montero*, landscape architect and former professional partner of Roberto Burle Marx in Rio de Janeiro; *Eric Ossart* and *Arnaud Maurières*, brilliant designers who are well known for their work in France, but now mostly live and work in Morocco designing Islamic and desert gardens; *Nancy Power*, leading Californian designer with a major practice in USA who works closely with the brilliant architect Frank Gehry; *Ed Snodgrass*, USA authority on rooftop gardens and plants; *Stephanie Alexander*, leading food writer and founder of the

outstanding Kitchen Garden Foundation dedicated to introducing young school-children to the growing, harvesting, preparation and sharing of healthy fruit and vegetables; *James Broadbent*, cultural historian with profound insights into designing and planting imaginative and water conscious period gardens; and *Josh Byrne*, from *Gardening Australia*, who is a leading garden designer well known for gardens featuring water conservation and sustainability.

Director Warwick Forge says that the Conference has now become one of the most successful of its kind anywhere in the world.

For information, including the pre-conference gardens tour and Masterclasses: www.landscapeconference.com or phone Sue Forge on 043 818 1578.

These two garden photos are from The Sitio (Garden of Wonders), the tropical plant nursery, gallery and shrine for Roberto Burle Marx in Rio de Janeiro.
Photos: Warwick Forge

A landscape of stories. That is what we are privileged to work within, to experience, and to which we all contribute. Each time we visit, each time we walk through the Gardens, we see and enjoy the visual splendor, the botanical detail, the sensory delights. Taken on those measures alone, we are very fortunate.

Pause for a moment, though, if you will. Consider that for each tree, each plant, each collection or group of plants, there is a story. For example, many visitors have enjoyed and learned from our Aboriginal Heritage Walks, hearing about the special relationship that the local Aboriginal people had with the land, its plants and its animals, and how that relationship is carried forward to this day.

The many and various commemorative trees within the Gardens present us with a link to a vast array of stories. Arthur's Elms – so named because of their link with the first Curator (Superintendent) John Arthur – are thought to be some of the oldest elms planted in Australia. John Arthur himself was a Scot, who had received his training in botany and landscape gardening, and according to RTM Pescott in his history of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, graduated with honours and 'was presented with kilts, bagpipes and 25 pounds by Queen Victoria'. Having attained the role of Head Gardener to the Duke of Argyle, John Arthur decided to leave what must have been a position with some degree of status, and loaded up his kilts, bagpipes, what remained of the 25 pounds, his wife and four children, and emigrated to Australia in 1839.

He came to the position at the Gardens in 1846 after being employed in large private gardens just outside Melbourne, and having set up a nursery business on the river flats at Heidelberg. The bones of the new botanic garden were established according to plans provided by the colonial architect Henry Ginn, and it was under the guidance of these plans and with the assistance of his daughter Grace (and others) that the new elms were planted. Pescott notes that the elms were supplied from Arthur's own nursery at



Left: One of the remaining 'Arthur's Elms' on Tennyson Lawn.
Right: One of the new 'Arthur's Elm' offspring, planted by Dr Philip Moors.
Photo: Richard Barley

Heidelberg. Life was a little less regulated in those days.

Apparently Arthur died in 1849 at the age of 45 years, as a result of 'cholera caused by drinking the water from the lagoon'. This in itself is a clue to a story, albeit a tragic one. It would appear that within a decade of the establishment of our town, the River Yarra had been converted from a slow-flowing meandering stream teeming with wildlife into a

rank and fetid drain. In his *Chronicles of Early Melbourne*, Garryowen in 1888 (quoted in Pescott's volume) notes that the development of the site initially chosen in 1841 for the new botanic gardens at Batman's Hill (originally known as Pleasant Hill) was abandoned partially because:

'The shipping trade had increased, and a vilely smelling row of slaughter houses jumped up along river banks near the Gas Works, commencing that Yarra pollution that has grown into a huge and almost



irremediable abomination boiling-down establishments, candle-making factories and other kindred industries began to puff and poison the atmosphere.'

So the tragedy was not only the death of Arthur after his untimely consumption of the local drop, but on a grander scale, the large-scale deterioration of the riverine environment. Our civic forebears had already fouled the Yarra River by 1845!

That the new (and present) site for the Gardens was chosen by a group chaired by the Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph LaTrobe, is well established, but that the original hill site was then levelled in 1865 to become Spencer Street railway station is not so well known.

Interestingly, that prominent early Melbournian John Pascoe Fawcner stuck 'as a limpet to a rock' to his preference for the Batman's Hill site, as reported in the local papers at the time. No doubt his preference for the site would have been diminished as the hill itself disappeared. 323,425 cubic yards of earth and rock, gone.

Two of the original four 'Arthur's Elms' remain – sadly the other two required removal as a result of poor limb structures compromised by unfortunate lopping early in the 1900s. The two remaining trees stand on the Tennyson Lawn, in the vicinity of the earliest areas of the Gardens' development, overlooking the 'lagoon'. They deserve respect, for they represent a story central to the Gardens' beginning. Two new trees propagated from the parent Arthur's Elms were planted several years ago – one by Dr Philip Moors and one by David Adam, then Chair of the RBG Board. These new trees are thriving respectfully, in the company of their elders.

Respect is deserved for a tree growing on the Eastern Lawn, but for quite different reasons. It is not an uncommon species – the Queensland Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) – but it has a plaque that notes that it was planted in 1946 by Ernest

Henry Bugg, in memory of Driver A W Bugg (AIF 1915) and Flight Sergeant E J Hiskins (RAAF, 1944). Both were RBG employees, both killed in World Wars. From our records, little is known of Flt. Sgt. E J Hiskins, but of the two Bugg brothers, we know a little more.

Government Army records show that Arthur William Bugg enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on New Year's Day 1915, just before his 20th birthday. Sadly he died from meningitis at Heliopolis in Egypt in November in the same



Driver A W Bugg (from RBG collection).

year. At the age of 35 years, his brother Ernest then enlisted in April the following year, which must have been not long after the news of his brother's death reached home. He served in a variety of roles in France (including the Trench Tramways Detachment) and in England, and achieved the rank of Lieutenant, before returning as Quartermaster on the ship *Prinz Ludwig* to his wife at war's end. E H Bugg died at the age of 90, in 1971.

Just up the path at the top of the Central Lawn is a young *Cedrus brevifolia*. This tree was planted in 2006 by Gardens employee Mat Flinn, just before he was tragically killed while working under his car in that year. To all his fellow workmates, this tree holds a very special significance.

Consider that the Gardens holds over 70 commemorative trees – each one with a story. Trees planted by visiting Royalty from around the globe, Governors-General, Governors, wives and children of Governors, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen...

The many and various commemorative trees within the Gardens present us with a link to a vast array of stories.

Previous Director Dr David Churchill noted some years ago that the Gardens had been used in a diplomatic role by both State and Commonwealth Governments, and that these commemorative plantings went a long way towards breaking down international tensions. Sometimes the tensions were also local. The fine specimen of *Pinus patula* (Mexican Weeping Pine) on the Princes' Lawn was planted by His Imperial Majesty the Shahbanon (Shah) of Iran in 1974. While there may have been diplomatic imperatives to consider, I understand that the more parochial intent was to place a tree that would screen out the view to the apartment block on the corner of Park Street and Domain Road. After 35 years of growth, it is achieving this objective well,

though in the meantime a welter of other architectural intrusions have arisen.

The most recent commemorative planting has been a lovely specimen of *Araucaria angustifolia*, planted by our Patron and recent centenarian Dame Elisabeth Murdoch on 4 March this year, on the Western Lawn. Another thread is woven into the landscape for future generations to enjoy, and another significant story is represented in the living fabric of the Gardens.

We have just started to implement a new program, at the suggestion of one of our own

The Growing Friends

RESULTS OF MAY PLANT SALE RAFFLE

Prizes were:

Original Botanical Illustration by Debra Bartlett

Won By: Jill Castro

Betta Grower - fertilizers and Soil Improvers

Won By: Darren Tillett

Bunnings - garden tools and child's chair

Won by: Carolyn Tomkins

Growing Friends - bowl of succulents

Won by: Heather Cooke

Congratulations to the winners and our grateful thanks to the wonderful donors who continue to support the Gardens so generously.

Bev Teague

Two and Three Year Membership Options

You have asked us for these options and they are now available.

For existing or new members, two and three year options are available as follows:

Individual Members

1 year	\$45
2 year	\$80
3 year	\$120

Household Members

1 year	\$66
2 year	\$120
3 year	\$180

Advantages of these options are that in addition to the discounts provided, future increases in fees will be avoided and the inconvenience of yearly renewals will be saved.

ILLUSTRATORS

Classes

Term 3 will start in the week beginning 20 July. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and in the daytime on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays (two sessions each day - 2.5hr), and Fridays (one 3 hr session.)

2.5hr classes: \$255 (incl GST)

Friends: \$215 (incl GST)

3 hr classes: \$295 (incl GST)

Friends: \$255 (incl GST)

For further information on classes contact the Friends' Office, 9650 6398.

The Whirlybirds

The Botanical Illustration group commenced meeting early in February in the Whirling Room. This self-help group has been so successful that there is no space available for newcomers to join us at the moment. We have all agreed to start a waiting list, so if you are interested in joining us at a later date, please call Sandra Sanger on 9598 9532 to leave your name and details.

Botanical Illustration Quarterly Meeting

THE SECRET MATHEMATICAL LIFE OF PLANTS

Tuesday 9 June 2009, 10.00 for 10.30 am in the Whirling Room

Cost \$5.50. Pay on the day

RSVP Friends' Office 9650 6398

Laurie Andrews, Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Education and well-known botanical illustrator, will talk to us about the fascinating subject of numbers, shapes and radiating, spiral and fractal patterns seen in plants and the importance of their accurate representation by the artist.

Insect Workshops

INSECT ILLUSTRATION WITH KATE NOLAN

Whirling Room Studio,

Observatory Gate

Friday 3, Saturday 4

and Sunday 5 July

10.00 am-3.30 pm

Cost: \$225 Friends \$180

For bookings, please contact the Friends' Office, 9650 6398

Many botanical illustrators include insects in their work, resting or nibbling on appropriate plants. In fact, insect illustration is an art form in itself, and in this course Kate Nolan will teach the techniques needed to capture these fascinating creatures on paper. Students at all skill levels, including beginners, are very welcome.

Kate will concentrate on watercolour painting, but will also touch on some of the other media used to illustrate insects. Some locally available specimens will be supplied and there will be the opportunity to choose from a wide selection of exotic insects available for purchase.

Students will need to apply to the Friends' Office for a materials list.



Mantid by Alison Gianangeli



Insect by Chris Scott

INSECT ILLUSTRATION (ADVANCED)

Whirling Room Studio,

Observatory Gate

Wednesday 8, Thursday 9

and Friday 10 July

10.00 am-3.30 pm

Cost: \$225 Friends \$180

For bookings, please contact the Friends' Office, 9650 6398

In this advanced course, Kate will teach many of the more challenging aspects of insect illustration, such as the best ways to capture the effects of iridescence, pitted surfaces and transparency. She will also demonstrate how to tackle the practical difficulties of locating, identifying and using rare specimens, or illustrating extremely small or large ones. Participants may bring their own specimens or choose and purchase them in class.

Students will need to apply to the Friends' Office for a materials list.

A Secret Life of Plants

AT LINDEN GALLERY

The Friends were well represented at an exhibition of paintings of weeds held at the Linden Centre for Contemporary Art in St Kilda during April and May. Thirty-six of our botanical artists took part, joining with others who displayed conceptual installations about the subject. There were some very intriguing and interesting interpretations of the theme. The exhibition, set up in the 'wonderkammer' style, ran until 17 May, when the gallery Curator, Andrew Gaynor, selected 35 paintings to travel on to Fremantle. Here they will be exhibited with work from the Fremantle Botanical Art Group from 29 May to 19 July.

Works not sold will return to Linden by approximately 30 July.

Judy Jarman/Sandra Sanger

Margaret Flockton Award

Congratulations to Mali Moir, one of the Friends' Botanical

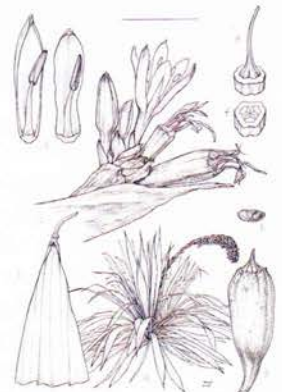


Illustration Tutors, whose scientific line drawing of *Doryanthes palmeri* received a Highly Commended at the 2009 Margaret Flockton Awards given by the National Herbarium of NSW.

FROM THE MEMBERS



The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury – Mollie to her friends – visited Australia in February for the hundredth birthday party of her good friend Dame Elisabeth Murdoch. While she was here, Lady Salisbury, a renowned British garden designer, agreed to give talks for the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and Melbourne, and to launch her latest book, *A Gardener's Life*, in both cities.

Lady Salisbury gave her talk to the Melbourne Friends on Wednesday 25 February. Despite the lack of publicity explained in the President's message on page 2, Mueller Hall was packed to capacity with an audience that included many leading lights of the gardening community. Dame Elisabeth was in the front row and launched *A Gardener's Life* before Lady Salisbury began to speak.

Lady Salisbury is a remarkably youthful 86, slender and with the straight back of an equestrienne. Full of energy and enthusiasm, she is a living testament to the beneficial effects of active gardening for a healthy and happy old age.



Her life, and especially the gardens she has designed, was the subject of her talk, illustrated with beautiful photographs from the book. She has been called 'the Green Goddess of English Gardens', but says that she is completely untrained, except for a two-week course at Kew Gardens. She began by restoring the historic garden at Cranborne Manor in Dorset (originally King John's hunting lodge), where she lived with her husband and family for thirty-three years. This garden was run on organic principles from 1948, which was highly unusual at the time. When her husband succeeded as the 6th Marquess of Salisbury in 1972, they went to live at Hatfield House in Hertfordshire, the childhood home of Elizabeth I. Here Lady Salisbury really set about making a difference to a garden she found entirely unsympathetic to the house it surrounded. She visited Italy to study Renaissance garden design and used contemporary plans, paintings and documents to create as authentic a Jacobean garden as possible. Hatfield was open to the public, and Lady Salisbury's

reputation began to grow.

When HRH The Prince of Wales started to plan a garden at Highgrove in the early 1980s he asked her to help him, and since then she has accepted commissions in England, Ireland, the US, France and Italy. Most of her gardens, full of clipped box hedges in ornate patterns, topiary and green, green lawns, look both high maintenance and thirsty to a Melbourne gardener, but also beautiful and romantic, all



fulfilling Lady Salisbury's main aim of creating places where both 'pleasure and peace are to be found'.

Marguerite Hancock

From 'A Gardener's Life' from L to R

1. Lady Salisbury at her desk.
2. One of two Ilex walks in the east perterre at Hatfield House.
3. Cedar of Lebanon in the flower garden at Highgrove House.
4. (Below) World Youth Alliance Garden at USA headquarters.

Photos: Derry Moore.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s)

(Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms / Dr)

Address

Postcode

Telephone: ()

Email:

I wish to apply for membership in the following category

☐ **Household - 1 year**

(Two adults living at same address; Please state name of second person)

☐ 2 years

☐ 3 years

☐ **Individual (within 50km of the GPO) - 1 year**

☐ 2 years

☐ 3 years

☐ **Interstate, Overseas, Country, Pensioner*, Student* (full-time)**

(* state pension number / student number and educational institution)

☐ **Life/Group Memberships/Bequests/Wills**

Please send me details

Trust Fund DONATIONS

(Tax deductible over \$2.00; receipt issued)

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Cheque/Money order enclosed OR please charge my

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Signature

Expiry Date

Please make cheques payable to Friends of RBG and post to:

Friends of RBG, Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Ave, Melbourne 3004

Age Group

☐ Under 25

☐ 25-39

☐ 40-59

☐ 60 and over

How did you hear of the Friends of RBG?

Subscription rates as at 1/6/09. Rates subject to annual review. ABN 43 438 335 331



FRIENDS of the
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
MELBOURNE INC.

BOTANIC NEWS

BOTANIC NEWS is produced quarterly for Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. which was formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and the National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.

Patron

Prof. David de Kretser AC
Governor of Victoria

President

Janet Thomson

Vice-Presidents

Catherine Trinca
Dr. Richard Kirsner

Secretary

Richard Smith

Treasurer

Maurice Castro

Immediate Past President

Irwin Newman

Council

Susan Brookes
Susan Chandler
John Goodwin
John Hawker
Judy Jarman
Peter Kelly
Dr. Philip Moors

Editor

Meg Miller
Editor.Botnews@frbgmelb.org.au

COMMITTEE CONVENERS

Events

Susan Mackintosh

Botanical Illustrators

Edyta Hoxley

Growing Friends

Juliana Horsfall

Membership and Marketing

Lee Tregloan

Volunteers

John Goodwin

FRIENDS' OFFICE

Virginia Henderson
Marguerite Hancock
Jackie Courmadias
Gate Lodge
100 Birdwood Avenue
Melbourne Vic 3004
Tel: (03) 9650 6398
Fax: (03) 9650 7723

Email:

friends@frbgmelb.org.au

Website:

www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Print Post Approved

PP 345842/10025

A12827T

ISSN 0817-0650

Printed on 50 per cent
Australian recycled paper

Printer

PrintGroup Australia

ADVERTISING

Single DL and A4 inserts
will be accepted in
Botanic News at a rate of
\$550 and \$650 (including
GST) respectively.

For ease of handling,
DL size is preferred.
Multiple sheets - POA
Advertising material
requires the approval of
the editorial committee.
Contact the Friends' Office
9650 6398 for details.

