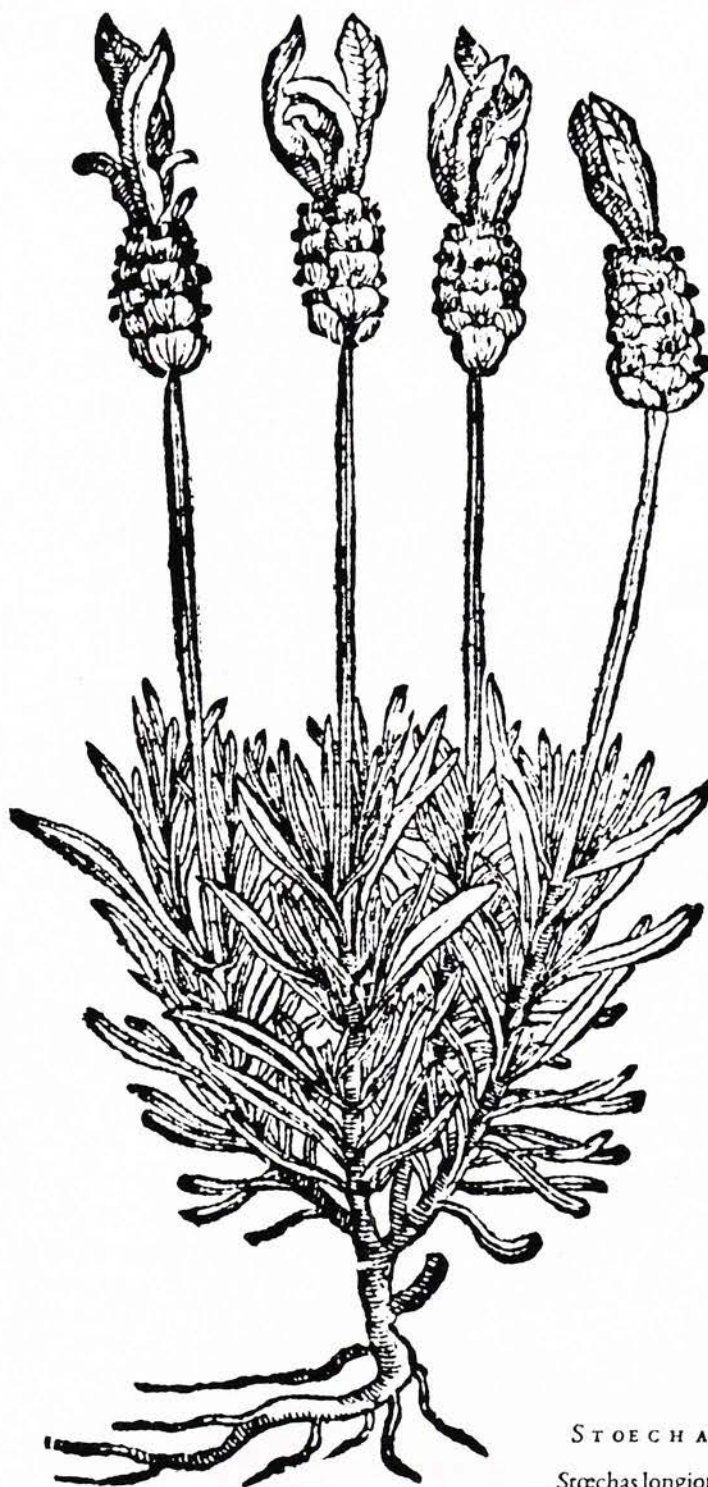


# *Botanic Magazine*

*Volume 1, Spring 1986*

Official publication of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne



STOECHAS.

*Stoechas longioribus ligulis.*

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Official publication of the Friends of the Royal  
Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

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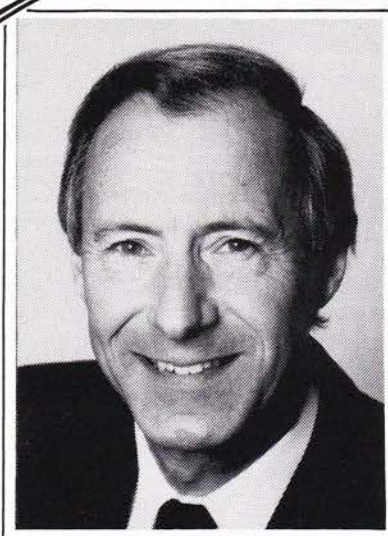
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Front cover illustration: *Lavandula stoechas*, Spanish  
Lavender in C. Clusius, *Rariorum plantarum historia*.  
Antverpiae, 1601.



# Greetings



Frank V. Phillips  
President

Publication of our first issue of *Botanic magazine* is a happy occasion with the realisation of the Friends' objective to support a journal of botanical and horticultural interest with particular reference to our Botanic Gardens.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne was launched early 1982 at a public meeting in the National Herbarium Auditorium, with the guidance and encouragement of the Director, Dr David Churchill. Described by Dr Churchill as 'a milestone in the history of the Gardens', the Friends exist to be supportive to the Gardens and Herbarium and their staff in a diverse range of activities, and to encourage greater public interest and involvement in what is accepted to be one of the great gardens of the world. During a stimulating inaugural address, Professor Carrick Chambers said of the Friends that 'they should be true friends, jealous guardians and be able to lobby support when necessary'.

The Friends' first Annual General Meeting was held on February 19th 1984 in the National Herbarium Auditorium. The Constitution was launched under the guidance of Mr Michael Black Q.C. with a charter to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them wherever possible. The Constitution lists the following aims of the Friends:

- (a) to conserve, protect and foster the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to conserve and protect the landscape qualities of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and its immediate environs;

- (b) to encourage the support and appreciation of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria by the community;
- (c) to promote community awareness of the scientific, educational, historical and cultural functions and facilities of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the National Herbarium of Victoria;
- (d) to raise funds and carry out appropriate activities to further these objectives;
- (e) to foster the interest of members in plants and flora generally through education and fellowship;
- (f) to publish and disseminate among members and others a newsletter or other publication relating to the activities of the Association or the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the National Herbarium Victoria;
- (g) to do such other things as are conducive to or incidental to the attainment of the objects set out above.

Since 1982 the Friends' organisation has grown from strength to strength with a membership now approaching 400. Assistance to the Gardens and Herbarium has been given in a number of ways. The Friends alerted the press and the public to the state of the Ornamental Lake with the result that the Herald and Weekly Times Pty Ltd mounted a public campaign to 'Save the Lake', as a gesture to mark the 60th anniversary of *The Sun* newspaper. The Friends donated money and time to the campaign. They also contributed the first notice board in the Gardens which is erected at the Kiosk, and labels and plants for the recently completed Herb Garden. Glass display cases have been donated to the Herbarium. Our new sales outlet is now open at the Gardens Kiosk and items, such as the Friends' postcards, can be purchased there.

Friends' facilities at the Old Astronomer's Residence have recently been upgraded and together with the Committee's decision to allocate co-ordinating responsibilities to Mrs Joan Nesbit, it is expected that the level of activity and visibility of the Friends will further increase during 1986/87.

Lectures, illustrated talks, garden tours, luncheons, wine and cheese get-togethers are just some of the varied activities arranged by the Friends. Two of our most successful events in 1985 were the comprehensive trip to Canberra and the mounting of an exhibition of botanical art. The Spring 1986 program listed on page 20 gives details of our forthcoming activities; we do hope you will be able to join us in these functions.

Co-ordination and consultation have been maintained with other organisations concerned, like ourselves, with the well-being and development of the Gardens, namely the Maud Gibson Trust, the Voluntary Guides



Group and the Plant Craft Cottage. It is appropriate that at this stage I extend my personal thanks and gratitude to all those willing workers who have supported the Friends, making it an effective and worthwhile organisation.

Following a suggestion by a member of the Friends, Mrs Prue Myer, the Victorian Tourism Commission has agreed to undertake a feasibility study of Melbourne hosting an International Garden Festival in 1991. Let us hope that such a major project becomes a reality through the initiative of the Friends. It is by the Friends' active interest in gardens throughout Victoria that such an event can happen and certainly the Friends will be involved if the study proves positive.

I am pleased to say that the Taxation Department has given informal approval to the proposed trust deed for our long-awaited trust fund, and we expect formally to establish the fund quite soon.

In this the Botanic Gardens 140th anniversary year, it is my very great pleasure to announce that our Governor, His Excellency Dr Davis McCaughey has kindly agreed to be the Friends' Patron. We thank Dr McCaughey for his valuable support.

May I extend very best wishes on behalf of the Committee to all Friends.

Frank V. Phillips  
President

## The Herbarium Extensions

Following a grant of \$2 000 000 for the Commonwealth-State Bicentennial Commemorative Program to build additional accommodation for the National Herbarium of Victoria, a Planning Study and Environment Effects Statement (EES) was prepared by the Public Works Department and made available to the general public last year.

The EES outlined five options for the new accommodation, two of which were preferred options. The first was a semi-underground building behind the Astronomer's Residence on the Observatory Reserve. The second was a curved extension of the existing Herbarium building onto the Western Lawn.

The EES process required that the Minister for Planning and Environment produce an assessment of the EES and of the public submissions, and tender this as advice to the Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, who is responsible for the project.

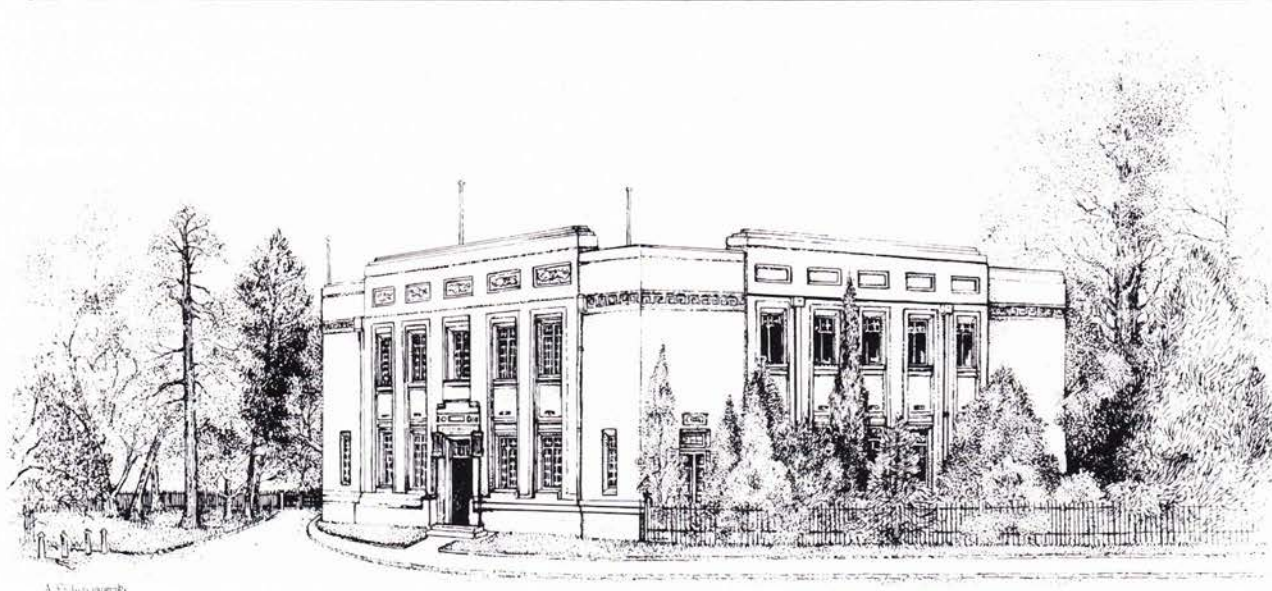
The process was complicated by the fact that the public submissions threw up some additional options. These were carefully evaluated, and in accordance with the

high degree of public involvement which has characterised the project, discussions were held with various groups on the advantages and disadvantages of the options.

On July 11th, Ms Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands announced that the curved wing option on a site adjoining the Western Lawn had been selected after careful consideration of historic, social, recreational, visual and economic factors. The three storey extension will meet the present building's height and house the botanical collections and Library.

The ground floor of the existing building will contain interpretation and education facilities while the botanists and technical staff will be on the second floor. Work on detailed design aspects of the extension will start immediately as the project must be completed during the bicentennial year, 1988.

John Taylor  
Manager  
Royal Botanic Gardens



The present Herbarium building, opened in 1934.



# A New Herb Garden

Roger Spencer, Horticultural Botanist,  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

## Introduction

More than a week of festivities will herald the formal opening of a new Herb Garden at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens. The opening will be officiated by Ms Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, and will take place on Friday November 7th.

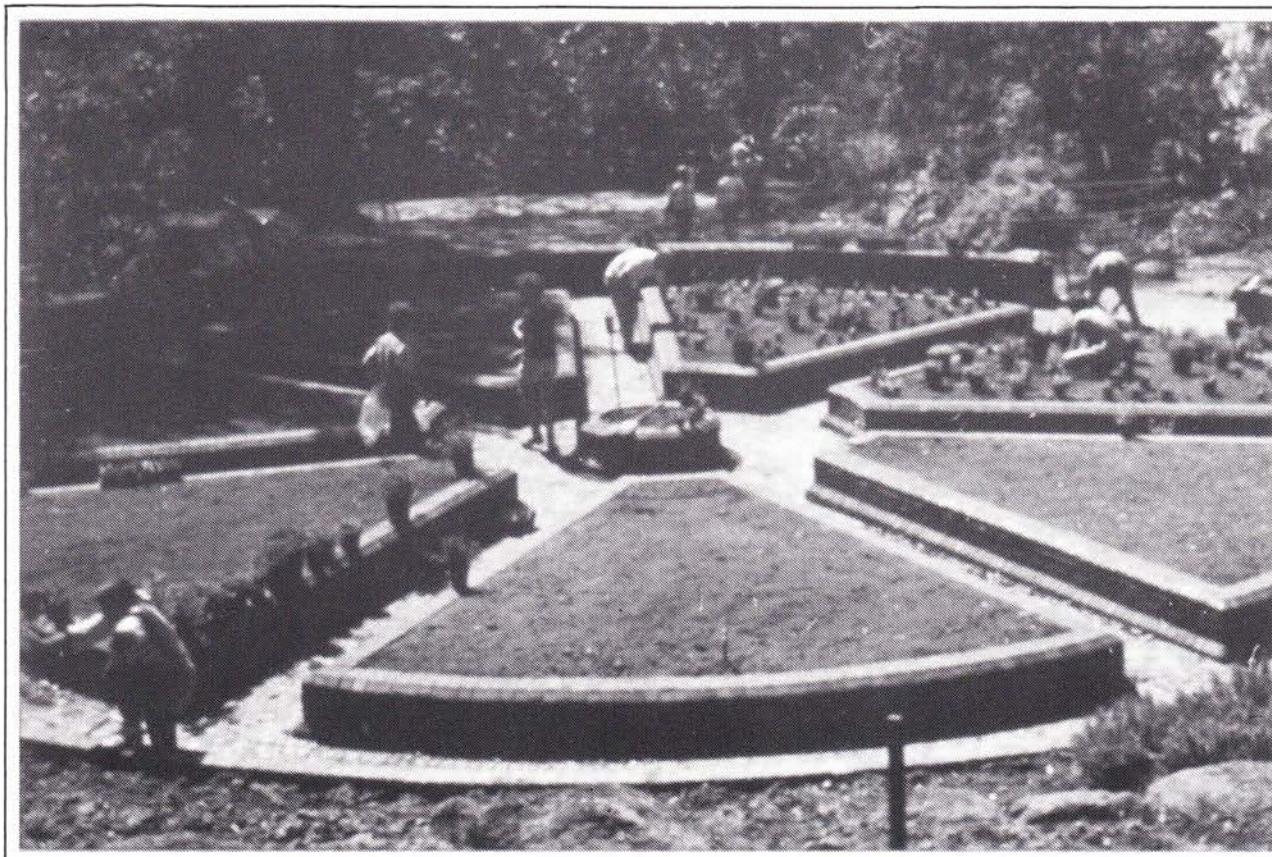
It will have all the fun of the fair with demonstrations of herbal materials, crafts, music and folk dancing by school groups. The celebrations will continue for ten days and include a display of spices in the small Display House next to the Tropical Plants Glasshouse.

For more than 100 years there have been beds in the Botanic Gardens devoted to medicinal, culinary and other herbs. Unfortunately, staff shortages during the two world wars and, more recently, escalating labour costs, resulted in serious deterioration of these high maintenance areas. However, renewed interest in herbs over the last five to ten years has led to the complete remodelling and extension of the Gardens herb collection.

Constructed of brick, the new garden is designed according to a traditional pattern and contains an extensive collection of culinary, medicinal, fragrant-flowered, fragrant-leaved and Australian herbs. It has been planned by Gardens staff together with members of the Herb Society of Victoria. Planting and labelling has been assisted by a gift of \$2 500 from the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. The sundial was purchased with money donated by the Herb Society of Victoria and an anonymous private individual. Brick pavers and edgers were donated by Robertson Stock Bricks.

## Herbs in History

A collection of traditional aromatic, medicinal and culinary herbs harks back to the very beginnings of horticulture and botany. Grown since antiquity, these herbs have long constituted a *materia medica*, supplying



Planting up the new garden, Spring 1985.



households with a host of cosmetics, love-potions, remedies, insect powders, meat preservatives, food flavourings and so on. Such plants were grown more for their use than for their flowers which were generally rather insignificant.

The early herb or 'physic' gardens of medieval Italy and northern and southern Europe, recall a time when botany and medicine were the same discipline. These herb gardens also represent the earliest stage of development of modern botanic gardens.

Many of the plants grown at this time featured in the early botanical herbals of the 15-17th centuries. These herbals were frequently based on classical manuscripts and consisted of lists of plant descriptions, including their uses. Often they were enhanced by beautiful woodcut illustrations. Scientifically, herbals were the first attempts at plant inventories and the fore-runners of the modern-day floras. Some were important early explorations into plant classification and nomenclature based on morphological characters, a discipline now known as classical taxonomy and traditionally carried out in herbaria.

## Herbs in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens

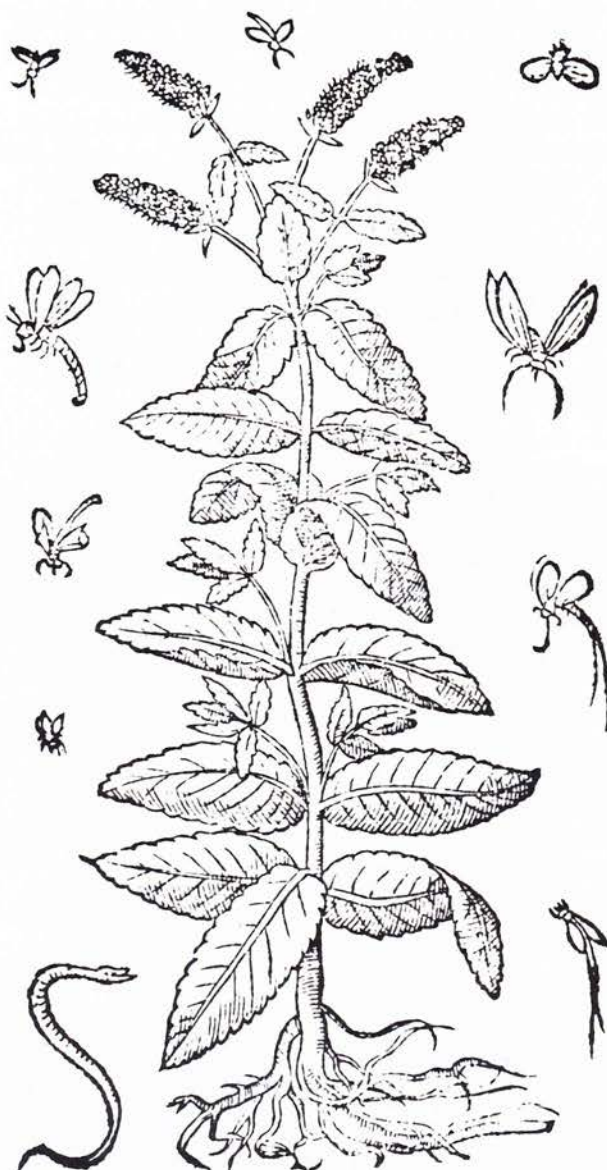
When Ferdinand Mueller became Director of the Botanic Gardens in 1857 (he had been Government Botanist since 1853), his scientific charter encompassed the development of research into medicinal plants. No doubt his background as a pharmacist and his interest in medicinal plants would have encouraged this. However, it is not known definitely whether such plants were grown during his term as Director of the Gardens. Certainly there is information suggesting the planned establishment of a special experimental garden of carefully named fruit trees, dye, medicinal, fibre and forage plants, vines and grasses, in an area to the north of the Director's Residence. However, by 1873 this area had become incorporated into Government House grounds.

As reported in the 1883 *Catalogue of plants under cultivation in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens*, the area at the northern entrance to the Nursery was first established by W.R. Guilfoyle in about 1880 as an area for the display of plants used for medicinal purposes.

*Among the recent works has been the preparation for and formation of a group of plants used for medicinal purposes. This collection, recently planted, at present numbers about 170 different species. They have each a metallic label placed before them, with full particulars as to the plant. Students and others interested in medicines can see at once and thoroughly inspect a large number of plants with which they in their practices are being constantly brought into contact.*

*A large quantity of leaves, fruit, and roots of this class of plants are frequently being distributed to applicants, on the recommendation of medical men for use in preparations or applications for the alleviation of pain and the effecting of remedies in certain sicknesses. The increasing of this class of plants is an object always kept in view.*

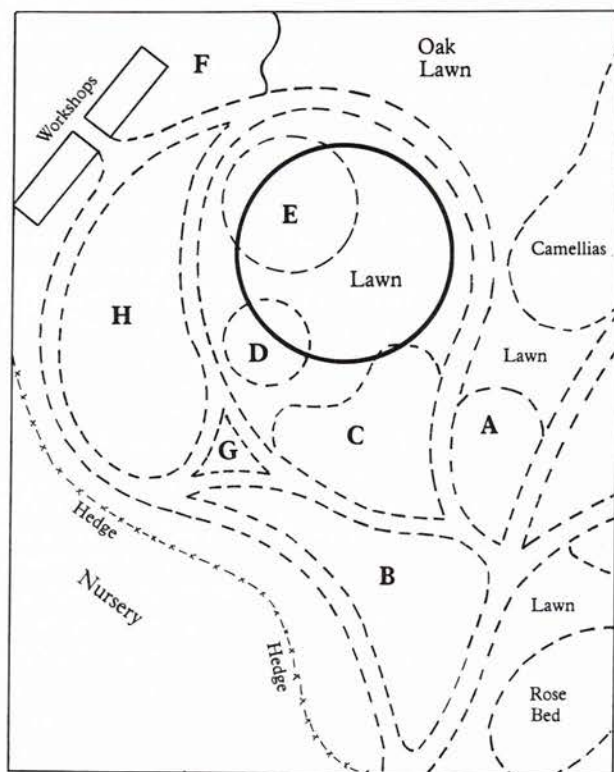
William Guilfoyle (1883)



*Mentha x verticillata*, Mint in J. Dalechamps, *Historia generalis plantarum*. Lugduni, 1586-7.

At this time there were four beds. However, development obviously continued apace because by 1908, Guilfoyle's *Handbook or descriptive guide to the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne* refers to eight beds devoted entirely to medicinal plants included either in the British or American pharmacopoeias. The number of plants was given as nearly 500 in over 200 genera. Every plant was labelled, each label stating the principal properties for which the plant was valued medicinally. See Figure 1 for the layout of the beds at this time, with the position of the new Herb Garden superimposed. An interesting account of Guilfoyle's garden was published in the *Garden gazette* in 1903 entitled 'The medicinal garden: its therapeutics and folklore' by Ernest S. Fysh. He mentioned 56 species growing in Bed A which today is the only bed remaining. As late as 1953, specimens were being taken from this garden to be used for examinations in botany given to pharmacy students.





**Figure 1**

Diagram taken from Guilfoyle's *Handbook or descriptive guide to the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne* of 1908 showing the distribution of eight medicinal beds (A-H). It is interesting to note that the nearby Rose and Camellia Beds are still in existence as are bed A and part of bed C.

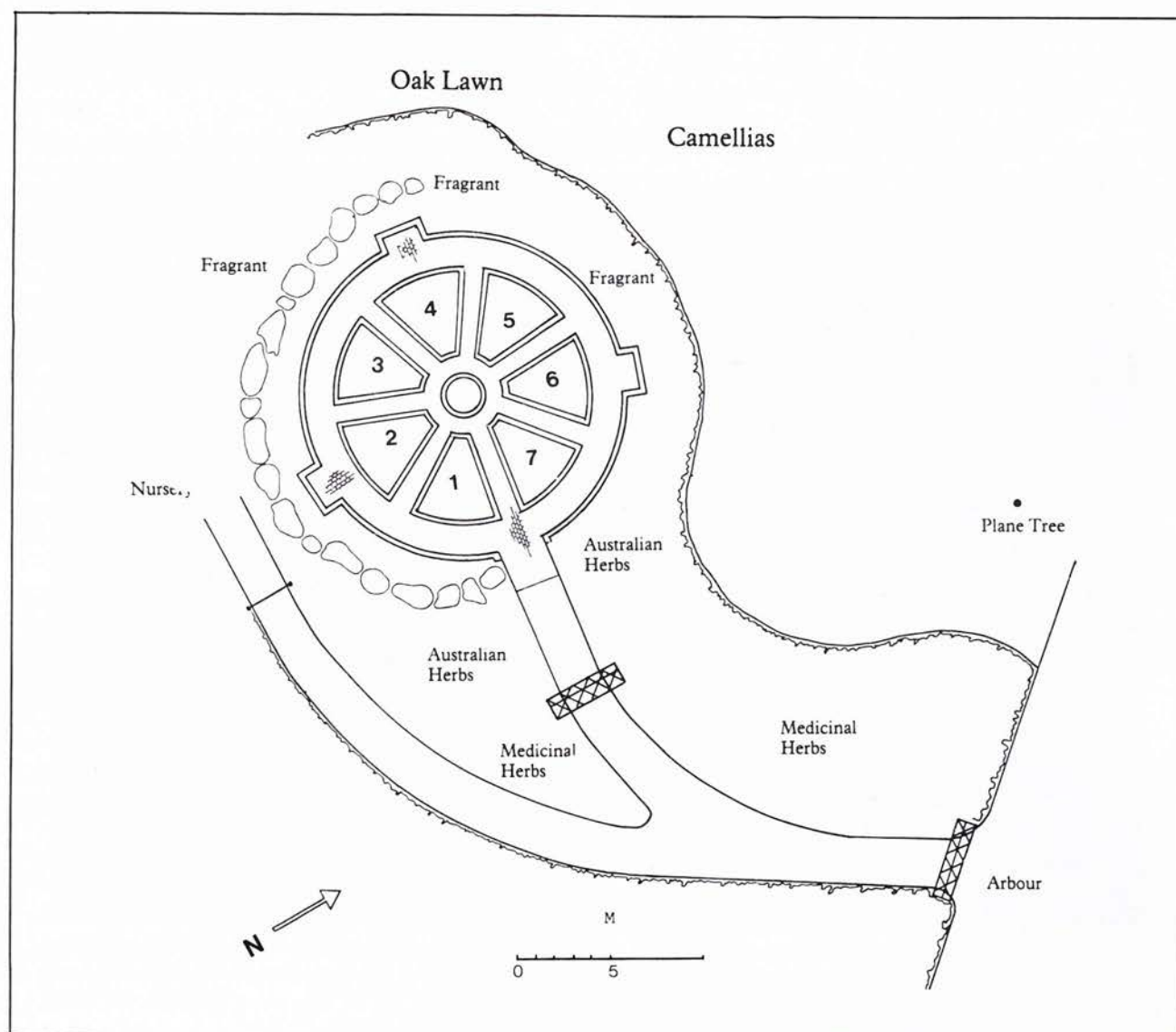
The position of the new Herb Garden has been superimposed.

**Figure 2**

Plan of herb garden showing major plant groups.

Culinary and related herbs:

1. **Labiatae** – Origanums and Cat-plants
2. **Cruciferae, Polygonaceae, Gramineae**
3. **Umbelliferae**
4. **Labiatae** – Thymes and close relatives
5. **Compositae**
6. **Boraginaceae, Rutaceae, Valerianaceae, Alliaceae, Rubiaceae**
7. **Labiatae**





## Design and Construction of the New Garden

The design of the new Herb Garden, which is not based on any specific garden past or present, was chosen from a number of traditional patterns drawn up by Mr John Dyke, a former landscape architect at the Gardens. A simplified version of the plan is given in Figure 2.

The radially symmetrical 'cartwheel' form of the garden reflects the principles of the Elizabethan 'knot' garden. These gardens, probably first established in the mediaeval European monasteries, were formal and symmetrical. Their basic design ranged from simple squares, triangles and rhomboids, to the most detailed scrolls and interlacings such as those found in the motifs on carved furniture, ornamental leather work and designs for textiles. Intricate patterns thus formed were intended to be viewed from above and were generally ornamented with some structure at the intersection of paths.

Because the area for the new garden was on a considerable slope, site preparation involved the levelling of the ground and the laying of a drainage system before brickwork could commence. This has produced a slightly sunken garden that has been terraced with informal rock-work at the southern end. All pathways through the garden have been designed to allow for wheelchair access.

The brickwork was completed by Mr Warren Yates in August 1985 (it was Mr Yates who also laid the bricks in

front of the Kiosk and at the Plant Craft Cottage.) The rough-textured bricks were specially cut to provide angled coping, edging and small pavers; the design also called for much on-site cutting and fitting. Brown mortar was used to complement the warm earth colours, with selected dark pavers forming a transition zone between the new surface and the standard sealed paths. Foliage and flowers are intended to spill over the walls, thus reducing the impact of the hard landscaping and integrating the new structures as fully as possible with the surrounding landscape. Extension of the pathway through the one remaining bed of the old medicinal garden forms the only entrance and exit to the garden. The path passes through two arbours, one of which marks the transition between the old medicinal bed and the new area, the other announcing the Herb Garden at the main pathway. The drainage scheme is radial, run-off being collected at the centre through a grille and conveyed to a pit on the northern edge. An armillary sphere sundial has been chosen as a central focal element to the garden.

The soil used in and around the garden is sandy black loam fortified with pulverised mulch. In the raised beds the top ten centimetres were filled with potting mix. Along the western side of the garden, new soil was graded up to the wall to ensure the effectiveness of peripheral planting in producing a sense of enclosure from within and unobtrusiveness from without. It is hoped that the raised beds will permit better viewing of the plants and improve soil drainage and ease the task of maintenance. Reticulated water is supplied to each of these beds.



W.R. Guilfoyle at the entrance to the Herb Garden, 1903. Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.



The *Cercis siliquastrum*, Judas Tree, adjacent to the wall on the north-western edge, has survived considerable disturbance and is a decorative adjunct in the encircling bed. Polycarbonate sheets have been inserted at the back of the wall to prevent root penetration and similar measures have been taken at the apices of the central beds to inhibit the invasive roots of mints.

## Planting and Maintenance

The major planting of the Herb Garden was completed in Spring 1985 with a few subsequent additions.

A plan of the general planting areas is given in Figure 2. Beds within the 'spokes' of the wheel will contain a comprehensive range of culinary herbs and some of their close relatives, arranged according to botanical families. The surrounding beds display collections of Australian herbs, fragrant-flowered herbs, medicinal plants and fragrant-leaved plants.

While many of the species used have been propagated at the Gardens and were obtained through the international seed exchange program, others have been purchased from specialist nurseries, chiefly Deep Creek Herb Farm, Coora Cottage Herbs and Honeysuckle Cottage. A few plants have been special donations. As with all plants at the Gardens, sources are recorded on computer file and a printout of all plants in the Herb Garden can be easily obtained and updated.

Being one of the few densely planted and semi-formal areas of the Gardens, the Herb Garden is labour-intensive and will be maintained by one member of the Gardens staff with occasional assistance from the Herb Society of Victoria. It is anticipated that someone will be on site at weekends to attend the garden and answer questions about the plants. It is also intended to keep records of plant performance and flowering times. Each year collections will be extended with any newly introduced species or cultivars.

## Herbal Plants

Herbal plants can be grouped according to use – namely culinary, aromatic and medicinal. These three groupings are discussed separately below as well as a fourth grouping of specifically Australian herbs.

### A. Culinary Herbs

*The True Tyme is a speciall helpe to melancholicke and spleneticke diseases, as also to flatulent humours, either in the upper or lower parts of the body.*

John Parkinson (1629)

Culinary herbs have distinctive aromas and they generally inhabit rather warm and seasonally dry areas. There is no doubt that the cooks of ancient Greece and Rome investigated to good effect those plants growing on the Mediterranean hillsides.

*Origanie given in wine is a remedie against the bitings and stingings of venemous beasts, and cureth them that have drunke opium, or the juice of blacke Poppie, or Hemlockes.*

John Gerarde (1597)

Cookery experts agree that culinary herbs are used far too infrequently in English-style cookery. Used in small quantities they stimulate the appetite and digestion as well as accentuating flavours of food, although their dietary value is probably minimal. However, more people are developing their own small kitchen gardens so that fresh herbs are readily available. An awareness of the variety of foods outside the Anglo-Australian tradition has also increased the experimentation with herbs, as has a tendency to use 'natural' products. Among the more recently introduced herbs are those of East Asia such as the Vietnamese Hotmint, *Polygonum odoratum*.



*Geranium tuberosa* in J. Dalechamps, *Historia generalis plantarum*, Lugduni, 1586-7.

In the new Herb Garden three beds have been devoted to the Labiatae which is the most prolific family of culinary herbs and includes the mints, basil, rosemary, sage and savory. The Umbelliferae family has, among others, angelica, caraway, parsley and dill. Other herb families are the Cruciferae and Compositae, with a few representatives from ten or so other families. The organisation of these families in the garden is shown in Figure 1 with mints being at the central 'hub' of each raised bed.



With only about 100 culinary herbs in general use it is hoped to develop a fairly comprehensive collection which will include closely related species for botanical comparison. These will be easily distinguished from the truly culinary herbs whose labels will carry the pictorial symbol. Any larger species, such as the Tree Angelica, have been planted in the garden area to the back of its appropriate 'spoke'.

## B. Aromatic Plants

*And because the breath of flowers is far sweeter in the air (where it comes and goes like the warbling of music) than in the hand, therefore nothing is more fit for that delight, than to know what be the flowers and plants that do best perfume the air.*

Francis Bacon (1627)

The evocative power of plant scents, whether from leaves or flowers, has ensured such plants a special place in horticulture. Plant aromas have inspired the poets through the ages and have been used for effect in a wide range of religious and other social ceremonies and festivals. No doubt we have all enjoyed the familiar smell of the bush and newly mown grass, and are familiar with other favourite scents that inspire special individual associations. The increased intensity of scents at dawn, early evening or after a shower of rain is especially enjoyable.

In the 16th and 17th centuries a host of skills arose around the domestic use of perfumed plants. Numerous recipes were collected for sweetbags, tussie-mussies, pomanders, nosegays, and sweet powders together with scented oils, bath waters, vinegars, tobaccos and a range of confections including syrup-of-cowslips, pastilles-of-clove-carnations and rose lozenges.

Gerarde, writer of one of the most famous early herbals, considered that scents affected various mental states:

*Basil is good for the heart, it taketh away sorrowfulness which cometh of melancholy, and maketh a man merry and glad.*

John Gerarde (1597)

Some of the more traditionally popular groups of fragrant plants include the species roses *Rosa centifolia*, Moss Rose; *R. gallica*, Gallic Rose and *R. damascena*, Musk Rose; the gilliflowers, an old term for the smaller-scented flowers such as violets, primroses and wallflowers, but particularly the clove-scented carnations and pinks, such as *Dianthus caryophyllus*; fragrant shrubs including the early flowering lilacs, some rhododendrons and the winter-flowering *Daphne* and *Chimonanthus*, Wintersweet, and a range of vines including Jasmine and Honeysuckle. To this list must be added the scented-leaved herbs and pelargoniums and the fragrant bulbs.

Representatives from most of these groups have been planted around the southern periphery of the garden among the rockwork; foremost among these is a collection of lavenders chosen for leaf texture and colour as well as their fragrance. A wide range of scented-leaf pelargoniums which are enjoying a period of fashionable popularity forms a special feature, many only recently having been introduced to Australia through the nursery trade. Shrubs have been especially selected to eventually conceal the garden from the

major outside approaches, that is, from the Oak Lawn and the approach pathway. Full enclosure is likely to take several years.

## C. Medicinal Plants

*Calamint killeth all manner of wormes of the belly, if it be drunk with salt and honie: the juice dropped into the eares doth in like matter kill the wormes thereof.*

John Gerarde (1597)



*Foeniculum vulgare*, Fennel in R. Dodonaeus, *Stirpium historiae pemptades sex*. Antverpiae, 1583.

Until the 20th century, the treatment of illness was largely through folk-lore medicine based on plants and the infusions, decoctions and tinctures prepared from them. The accumulated information about such plants, or 'simples' as they were once called, is found in books referred to as pharmacopoeias.



During the early decades of the 20th century, drug and cosmetic research shifted more in the direction of chemically synthesised products. Such products were often versions of plant extracts with the advantage that they could be administered in exact doses. However, the discovery of penicillin, and other antibiotics produced by micro-organisms, created a renewed interest in naturally occurring chemicals and some of the most valuable drugs are still plant-based, such as the powerful pain-killer morphine.

Pharmaceutical research has received inspiration from several sources including ethnobotany which deals with the uses made of plants by native peoples; homeopathy which prescribes small amounts of drugs that would produce similar symptoms to the ailment being treated, and investigation of the alkaloid-rich families Apocynaceae and Solanaceae which have already yielded many useful drugs.

It is hardly necessary to mention that extreme caution should be exercised in any experimentation with medicinal plants.

*Wormwood is good against a stinking breath; it  
keepeth garments also from the moths; it driveth  
away gnats, the bodie being anointed with the oyle  
therof.*

John Gerarde (1597)

In the new Herb Garden the old medicinal plant collection has been extended and the area enlarged to surround the entrance. As well as a range of the more traditional medicinal plants there are several currently popular ones such as *Aloe vera*.

*The waterlily flowers being made into oile, as yee do  
make oile of roses, doth coole and refrigerate,  
causing sweat and quiet sleepe, and putteth away all  
venereous dreames.*

John Gerarde (1597)

## D. Australian Herbs

The section of the Herb Garden devoted to Australian herbs contains interesting and useful plants ranging from the fragrant-flowered and leaved to those used by the colonial pioneers and others of ethnobotanical significance – having been used by aboriginal man for food, medicine, dyes, fibres or poisons. Most of these herbs have been planted on either side of the path approaching the main garden, this being one of the hotter and more exposed parts.

Arid conditions over much of the continent appear to have resulted in the evolution of aromatic chemicals in the native flora. This is very marked in the family Myrtaceae which gives the bush its familiar aroma as exemplified by the genus *Eucalyptus*, famed for its oil. *Eucalyptus polybractea*, Blue-leaved Mallee, used for the distillation of essential oils, is one of the most sought-after products for pharmaceutical preparations. This tree occurs in the Bendigo area in Victoria and the Wyalong district of New South Wales. It is hoped to establish a specimen of this mallee in the garden. Among the most notable scented-leaved species is a number of lemon-scented shrubs such as *Leptospermum petersonii* (formerly *L. citriodora*) and *Backhousia citriodora*. *Backhousia anisata*, has a strong aniseed aroma when bruised, and there are several

mint-scented prostantheras. Among the fragrant-flowered species is a number of the banksias, boronias and acacias. Most widely known among the latter is *Acacia farnesiana* which is cultivated throughout the south of France for its 'Oil of Cassie', used extensively in the perfume industry. Of the more than 500 species employed medicinally, the majority come from the tropical rainforests of Queensland or arid regions. Several of those used by Aborigines are represented.

It is rather surprising that the only native commercially-grown food plant is the *Macadamia integrifolia*, and while it appears that many native plants are edible, to our tastes few are palatable. However a wealth of research still needs to be done in this area and the Herb Society has already accumulated much information and literature on the various uses of native plants.

## Interpretation

A major function of the Herb Garden will be to provide accurate, up-to-date information on herb nomenclature and therefore all plants will be permanently labelled. Labels in the central beds will be much smaller than those used generally in the Gardens but will be of the same general appearance, employing the new method of labelling, using brown, photosensitive metal plates. Information on the labels includes the Latin name, common name and country of origin. In addition, a pictorial symbol in red will indicate the plants' properties: poisonous, aromatic, culinary, medicinal or insect-repellant. Obviously some herbs may exhibit two or more of these properties.

An information board will provide general background details about the garden and plants and a brochure or booklet will be produced to expand the information available on the herbs, emphasising identification and nomenclature. Various interpretive 'trails' will be investigated.

The identification service offered by the Gardens has solved many of the puzzles of the more unusual plants being sold and exchanged nowadays. The Gardens staff has co-operated with the wholesale herb nursery business in Victoria, attempting to introduce some stability into the names of herbs, and members of the staff have written articles on the identification and nomenclature of several of the major herb genera, these articles being published in the *Herb age*, the journal of the Herb Society of Victoria.

Overall, the planning and development of the garden has taken nearly four years. The final result should fulfil a particular need for the development of comprehensive collections of herbs that are accurately named, as well as displaying many of the 'old-fashioned' or 'cottage' plants that are enjoying a current resurgence of interest. It is intended to keep records of the performance of the various herbs and their flowering times and to experiment with new introductions. We are sure that the Herb Garden will be a valuable addition to our displays, harking back as it does to the first arrangements of plants for scientific, practical and aesthetic purposes.

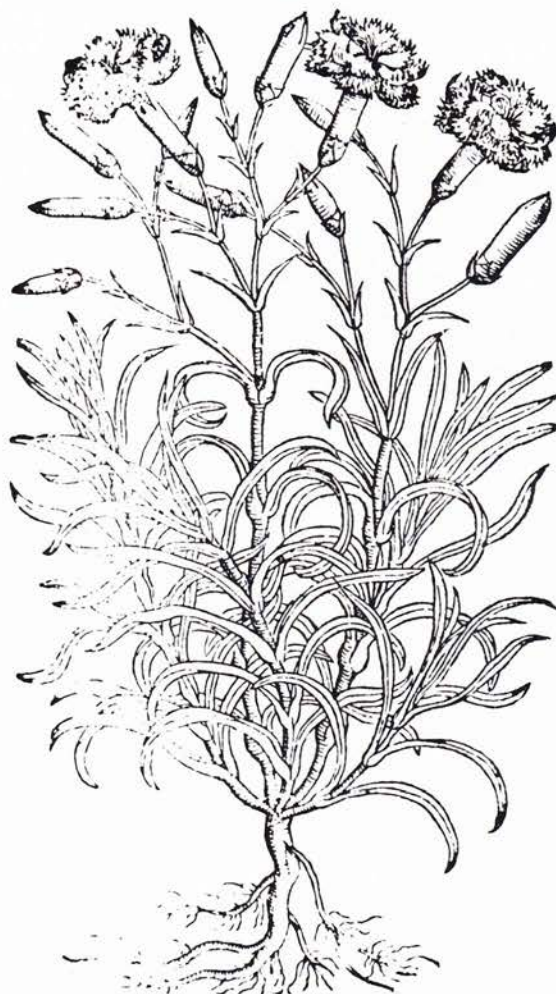


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*Tagetes patula*, Marigold in R. Dodonaeus *Stirpium historiae pemptades sex*. Antverpiae, 1583.



*Dianthus caryophyllus*, Carnation or Clove pink in R. Dodonaeus *Stirpium historiae pemptades sex*. Antverpiae, 1583.



# Camellias of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

Michael Looker, Horticultural Botanist,  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

The *Camellia* collection in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, is among the most historically interesting in the country. It contains examples of *Camellia* cultivars, species and hybrids from the beginning of their culture in Australia, many of which can no longer be obtained in the trade. The collection was initially developed by William Guilfoyle (Director 1873-1909) and later greatly expanded by Alex Jessep (Director 1941-1951). These men are considered to be two of Australia's greatest early *Camellia* enthusiasts.

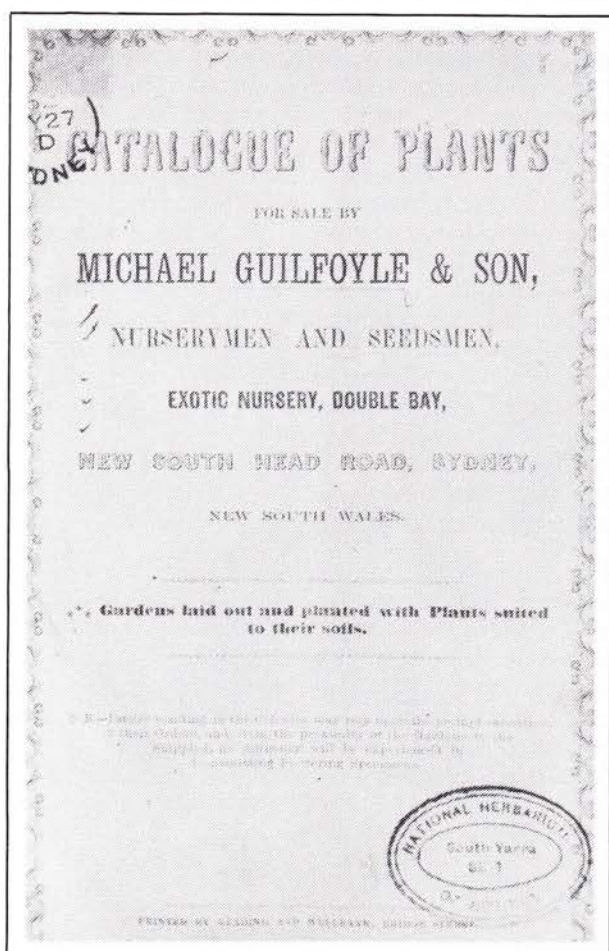
A list by Alexander Macleay entitled 'Plants received at Elizabeth Bay' is said to contain the first record of camellias in Australia. Macleay arrived in Sydney early in January 1826 to take up the position of Colonial Secretary to Governor Darling and about a year later began developing a garden on land he was granted at

Elizabeth Bay. The first entry of camellias in the list was for unnamed *Camellia japonica* seedlings; however, the second entry named four cultivars – 'Crassinervis', 'Gloriosa', 'Grandiflora' and 'Coccinea'. A plant of 'Coccinea' was apparently identified a number of years ago by Alex Jessep in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens but no record of its whereabouts currently exists.

William Macarthur of 'Camden Park' was long thought to be the first importer of camellias into Australia before Macleay's papers were found. His first camellias arrived on board the Sovereign in 1831 and included, among others, the cultivars 'Welbankiana'\*, 'Alba Plena'\*, and 'Anemonaeflora', all of which can be seen in the Gardens collection. Although Macarthur is now not considered to be the earliest introducer of camellias, he is recognised as being the first major supplier in Australia. Many new cultivars were raised at 'Camden Park', including the famous Australian cultivar *Camellia* 'Aspasia'. This cultivar and some of its sports – 'Lady Lock'\*, 'Otahuhu Beauty'\* and 'Just Sue'\* also form part of the Gardens collection.

Camellias in the middle of the 19th century were very much in fashion in Europe and this coincided with the large influx of immigrants from this part of the world to Australia. Interest in obtaining camellias was thus generated in the new country and led a number of nurserymen of the time to import and propagate many *Camellia* cultivars. One of the foremost nurseries was Michael Guilfoyle's 'Exotic Nursery' at Double Bay and it was of course Michael Guilfoyle's son, William, who became Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. William Guilfoyle planted many camellias in the Gardens, a large number of which were seedlings raised in the Sydney nursery. He also established the *Camellia* Bed on the corner of the Oak Lawn where it can still be seen today. Examples of the Guilfoyle seedlings maintained in the Gardens collection are: 'Helenor', 'Metallica', 'Miss Mort', 'Nicetus', 'Bronachia', 'Cadroe' and 'Odoratissima'.

Another nursery propagating camellias at about the same time as Guilfoyle's 'Exotic Nursery' was Shepherd & Co. This nursery was started by one of Australia's first nurserymen, Thomas Shepherd who died in 1835. Shepherd & Co, however, continued trading and in 1862 listed the following camellias: 'Azura', 'Leviathan', 'Speciosissima', 'Shepherdii' and 'Chats'. The cultivars 'Leviathan', 'Speciosissima', and



Front cover of Michael Guilfoyle's 1862 nursery catalogue.

\* Cultivars still available in Victorian nursery trade.



'Chats' are in the Gardens collection. Particularly noteworthy is the cultivar 'Speciosissima' which flowers prolifically on the corner of the Camellia Bed each year.

Other important nurserymen propagating camellias in the later part of the 19th century were Silas Sheather and Alexander Hunter. Silas Sheather, who on arrival in Australia was initially employed at 'Camden Park', raised many of his own seedlings of which 'Prince Frederick William'\* and 'Sheatheri' are examples growing in the Gardens. Alexander Hunter served as an apprentice with Shepherd & Co. and in about 1870 established a nursery of his own. He later moved to Somersby from his initial nursery site at Ashfield and took with him a number of unnamed seedlings. It was not until the property changed ownership to a Mr G. Linton that the seedlings were named and distributed. The cultivars 'Alexander Hunter' and 'Ruth Kemp' are two examples of these seedlings growing in the Gardens.

The first Victorian nursery catalogue containing camellias is that of John J. Rule which listed 82 cultivars in 1862. At least one third of these were 'Camden Park' seedlings including the cultivar 'Euterpe' which Professor E.G. Waterhouse, in an article in the Australian Camellia Research Society magazine of 1962, stated that he considered to be the original name for the camellia labelled 'Pillida' in the Gardens. The Cremourne Nurseries in Richmond later raised and named many camellias including the famous 'Aspasia' sport 'Lady Loch'\* of 1898. Another camellia in the Gardens collection raised by the Cremourne Nurseries is the cultivar 'Mrs H. Boyce'.



*Camellia japonica* 'Welbankiana' in *The botanical cabinet*, 12, pl. 1198, 1826.

Towards the end of the last century and early this century the popularity of camellias began to wane, causing a large number of cultivars to be deleted from nursery catalogues.

The introduction of the *Camellia* cultivar 'The Czar' is considered by many camellia enthusiasts to have revived the popularity of camellias in Melbourne and to a certain extent in Sydney. 'The Czar' was first commercially released by R.W. Hodgins of Essendon who obtained propagating material from a plant growing at Breslin's Nursery in Camberwell after Breslin's death in 1912. It was not until about 1930 though, when the plants distributed by Hodgins became established and began to flower well, that the popularity of 'The Czar' increased. The demand quickly became so large that Melbourne nurserymen apparently struggled to keep up supply. In the meantime, Breslin's original stock plant, left *in situ* at Riversdale Road, Camberwell, lived on more or less unnoticed until the early 1950s, when it was transferred to the Royal Botanic Gardens by Alex Jessep where it still continues to flourish.

In 1954 the Australian Camellia Research Society produced its first journal. The Society's founding members were G. Hazlewood, Dr C.R. Merrillees, Professor E.G. Waterhouse and A.W. Jessep, all of whom researched the history of camellias in Australia and raised many new cultivars. Professor Waterhouse is credited with raising hundreds of new seedlings including the first reported fully double *x williamsii* hybrids (*C. japonica* *x C. saluenensis*) - 'E.G. Waterhouse'\* and 'Shocking Pink'.

For the Gardens the most important member of this founding group was its President, Alex Jessep. He researched and named many of the old *Camellia* cultivars growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens and added many important new and old cultivars to them. The cultivar 'William Honey'\* growing in the Camellia Bed was named by Alex Jessep after the gardener William Honey who worked on the section at the time. Near the original specimen of 'William Honey' is the *Camellia* 'A.W. Jessep', a seedling raised by the late Dr Clendinnen at Kallista from the seed parent 'Sodekagieshi'. Also in the Camellia Bed is a specimen of *C. granthamiana* which was first introduced into Australia from China by Jessep in 1956, only one year after it was discovered in the wild. Although the records are fragmented, the specimen growing in the Bed could be one of three original imported scions.

The Royal Botanic Gardens has continued to introduce new camellias to the collection and has over the past several years concentrated on adding new *Camellia* species rather than cultivars to the collection. Three years ago Horticultural staff began a study of plant cultivars in Victoria in which a photographic reference set of camellias was compiled. This reference set contains approximately 500-600 *Camellia* slides and has enabled staff to identify *Camellia* cultivars as part of the Herbarium identification service.

Only a small number of the 600 or so camellias grown in the Gardens has been mentioned throughout this article, however, there are still many more old cultivars in the collection, especially of English and European origin which are of great interest historically to the



development of *Camellia* culture both in Australia and overseas. A list of some of these together with those mentioned in the article and indicating where they may be found in the Gardens is given on the following page.

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*Camellia japonica* 'Anemoneaeflora' in G. Nicholson, *The illustrated dictionary of gardening*. London, 1884, vol. 1.



*Camellia granthamiana* (x 3/4)



## Some of the older *Camellia japonica* cultivars in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens

Cultivar	Introduced into Cultivation	Location in Gardens
'A.W. Jessep'	(Aust 1950 R.B.G. Melb)	Camellia Bed
'Alba Plena'	(Ch to Eng [Capt Connor] 1792)	Bed behind Lake View Shelter
'Alexander Hunter'	(Aust 1941 Hunter)	Lake-side bed between Kiosk and Separation Tree Shelter
'Anemonaeflora'	(Ch to Eng [Kew Gdns] 1806)	North border of Western Lawn
'Aspasia'	(Aus 1850 Macarthur)	Camellia Bed
'Bronachia'	(Guilfoyle 1866)	Corner opposite Napoleon's Willow
'Cadroe'	(Aus 1866 Guilfoyle)	North border of Western Lawn
'Cassandra'	(Aus 1850 Macarthur)	Camellia Bed
'Chandleri'	(Eng 1825 Chandler)	Camellia Bed
'Cup of Beauty'	(R. Fortune 1850)	North border of Western Lawn
'De la Reine'	Belg 1846 M. Vavenbergh)	Camellia Bed
'Dorothy Jessep'	(Aus 1952 R.B.G. Melb)	Bed opposite entrance to Director's Residence on the Oak Lawn
'Duchesse de Berry'	(It 1855 Lechi)	Bed between Magnolia triangle and Nursery
'Francois Wiot'	(Belg 1868)	Camellia Bed
'Gloire de Nantes'	(Fr 1895 Guichard)	Camellia Bed
'Helenor'	(Aus 1866 Guilfoyle)	Camellia Bed
'Henri Favre'	(Fr 1839 Favre Nantes)	Camellia Bed
'Iris'	(Aus 1868 Baptist Sydney)	Camellia Bed
'Isabella'	(Aus 1868 Macarthur)	Camellia Bed
'Just Sue'	(Aus 1971 R.H. Hall Tea Tree Gully)	Bottom end of bed next to Lilly Pilly hedge near E Gate
'Lady Loch'	(Aus 1898 Cremourne Nsy Melb)	Bed opposite entrance to Director's Residence on the Oak Lawn
'Leviathan'	(Aus 1862 Shepherd)	Camellia Bed
'Mme. Louis van Houtte'	(Belg 1880 L.v. Houtte)	Camellia Bed
'Mariana'	('Red Waratah') (Aus 1874 Macarthur)	Camellia Bed
'Metallica'	(Aus 1877 Guilfoyle)	Camellia Bed
'Miss Mort'	(Aus 1866 Guilfoyle)	Corner opposite Napoleon's Willow
'Mrs H. Boyce'	(Aus 1900 Cremourne Nurseries)	Camellia Bed
'Nivalis'	(Eng 1836 Loddiges)	Camellia Bed
'Odoratissima'	(Aus 1866 Guilfoyle)	Camellia Bed
'Otahuhu Beauty'	(NZ 1904 Lippiat Otahuhu)	Camellia Bed
'Pilida'	(Aus 1945 R.B.G. Melb)	Bed on the Oak Lawn next to path from Herbarium to Nursery
'Prince Frederick William'	(Aus 1875 Sheather)	Camellia Bed
'Ruth Kemp'	(Aus 1941 Hunter)	North border of Western Lawn
'Sacco'	(It 1851 Sacco Milan)	Bed on the Oak Lawn next to path from Herbarium to Nursery
'Sheatheri'	(Aus 1879 Sheather)	Camellia Bed
'Somersby'	(Aus 1945 Camellia Grove)	Camellia Bed
'Speciosissima'	(Aus 1862 Shepherd)	Camellia Bed
'The Czar'	(Aus 1913 N. Breslin Melb)	Camellia Bed
'Welbankiana'	(Ch to Eng [Welbanks] 1820)	Bed opposite entrance to Director's Residence on the Oak Lawn
'William Bull'	(Aus 1878 Shepherd)	Bed opposite entrance to Director's Residence on the Oak Lawn
'William Honey'	(Aus 1955 A.W. Jessep Melb)	Camellia Bed
'Woodsii'	(Eng 1831 Chandler)	Camellia Bed

### Key to Information Within Brackets.

Sample: (Ch to Eng [Kew Gdns] 1806) = Cultivar obtained from China and first cultivated in Kew Gardens, England in 1806.

(Aus 1862 Shepherd) = Cultivar formed in Australia by Shepherd in 1862.

**Key:** Aus = Australia  
Ch = China  
Eng = England  
Jap = Japan

It = Italy  
Fr = France  
NZ = New Zealand  
Belg = Belgium



# Richard T.M. Pescott

(1905 – 1986)

Richard Thomas Martin Pescott was born in Melbourne in 1905 and, after a crippling battle with arthritis, died on Saturday February 22nd this year.

He succeeded Mr Alex Jessep, another agricultural scientist, to become the seventh Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens from 1957 until 1970, when he retired at 65.

Dick Pescott, as he was known to everyone with whom he worked, graduated in 1929 with a Master of Agricultural Science degree and spent 15 years with the Department of Agriculture as Government Entomologist. From there, in 1944, he became Director of the National Museum of Victoria. He remained at the Museum until he came to the Gardens.

He was on the Zoological Board of Victoria for about eight years, and was President of the Royal Society, and Vice-president of the Royal Horticultural Society. He was also an honorary life Member of the Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation.

A keen naturalist, Dick transferred the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria from rooms in the Royal Society to a small room in the National Herbarium. An able administrator, his ambition to unite the Museum with the Botanic Gardens on the old Observatory site was never realised, but was one of several reasons for his coming to the Gardens.

His efforts ultimately led to the granting of the Royal prefix to the Botanic Gardens in 1958/59.

Dick's talent as an historian is what posterity will probably most appreciate. Following his history of the National Museum of Victoria, he set out to balance the historical account of botanical science and horticulture. He felt that Mueller's biographers had stolen the limelight from Guilfoyle, and he undertook the challenge to provide a factual account of William R. Guilfoyle. In this he was highly successful. The history of the Royal Botanic Gardens was started after he retired. It was Dick Prescott's greatest achievement towards enhancing the international reputation of these Gardens.

Among his other achievements in horticulture was his tireless work to get gardening recognised as a skilled trade, and his work with the M.M. Gibson Trust in selecting the Cranbourne Annexe site for a garden for growing and displaying native plants.

In all his work he was supported by Gwen, his wife, and to her and their daughter we extend our gratitude and deepest sympathy.

David M. Churchill  
Director & Government Botanist  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
and National Herbarium



Dick Pescott planting an *Eucalyptus guilfoylei*, Yellow tingle tingle, on the Huntingfield Lawn on the day of his retirement as Director and Government Botanist.



# Book Reviews

## **The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney: a history 1816 – 1985**

Gilbert, Lionel Arthur.

Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 1986.

ISBN 0 19 5547195

210 pages. Recommended retail price: \$39.95.

Lionel Gilbert, teacher and historian, completed his PhD thesis, 'Botanical investigation of New South Wales (1811-1880)', in 1971. Active in archivism, genealogy and museum foundation, he is very well qualified to write the history of a botanical institution. This work sets a new standard for histories of this kind.

The book is beautifully written, full of detail, professionally documented and well indexed. Out of the detail shine the history of botanical exploration and taxonomy in New South Wales and the glory of the people who shaped the Royal Botanic Gardens as an institution. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney includes, of course, the National Herbarium of New South Wales. The author does not restrict himself to the Directors but deals with a large cast of supporting staff who provided continuity between the eras of the separate Directors. Individuals appear as real people except where propriety forbids detailing the foibles as well as the achievements of current staff.

Gilbert is less successful in illuminating the physical development of the Gardens. The information is there but the theme does not appear to be a major concern of the author. The many interesting illustrations are not essential to the text and this is reflected in the design of the book. Readers who expect a lightweight, profusely illustrated account of how the Sydney Gardens developed may be disappointed.

The problems and concerns of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney through a century and a half are very similar to those of the Melbourne Gardens and Herbarium and I recommend this book to anyone interested in the Melbourne Gardens. The book's appeal is, however, much wider and should be

appreciated by anyone interested in the survival and blossoming of an institution which has been in existence from the early days of settlement in Australia. Others will enjoy dipping in to appreciate the perceptive and often amusing vignettes of the principal characters and their handling of contemporary problems.

Gilbert has headed each chapter with a particularly apposite quotation. One such is:

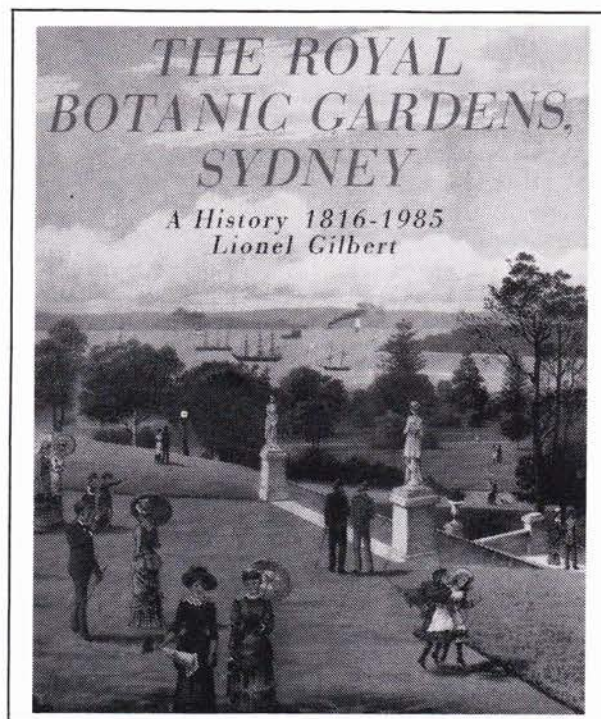
*... although the Gardens are magnificent and a priceless part of our heritage, we were inclined to take them so much for granted . . .*

The author, Neville Wran, was in a position to do something about this and did!

Peter Lumley

Principal Horticultural Scientist

Royal Botanic Gardens



## **Ferns and allied plants of Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia**

Duncan, Betty D. and Isaac, Golda.

Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1986.

ISBN 0 552 84262 3

258 pages. Recommended retail price: \$25.00.

Now is the time to appreciate the ferns of south-eastern Australia. The publishers have achieved a standard of excellence in what must rank as their most distinguished production. The charming cover drawings of Celia Rosser, the exquisite detail in the coloured plates and black and white photography by Bruce Fuhrer, and the intrinsic beauty, delicate and

complex structure of this primitive group of plants described by the two authors, enhance a text that sets a standard for botanical publications that will be hard to follow.

From first visual impression to the detailed photography, cover artwork and text, this book is stunning. Use it as a coffee table conversation piece, or as a botanist's field guide to the ferns of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, you will find this a book to delight, instruct, and guide. It can be recommended without any reservation as a gift for discerning friends.

The book is intended for both amateurs interested in ferns as well as specialists. There is useful horticultural



information on most species as well as comprehensive instructions for the propagation of ferns. One surprise to me is that none of the fern nurseries or burgeoning fern societies have been named.

To help the reader in this carefully planned work, there are numerous and excellent illustrations, a good index, glossary of botanical terms, as well as descriptions and keys of all the fern species found to date in south-eastern Australia.

The most fascinating and original key to the genera is a dichotomous (rarely trichotomous) one-page foldout key that combines both diagnostic and descriptive characters.

Those who have been inspired by Dr Kenneth Sporne's Cambridge undergraduate lectures and practical classes on the Pteridophytes will recognise the impact of that great Pteridologist in the pages of this book, and a justification for sabbatical study leave for Australians. The detail of the sporangia, stipes and stems in cross section (only the spores are missing) provide a useful guide to the incredible range from primitive to advanced anatomy that has evolved in Australian fern flora.

The text is well written and the liberal use of locality maps (for Victoria only) provides a useful guide to the regional distribution and areas where species are in greatest abundance.

The inclusion of the most recent fern discoveries from the mainland and Bass Strait islands, reflects the perceptive field work and New Zealand experience of one of the authors (Betty Duncan). It is the most up to date account of the ferns of the region.

The nomenclatural and systematic treatment would satisfy the most fastidious botanist. This is achieved

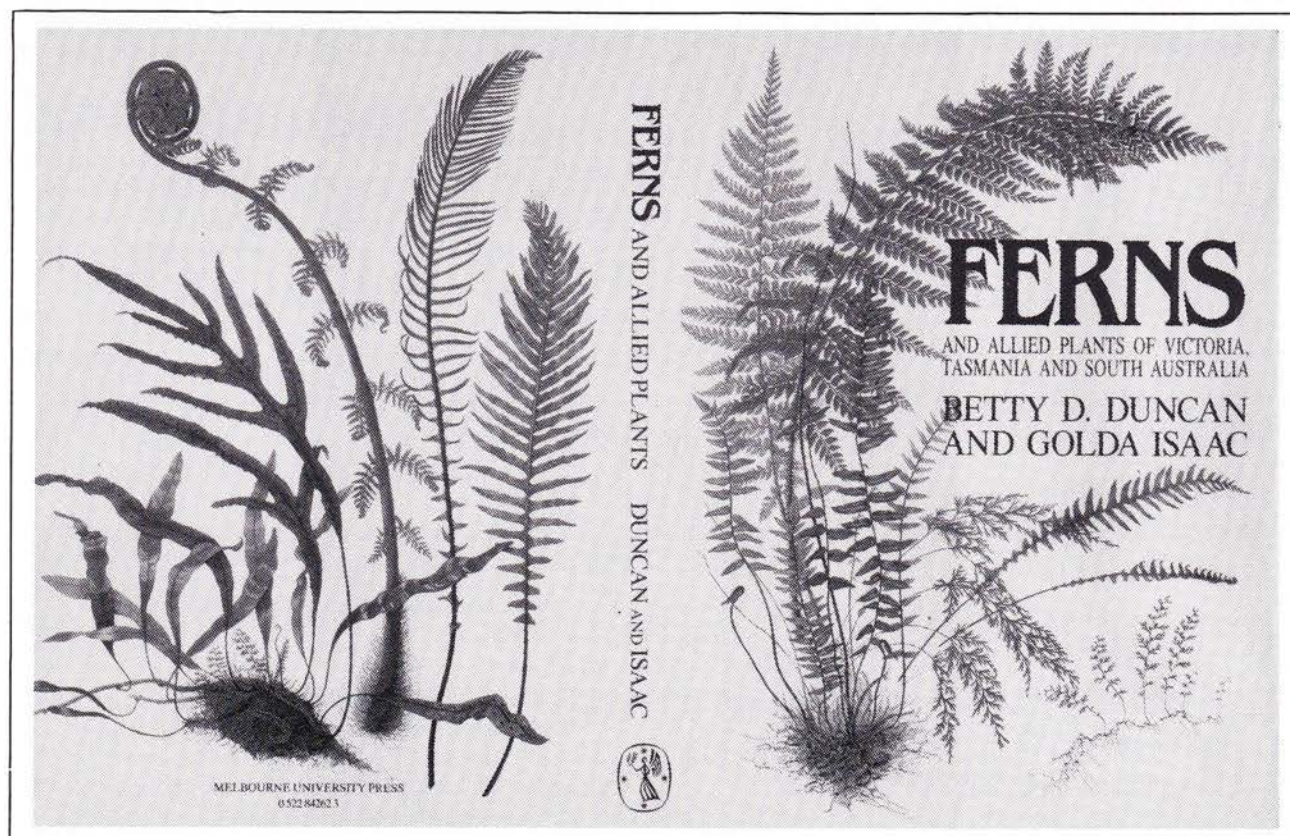
through the presentation of alternative systems and names, and refreshingly original observations and drawings of the morphology around which polemic debates have ranged for decades. The tree-ferns exemplify this approach and bring the readers right up to date; saving them from having to travel hundreds of kilometres, brave the leeches, cut the hand sections, take the photomicrographs and make the anatomical drawings and then publish this hard earned information.

A glossary of the authors of the plants named in the book serves to remind us that taxonomy virtually became extinct (it is still an endangered science) in Victoria, with the death of Mueller in 1896. The economic impact on the botanial, horticultural and agricultural industries of Australia as well as the inconvenience of nomenclatural changes and its impact on conservation, is a direct consequence of parsimonious support of taxonomic science.

In this context, it is a sobering fact that out of the 76 taxonomists who described the ferns covered by this book, only four were Australian! The imperative to pay tribute to both Golda Isaac and Betty Duncan is best shown by promoting this outstanding modern treatment of our ferns.

The book brings credit to Monash University, its Botany Department and staff who have supported the authors, botanical illustrator and photographer for more than a decade.

David M. Churchill  
Director & Government Botanist  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
and National Herbarium





# Sesquicentennial Celebrations in the Gardens

One of the final events in Victoria's 150th anniversary year was a spectacular floral display on Fountain Island in the Ornamental Lake. The superb show, with its refreshing green and white theme, celebrated the various projects initiated during the year to conserve and enrich the State's natural heritage. It was officially opened on November 3rd by Their Royal Highnesses, The Prince and Princess of Wales who cut the three-tiered birthday cake of white carnations which formed the central feature of the display.

Earlier in the year Ms Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, unveiled a bronze sculpture of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller KCMG, first Government Botanist of Victoria and Director of the Gardens 1857-1873. The bust, situated near the Kiosk, was donated as part of a \$150 000 grant from 15 leading German-Australian companies to mark the contribution of German migrants to Victoria's development. The grant also paid for rejuvenation programs in provincial botanic gardens around the state and for the labelling of plants in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Wales crossing the Bailey bridge from Fountain Island.



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# Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cash Receipts and Expenditure for Period Ended 28/2/1987

## Receipts

	1986/87 To 30/6/86	1985/86 Year
Subscriptions	3,405.00	6,223.00
Donations	2,034.00	1,046.45
Excursions/Functions	15,326.00	16,601.70
Sales	2,420.96	7,341.74
Interest (Bank)	1,248.23	905.67
	<u>\$24,434.19</u>	<u>\$32,118.56</u>

## Less Expenses

Donations/Projects	2,306.00	619.05
Furniture & Equipment	767.12	2,394.37
Excursions/Functions	11,477.80	15,094.27
Purchases	1,840.03	1,784.20
Newsletter	1,023.17	1,874.80
Printing & Stationery	274.66	906.06
Administration	1,089.72	1,429.79
Other	— 77.94	843.24
	<u>\$18,700.56</u>	<u>\$24,945.78</u>
Surplus of receipts over expenditure	<u>\$5,733.63</u>	<u>\$7,172.78</u>

## Bank Balance

Current A/C	1,206.49
Deposit A/C	<u>17,248.23</u>
	<u>\$18,454.72</u>

## Subscription Form for New Members

Annual Subscription:	
Family Member	\$20.00
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Enclosed is a cheque/money order for \$ ....., being the annual subscription as a ..... member to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

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Birdwood Avenue  
South Yarra, Victoria 3141



# Spring Program

## Tuesday September 9th

Dr Sophie Ducker will speak on the System Garden at the University of Melbourne. Herbarium Auditorium, 5.30 pm.

## October 11th-19th

**Botanical art exhibition** showing works by Jenny Phillips, Collin Woolcott and Celia Rosser. Herbarium Auditorium, weekdays 11.00 am-4.30 pm; week-ends 10.30 am-4.00 pm. Please note extension of time to Sunday 19th by popular demand.

## November 7th-16th

Celebration of the opening of the new Herb Garden with special displays in the Gardens.

## November 5th-April 30th, 1987

**Touch Wood** – an enchanting exhibition depicting some of the folk-lore, customs and traditions that have surrounded plants down through the ages. Marquee in Gardens bed near Kiosk. Weekdays 10.00 am-4.00 pm, weekends 11.00 am-5.00 pm.

Over the exhibition period, the Voluntary Guides will be offering a special walk **In Touch with Plants** which illustrates our use of plants both yesteryear and today.

For further information, please contact Miss Eva Best, telephone number 569 8777.

## Saturday November 15th

Visit to 'Hascombe', the property of Sir Thomas and Lady Ramsay and to 'Alton' owned by Mrs Shirley Nicholas. Bus departs from the Herbarium at 9.45 am for Mt Macedon.

## Saturday November 22nd

**The State of the Garden** – half-day seminar with a panel of speakers discussing conservation, education and recreation issues with respect to future planning in the Gardens. Herbarium Auditorium, 2.00 pm-6.00 pm.

## Friday December 12th

Friends' Christmas Party, Gardens Kiosk.

Further details on all these activities, costs, booking procedures, etc. can be found in the Spring issue of the Friends quarterly newsletter, *Botanic news*.

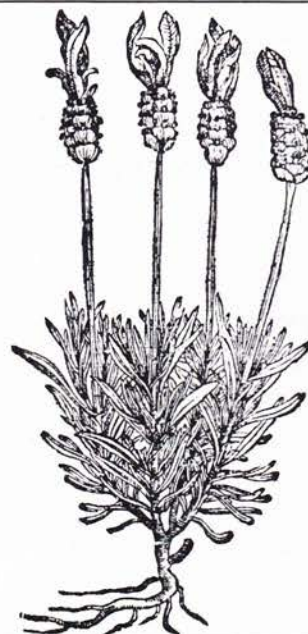
## Shop News

The Friends' Shop will be repositioned in the western wing of the Kiosk and *open daily* during the duration of the **Touch Wood** exhibition.

The increase in space will allow a greater range of stock to be carried, including gardening books, tea-towels, two new letter-cards and a postcard, and a gardener's note-book with beautiful illustrations by Anita Podwyszynski, Botanical Illustrator, National Herbarium.

These are in addition to the usual stock of postcards, greeting cards, posters and prints.

During the exhibition period it is anticipated that renovations will be carried out on the Friends' Shop itself to increase its space and facilities.





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**Acknowledgement**

Many thanks to The City Gardener, Armadale and West Richmond  
for their financial assistance towards the production of the front  
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