



Spring 2013

Botanic News

FRIENDS of the ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS
MELBOURNE INC.

Terrarium Workshop
Saturday 14 September

Growing Friends' Plant Sale
Saturday 5 October
Sunday 6 October

**Art Exhibition – From the
Forest to the Foreshore**
Saturday 5 - Sunday 20 October



by Cathy Trinca

I am very pleased to announce the successful merger of the Friends with the Plant Craft Cottage, following months of talks, two Special General Meetings and the updating of the Friends' constitution. We welcome with open arms the new PCC members of the Friends, and hope they enjoy their membership. For the Friends the merger opens up a new range of activities at the Cottage for members and further opportunities to volunteer. If you haven't been there, do pay the Cottage a visit. You will be rewarded with friendly welcomes and fantastic crafts on display and for sale.

A number of Friends took the opportunity to meet and welcome the new Director and Chief Executive of the Gardens, Tim Entwisle, before the Friends' Special General Meeting in May. New members will have the opportunity to meet and hear him speak at the next New Members' Welcome on October 9. If you are new to the Friends, do come along to the Welcome where you can meet the committee conveners, hear about our activities and have a guided walk through the Gardens afterwards with a Voluntary Guide.

From the Forest to the Foreshore – Natural History: Fungi, Ferns and their Allies is the title of the next exhibition being presented by the Friends' Botanical Illustrators group at Domain House commencing on 5 October. It will only run for

two weeks. A flyer is included in this edition of *Botanic News*. Do make a time to visit this showcase of our talented artist members, and don't forget to vote for the People's Prize while you're there.

Why not combine your visit to the exhibition with one to the Growing Friends' Spring Plant Sale where you will find a range of rare and interesting plants, on the weekend of 5 and 6 October.

The Friends has become more accessible to members in the workforce. Recently two lectures have been held on Sundays as well as more evening lectures. Each quarter a weekend hands-on workshop is held together with weekend botanic art classes and Beginners' Workshops.

Don't forget the Friends' AGM on Monday 11 November; join us at 5.30 pm for a glass of wine and the chance to catch up with friends. The winners of the 2014 Scholarships and Volunteer Service Awards will be announced, and there will be an interesting speaker. I look forward to seeing many of you there.



Annual General Meeting

The Friends' Annual General Meeting will be held at 6 pm, with refreshments at 5.30 pm, on Monday 11 November 2013.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Friends' office. Council members are elected for two years. This year Susan Chandler (Vice-President), Adnan Mansour (Secretary), Richard Kirsner and Marta Salamon (both ordinary members), are due to retire. All are eligible for re-election.

Nominations are to be lodged with the Secretary at Gate Lodge by Friday 11 October 2013.

Adnan Mansour, Secretary

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Front cover image: Malcolm Howie (1900 - 1936)

?*Coltricia laeta* [determination by J.H. Willis; current name *Rigidoporus laetus*]

State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

Above: Pansies

Photo: Jennifer Marshall

by **Tim Entwisle** Director and Chief Executive

Power Plants

Plants live by converting the sun's energy and carbon dioxide into sugars and oxygen. We live because they do this. From our scientists and horticulturists to our teachers and volunteer guides, we should never forget the fundamental equation 'plants = life'.

Green plants have been what we call photosynthesising for more than half a billion years. Humans on the other hand have only recently put serious effort into trapping the energy from the sun and here at the Royal Botanic Gardens we've just installed our first banks of photovoltaic cells to power the Working Wetlands Project. The solar power generated from these cells will offset about 60 per cent of the project's energy needs, with the rest coming from the purchase of 'green power'.

You won't see them (hence no heritage impacts), but the photovoltaic cells are on the top of five buildings in the Works Yard, the Visitor Centre and the Herbarium building. A digital display in the Visitor Centre will explain their contribution to the Working Wetlands Project as well as show the energy they are producing in real time. The cells, their installation and this interpretation were all funded by the Commonwealth Government.



One of the productive roofs at RBG Melbourne

Photo: Grant Cameron

Plant life goes on

I'm sure you will have all heard about the senseless vandalism that destroyed most of the columnar cacti in our Arid Garden. We estimate four in five of the tall cacti were hacked with a knife or machete after the Melbourne Gardens closed on the night of 4 June. This was a determined and sustained act of wilful damage, the like of which I haven't experienced in any botanic garden. It was particularly tough on the horticultural staff who

look after this garden; as I said at the time, for them it is like losing a child or close friend. So far the police haven't been able to find the perpetrators.



Staff examining the Arid Garden after the nighttime vandalism.

Photo: Tim Entwisle

The response from the public has been overwhelming support for the botanic gardens and for our staff. There is a sense of disbelief that such a thing could happen in Melbourne and in particular its beloved Royal Botanic Gardens. Offers of sympathy, replacement plants and money have come from all over the world. For that we are extremely grateful.

What do you do after such an awful thing? In a garden you start propagating, replanting, renewing. Within days we had the excised cacti and succulent segments in our nursery ready to propagate. Luckily these plants are tough and relatively easy to grow from cuttings. In a slightly obtuse way, it's lucky also that we had very few rare and desirable species in the Arid Garden due to regular theft ever since the garden was established back in the 1940s.



Cacti propagation a few days after the Arid Garden vandalism.

Photo: David Robbins

Our plan is to design and create a better Arid Garden, one that connects with Guilfoyle's Volcano and one where we can show off some of the more striking specimens of succulent plants from around the world. For that we'll need to improve security – probably with some surveillance cameras and increased patrols day and night – as well as turn to our Landscape Architect, Andrew Laidlaw, to come up with another exciting creation. We will turn misfortune into opportunity.

Plant and equipment...

And in other news... with the generous support of the Friends as I mentioned in the last issue of *Botanic News*, we are starting work on the boardwalks and the rest of the Fern Gully project at Melbourne Gardens. The staff office facilities at Cranbourne Gardens will be completed in September, with the Friends readying themselves to move into their new rooms soon after. Not far away, corten steel screens funded by the Maud Gibson Trust have been installed in the Northern Display Gardens of the Australian Garden. And after a knockback for funding to bring water from the Yarra River to Melbourne Gardens we will continue to seek sustainable water supplies for both Cranbourne and Melbourne – we are committed to irrigating both gardens with 100 per cent recycled water.

Planting ideas

I'm also doing a lot of thinking and talking about what we want the Royal Botanic Gardens to be, and to stand for, in twenty years' time. What is our contribution to that fundamental equation of life? How can we get more involved in the cultural, scientific and environmental life of Melbourne and beyond? How does the Australian Garden fit within our bigger vision for Royal

Botanic Gardens Cranbourne? What can we do to make sure the horticulture and landscapes at Melbourne Gardens live up to the standards our staff and visitors expect? And I have many more questions. This is just the start of a conversation that should involve us all. I look forward to the dialogue.

More vandalism

As this issue was going to press we had yet another act of vandalism in Melbourne Gardens, targeting our living collection. Three trees were roughly ringbarked, including the Separation Tree again, and a couple of other trees were marked or damaged in some way. We are hopeful of saving all the trees although the future of the Separation Tree is hanging by a thread. Police are investigating, and we have engaged a security consultant to advise on things like better fencing, more frequent patrols and the installation of cameras. In the interim we have increased the number of night patrols. This is another shocking act of vandalism, particularly as it targets some of our most important and distinguished trees. Our response has to be determined but measured - the Gardens can not, and should not, be a high security compound but we have to do what we can to stop any malicious or misguided individuals from doing this again.

The decorative screens installed recently in the Northern Display Gardens at Cranbourne.

Photo: Grant Cameron



RSVP FOR EVENTS ON OUR BOOKING FORM OR DOWNLOAD ONE FROM THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org. For disabled access to onsite Events please contact the Friends' office.



Amazing Plant Terrariums

With Cathy Trinca

Saturday 14 September

10 am – 3.30 pm

Domain House,
Dallas Brooks Drive

Cost \$140 (Friends \$125)

Includes morning tea and lunch.

Fee includes glass terrarium, planting medium, plants and workshop notes.

RSVP by Friday 6 September

Cathy Trinca is a passionate gardener and the founder of Chill Designs which makes and sells terrariums. She is also the President of FRBGM.



Morning session: 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

Growing media

Different types of growing media, how to deal with drainage and what to select to avoid drowning plants.

Containers

Selection of different types, shapes and material for containers. How air circulates, nutrients and proportion of growing media to plants inside various container shapes.

Design

Plant and accessory selection for design. Ratio of height to volume of contents, accessing to prune, rearrange or remove dead material and working with accessories such as figurines.

Practical: Designing your own

In this session participants work out their own design, sketching it out and selecting suitable plants, growing media and accessories from the materials available.

12.30 pm – 1.15 pm Lunch

Afternoon session: 1.15 pm – 3.30 pm

Practical: Building the terrarium

Participants now build their own terrarium. Teacher works with individuals, guiding, advising and commenting.

Finish

Participants leave with their own terrarium and workbook notes.



Education, a Botanic Garden Element

A guided tour of The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden

Wednesday 18 September

Meet at 10 am

Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Ave

Cost: \$20 MEMBERS ONLY

RSVP by Friday 13 September

Morning tea will be served.

For spring and the following three seasons we plan to investigate the four elements which describe a botanic garden. The first is Education.

We will enter the Children's Garden and pass through jungles and secret places, and travel past Mali the elephant. This will show us the creative spirit of Andrew Laidlaw and his team who created, planned and chose the specific areas and plantings. Then we will see the beauty, surprises and the educational work carried out in this down-to-earth children's environment. Our guide will tell us how children, from five years old to teenagers, are encouraged to garden, not to fear worms or dirt and how they love their gardening results. It is a place where education is a happy time for adults and children alike.



My Life in Provence

An illustrated talk by Louisa Jones, international garden writer

Wednesday 18 September at 6 for 6.30 pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Cost \$25 (Friends \$20)

RSVP by Friday 13 September

Louisa Jones fell in love with France as a student in the 1960s. She has since written more than 30 books on Mediterranean gardens with a focus on Provence. She describes gardening there as 'frugal and fruitful' and has found that the Roman heritage of the south had never separated productive from pleasure gardening.

Her new book, *Mediterranean Gardens: A model for good living* will be launched by Professor Tim Entwistle, Director and Chief Executive of the Royal Botanic Gardens. Hear Louisa's story about gardening in Provence. Books will be available on the night and the author will be happy to sign your copy.

Refreshments will be served before the talk.

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New Members' Welcome

Wednesday 9 October
at 10 am

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Please join us for the New Members' Welcome!

Invitations will soon be sent to all recently-joined Friends to come to our next 'Getting-to-know-you' gathering. Morning tea will be served while you mingle and meet other new members. Learn about the Friends' wide range of activities in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, with conveners of all groups on hand to provide information. Finish the morning with a special tour of the Gardens with an expert voluntary guide.

All those who have joined the Friends since our last welcome, and those who have already requested an invitation to a daytime welcome, will automatically receive one. If you have not been able to attend a previous New Members' Welcome and would like to come this time, you are warmly invited as well, so please call our office on 9650 6398 and we'll make sure you receive an invitation.



Spring in Olinda

Self-drive to Rhododendron Gardens and Cloudehill

Thursday 17 October
9.45 am

Cost \$45 (Friends \$40)

RSVP by Friday 11 October

Includes admission, lunch, fees.

Carpooling strongly recommended.

Directions available from the office when booking

The National Rhododendron Gardens in spring contains an amazing display, with rhododendrons and azaleas providing flamboyant splashes of colour in mauves, oranges and reds, set amongst a forest of magnificent *Eucalyptus regnans* (Mountain Ash), the tallest flowering trees in the world.

At **10.00 am** a small bus will take us on an informative guided tour of the upper Gardens, following which there will be time for a walk before lunch in the Vireya Café at 12 noon.

Next we'll visit Cloudehill Gardens. Our guide will be Jeremy Francis who is responsible for these magnificent formal gardens with spring meadows and herbaceous borders.

This delightful day will finish with a visit to Gentiana Nursery 'notable for its rare and specialist perennials propagated onsite.



2013 Chelsea Flower Show, an Australian Garden

Illustrated talk by Phillip Johnson, landscape architect

Wednesday 23 October
at 6 for 6.30 pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Cost \$25 (Friends \$20)

RSVP by Friday 18 October

Refreshments will be served before the talk

Phillip Johnson of Phillip Johnson Landscapes is recognised as an Australian sustainable landscape pioneer in the residential and commercial sectors. He leads one of the most awarded firms in the industry, known for its sustainable design principles, natural pools, and the creation of thriving habitats, centred on the use of indigenous and native plants, sustainable sourcing and construction practices, and integrated water management.

Phillip Johnson Landscapes made history with its design for the Trailfinders Australian Garden presented by Fleming's, awarded by unanimous decision, Best in Show and Gold medals at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in this its centenary year – a feat never before achieved by an Australian team in the history of the show.

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Talking Plants

Spring Colour in the Garden with Exquisite Iris

Friday 25 October at 10 am

Domain House
Dallas Brooks Drive

Cost \$25 (Friends \$20)

RSVP by Friday 18 October

Refreshments will be served at 10 am, talk starts 10.30 am

Iris enjoy a wide range of growth conditions which makes them an ideal inclusion in the garden. Bearded Iris flower during September, October and November, but there are also many other varieties of Iris available that have different flowering times and growing conditions. Most Iris grow in full sun or part shade and many are drought tolerant once established. Due to extensive plant breeding, the size, colour and range of Iris now available is extensive. A knowledgeable person from the Victorian Iris Society will be present to show many exquisite flowers and give us some hints on cultivation. Plants will be available for sale from the Society after the talk.



Spring Fit Friends Ramble, Merri Creek

Wednesday 30 October at 10 am

Melway Map 30.

Meet at 10 am in the car park on Sumner Ave off St Georges Rd

Cost: \$28 (Friends \$23)

Includes guided tour of CERES

RSVP by Friday 25 October

The Merri Creek area is a haven of lush bushland alongside a sparkling, bubbling waterway. Formerly, the creek provided the summer camping ground and a rich food source for the Wurundjeri-willam people. There are interesting stories of their life in the vicinity. We will visit the exciting CERES Community Environment Park that combines sustainable gardening, chicken rearing and green technology along with a flourishing nursery and an organic produce market. After a guided tour, we will enjoy a coffee and snack at the on-site café at our own expense, watching children play in the amphitheatre above. As we return to the parking area we will explore some surrounding streets and possibly view a private garden.



Landscapes and Gardens of Northern California

Illustrated talk by John Patrick

Thursday 14 November at 6 for 6.30 pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Cost \$25 (Friends \$20)

RSVP by Friday 8 November

Popular landscape designer and *Gardening Australia* presenter, John Patrick, will describe several of the gardens he visited on a recent tour of Northern California. These include the work of Thomas Church, which has been influential in Australian suburban gardens, and also the designs of two Australians, Cathy Garrett and Bernie Taylor, who have created highly original gardens throughout Northern California. A visit to Full Belly Farm in the beautiful Capay Valley will be included in John's talk, which is illustrated by his own photographs.

Refreshments will be served before the talk.



Australian Garden Designers

Illustrated talk by Anne Latreille

Wednesday 27 November at 6 for 6.30 pm

Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Cost \$25 (Friends \$20)

RSVP by Friday 22 November

Anne Latreille is a Melbourne-based writer and journalist. She wrote the award-winning 'Environ's' column for the *Age* then was its gardens editor for many years. In her new book, *Garden Voices*, Anne looks into the lives, ideas and achievements of garden designers around Australia. These are current practitioners and historic figures who create public and private spaces – places for people. Whether working in tropical forest or by the beach, in rolling countryside or in the cities, they have one thing in common. They fit each design to its place so that it carries a message about picking up on the atmosphere, and respecting the land. There is much to be learned from their example.

Refreshments will be served before the talk.

Nursery Open Days in Spring

APOLOGY: Due to the Myrtle Rust Control Protocol the Growing Friends' Nursery will be closed for the usual Friday sales to members until further notice.

Please check the *eNews* or contact the Friends' office for any updates to this information.

**NEXT FRIENDS' FRIDAY SALE DAY – 13 DECEMBER
8 AM TO 1 PM**

Spring has sprung! It is time to venture out into the garden to see how it has fared through the winter months. Now, finish that pruning you didn't complete and revitalise the garden with new plants to replace those that didn't survive the winter. At the same time add some extra interest by varying foliage and adding more colour with new flowers. The Growing Friends' Spring Plant Sale on 5 and 6 October provides the best opportunity to buy plants which make an extra difference as many of those offered are not generally available from retail nurseries.

The Sale catalogue will be on the Friends' website about a week before the Sale so check it out. Make a list, and arrive early to get the collector's items, some of which are shown on the Brilliant Buys flyer included in this issue of *Botanic News*.

Remember that with the Myrtle Rust Control Protocol still in place this Sale is the last chance members will have to buy plants until the next Friends' Friday Sale Day in mid-December, by which time the prime spring growing period will be well past.

Finally, we should point out that at this Spring Sale, as with all the Growing Friends' main sales, the RBG Melbourne Horticultural Staff generously give their time to advise customers on all matters concerning plants and their successful cultivation. We thank them and urge you to make use of their expertise.



FRBG Melbourne

The Growing Friends' Super Spring Plant Sale

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 10 AM TO 4 PM
SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 10 AM TO 3 PM

INSIDE GATE E
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE
MELWAY: MAP 2L REF C2

03 9650 6398
friends@frbgmelb.org.au
www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

Plants We Grow – Hostas

By Wendy Henderson, Perennial Section.

The genus *Hosta* is such a beautiful group of clump-forming herbaceous perennials. Their leaves emerge from short underground rhizomes in spring, often produce a second flush in summer, colour, then die off in autumn. They can be enjoyed for their summer flowers, infinite variety of leaf shape and colour, and even be eaten, but oh, what a taxonomic nightmare!

The genus was first described in Linnaean terms by Carl Thunberg in the mid 1700s as *Hemerocallis*, but was then renamed *Hosta* after Nicholas Thomas Host, an Austrian botanist and physician to Emperor Frances II. A generic change to *Funkia* – later rejected as illegitimate – is still commonly used in Europe. After a trip through families – *Hemerocallidaceae*, *Funkiaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Hostaceae* – it seems to have settled into the *Asparagaceae*, subfamily *Agavoideae* for now (2009).

Botanically the plant is a monocotyledon and endemic to China, Korea and Japan. A fairly recent genus to evolve, it is thought to have first appeared in China before the last Ice Age and then headed east. There are about 40 to 50 species and thousands of cultivars, but these categories are in a state of flux as new species are discovered and plants long-considered species are being relegated to cultivar status. It seems that such early collectors as Philipp von Siebold, Robert Fortune and Thomas Hogg Jr, names easily recognizable in European *Hosta* nomenclature, sourced plants from collections rather than the wild. They were considered species in Europe, but morphological research and recent investigations within their countries of origin have not uncovered any wild populations and it is doubtful they ever existed. To avoid confusion the ICNCP allows the previous names to stand. Thus the erstwhile species *H. fortunei* becomes

the cultivar *H. 'Fortunei'*, and *H. undulata* var. *albomarginata* becomes *H. 'Undulata Albomarginata'*.

Adding to this confusion, and perhaps helping to explain it, is the fascinating nature of the plants themselves. Schmid, a world authority on the genus, has observed that the very definition of a species, in which populations of similar individuals breed only with each other in nature, can rarely be applied to *Hostas*. Species interbreed promiscuously, forming hybrid masses and only geographic isolation can prevent this in the wild. *Hostas* do not come true to seed either. The only exception is the naturally tetraploid *H. ventricosa* which engages in a form of reproduction called pseudogamous apomixis, requiring pollination but no male inheritance. It is no surprise then, in this genetically chaotic situation, where propagation could only be by division, that tissue culture has proved a boon for enthusiasts and breeders alike.

Hostas are a varied bunch that generally like humus-rich moist soil (not huge amounts of water), slow release fertilizer, filtered light or morning sun, afternoon shade, protection from snails; and they resent root competition. Provided these conditions are met, there is a *Hosta* for every occasion: small ones for borders or edging; large green ones for background planting to highlight more colourful plants; spectacularly coloured ones for specimen or tub culture; bog-loving ones for ponds; and yellow or variegated ones to brighten dull spots.

At the moment, the Growing Friends' Nursery stocks nearly 20 species and cultivars including: the singular *H. ventricosa*, large spinach-green leaves and deep purple-blue flowers; *H. plantaginea*, probably the original Chinese ancestor, with large lime-green leaves and huge, perfumed clear white flowers; *H. sieboldiana*, large puckered glaucous blue leaves and very pale lavender flowers; *H. 'Vanilla Cream'*, small wavy lemon-yellow leaves and lavender flowers; and *H. 'June'*, medium yellow leaves with blue-green and celadon-streaked margins and mauve striped flowers. Most plants should have popped up in time for our spring sale. See the online catalogue for details.

Left page – Top: *H. 'Undulata'* Centre: *H. ventricosa*

This page – Left: *H. 'Vanilla Cream'*, Centre: *H. sieboldiana*; Right: *Hosta* Section at Growing Friends' Nursery.

Photos: Wendy Henderson



ALL WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD IN THE PLANT CRAFT COTTAGE. For bookings and information, please contact the Cottage office between 10 am and 3 pm on 9650 3235 or email plantcraftcottage@gmail.com



Craft Demonstrations

Bookings not required

10.30 am – 2 pm

Cost: Free

Natural Dye

4 September; 2 October;
6 November; 4 December

Potpourri

13 September; 11 October;
8 November

Fibre

10, 27 September;
8, 25 October; 12, 22 November;
10 December

Basketry

3, 18 September; 16 October;
20 November

Plant Card

19 September; 17 October;
21 November

Papermaking

23 October; 27 November

Visitors are welcome to watch and ask questions of the working groups. However, visitors are unable to take part in the demonstrations.

School Holiday Workshops

All materials supplied
Bookings essential

Papermaking for Kids

25 and 26 September

2 sessions per day
10.30 am – 12 noon;
1 pm – 2.30 pm

COST: \$12 per child/teenager.
Bookings are required.

Limit 10 people per session

Suitable ages 8 – 14 years

Contact Jean: 8588 1824

Learn the art of papermaking and take home samples of differently-textured, coloured and patterned paper to make cards and gifts for family and friends.

Adults' Pressed Flower Workshop

Saturday 7 September

At 10 am and 2.30 pm

Cost: \$50.

Includes all materials and instruction sheets, plus tea and coffee.

Contact Phyl: 9885 7293

tknaggs@optusnet.com.au

This workshop is an introduction to the techniques of pressing flowers and their use. Knowledge of this very old craft will enable you to prolong the fragile beauty of your favourite flowers, using them to create flower patterns and ideas for unique gifts.

Above right: Samples of cards made using pressed flowers and leaves.

Below: Handmade paper hanging out to dry.



Sunday Open Days

15 September; 20 October;
17 November

10 am – 3 pm

Cost: Free

This is a wonderful opportunity to explore the Plant Craft Cottage, the oldest building in any public garden in Victoria.

Some of the plant-related items created by our groups will be on display and for sale in this heritage-listed building.

Welcome to the Plant Craft Cottage

by Janet Thomson

Exciting times lie ahead now that the Plant Craft Cottage (PCC) and the Friends have merged. Interestingly, the Friends were originally a group attached to the PCC, which opened its doors as a centre for plant-related crafts in 1981. Established in 1982, the Friends became an independent body in 1983 to give them more financial flexibility. Now the wheel has turned and the Friends and the PCC are together again as one united group.

The merger will bring many benefits to the Friends, the PCC, and the Royal Botanic Gardens. There will be administrative efficiencies, scope for innovative joint activities, and more volunteer opportunities for all who wish to be involved.

A place of great interest, the PCC stands on the cliff above H Gate in Alexandra Avenue. Those who love and practise plant related crafts gather here on a regular basis to hone their skills and explore new techniques. The six specialist groups that cater for their interests are:

- **Basketry** – investigates the use of plant material to make a wide range of baskets. Meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- **Fibre** – specialises in the use of the plant fibre fabrics and threads, including cotton, linen and jute. Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday and the 4th Friday of the month.
- **Natural Dye** – works with natural dyes and researches their preparation and use in the dyeing of cotton, silk and other natural fibres. Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month.
- **Paper Making** – experiments with plant fibres and recycled paper to make handmade paper and sculptural forms. Meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
- **Plant Card** – presses flowers, leaves, grasses, weeds and even seaweed and uses them creatively to decorate home made and commercial cards, and bookmarks. Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
- **Potpourri** – dries, strips and mixes herbs, spices, fragrant barks, leaves and flowers to make perfumed mixes having a variety of uses. Meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month.

Visitors to the PCC are well-rewarded – the Cottage is surrounded by a lovely garden maintained by the Garden group (meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month) and inside there are many things to enjoy – the aroma of potpourri, displays of exquisite items made by the Basketry, Fibre, Paper Making and Plant Card groups and examples of natural fibres dyed the most gorgeous colours. The PCC's retail outlet, Counterpart, has beautifully crafted items for sale made by the Counterpart Craft Group.

The PCC extends a warm welcome to visitors and to those who would like to join a group.



Plant Craft Cottage

Photo: Jennifer Marshall

Vale Connie Hoffman (1918 - 2013)

Connie was a founding member of the Plant Craft Cottage and its Plant Card Group. She described herself as a 'plant person' and her skill and patience in pressing flowers and decorating cards was legendary. These skills were passed on to generations of cottage members through the many workshops and 'Petal Pastors' classes she conducted. Connie was also a member of the Counterpart group and contributed lovely gift cards, bookmarks, note pads and framed pictures made with pressed flowers for sale in the Cottage shop. Several of her pressed flower pictures were displayed at the service to commemorate her life.

As a founding member and first Convener of the Voluntary Guides, Connie was made a Life Member of the Cottage in 1983 in recognition of her role in establishing the Guides as another Cottage group and setting up their training program. The new Guides were given little support and they virtually taught each other. They each were allocated an area of the Gardens in which to become expert. Connie ensured the Guides had full use of the Herbarium Library; she arranged lectures by Herbarium botanists and contacts with gardening staff. Christina Hayward, one of that original group, says, 'In no time at all we had enough knowledge to escort visitors through the Gardens, including the spouses of the CHOGM heads of states visiting Melbourne in September 1981'.

Even though change is difficult, Connie was a great supporter of new activities and other innovations. She was warm, wise, and had a wonderful sense of humour and all agree that her strong commitment to excellence in the things she undertook will be remembered with admiration and affection.

Anne Bitcon, Christina Hayward and Phyl Knaggs.

Global Gardening – Gardening in the 21st Century

PART 2 – PLANTS: BUILDING THE GARDEN PALETTE

by Roger Spencer, Senior Horticultural Botanist and Rob Cross, Horticultural Botanist, RBG.

In Part 1 (Botanic News Winter edition 2013) we looked at the modern trend to globalisation, relating it specifically to plants by briefly outlining the way humans have redistributed plants across the planet, a process that, in the West, reached its peak with European colonialism especially during the ascendancy of the British Empire, a time when Australia was one of many new lands revealing its botanical treasures to European eyes.

In Part 2 we look more closely at the story of the collection and redistribution of the world's garden plants as they passed from natural habitat to Europe and Britain, and eventually Australia.

With the arrival of Europeans in Australia came a whole 'plant package' that contrasted starkly with the beliefs and practices of the continent's indigenous inhabitants who, when the English arrived, had not developed either agriculture or horticulture to any extent and who, during their c. 60,000 year presence, had introduced few if any plants from outside the continent. The change was sudden and drastic. In 225 years the continent's new inhabitants introduced several tens of thousands of plants and commandeered well over half the land surface for crops, pasture and forestry.

Australia's legacy from Britain

Most plants in the city gardens of south-eastern Australia do not grow naturally in Australia. They are more likely to have come originally from the Mediterranean, Africa, the Americas or Asia. However, they did not arrive here directly from these places but indirectly, mostly via Britain. It was the British who did most of the original collecting and accumulation of different plants, these then being passed on to Australia.

At the time of Australia's colonisation Britain's garden flora was large and still growing rapidly, fuelled by the Enlightenment voyages of scientific exploration and the increasing reach of the British Empire as it prospered during the 100-year period from 1814–1914 when it included 20 per cent of the world's population and covered 25 per cent of the Earth's land area. With vastly improved naval and other transport systems linking a global network of territories, this was a period of unprecedented plant hunting in the interests of horticulture and economic

botany. Part of the colonial enterprise was a botanical inventory of the British Empire which included floras of North America, Antarctica, New Zealand, Tasmania, West Indies, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Cape of South Africa, Hong Kong, British India and Australia.

Botanical historian William Stearn has recognised nine geographic phases of plant introduction to Europe in general but Britain in particular (Stearn, 1965), these phases reflecting European colonial expansion and improvements in technology, especially in shipbuilding, navigation and other transport systems. To these phases can be added a tenth resulting from the recent rise of biotechnology. (Table 1)

Table 1: Ten phases of plant introduction into Europe based on the ideas of William Stearn and Gregor Krauss

	Source/type	Period
1	Europe-Mediterranean	To 1560
2	Near East / many bulbs	1560-1620
3	Canada and Virginia/herbaceous plants	1620-1686
4	Cape / bulbs, etc.	1687-1772
5	North America/trees and shrubs	1687-1772
6	Australia	1772-1820
7	Japan and North America/tropical glasshouse plants and hardy plants	1820-1900
8	West China	1900-1930
9	Plant hybridisation	1930 on
10	Genetic engineering	1970 on

Plant numbers known and grown

It is difficult to quantify precisely the extent of global plant redistribution that has occurred as a result of human activity. It seems to have happened without us really noticing. We have information on the world's major economic crops but tracking ornamental plants as they burst across the world would be extremely difficult.

In Australia, especially, it would be interesting to know with reasonable accuracy: the number of plant taxa that have been introduced from overseas; the proportion of introductions that came from Britain; the number of readily available exotic plants in both gardens and the nursery industry; and the proportion of our garden flora that are cultigens (plants that have been altered or specially selected by humans). However, we have only educated guesses for these numbers.

Today the total number of botanically described seed plants in the world is estimated to be about 270,000. At the time of the Roman Empire between 1,300 and 1,400 different plants had been recorded in the West. By 1613 an attempt by Frenchman Jean Bauhin to calculate the total number of plants in the world

put the figure at about 4,000, his son Gaspard increasing this number of published species to 6,000 in 1623.

Carl Linnaeus, Europe's most renowned naturalist of the eighteenth century, in his entire career, assembled the names of about 7,700 species of flowering plants. In 1753, less than 40 years before Australian settlement, he believed that the total number of plant species in the world was unlikely to exceed 10,000.

It was from this time in the late eighteenth century, with its colonial expansion and blossoming plant taxonomy, that the number of known species would rocket to well over a hundred thousand. Meanwhile Britain's gardens had swollen with the influx of new plants. As the Industrial Revolution increased the wealth of the British middle classes, demand for garden plants powered a surge in nurseries. Garden and agricultural plants from around the world accumulated in Britain to be redistributed around the globe.

Global gardening

Britain, with a meagre indigenous flora, now has a rich cultivated flora from around the world in a tradition of acquisition that continues to the present day. The 2013 *Royal Horticultural Society Plant Finder*, essentially a listing of all the commercially available garden plants in the British Isles, proudly lists over 70,000 different plants (species and cultivars) with, since 1987, another 50,000, no longer available, bringing

the total to well over 120,000. Australia's equivalent book, *The Aussie Plant Finder* of 2004, listed more than 35,000 different commercially available garden plants linked to retail outlets. The actual number of introduced plants is likely to be much higher. Of the 3,842 higher plant species that grow on British soil, but outside its gardens, about 50 per cent are naturalised leaving a meagre 1,500 or so indigenous plants (native to Britain).

British plant acquisitiveness has been eagerly taken up in Australia, its cultivated flora coming largely from the British gardening palette, in the early days fed, in part, through botanic gardens. In spite of having a much richer native flora (estimated to be over 25,000 taxa), Australia also has thousands of exotic (non-Australian) garden plants.

In retrospect we can see that over the last 400 years there has been a massive transference of plant species from all corners of the globe into Europe and especially imperial Britain with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London at its hub. From Britain plants were redistributed to the Americas, British Colonies and beyond. It is a remarkable phase in the history of human influence on the current distribution of vegetation on our planet. Britain is unrivalled for the sheer numbers of different plants it has collected from foreign lands and redistributed across the globe. These plants, largely through agriculture, have totally transformed not only the British landscape but landscapes across the temperate world.



At left: *Tropaeolum majus*, Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Plate 23 (1793):

'The present plant is a native of Peru, and is said by Linnaeus to have been first brought into Europe in the year 1684; it is certainly one of the greatest ornaments the flower garden can boast: it varies in colour, and is also found in the Nurseries with double flowers.'

Archives, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

At right: *Correa pulchella*, Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Plate 4029 (1843):

'For plants of this very beautiful species of Correathe Royal Gardens are indebted to Messrs. Lowe of Clapton. It was first introduced at their nursery in 1824, by their collector, Mr. Baxter from Kangaroo Island on the south coast of New Holland.'

Archives, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.



All classes and most workshops will be held in the **WHIRLING ROOM STUDIO, OBSERVATORY GATE**
For bookings and further information, please contact the Friends' office on 9650 6398 or as advised.

Classes

Term 4, 2013 will start in the week beginning Saturday 12 October. Classes will be held:

Evenings: Tuesday and Wednesday

Daytime: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays
(two sessions each day 2.5hr)

Thursdays and Sundays: one 2.5hr session each
Fridays: one 3hr session.

2.5hr classes: \$295 inc GST
Friends: \$240 inc GST

3hr classes: \$340 inc GST
Friends: \$285 inc GST

We strongly recommend that students without prior experience in botanical illustration complete a Beginners' Workshop before entering Term classes.

Workshops

All workshops will include morning and afternoon tea but not lunch.

Beginners' Workshop

with Helen Burrows

Saturday 21, Sunday 22 September and Saturday 28, Sunday 29 September
10 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$349 Friends \$295

Beginners' Workshop

with Dianne Emery

Monday 30 September, Wednesday 2, Thursday 3 and Friday 4 October
10 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$349 Friends \$295

These intensive four-day courses provide an introduction to botanical art via pencil and watercolour. Students will begin to develop skills in outline drawing, foreshortening, tonal work and rendering of

surfaces, basic colour work and paint application.

The cost of each course includes equipment to be used during the workshop – drawing materials, paint, watercolour paper and brushes.

Photography for Botanical Artists

with Wendy Clark

Monday 23, Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September
10 am to 4 pm

Cost: \$349 Friends \$295

Professional photographer, teacher and field naturalist Wendy Clark will conduct a three-day workshop designed to give botanical artists the skills and knowledge to use photography as a reference for their artwork. Students will learn how to use the settings on their cameras to capture the subject as they see it.

Wendy specialises in photographing plants, especially orchids, and insects. She is a longstanding member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, the Orchid Species Society and the Australasian Native Orchid Society.

Each student is asked to bring their own digital camera with adjustable settings, either compact or DSLR, and a fully-charged battery and instruction manual. Wendy will help everyone get to know their own camera and will take the class regularly into the Gardens to give practical lessons 'in the field'. Students will also be asked to translate their photographs into pencil drawings. The workshop is suitable for beginners to experienced photographers. A brief materials list is available from the Friends' office.

Discover the Secrets of Black Backgrounds

with Kate Nolan

Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 October

9.30 am to 3 pm

Cost: \$349 Friends \$295

Due to popular demand, Kate Nolan has agreed to repeat the three-day workshop she gave in April, which had a very long waiting list.

Kate aims to inspire each of her students to create a striking work with a black background. She will show the class examples by many of the world's finest botanical artists and demonstrate some of the different techniques involved, examining a couple of methods in depth. This workshop is suitable for students at an intermediate to advanced level.

A materials list is available from the Friends' office.

Above right: *Tuberose*
Centre: *Artichoke* and *Ladybird*
Both painted by Kate Nolan.

Below left: *Pterostylis nutans*
Below right: *Coelogyne cristata*
Both photographed by Wendy Clark.



From the Forest to the Foreshore

Artists' depictions of *Natural History: Fungi, Ferns and their Allies*

This exhibition will include paintings and studies of lower order plants such as ferns, mosses, lichens, fungi and seaweed, crabs, fish, shells, rocks, butterflies, beetles, insects, spiders, birds, nests, skulls, feathers, etc. (Paintings of higher order plants will not be included in this exhibition.)

Many botanical artists have shown a strong interest in painting natural history specimens since our previous Eucalypt Exhibition in 2011. More than 100 artists, all members of the Friends, have expressed an interest in participating in this exhibition.

Large works not exceeding 600mm x 700mm have been accepted and we will also feature miniature works. All works, including unframed artwork, both originals and archival prints, will also be available for purchase.

Included in the exhibition will be a display of Australian fungi, beautifully painted by Malcolm Howie (1900-1936). A collection of his artwork is held in the State Botanical Collection, Melbourne, and we will be showcasing a selection of these works.

The exhibition will run from Saturday 5 to Sunday 20 October (closed Sunday 13 October due to the Melbourne Marathon). Opening hours are 10 am – 4 pm each day. The venue is Domain House, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra.

Sandra Sanger and Pam McDiarmid

Whirlybirds

The Whirlybirds is a group of botanical artists who meet each Tuesday or Thursday in the Whirling Room Studio.

At present most artists are working towards the natural history exhibition due to open on Saturday 5 October. It will be presented by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and runs for two weeks during the school holidays. If you visit the Gardens during that time don't forget to visit the exhibition, particularly if you also visit the Growing Friends' Plant Sale on the opening weekend. Many botanical artists have expressed an interest in submitting their work.

If you are interested in joining either group please contact Sandra Sanger on 9598 9532.

Beckler's Botanical Bounty

Fourth Field Trip to Menindee

Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 September 2013

Artists who wish to join are very welcome and should contact the project leader.

Botanists and field naturalists are also welcome. Participants are self-funded, and arrange their own accommodation.

Artists share the cost of hiring the Menindee Community Hall.

Project Leader, Mali Moir: mali_moir@hotmail.com

Also see becklersbotanicalblogspot.com

Botanical Illustrators

Quarterly Meeting

On Tuesday 22 October

10 am for 10.30 am

Cost \$5.50

Pay on the Day

Peter Lewis will talk to us about his time in East Timor in July/August this year.

He went with some other volunteers to install lighting in 190 houses and two schools where there had previously been no electricity. This meant that the children could use computers for the first time. Peter also explored the flora in this mountain area and will show us photos of what he found.

Left: *Deroplatys dessicata*, Leaf-mimicking mantis painted by Pam Habersberger. Right: Madagascan Moth painted by Sandra Sanger.



A Shared Country – Exploring the Indigenous Programs at the RBG

Trevor Gallagher, Chris Joy, Roslyn Semler

Trevor Gallagher's Story

Photo: Janusz Molinski



I am white, I am black. I am Gunditjmarra. I am a product of a time long gone in this country when only black people lived here, then the white people came and tried hard to take my identity and my culture. For a long time I was white and not black because my world was predominantly white and I was ashamed of who I was, but now

thanks to an understanding Australia I am no longer ashamed and my world is both white and black.

Connecting to country at the Royal Botanic Gardens lets me be Aboriginal. It enables me to communicate with people in a way that I have never done before. It lets me talk to strangers at the start of the program and by the end we are no longer strangers. It lets me show people the Gardens in a way that they would not have seen before and it makes me feel good that I have made other people feel good.

The Education team at the Gardens has taught me a lot since I arrived in 2006. They are dedicated and very professional in what they do. I enjoy working with Public Programs.

My people, the Gunditjmarra, are from the Western District of Victoria. I lived as part of an Aboriginal community until I was about nine years old. Policy was, when I was that age, that fair skinned people were not allowed to live on the mission. We of course went with mum and moved from town to town, struggling all the while. When I was a little boy racism was prolific and I was called Abo and I didn't care for that term too much – there was a stigma attached to anything Aboriginal. We were told that we were not too high in society and when it's told to you often enough you tend to believe it. I am fine now and very proud that I

am able to bring some joy to the kids here at the Gardens.

My thoughts on people and place – the key message that Aboriginal people can give us for the future is: don't be too materialistic and remember we have to look after our land – after all it's for all the grandchildren in the future.

Trevor's legacy in the RBG

Trevor Gallagher has worked at the RBG for seven years and is retiring in September this year. He will be greatly missed and his achievements are many. Since starting at the RBG Trevor has been committed to giving all children who attend *Connecting to Country* a Tanderrum or smoking ceremony. This has seen bookings rise dramatically until the program has become the top billing program for schools. Similarly, the Aboriginal Heritage Walk has become the most popular public program, with more than 5,600 attending in 2012-13 including primary, secondary and tertiary students, and local and international tourists.

A Tanderrum with Trevor is guaranteed to be uplifting, awe-inspiring and life-changing. Like the smoke from the burning gum leaves, Trevor's magic weaves about and touches us all: he uses humour, sensory connection with plants, and the visitors' own stories as powerful tools for connection. Thousands of people have been inspired by Trevor's messages and will no doubt carry those messages into their daily lives.

Working with Trevor has been a great pleasure. He understands the true meaning of team: that each person has something of value to share and this creates something new, better and exciting.

Aboriginal programs for schools at Melbourne and Cranbourne

Connecting to Country at Melbourne and *A Shared Country* at Cranbourne aim to give primary and secondary students a greater understanding and respect for the local Kulin culture. Using ochre paint and making string from plant fibre gives children a hands-on connection with Aboriginal culture. The



Children from St Joseph's Primary School in Springvale visit Cranbourne to try their skills at Aboriginal dance and music.
Photo: L. Saffigna

emphasis is on diversity and examining sustainable land practices used by Aboriginal people. Through the story *You and Me Murrawee* by Kerri Hashmi, early childhood students explore indigenous plants, use Aboriginal tools and make a 'belonging' handprint, grinding their own ochre to make paint.

Teacher Professional Development programs give teachers the skills to meet the curriculum requirements for the new Australian Curriculum, in which indigenous culture is a subject that is now required to be taught across each subject of the curriculum.

The Aboriginal Heritage Walk

In May a group of teachers from India and Indonesia toured to the RBG to examine climate change education practise in Victoria. The visiting teachers spent two days at the RBG, exploring indigenous connections and its links to climate change education. The teachers were struck by the sensory and physical learning experiences at the RBG.

Photo: ACF James Thomas



For many visitors, the Aboriginal Heritage Walk is their first or only opportunity to connect with an Aboriginal person. It has become a significant meeting point for different cultures and the sharing of wisdom. Trevor's ability to communicate his knowledge and experience with humour and warmth, and to meet each person just where they're at – wherever they're from and

whatever age they are – has made it the success that it is. In the words of our visitors: 'Totally brilliant!' and 'I would particularly commend Trevor as a communicator of indigenous culture as well as some good old fashioned values such as respect for parents and teachers, which I think the children understood very well'. And for Jasper, aged 5, Trevor has made a lasting impression! (see below left).

Trevor has also been an excellent mentor for casual staff leading the Aboriginal Heritage Walk. He has provided leadership with humility, humour and respect for the life experience and individuality that each person has brought to the job.

National Aborigines and Islanders Day

During Trevor's time at RBG the annual RBG NAIDOC celebration has become a significant date in the Melbourne calendar. Its success can be measured by the number of non-indigenous as well as indigenous people who have been drawn to the event each year.



Naidoc fire, Trevor making fire for Tanderrum ceremony

Photos: J Griffin

Cumbungi Harvest

by Mick Robertson

Indigenous or Aboriginal issues are strongly in focus in politics, sport, education and at the Gardens too. Our relationship with the indigenous community is growing and we invite everyone to become involved in this process through participation in our programs.

A number of artefacts help illustrate how Aboriginal people lived and include the boomerang (wonguim in the Kulin language), the coolamon (tarnuk), digging sticks (kanen) and eel traps.

An enormous amount of knowledge on how the traditional custodians of our country lived has been lost over time. Much of that knowledge about sustainable environmental management should inform how we manage our unique biodiversity and environment into the future. Instead we are struggling against the loss of many species, climate change, and how best to manage fire in the landscape. Indigenous knowledge and practices are really interesting – such as how they caught the slippery eel. Aunty Dot Peters, who is a Wurundjeri Elder, is perhaps the last of her people who knows how to make an eel trap.

In May this year Aunty Dot came to Cranbourne to supervise the harvest of the Cumbungi (*Typha* sp.) and other sedges to fashion into an eel trap. Essentially the trap is a funnel about a metre long that eels will slip into to rest and hide during the day when they are not out foraging. The eels cannot quickly get out of this refuge and so they can be pulled from the water and killed for eating.

RBG Public Programs will be demonstrating the eel trap to school students who book into the *Shared Country* program and we are planning to run eel trap-making classes to pass on the knowledge before it is lost. We are especially hoping that we can get some interest from people who are descended from the traditional custodians. There are still stories and knowledge in the community that should be retained, recorded and passed on, though not all of

them will be as exciting and positive as how to make an eel trap.

Ten years ago Aunty Dot made an eel trap for the *Connecting to Country* program at RBG Melbourne and it is still going strong. Who knows how many children have handled that trap over the years and where their understanding of Indigenous culture has led them?



Left: Eel trap ready for launch.
Right: Students gathering reeds.
Photos: C Joy and L Phillips

Tramping and Collecting on Stewart Island, New Zealand

by Pina Milne

In August 2012 I received notification from Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (FRBGM) that my application for a scholarship to attend the 27th John Child Bryophyte and Lichen Workshop on Stewart Island, New Zealand was successful. Although I had previously collected bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) and lichens on the North and South islands of New Zealand, this unique opportunity to conduct fieldwork on Stewart and Ulva Islands, the southern-most islands of New Zealand, was particularly exciting. Stewart Island, although small, mostly inaccessible and covered in native vegetation, is the third largest of New Zealand's islands. The climatic conditions of the island have resulted in lush temperate rainforests, ideal for an extraordinary diversity, abundance and endemism of bryophytes and lichens.

Early on a Friday morning I flew out of Invercargill, the home of the Tuatara, a reptile endemic to New Zealand. The twenty minute flight in an eight-seater plane on a calm sunny morning across the Foveaux Strait was just magnificent. Before long a narrow bitumen airstrip appeared amongst the thick island vegetation not far from Oban, the only town on Stewart Island.

The next four days were spent walking mostly on tracks in the Rakiura National Park. The chosen sites, many in close proximity to the coastline, highlighted species diversity and abundance not only of vascular plants but also bryophytes and lichens. The forest was dominated by kamahi (*Weinmannia racemosa*), hill slopes with rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*), rata (*Metrosideros umbellata*) and flowering tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*) overhanging many of the tracks. Trees, fallen logs and earth banks were covered in mosses, liverworts and lichens.



A highlight of the workshop was a trip to Ulva Island, located in Paterson Inlet, a reserve known for its vegetation and rare birds. We travelled across to the Sydney Cove by catamaran and at one stage during the trip were delighted by the presence of an albatross. The short walk on Ulva Island took us through a forest dominated by mountain totara (*Podocarpus cunninghamii*), miro (*Prumnopitys ferruginea*) and lancewood (*Pseudopanax crassifolius*) and eventually to a gully with an understory of ferns and bryophytes forming extensive carpets on the forest floor and trees draped with epiphytic bryophytes and lichens (Fig. 1). In the afternoon we travelled further up Paterson Inlet and once anchored, were ferried by small boat from the catamaran to a beach on the opposite side of Stewart Island for the opportunity to walk along a rarely tramped track to Pryze's Peak. Progressing from the beach to the summit, the transition in vegetation was



startling. Eventually, mosses and liverworts covered every available tree, shrub and fallen log and formed large mounds on the forest floor (Fig. 2). The mounds were so extensive that they often encroached and hid the narrow walking track.

Evenings were occupied with identifying specimens

collected during the day and listening to presentations of current research projects. Given the diversity and richness of the liverwort flora in New Zealand, my presentation on a new liverwort species in the genus *Riella* from Australia set a challenge for the locals as this genus is yet to be recorded for New Zealand.

During the workshop, I made a total of 58 collections, representing some 38 different species of bryophytes and lichens. Amongst the collections are three species of hornwort, one of which was growing in abundance on an embankment exposed to the full blast of the sea air (Fig. 3). The collections made during the workshop have now been databased and once curated will be integrated into the main herbarium collection. These collections will add to the small number of existing specimens of bryophytes and lichens from Stewart Island



made by previous collectors e.g. Mrs Stirling (received from the herbarium of R.A. Bastow either in the late 1800s or early 1900s), and specimens received more recently as duplicate collections made by New Zealand collectors.

The trip ended with an unforgettable flight back to Invercargill. During the latter part of the workshop the island was battered by severe winds (100 km) and rain. It was in these persisting conditions that our flight departed Stewart Island. All I can say is that I was glad to be back on the ground at Invercargill airport!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FRBGM for giving me the opportunity to participate in this workshop and to enable me to contribute collections from a spectacular location to the Collections of the National Herbarium of Victoria.

At left: Lichen on tree at Stewart Island - Fig 1 in text.
Above: Hornwort mound on Stewart Island - Fig 2 in text.
Below: Mosses on Pryze's Peak - Fig 3 in text.

Photos: Pina Milne.



September

- 7 PCC – Adult Pressed Flower Workshop
- 14 Spring Workshop: Terrariums – Cathy Trinca
- 15 PCC Sunday Open Day – 10 am to 3 pm
- 18 Insiders Walk 10 am– Guided Tour of Children's Garden
- 18 Illustrated Talk 6 pm - Louisa Jones
- 21 Beginners' Workshop commences – Helen Burrows
- 23 Photography for Botanical Artists commences
- 25 PCC School Holiday Program – Papermaking for Kids
- 30 Beginners' Workshop commences – Dianne Emery

October

- 5 Spring Plant Sale – 10 am to 4 pm
- 5 Exhibition commences – *From the Forest to the Foreshore*
- 6 Spring Plant Sale – 10 am to 3 pm
- 9 New Members' Welcome
- 9 Workshop: Black Backgrounds commences
- 17 Self-drive Rhododendron Garden
- 20 PCC Sunday Open Day – 10 am to 3 pm
- 22 Botanic Illustrators Quarterly Meeting 10.30 am
- 23 Illustrated Talk – Phillip Johnson
- 25 Talking Plants – Irises
- 30 Fit Friends Ramble – Merri Creek

November

- 11 Friends' Annual General Meeting
- 14 Illustrated Talk – John Patrick
- 16 PCC Sunday Open Day – 10 am to 3 pm
- 27 Illustrated Talk – Anne Latreille

December

- 11 Friends' Cocktail Party – 6 to 8 pm
- 13 Friday Plant Sale – Growing Friends' Nursery

Note: The Friends' Inclement Weather Policy states that outdoor events may be cancelled and the Nursery will not be open for sales if the temperature is predicted to be 33°C or above.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Inc. complies with the National Privacy Principles for the collection and use of personal information.
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The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Inc. was formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and the National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.

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