

F R I E N D S O F B U R N L E Y G A R D E N S I N C



Papyrus - Summer Edition

No. 41 - December 2007

editor: Mal Bowmaker

From the Committee:

Since our last newsletter, the Annual General Meeting has been held and a new committee elected. Michèle Adler, Anne Bishop, Maria Kayak, Jane Wilson and Fran Mason were re-elected. Welcome to new member, Dianne Cranston, and welcome back to Carol Ferguson and Jan Chamberlain. Andrew Smith remains in the Gardens Representative role, Geoffrey Kneebone in the publicity role and Mal Bowmaker retains the Newsletter editor position.

The committee is now:

Chairperson	Michèle Adler	
Deputy Chairperson	Anne Bishop	
Treasurer	Maria Kayak	
Secretary	Jane Wilson	
Assistant Secretary	Carol Ferguson	
Member	Fran Mason	
Member	Jan Chamberlain	
Member	Dianne Cranston	
Newsletter	Mal Bowmaker*	
Gardens Representative	Andrew Smith*	
Publicity	Geoffrey Kneebone*	

* non-committee positions

After the AGM we were treated to a talk by Michèle. Michèle and Rod McMillan hosted a guided tour through France and England earlier this year, visiting Delbard Roses and a number of wonderful French and English gardens. The images made us envious of those on the tour – maybe some at the presentation will be on next year's tour!

.....**your Committee**

**FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC C/O BURNLEY COLLEGE
500 YARRA BOULEVARD, RICHMOND, VIC, 3121**

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2008 PROGRAMME

Date	Activity
FEBRUARY Thurs 14 Feb 7 for 7-30 pm	St Valentine's Day meeting - champagne and roses for our first informal gathering of the year. Bring your friends for a lovely summer's evening chat. Meet Nigel Stork , Head of Burnley College for a campus update. There will also be update tours around the Gardens by the Friendly Guides.
MARCH Sat 1 March 10 am -2.30 pm	Autumn budding and grafting workshop. Practical, hands-on. Learn techniques. You will be grafting trees – take one home and/or grow 1 on for the July pruning day sale. Maximum 20 participants. Cost \$40.00 members, \$65.00 non-members. BYO lunch. Bookings essential. Contact Anne Bishop: 9827 7753
MARCH Wed 12 March 7 for 7.30 pm	Part 1: Talk by Ben Neil , Head of Cultivating Community. Learn how to plan and assist development of community gardens. This also includes school gardens.
MARCH Sat 15 March 10.30 am-12.30 pm	Part 2: Visit to 2 local community gardens with Ben Neil .
APRIL Tues 15 April 7 for 7.30 pm	"She'll be apples" Jean Corbett, FOBG member will talk on vintage apples. Jean operates an apple orchard in Red Hill. This evening will include an apple tasting (and then testing!).
MAY Wed 14 May 7 for 7.30 pm	John Rayner presents Native plants = topic to be decided. John is currently a lecturer in horticulture at Burnley College
JUNE Wed 18 June 10.30 am -12.30 pm	Members Working Bee in Burnley Gardens Preparation for July Pruning day. Please come along and lend a hand to Andrew and the garden staff. BYO picnic lunch.
JULY Sat 19 July 11 am – 3 pm	Pruning Day. Pruning, sizzle & sozzle. Demo of pruning techniques on grapes, fruit trees and roses in the Burnley Gardens Field Station.
AUGUST Tues 12 August 10.30am-12 pm = walk 12-1 pm = lunch 1-3 pm = working bee	This is a full or part day activity. Come along to whatever suits your energy level and timetable. am Guided walk of the historic camellia collection. BYO picnic lunch to have in the Gardens. pm Working Bee in the Gardens
SEPTEMBER Tues 9 Sept 7 for 7.30 pm	Richard Barley Manager of RBG Melbourne. Topic to be decided
SEPTEMBER Sat 20 Sept 10 am – 12.30 pm	Guided tour of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. Details to follow. Melbourne's newest and hottest Gardens of Australian plants.
OCTOBER Wed 15 Oct 7 for 7.30 pm	John Patrick presents Modern landscape design for small gardens. John is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. He is a Gardening Australia presenter and former Burnley lecturer.
NOVEMBER Wed. 19 th Nov 7 for 7.30 pm	AGM Speaker to be decided

Contacts

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Plant Profile – *Tilia petiolaris*

In 1996 when Victorian council amalgamations were almost complete, the City of Melbourne decided to sell its Wandin plant nursery. The nursery had supplied Melbourne's parks and gardens for many years and had a wonderful stock of advanced trees and shrubs, all of which were offered to the nursery trade. We were fortunate to hear of the sale and bought many plants which formed the basis of a much extended garden at our Emerald property. A *Tilia petiolaris* is one of our favourites.

The Tilians, known as the Lime or Linden, are not commonly grown in Australian gardens but we had seen these beautiful trees in England. There they grow to 30 metres tall, with a dome-shaped crown and soft mid-green foliage. The heart shaped leaves of the well known *Tilia cordata* show off tiny clusters of pale yellow flowers in spring.



On one side of the driveway, we have planted 5 *Tilia cordata* 'Bicentennial' and a *Tilia* 'Chelsea Sentinel', both cultivars of the most common European Small-leaved Lime. On the other side in a space defined by conifer borders stands the petiolaris, the Weeping Silver Lime. It has a spreading conical form which will expand with age. The elongated heart shaped leaves are a deep green on top and a silver felt under. The leaves are on the ends of extended stalks (petiols) which gives this tree its botanical species name. In a soft breeze, the leaves turn on their petiols, giving a changing green to silver wave through the tree. The branches and leaves also have a weeping habit, adding to the graceful appearance.

In Europe, Lime trees are recorded as far back as 1155 in Switzerland. A Lime tree in the gardens of the Imperial Castle of Nuremberg was reportedly planted by the wife of Henry II of Germany, making this tree over 900 years old.

The name of Linnaeus, botanist and father of the plant naming system, was derived from the Linden tree. The wood, called basswood in America, is soft and easily worked and is used in guitar making. Oils from the

flowers and seeds have long been used medicinally as anti-oxidants and anti-inflammatories. The Linden is the national emblem of Slovakia, and in Germanic folklore is known as 'the tree of lovers', being associated with Freyja, the goddess of love. A medieval love poem by Walther von der Vogelweide begins:

Under the lime tree
on the open field,
where we two had our bed,
you still can see
lovely both
broken flowers and grass.
On the edge of the woods in a vale,
tandaradei,
sweetly sang the nightingale.

The Emily Gibson Story

Last edition, the editor (me) inadvertently included a shortened version of Ellie Bastow's presentation on Emily Gibson. Here now is the full text of that story:

Emily Gibson: teacher, journalist and landscape designer

Emily Gibson [1887-1974], most usually known as Millie, was one of a group of energetic and creative female horticulturalists, including Olive Mellor, Edna Walling, Hilda Dance and Hilda Kirkhope, that bloomed in Melbourne through the earlier part of the 20th century. Not surprisingly Burnley Horticultural College was a common link between them. All had been students in the first quarter of the century and then teachers at later times. Of these women it was Millie who had the longest teaching association with Burnley, first as a young graduate 1918-1922 and later in 1947-195. This second period, an important time for her, was teaching Returned Servicemen and assisting them back into a peacetime workforce. She was also given the task of redesigning the college garden following the construction in 1946 of the landmark Percy Everett building. The Emily Gibson Beds are the two kidney shaped beds seen today in front of the main College building. Millie, who migrated to Australia with her T.B stricken family in 1911, was a late and determined starter in professional life. She was 30 when she graduated and described by a contemporary as a young woman of quiet Irish determination. Upon graduation with her Burnley Certificate of Competence she first gained a position with the architectural firm of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney from 1916 to 1918. At the time the Griffins were working on Melbourne University's Newman College as well as the prized residential development in Eaglemont. Following this time she traveled to London, apprenticing herself to the respected landscape architecture firm of Milner, Son and White from 1924 to 1926. Sometime later, in recognition of the advantage she herself had gained through her overseas experience, she established links with Kings College University of Durham for future Australian Students to continue their studies. Erica Ball, Joan Kilby, Mervyn Davis, Margaret Hendry, Eleanor McClelland and Susan Marks were all ex students of Millie's able to take advantage of this association. In 1924, and back in Melbourne she proved her dedication to the practicalities of horticulture as Argus journalist 'the Culturalist', presenting her guiding and informative column for 24 years, and addressing reader's gardening questions that came in at the rate of some 200 per week. This was also the time that she established herself in private practice, frequently in conjunction with the large architectural firm Stevenson and Turner, who worked particularly in industrial design. Millie's landscape designs for these buildings can be seen at the Latrobe Library Picture Collection. Millie was a highly regarded colleague, teacher and friend, known for her knowledge, generosity, and industry; there is reliable evidence to show that she was an early mentor to her better known contemporary, Edna Walling. She was a teacher on the grand egalitarian scale with her 24 years as weekly columnist on the Argus, her dedicated work under the Commonwealth Training scheme, and a short time teaching inmates at Pentridge Prison. It remains therefore somewhat of a mystery as to why more is not known of her life and pioneering achievements in landscape design. Undoubtedly her unassuming nature contributed something to the dearth of information on her work; there is also the tragic lack of records and documentation, after she destroyed her paperwork when moving to more restricted accommodation. Socio-economic pressures, too, can underline the ephemeral nature of the landscape designer's art, when higher density living through sub division, and the urge for new houses lead to the destruction of old gardens. This has been particularly the case in the south eastern suburbs where Millie had done private design work. It was a similar case with her public work. St Hilda's College at Melbourne University has extended its student accommodation at the cost of her garden design. Her landscape design at Fairlea Womens' Prison and Pentridge Gaol have vanished with the demolition of these institutions, as has her landscaping at the former Nicholas Factory in Warrigal Rd.

Millie Gibson's sites at Burnley, the two garden beds and the small rock pool she created in design classes with the ex servicemen, also suffer from a lack of documentation, and it is uncertain just how much of the extant plantings were part of her original design. This could be a project for the future.

Millie in her very first column in the Argus 31/10/1924 wrote decisively, "The love of gardening and a desire to cultivate the soil is a natural inheritance of the human race....The advance of civilization has ever been marked by a development of horticultural art".

.....**Ellie Bastow**

Report for FOBG AGM November 20 2007

Dear Friends,

Welcome.

Thank you for being here tonight and thank you all for your support.

We had an interesting year with musical Chairs of the group. First, a big thank you to Maria Kayak who held the fort from November 2006 to February 2007. Maria is also the treasurer, so there was a lot on her plate. I took on the Chair until August, then Rob Lazarus and various committee members helped him until November and now it is back to me again.

Your committee met regularly and worked very hard. Thank you to everyone. Maria Kayak (treasurer & membership), Anne Bishop (events program & catering for meetings), Jane Wilson (secretary and catering for meetings), Rob Lazarus, Rosia Pasteur and Fran Mason.

Also we extend a big thankyou to Andrew Smith (Garden's Manager) and non committee members Mal Bowmaker (newsletter) Geoffrey Kneebone (publicity) and the Friendly Guides.

There was a lot happening in 2007.

The most exciting things that we achieved this year:

- **Membership**

One of my aims was to increase membership. At this time last year we had 82 members. We now have 96. That is, 16 new members. This includes 40 Life members.

- **FOBG Website.**

Thanks to Michele Bowmaker, (Mal Bowmaker's wife) who has made it happen for us.

The website has allowed us to enter the 21st century. It has information about our group, details on how to join the FOBG, reports on our various activities and speakers and a diary of our meetings. It also links to the University of Melbourne's website with photographs of the gardens. It's all there on www.fobg.org.au

- **July -The return of the Burnley Winter Pruning Day**

We resumed the tradition of the winter pruning day. It was a free-of-charge event aimed at putting Burnley Gardens back on people's radar.

We had fabulous help from Andrew Smith and the gardening staff who had the gardens looking wonderful on the day. Former staff members Geoff Olive and Phil Tulk came and helped with the pruning demonstrations. Andrew Simpson came in from Pakenham to demonstrate rose pruning and the staff from Morning Star Estate in Mt Eliza and one of Burnley's graduate students, Andrea Watt demonstrated grape pruning. From the commercial world, we had Remy Favre from Felco and Rod McMillan from Adland demonstrating secateur sharpening and Peter & Ben Douglas from Scotsburn Nurseries demonstrating potting-on for the kids and donating seedlings.

We are keen to work more closely with Burnley Campus staff when we conduct the Pruning Day in 2008. Apart from Andrew and the garden staff, only Anne Mellin was present to represent the University.

- **Guided tours of the Gardens**

This sub committee of Barb Brookes, Jean Corbett, Ellie Bastow, Jane Wilson, Susie Hall, Pamela Carder, Suzy Spiers, Sue Bendall and Michèle Adler were very active as usual. They guided many groups of people through the gardens and took \$1,036.00. This sum is an increase of \$305 or 41% over last year. I think that any business would be pleased with that end-of-year result.

We have a new guides intake in March 2008 – please contact Barb Brooks if you are interested in learning more about the history of the garden and/or becoming one of the guides. We need support team as well as the face-to-face team.

- **Hanging Basket Display at MIFGS**

Anne Bishop planted and cared for this. Andrew Smith has offered his help for the 2008 basket.

- **Working Bees**

In general, only small numbers of people attended but we achieved a lot. We need your feed-back as to which days and tasks are interesting.

Summary of changes at the campus.

I think most members know that Greg Moore resigned in April 2007.

- There is a new Head of Campus – Nigel Stork
- There is a new Head of the Faculty of Land and Food Resources – Rick Roush
- All but five members of Burnley College horticultural lecturing staff accepted redundancy packages in June 2007. Those remaining are Cass McLean, John Rayner, Brian Shields, James Will and Ken James.
- Danielle Ryan –Gledhill has been appointed to help with the Short Course in Horticulture
- Gail Simmons and the café has gone and
- TAFE will not be operating at Burnley campus in the future.

Burnley Gardens Campus Master Plan

Nigel Stork invited the FOBG to input into the Master Plan for the Campus and 14 current and past members met in May and a smaller group in June to brainstorm ideas. We were very pleased to have been included in the whole process. I believe that Nigel has finished the Master Plan and submitted it.

In the gardens

Andrew Smith reported that:

- approval has been granted to remove the extremely dangerous *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum) in the front drive area and the *Eucalyptus citriodora* near the café. Both trees are being cloned to retain the original genetic stock.
- the Bunya Bunya in the Shady Garden which was used for tree-climbing training is also to be removed.
- the ponds will be filled from the new rainwater tank.
- there is a new full-time gardener, Trevor.
- the regular Elm-leaf Beetle treatment has been undertaken.

FOBG Funding for Burnley Gardens in 2008

The FOBG Committee has decided that the focus of FOBG funds for the Gardens will be on interpretive signage for the gardens.

Planning for 2008

- The events and meetings programme has been set up already and will be mailed to you soon.
- A new brochure of the gardens is being developed.
- A sub committee is needed to help organise the 2008 Pruning day event.

Thank you once again for your support. The success of our group is a real team effort. We look forward to a wonderful 2008.

Michèle Adler
Chair – FOBG 2007

Burnley Gardens Developments

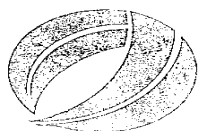
The Head Gardener, Andrew Smith recently brought us up to date with what's happening in the Gardens:

1. Elm leaf beetle treatment has taken place – this year commenced with stem injection. (There is a regime of different treatments over a period of years)
2. A frog survey is being carried out in the Gardens.
3. Rainwater from College tanks is now filling the ponds.
4. Two major trees are being removed following an arborist's report. They are a *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum) and a *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon-scented Gum). Plant material has been taken from both and grafted on to stock. These plants will be grown on and planted in the Gardens, preserving the original trees.
5. Drip system irrigation has been completed.
6. The Committee has decided that for the next year the focus of FOBG funds for the Gardens would be on information markers/plaques. If any members have expertise in this area, your help would be valued.
7. Yarra Valley Water is looking at making Gardiner's Creek sewerage recycling water available to Burnley Gardens.

If members would like to suggest ways that Friends' funds might be spent in the Gardens, please email, call, write or simply talk to one of the committee. Your ideas would be welcome.

Best Wishes to everyone for the Festive Season

After a hugely successful program this year, Michèle and Anne Bishop have put together another great series of events for 2008. Our numbers are sure to grow. All on the committee wish you, the members, a happy Christmas and New Year of dreams fulfilled.



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