

## FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC



### *Papyrus - Spring Edition*

No. 43 - September 2008

editor: Jan Chamberlain

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#### From the Chair

**Michèle Adler**

As I write, daffodils are dancing beneath wattle trees in my own garden in Gippsland. Birds are getting busy and spring is definitely happening.

Much has happened at Burnley Gardens since the autumn newsletter.

First, in June the Friends moved into a new home. No longer operating out of a cupboard in the photocopy room, the Friends of Burnley Gardens are now sharing a room with the Friends of the Elms in the Main Building on campus. The new space is just beyond the photocopy room on the ground floor in the former student services room. It can be accessed from either inside or outside the building – which is very handy for the guides when they are busy on a week-end.

When you are visiting The Gardens, come and make yourself at home. The key is with Reception. The office has been equipped with a desk, bookshelves, computer and chairs, courtesy of the University. Many thanks to Campus Administration for their support in getting the room up-and-running.



Then we had the Great Annual Pruning Day in July. Read more about the day in this newsletter.

And finally the camellia collection is looking stunning this year. Rain fell at just the right time (5 days before the programmed August Camellia tour) which just added the extra touch we needed to have things in flower and looking good. Wow!

Somehow the year is fast forwarding, but there are still a number of lectures and excursions to attend before we recess for summer. So, thank-you all for your continuing support of The Gardens. I hope to see you soon.

Michele Adler  
Chair, FOBG

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With Winter nearly over, it is a chance to reflect on the past season's growth and be optimistic about the next!

What a difference a season makes. When last I wrote the scorching summer had left even succulents desiccated, now August has ended and Melbourne has had a typical cold winter month. Not so the rainfall; falls have been good but slightly under the monthly average of 50mm.

Several major events over the last season (Chancellor's Circle, Pruning Day and Open Day) have given the Gardens a real and important focus, with high expectations for how they were presented for each of the events. This created a great challenge for the Gardening team and there was a great sense of pride and satisfaction in presenting the Gardens at their best. The public were not disappointed and were enthusiastic about the hidden treasure, we all know the Burnley Gardens to be.



Numerous trees were planted over the last months, some as replacements for existing trees and others as new additions to the Gardens. Increasing the diversity of plants at Burnley has always been something we are renowned for. One tree of note that was planted is the *Corymbia citriodora*, Lemon scented Gum, which was planted by Lady Potter on a recent tour she attended. This tree is a grafted clone of the original *C. citriodora* that was removed in December last year due to limb shedding safety concerns. Thanks go to Peter May for his expertise in successfully grafting the original specimen, as preserving the unusual weeping form of the original tree was an important consideration to the timing of its removal.



The Gardens now has a new tree inventory system that provides identification, tree history and map positioning details for each of the 347 major trees in the Gardens. This system will enable a hand held computer and a global positioning device (GPS) to be taken out into the Gardens for numerous uses, including assessing and updating trees after storms or educating students and the public on guided tours. The system will be expanded as funds become available, to include other layers of vegetation such as shrubs and perennials.

My thanks go to the FOBG committee and members for their assistance with the major events and working bees that have taken place over the past

months. My thanks also go to the Herb Society who continue to attend monthly working bees in the Herb garden and provide valuable assistance in maintaining and developing the area. If FOBG members would like to join the Herb society for the working bee days, they are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Andrea Dennis is a curator at the Maranoa Gardens and has been working there for 15 years. It is a public space which is an Australian plant display Botanic Garden. Andrea has recently bought a house in Doncaster which brought her to the topic of her top 20 drought tolerant plants - all Australian of course! She gave a very interesting talk to a large group of members and visitors.

With the drought conditions it has meant that gardeners have to think carefully about the management of their gardens. Drought proofing your garden is needed. Andrea expanded on the following points:

- A key component is plant selection.
- Don't pull out established plants - new plants need more water.
- Don't over water. One of the biggest problems with Australian plants is over watering. Plants need to be conditioned - one way to do this is by gradually reducing the amount of water that they receive.
- Group like plants together and find plants that fit the situation in your garden.
- Use an open mulch such as stones (when you visit the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens take notice of the variety of mulches used - like mussel shells) and compost but don't spread too deep.
- Use tube stock if possible - make sure they are good quality plants.
- Sowing seeds is good as you do not get transplant shock or root problems.

#### Andrea's Top 20 Drought Tolerant Plants are:

Botanic Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Corymbia maculata</i> syn. <i>Eucalyptus maculata</i>	Spotted Gum	Too large for suburban gardens
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i> syn. <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Lemon Scented Gum	Too large for suburban gardens
<i>Allocasuarina torulosa</i>	Rose She-oak	Probably also too big for most suburban gardens
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood	Indigenous to Melbourne
<i>Brachychiton discolor</i>	Queensland Kurrajong	Medium to tall tree - but slow growing
<i>Callistemon</i> spp. e.g. <i>Callistemon</i> 'White Anzac'	Bottlebrushes	There is one to suit every garden
<i>Eupomatia laurina</i>	Copper Laurel	Perfumed - prefers some water
<i>Buckinghamia celsissima</i>	Ivory Curl	A Queensland rainforest tree
<i>Backhousia citriodora</i>	Lemon Ironwood, Lemon-scented Myrtle	Likes a bit of shelter
<i>Banksia spinulosa</i>	Hairpin Banksia	Very variable - great for cut flowers
<i>Grevillea leucopteris</i>	Old Socks	Usually grafted and its common name refers to the perfume of the flowers
<i>Acmena</i> / <i>Syzygium</i> spp.	Lilly Pilly	Many cultivars (e.g. Orange Twist)
<i>Hovea pungens</i> , <i>H. elliptica</i> , <i>H. lanceolata</i>		Hoveas from eastern states do better in Melbourne
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i> <i>Lomandra</i> 'Goldfields Blue' <i>Lomandra confertifolia</i> subsp. <i>rubiginosa</i>	Spiny-headed Mat Rush	Found in roundabouts. Other <i>Lomandra</i> species
<i>Plectranthus argentatus</i>	Silver Plectranthus	Beware of weed potential
<i>Crowea exalata</i>	Small Crowea or Waxflower	Hedges well. Licorice scented foliage
<i>Philotheca</i> ( <i>Eriostemon</i> ) <i>myoporoides</i>	Long-leaf Waxflower	Can prune hard
<i>Banksia blechnifolia</i>	Southern Blechnum Banksia	
<i>Pultenaea pedunculata</i>	Matted Pea Bush	

Botanic Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Lechenaultia biloba</i>	Blue Lechenaultia	Hardest of the genus



*Callistemon sp.*




*Grevillea leucopteris*



*Lechenaultia biloba*

Some of Andrea's other favourite plants:

Botanic Name	Common Name	Comment
<i>Diplolaena grandiflora</i>	Tamala Rose	
<i>Correa reflexa</i>	Native Fuchsia	
<i>Correa pulchella</i> 'Ivory Doreen'		
<i>Hakea verrucosa</i>	Warty-fruited Hakea	
<i>Hakea scoparia</i>	Kangaroo Bush	
<i>Persoonia pinifolia</i>	Pine-leaf Geebung	
<i>Acacia longissima</i>	Narrow-leaf Wattle	
<i>Acacia iteaphylla</i>	Flinders Range Wattle	Has weed potential
<i>Westringia</i> spp.	Coastal or Native Rosemary	
<i>Grevillea</i> 'Superb' <i>Grevillea</i> 'Honey Gem'		

Maranoa Gardens:

<http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/leisure/parksandgardens/popularparks/maranoa1>

Australian National Botanic Gardens - Growing Native Plants: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/>

The Western Australia Flora: <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/>

## Visit to Community and Therapy Gardens by Anne Bishop

**31 May**

After the cancellation of the visit to community gardens earlier in the year, Friends of Burnley Gardens were invited to join a field trip to visit four community gardens in Melbourne.

The first garden was to Veg Out in St Kilda. This is a large area of land tucked in behind Luna Park and the Peanut Farm reserve. It is packed with many diverse beds containing interesting and unusual vegetables, herbs and flowers. Reflecting the tone of the area which is an eclectic mix of



artists, actors and many European migrants, it contains many innovative fences, statuary and decorations throughout the garden. It is open 7 days a week to not only the owners of the plots but for the general public to wander round and admire. We were lucky that morning as there was also a farmer's market on next door. After checking out the garden plots we were able to pop out to the market and buy a few home grown vegies.

Our next stop was to a totally different garden – Park Towers in South Melbourne. This was the newest garden. It was much smaller than the first and it had only opened that week. It was a good example of how the community worked with Cultivating Community on the design and construction. It gave us a chance to see the basic plan of how gardens are structured. We met a number of very enthusiastic gardeners, most of whom had originally come from Turkey.

The Port Melbourne 'Dig In' is supported by the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House and a committee of residents from the nearby flats.

This garden is well organised and has a great community feel. Apart from individual members tending their own plots all participants have a joint meeting once a month for everyone to have a clean up of the area i.e. weeding and a tidying up session which is followed by a BBQ and discussion of plans and a general socialising time. Once allotted, the plots must be tended on a regular basis otherwise prospective participants, on the long waiting list, are entitled to take over. Most people help each other so if any members are on holiday or are ill, someone in the group will help out.

Flemington had a Community Garden many years ago but it fell into disrepair through lack of support and assistance. Cultivating Community decided to re-establish the garden. With the help of many residents and the Garden of Eden Nursery staff there is now a thriving garden area containing 130 plots. The participants come from many different countries and live in the local high rise flats. It is a fantastic way to socialise, share ideas and plants and help learn the language. Incorporated in the area is a chook shed designed in an organic architectural style, a rustic shelter, raised garden beds for the less-mobile residents and hand finished seats and tables. The plots look spectacular – the unusual herbs, vegetables and flowers, all organically grown, are thriving under the tender loving care of each individual member of the group. Plants and home grown food has helped the new arrivals to feel more settled and at home in their new country.

Cultivating Community - Community Gardens Projects:  
[http://cultivatingcommunity.org.au/cc/?page\\_id=21](http://cultivatingcommunity.org.au/cc/?page_id=21)

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### **Computer Skills Course by Jan Chamberlain**

**4, 11 and 18 June**

A small group of friends met on consecutive Wednesdays in one of the Burnley computer rooms to learn some computer skills. Jane McMahon started the first session explaining the parts of the computer and then moved on to word processing, emails and some internet exploring. There is always something new to learn about computers and their applications. The friends who took part improved their skills and abilities and went away with the world at their finger tips. Thanks Jane for sharing your expertise.

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### **Pruning Day by the Committee; Photos by Jan Chamberlain**

**19 July**

At 11.30 am on Saturday 19 July the quadrangle outside the Field Station was jammed with would-be winter pruners. During the preceding week, the weather had been filthy and the forecast for Pruning Day had varied from rain, to showers, to cold, to windy, none of which were particularly pleasing options. So, imagine our delight when Skadi the goddess of winter, grinned down upon us and delivered a fine and mild winter's day.

The Field Station gates opened and they were off and running. Some went to their rose workshop rendez-vous with Lloyd Rankin (Rankin's Roses), some fast-footed it to Felco for a secateur fling, others bee-lined it to a fruit tree demonstration with Greg Moore (former Burnley principal) and some honed in on the Pruner's Café for a hot beverage and a browse through the pre-loved books.

Grape pruners disappeared south to the vineyard with Peter May (former Deputy Principal), shrub pruners went north with Shaun Bowman (former Gardens staff and new dad of baby Hugh) and more fruit tree pruners dispersed amongst the rows of fruit trees.

It wasn't long before the masses were all occupied, clipping, cutting, dead-wooding and lopping. Current and former staff alike joined in the demonstrations and workshops. Even the kids were being trained-up with Ben Douglas (budding young horticulturist 2008) whilst they potted-on seedlings donated by Peter Douglas and Scotsburn Nurseries. Michèle saw two little girls skipping to the pottting-on table because they had remembered the activity from last year.

The day continued to reveal more treasures: The Gardener's Forum sported radio and TV stars John Patrick (Gardening Australia), Melissa King (former dux of her year and now TV presenter on Gardening Gurus) and Greg Moore. The trio kept the crowd in the palm of their glove for an hour and only stopped because they were needed in the pruning gardens for their workshops.

The Place was a hive of activity - Friends had grown plants for sale, Unimelb staffed their courses table and Mission Control (Maria Kayak and Carol Ferguson) funneled the would-be pruners in the right directions.

No-one drew breath until the Field Station gates snapped shut at the end of the day and the red flags on their bamboo poles stopped fluttering.

It was all a great success. Another 300 people went away from Burnley in the old tradition, better informed by staff, past and present and Friends of the Gardens.

Our sincere thanks to supporters Flemings, Felco, Scotts Australia and Yates, Andrew Smith and the Gardens staff and The Friends who helped prepare the site before the event and who worked tirelessly on the day.

*More about Mission Control:*



Mission Control - Carol Ferguson and Maria Kayak



Plant Seller 1 - Catherine Watson



The Greeters - Bryce Ferguson and Mal Bowmaker

Maria and Carol organised the many people who had pre-booked the specialist Pruning Workshops. Only a few places were available for people who booked in at the last minute. Other helpers handed out Pruning Day programs, answered questions, directed visitors to various activities, sold Friends merchandise (our hats were very popular on the day) and handed out new Member Application forms. Nine new memberships were taken on the day, with several more coming in after the event.

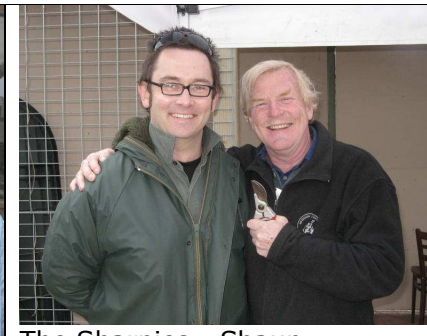
*... the Pruners Café:*



Caterers x 2 - Jane Wilson and Janet McCombe



The Sizzlers - (L to R) Alexander, Rob and Ruth Lazarus



The Sharpies - Shaun Bowman and Rod McMillan



Fran Mason, Dianne Cranston and Jane Wilson set up a Café providing filled rolls, sandwiches, cakes, biscuits and hot and cold drinks. Several Friends and Guides helped all day — particular thanks to Sue Bendell, Erin La Rue and Janet McCombe. Rob and Ruth Lazarus with their son Alexander and Jane's children, Alex and Claire, did a great job setting up and working all day at the sausage sizzle. With steady business they were kept busy and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

... *Children's Corner and Hanging Basket Demonstration:*



Kid Expert - Ben Douglas



Plant seller 2 - Claire Ferguson



A Demonstrator - Brian Shields

Ben Douglas is an old hand at running the Pot up a Plant at the Children's Corner. With a little help from his dad Peter he has worked at a number of venues other than Pruning Day at Burnley. He has helped children at school fetes and with the Prahran Garden Club stand at Stonnington Council's *Spring into Gardening*. Ben helped many children select a seedling and pot it up to take home. He also advised them how to care for their plants.

In conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria, Scotsburn Nursery runs the Great Hanging Basket Competition at the International Flower and Garden Show. Hence Anne Bishop could not have had anyone better to assist with her demonstrations of planting up some hanging baskets.

After Ben and Anne had completed their demonstration they were joined by a representative of the Bloom Master product company who showed us another type of basket — plastic with holes in it. They had many interested children and adults for both the children's corner and the hanging basket demonstration.

... *Garden Advice Panel*

Hidden away near the Pruners Café were a bunch of knowledgeable people who unfortunately didn't get asked many questions.



The Problem Solvers - Liz Cooper and Sandi Pullman



The Advisor - John Brereton



The pH Testers - Bruce and Claire Scott

The FOBG Camellia Tour on August 12th run by the Guides was held on a day when the rain fortunately held off. There were 13 visitors and 3 members who attended. The display of Camellias has improved considerably over the last few years as the Guides, under the watchful eye of Andrew Smith, have endeavoured in their working bees to bring them back to better condition. Some of the Guides have done a great deal of research and nearly all of them have their correct names on labels. Also the Guides are now able to take visitors around telling them about the origins of many of the Camellias and some interesting tales and legends.

You may not be aware that we have over 50 different species and cultivars in the Burnley collection, with some plantings dating from over a century ago.

The Friends of Burnley Gardens have recently purchased 5 new camellia plants to augment the collection. We have donated two tea camellias (*Camellia sinensis*) and two *Camellia oleifera*, which is used to make camellia oil. We also purchased a *Camellia japonica* 'Dr Robert Withers' to replace the one that died.

For our collective interest, *Camellia sinensis* is not only hard to grow in Melbourne but also hard to propagate. (Only 50% of cuttings take and it is really best grown from seed). It prefers a slightly warmer and wetter climate than ours with a situation in light or dappled shade. Our winters are a bit too cold for its liking, so it may be one best grown in a pot and moved around to capture the winter sun. However, if you like your fresh tea tips straight from the bush, then it is worth persevering.

The working bee which followed the tour was attended by five Guides and one student. They worked on the Camellias in the Fernery. It started to drizzle but Anna kept us working by providing us with wet weather gear! Thanks to their hard work a path through the Camellia bed was repaired, weeded and mulched.



L to R: Chris Sampson, Sue Bendel, Camilla, Michèle Adler and Jane Wilson  
Photo: Barb Brookes

## **Apple Recipe**

**Jan Chamberlain**

After Jean Corbett's April talk on apples some apple treats were served. Here is another of the recipes.

### **Sour Cream Apple Slice**

1½ cups self-raising flour ¾ cup sugar 1 cup desiccated coconut 125g melted butter	<b>Base:</b> Mix the flour, sugar and coconut in a bowl. Add the melted butter and mix until combined. Press firmly into a greased and lined lamington tin. Bake until golden (about 20 minutes) at 180°C.
300g sour cream 3 medium Granny Smith apples, coarsely grated 2 tbsps brown sugar	<b>Topping:</b> Combine sour cream and apple. Spread over the base, sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake until topping colours slightly (about 25 minutes). When cool cut into slices.



## Membership Update

**Carol Ferguson**

We welcome to the Friends the following 20 new members who have joined the group since May 2008.

Tony Roberts, Michael Harris, Paul Mattiske, Erin LaRue, Christine Sampson, Lady Potter, Robert Shaw, Lorrie Lawrence, Elizabeth Watson, Lisa Williams, Laurie Krauss, Dagmar Mackie, Estelle Redlich, Judith Scurfield, Jozica Kutin, John Fordham, Julie Thornton, Margaret Power - and our 2 group memberships from The Doncaster Garden Club and The Melbourne University Book Shop.

We look forward to meeting all our new members at one of our forthcoming Friends functions.

## Support the Gardens

The following fund raising articles are available:

Hats: \$15.00 each in 4 sizes (55 cm, 57 cm, 59 cm, 61 cm)

Publication: \$5.00 *Burnley Gardens* by Lee Andrews

Vests: \$60.00 each in 3 sizes (small, medium, large)

Our mugs are now available.

## FOBG Committee Members

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

\* non-committee positions

## Friends' Benefits

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## Diary Dates

Date	Activity
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Tuesday 9 Sept 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>Richard Barley</b> Manager of RBG Melbourne. Guilfoyle's Volcano
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Saturday 20 Sept 10:45 am – 12.30 pm	<b>Guided tour of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens.</b> Melbourne's newest and hottest garden of Australian plants. Bookings essential
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Monday 22 Sept 9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Working Bee Day</b> Join members of the Herb Society helping maintain the Burnley Gardens.
<b>OCTOBER</b> Wednesday 15 Oct 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>John Patrick</b> presents <b>Modern landscape design for small gardens.</b> John is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker. He is a Gardening Australia presenter and former Burnley lecturer.
<b>OCTOBER</b> Monday 27 Oct 9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Working Bee Day</b> Join members of the Herb Society helping maintain the Burnley Gardens.
<b>NOVEMBER</b> Wednesday 19 Nov 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>AGM</b> Andrew Smith, Burnley Gardens Head Gardener
<b>NOVEMBER</b> Monday 24 Nov 9:30 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Working Bee Day</b> Join members of the Herb Society helping maintain the Burnley Gardens.
<b>2009</b>	
<b>FEBRUARY 2009</b> Saturday 14 Feb Time to be advised	<b>Valentine's Day Talk and Tour</b> Professor Rick Roush, Dean of Land and Food Resources will speak on genetically modified food. Our usual Valentine's Day fare of champagne will be available. Some snacks will also be served.
<b>JULY 2009</b> Saturday 18 July	<b>Burnley Gardens Pruning Day</b> Please note this date in your diary now. We would like to make the 2009 event bigger and better than the 2008 day and we need your help to achieve this goal.

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