



FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC



Papyrus - Summer Edition

No. 44 - December 2008
editor: Jan Chamberlain

From the Chair (Report for AGM)

Michèle Adler

Dear Friends,

Thank you for being here tonight and thank you all for your support. I'm pleased to report that we have had an extremely successful year.

Committee

Last AGM we had a change of some of the committee members. During 2008 we met regularly each month and worked very hard. Thank you to everyone.

- Anne Bishop (Vice Chair, events program & catering for member meetings)
- Maria Kayak (treasurer),
- Carol Ferguson (membership and merchandise)
- Jane Wilson (secretary and catering for member meetings),
- Jan Chamberlain (newsletter and computer fix-it wiz),
- Diane Cranston and Fran Mason (catering for member meetings).
- Andrew Smith (Burnley Campus liaison)

Also we extend a big thankyou to Andrew Smith (Garden's Manager) and non committee members Mal and Michele Bowmaker (for maintenance of our web site), Geoffrey Kneebone (for publicity) and the Friendly guides.

Membership

One of my aims has been to increase our membership. Two years ago our membership stood at 82. We now have 133 members. That's an increase of 51. That's a 62% increase over 2 years. So our little group is swelling – or could we say "imbibing"?

The format of the monthly meetings has changed a little to include a social get-together at the beginning with a glass of something and some nibbles. This change seems to have been quite successful.

10th Anniversary of FOBG

2008 marks our 10 year anniversary. The group started on April Fool's Day 1998 and was incorporated on 12 August 1998. Fifteen of the original members are still members today (listed below). Three of those are currently active on committee and in publicity, one is a member of the guides and a fourth looks after the Burnley archives.

Thank-you all for your ongoing commitment to the Gardens.

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Peter Sheppard
Joss Tonkin

Suzy Speirs
Mary Donovan
Martin Stevens
Eric Littlejohn
Dr Greg Moore

Annual Pruning Day

Our Winter Pruning Day this year received more publicity for the Gardens. We worked with the University of Melbourne Alumni who helped us with the advertising and we even made an appearance on You Tube.

This year we included paid workshops and a Gardeners' forum with notable speakers such as Melissa King, John Patrick and Dr. Greg Moore. Past and present staff helped with the workshops and garden advice. Our thanks to Brian Shields, John Brereton, Shaun Bowman, Greg Moore, Peter May, John Rayner and James Will.

Three hundred people attended the day – which was double the numbers for 2007.

Friendly Guides

The guides continue to be a steady source of our revenue, show-casing the gardens to all sorts of people. This year we guided hundreds of the University of Melbourne's Chancellor's Circle, a group from the International Dendrology Society (a group committed to the study and preservation of trees) and many others such as walking groups, Probus groups and folk from retirement villages.

During a group visit we made an exciting "discovery" - Keith McLennan. He was born here at Burnley and is the son of a previous principal.

One new guide is training with the group but we do need more new people to be involved in learning the history of the Gardens, acting either as volunteer guides, researchers into the Gardens' history or as support team.

FOBG Funding for Burnley Gardens in 2009

In 2009 FOBG would like to:

- restore Mrs Jessep's seat in the Herb garden. The money for the restoration has come from the sale of books from Nina Crone's estate.
- contribute some funding towards research on Burnley's Green Roof.

Planning for 2009

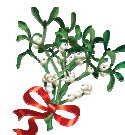
The **activities and meetings program for 2009** has been organised. There are talks/lectures, workshops, working bees and of course the Pruning Day. Highlights are:

- Saturday 14 February (St. Valentine's Day), a chicken and champagne evening followed by a talk on genetic engineering with Rick Roush, Head of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne.
- **Horticultural research** that is being conducted at Burnley. There will be two evenings with Burnley staff that focus on their research,
- A series of bonsai **workshops** conducted by bonsai master, Ted Poynton,
- The Annual Winter Pruning Day on Saturday 18 July – please put that date in your diary.

Finally. thank-you all for your friendship and commitment. Thank-you for coming and enjoying this wonderful resource – the Burnley Gardens.

Best wishes for 2009,

Michèle Adler, Chair, FOBG 2008



Looking for a last minute Christmas gift with a horticultural flavour for yourself or a special friend?
See the special book offer from Florilegium in the Friends' benefits section.

At the beginning of his talk in September, Richard Barley (Director, Melbourne Gardens - Royal Botanic Gardens [RBG] and Burnley graduate) noted that both the RBG and the Burnley Gardens had common links - one of which was Baron von Mueller. Prior to his slide presentation he warned the gathering that some of his slides included gratuitous shots of *Agapanthus*.

One of the old photos showed that one *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) pre-dates the establishment of the RBG. A series of pictures showed that gardens are constantly changing and that they are dynamic. The garden bed under this River Red Gum has changed over time and is now consistent with the context of the tree with local plants being planted at its base.

The RBG was planted to be a lush English landscape and with time, views have closed off and canopies have spread. Some of the original plantings in the rockeries contained Yuccas and Cordylines and these were well suited to growing in Melbourne's climate. Many plants planted in the gardens during the 20th century need more care (and water) to sustain them.

A mature landscape must be continually invigorated and there have been many large scale projects at the RBG over the last decade (Long Island and the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden for example).

Richard briefly spoke about the contentious weed issue in relation to *Agapanthus* and willows and the need to make intelligent choices. Botanic gardens can play a role and draw on collective knowledge so that the whole genus of *Agapanthus* is not removed from the plant palette. Also, that all 297 willows are not dismissed because 4 or 5 are a weed problem.

When choosing plants we need to look at parts of the world with similar climates to our own - really what our climate will be in the future. A graphical representation of the trend in annual total rainfall showed that Melbourne (and other parts of Australia) is getting drier.

This led onto the subject of irrigation at the RBG. Since hitting a peak in 1993/1994 water usage has been wound back over the last decade. Some water saving measures introduced at the RBG are: *Kikuyu* has been planted (as it uses 30% less water), staff have been trained and soil moisture probes used.



The volcano - all wrapped up



At C Gate entrance - the volcano was previously hidden by trees

Richard observed that since water restrictions began, visitation to the RBG had increased by 22%. The layout of the RBG has generally stayed the same as that determined by Guilfoyle in 1909. In 1876 a volcano was built as a reservoir and in a landscape sense the volcano is Guilfoyle's 'folly'. The beds coming from the volcano represent the lava that flows into the sea - Nymphaea lake. Made of bluestone, the volcano is Melbourne's own 'Macchu Picchu' as the stone work fits together so well. Up until the 1950's it was used up as a reservoir and holds 1.3 megalitres, is about 8 metres deep and about 27 metres across. During the 1967 and 1983 droughts it was used temporarily for water storage.

The volcano is being reinstated as a landscape feature and will be used to irrigate the gardens in a sustainable way. The plans are to source storm water runoff from Anderson Street which will travel through a gross pollutant trap, wetland filters and circulate around the lake. The project will use of photovoltaic cells and be energy neutral. The RBG is committed to working toward an alternative water source together with surrounding entities. It is intended that the sewers in the area will be mined and use filtration systems to produce clean water. This is expected to be finalised around mid-2011. It is intended as a showcase of what can be done and how it can be done - with the ultimate aim of securing the future water supply of the Botanic Gardens.

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/silo/reg/cli_chg/trendmaps.cgi

<http://www.rbq.vic.gov.au/>

http://www.rbq.vic.gov.au/_data/page/1210/RBG_Guilfoyles_Volcano.pdf

Tour of Cranbourne Gardens - Jan Chamberlain

20 September

The Australian Garden at the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens was the focus for a visit by the Friends in September. Two guides showed our group around - Trevor Blake (Volunteer Guide and Australian Plant Expert) and Melanie Attard (Customer Service Ranger).

The seed for the Australian garden was sown back in 1947 as it was recognised that there needed to be a display site for Australian flora. The 370 hectare site was selected and it was (and still is) predominately bushland. It is a tremendously precious area - an island surrounded by a sea of houses, a chook farm and a quarry.

There are five distinct types of vegetation in the bushland section.



(L to R) Trevor Blake, Anne Bishop, Jane Wilson and Maria Kayak in the Eucalypt Walk

On the site of a disused sand mine, twenty three hectares have been developed into the Australian Garden. The garden tells the story of water. Entering the garden at the red centre (the sand was obtained from a quarry 10km away) we travelled through a representative planting of each of the 85 bioregions in Australia. In these beds there is an amazing diversity of plants.



Carprobrotus rossii (a white pigface)



The very prickly *Hakea corymbosa*

Throughout the garden there is an array of mulch types - banksia cones, mussel shells, grape stems (winery waste). The exhibition garden beds aim to show that you can use less water in home gardens. Plant labels are labelled with watering cans to indicate each plants watering requirement. As we walked beside the 'river bed' the water flow changed over time. The bank on the other side is the largest sculpture in Australia. Made of rusted steel it represents the end of

the desert and the canyons/cliffs. The future garden consists of raised beds in non-woven material 'sausages' showcasing the results of the horticulture industry playing with Australian plants - the hybrids and grafted plants.

Trevor was an encyclopaedia of information and an entertaining guide. These are some of his many comments: there are 1200 species of *Acacia* - one for every occasion; some grey plants have a waxy coating or are covered in fine hairs to stop transpiration (whether they live by the sea or in the tough conditions of the alps); the Emu Bush is so-named as the seed has to

go through an emu's gut before it can be propagated; cut *Pimeleas* back hard; no garden is 'no maintenance'; east coast *Banksias* are generally easier to grow; there are 27 species of grass trees; pea plants and wattles put nitrogen back into the soil after fires; shorter kangaroo paws are usually shorter lived.

There were many more interesting comments about plants. But if you haven't been to the Australian Garden make the trip, book a guided tour for added value and you will be informed and amazed.



Friends and visitors with Trevor in the Arid Garden

http://www.rbq.vic.gov.au/rbg_cranbourne

Modern Landscape Design for Small Gardens - Jan Chamberlain 15 October

John Patrick gave an inspiring and entertaining talk about the many aspects of garden design for small gardens. He emphasised that the design must be functional and it must work for you (the owner) as well as looking attractive to you. John showed a number of slides of gardens and garden designs and they were a great way for the audience to picture how to:

- contrast introverted and extroverted designs (looking inward and giving a sense of looking out respectively)
- break a garden up (use plantings or pickets);
- create secret places;
- assess different qualities of the environment (sunny/shady);
- contrast different styles of planting (informal/formal);
- use paving as a structural element in design (e.g. as the shadow of a pond);
- give a sense of a view (borrow landscapes or use a tromp l'oeil);
- use curved lines to attract the eye to tree or to detract from an eyesore in the garden;
- change the scale (e.g. paving - large to small).



John's most recent book (written with Jenny Wade) has just been published: *Contemporary Australian Garden Design - Secrets of leading garden designers revealed*. Published by Allen and Unwin it is, as they say, available at all good book stores.

After a great ramble through small garden design principles, the evening finished with a look at some of the leading garden designers of the moment: Georgina Martyn, Vladimir Sitta and Patrick Blanc (vertical gardens). One of Patrick Blanc's vertical gardens is in Melbourne Central.

Mal Bowmaker is pictured with John.

<http://www.boldsimplicity.com.au/>

<http://terragram.com.au/Work/>

<http://www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com/>

On 19th November the Annual General Meeting was held at Burnley. During the year we commenced all our general meetings with drinks and nibbles which gives members a chance to socialise (and the late comers time to arrive) prior to the start of the actual meeting. We decided to follow the same format and had refreshments in the courtyard under the trees prior to moving inside to cover the business of the evening.

In the absence of our Chairperson, Michèle Adler, the meeting was run by Anne Bishop. The reports were read out – including a report from Michèle which is published in this newsletter.

Mal Bowmaker took the Chair to announce the committee for the next 12 months. We would like to welcome a new committee member Laurie Krauss (pictured with her *Grevillea* door prize) and thank Fran Mason who is leaving the committee after 3 years. Fortunately we are not losing Fran completely as she is going to head up the subcommittee for preparing plants for the plant stall on Pruning Day.



With the formal part of the evening over we were treated to a talk by Andrew Smith - Garden Manager as well as the Gardens Representative on our committee. Andrew gave us a summary of the work being done this year in the garden and some plans for the future.

At the AGM Andrew Smith gave an overview of happenings in the Burnley Gardens in 2008. He said there were many changes with the main challenge being the water restrictions. There were two major events - Pruning Day and the Chancellor's Circle function. The Pruning Day was bigger and better than the previous year with many current staff helping make it very successful.

Each year the Development Office at the University of Melbourne choose a venue to hold a function for the members of the Chancellor's Circle. These members make a significant contribution to University. 180 people attended their function at the Burnley Gardens and they were guided through the Gardens by staff and Friends. The Gardens were specially lit for the occasion and looked fantastic.

Andrew commented that it is always good to have a focus and have other people visit the gardens and appreciate it. Lady Potter was one of the visitors that evening and she requested to see the gardens during the day. She visited with her daughter and planted a grafted *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum) to replace one that had been removed. It was 61 years since the original tree had been planted by Mrs Roberts.

There are seven heritage listed trees in the gardens and one (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) had taken to dropping limbs - narrowly missing one person. An application was made to Heritage Victoria to remove the tree and the most valuable wood was taken off site for storage. The best slab has now been purchased by the Friends of Burnley Gardens.

All garden beds are now under drip irrigation. 38% of water on the site is used in the Gardens but since introducing drip irrigation the water usage has halved. Other options are under consideration but water storage on site is a problem and sewer mining is very expensive.

A system for storing tree information via hand held devices with a GPS has been introduced. This enables staff to assess trees according to the recorded information such as limbs, any cables and its position.

The Burnley Gardens have been the recipient of \$30,000 after Heritage Victoria fined a company for not protecting trees on a building site. This money has been allocated to four initiatives:

- Investigating different types of water use on plant species
- Paying for a sensor to detect tree movement
- Roof garden research and
- Expand the tree information system to include shrubs.

Andrew ended his talk by thanking all volunteer groups who help in the gardens.

Questions from the audience elicited that half of the nursery area is now shaded and there is no solution to the pond leakage problem as yet.

Purchase of Timber Slab

Anne Bishop

Earlier this year the 140 year old Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) had to be cut down for safety reasons. The main trunk of the tree was removed free of charge to be milled into timber slabs. It was suggested that perhaps the Friends could purchase the largest and best slab. It would be most suitable for the manufacture of a conference table or some other use.

The committee had a discussion about the purchase of the slab. It was necessary for a decision to be made before the end of November as the timber firm was moving and needed to sell the slabs. The committee decided to purchase the previously mentioned slab for \$2,500. It needs to be air-dried at Burnley for the next couple of years.

Although the Friends of Burnley Gardens usually concentrate on activities such as guided tours and working bees in the garden, it was felt that as this tree had been part of Burnley's history for over 100 years it was important to preserve at least part of it as an investment for our future.

Membership Update

Carol Ferguson

We welcome the following 9 new members to the Friends who have joined the group since September, 2008.

Richard Barley, Denise McCann, Mandy Marshman, Cheryl Andrews, Olivia Thwaites, Priscilla Rule, Domenica Leone, Leesa Abbinga and Tamara Campbell.

Our first FOBG member gathering for 2009 will be on Saturday 14th February – and we look forward to meeting our new members at this, and other 'Friends' events throughout the year.

From January to November 2008, we have welcomed 37 new members to the 'Friends' – we now have a total membership of 133.

Potting up Group

Fran Mason is going to lead a small group to help with the potting-up of plants for sale at the July Pruning Day. The preferred time is Wednesday afternoons with the first day being in February some time. If you are interested please contact Fran as soon as possible via email on gardens.flare@optusnet.com.au or by phone on 0415 795 115. If another day is better for you let her know.

Support the Gardens

The following fund raising articles are available at meetings.

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

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

Mugs: \$10

FOBG Committee Members

Chairperson	Michèle Adler (awaiting nomination form)
Deputy Chairperson	Anne Bishop
Treasurer	Maria Kayak
Secretary	Jane Wilson
Membership	Carol Ferguson
Member	Laurie Krauss
Assistant Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Jan Chamberlain
Member	Dianne Cranston
Gardens Representative.	Andrew Smith*
Publicity	Geoffrey Kneebone*

* non-committee positions

Friends' Benefits

HORTICULTURAL FLORA OF SOUTH-EAST AUSTRALIA Vols 1 - 5 by Roger Spencer (RBG Melbourne)

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 Michèle Adler 5145 5422 michele@adland.com.au
 Burnley Reception 9250 6800

Diary Dates

FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS 2009

Date	Activity
FEBRUARY Saturday 14 Feb 5.30 pm for New Friends welcome 6.00 pm start for general members 7-30 pm talk by Rick Roush	St Valentine's Day meeting. We start at 5.30 pm with our <i>New Friends Welcome</i> . Members of the Committee and the Guides will host this event. This flows into champagne at 6 pm followed by an informal meal of chicken and salad. The talk, Genetically Modified Crops – Safe for food and the environment? is by Rick Roush, Head of Land and Food Resources at the University of Melbourne.
MARCH Tuesday 10 Mar. 7 for 7.30 pm	Have some Madeira m'dear – the Plants of Madiera with International guest speaker Marian Bellarby.
MARCH Saturday 28 March 10.30 am - Talk 11.00 am – 12 pm Walk & gawk	The Significant Trees of Burnley Gardens. Part 1 - ½ hour talk by former Burnley graduate John Fordham. Part 2 – Guided tour by the Friendly Guides Enjoy a talk then a walk and gawk followed by a BYO picnic lunch.
APRIL Wednesday 8, 15, 29 April @ 7.00 pm Saturday 18 April 10 am – 1 pm	3 Bonsai Classes with Ted Poynton (President of Victorian Bonsai Society). Formal, informal, slanting. Attendees go home with a bonsai plant each week. All materials covered. Cost: members \$175, non-members \$225. Max 10 people. Priority to members. Propagating in the Burnley Nursery - a morning's immersion in propagating. Join our new 'Growing Group' and learn to propagate cuttings with former Burnley lecturer, Michèle Adler ably assisted by Anne Bishop. The extras will be distributed at Members' meetings.
APRIL Tuesday 28 April 7 for 7.30 pm	Dame Elisabeth's Garden at Cruden Farm with Anne Latreille, garden journalist and author of <i>Garden of a lifetime: Dame Elisabeth Murdoch at Cruden Farm</i> . Cruden Farm was Elisabeth Murdoch's wedding present. Over the next 8 decades the garden has been planted shaped and nurtured – a truly remarkable achievement.
MAY Tuesday 19 May 7 for 7.30 pm	Burnley's Green Roof presented by Burnley Lecturer John Rayner. Cutting edge horticulture is occurring on the roof of Burnley College. How is it done? What is being planted? How successful is it? Follow the research being done at Burnley on green roofs and walls.
JUNE Wed 17 June 1.00 pm - Lunch 2.00 - 4.00 pm – work bee 7 for 7.30 pm	Lunch and Members Working Bee in Burnley Gardens Preparation for July Pruning day. Meet in the café for lunch at 1 pm then lend a hand to Andrew Smith and the garden staff in the Gardens. Afternoon tea at the café. Fungi, mosses and other ancient plants with Bruce Fuhrer
JULY Sat 18 July 11 am – 3 pm	Pruning Day. Pruning, sizzle & sozzle. Workshops and demonstrations of pruning techniques on fruit trees, native shrubs, grapes, and roses in the Burnley Gardens Field Station.
AUGUST Wed 12 August 7 for 7.30 pm	Cranbourne Botanic Gardens – Stage 2 with John Arnott, Horticulture, RBG Cranbourne. Follow this exciting new stage of the project in the Australian Garden at the RBG Cranbourne
SEPTEMBER Wed 16 Sept 7 for 7.30 pm	The answer is blowing in the wind with Burnley lecturer Ken James. Ken is an engineer with a focus in horticulture. He has been researching wind stress in trees for around 10 years and his findings are quite amazing. He has been presenting his results at international conferences and it's all happening here in our own backyard.
OCTOBER Saturday 10 October 10.00 am – 12.30 pm	Friends' own Garden Gander. A Saturday morning wander in some of our Friends' own gardens followed by a BYO picnic lunch. We have some very talented people who belong to the FOBG; let's have a look at what they have done in their own patch.
NOVEMBER Tues 10 November 7 for 7.30 pm	Keeping our connection with the Yarra River with Yarra River Keeper, Ian Penrose and AGM