



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. 47 - December 2009

editor: Jan Chamberlain

From the (Chez Lounge) Chair

John Fordham

Greetings fellow FOBG members.

Having only been in this position for a couple of months it apparently qualifies me to write about this past year and the one coming.

We are of course looking forward to a variety of guest speakers, many that Michèle Adler has organised. However at some stage I will throw my hat in the ring and organise a few via my network of contacts. It is interesting to see who you have had speaking to the friends over the last few years - many a familiar name to myself.

We will of course be kicking off with what is I believe "the traditional" Valentine's Day lecture on Sunday 14 February from Dr Greg Moore: **Climate Change: Urban Landscapes Pay their Way.** Not to be missed and we'll be advertising this one heavily. I can confess that I've sat in on a few lectures of Greg Moore in my time and I always find them engaging.

There will be a grey water lecture, a millennium seed bank lecture and I would say also not to be missed **An afternoon in the laboratory at Burnley** with Clare Scott. If you have never looked down either a stereo or mono microscope come and discover another world as there are some quite beautiful images.

We hope to be able to propagate a variety of plants for the open day next year with a possible theme on water saving or "water mean" plants, we'll see what we can organise so stay tuned.

Already there has been talk amongst some of the committee that I should organise a tree tour. As many of you may be aware I am also on the National Trust's committee for the Register of Significant Trees and for some time I was taking people to see some of the state's magnificent trees on our register. We'll try and get this one up and make a few dollars in the process. Those who have come on such tours have really enjoyed them.

At some stage we will have a pond opening, I'm sure. If anyone has any ideas as to how to "open" a pond they would be much appreciated. Should we release ducks, fish, tadpoles etc. !!!!!!!!!!!

Finally I'd like to wish you from myself and the committee a very happy safe and growing new year.

Best wishes

John Fordham



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Prior to the September AGM Ken James spoke about wind forces acting on urban trees. He comes to the tree business from an engineering perspective having been an expert on equipment and their maintenance. Ken had recently given a presentation at a major arboreal conference and we were lucky enough to hear parts of it. Managing trees in urban areas is becoming more important as half the world's population now live in cities - in Europe 80% of people are city dwellers. It is becoming increasingly important for authorities to do a risk assessment as the emphasis of the law has been changing from a negligence issue to one of liability.



Neil Webster and Ken James

Ken has been looking at the structural elements in trees and the forces on those trees when it is windy. In those conditions trees can break or fall over. Usually it is persistent forces that are the cause - bit by bit rather than one big gust of wind. He showed many pictures of trees that had fallen over including one of Fawkner Park trees taken in February 2005. He also showed video footage of a tree falling over in Nelson, New Zealand (www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtCzlZogjZQ). Ken felt there are many trees that are taken out that do not need to be removed.

Ken has been measuring wind loads on trees and one thing he can calculate from his measurements is the bending moment (sounds too much like Physics for me). This is calculated at the base of the tree. As the wind bends the trunk, the outer fibres on the windward side stretch and on the leeward side the fibres compress.

Previously, researchers have used upper canopy measurements using strings, lasers or wires with accelerometers and tilt meters. The problem is accuracy and how to relate the measurement to wind loads. These measurements don't work on trees without a central trunk and they ignore lower branches.

Other issues about these measurements are that they are often based on a plantation tree (tall and skinny with no lower branches) which does not reflect real trees in an urban environment. The fact that an old tree is not a scaled up version of a young tree is often not taken into account. In older trees branches dominate, and in smaller trees it is the leaves that dominate. In a plantation tree, the trunk dominates. Wind tunnel tests use wind at a constant speed which does not reflect reality. Ken showed a video which showed that branches can move together or they can move apart. The type of tree used in the studies also affects results.

With sensors on two sides of a tree Ken combines the readings and gets a graph that looks like the top of the tree has been drawing in the sky (remember those Spirograph drawings?). A palm tree trace loops around - mainly due to the flexibility in the trunk. The difficult part is how to analyse the information. Ken showed some videos that showed branch movement when it is windy was upwards. Branches tend to dampen the movement of trees and Ken commented that you cannot prune all trees the same. Removing branches may not be good as it may magnify the effect of 'pole' movement. To demonstrate this effect Ken showed a video of what happens when you remove the top of a palm tree: www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-xJWIUoe3c.

In answer to a question Ken noted that mystery still surrounds the issue of sudden limb drop.



Julie-Ann Webster and Andrew Smith



Caroline Radisich, Michèle Adler and Maria Kayak



Friends assembled at Burnley before setting off on the 'Garden Gander'.



Christine Foard under Weeping Cherry



Shirley Goldsworthy next to a Chinese Lantern (*Abutilon* sp.)



An intriguing spherical hanging 'basket'

We set off on our Garden Gander in perfect Spring weather. The first stop was Shirley Goldsworthy's body corporate garden in Hawthorn. Shirley has done amazing things in this small space. There were espaliered fruit trees and camellias and many garden areas planted with food plants. Shirley's green thumb was evident everywhere we looked. The Phenyle pots to keep the possums away created great interest. It was difficult to get the friends moving on to the Fintona garden in Canterbury. The contrasting size and scale of the landscapes was very evident.

Helen Kinross showed us around the Fintona Girls' School garden. The front section of the garden is quite traditional with modern plantings in other areas. Due to the changing weather conditions plants such as *Hydrangeas* have been moved to more suitable positions. The students have been involved in the recently planted Australian garden area. A new Health and Well-Being centre is being built near a beautiful *Corymbia citriodora*. While these works are taking place an underground water tank has been installed.



Above: Fintona Girls' School garden



Helen Kinross at Fintona

Our last garden was Andrew Smith's garden in Templestowe. It was the perfect spot to end the day with a picnic followed by berries and ice cream. Andrew's home is on the banks of the Yarra River and the property has been in the family since the early 1950's. There are large Eucalypts with 'not a lot of pretties' as Andrew said. Up to five years ago Andrew was able to pump water from the river but this stopped in mid-summer and he has had some casualties in the garden. There is a lawn of *Microlaena stipoides* (Weeping Grass) which Andrew mows about twice a year.



The perfect spot for lunch

Recently a grey water system has been installed - this has a tub of scoria, two sand filters (with plants in it to take out the nutrients) and a pump takes the filtered water out into the garden. Water is not stored for more than 24 hours. There are solar panels that are connected to the grid and also water tanks plumbed into the toilets.

Thanks to Shirley, Helen and Andrew for opening their very different gardens to the group.

Keeping our Connection with the Yarra River

10 November



John Fordham with Yarra Riverkeeper Rod Ingham

On an unseasonal hot November night we kept cool with Rod Ingham from the Yarra Riverkeeper Association with tales of our Yarra River. Formed in 2004 the organisation is a member of Waterkeepers Australia which is also a part of the international movement of waterkeeper organisations. Originally Ian Penrose was going to speak to us but he had decided to accompany Michèle Adler on her tour to the Galapagos and beyond.

Rod showed many slides of the Yarra with some of the most interesting being the historical ones which included people swimming (yes, swimming) near Fairfield/Alphington, a canoe builder (Arthur) on the river and the 1952 floods.

Riverkeepers collect stories of the river to inform themselves and inform other people about the Yarra.

They speak to land holders, go out with scientists (studying vegetation, fish and platypus), run bike tours, have community days and festivals, speak to groups, test the water and are often the first on site if there are problems. The movement is one of the fastest growing environmental movements in the USA which is pushed along by Robert Kennedy Jnr. - there are baykeepers, creekkeepers, coastkeepers, basinkeepers and other many other types of 'keepers'.

The Yarra runs roughly east/west. It starts near Mount Gregory. Some interesting facts: 70% of Melbourne's water comes from the Yarra and its tributary streams (all 49 of them); the catchment is 4000 km²; 25km of parkland is along it including 13 golf courses; it's Melbourne's largest green wedge and is a refuge for many plants and animals.

Unfortunately the health of the river is not what it could be. The Australian Grayling (a fish) was eaten by the Wurrundjeri people but has not been sighted since 2003. Weirs in the river create problems for the breeding cycle of fish. Soon Dights Falls will be re-constructed with a fish ladder.

Studies have found that 37% of all the tributaries are in a poor or very poor condition. The Yarra used



Mary-Jane Gething (Secretary), Susan Murphy (Committee Member) and Maggie Power

to be known as the No. 1 drain. After heavy rain the bacterial loads get very high and litter is also a problem.

Unfortunately, the promised environmental flows have not been delivered by the government due to the introduction of Stage 3 water restrictions. The entitlement has been deferred until the 'drought' is over.

Rod's message was to get in touch with the river and engage with it. Jacques Cousteau said 'People protect what they love' - so go out and love your river.

www.yarrariver.org.au

www.environmentvictoria.org.au

www.waterkeeper.org

AGM Report

16 September

The following is a summary of Michèle Adler's report to the AGM.

Michèle thanked members for attending and reported on the achievements of the group over the past year. These included:

- Etching plant labels for the University, receiving \$10 for each label.
- A new interpretive sign for the Principal's Cottage has been erected in the Sunken Garden with the names of the Principals who lived in it.
- Donating \$22,000 of the FOBG funds for restoration of the Luffman Ponds. Michèle congratulated Andrew Smith on his effort to complete this project.
- There are now 143 members, 50% of whom are former or current students and the remainder are interested members of the public. The Friends of Burnley Gardens was incorporated on 12th August, 1998 and eight students formed the first Committee. This was after Sandi Pullman had attended a lecture on Friends Groups and thought that it would be a good idea to form a group to support the gardens.
- The Burnley Gardens Open Day has been revived.

Restoration of the Garden Shelter is Andrew's next project.

The FOBG provides physical support in the Gardens and financial support by purchasing items such as garden benches and restoring pergolas, ponds, etc.

The Guides provide tours of the gardens, put on seminars and have named and photographed the Camellia Collection.

We would like to see more active members. There are several sub-groups which members might be interested in joining. These are:

- Propagation – Fran Mason
- Guides and Cultural Collection – Barb Brookes and Jane Wilson
- Events – Michèle Adler
- Executive Committee

Michèle advised she will be stepping down from the position of Chair and nominating for Vice-Chair as she now lives three hours from Melbourne. Anne Bishop and Maria Kayak will not be nominating for their positions on the Committee. They were thanked for their contribution to the Committee.

Michèle said that the last three years as Chair has been extremely rewarding and she is still passionate about the Gardens.

In the Burnley Gardens - December**Andrew Smith**

After a scorching start to the end of spring, we have been fortunate to end it with welcome rain. The Gardens have greatly benefited from the 100mm of rain that fell during November and it's always nice to have the lawns looking green in Spring even if we know it won't last the summer.

The rainfall has once again filled the tanks and we are currently using the 170,000 litres of stored water to irrigate the Gardens. It is pleasing to report that once again the water consumption for the Campus will be lower than the previous calendar year. From using over 29,000 kilolitres in 2006, the campus is well placed to use just over 14,000 kilolitres for 2009, a reduction of over 1,000 kilolitres (1 million litres) compared with the 2008 consumption.

The re-construction of the Luffman ponds that I wrote about last time is now looking spectacular, with many comments being made on how quickly the water lilies and other water plants have grown and flowered. Some additional water proofing work of the side walls will be undertaken in late January to ensure the only water loss will be by evaporation, a far cry from the former decrepit state of the ponds 12 months ago.

Extensive trench works for an electricity cable have taken place between the main building and nursery that has seen disruption to the plants in the beds being trenched. Plants have been removed and "heeled in" for re-planting in autumn.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Friends for their help and support in the Gardens this year and wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas break.

I would especially like to thank the volunteers who have helped in the Gardens and with plant labelling this year, Cheryl Andrews in particular. Over \$1500 has been made for the Friends from this fund raising activity.



William Phillips – First Curator of Burnley Gardens**Jane Wilson**

A few months ago Michèle Adler was working in the Friends' Office when there was a knock on the door. In walked a man who said his name was Raymond Phillips and he was the Great Grandson of the first Curator of Burnley Gardens, William Phillips. To Michèle's amazement he said his Uncle Merton, William's Grandson, was still alive and might have some information about his Grandfather.

With the Burnley Archives (now called the Cultural Collection) installed in their new, safer place in the Main Building Michèle saw this as an opportunity for the new volunteer archivists to do some research.

After some correspondence with Raymond Phillips I found out that Merton was 96 and almost blind but he would be very pleased to meet me. In early September I arrived at Clovelly Cottage Retirement Home in Boronia and was met at the door by Merton Phillips who, with the help of a walking frame, took me to his room and we had a very interesting talk.

William Phillips, born in 1808, was the Grandson of Sir Richard Phillips (1767-1840), a farmer in England. Merton had done some genealogical research to find this out but was unable to find the

name of William's father. Merton thought that he was born in Australia but from my own research I have discovered that he was born in Reading, Berkshire, UK.

William married Hannah Maria Yeatman who was born in 1832, but Merton was unable to provide any information about his early life.

The Burnley Gardens were opened on Thursday and Friday, January 1st and 2nd, 1863. William Phillips was employed by the Horticultural Society as the first Curator or Superintendent and lived in the Gardens. A newspaper article written in June 1867 giving a description of the enormous amount of work that had already been put into the Gardens, largely by the superintendent himself, describes William as "a highly competent man, who has so completely identified himself with the gardens that even when the prospect of good remuneration was at zero he refused to quit his post."

William and Hannah had one son, Alfred, who was born in the Curator's Cottage on 19th February, 1868. Sadly, William died on May 31st in the same year. His death certificate said that he had had chronic hepatitis for 5 months. A Mr Ireland worked for William during his years at Burnley Gardens. He was a member of the family who owned Ireland's Florist in Flinders Street. Hannah married him and they had a daughter, Emily. Alfred became blind at the age of 6 and boarded at the Blind Institute. Merton believes he had Glaucoma as he also has the disease with only a small amount of sight left in one eye. This did not deter Merton from climbing up on a chair to reach into a cupboard and get down some Braille work that his father had done! Merton also showed me his computer with a huge font which he had learned to use in his 80's!

Alfred's half-sister, Emily, and Merton shared the same birth date so Alfred used to take Merton to see her on their birthday but I gather Mr Ireland (who Merton knew nothing about) was not very popular. Alfred had four children but none of them followed their Grandfather into a career in horticulture although Merton said they were all keen gardeners.

William and Alfred Phillips (who died in 1934) are both buried in the Kew Cemetery. Hannah died when she was still quite young and Mr Ireland married again and had two daughters.

I have been trying to find more information on William Phillips but the Records of the Horticultural Society of Victoria have been difficult to find. In the HSV Annual Report of 1877 there is a list of apples currently growing at Burnley Gardens. One is called, "Phillip's Seedling." I still hope to find out more about him.

Garden Gossip - What interesting things are our 'Friends' doing?



Anne Bishop and Maria Kayak - retiring committee members

Anne Bishop: This year I was going to slow down a bit and spend time at our property at Trentham which has been sadly neglected since it was purchased 3 years ago. Unfortunately that did not happen. Apart from helping 2 year 12 students - the last of my Remedial Teaching Practice - I seem unable to say 'no' to various horticultural requests. Although I resigned from the committee of the Royal Hort. Society after 9 years - I still run the Garden Advisory and Referral Service and write for their Gazette.

I started the Prahran Garden Club 20 years ago so this year has been busy with some special activities. Apart from the Anniversary Dinner we kept up our community involvements with the City of Stonnington activities. We ran a plant stall at their annual event- Spring into Gardening.

As part of our stall we have a children's corner run by Peter Douglas and his son Ben from Scotsburn Nurseries. They show children how to plant up seedlings and care for them. This activity is now repeated at Pruning Day at Burnley. We also have a Plant-a-Box competition for all the Primary Schools in Stonnington. This year we had a record number of entries - 22 boxes - which were judged by Carolyn Blackman. The stand was also decorated by 2 schools who lent us 60 of their Prep and Grade 1's paintings. These were painted by the children who did not take part in the actual competition but wanted to contribute to the event. The schools were also asked to plant up an extra box this year which was donated to a school that had been damaged in the bushfires.

Our garden club is involved in community projects rather than having flower shows - so recently I started a garden program with a group of 'disadvantaged' children from the Ministry of Housing high-rise flats in Prahran. They have an Adventure Playground for after school and holiday care. Next year it will be a weekly visit to establish a bigger and better garden - with vegetables etc. which they can cook. As there are a large number of migrants involved I hope we will be able to share plants and recipes from many different countries.

Once a month I help at the 3CR gardening program and I also write 'The Kids Wheelbarrow' page for the St James Church newsletter.

Membership Update

Carol Ferguson

Members and the Committee welcome the following new 'Friends' who have joined the group over the past few months.

Marian Dowling, Anna Pawluk and Saskia Townsend.

We look forward to meeting many members at our first event in 2010 on Sunday 14th February.

FOBG Committee Members

At the AGM John Fordham and Susan Murphy were elected to the committee. We were very pleased to welcome Mary-Jane Gething and Saskia Townsend to the committee at our November meeting.

Chairperson	John Fordham
Deputy Chairperson	Michèle Adler
Treasurer	Jane Wilson
Secretary	Mary-Jane Gething
Membership	Carol Ferguson
Member (Merchandise)	Saskia Townsend
Assistant Secretary and Newsletter Editor	Jan Chamberlain
Member	Dianne Cranston
Co-opted Member	Susan Murphy
Gardens Representative.	Andrew Smith*
Publicity	Geoffrey Kneebone*

* non-committee positions

Contacts for activities:

Michèle Adler 5145 5422 michele@adland.com.au
 Andrew Smith 92506861 a.smith@unimelb.edu.au

Friends' Benefits

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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

Diary Dates

2010	
Date	Activity and presenter
FEBRUARY Sunday 14 February 6.00 pm (dinner) 7.30 pm (talk)	Climate Change: Urban Landscapes Pay their Way Guest speaker Dr. Greg Moore, former Principal, Burnley College. Cost (Dinner and talk): \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members Talk only: \$3 for members, \$10 for non-members Bookings essential. 9250 6861
MARCH Saturday 13 March 10 am.	Friends Activity – Propagating Workshop for Open Day. Join our 'Growing Group' and learn to propagate cuttings with former Burnley lecturer, Michèle Adler ably assisted by Anne Bishop & Fran Mason.
MARCH Tuesday 16 March 7 for 7.30 pm	Using Grey Water in the Landscape – ideas and issues presented by Grant Harper, Gardener, Burnley Campus and Grey Water Consultant.
Saturday 10 April 10 am – 5 pm	A day in the Burnley Gardens - Botanical Art: a one day workshop with botanical Illustrator Mali Moir Cost, members = \$85, Non members = \$110 +materials. Bookings essential. Payment required before the day.
APRIL Tuesday 13 April 7 for 7.30 pm	Aromatherapy – well-being right there in your own backyard presented by aromatherapist Ron Guba
Wednesday 14 April 10 am – 5 pm	A day in the Burnley Gardens - Botanical Art: a one day workshop with botanical Illustrator Mali Moir Cost, members = \$85, Non members = \$110 +materials. Bookings essential. Payment required before the day.
APRIL Saturday 17 April am	A sensational walk in the Burnley Herb Garden – a guided walk with our Friendly Guides and members of the Herb Soc.
MAY Wednesday 19 May 7 for 7.30 pm	The Millennium Seed Bank with Megan Hirst, Millenium Seed Bank Officer, RBG, Melbourne.
JUNE Wednesday 16 June 12.30 pm lunch 1.30 – 3.30 pm working bee	Lunch and Preparation for July Open Day for Members & friends. Meet in the Burnley café for lunch at 12.30 pm, then lend a hand to Andrew Smith in the Gardens.
JUNE Wednesday 16 June 4.30 – 6.30pm	An afternoon in the laboratory at Burnley with Clare Scott (Burnley Campus Laboratory Manager) & Michèle Adler. This session lets you get close up and personal with plants under the microscope. Wow ! It's a whole new world.
JULY Sunday 18 July	Pruning Day & Open Day activities and workshops.

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc.
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
For the Period July 1 2008 to June 30 2009**

RECEIPTS	2008-2009	2007-2008
Membership	\$2,800.00	\$2,270.00
Member Meetings	\$2,598.20	\$811.00
Pruning Day	\$3,963.85	\$493.05
Workshop – Propagation	\$250.00	\$370.00
Workshop – Computer Skills	\$225.00	\$270.00
Donations	\$305.00	\$314.00
Interest	\$934.81	\$523.87
Mugs	\$360.00	\$105.00
Hats	\$120.00	\$45.00
Vests	\$60.00	\$60.00
Plants	\$147.00	N/A
Garden Tours	\$720.00	\$581.00
Book & Booklet Sales	\$100.00	\$30.00
Adland Horticultural Royalties	\$66.40	\$29.18
Pea Straw	\$1,005.00	N/A
Incidental	\$267.00	N/A
Total	\$13,922.26	\$5,902.10
PAYMENTS		
Member Meeting Costs & Catering	\$1,359.40	\$490.52
Administration & Publicity	\$951.75	\$696.91
Insurance	\$540.00	\$378.00
Affiliations with Other Organisations	\$70.00	\$65.00
Pruning Day	\$767.96	\$215.49
Workshop – Computer Skills	\$600.00	N/A
Food Handling Course	N/A	\$180.00
Mugs	\$871.20	N/A
Contribution to Gardens (Camellias)	\$52.80	\$0.00
Purchase of Sugar Gum Slab	\$2,106.00	N/A
Donations	\$0.00	\$55.00
Pea Straw	\$653.40	N/A
Total	\$7,972.51	\$2,080.92
SURPLUS	\$5,949.75	\$3,821.18

**BALANCE SHEET
As at 30 June 2009**

ASSETS	2008-2009	2007-2008
Cheque Account	\$5,011.14	\$4,679.64
Cash Management Account	\$2,120.85	\$1,942.86
Term Deposit	\$15,739.71	\$10,000.00
Gift Account	\$52.52	\$52.42
Cash On Hand	\$70.00	\$60.00
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	\$519.55	\$210.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP FUNDS	\$22,474.67	\$16,524.92

Note: In August 2009, \$22,000 was contributed to refurbishment of the Luffman Ponds.