



## FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC



### *Papyrus - Autumn Edition*

No. 48 - May 2010

editor: Jan Chamberlain

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#### From the Chair

**John Fordham**

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As I write it is only 2 days from the opening of our Luffmann ponds. It seems to have been a long gestation however we are finally here. Thank you to Professor Barry Jones for opening the ponds.



Andrew Smith and team have done an excellent job in preparing the ponds and the grounds generally and the University, with a catalyst leg up from us, has generously contributed the lion's share of the cost of refurbishing the adjoining pavilion.

Compared to other gardens (public and private) that I see around, Burnley Gardens continue to thrive, a glowing endorsement of the dedicated and professional approach taken by the staff and that extra care augmented by our Friends group.

I do hope that as many members as possible can make it to the pond opening, it promises to be a most enjoyable time. We hope the weather is kind.

The membership of our little Friends group continues to grow (as you'd expect from a garden based friends group) with further interesting guests lined up for this year's talks.

One of our next projects is the refurbishment of the mud brick shelter in the native garden. When this will occur is currently unknown however I would imagine within the next year or two.

The Friendly Guides continue to take many people (garden groups etc.) around the gardens during week days and I've been on a couple of these that are most interesting.

I also sat in on one of our propagation days which was competently led by Michèle Adler. Currently talks are under way with the Friends of La Trobe's Cottage to take them on a propagation tour to produce plants for around the cottage.

Do take the time to make regular visits to the Burnley Gardens as there is always something to see, or indeed hear.

Regards and happy gardening.



John Fordham

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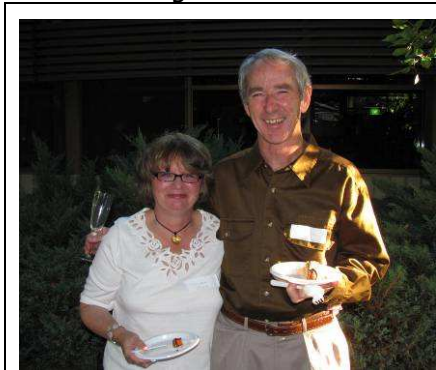
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Many Friends came along to our traditional St Valentine's Day talk to hear Dr Greg Moore.

Dr Moore is passionate about trees and is also convinced that our climate has changed due to human activity. The debate really is about how much. His well illustrated and comprehensive talk showed that urban trees can pay their way. As former Burnley Principal, Greg is well qualified to speak on this issue and has presented seminars in bushfire affected areas since the Black Saturday fires. He showed maps of forested areas in Australia and described how in a mere 150 years Victoria went from being 90% forested to 35% forest. In the late 1880's timber was a very valuable resource and there are very accurate government records of these forested areas. Of course, removing trees reduces the photosynthetic activity and clearing practices involve the burning release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.



Sandra and Greg Moore

Greg gave many predictions of the effects of warmer winters and hotter summers including: more tropical climate extending southwards; more easterly winds leading to summer storms; more frequent major storm events; less frosts and higher summer rainfall with more intense rainfall events. Should you be thinking that a more tropical climate will be okay then spare a thought for our fruit growers as many trees require cold weather to bear fruit.

Most people don't think that trees are being removed in our leafy suburbs. Greg presented some research findings that showed between 1993 and 2000 the overall canopy reduction in Balwyn and Richmond reduced by 8% and 2% respectively.

Surprisingly we learned that Adelaide and Melbourne are biodiversity hot spots - because of the public spaces and everyone's front and back yards: with front yards being very different to back yards.

As rainfall patterns change then gardens will need to adapt. Greg recommended the Smart Garden Watering website as it gives details on the watering needs of many plants and other information. He also gave some advice on what to do for your trees on hot, windy days. Irrigate under mulch early in the morning (if water restrictions allow) and protect young small trees from wind and direct sun.

Trees have climate value as they provide shade (reducing the air temperature by up to 8°C) and shelter from wind. They also have environmental value: fixing carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, protecting watersheds and noise abatement.

The gross **annual** benefit from a typical Adelaide street tree has been estimated at \$171 (this figure includes energy savings of \$64 and an aesthetic value of \$65). Greg gave estimates for the environmental economic value for 100,000 trees per year for the carbon that they sequester (\$25,000,000 if carbon is valued at \$20/tonne), the electricity saving (\$510,000), water saved from electricity generation, prolonged life of bitumen footpaths, their street tree value and carbon emissions saved.

There is failure all round to appreciate trees as assets and manage them appropriately. In the storm event of February 2005 many mature trees fell. Checking these trees showed contributing factors that affected their ability to withstand stress such as trenches being dug near them, the soil was compacted or there was filling around the base of the tree.

Greg concluded his riveting talk acknowledging that the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been nominated as the 'Century of the Environment'. Bearing that in mind, urban trees and landscapes are major community assets and must be managed effectively. The value of urban trees will steadily increase. There are major changes happening in our attitude to water, climate change and sustainability. This may herald the development of a truly Australian landscape which values trees and recognises the dryness of our continent.

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For more facts and figures presented by Greg click on the link below:

[2009 URBAN TREES WORTH MORE THAN THEY COST Dr Greg Moore](http://2009.URBANTREES.WORTH.MORE.THAN.THEY.COST.Dr.Greg.Moore)  
[www.smartgardenwatering.org.au](http://www.smartgardenwatering.org.au)

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FOBG members and guests in the Pear Tree Forecourt enjoying the St Valentine's dinner prepared by Dianne Cranston.



## Using Grey Water in the Landscape - Jan Chamberlain

16 March

Grant Harper is a permaculture designer and Burnley graduate. He is currently upgrading and maintaining the irrigation system and hard landscape at Burnley Gardens. His Masters project is researching functional plants for grey water treatment.

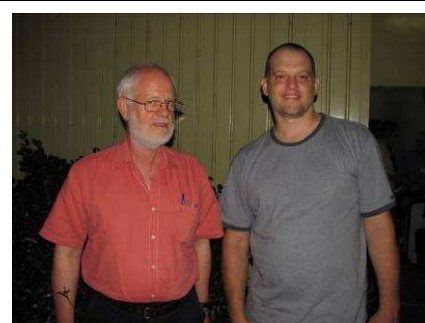
Grey water is generally defined as all household water that doesn't come from the toilet system (black water). Grey water coming from the shower system does not usually contain too many chemicals. Anyone who has cleaned a shower will also know how black and gross the inside of the pipes can be. So although it looks 'clean' on the way out - the water has to travel through those pipes lined with black gunge. Laundry water can contain a cocktail of salts (used as fillers in detergents), chlorine, sulphur based chemicals, organic matter, soil, oils and fats. Grant mentioned the website of Lanfax Laboratories ([www.lanfaxlabs.com.au](http://www.lanfaxlabs.com.au)) which gives an incredible amount of information about laundry detergents.

Why use grey water? It is an alternative water source; the amount of rain we are getting is lower; treatment at the source is cheaper as compared to sewer plant treatment and the cost of infrastructure.

A big problem is the osmotic effect on plants. With a wide range of salts being contained in grey water there can be a salt build up in the soil. In extreme cases it can lead to permanent collapse of soil structure.

There are health issues related to the use of grey water and these are clearly detailed by the Environmental Protection Authority ([www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/reuse/default.asp#graywater](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/water/reuse/default.asp#graywater)). Critically it can't be kept for more than 24 hours.

Treating grey water is an option. The goal of treatment is to remove biodegradable materials, nutrients and pathogens. The simplest way to do this is by gross filtration and chemical disinfection. Biological filtration is another option - using plants and sand filtration. Grant detailed horizontal and vertical flow reed beds as well as hybrid systems which allow grey water and rain water to be used together. The ultimate aim should be for the garden itself to be the treatment system.



Bruce Chisholm and Grant Harper



Anne Bishop, Mary Eggleston, Judith Scurfield and Jean Corbett



Pictured showing some of the 'fruits of their labour' are:  
Adrian Kenny, Paul Mattiske, Suzanne Clarke, Mary Long, Sue  
Murphy, Fran Mason, Rosemary O'Brien, Suzy Spiers,  
Glenys Rhodes, Estelle Redlich.

You have to admit that one of life's great pleasures is to grow things. It's kind-of addictive – and what better way to do it than to use the wonderful glasshouse facilities at Burnley.

The Friend's propagation day on Saturday 13 March was a great success. Nine people attended (8 members and one person who had read about the event that morning in the Age). Cuttings of various species were prepared, and a range of herb, vegetable and ornamental seeds were sown. At the end of the morning everything went into the Nursery glasshouses with great anticipation.

It didn't take long before the seeds had germinated and the cuttings had struck. Fran Mason and Sue Murphy took care of the excess plants and have potted them on for sale at Member's meetings and other gatherings. So, you are now reaping the harvest of the plants that we grew.

We all had a great morning. Thanks to Fran and Sue for their help on the day.

**Botanical Art Workshops - Jan Chamberlain****10 and 14 April**

Nineteen budding (no pun intended) artists learnt a technique called 'Disappearing Purple' in two workshops run by botanical artist Mali Moir. First we drew a measured drawing of an acorn and cap with an amazing purple pencil - just add water and it turns into paint. We then used other water colour pencils to add colour. Many were first timers, others had more experience. With some helpful hints from Mali, the acorns were completed during the morning session. In the afternoon we collected plant material from our beautiful Burnley Gardens and everyone chose to draw different specimens.

The class was so enjoyable many people wanted to continue meeting regularly. Please contact Michèle Adler if you want to join in see Diary Dates.



Mali Moir (left) with the Wednesday budding artists. Michèle Adler, Anne Peterson, Anne Saunders and Marg Gwyver.

[www.botanicart.com.au/members/mali-moir.htm](http://www.botanicart.com.au/members/mali-moir.htm)

**Aromatherapy - Jan Chamberlain****13 April**

Ron Guba (pictured next page) has studied naturopathy and herbal medicine. He spoke about essential oils as a potent complementary therapy. Forms of aromatic medicine have always been practiced. Herbal medicine was all that existed at one stage in history. Herbs were used as infusions and teas; applied as poultices for wounds and other skin conditions; infused into animal fat and applied to the body.

Over thousands of years aromatics were used by cultures for perfume, cosmetics, spices and as religious offerings. The root of the word 'perfume' is *per* 'through' + *fumare* 'to smoke'. Fragrant smoke has been used spiritually to purify people, places and to offer scents to please gods and goddesses.

Essential oils were not used in ancient cultures as the practice of steam distillation had yet to be discovered. Avicenna (Ibn-Sina) [980-1037] was a great Islamic physician, philosopher and alchemist who is credited with perfecting the process of steam distillation.

([www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avicenna](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avicenna))

Ron brought along a self-contained steam distillation unit. He used the flowers of English Lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) and we were able to smell the product after distillation. Unexpectedly it smelt quite grassy up close but had the distinctive lavender aroma when further away.

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century in Europe the application and ingestion of essential oils was detailed in Pharmacopeias. Aromatic medicine is the therapeutic use of essential oils and aromatic extracts in the context of herbal medicine.

René-Maurice Gattefossé, Jean Valnet and Dr Daniel Péroël are pioneering figures in the aromatic medicine area. The key to using essential oils as medicine is that the dosage is appropriate (as they say in the classics - do not try this at home - see a qualified practitioner). The purity of the essential oil is also a factor.

Ron passed around many oils for us to smell and gave examples of the medicinal use of some oils. Lavender and chamomile for sleeping problems. Ginger for nausea. There are also some Australian essential oils: the Australian Sandalwood (*Santalum spicatum*), Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), and the Anise Scented Myrtle (*Backhousia anisata*) to name a few.

In a botanical postscript to the evening, Michèle Adler noted that the mangrove which has its southernmost appearance at Wilson's Promontory (*Avicennia marina* var. *australasica*) is named after the Islamic physician.



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## **The Herb Society of Victoria Inc and Burnley Gardens**

**Michèle Adler**

Members of the Herb Society of Victoria (HSV) ([www.herbsocietyvic.com.au](http://www.herbsocietyvic.com.au)) regularly come to work in the Burnley Herb Garden for which we are all extremely grateful. They not only provide some hands-on horticulture but the HSV have donated prizes to worthy students at graduation, donated books to the library and also provided funds for a private tutor to help TAFE students who were struggling with remembering all those Latin plant names in Plant Identification. Most people wouldn't know but the private tutor was FOBG member Anne Bishop.

Burnley Gardens and the HSV have had a long association with many members of the Herb Society being Burnley graduates. There are two legendary Herb Society members remembered in the Herb Garden. First is Enid Carberry. Second is Hank Swaan, former Burnley lecturer, and stalwart HSV Committee member.

They are remembered by the HSV Enid Carberry and Hank Swaan Award. Recent recipients of the award are:

2009 - Yasmin Daub  
2008 - Ryan Pedler  
2006 - Anne Davies

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## **Enid Carberry**

**Michèle Adler**

**Enid Carberry** inspired many with her tenacity, enthusiasm, love of beauty and nature and her ability to help others. Some of the first Herb Society of Victoria (HSV) members owe much of their original knowledge about herbs to her teaching. Enid graduated from Burnley in 1914 with a Diploma of Horticulture and continued on for an extra year out of interest. As a young person she lived close-by in Hawthorn which was semi-rural in those days. Her family's property was endowed with a horse, cow paddocks, formal gardens, a vegetable garden and a glasshouse. Enid provided all the poultry for the table (including duck and squab) and her special love was the glasshouse with its colourful floral display. She was also an accomplished photographer.

During World War II, Enid moved to Healesville and operated a small farm with chooks, goats (for milk) and a large vegetable garden. These provided food for her family and a surplus for sharing with others. Long before it was fashionable, Enid's produce was grown without artificial fertilisers or herbicides or pesticides. And her compost heap was a marvel. At the time the Army requested that people grow herbs for the troops; this sparked an interest in herbs.

Later (1947), Enid moved back to Hawthorn where she redeveloped the family property there using Australian native plants – a novel idea. She grew many of these plants herself from cuttings and by seed, as there were few nurseries that sold native plants. Her idea was to purify the air, to provide a healthy living space, to enjoy the beauty of bushland flowers and to provide shelter for native birds.

Unfortunately Enid developed rheumatoid arthritis which eventually confined her to a wheelchair. Her interest now took the path of understanding the nutritional values of herbs as part of a well-balanced and healthy diet. She believed that the soil was the basis of fertility and that soil organisms were essential in working with nature. She was interested in the role that weeds and herbs played as companion plants and was greatly concerned about pesticides. At that time there was little public awareness of these things.

For twenty years Enid researched herbs and taught others from her wheelchair. She encouraged individuals and groups to come and learn from her. In return they would do some of the garden maintenance or bring her cutting material or strip dried herbs.

The birdbath in the Burnley Gardens commemorates this former graduate and early member of the HSV. Why a bird bath? There was always a birdbath in Enid's gardens. She understood the importance of the web of life that we live in.

## Hank Swaan (1929 – 1988)

Michèle Adler

**Hank Swaan** was born in Holland in 1929 and came to Australia after completing his agricultural and horticultural qualifications. He did an Agricultural Engineering Degree. After further qualifications in Australia, he worked as a geneticist with the Department of Agriculture. There he developed 4 new potato cultivars which were released in Australia. One of these is 'Coliban', a cultivar that is still widely grown today, a washed potato used in making French Fries.

Hank joined the Burnley staff in 1979 and coordinated short courses including the very popular *Discovering Horticulture* programme (still running) and later the TAFE course, as well as sharing his extensive knowledge and boundless enthusiasm with hundreds of students. He had the amazing ability to remember each one's name.

Hank did a lot of work in the field station with trials on vegetables, fruit and composting techniques. He was very innovative and into alternative ways of doing things (Personal Communication, Geoff Olive) and he was the first instructor to give students the choice of fertilising their vegetable plots with either organic materials or chemicals (Pers. Comm. Betty Swaan). He was a great recycler long before it was fashionable to do so – probably as a result of living through the depression.

He said "Your garden soil is a living and a personal thing, sometimes akin to marriage – to have and to hold, for better and for worse"... but he did advocate green manuring and mulching (to improve it, the soil, that is). Way back in 1979 he and a colleague wrote *Vegetable Gardening in South-eastern Australia*. They also wrote the companion book *Fruit Gardening in South-eastern Australia* in 1983. Hank retired from Burnley in 1986 and died in January 1988. He is remembered in the Burnley Gardens with a memorial plaque displayed in the wall.

Betty Swaan recently gave me a few more snippets of information about Hank. Hank and Betty met in 1956 and married in August 1958. She said that Hank always described himself as an Australian born in Holland. His father died when he was eight and he came to Australia in about 1953. One of his enduring characteristics was that he had a very positive attitude. On his biannual dental check-ups he would always make the appointment in the morning and the dentist would say that he lifted everyone's spirits for the day. He loved the Goons, was a great believer in music whilst you work (it was common to find music blaring in the glasshouse) and one of his favourite sayings was "life's funny, honey". Not funny - ha-ha but funny - interesting.

## References

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The Herb Society of Victoria Inc.

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Wadham, Judy, 1987, *Enid Carberry – a personal reminiscence* in the *Herb Age* Newsletter 84, The Herb Society of Victoria Inc.

Winzenried, A.P., 1991, *Green Grows our Garden*, Hyland House, Melbourne.



Our April wander through the Herb Garden with members of the Herb Society was a treat. Andrew Smith (Gardens Coordinator) welcomed everyone and gave an introduction to the Herb Garden. The expert knowledge of the Herb Society Victoria members was appreciated by all who attended the walk. We had glorious weather and sampled a lovely selection of herb teas, cakes, sandwiches, slices and salads in the Sunken Garden. Thanks to Andrew, Herb Society members, Friendly Guides and other FOBG members who contributed to making the day a success.

Christine Sampson brought along a refreshing **Lemon Verbena Tea** recipe:

Add boiling water to Lady Grey tea.  
Then add some crushed fresh or dried Lemon Verbena leaves.  
Let tea brew and serve in your favourite china cup.



Herb Society members: Bernadette Touhy (Committee Member), Vera Williamson (President), Beverley Narandja (Member) and Mem Alexander (Committee Member)



Shirley Goldsworthy and Barb Brookes



Anne Saunders and Margaret Donald



Fran Mason and Maggie Power

## **Burnley Gardens Open Day (BGOD) - Sunday 18 July 2010**

An important date for your diary - **Sunday 18 July 2010**. This is our biggest fundraising venture for the year and we need your help. Again, we will be organising activities for the Burnley Gardens Open Day. Please consider what you may be able to do, either before during or after. Even a few hours will be welcome. We need FOBG volunteers for the following:

- Helping to set-up - am Sunday
- Helping to pack up - pm Sunday
- Meet and greet - am
- Snacks and refreshment sales
- Fresh herbs, vegies and plant sales
- Kids Korner
- Hanging basket demonstration
- Registration and helpers to direct participants to workshops

Contact Michèle Adler on 5145 5422.

## **Propagation Group**

**Susan Murphy**

The Propagating Group have been busy through the first quarter of the year. We held an informal propagating/working bee session with some of our volunteers in February to propagate new stock from cuttings and to tidy up existing plants. The plants that result from this propagation exercise and the one in March provide the backbone for our plant sale on Burnley Gardens Open Day, so we are very grateful for the efforts of all involved. You will also see some of them for sale at the monthly Friends' events, so if you are in the market for *Daphne odora* (available July), or one of a wide range of red, pink and blue flowering *Salvias*, come and see us! We will offer a bulk discount on tubestock: currently \$3 each or \$2.50 each for 10 or more, \$2.00 each for 20 or more. There are some lovely white-flowering *Liriope muscari* which are an excellent edging plant for shade, and if you have a large area to landscape, the native ground cover *Creeping Boobialla Myoporum parvifolium* is a great choice.

Contact Sue Murphy or Fran Mason if you are interested in joining the group.

Former Burnley lecturer Brian Shields is back in the classroom and Field Station conducting propagation classes. The good news for The Friends is that Brian will run a rose grafting workshop for us. Put Saturday, August 7 in your diary – it's a Saturday and the workshop will be in the morning (so it won't clash with the footy!).

Preparation is already in place – 80 *Rosa multiflora* cuttings have been taken from mother plants growing in the Field Station. They've been dipped in IBA ,8000 IU, and placed on the hotbed in the nursery (pictured right). They will be used as the rootstock.



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**In the Burnley Gardens****Andrew Smith**

The Gardens have benefited from a wetter than normal season this past summer and the results are plain to see. This is shown in the extra growth in the shrubs and trees, minimal scorching of foliage and lovely green grass. The decision several years ago to plug the lawns with kikuyu is now paying dividends. The kikuyu lawns are quick to recover after dry spells and any rain over 10mm gives a green response within days.

The final completion of the ponds (<http://visions.unimelb.edu.au/>) has been very welcome after such a long wait. The plants and islands have settled in well and it's good to see the water level being near the top of the pond rather than seeping out the side walls!

The near completion of the heritage summer house (garden shelter) has also been a momentous achievement. Without the significant financial help from the Friends the two renovations (pond and summer house) would most likely never have been possible. The interpretive signs commemorating the restoration of the ponds and summer house, and the role the Friends played, have arrived and will be erected in readiness for the grand opening on 14 May.

The Herb Society continues to provide ongoing support for the Gardens by helping out each month in the herb garden. The recent joint venture between the Friends and Herb Society for the guided tour of the herb garden (April) has highlighted the close ties the two groups hold.

It is pleasing to see that the Campus continues to use less water each year to irrigate the Gardens. 2009 saw a further 16% reduction in irrigation water use and the further expansion of water harvesting from additional campus rooves will ensure the 170,000 litre water tank capacity fill up even faster.

My thanks to Sue Murphy and Fran Mason for organising the propagation group so effectively this season. The number and quality of plants available for sale at meetings and at the upcoming Burnley Gardens Open Day (Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>) is a credit to their ongoing effort.

I would also like to thank the continued help from the committee in providing support for the development of the Gardens. It shows that successful partnerships can achieve more than what can be achieved alone.

Please remember a great deal is being organised (thanks Michèle!) well in advance of the Open Day and your help will be needed to make it a success.

I look forward to catching up with you at the forthcoming events.

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**Membership Update****Carol Ferguson**

The following are recent new members - giving us a total of 152 memberships - our best ever.

Welcome - Kylie Cannon, Melanie Conomikes, Patricia Samper, Belinda McAuliffe, Adrian Kenny and his family, Anne Saunders, Rod McMillan and members of the Herb Society of Victoria (Community Group membership).

And also, congratulations to the following 'Friends' who have been FOBG members for 10 years. Thank you for continuing to support the Burnley Gardens through your membership.

Jan Chamberlain (current Committee member and Newsletter Editor)

Ala Shtrauser (Burnley Campus Library Staff)

Ellie Bastow (one of our Friendly Guides)

Shirley Goldsworthy (past Committee member)

Lyn Nossel

Christine Butler

C. B. Luffmann, the first Principal of the School of Horticulture at Burnley Gardens, was known to have been rather temperamental and argumentative and had a long standing dispute with the Department of Agriculture. Daniel McAlpine, the government Vegetable Pathologist, opened the School of Horticulture in 1891 and is believed to have been deeply involved in running the School.

The following is a summary showing an insight into the relationship between the two men from *The Argus*, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 1900, p6

# **HORTICULTURAL GARDENS DISPUTE**

## **A CHARGE OF ASSAULT**

### **MR LUFFMANN FINED 10/-**



'At the Richmond Police Court yesterday, Daniel McAlpine, vegetable pathologist, connected with the Agricultural department, charged Carl Bogue Luffmann, the curator of the Burnley Horticultural Gardens, with an unlawful assault, on September 24, in the lecture-room at the gardens.

'Before the case was opened, Mr. Duffy (for the defendant) suggested that as the parties were gentlemen well known in the professional and scientific world it might be well if an opportunity were given to talk the matter over. It might be possible to avoid the washing of dirty linen in public. He was speaking purely from the point of view of common sense, and not as a barrister for the defendant.

'Mr. Maxwell (for the complainant) said his friend's remarks had placed him in an awkward position. He was there with what his client considered was a just cause. It was not a proper thing to say that because these parties occupied certain positions that their dirty linen, as his friend called it, should not be washed in court. The law was no respecter of persons. It was a strange request coming from the counsel for the defence.

'Daniel McAlpine said he was lecturer at the Burnley Gardens on vegetable pathology. On September 24 he went there to deliver one of his lectures. He went to the lecturer's desk in the lecture-room to get certain articles he required, but, contrary to the usual practice, he found it was locked. He then sent one of the students to Mr. Luffmann for the key to the desk. Shortly afterwards, and in response to the messenger, Mr. Luffmann came into the room. He asked Mr. Luffmann quietly to open the desk. In reply, Mr. Luffmann said, "I'll open it with my fist." Complainant said, "It has no right to be locked." Mr. Luffmann answered, "I'm director here, and I will do what I please." Then he seized the complainant by the shoulders, and being physically the stronger man ran him out backwards, and put him out at the door with such force that he was thrown on the ground.'

Mr. Duffy asked Mr. McAlpine several questions as to why it was so important that he should have access to the desk when there were other cupboards in the room which he had keys for. He kept repeating that it was the lecturer's desk and much laughter ensued from the courtroom.

Carl Bogue Luffmann's version of the story was that the portion of the desk that was locked was also used as a small student's library. He did not, in fact, have the key as it was with one of the women students who kept the library.

The defendant said that the complainant became very excited demanding that the desk be opened. Luffmann repeated several times that there was nothing he needed in the desk but McAlpine became abusive saying, "You so-called curator, you so-called director, I'll let you know who is master here."

McAlpine wanted to call the students in as witnesses but Luffmann wanted to keep the matter between themselves. There was a scuffle and McAlpine fell out of the door and as there was a drop between the door and the ground he fell over. There were several questions about whether McAlpine was "dancing around", again with much laughter from the courtroom. He was asked whether he had had a good many misunderstandings with Mr. Luffmann but he replied, "Not on my side."

After a short deliberation, the Chairman of the Bench said, "The Bench desire to express their regret that such a paltry case should have been brought before the Court, where two people are concerned of the characters of the complainant and the defendant. The Bench is quite convinced there was feeling on both sides, and that the assault was in a great measure brought about by the conduct on this particular occasion of Mr. McAlpine himself. A technical assault has been proved, and therefore we will fine Mr. Luffmann 10/-, without costs."

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

Spotted at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show in March was Fran Mason. She was admiring the Silver Show Garden medal (pictured right). Liz Cooper was on duty at the Sustainable Gardening Australia exhibit. Margot McDonald and Jan Chamberlain were at the Garden Advice Clinic. New member Rod McMillan, Margot McDonald and Michèle Adler featured on the Yates Centre Stage fielding all manner of audience questions. John Fordham was at the National Trust flogging his book on significant trees. There were probably many other members enjoying the show.

Anne Bishop and Randal McKillop helped set up the hanging basket display and even found time to enter a hanging basket of their own. The hanging basket display was going for a Guinness world record. Keep a look out for it together with the largest piñata, the most golfballs held in one hand and most chrysanthemums on a single stem ([www.guinnessworldrecords.com](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com)).

If you haven't been or missed a few years do head along to MIFGS next year. The dates are 30 March to 3 April 2011. You never know, you might even bump into some Friends there.



Designed by Melissa Thomson and Steven Wells the Health & Wellbeing Garden was a 'gardener's garden - a garden that displays many interesting and varied plants'. They described gardens and garden activity as playing 'an important role in our health, whether we are working or relaxing within them, or using them to connect with family and friends. Steven works at the Royal Talbot where he uses horticulture therapy for rehabilitation.

## Book Review

Jan Chamberlain

*Collect and Grow that Seed - Small Australian Plants* is a recently self-published A4 sized soft cover book. The illustrator, Ailsa Campbell, lives around the corner from me so I visited her personally to collect a copy at the great price of \$20. I also bought some gorgeous postcards featuring illustrations of seeds and fruit from the book.

Written by long time members of the Australian Plants Society ([www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)) the book limits itself to Australian plants with a maximum size of 60 x 60cm - with a few larger ones that can be restricted to that size by judicious pruning. The book covers fruits, seeds, seed preparation, seed germination and propagation (including transplanting and propagation by division). The book is a labour of love by Judy Barker, Faye Candy, Peg McAllister and Maureen Schaumann which took 9 years to write. Ailsa spent 6 years completing all the illustrations.

The species are arranged alphabetically by botanical name. Each species has:

- a detailed description of the plant together with its horticultural requirements
- its flowering period and seed collection time
- lovely ink drawings of fruit, seed and the baby plant
- descriptions of the fruit and seed
- propagation details and any special notes

I read the entry for the Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) as I have not been able to grow this plant from seed collected in my garden or my mother's garden. A special note for this species says seeds 'collected from a garden may not germinate unless cross-pollination has taken place'. So, now I need to buy another one which has different genes if I want to propagate it from seed.

The Small Grass-tree (*Xanthorrhoea minor* ssp. *lutea*) is another species I have germinated with some success and the notes say that the seedlings 'grow very slowly'.

If you are at all interested in propagating Australian plants from seed I strongly recommend you buy a copy. Email Ailsa directly at [ailsavida@gmail.com](mailto:ailsavida@gmail.com).

## FOBG Committee Members

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](mailto:michele@adland.com.au)  
 Andrew Smith 9250 6861 [a.smith@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:a.smith@unimelb.edu.au)

## Friends' Benefits

As a member you will receive:

- Three newsletters (Papyrus) per year detailing past and future events and activities and current projects in the Gardens
- Discounts for most Friends' activities including interesting guest speakers, garden visits, theatre nights and more
- Opportunities to purchase plants and other merchandise at member meetings
- Discounts on purchases at specified retail outlets
- Priority bookings on special events and activities

Your membership also allows you to:

- Support the historic Burnley Gardens
- Join the Friendly Guides
- Help with the Cultural Collection
- Work in the Gardens
- Help with label making
- Join the propagation group
- Meet like-minded people that seek a greater interest in contemporary horticulture
- Use the Burnley library during business hours (but not to borrow books)

## Principally Plants

**Rear 229 High Street  
ASHBURTON 3147**

- Expert horticultural advice
- Plants for gifts and gardens
- Garden assessments
- Planting plans
- Personal plant buying
- SGA Certified Garden Centre
- Water Saver Garden Centre
- 10% discount to FOBG members for cash purchases

**Telephone: 9885 0260**

## GREAT OFFER

**Gil Teague** from **Florilegium** is pleased to offer Friends of Burnley Gardens members Volume 9 of the *Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants - Suitable for Cultivation* at the special price of \$175 (RRP \$250). Postage is \$9.

The final volume in the series by Rodger Elliot and David Jones with illustrations by Trevor Blake has been long awaited. It covers species beginning with Sp-Z and includes *Stylidium*, *Tetratheca*, *Xanthorrhoea* and *Zieria* among many others. Some of the other volumes and supplements are also available.

Please contact Florilegium directly at:  
 PO Box 1137, Glebe NSW 2037.  
 Phone: 02 9571 8222 or Fax: 02 8208 9938.  
 Email: [sales@florilegium.com.au](mailto:sales@florilegium.com.au)

## 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

Plants at various prices

## Diary Dates

2010	
Date	Activity and presenter
<b>MAY</b> Wed 19 May 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>The Millennium Seed Bank</b> with Megan Hirst, Millenium Seed Bank Officer, RBG, Melbourne.
<b>MAY</b> Wed 26 May 10 am - 5 pm	<b>Botanical Art Workshop</b> with Mali Moir, Botanical Illustrator. <b>Learning to Look</b> - We will focus on the basics of creating a three dimensional drawing, using pencils only. Beginners welcome. <b>Bookings essential:</b> \$85 for members and \$110 for non-members. Payment required before the day. Phone: Michèle Adler on 5145 5422 for materials list and details.
<b>JUNE</b> Wed 16 June 12.30 pm lunch 1.30 - 3.30 pm working bee	<b>Lunch and Preparation for July Open Day</b> for Members & friends. Meet in the Burnley café for lunch at 12.30 pm, then lend a hand to Andrew Smith in the Gardens.
<b>JUNE</b> Wed 16 June 4.30 - 6.30pm	<b>An afternoon in the laboratory at Burnley</b> 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.
<b>JUNE</b> <b>Wed 23 June</b> 10 am - 5 pm	<b>Botanical Art Workshop</b> with Mali Moir, Botanical Illustrator. <b>Applying Colour</b> - We'll do more colourful drawings using the water colour pencil palette. Beginners welcome. <b>Bookings essential:</b> \$85 for members and \$110 for non-members. Payment required before the day. Phone Michèle Adler on 5145 5422 for materials list and details.
<b>JULY</b> Sun 18 July	<b>Burnley Gardens Open Day activities and workshops.</b> Pruning workshops, Kids Korner, hanging basket demonstrations and plant sales. Snacks and refreshments available.
<b>AUGUST</b> Sat 7 August	<b>Rose Grafting Workshop</b> with Brian Shields (former Burnley Lecturer)
<b>AUGUST</b> Wed 11 August 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>Gardening in Dry Shade</b> with Stephen Ryan, the host of television's Gardening Australia.
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Wed 15 September 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>Is your hollow tree sick?</b> With Denise Johnstone, Arborist, University of Melbourne - Burnley Campus.
<b>OCTOBER</b> Wed 13 October 7 for 7.30 pm	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> <b>Watching for Wildlife</b> at Burnley Gardens with Ian Temby - how to manage wildlife in your garden - possums, seagulls, fruit bats. And a garden gander.
<b>NOVEMBER</b> Sat 20 November 5 - 8.30 pm	<b>Picnic and Croquet in the Gardens</b> - Our end of year gathering. Croquet with Patrick Moore and club members Melbourne Cricket Club Croquet Club.