



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 - Spring Edition

No. 61 - October 2015

editor: Jan Chamberlain

From the Chair (Summary of AGM report)

Bob Lazarus

A huge thank-you to the people who have served on Committee: Michèle Adler, Jane Wilson, Jennene Arnel, Sandra McMahon, Cheryl Andrews, Ruth Lazarus, Glenys Rose (retired), Dianne Cranston and Andrew Smith. Also, thank you to Pamela Carder, Anne Bishop and Barbara Brookes for their contribution earlier in the year.

I would also like to thank all members for their support, both those involved in active service and those partaking enthusiastically as an audience in our programme of events throughout the year. When you receive notice of an event and think of having to brave the Melbourne weather and the drive to Burnley, think also of the wonderful speakers you have heard in the past, then drive over and enjoy again the company of other garden-lovers, and experience again the enlightenment of listening to genuine naturalists talking with deep knowledge and feeling of their gardening lives.

The 'Friendly Guides' continue to reveal the delights of our Garden to ever increasing numbers of visitors, sometimes three in a week: groups such as Probus, walking groups, Garden Clubs, childrens' groups and elderly citizens. The tours attract a steady flow of new members signing up, and the paid tours contribute significantly to our funds.

The propagation group keeps busy week in, week out raising the beautiful plants which we buy at their many sales each year. This group is by far the greatest fund-raiser for FOBG, returning a very sizeable profit from their plant sales, building up the funds which enable the Friends to support projects which are in keeping with its philosophy. The plant sales are a strong point of contact with the public, and also bring in many new FOBG members, and attract enquiries about horticultural courses which are referred to the Burnley administration, a clear benefit to the university.

Some five plant sales have been held over the 12 months. The Monster Plant Sale of August 2014 brought in about \$5000, but all the sales were rewarding and well-attended, reflecting the reputation which the Propagation Group has built up over the years with both Friends and the public.

We thank member John Hill who made a very generous donation of a PC and equipment to print hi-tech labels for use in plant pots.

The Burnley Archive (a.k.a. Cultural Collection) preserves the rich and colourful history of the Gardens, the College and the countless students it has prepared for a horticultural life.

Jane Wilson continues to build up the archive, cataloguing, and collecting and scanning historical documents and recently discovered antique glass slides from the horticultural world.

Jane has had some help with the task from Judith Scurfield and Alla Hires (former assistant in the Burnley library) and some other members from time to time.

Sandi Pullman has been conducting research into Ina Higgins, an early landscaper who was the first graduating designer from Burnley Horticultural College (BHC), early BHC Principal Bogue Luffman, and Ola Cohen's sister Zeta, a 1925 student at BHC.



FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC 500 YARRA BOULEVARD RICHMOND VIC 3121

ABN: 58 889 973 541

Telephone: 03 9250 6800

www.fobg.org.au

Jill Kellow has done a wonderful job of re-vamping the website, and continues to administer it, with illustrated posts of high quality, information about the gardens, the new Brochure and all of the Newsletters (*Papyrus*) as well as information about Burnley and the Friends' events.

In his role as Gardens Coordinator at Burnley, Andrew Smith's objectives are in natural alignment with those of the Friends. We are especially grateful to Andrew for his unfailingly enthusiastic support of the various projects flowing from our mission to preserve and promote these heritage-listed Gardens, through his liaison with Melbourne University. Andrew not only assists at almost every function but also takes on demanding special projects with the support of the Friends.

Andrew produced the latest edition of the very fine 'Guide to Burnley Gardens' brochure (on our website), and writes really interesting articles for *Papyrus*, drawing on his expert knowledge and long-established association with the Gardens.

Cheryl Andrews works constantly and effectively to keep members up to date with events on our busy programme, recording new members and maintaining our membership records, and working with Jane Wilson (Treasurer) to manage subscriptions, which are a significant source of funds for the Friends.

Cheryl also does the printing of the special permanent labels used by the Parkville campus, and in doing so raises additional funds for the Friends.

From time to time a number of members have made significant monetary donations, for which we are most grateful.

Many people work Behind-the-Scenes so to speak...

Jane Wilson, in addition to her work as Archivist, continues to apply her advanced book-keeping skills in the maintenance of our accounts, producing detailed breakdowns of our finances to help us keep track of things.

Ruth Lazarus our Secretary has very much appreciated the support of Jennene Arnel in producing the minutes of meetings for some years, to a very high standard, for which we offer our sincerest thanks. Jennene has retired from the committee and we thank her for her great service.

'Delicious Dianne' Cranston is legendary for her years of inspired catering at our functions, from yummy and satisfying nibbles at our regular meetings to truly memorable dinners on major occasions, trestle tables groaning under a profusion of mouth-watering dishes.

Sandra McMahon maintains our publicity through tireless promotion in the horticultural and mainstream media, as well as working as a garden designer.

A significant expense this year was the purchase of a set of fence signs, flying banners and A-frames, to attract people to Sales and to direct people within the campus.

Burnley identity Michèle Adler, our long-serving former president, now vice-president and the creator of our full and lively programme, continues to draw the leading lights of the horticultural world to Burnley to talk to us about the wonders of the gardening and natural world.

Michèle devotes tremendous effort into developing our programme. Michèle is also a keen public advocate of FOBG and maintains our links with the wider gardening world.

I would invite you as members to consider helping us to run the Friends: in particular, we really need someone to help produce our newsletter, which is particularly important for those without internet access.

Best wishes

Bob

Newsletter editor and team needed

This is my last newsletter, after a second stint in the job. It is time for someone else to 'have a go' and give a new flavour to the newsletter. We need someone (or a team) who know(s) a bit about word processing (or even a fancier newsletter program), can throw some words together in a reasonably logical way, take a few photos at Friends' events and have some spare time. If you can do any or all of those things then this job is for you! Chat to Jan Chamberlain, Michèle Adler or another committee member at the next meeting.

Advertise your business or service here!

Are you wanting to advertise your business or services? Did you know that you can advertise in the FOBG Newsletter for \$50? Contact Andrew Smith on 9035 6861 or email: a.smith@unimelb.edu.au

Greg Moore, our Patron and former Principal of Burnley, has always been interested in trees and professionally cemented this interest in 1975.

After our AGM Greg gave us the low down on dormant buds. They are useful in many ways to horticulturalists. They can be used to proactively manage trees by 'formative pruning' when trees are young but are underappreciated by gardeners and arborists alike.

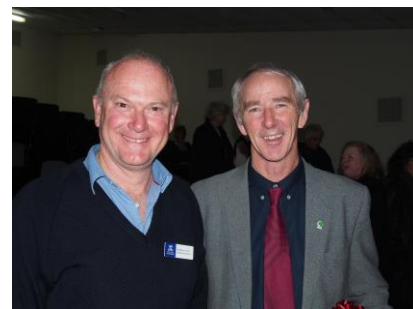
Lignotubers are swellings at the base of most eucalypts which are protected by the insulating properties of soil. The Eucalypts that are the Gondwana eucalypts do not have lignotubers as they grow in lush environments. It is costly from a plant resource point of view so it seems that only plants growing in stressed environments have them. For example *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) that grow north of the divide have lignotubers while those south of the divide do not. Lignotubers also occur in the Ginkgo, Bay Laurel and some Rhododendrons.

It is only when the upper part of trees are destroyed that the potential of the lignotubers to produce shoots is realised.

Epicormic buds are usually protected by thick bark.

They can be used to manipulate canopy structure and allow rapid re-establishment of stressed trees. After fire, epicormic buds re-establish photosynthetic activity but they can be weakly attached which means they can tend to drop off.

So, if you understand these different types of buds you can manage your trees more effectively.



Andrew Smith and Greg Moore

From the State Library of Victoria**Jan Chamberlain**

Source: Argus Newspaper Collection of Photographs
State Library of Victoria
(www.slv.vic.gov.au/search-discover/explore-our-digital-image-pool)

Recently I received an email from the State Library inviting exploration of their out of copyright archive and then doing something creative with the images. I can never resist typing a few words into a new search engine – a few family names thinking some family history photos might surface (nothing), then some country towns I have links with (not much to note) then I type Burnley and after going through lots of rock formation photos there are a series of photos *Women of the Australian Women's Land Army at work* from about 1941 to 1943. The photo is labelled 'Peg Creswick and Valerie Mason at Burnley Horticultural School with horse during a ploughing demonstration'. While I haven't done anything creative with it, I have creatively put it into *Papyrus*.

Tim Entwisle - Algae - Jan Chamberlain**15 September**

Tim Entwisle's hidden research passion is algae and he spoke to the Friends on whether the algae species which bears his name (*Entwisleia bella*) is Hobart's Wollemi Pine. We were taken on a journey from the fossil record of the Wollemi Pine to the waters of Tasmania. Tim told us that there are 12,000 to 18,000 algae species of which about 10,000 are described. He entered the world of algae for many reasons including their beauty, their Australian flavour (as many are endemic) and that they are rare and unusual. His study of algae has taken him to many remote places. *Entwisleia bella* is indeed a rare species which occupies a new family, Entwisleiaceae and a new order. It turns out that this new red algae is in fact more rare than the Wollemi Pine.



www.rbg.vic.gov.au/staff

In April we spent an evening 'Cooking with Clive', being entertained, educated and fed by the well-known Clive Larkman of Larkman Nurseries. Clive is a botanist and second generation nurseryman. He and wife Di, run Larkman's Nurseries (wholesale) at Lilydale and Wandin.

Clive filled his talk with lively anecdotes from his lifetime of involvement in the nursery industry and knowledge of the food retailing industry. He shared his passion for cooking with fresh vegies and herbs, covering all aspects from the best places in Melbourne to go for the freshest vegies (Chirnside), lesser-known varieties to liven up dishes, showing us how a real chef can wield a cleaver and talk at the same time, and then taking us all up to the green roof where he transformed all of his wonderful ingredients into a memorable meal on his portable BBQ. Some of his favourites are purple carrots, turmeric for memory improvement, celeriac, 'mushroom plant' from Papua New Guinea, lemon & ginger tea for the liver, and techniques such as ice-cream to subdue an overdose of chili, using a salt grinder to grind up seeds and freezing fresh herbs in ice-cubes for storage. Clive's interesting website is www.larkmannurseries.com.au.

Simon Rickard - Heirloom Vegetables – Bob Lazarus**6 May 2015**

Simon was an absolutely first-rate speaker, drawing on a lifetime of gardening experience as a leading figure in the gardening world, both locally and internationally, conducting forums, leading tours and working in the media. He has a most interesting personal history, as a professional baroque musician besides his 8 years as Head Gardener at Diggers (at Heronswood), living on site at the famous garden.

Simon told us all about his research in Peru into the social history of man's use of corn, tomatoes and potatoes, from which he wrote the well-known *Heirloom Vegetables: A guide to their history and varieties*, Lantern Books (2014), and other works. He has his own particularly beautiful website www.simonrickard.com.

From the Archives**Jane Wilson**

It has been a long time coming but finally the Archive catalogues are being placed on line on The University of Melbourne website. This means that anyone, not just students, can access the catalogues and then contact the Burnley volunteer archivists if they wish to view any items. All you need to do is:

Type **archives.unimelb.edu.au** into a search engine

Then type '**Burnley**' in 'Search the Catalogue'

Click '**VIEW**' Catalogue entries

Under '**Creator: Burnley School of Horticulture**' you will see several entries.

So far you can view 'Maps and Plans of Burnley Campus,' 'Horticultural and Livestock Registers and Books,' 'Certificates and Report Cards' and 'Artefacts.'

Photographs will be available soon, hopefully with a thumbnail of the actual picture.



Students planting palms c1917.
Edna Walling extreme right.



Making hay in the orchards 1930s

Courtesy of The University of Melbourne Burnley Archives

The Gardens tend to look their best at the beginning of Spring and we are using the milder conditions to begin several major planting projects.

The Swan Street redevelopment has finally got to the planting stage, with our own FOBG member Sandra McMahon taking a close personal interest in the plant placement of her design. Sandra's design brief from the campus was to use drought resistant species to represent the colour spectrum and be a new teaching resource for Burnley students. The brief also required the design to provide an exceptional focal point to the Swan Street Campus entrance. Annette Warner's (Burnley graphics lecturer) concept idea has been successfully interpreted by Sandra and if the turning of heads is anything to go by, the Swan Street frontage has captured the attention of both pedestrians and passing motorists.

The Grassland section in the Native Garden has benefited from the plant propagation skills of John Delpratt (Burnley lecturer) in the bulking up of the grassland with additional and new species. John has been closely involved in the placing and planting of the colourful forbs (native flowering grassland species) that are interplanted in small groups amongst the existing wallaby grass.

The rain garden has continued to fill out since I last wrote and is providing some eye catching appeal with the Kangaroo Paw (*Anigozanthus*) 'Big Red' cultivar. Good growth has also been achieved on the Gum Vine (*Aphanopetalum*) that has been trained onto the curved support at the ramp entrance.

You may have noticed a change to the boulevard fence adjacent to the lagoon paddock, it's been partially removed. This wire mesh fence was sending the wrong message to the general public and served no purpose, considering you could drive or walk in at either end of it anyway. While the mesh and top rail has disappeared, the pole uprights will stay a little longer until we choose some low plants to delineate the campus boundary.

The rather neglected area south of the Boulevard entrance and outside the Campus boundary has been used by both an external school group and Burnley students, as a revegetation exercise. This rather steep slope, considered a nature strip by Vic roads and therefore the responsibility of the adjoining landowner, was first planted up in the early 1980's by a Burnley lecturer Min Russell. While some of those original plants still survive, the annual weeds and kikuyu have come to dominate the overall effect. To give the native tube stock some chance of surviving, a degradable (3 years) fabric weed cloth has been used to cover the areas previously sprayed and weeded.



Sandra McMahon in action



Golden Billy Buttons amongst the Wallaby Grass



Rain Garden in September



Mesh removal from the Boulevard Perimeter fence



Burnley students hard at work

'Twas a gentle, very fine lady friend who simply loved nature and gardening - Christine Sampson - who introduced me to FOBG a few years ago, and I've been grateful since.

Chris and I attended many an interesting, informative talk/demo/show evening at Burnley, as well as participating in interactive 'open days'. But, the most memorable for me are those beautiful St Valentine's Day dinners in the balmy, alfresco ambience of the quad where one and all came, met and shared in an evening of exquisite culinary and social exchange followed by a premium talk in the lecture theatre. No doubt Chris will be much missed by her FOBG Guide colleagues and multitude of friends, but through my garden Chris lives on for me.



Chris is pictured 3rd from left at the 2014 Friendly Guides Xmas party at Como House

Well known horticulturist Allen Gilbert passed away on Friday 3 October 2015 in Ballarat, following a period of deteriorating health.

Allen will be remembered by many as a founding member of the outstanding Garden Advisory Service established by the Department of Agriculture at Burnley Gardens in the 1980s. He worked there for over 20 years.

He was the author of many popular books such as *Tomatoes for Everyone*, *No Dig Gardening*, *Citrus*, *All about Apples* and *Just Nuts*, to name a few. Allen's extensive horticultural experience and knowledge will live on in his written words. Allen managed the popular Victorian Radio - 3CR Sunday community garden program for more than 15 years and was an organic gardening advocate long before it was popular. He was a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines as well as a member of the Horticultural Media Association.

He gladly offered his services and extensive knowledge to the Friends of Burnley Gardens on their Open Day, conducting workshops into fruit tree pruning.



www.hmaustralia.com.au

I was very sad to hear that Tony Luffman had died in April this year. In 2006, I was lucky enough to meet Charles Bogue Luffman's (first Principal of Burnley 1897-1908) great nephew Anthony (known as Tony).

Tony lived in England and when clearing out an Aunt's attic, discovered all this information on Charles. This intrigued him and so he devolved into the history of time and discovered he had this amazing great uncle.

I think from memory, Tony tracked me down through my articles on Luffman in the Australian Garden History journal. Tony decided to come out to Australia and I had the pleasure of showing him around Burnley, introducing him to Greg Moore our principal at the time and then off to show him Metropolitan Golf Course in Oakleigh where Luffman had designed the plantings.

Luffman had been involved in the Mildura Royal Commission on whether it was a suitable place for growing raisins, currants, sultanas etc., so Tony jumped on a train to check out Mildura, then flew home from Sydney.

Last Christmas, I received in the mail two wonderful books from Tony and I thought 'Ah ha' he is having a clean out. He had sent me Charles' last book *Harvest of Japan* (1920) and Elinor Mordaunt's book *Sinabada* (1937) which mentions her life living with Luffman in the Principal's house.

We kept in touch and every Christmas we sent each other a Christmas card. Whenever either of us discovered a new fact, we would correspond. There is an obscure reference in his first book *A Vagabond in Spain* about a bullock puncher that reminded him of a bullock team in Australia implying that Charles had been to Australia before 1895. Finally Tony cracked it. Tony found that Charles left Sydney and arrived at Plymouth on the 5th July 1892 on the ship *Oruba*.

I will miss Tony. Vale Anthony Luffman.

On 15 September, the Friends hosted a group of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne for an extended tour. As this was a large group (42 participants), and one which we knew would have knowledge of, and a particular interest in Australian plants, we decided to concentrate on those sections of the Burnley Gardens. Most of the Guides, plus Andrew Smith, were involved in the planning and presentation of the tour, and we carried out several 'dry runs', guiding each other through various sections of the Gardens. We covered eight separate areas, passing on the group, divided into two, from one Guide to the next, and trying to keep to a timetable, with only about 10 minutes each - not easy when our visitors wanted to look at and discuss many of the outstanding plants that we are so fortunate to have at Burnley!

Our programme covered: Historical Introduction (Michèle Adler), Rain Garden (Andrew Smith), Ellis Stones rockery (Sandi Pullman), important Australian trees (Judith Scurfield), Rainforest (Barb Brookes), Kath Deery gardens (Susie Hall), Rob Boyle water feature (Jean Corbett, presented by Sandi Pullman) and Hitchmough grasslands (Robin Calabrese). We hope that some of the notes from our research on these areas will be written up in *Papyrus*, so that you will be able to take your own guided walks through areas which interest you, particularly the Australian plantings.

FOBG Committee Members

President	Bob Lazarus
Vice President	Michèle Adler (Activities Co-ordinator)
Treasurer	Jane Wilson (Archivist, Guides Co-ordinator)
Secretary	Ruth Lazarus (Meeting Convener)
Member	Cheryl Andrews (Membership Co-ordinator)
Member	Dianne Cranston (Catering Manager)
Member	Sandra McMahon (Publicity)
Member	Trish Sawrey
Member	Vanessa Turko
University Liaison Contact	Andrew Smith

Membership Update

Cheryl Andrews

Since the previous Newsletter, FOBG membership has reduced because a number of members have not renewed their membership. We currently have 228 members.

The following five people received 10 year membership certificates at the AGM: Dr Anita Hill, Dr Peter May, Dr Janet McCombe, Ms Lorraine Poole and Mrs Jane Wilson. Congratulations and thank you for your continuing commitment and support of the Friends.

I would like to welcome the following new members who joined between February and September: Olwyn Jones, Lisa Davies, John Fitzgibbon, Kate Lauricella, Maggie Power, Jennifer Martinus & Joseph Connellan, Reuben Meade, Claire Hausler, Heather Ross, Lisa Johnson, Thea Roche, Michelle Hocking & Mathew Muldoon, Sarah Carles, Andrew Thomas, Joan Wheelahan, David Wilson, Mary McNeil, Deborah Monk, Taylor Cullity Lethlean (Corporate membership), Meg Hirst, Trudi McGrath, Yvonne Pecujac and James Turnbull.

Photo credits

Jan Chamberlain provided most photos for this edition of *Papyrus*.



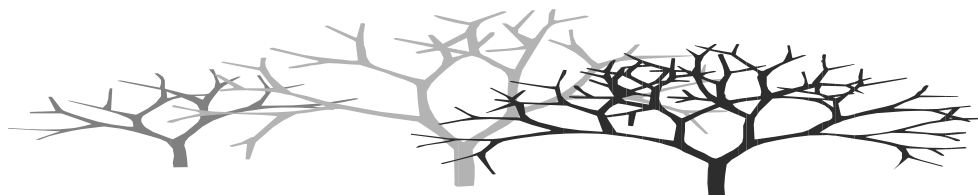
H F McCay Arboretum



The Mafeking Tree (*Quercus robur*)



John Fordham



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

2015/2016 Programme

When	Who	What
October Tuesday 13. \$5 / \$15	Bryan Paten, Member of the Bromeliad Society	<i>Bromeliads –fashionable designer plants or tried-and-true oldies</i> We have a great collection of bromeliads in the Burnley Gardens. Let's find out how versatile they are.
November Tuesday 17 5 pm. Christmas Dinner 7.30 talk. price tbc.	Lynsey Poole Botanist	<i>Wildflowers of the deserts of Utah and Arizona</i> Deserts are renowned for their spectacular flowers. Lynsey will take us for an illustrated botanical adventure.
February 2016 Saturday 14 12.30 pm lunch 2 pm talk	Michèle Adler author, presenter, botanical bicycle rider, FOBG Committee member	<i>Flight of fancy through the Heart</i> Michèle recently rode a bicycle 1000 km from Tennant Creek to Darwin to celebrate her grandfather's record-breaking ride of 1914. It was a botanical wonderland. She'll show the video, share the experience and explore the plant collection.

Significant Tree Tour - Jan Chamberlain

29 August 2015

On a dreary Saturday morning we left Burnley via the Monash Freeway and headed south east. We cruised past a *Quercus canariensis* avenue then stopped at Neville Hamilton Reserve (Shute Avenue, Berwick) to get up close and personal with a Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) planted in 1859. A couple of streets in this area are named after the director and author of *On the beach* which was filmed here – well before there were any housing developments. Our next stop was at Edrington Park which was previously home to Lord and Lady Casey. We were able to take a peek at their original Arts and Craft home which is now the hub of the retirement community. This was after we had craned our necks to look at the *Cedrus deodara* and admired the well-tended garden. A few people even contemplated retirement there.

Then onto Drouin, where we drove past their main street plantings of *Corymbia ficifolia*. The rain started as we walked through an avenue of Bhutan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*). Our plans for a hot cuppa at Drouin were thwarted as the bus didn't have a hot water supply, so some shops profited by selling a few extra cups of coffee. Lunch was in Neerim South underneath the local park shelter and then onto the H F McCay arboretum which has a number of Giant Sequoia trees (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and other memorial plantings. The drive through the Latrobe State forest was very pretty with wattles, tree ferns and tall eucalypts. Next was the biggest Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) in Victoria. Then to Melba Park in Lilydale to see the Mafeking Tree (*Quercus robur*). A lovely Golden Oak welcomed us at the Kellybrook Winery in Wonga Park and in The Basin we found our last tree which was planted as an acorn by William and Kate Chandler soon after 1873. With John Fordham's excellent knowledge together with his handy booklet we had a great day out.



In Berwick



Castanea sativa



Golden Oak at Wonga Park