



FRIENDS OF HAMILTON BOTANIC GARDENS

Summer 2015

The Friends of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and may 2015 be kind to us all, be it family and friends, the weather or our gardens.

Already the Botanic Garden has suffered from the severe wind in the New Year, with much damage occurring when a huge limb came away from the oak tree at the Skene St entrance, near the flight aviary. From all accounts the birds have been rescued and placed in the largest part of the aviary that was undamaged (the cockatoo is still saying hello), but the area has been devastated. Unfortunately the oak had become too dangerous and has since been removed, but what an empty space it has created.



On a positive note, when you next visit the Gardens look at the progress made in the refurbished CWA Glass House. The plants are thriving with the dripper system now in place, thanks to the Garden staff. Gradually more plants will be added and the pots that are visible now will disappear under lush foliage.



Over the Christmas period the gardens have been the chosen venue for many large and small family groups, allowing children freedom to play and explore and others to relax.

Professor Jim Sinatra Patron of the Friends of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens

At the Annual General Meeting held in November 2014 Leigh Coggins, the outgoing President, announced the appointment of Professor Jim Sinatra as Patron of the Friends of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens. Everyone is delighted that Jim has accepted our invitation.



Many of you will remember Jim's keynote talk at our Gala Day held in spring 2013 and a synopsis of his work follows:

"Jim Sinatra has made an outstanding contribution in the field of landscape architecture, the impact of which is felt from deep within rural Australia to many countries around the world.

His extensive experience in commercial, institutional, community development, municipal and residential landscape projects and public art projects, has seen him participate as a lecturer, critic, juror and reviewer in the US, Canada, Japan, Holland, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan and East Timor.

In the early 1980s Mr Sinatra led the newly established undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture at RMIT. He led and mentored this program for 15 years before retiring in 1998 with an emeritus professorship.

In Australia, he was instrumental in taking the profession from its budding stages to the forefront of industry.

Mr Sinatra's books and publications co-authored with Phin Murphy: have made leading intellectual contributions that have shaped the discipline of landscape architecture. These publications celebrate their commitment to working with remote indigenous communities and other diverse, often marginalised, populations in understanding and shaping their landscape environments.

Mr Sinatra initiated design studios throughout rural and remote Australia as part of the landscape architecture program, which grew to become the RMIT OutReach Australia program. Through this program, he provided invaluable opportunities for Australian and international students and RMIT staff to participate in projects that were focused on bringing real and meaningful change to communities in need. Many of these design project studios were in Hamilton, Branxholme, Skipton, Vasey, and other locations in the Western District.

In 1991, he started his current landscape architectural and art practice with Phin Murphy. SinatraMurphy's work is widely celebrated and respected for its artful approach to place making and the provision of meaningful public spaces. This practice continues to maintain strong links with indigenous and multicultural groups.

Jim has received numerous accolades and honours including a fellowship in the Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture and a National Future Leaders Scholarship, which has been dubbed the Jim Sinatra

Leadership award and more recently Doctor of Design RMIT."



Jim presented to the Friends this wonderful framed "Plate 90 Acacia Longifolia" – a line engraving of the watercolour painted by Sydney Parkinson for Dr Joseph Banks in 1770. There will be more detailed information in the Autumn newsletter regarding this generous gift.

New Head Gardener

It has just been announced that Frank Verschuren has been appointed the Head Gardener for the Hamilton Botanic Gardeners, assisted by second year apprentice Liam. We look forward to a long and productive association.

Annual General Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting we thanked both Leigh Coggins for her three productive and successful terms as President, and Midge Gough for her inspiring work as Secretary. Liz Brenman and Amanda Gubbins have resigned from the committee and we thank them both. Liz has been a tireless volunteer over many years, as well as assistant treasurer.



Jane Heazlewood thanking Leigh for her amazing contribution to the Friends as President

New committee for 2014 - 2015

President: Jacqui Bagnall
Vice President: Leigh Coggins
Secretary: Robyn Linke
Ass Secretary: Virginia Frayne
Treasurer and Newsletter: Helen Christie
Committee: Mary Dyer (Working Bee coordinator),
Lynn Stewart, Jill Aitken, Jacqui Sharrad, Midge
Gough, Jane Heazlewood, Topsy Baulch, Heather
Heard, Jill Smith (Minute secretary),

Our guest speaker, John Harrison (with his daughter Naomi) spoke of their time living in the Garden Cottage in the late 1970's when John was the Parks and Gardens superintendent for the City of Hamilton. John who has retired to Ballarat entertained us with stories, as well as presenting us with news cuttings and a painting of Poplar Valley Cottage at Break Neck Corner by Mary Middleton. Naomi reminisced about how large the gardens appeared to her 10 year old eyes, and how idyllic it was living in such a wonderful environment.



John Harrison presenting President Jacqui Bagnall with the Mary Middleton painting given to him when he took over from Ray Middleton as Parks and Garden supervisor.

Gardens Masterplan

Prior to Christmas the plans for the Gardens were on display for public viewing and comment at both the Market St and Brown St Council buildings. All suggestions will be assessed and considered before the release of the final plan.

Pleasant Sunday Music in the Gardens

Music in the Gardens continues to be a magnet for residents. After the extraordinarily hot days at the beginning of New Year the January Music in the Gardens drew many to the gardens. The final afternoons will take place on the 1st Sunday of the month in February and March and we look forward to seeing you there. Daffy Steer, who is always entertaining, will be performing at the February Pleasant Sunday Music in the Gardens.

Our Significant Trees

Chamaecyparis frunebris or Funeral Cypress

Our Gardens are noted for their excellent collection of plants characteristic of the 19th and early 20th centuries, and initially eight trees were registered as significant by the National Trust. Of these, seven are still surviving with the exception of the Hickory Wattle. These trees were placed on the National Heritage Register in 2008.

These include the largest known **Chamaecyparis frunebris** or Funeral Cypress – a native to south western and central China. Its natural range in China is imprecise as it has a very long history of cultivation and was typically planted around monasteries and temples.

On the location map of the Gardens it is **F** and is situated to the north of the lake. The Funeral Cypress is also commonly known as the Chinese Weeping Cypress or Mourning Cypress. It is a beautiful evergreen tree, with pendulous, fine scale-like leaves. The seed cones are small, 8 – 15mm in diameter.

It is somewhat overcrowded by the surrounding established trees but it is a very beautiful tree with bright green foliage.

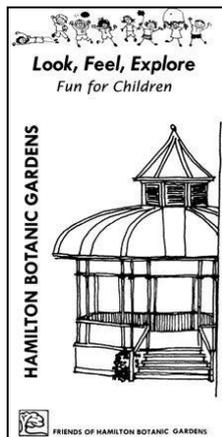


Taken from the Salvia Gardens looking down towards the lake.



Activity Sheets for the Gardens

The activity sheets "Look, Feel, Explore" designed for children to use in the Gardens have been a great success. They are available from the brochure holder attached to the Cottage's front fence. Professor Jim Sinatra's first task as our new Patron was to place the Activity Sheets into the holder.



Botanic Art Group

This enthusiastic and diverse group meets every 3rd Tuesday in the month in the Gardens Cottage from 10.30 . 3.00. First session for 2015 is on February 17th.

New members are always welcome and if you would like to have a go+please consider the Botanic Art Weekend Workshop on April 11th & 12th as an introduction into botanical illustration.

Contact Debbie Millard
botanicalinspirations@gmail.com
or Helen Christie 5572 4565

Botanic Art Weekend Workshop

Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2015

Mali Moir, respected botanic artist and tutor at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, will be conducting a weekend workshop on the theme of 'Autumn Leaves', using both water colour and coloured pencil.

The workshop will be suitable for all levels of experience, with attendance limited to ten places. (Applications over that number will be short-listed)

Venue: the rural property 'Arcadia Park', 12 km west of Hamilton.

Cost: \$200 (including lunch, morning and afternoon tea).

Daily session times: 9.30am – 4.00pm

Enquiries and further information:
Penelope Slocombe (03) 5570 8328 or
email geoffslocombe@gmail.com.

Mali Moir's website is www.MaliMoir.com.au

Mali is one of four botanical artists exhibiting in VIGNETTES to be held at the Ballarat Art Gallery from 31st January to 15th March 2015



Find us on Facebook at:
The Friends of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens

To keep the cost of mailing and printing to a minimum we need member's email addresses. If you have an email address please send to lycaro@westnet.com.au

Suggestions and articles for the newsletter are always welcome and may be sent to:
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