

FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC



Papyrus - Summer Edition

No. 64 – December 2016 editor: Chris Harrison

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write towards the end of October, spring is really with us. I hope that you are enjoying it as much as I am; such a lovely time of year. Butterflies are engulfing the thyme in my garden, hover flies are everywhere and ground orchids are blooming in the bush. What a bumper year with all this rain.

Since our last *Papyrus* in August, there have been some changes. Thank you again to Bob Lazarus, our past president who stepped down for family reasons.

At the AGM in August your new Committee was elected.
2016/17 Committee is:
Michèle Adler – President
Sandra McMahon – Vice President
Ruth Lazarus - Secretary
Jane Wilson – Treasurer
Cheryl Andrews - Membership
Dianne Cranston
Christine Morrissey
John Chong (resigned November 2016)
Andrew Smith – University of Melbourne, Liaison



Thank you also to the sub committees, the Friendly Guides and Historical group, the Propagation group and Botanic Art organiser, and also our Webmaster and Facebook page and Newsletter editor. The members running these groups do such a wonderful job and the

helpers and participants continue to raise funds and keep Burnley Gardens ever out-reaching to the community. We admire your dedication and enjoy your fellowship. Thank you all.

Every so often we make an opportunity to get together socially outside of 'official duties'. Sometimes, it's a lunch after a tour of the Gardens, sometimes a visit to someone else's garden, sometimes a simple chat by telephone that keeps us connected. So, our collective hard work is spiced up with a splash of social encounter. Good friends are made, knowledge exchanged and relationships cemented in a common endeavour – the Gardens at Burnley.

Major contributions by the Friends this year include:

- A new Gardens brochure (available from our FOBG website) www.fobg.org.au
- A contribution to the University of Melbourne for their Burnley Gardens App
- Supporting the University of Melbourne with their 125 year celebrations and festival
- The commission the 125 Burnley commemorative pendant (we are still taking orders) and
- There are plans afoot to develop the former principal's site and adjoining Wisteria Walk.

There are exciting times ahead. Next year we celebrate our vicennial as a Friends group – yes, that's right – it will be 20 years since the Friends of Burnley started. Were you there for the first meeting? I remember a few that are still actively involved - Dr Greg Moore (our patron), Jill Kellow (our Webmaster for the FOBG website), Sandi Pullman who convened that first meeting and later became president and myself. So I suppose you could call this group vicennial perennials.

Perhaps you have some good ideas of how we may celebrate our anniversary? Please let me know soon as planning of events has already started. To whet your appetite we'll begin the 2017 year as always on Valentine's Day, 14 February. In March, John Rayner Director of Horticulture at Burnley will give a talk about his own creative garden at Emerald. The April event will be the Yarra River cruise starting at Herring Island and going along the 'river of mists' to the city and back with a tour of the award winning Birrarung Mar. Of course you'll be circulated with the dates and more information in due course.

So we have a great year ahead but we celebrate a wonderful 19th year as well.

Best wishes for the holiday period. We'll see you again soon.

Michèle Adler (President)

DIRECTOR OF URBAN HORTICULTURE UPDATE

JOHN RAYNER



It's been almost a year since I was asked by our Dean, Prof. Karen Day, to take on the role of Director of Urban Horticulture and it has certainly been an interesting journey!

The role was established to help lead the discipline of urban horticulture in SEFS (School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences), the Faculty of Science and more broadly across the University. Much of my work has been in curriculum planning to try and build enrolments, especially options for new subjects in the undergraduate Bachelor of Science (BSci). The BSci has the largest cohort of students in the University, but does not have a single 'horticulture' subject.

Another focus has been to explore new opportunities through engagement to raise the profile of what we do. In this our 125th year of horticultural education we have had a real focus on engagement through activities that have attracted thousands of visitors to the campus. The conferences, seminars, workshops and related events at Burnley in 2016 have had significant community, industry and alumni participation, providing a foundation for future growth. We are planning the development of some form of Burnley Outreach Centre to help deliver more of these activities in the future. So watch this space!

FOBG REPORTS

Plant Propagation Group Report

Glenys Rose

Here we are at the end of 2016, a year that has just flown by. We have raised more than \$10,000 to be used for projects in the Gardens. Burnley's 125th anniversary celebration on April 30 was a great day for everyone. We caught up with staff and students from the recent and distant past and enjoyed a well deserved sit and drink afterward.

The new system of having individual volunteers responsible for a group of plants is working well. It encourages everyone to learn more about horticulture and shares the responsibility for decisions about which plants to propagate.

Although the poly tunnel is still without a watering system we are using it for succulents and, ironically, other plants requiring protection from excessive rain. We are awaiting a plumber's

quote for the cost of installing the watering system in our entire area. It may be 2017 before any celebrations can occur.

Our current team of volunteers is: Cheryl Andrews, Jennene Arnel, Ellie Bastow, Robin Calabrese, John Hill, Fran Mason, Thea Roche and Catherine Scott. We also have some lovely people who help out at sales when they are available. Afternoon teas continue to be rewarding in a conversational and nutriment sense. Fran's rhubarb cake is legendary. As ever many thanks to Nick Osborne and Sascha Andrusiak from the Nursery for helping us achieve what we do.

In February I reflected on the fact that rain was in short supply and there had recently been fires in the State. How things changed with record rain falls, flooding and wild storms. May you find beauty and joy in your garden.

"This summer we will smell of DEET and sunscreen"



Members of the propagation group hiding behind the salvia. Fran Mason (middle) Glenys Rose (right)

BURNLEY GUIDES

JUDITH SCURFIELD

The team of Burnley Guides taking groups on tours through the Gardens consists of: Michele Adler, Barb Brookes, Robin Calabrese, Jean Corbett, Susie Hall, Judith Scurfield, Andrew Smith (Gardens Manager), Jane Wilson and two new members-in-training, Greg Gillard and Chris Morrissey. Since April, when we were all on hand to take large numbers of former students, staff and other interested people on two tours as part of the Burnley Festival and Alumni Day, we have run about ten other tours. Some of these have been for quite large groups (up to 40 people) such as Camberwell Garden Club, and the Mornington Peninsula Heritage Rose Group. Others may be for smaller numbers, such as Probus clubs and U3A groups, or for people with disabilities, such as early dementia sufferers. Tours may be adapted according to the interests of the group, perhaps with a special emphasis on the history of the Gardens, or the native plantings, or a visit to the Green Roof, if appropriate. Or a tour may be a general

introduction to Burnley, but always with the invitation to come back and visit again, as Burnley Gardens are always open!

To better understand how some other organisations show their special gardens or parks to visitors, the Guides have arranged to see several places from the perspective of the visitor. At the end of 2015 we went to Coombe Cottage, the Melba homestead and garden at Coldstream. In August this year we were invited to see the delightful native garden of Bev and John Hanson at Warrandyte (Bev is a garden designer, and worked with Ellis Stones), and then to a member's garden at Warranwood. In October we took up Jean Corbett's suggestion to see areas of native vegetation and *re*vegetation in the Beaumaris area - see Michele's article below.

Between these visits, we hold regular meetings, and try to update our knowledge of what is happening within Burnley itself, by investigating particular areas, and tapping into the expertise of people like Andrew Smith and Jane Wilson. Gardens are dynamic places, always changing and showing different aspects of their beauty, and Burnley has this in abundance.

If you would be interested in becoming a Guide, you would be very welcome, as we still need more assistance in this area. You may also know of groups who would like to visit Burnley, so please encourage them to contact Jane Wilson.



Elevation always gives a sense of drama to a photo. This image, taken from the staff room, gives a different perspective of Burnley Gardens, showing generous textures and sculptural forms of the mature trees. (Photo Michele Adler)

FRIENDS DAY OUT VISITING FRIENDS

It was a warm and sunny day in October. Five of the Friendly Guides gathered at Ricketts Point to meet with some convenors of other Friends groups and to hear about what they are doing. First was Moira Longden, the leader of the local Ricketts Point Friends Group. For me it had been many years since I had been there as my well-worn route from Briagolong seems to mainly get me to Burnley and back.

Ricketts Point, at Beaumaris is the site of a remnant stand of venerable Coastal Banksia (Banksia integrifolia) that were often painted by artists from the Heidelberg School in the early Melbourne days. The RP Friends have been very active planting lots of local species including Coast Saltbush (Atriplex cinerea), Cushion Bush (Leucophyta brownii), Coast Wattle (Acacia sophorae) and Olearia spp. to the foreshore. Their work means that the area behind the waves is now protected from the wind and provides a buffer to sea incursions. Some areas are set aside with picnic tables so that visitors can also enjoy the spaces. Lots of little blue wrens were enjoying the vegetation too. Sadly, some of the big old banksias that I remembered had died or had blown down but many new ones had been planted by the RP Friends to take their place.



Charming carved seat at Ricketts Point

Moira also showed us a site of a former natural well used by local aboriginal people and the site of middens, now well hidden by coastal bushes.

Then we went on to **Bayside Community Plant Nursery** in Cheltenham, to meet some of the staff and have a look at their operations. The Nursery is run by volunteers and Citywide. One of our Guides, Jeanne Corbett volunteered here for a time. We arrived at midday just as the nursery was closing to the public. This was great timing as we were able to have an uninterrupted tour of the facilities with Jo Hurse and Rob Saunders who were both passionate about their work in saving nearly lost species to the area. They told us of different seed collection methods and showed us various experimental propagation methods being used in their nursery. They mentioned that the Royal Melbourne Golf Club bought a lot of stock from them to help with encouraging people to plant indigenous species to the area.





Donkey orchid in the bush, September Above Left Jo Hurse and Right Rob Saunders

Rob Saunders escorted us for a tour of **Long Hollow Heathland** where he has been working both as a volunteer and as a paid Council employee for decades. Long Hollow was originally owned by the Education Department but later became a Wildflower Reserve. Some of the area is swampy, so a boardwalk has been built to lessen damage to the soil and wildflowers. It is currently (October) hosting a field of chocolate lilies (*Arthropodium strictum*), milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*) and donkey orchids (*Diuris* sp.) Rob explained how some of the area undergoes a burn from time to time that helps to germinate seeds and regenerate the species. The "burn area" was looking healthy and quite spectacular for our visit.

After all that talk of keeping alive and saving local species it was time for lunch. Jean kindly had prepared lunch at her place in Brighton. So, all-in-all it was a wonderful day and also great to see and hear about what other Friends groups are doing.

Friends of Rickett's Point and Friends of Long Hollow Heathland meet regularly and conduct working bees on site. As a volunteer for them you'll learn loads from experienced members and have a chance to help them with their work.

For more information on these (and other) reserves in the Bayside areas, contact Rob Saunders. email: srednuas@hotmail.com

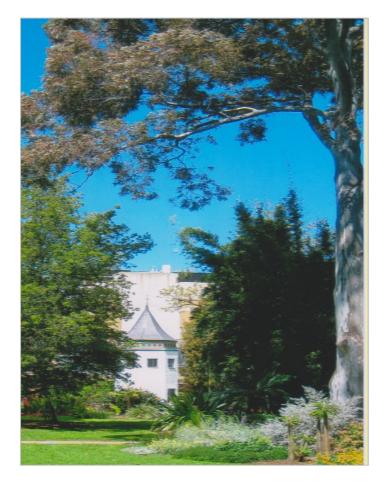
Bayside Community Plant Nursery, 319 Reserve Rd, Cheltenham. Open to the public from 10 am – 12 noon on Thursdays and Saturdays for plant sales and volunteer sessions. The Nursery propagates and sells local indigenous bushland plants.

FOBG VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE SYSTEM GARDEN

JANE WILSON GUIDE

From time to time we advertise to our members details of events which have not been organised by the FOBG but might be of interest. One such recently was a programme of events held by The University of Melbourne to celebrate the System Garden 160^{th} Anniversary on 23^{rd} - 25th October.

A group of us (mainly the Guides) met specifically to visit the **System Garden** on Tuesday, 25th, but some people also attended the other events over the three days. The System Garden curator, Tim Uebergang, who is very passionate about this garden, took us on a most informative tour. He told us about the history of this garden which dates from 1856 when it was established by Professor Frederick McCoy for use by the Botany students. Professor McCoy had previously worked at the Melbourne Botanic Gardens where Ferdinand von Mueller had already established a similar garden. It was probably designed by Edward La Trobe Bateman. He then explained how the plants were originally grouped using Cronquists Classification to display similarities of form and flower structure. He also told us how he maintains and tries to improve what is left of the garden and what the future holds.





Systems Garden - Left: views of the Tower; Right: Beehouse;



Systems Garden - Asteridae

I was not able to attend the other events but one of our members sent me this comment, "The Systems Garden Anniversary at Melbourne University was a lovely time to celebrate a special historical garden in Melbourne. The beautiful sunshine on the day was a bonus for viewing the garden on the tour."

She also visited **The University of Melbourne Herbarium (MELU**) which was established in 1926 and, with an estimated 150,000 specimens, is now the largest university herbarium in Australia. The collection includes specimens collected by Banks and Solander, as well as historic botanical objects and artwork. MELU is a vibrant and active teaching and research collection of international significance, with specimens of all major plant groups represented in the collection. They are best known for their bryological (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) and phycological (algae) collections. This herbarium compliments the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL), Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, with which they have a strong collaboration.

Our member added, "I thoroughly enjoyed the Herbarium. There were quite a few historical pressed/dried specimens on display, one dating back to Sir Joseph Banks and another collected by Ferdinand von Mueller who was a director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens (1857 - 1873) and also founded the National Herbarium of Victoria in 1853. Dr Joanne Birch conducted the tour and was very welcoming and informative. We also viewed many of the wonderful botanical models, part of the largest botanical model collection in the Southern Hemisphere.

"I also attended Lecture Series 3 held in the Turner Theatre on the same day." Anne Neale: "The System Garden: its design and designer," and Dr. Andrew Drinnan: "System Gardens and organising nature."

The System Garden at The University of Melbourne Parkville campus next to Botany is open to the public during business hours weekdays. It is well worth a visit.

The garden is unusual because unlike a botanical or ornamental garden, the plants were selected and planted according to an evolutionary system of classification – hence its name, System Garden. For further information: https://www.bgci.org/garden.php?id=4944

Tin Alley, Parkville VIC 3052 **Hours: Open today** · 8am–7pm (Closed Saturday and Sunday)





Herbarium: - L: historical pressed or dried specimens on display; R: Large plant press on display

"Images used with permission from The University of Melbourne Herbarium (MELU), School of BioSciences, The University of Melbourne"

BOTANICAL ART GROUP

JENNENE ARNEL

Throughout 2016 the FOBG Botanical Art Group has continued to meet on the 3rd Wednesday morning of each month. Our group numbers between 5 -10 people, each with varying skills and painting experience. The medium we use is generally watercolour pencils, with some people preferring to use paint or pencil. Each month we bring plant material that has inspired us and Mali, our tutor, guides us individually. During 2016 we held 3 blocks of 3 one-monthly sessions for a total of 25 participants, with Mali Moir teaching for 2.5 hours at each session.

We have found that a class once a month is a bit too long between classes, so in consultation

with Mali and the regular participants, we have decided to trial in 2017, weekly classes for 4 week blocks. Our intention is to hold the first of these classes in 2017 on the first 4 Wednesdays of March, running as previously from 10 - 12.30. If successful we would run the next block in May or June. As before the classes would need a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 participants. We will advertise the classes in the New Year.

Mali Moir, our tutor, is an accomplished botanical artist and a graduate of Burnley. After horticulture, Mali studied botanical art and went on to work as the botanical illustrator at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

The FOBG Committee has recently invited the Botanical Art Group to assist with illustrations for a forthcoming book on Burnley Gardens. Those in the Group who have accepted the challenge are now focusing on painting plant material from the Gardens. Maybe we will soon see some completed work with weekly classes!

All new members, whether beginners or experienced, are welcome to join our group. Bookings are made in three monthly blocks at a cost of \$150 for members and \$180 for non members. If you would like information about joining the group please contact me on jarnel1942@gmail.com

NEWS OF AN EXCITING EVENT – SAVE THE DATE

For our first event in 2017, on <u>14 February 2017</u>, we have great pleasure in announcing our speaker, <u>Melbourne sculptor Andrew Rogers</u>. http://andrewrogers.org/land-art/

Rogers is a Master of Big Art. He has built 51 massive stone sculptures in 16 countries around the world with over 7,500 people involved.

If you are interested in Landscape Design, then this <u>IS REALLY</u> Landscape Design. Save the date - Dinner and talk from 5 pm. More details later.



Bunjil 2006 You Yangs National Park Victoria. Wingspan 100 m x Depth 80m

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

The FOBG Committee is looking for a volunteer. Due to a resignation from Committee (for work related reasons), we need another volunteer to help out from time to time and attend monthly Committee meetings.

The secondment will be for 7 months, from February to August next year. If you think that you can give us a hand, we would appreciate it. Please contact Michèle Adler on michele@adland.com.au



FOBG Committee 2016 standing in front of the Rain Garden at Burnley with fabulous kangaroo paws in full flight.

From the left.

Andrew Smith (University of Melbourne Liaison Officer), Chris Morrissey (Member), Ruth Lazarus (Secretary), Cheryl Andrews (Membership), Sandra McMahon (Vice President and Publicity), Jane Wilson (Treasurer).

Missing = Dianne Cranston (Catering) and Michèle Adler (President, who is taking the photo).



WE'RE OPEN!



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BREAKING NEWS

Sascha Andrusiak from the Burnley Nursery is now contributing regularly to our Facebook Page. Thank you Sascha for your enthusiasm and technological help. Sascha has previously run our Succulents and Terrarium workshops and will do so again next year. If you want to keep informed via Facebook, then send a "Friend" request to the Friends of Burnley Gardens page. We currently have 121 Facebook members.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTION

Lost for ideas for a perfect Christmas Gift for that someone special, what about purchasing a Commemorative Pendant.



Burnley graduate Robyn Stewart, now working at Seasol International, wearing her FOBG Commemorative pendant A beautiful memento, hand crafted from an aged and elegantly grained wood by Dougal Haslem, infused with silver, to mark the celebration of 125 years of Horticultural Education at Burnley, the pendant was inspired by a venerable Sugar Gum (Eucalyptus cladocalyx) that grew for over 100 years in the Burnley Gardens. When the tree was removed its timber was stored to cure. Now its elegantly grained wood has been hand crafted into a beautiful memento to celebrate 125 years of Horticultural Education at Burnley. Limited signed edition.

Orders with FOBG email friends.burnley@gmail.com

COST: \$160 (members) \$175 (non-members)
Add Gift Box & Silver Chain \$15 (members) \$20 (non-members)



Pimelea humilis and butterfly photographed by Michèle Adler on Long Hollow Heathland

MEMBERSHIP

CHERYL ANDREWS

Since the Winter edition of Papyrus, membership has stabilized at 221 members.

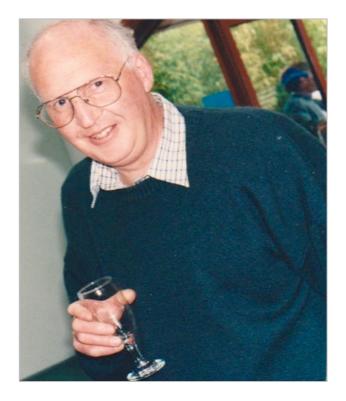
I would like to welcome the following members who have joined since July:

Rob Francis, Pam Brewster, Xianan (Christine) Zhao, Dr Brett Hough, Mark Plaisted, Mel Simpson, Catherine Simpson, Michael and Angela Rodd, Isabella Barnett, Sue Power, Christine Toth and Michael Darroch.

Sadly, Geoff Olive an Honorary Life Member passed away in October.

GEOFF OLIVE ANDREW SMITH

from the speech given at the celebration of life service held for Geoff.



I was a close friend of Geoff's and was fortunate enough to be mentored by him. Geoff asked me to tell people about his time at Burnley, because he felt I knew how much Burnley had meant to him.

It's difficult to condense Geoff's time at Burnley into a few words, not only because of the length of time he spent there, nearly 40 years, but also because of how much he achieved, as well as the influence he had on the thousands of students who were fortunate enough to have been taught by him. Those who knew him would agree, Geoff was widely loved and respected by all. Few can be thought of as such, but Geoff really, was, special.

In fact, he's probably the closest thing Burnley has to a saint there is! The worst you could pick on, was complaining that he had been in on the weekend and had left the sprinkler on!

Geoff's association with Burnley, began as a student in 1962, and graduating in 1966. After a short time working in the forestry department nursery in rural Victoria, he returned in 1967 to join the Burnley staff in the Nursery. He was one of 11 outdoor staff looking after the field, as the grounds were referred to then. The students worked 2 days a week in the field and the outdoor staff, like Geoff, instructed their activities.

This was the beginning of a long teaching career that stretched more than 30 years. He taught a wide range of subjects, most notably plant identification and also perhaps one of his favourite pastimes, classes for floriculture. He was appointed field superintendent in 1980, before concentrating on teaching from 1985 until his retirement in 1999. He rounded out his time at Burnley by spending another couple of years as a sessional teacher in the student veggie plots, before leaving to look after the gardens at a retirement village in Doncaster called Applewood. You can imagine how well he was welcomed there, helping out all those lovely retirees. He even changed their light bulbs! He was put in charge of the automatic watering system, which was a bit of a challenge for him, considering he was used to turning on a sprinkler and walking off! The system was always playing up on him.

Next was the prestigious appointment as Garden Manager at Parliament House, before he finally, so called, retired to the Buxton property, where he probably worked as hard as he ever did. Wow, he could put in a hard day's work! And he was so efficient; no fluffing around. Just get the job done and move on to the next. No matter where he worked, the care and sensitivity he put into those around him always helped make work more bearable and fun.

It was another era when Geoff first came to Burnley. As a student, Geoff saw the removal of the box thorn hedge in the old orchard, was part of Open days where 4,000 people attended, and helped decorate the government pavilion at the Melbourne show, as well as providing displays in the college hall.

Geoff was involved in the planting of 5000 annuals twice a year in the gardens. When it came to planting them, precision was paramount! Heaven help you if you planted them incorrectly. Geoff as a student was instructed to plant up the canna bed with annuals 12 inches apart. When Jack Plumridge, his instructor, came back to check on his work and discovered they were 11 and half inches apart, rather than 12, Jack made him take out every seedling and plant the lot again. Geoff thought the world of Jack and once described him as the most wonderful old fellow he ever met, and admired his wonderful memory for plants. Something that we now associate with Geoff.

At the start of his role as field superintendent in 1980, all but Geoff and one other had either retired or moved on from Burnley, so Geoff became the leading horticultural figure at the college. When the Principal's house was removed, he had the stressful challenge of developing the site. The lack of funding to re-develop this hole in the ground as he wanted and the dread he felt when a certain grumpy boss from head office came to chastise him on its lack of progress, would test anyone.

It was at this time that the Gardens were transformed by Geoff. It was described as the first major makeover for 50 years. Many of these changes were just as significant as was done in the late 1800s by Luffmann, the primary designer of the Burnley Gardens. Geoff's changes followed a similar style with curving paths that created new spaces.

Geoff is responsible for the unique saw dust paths with everyone who walks on them being delighted. This came about as Geoff discovered the timber company down the road had piles of sawdust that they were sending to the tip.

A few years later in the mid-1980s Geoff managed to persuade the nurseryman's association to move garden week to Burnley. This created an opportunity to develop the gardens using external funding. Geoff thought Garden week was a fabulous financial boon for the gardens. I guess we all would like to think we leave behind something or someone to remember us by or even to leave something that will make a difference. It's amazing to list the legacy Geoff has left to Burnley and also to horticulture in general. Here's just a few: The butterfly house at the Melbourne Zoo, inspiration for the creation of the Friends of Burnley Gardens, the design of the Bog, rose, sunken and herb gardens, perennial border, colour theme borders along the orchard fence to name just the obvious ones.



The Burnley Rose Garden designed by Geoff in the early 80s

Even though staff before him had created plant teaching resources, by perhaps planting a range of conifers in a bed, Geoff stepped it up a level by not only providing the plants but also added an additional layer of learning outcome. So, the rose garden when it was designed and planted up in the early 1980s was a collection of roses that showed the development of the rose through the ages. Not just different roses but a story about them. Geoff had transformed the planting into a teaching tool.

Geoff was deep down a florist at heart. Floristry influenced the plants he used and loved. Geoff's dining table would always have a posy of flowers on it and he is legendary for his floral displays at major events for decades, such as the Melbourne show, Garden Week, college hall, people's weddings.... you name it he did it.

Some of you have wondered what plant or flower personifies Geoff. Certainly he loved wisterias. The ornamental poppy is another but there's a lot to choose from: hostas, jam melons, abutilons, the list goes on. One of my lasting memories is his use of pastel colours, soft yellows, apricot and delicate pinks. Geoff had a way of saying beautiful that only he could say, it somehow conjured up more than when you said it yourself.

I think a long standing reminder of Geoff is the weeping form of the Cootamundra wattle. Geoff was planting tube stock at a retirement home with the scouts in the early 1960s and noticed that one of them was different. It had a prostrate habit. He returned a short while later to see if it still had the same flat habit, rather than being tall like all others. It was the

same. A new cultivar was found. He took some cuttings and propagated them in the Burnley nursery, where it was then given away to all and sundry. So when you drive around and see that lovely blue ground cover, with brilliant yellow flowers in spring, think of Geoff, its a lasting reminder of what he has left us all to enjoy.

Vale Geoff Olive. Some of you may have been taught by Geoff at Burnley, others may have worked with him or have even been a student with him. Gentle man and gentleman, exceptional educator and plantsman - we will miss you Geoff.

In 2017 FOBG will be having a small event for Members to celebrate Geoff's contribution to the Gardens. Geoff's family will be present and Andrew Smith will give an "Olive focused" tour of the Gardens. Date to be confirmed. Some of the Friends may not know that the Sugar Gum Table where we have many of our culinary events was dedicated to Geoff in 2013. MA



The Sugar Gum table was dedicated to Geoff in 2013