



FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS INC.

PAPYRUS

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Editor – Chris Harrison



Double Celebrations for Burnley

2016 is a big year for the Burnley Campus as it celebrates 125 years of continuous horticultural education, a feat unmatched across the globe. To mark this milestone the School of Ecosystem and Forest Science have a programme of gardening events and have asked FOBG to share in these festivities. But it is also a double celebration. The Burnley Archives have been in operation for 25 years. The excellent resources of the Burnley Archives (BA) are being extensively used in the celebrations. The indefatigable Jane Wilson, volunteer Archivist, Guide and Treasurer of FOBG and Sue Fairbanks, Deputy Archivist at the University, thought it was a great time to publicise the work of BA and are publishing blogs and event schedules at:

<http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/archives/125-years-of-horticultural-education-celebrating-burnley-campus/>



The Archives were established when, in 1991, A.P. Winzenried was commissioned to write a centenary history of Burnley College. Few records existed and so material had to be gathered to complete the task. All ex-students and staff were asked to send in memorabilia. And what a treasure trove arrived. Hundreds of photographs, letters, documents, artefacts, and registers and student work had to be sorted, described and stored. The result was that 'Green Grows our Garden: The Centenary History of Horticultural Education at Burnley' was published and the Burnley Archives was born.

Establishing the Archives was a massive task. Elizabeth Hill became the first volunteer archivist and established the cataloguing system. She was ably assisted by another volunteer, Joss Tonkin, who carried on the work when she retired. Two former Principals endeavoured to describe the old photographs and recall events from the past to provide descriptions for the material. Storage was not ideal. The first repository was under a roof in an old wooden building that had once been a Dairy, hot in the summer and cold in the winter. I remember as a trainee Guide for FOBG, in 2005, visiting Joss and having to put on white gloves while she showed us some of the treasures, like enormous registers with handwritten lists of hundreds of fruit trees that had been planted in the Orchard in the 1870s or the jodhpurs worn by the girls as their uniform in the 1920s.

By 2009 Joss wanted to relinquish her position and I offered to take over. It was a daunting prospect – there was more to be done and the issue of suitable storage was a pressing problem. So really it was almost a fresh start as we moved the material into the Main Administration building where the conditions were more suitable. They are now housed in what had been the girls' changing room. New technology could not be ignored, and my first job was to place the catalogue onto a spreadsheet and digitise the photos. I have been doing this for six years and it is still not complete.

It has been slow, but I have other roles to fulfil. I have been encouraging people to continue donating material and every time an office is cleared, I go in, ferreting for more gems. One particularly hot summer found me in the Egg Curator's house rummaging through the re-cycling bins in search of more treasure. Cataloguing can also be interrupted by, pleasurable, requests for information, either from the family of former students who request and gratefully receive photos of their loved ones from years gone by or students who ask for plans of garden areas or requests from staff who want us to inform students of the research material available. Andrew Smith, the Garden Coordinator, who has to maintain the heritage status of the garden, is also a frequent visitor. Every time has to replace a plant or work on a garden, we have to consult the Archival documents and photos to determine where and when they were taken to see if we can restore the area to its original condition. At the moment I am assisting the staff entry for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show this month, presenting a snapshot of Burnley's influence on garden design.

The FOBG doesn't just provide funds for the maintenance of the garden, it also contributes to the archives by gathering information, much of it oral, on the people who have been involved in designing different parts of the garden. This has to be recorded while those memories are alive. A joint venture between the University and the Friends is the production of an app to enable visitors to listen to the rich history of the Gardens and the college and descriptions of the interesting plants as they walk around. The University is progressively cataloguing descriptions of the Archives onto its database, but most are still not accessible other than from the computer in the Burnley Archives.

Fortunately there are now more volunteers working in the Archives. Judith Scurfield, former head of Maps at the State Library, does cataloguing and provides invaluable advice; Mary Eggleston, a former science teacher helps with general packaging of maps and sorting and Ala Shtrauser, former assistant Librarian at Burnley, sorts photographs and identifies the people in them. *But the work goes on.*

The BA, which contains a mixture of official records, maps and plans, photographs, information from students' clubs and artefacts such as ploughs, jodhpurs and a leadlight window, is a valuable asset that will enable the University to remember and celebrate the last 125 years. Archiving has been a massive undertaking. Volunteers originally catalogued approximately fifteen metres of records using a standard designed by Elizabeth Hill the first archivist. In 2011, Jane Wilson and supporters of the Archives contacted the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) for advice on electronic cataloguing of the many handwritten entries, support in the preservation of materials and also to analyse and advise on producing a machine readable catalogue. The BA wanted the material retained at Burnley and not whisked off to the UMA store in Brunswick. Thus was born a cooperative project to hold the archival material at Burnley, but to catalogue on the UMA database and discoverable through their online interface.

Jane and her volunteers began typing the handwritten catalogues for upload and so far six collections are described in detail. The most interesting are undoubtedly the photographs, not as yet described in detail, but the Registers and Books, containing the earliest record of fruit planted, are fascinating. The Registers, in the main handwritten, detail the planting and harvesting of currants, almonds, figs, stone fruits, apples and pears, often with their original locations. Later registers cover eggs, milk and livestock. The Student Register records both plant and student information in the same volume. The books listed are generally gardening or botany books used by the early staff and give an insight into gardening trends through the century. All in all it is a wonderful historical record of the growth and development of Burnley College and its garden. To view this material let me remind you again: <http://archives.unimelb.edu.au/> and search on Burnley in the catalogue.

Changing the landscape– celebrating 125 years of horticultural education at Burnley

Stefan Arndt



If you meet someone who works in the horticultural or gardening industry in Melbourne, chances are that they learned their trade at Burnley. This is not a surprise because Burnley has been educating students in horticulture for the last 125 years. You find Burnley graduates almost everywhere. They have won prizes at prestigious international garden shows, host TV or radio programs, own flower shops and run nurseries or keep our trees and gardens healthy and beautiful. And some are still at Burnley and pass their knowledge on to the next generation of students, like our own John Rayner, the new Director of Urban Horticulture.

This fine Burnley education tradition started with a collapse. The Horticultural Society of Victoria had been operating the Burnley Gardens since 1863. But in 1891 the society could no longer service their loans and went bankrupt. The Victorian government stepped in and the Department of Agriculture established Australia's first School of Horticulture. Burnley, albeit under various names, has been a School of Horticulture ever since. It is the oldest in Australia and one of the oldest in the world. It had many different faces and courses. In the early 1900s agriculture was also taught on campus. The campus hosted a dairy herd and bull, poultry houses, stables, and grain fields, enabling experimental work on wheat and fodder crops. Now, more than 100 years later, we again have a dozen agricultural scientists based at Burnley. But this time they do not bring any animals.

For the last 20 years the University of Melbourne has operated Burnley and our celebration year is a timely reminder of our past. Horticultural education has changed a lot in this time and will continue to change as our country, our society and our climate is changing.

Fortunately responding to change is in Burnley's blood. Many people are intuitively afraid of change. It can't be a good thing. We know what we know and are afraid of the unknown: "better the devil you know than the devil you don't" is an old saying. So it is interesting to look into Burnley's past and recognise that the start of the horticultural education also started with radical change. George Neilson had been the curator for Burnley since 1872 and he was also the instructor in practical horticulture when the School of Horticulture started in 1891. In 1897 Neilson retired and a young and energetic Englishman named Charles Luffmann was hired as Principal. Luffmann changed everything. His vision for ornamental horticulture was inspired by more free-flowing forms of landscape style. He championed 'those gardens which come nearest to the finest expressions of nature'. For him curving paths and shady glades were vital components of the Australian garden. So he radically transformed the formal, Italian-inspired, geometric design of the Burnley gardens that were established by Alfred Lynch in the 1860's. His influence can still be recognized today. With his modern approach to landscape design and horticultural education, Luffmann, as a teacher, had significant influence on the establishment of gardening as a profession for both men and women. He left quite a legacy after his 10 years as Principal, and one that still resonates until today. His radical changes still make the Burnley Gardens unique and a small, but unfortunately, a relatively unknown garden gem in the heart of Melbourne.

Luffmann's passion to act on what he believed in, his resolve to change the beliefs and principles of the past and his courage to implement radical changes should give us hope for the future. It should give us hope that change is not always bad but that it may present new opportunities. In fact that it may be necessary to be relevant and to be interesting. Now, it is fair to say that Burnley has actually changed a lot in the last decade. The garden still bears the influence of Luffmann, but we have seen significant changes in our horticultural education. And further changes are on the horizon. In the last few years we have modernised the horticultural courses we teach. The two main qualifications at Burnley, the Associate Degree and Masters, are now called "Urban Horticulture", replacing earlier terms such as 'environmental', 'amenity' and 'ornamental' horticulture. Urban horticulture still includes defined industry sectors, such as arboriculture, landscape design, landscape construction, nursery production and retailing, parks and gardens, turf production, landscape and garden maintenance and interior plant hire. But it also encompasses newer applications of plants in urban environments, such as community gardens, green infrastructure technologies (green roofs and walls), heritage landscapes, indigenous vegetation restoration, therapeutic horticulture, urban agriculture and water-sensitive urban design features such as rain gardens. All these elements are now taught at Burnley and they can also be found as real infrastructure in our garden, including on or around the Main Building.

But our change is going further. In the past University education was focused on providing basic degrees for young students. We still do that. But for modern horticulture to be relevant in our ever-changing modern society we need to educate more broadly. So we offer a range of postgraduate or specialist certificates for people who want to up-skill. This includes programs in Arboriculture, Garden Design and Green Roofs and Walls. We see professionals, who have been working for decades and now come back to Burnley to learn new and exciting skills. So we re-generate a range of professions.

But we also need to influence decision makers. The modern form of horticulture will make our cities more liveable, more enjoyable and more sustainable. But for this to work we need to change the mindset and tradition of city planners, urban designers and landscape gardeners. So in our 125th year of celebrating horticultural education we set out on a new quest to expand engagement between the University and industry partners. Led by John Rayner a new Melbourne Urban Horticulture Outreach Program will be developed in collaboration with our major industry partners. The program will include professional, customised training and general interest programs delivered through seminars, workshops and related formats. And in a few year's time we will hopefully see the change as a result

our new courses taking effect in our towns and cities, making Melbourne even more liveable than it is already.

However there is the one thing that has not changed radically in the Burnley landscape over this time, and that is Luffmann's gardens. Yes, we have added new garden beds, added many new plants and the native gardens, even built a roof garden. But Luffmann's principles are still very much visible and adhered to in the gardens. It is therefore rather sad that so few people know about them or visit the gardens. Well, maybe this is about to change... In April this year we will launch the Burnley Gardens Walk smart phone application. Funded by the University and the Friends of the Burnley Gardens the smart phone app will be a self-guided tour through the gardens. It will inform readers or listeners about the history of the gardens and guide the visitor along over 20 points of interest and inform them about our iconic trees or special garden features. So maybe, modern technology will bring our gardens closer to Melbournians and visitors from interstate or overseas. Let's hope they embrace it!

Professor Stefan Arndt is Director of Campus at Burnley. He completed his PhD in plant ecophysiology at the University of Vienna in 2000 and has been working at the Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science of the University of Melbourne since 2002. He had extensive research experience in plant ecophysiology and biogeochemistry, with research relating to processes operating at leaf, whole plant and ecosystem scales.

His work recently focused on the process-based investigation of carbon balance, nutrient cycling and fluxes of greenhouse gases in forest ecosystems and the adaptation of trees to environmental stresses. His contribution to this field has been to use physiological and ecological measures to increase our understanding of ecosystem function, with improved process understanding and model development as a goal.

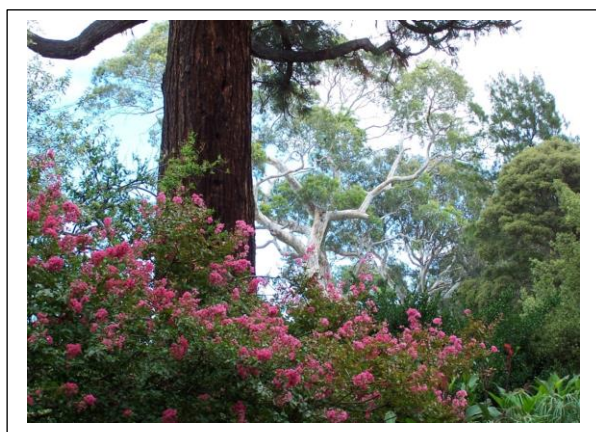
Autumn in the Garden

Andrew Smith



NEW PLANTING:- The new planting up at Swan Street is certainly being widely appreciated. This design by Sandra McMahon (Burnley graduate and FOBG committee member) is fully meeting the design brief by creating an eye catching display of the colour spectrum. Students will have yet another teaching resource for how to use plants in the landscape. The mingling of natives and exotics, with clipped shrubs providing architectural interest, have romped away since an Early spring planting.

RED GUM VS REDWOOD:- An interesting sight took my eye as I walked in the southern part of the Gardens. It was the view of two giant trees facing each other from a distance, in a sort of Mexican standoff situation. One of the trees is the grand old Red Gum (*Euclayptus tereticornis*) outside our boundary, probably well over 400 years old and the other tree is the Giant Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in the Rose Garden. It isn't possible to count the growth rings of red gums, like you can with redwoods, as their growth season isn't determined by a winter or seasonal stop/start regime that many trees follow. Despite its huge size, the redwood is relatively young (planted about 1900).



Redwoods, endemic to a small area on the west coast of North America, are the largest trees (by volume) on the planet. Our Mountain Ash Eucalypt is the tallest and amazingly can live up to 3,500 years old. So you can see, with both trees facing off, one very old and the other with the potential to live a very long time, the young upstart redwood is eyeing off the red gum elder for longevity bragging rights.



PERENNIALS

People sometimes ask me what is my favourite group of plants in the Gardens and I have to say, at this time of year, our Perennial border is certainly the winner. There is something fantastic about the variety, speed of recovery after being cut down and the length of time they flower that make perennials and herbaceous perennials such a joy to grow and appreciate. This border on the south edge of Oak Lawn was the creation of James Hitchmough (senior lecturer at the time) in 1985. James called it an herbaceous border

and the plans from the time show an incredible (optimistic!) number of species used.

What's the difference between perennial and herbaceous perennial? Essentially, if the top growth dies down for part of the year (e.g. in Winter) and an underground regeneration storage system remains (underground stem, tuber, bulb etc) then it's a herbaceous perennial. Perennials on the other hand are plants that live longer than 2 years and have little or no woody growth (like shrubs and trees)

Some of the plants available to use in this type of perennial border have ever-expanding underground stems that take over the surrounding plants. James called these plants "thugs" and they need constant containment and reduction. For convenience sake, we tend to stay away from such spreading plant types, as there are so many others to choose from. There is no doubt much effort is needed in maintaining perennial borders; from the yearly lifting of dahlias, to the lifting and dividing every few years of most others but unlike a painting, a border is never finished, is always able to be changed, altered and improved. It is this creative input that brings such joy to those that love the expansive colour, interesting leaf texture and the inter-mingled variety of individual plants in perennial borders.

Order of Australia to Burnley Professor



Congratulations to Associate Professor Don Garden on the award of the Order of Australia. Professor Garden, who is based at Burnley was awarded the OAM for services to community history and heritage preservation organisations. Among many services to the community he has been President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, since 2014; Council Member, Australian Heritage Council, since 2015; President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, since 2013; Vice-President, Kew Historical Society, since 2014 and Principal Fellow (Honorary), Faculty of Science, Melbourne University since 2009.

An award that is richly deserved.

Just to whet your appetite below is an article by Sandi Pullman who will expand on this 'dastardly' event that happened at the end of the 19th Century at her talk on August 16th.

Blimey, Women Gardeners at Burnley! What is the world coming to? Sandi Pullman

On Saturday the 31st of December, 1898, it was reported in the Leader newspaper that in the following year, the Government School of Horticulture, Burnley would be forming women's classes and setting aside some land in the gardens to teach the women how to grow strawberries, table grapes and passionfruit. While this small announcement doesn't seem so important today, it was quite revolutionary in the late nineteenth century as women's educational opportunities were very limited. Education was not seen as important as it is today, and it was even less important to educate women. It was seen as a waste of time and money. After all they were only going to get married and could be doing domestic duties at home. Also any respectable woman couldn't go anywhere without a chaperone and the men of the family held the purse strings. For poorer working class women there were even fewer opportunities available. Usually they had to work to support themselves and their family with very few avenues of employment available; they had the choice of working in factories or domestic service. Neither seemed an attractive prospect. So the opportunity to study at Burnley was a big step towards freedom from men's control and independence.

Did the world social order collapse? Well men like Mr. Lang, Mr. Draper and Mr. Boyce, who made up the Horticultural Board which governed Burnley, certainly thought so. They gave Charles Bogue Luffmann, the second Principal, who made this momentous decision a difficult time. There were quite a few reports in the local press about his poor fruit tree pruning techniques, which it has been suggested was code for: We don't want women students. A poem written anonymously (**see below) referred to the underhand treatment Luffmann received from the Board. Even after only two years in his position starting in 1897, there were moves afoot to remove him and women students were writing into The Age asking that Luffmann not be removed. Luckily the 1900 Victorian Royal Commission into Technical Education thought Luffmann was 'a capable and enthusiastic officer'. One of the Commission's recommendations was to dismantle the Board of Horticulture as the members had assumed authority that which they didn't possess by virtue of their appointment. The Commission even talked about giving him a pay rise from £200 to £300.00 per year.

Luffmann who was an inspiring lecturer, had very modern views towards education. He said 'I do not think horticulture is an affair of sex'. He also had an uncommon gift of a speaking voice 'which could charm a bird off a bough'. Apparently many women students fell in love with him, which of course probably mortified the men of the Horticulture Board.

As pointed out in the newspapers of the day, by Luffmann opening the doors to women students, he was in fact showing how advanced Australia was. The first horticultural school in England was established at Swanley Horticultural College, Kent, England in 1889. It was co-educational whereas Burnley was established in 1891, two years later, but was for males only. Women had always been invited to some lectures but it was Ina Higgins efforts 8 years later that showed how advanced Australia was.

Ina Higgins (Frances Georgina Watts Higgins) went to Burnley to initially learn how to prune roses. But as happens when you walk through those very special gates you want to know more and the horticultural bug bit her. So she approached Luffmann and convinced him to allow women students. He agreed if she could find six interested women. Ina found 72 women who enrolled and through natural attrition eventually the number settled down to 25. After Ina graduated in 1900 with top marks and first place she started calling herself a landscape gardener*. This was the beginning of the development of the Landscape architect industry.

Luffmann paid particular attention to teaching the women small farming skills with the idea that they could run their own small businesses or to supplement the family's income. Examples of the subjects taught were: garden making and management, table-grapes, lemon culture and bush-fruits and vegetable culture. This was extended later to include bee keeping, poultry and dairy cows.



The picture shows the women students hoeing. They are beautifully dressed with hats, but gosh, it must have been so hot wearing all those heavy clothes and also very restrictive. Remember women were not supposed to work up a sweat, that was very un-lady-like. Today the site is where General Electric is located and they were possibly working in the strawberry field.

Over the years many of the early women students excelled and are remembered today: Olive Mellor, Emily Gibson, Edna Walling and Grace Fraser. Burnley has a wonderful

tradition and we hope it continues well into the future of being at the forefront of horticulture excellence.

*Ina was very good friends with Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin and it is possible they influenced her.

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The delightful anonymously written poem referred to by Sandi highlights the antipathy of the three Board members to Luffmann. The poem compares Burnley to the Garden of Eden:

'Here with hoe in hand they tickle the rude earth until it smiles'.

In fact the poem says Burnley is superior to the Garden of Eden, because, unlike Adam, who only had one Eve, Luffmann had 'five score'.

But into this paradise comes:-

'the Serpent Board...in pleasing shape... to charm the eye of simple garden girls, and to beguile the maids from useful studies with the lure of honeyed speech.'

Happily they failed, as Luffmann recognised *the 'forked tail' and 'cloven hoof'* and *'with flaming sword...he drove them from this place.'* The poem goes on to lament:

'oh tis said

That with the fair seeing speech they would disguise

Their naughty purpose. Serpent -like they crept into this paradise upon the plea

The pruning liked them not.'

The poet highlights the duplicitous behaviour of the Board that pretended that Luffmann's pruning techniques were at fault, while what in fact they hoped to achieve was the removal of the women from this 'paradise.'

Jane and Sandi have copies of the poem.

Condolences to our President Bob Lazarus and his wife Ruth.

Bob has been unable to contribute to this issue as there has been a bereavement in his family. Please accept our deepest sympathy Bob.

FOBG Special Interest Groups and Upcoming Events :-

FOBG BOTANICAL ART GROUP

Jennene Arnel



The FOBG Botanical Art Group has been meeting since July 2015. Under the tuition and expert guidance of Mali Moir, this small group of 7-8 people, initially met weekly. In September 2015 we decided to meet monthly for 2.5 hours per session and in 3 monthly blocks. We are continuing to meet monthly in 2016, on Wednesdays, in February, March and April. The classes will continue throughout the year providing we have sufficient people interested in participating. New members are always warmly welcomed.

Mali Moir is an accomplished botanical artist and graduate of Burnley. She is a botanical illustrator and an art teacher at Royal Botanic Gardens. She frequently exhibits her work. She is able to cater for all levels of expertise.

All members of FOBG Botanical Art Group work with watercolour pencils and each month we focus on a specific technique.

For information on joining the group, dates and course costs, please contact Jennene Arnel at jarnel1942@gmail.com

FOBG ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE AN EXCITIING UPCOMING EVENT FOR ALL PAINTERS

The Art of the Garden:

We are excited to extend an invitation to join celebrated Landscape Artist

Colin Johnson

for a special view of historic Burnley Gardens.

Presented as part of the Campus' 125th celebrations, this opportunity to be in an inspirational landscape and to see it through Colin's unique perspective is not to be missed.

1. En Plein Air - Paint Outside Wednesday 6 April

This traditional format takes on a twist when performed in a historic garden setting. Artists are encouraged to find their own place amongst the diverse flora of the garden. Artists will be able to learn from Colin's unique perspective on composition and technique. Experience the joy of working with a fellowship of artists.

2. Sketchbook in Hand Saturday 9 April

Sketching in the wild is one of the true pleasures of being an artist and working outdoors. Come and experience the historic Burnley Gardens and enhance your technical and observational skills as well! The gardens hold a wealth of detail from aged roots and gnarly trunks to delicate flowers and foliage. Take advantage of Colin's expertise in drawing and composition. You may wish to include the sketchbook as an essential article when next you travel.

Note: Both the sessions are for participants who have some painting experience.

As each session will be held only once, please book your place early.

Time: 9.30 am for registration Session time = 10 am – 3 pm.

Place: **Assemble at the Wisteria Pergola, opposite Reception at the Main Admin Building**

Cost: \$60 per session

BYO food & liquid refreshments or you may like to walk to Swan St,(nearby) where there are cafés

Materials : Participants will be forwarded a materials list upon registration.

Bookings essential: email: friends.burnley@gmail.com or Tel: 9035 6815

Colin Johnson

A well-known landscape artist with numerous solo exhibitions in Australia and England, Colin specialises in depicting subjects of an emotional environmental nature using traditional and experimental techniques. He loves expressing light. Colin has worked at the Tate Gallery (London and Suffolk) and taught at the Flatford Mill Centre, home of painter John Constable. He is in demand by numerous art societies as a teacher and painter/artist



Plant Propagation Group Glenys Rose

Well we are overflowing with plants at present awaiting an ordinary sale on March 23 and the big one on April 30 to celebrate Burnley's 125th anniversary. These will be closely followed by the BGANZ Botanic Garden Open Day on May 29 so we just keep on propagating!

We have a lovely poly tunnel that we have not yet moved into as there is no watering system set up. Fires, tempest and very hot weather over the summer period have delayed our meeting with the University nursery staff and organising all the details and installation. We will address this once Semester 1 begins and everyone's schedule settles down.

Every time we have a sale we refine our processes and pricing individual pots has proven to be a great success with our customers and at the purchase point. The banners and A-frame advertising boards have also proven very successful. The boards are very light compared with the old chipboard ones and having the capacity to incorporate arrows and different text makes them very flexible. The large banner on Yarra Boulevard has also worked very well in informing passers-by of upcoming activities. Our regular propagation group members are: Cheryl Andrews, Jennene Arnel, Ellie Bastow, John Hill, Geoffrey Kneebone, Fran Mason, Kirsteen Macleod, Dianne Randall and Thea Roche. All bring a wealth of life experience and a great interest in plants and the natural world to our activities. We work so well as a team and the afternoon tea conversations are broad ranging and enlightening.

We will be meeting on Wednesday for the 1st semester of 2016 from 1:00pm as it is a non-teaching day in the Nursery. If you are interested in joining us we are willing to teach you but some horticultural background would be ideal. We are also looking for someone who has experience with Excel and is good at transcribing plant names and accessing growth details on the internet. We are a very friendly group and have a lot of fun while doing something worthwhile. Please contact Andrew Smith so we can follow up on your interest.

As ever many thanks to Nick Osborne and Sascha Andrusiak for helping us achieve what we do.

May rain fall on all who need it and to those re-establishing gardens after fires we hope you discover green shoots that bring you hope.



Polytunnel from West side



An Advertising banner



A Frame Board

Our traditional St Valentine's Day talk was held at lunch time on Sunday, you guessed it, 14 February. We gathered at the Sugar Gum table for another of Dianne Cranston's scrumptious lunches. The weather was perfect for an outdoor picnic and we had visitors from as far afield as Gippsland and the Wimmera (including guest speaker Michèle Adler and partner Rod McMillan).

Michèle, a past President and long time FOBG member, started with some background about her grandfather, Edward Reichenbach, later known as Ted Ryko. In 1914 he rode from Adelaide to Darwin and set a record which has not been broken. His reward was a modest cash prize from Dunlop (the tyre manufacturers). At the time of his ride there was no highway. In fact he rode (or dug) his way through sand, crossed flooded rivers, contended with huge thorns in his tyres and had to find water. In some cases he had to dig a way down to find it. Ted delivered mail on his way through and took many photographs. Many of these are in library collections around Australia.

Michèle then told us about the ride she organised 100 years after Ted's original journey. Suitably attired in her lycra cycling gear we learned that Michèle, her son James Adler, cousin Wendy Schwedes, Ian Temby and Ian Dunn rode from Tennant Creek to Parliament House in Darwin in May-June 2014. There was a support crew who cooked meals, transported gear and carried warning signs for other motorists travelling on the Stuart Highway. The commemorative ride was a mere 1000 km trip as compared to Ted's journey of 3000 km. Michèle rode on a facsimile of Ted's bike which was put together by a Bairnsdale enthusiast; although she did have a modern, comfortable seat instead of the original. We were treated to a video of the ride together with pictures taken of Ted, and by Ted over 100 years ago. During the ride Michèle came across many NT indigenous plants and she described some of the plants during the talk.



Ted is remembered in Tennant Creek where a cycling track is named after him. Question time revealed heat was a problem, but the biggest obstacle for the riders was the grey nomads in their caravans. A very entertaining time was had by all.



Thanks to all the helpers on the day, particularly Dianne Cranston, Cheryl Andrews, Jane Wilson, Andrew Smith and others who were working behind the scenes.

Michèle dressed to kill in lycra and her trusty bike – with comfortable seat

NOVEMBER DINNER AND TALK - Lynsey Poore

Wildflowers of the deserts of Utah and Arizona

Jane Wilson



Our end of year dinner was held on 17th November. There was just enough room for us all to squeeze around the Sugar Gum Table and, as usual, Dianne Cranston provided a sumptuous meal. Our Speaker for the evening, Lynsey Poore and her husband, Gary, joined us for dinner which gave us an opportunity to chat with them beforehand about their travels.

Lynsey's talk was illustrated with many beautiful and very professional photographs. As a botanist, she was able to find hundreds of plants in a desert environment which, at first glance, one might not have expected to find in such abundance.

Lynsey is a volunteer at the Herbarium, a guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and President of the South Melbourne Garden Club.



Membership

Cheryl Andrews

Since the last newsletter the membership has increased to 239 members.

I would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Friends between September 2015 and March 2016:

Jane Rollinson, Lydia & Justin McDonnell, Marrit Postema, Madeleine Grant, Susie Barrett & Greg Gillard, Mim Smallman, Sally Browne and Geoff Crowhurst.

About the monthly programme for 2016

Michèle Adler (Activities Co-ordinator)

To celebrate the 125th year of teaching at Burnley Campus, all the FOBG speakers for this year have a Burnley connection, either as a former lecturer (me for 30 years), current Lecturer and first PHD graduate (Chris Williams), current Lecturer in Landscape Construction (Ian Winstone), graduates in Horticulture of the Burnley College/campus (Karen Sutherland, Sandi Pullman, Jeanne Dunn), the propagation Group headed up by Burnley graduates (Fran Mason and Glenys Rose), specialist workshops (Chris England, Merrywood Plants) or using the grounds for bee keeping and educational demonstrations (the bee man, Peter Dyer).

And of course the special guest, celebrated painter Colin Johnson

Dates for your Diary

When	Who	What
March Tuesday 22 7 pm for 7.30 pm Price \$5/\$15 Please note the new date	Karen Sutherland of Edible Eden Design Karen is a member of the FOBG. She has over 20 years of horticultural experience. She worked at Melbourne Zoo and later did an Associate Diploma at Burnley in Nursery Management.	Growing bush foods in the city and how to use them Karen will talk about a range of easily grown bush foods and bring examples for you to touch and taste. Her own garden is a larder with over 200 edible plants in it. Karen's garden is in the Open Gardens Victoria Scheme and will be Open on March 19-20.
April Wednesday 6 9.30 for 10 am – 3 pm Price \$60 Booking is essential	Colin Johnson: A well-known landscape artist with numerous solo exhibitions in Australia and England, Colin specialises in depicting subjects of an emotional environmental nature using traditional and experimental techniques. He loves expressing light.	En Plein Air <i>This traditional format takes on a twist when performed in a historic garden setting. Artists are encouraged to find their own place amongst the diverse flora of the garden. Artists will be able to learn from Colin's unique perspective on composition and technique.</i>
April Saturday 9 9.30 for 10 am – 3 pm Price \$60 Booking is essential	Colin Johnson – as above	Sketchbook in hand <i>Come and experience the Gardens & enhance your technical and observational skills as well! The gardens hold a wealth of detail from aged roots and gnarly trunks to delicate flowers and foliage. Take advantage of Colin's expertise in drawing and composition</i>
April Wednesday 13 7 pm for 7.30 pm Price \$5/\$15	Chris Williams FOBG member and Lecturer in Horticulture, Burnley. Chris was Burnley's first PhD student.	Eat, think, talk, grow Chris' garden in the Field Station at Burnley is a thriving "back yard" of little grown tropical edibles. After a brief introduction, we'll go for a 'walk' with Chris to see what he's been able to achieve. Can you imagine growing sweet potato, Surinam Spinach and Japanese and Chinese Yams? Come along and learn from Chris' experiments and evaluations.
April Saturday 30 10am – 4 pm.	University of Melbourne 125 year celebration of Horticultural education. FOBG Plant Sale	Burnley Festival and Alumni Day An opportunity for alumni, families and friends to reconnect with Burnley and catch up with fellow classmates. Attend seminars about urban greening, horticultural workshops, tours of the Green Roof, food, and children's activities. Enter the vegetable competition, or simply relax and listen to music in the beautiful and historic Burnley Gardens. Information about Burnley programs and research. Plants from FOBG famous plants sale.
May Tuesday 17 Time 7 pm for 7.30 Price \$5/\$15	Ian Winstone Lecturer in Landscape Construction at Burnley –1985 to present. Landscape Consultant	Is drainage sexy? It's difficult to make this elusive and out-of-the-way topic appealing, but incorrect installation, failed systems or changed circumstances can be the source of major water issues. As home owners or professionals there are many traps for the unwary. Many of us have experienced flooding; we have installed Ag drains – but do they work? Next door is building home units; do you know about the new regulations to control storm water?
May Saturday 28 10 am – 12.30 pm Price to be advised	Lee Scott - Enviro Champion from Hume Council	Making a hotel for native bees There are more than 1500 species of Native solitary bees. They don't live in hives but nest and lay their young in hollow spaces. They are not aggressive and virtually stingless. So, let's encourage them by making bee nesting boxes or bee hotels for your garden.
June/July	Winter Recess	

August Saturday 6 10am – 1pm Members \$84, visitors \$99 (includes morning tea and a bare rooted fruit tree)	Chris England, Burnley graduate, owner of Merrywood Plants, specialist in espalier.	Pruning fruit trees and The Art of Espalier Workshop Learn to prune for different types of fruit tree training. Choice of apple or pear tree included with the workshop. Hands-on workshop.
August Tuesday 16 AGM 6 pm Talk 7 for 7.30 pm Members free, visitors \$15	AGM Election of FOBG Committee and Annual report Sandi Pullman FOBG instigator, Burnley graduate, Garden Historian.	Strewth! Women gardeners, unchaperoned! In 1899 a scandalous event occurred at Melbourne's Burnley School of Horticulture. WOMEN were admitted to study and they came alone, WITHOUT chaperones. It wasn't an easy path. Sandi will share the extent of her research and bring us up-to-date with how women became professional horticulturists in Australia.
September Wednesday 14 7 pm for 7.30 pm Price \$5/ \$15	Peter Dyer Backyard Honey	Burnley Bees and Backyard Honey You may not be aware that we have bees at Burnley. Come along and learn how to cultivate your own hive. Peter has developed an innovative apiary service to provide local city dwellers with the skills and equipment necessary to host bee hives and obtain pure local honey from their own backyards. "Our own" Burnley honey will be for sale.
October Saturday 8 10 am – 1 pm Price to be confirmed	Sascha Andrusiak Burnley Nursery	Creating a Terrarium Sascha is responsible for the beautiful terrariums that you see around the Campus. So, let's harness her creative energy. She will provide all the materials including plants. Make one for yourself or give it away as a Xmas present. Sascha presented the successful Succulents talk last year
October Wednesday 12 7 pm for 7.30 pm \$5/ \$15	Jeanne Dunn Burnley Graduate Breeder of Australian orchids.	Breeding, growing and caring for Australian orchids For many years Jeanne has been growing and hybridising Australian orchids as a hobby. She has managed to turn a passion into a hobby that is cost neutral.
November Date tbc		Christmas gathering A chance to enjoy the Gardens and have a meal with Friends playing a game of Bocce (where the balls are rolled so as not to damage the turf!). A fitting and relaxing way to end a busy year.
December Date tbc	Plant Sale	A range of native, exotic and produce plants for sale See website for plant list www.fobg.org.au Cash sales ONLY.

For bookings & more information about FOBG events, contact Andrew Smith a.smith@unimelb.edu.au

For more information about Burnley's 125th events visit: <http://tinyurl.com/burnleyfestival>

Chris Harrison – Editor

Briefly, I am originally from Brisbane, but marooned in what was once the Garden of England, but is now sometimes – when the French go on strike - a giant carpark. Many thanks for the helpfulness of all who have responded so kindly to my panic stricken emails with material, advice and pictures. I could not have completed this without your assistance. Please let me know what you would like in the newsletter and if you think I could do something better – chris@harrison.gb.com

Space does not permit a fuller introduction. I will do more next time.