



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 Autumn Edition 2017

No. 65-Autumn 2017 PART 2

FOBG GROUP REPORTS

BURNLEY GARDEN'S BOTANICAL ART GROUP

Jennene Arnel

The Burnley Gardens' Botanical Art Group paints on Wednesday mornings (in four week blocks) in Quad 4. We are fortunate to have Mali Moir as our experienced and talented tutor. Mali very ably instructs both beginners and experienced artists. The classes are small with a maximum of 10 students.

Our focus this year is drawing and painting plant material from the gardens for inclusion in the soon to be published Burnley Gardens' book. We were thrilled to be invited to participate in this project and already have a number of completed works ready for inclusion in the book.

New members are always warmly welcomed to the group. Please contact me if you would like to join the group.

Jennene Arnel
ph: 0412 097 068

Plant Propagation Group Report April 2017

Glenys Rose

We have had a slow start to the year with only one sale so far. The San Remo Garden Club visited Burnley so we ran a very well patronised special sale. We are organising small sales for two groups in May.

The watering system has finally been installed in all the propagation area except the tunnel. We are still working on finding the right heads to ensure adequate coverage without flooding. Many thanks to Shaun Bowman and Brett Hough for their excellent installation work. Our area is much safer without the free-standing sprinklers.

We welcomed Janice Peeler to our group in April. Several members have had health issues and we send our best wishes.

Here's a note to end on:

"I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house." [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), [The American Notebooks](#) (1842)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Cheryl Andrews

Since the Summer edition of Papyrus, membership has increased to 232 members.

I would like to welcome the following members who have joined since November 2016:

Janice Peeler, John Harrison, Ruth Kennedy, Roz Madden, Philip Horbury, Catherine Lovelock and Christine Dempster.



Pomegranate fruiting in the Hilda Kirkhope rockery (designed c.1930s) opposite the Administration Building.

Jane Wilson (Archives) is unable to contribute to this edition of Papyrus. She has stepped in to assist her daughter Claire's new business, advertised in our last newsletter. Instead she has provided an amusing poem by Claire, written when she was 14, describing her mother's determined gardening style and the reaction of her neighbours to this tenacity.

STREET TALK

My mother is a gardener,
She works as hard as she can go.
Many of you have seen her,
So I'm sure you already know.

It's really quite amusing,
When she's working by the side walk,
Where she can hear all of the neighbours,
And listen to their street talk.

One morning they saw her yanking,
All those agapanthus out,
She was at the job for hours,
There seemed an unending amount.
Many neighbours mentioned,
As they watched her work in awe,
"With a woman like that,
What's a husband for?"

They've seen her down on her knees,
Trimming the edge of the lawn.
And whispered as they passed her,
"She's been at it since dawn!"
Meanwhile there's three kids inside,
Reclining on the sofa.
Not offering to mow the lawn,
But when forced *might* start the motor!

Weeding is big challenge,
It just never seems to end.
It leaves you all over stiff,
With the way you have to bend.
But mum never thought that it
Would get her into strife,
Till that old man said to her,
"Your behind looks like my ex-wife!"

So even though its tiring,
My mother always gets a laugh,
From the comments people make,
When walking down the street path.

Claire Wilson

FOBG TALKS

ANDREW ROGERS – DRAWINGS ON THE EARTH: BIG BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Jan Chamberlain

On St Valentine's Day, Andrew Rogers spoke to a large crowd in the Burnley Hall about his work. Andrew lives, breathes and is passionate about art 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

He has worked all over the world in 51 sites in 16 countries, including Turkey, Iceland, Nepal, Israel, India, Australia, Namibia and Sri Lanka to name but a few. Designed to be seen from above, these large creations have a global purpose – to form a set of connected drawings on Earth visible from space, embracing the cultural heritage of civilization. The locations -including remote deserts, fjords, gorges, national parks, altiplano, mountain valleys and a frozen lake – are exotic and disparate. Close to home he has work in Eastern Park in Geelong, and in the You Yangs, Bunjil the wedge-tailed eagle can be seen.

At the beginning of his projects, Andrew sits down with the elders of the local community. They determine what's important, what is to be preserved and any common symbols: the rhythm of life. Anyone can come and work on these structures, which are all made from natural materials. Out of respect for the local authorities and respect for the environment he gets the relevant permits to construct his projects. The longest time for getting a permit was six years in Joshua Tree (USA). There are lots of ceremonies around the building of these projects and Andrew always walks over the sites to get the flavour of the land. He aims to create consecrated space. He engages architects. All people who work on his installations are paid, with men and women getting equal pay. In Kenya, he assembled the largest ever gathering, 1270, of Masai, while 7,000 indigenous people in total were involved in his 'Rhythms of Life' project.

All these projects are visible from space. However, the only way to see his work in Antarctica which was made by using the rock from glacial moraine is to view the photographs taken by the satellites at the time.

Andrew spoke of his interest and adoption of The Golden Rule and Fibonacci sequence in his sculptures, which are made of bronze, marble and stainless steel and range from 65 centimetres to 10.5 meters tall. He has had work in the Venice biennale and one of his more recent sculptures is in New Zealand at Gibbs Farm.

<http://www.andrewrogers.org/>

<http://www.gibbsfarm.org.nz/about.php>



Andrew Smith, Michele Adler with Andrew Rogers

Footnote:-

Andrew Rogers, *Sculptor*

Andrew Rogers (b. 1947) is an Australian artist with a distinguished career in site-specific sculpture, land art and exhibitions. His most ambitious global project prior to fulfilling the commission for Gibbs Farm was “Rhythms of Life” comprised of a connected set of 51 large scale stone sculptures / geoglyphs encircling the earth, across 16 countries and all seven continents. It is even visible from space.

Andrew is an internationally recognized artist. He exhibits internationally and his critically acclaimed sculptures and photographs are in numerous private and prominent public collections in Australia, South East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States of America. The “*Rhythms of Life*” is the largest contemporary land art undertaking in the world. These geoglyphs form a unifying land art project whose scope and humanity are unparalleled in modern art history.

Rogers picks sites that have - in his view - historical significance and spends a long time persuading local officials to allow him to spread his massive artworks across their hills. Often, the works become tourist attractions. For that reason and because the images are meaningful to the people who live nearby, there's a community effort to maintain them.

Getting a good look at Andrew Rogers' art can be tough.

Andrew Rogers designed the "Ancient Language" geoglyph in Chile's Atacama Desert. The work, 9 feet tall and 263 feet long, was inspired by a petroglyph of the Aguada culture (600-900 A.D.).

It helps to have a satellite. Or a helicopter. Or a plane.

'I do this as I want the structures to have meaning for the community apart from being an object.'

He has plans in the works for an even bigger geoglyph, something involving 20,000 people. He's not ready to say where.



Bunjil with a wing span 100 metres. 1500 tonnes of rock were used in its construction

In the You Yangs, Bunjil, the wedge-tailed eagle is an important ancestral spirit of the indigenous Wathaurong people, who believe the eagle "made the animals and the plants and taught the people how to behave on Earth....and how to conduct the ceremonies that would ensure the continuation of life" -- a theme Rogers says resonated with his concept of his project as "a continuous link between past and present."

On Wednesday 15 March an excellent turn-out of FOBG members and visitors were treated to a stimulating talk by Burnley's popular Director of Urban Horticulture, **John Rayner**.

John gave an account of the development over the past 26 years of his two acres of garden, Brookdale farm at Emerald.

This property was originally developed in the 1890's as a guest house. Over the years, the property was resold and subdivided. Eventually 3.9ha were donated to the Victorian Conservation Trust, now the Trust for Nature. It became an annexe of Burnley, who undertook to revegetate the land.

The College were looking for a caretaker, and John, newly returned from working in the UK, found himself in the right place at the right time and moved in!

Grants were obtained to implement much revegetation and landscaping, but eventually in 2005 the University of Melbourne relinquished the lease, and John and his wife were able to buy the 'caretaker's lot' of 2 acres.

Here John has steadily created a gorgeous 'garden of rooms'.

Most of the garden plantings are structured around form and texture, low maintenance and no irrigation. John takes a scientific approach to design using the right plant in the right place. He advocates dividing and massing - for spectacular effect - and to save money. His edible garden includes espaliered fruit trees and imaginative approaches to old ideas.

John illustrated his talk with many evocative images, and a very lively question-and-answer session followed.

Amazingly, John confessed to never having made his garden the subject of a talk, so FOBG are indeed greatly indebted and honoured to have been able to host this premiere!

*Sandra McMahon
Committee, FOBG.*



John and his wife Michelle in their Emerald Garden



Brookdale Farm features water-wise plantings Photo: SUPPLIED.

An inspiring two-acre garden nestled in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges is full of foliage plants, stunning herbaceous borders and productive patches, a rockery planted with Australian perennials, large grass spiral, and an historic garden with spring flowering shrubs including camellias, rhododendrons, maples, hydrangeas and magnolias.

Owner John Rayner says the garden is strongly designed around recycled-reused-repurposed materials, minimal resource inputs (particularly water) and productivity. The garden also has a productive focus, with many fruit trees, espaliered apples and cherries, and a kitchen garden with abundant vegetables and herbs.

“The only section regularly irrigated is the vegetable garden, and the sawdust pathways are topped every two to three years,” John says.

“Many of the plant materials used are also selected around their durability, robustness and low water needs and, of course, the garden is always a work in progress,” he says.

Brookdale Farm is located at 12 Charman Avenue, Emerald.

After practising and teaching law for many years **Dr John Dwyer** studied horticulture at Burnley. He found weeds to be the most puzzling subject intellectually and went on to complete a PhD on the subject. His PhD forms the basis of his book *Weeds, plants and people*. The book's front cover shows a picture of 1 square metre of weeds on a Mount Eliza cliff top. There are 22 different species in the photo but these are now long gone which demonstrates the ephemeral nature of weeds.

There are many definitions of what is a weed. John felt that a good definition for a weed was 'A plant whose virtues haven't yet been discovered or have been forgotten'.

We always use emotional language when we talk about weeds. Words such as ugly, hateful, invasive and infestation. In effect, weeds are an offence to our sense of order as they interfere with what we're trying to do. One way to use the characteristics of weeds is to plant an attractive weed in the very hardest spot in your garden.

The history of weeds equals the history of man. Without humans, there are no weeds. There are even some weeds which have learnt to mimic crop plants.

Those plants that escape from gardens demonstrate how some plants are welcome in one place but unwelcome elsewhere. Paterson's Curse (*Echium plantagineum*) is also known as Salvation Jane as it was eaten by grazing animals when pastures had died off.

Wherever there is disturbance you get opportunistic weeds. But these same weeds are stabilizers, the ecological Red Cross, and they help the recovery of the landscape.

John then went on to talk about various weeds included in his book. For example, Nut Grass (*Cyperus rotundus*) is the world's worst weed – appearing in 52 crops in 92 countries. Over 7,000 years ago it was a food staple in Africa and it is still used for pharmacological reasons in India.

Some of the other weeds included in the book are Black Nightshade, Chickweed, Shepherds Purse and Plantain. An interesting fact is that Psyllium (the dietary fibre) is from a species of Plantain.

Grauballe man was found in 1952 in a bog in Denmark. The body has been dated to about 300 BC and his last meal consisted of 72 different species of plant. Some were likely to be cultivated but there are many unanswered questions. Was this last meal a ritual meal, were these seeds specifically collected for his last meal?

To find out more about these weeds and many more you will need to buy John's book. As they say, it is available at all good booksellers.



John Dwyer presents his talk

2017 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AFTER OUR WINTER RECESS

WHEN	WHO	WHAT
August Saturday 5 10am – 1pm Members \$54, visitors \$65 (includes morning tea. Bookings essential)	Chris England Burnley graduate, owner of Merrywood Plants, specialist in espalier.	Learn to prune different types of fruit trees - apples, pears, peaches, nectarines, plums, citrus. Learn to recognise the different types of growth, keep trees healthy and to a workable height and prune for maximum fruit. Hands-on workshop. Small group. For beginners or experienced.
August Saturday 5 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm Members \$65, visitors \$80 (includes truffle tasting at afternoon tea)	Noel Fitzpatrick International Truffle consultant, Victorian truffle farmer and Burnley graduate.	<i>The World of Truffles</i> Revered by Greek and Roman rulers as an aphrodisiac of great power, banned in medieval times and highly prized in the Renaissance, truffles have captured our imagination for centuries. This treat of treats is black gold. Whether you want to grow your own or set up a business, this seminar

Bookings essential		introduces you to the mysterious truffle world. Black or white truffles? Oak or hazelnut host? Growing conditions? There are good reasons why truffle is one of the most expensive culinary ingredients in the world. Opportunity to purchase fresh truffles.
August Wednesday 16 AGM 6 pm Talk 7 for 7.30 pm Members free/ visitors \$15 speaker tba	AGM Election of FOBG Committee and Annual report Talk topic and speaker tbc.	
August Wednesday 16 AGM 6 pm Talk 7 for 7.30 pm Members free/ visitors \$15 speaker tba	AGM Election of FOBG Committee and Annual report Talk topic and speaker tbc.	<i>Plants, plants, plants</i> There's much on the web about plants but a lot of it doesn't deal with Australian conditions or Australian plants. Jill will show you the Burnley Database of plants (and all that it can do to make your life a breeze) that she has been working on for a decade. You are encouraged to bring in a plant in flower or fruit from your garden for identification and discussion.
October Saturday 7 5.30 pm Members free / visitors \$15 Bookings essential	 Dr Greg Moore , FOBG Patron Former principal of Burnley, Arboriculturist and researcher	<i>Drones, the busy bees for arborists and gardeners</i> Exactly 20 years ago 15 people had a meeting together that changed the support basis for the Burnley Gardens. Our Patron, Greg Moore was one of the founding group of FOBG. He will speak to us on emerging technology that can be used to great gardening advantage.
October Saturday 21 10 am – 12 pm. All materials supplied Price tba Bookings essential	Sascha Andrusiak , Burnley Nursery	<i>Branches of Bromeliads workshop</i> <i>Sascha will weave her magic once more for you to create the "perfect, minimum water living sculpture" on a branch encrusted with lichen.</i>
November Saturday 4 Price: \$35 (members) \$45 (non-members). Includes picnic lunch, tea, coffee, water, guided commentary whilst on board. BYO extra drinks, hats, sunscreen. Bookings essential.	<i>Christmas gathering.</i> <i>Yarra River Cruise from Herring Island to Melbourne City and back.</i>	<i>Gardens from the Yarra – an unexpected vista</i> The river boat will pick us up at the floating dock at Herring Island. We cruise along the river, with commentary, past Como, luxury properties, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Government House, Melbourne Park, the MCG and Olympic Park, Alexandra Gardens and Birrarung Mar. Delicious Dianne will make us a picnic lunch for the cruise. Once in the city we will visit the Art Gallery's secret garden and/or Birrarung Mar as time permits. We return by riverboat back to Herring Island at 3 pm.
Plant sales to be advised throughout the year.	Plant sales	<i>A range of native, exotic and produce plants for sale</i> See website for plant list www.fobg.org.au Cash sales ONLY