



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 – Winter Edition

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editor: Chris Harrison

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (Acting)

It's been a bit of a roller coaster ride since February and there has been much to do. Bob Lazarus, our President stood aside for family reasons and others have been away on holidays.

We thank you Bob for all the good work that you did. You were always at functions helping out, always cheery and welcoming and you made a special attempt to repair the rust spots on our beautiful gates to the Field Station. We hope that you may return to the Committee soon.

We have conducted some very successful events since February, - some great monthly talks and workshops. However, there have been some events that were not well attended.

1. **Karen Sutherland's** talk in February was well presented and well researched. She brought along lots of touchy, feely and smelly plants and inspired us all to think outside the box when using new additions to our culinary repertoire.
2. **Colin Johnson Art classes** were a great success even though the weather was a little inclement. The Burnley Gardens provide such a wonderful backdrop for any art activity. This note below from a participant who attended Colin Johnson session on sketching in April says it all: *"I attended Colin's sketching class (10-3 on April 9) and I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed it. I learned so much as Colin is an excellent teacher, and very inspiring. (The setting helped too). I hope similar courses are offered again (Sketching II?)" (Ranée Mischlewski)*



Those who missed out will be pleased to know that we will be offering more of Colin's wonderful classes in Spring – on Saturday 22 October.

3. We were disappointed with the turn-out to **Dr Chris Williams** talk on tropical additions to the garden. Ten Friends attended and of those, six were Committee Members. Chris has done wonderful research on growing usually-thought-of-ungrowables in Melbourne. His demonstration and display garden in the Field Station is worth a wander if you are at Burnley during office hours. Look for a swathe of multi-coloured sweet potato ground cover leaves. Hidden well below the foliage is, yes, sweet potatoes. In Melbourne!!

So, why was there such a poor show of Members on the night? Kay Hirst has put together a survey to see if we can improve our offerings to you. Is it the evening talks are held, the topic; the time of the month? Do you have other commitments that conflict with the FOBG activities? Please let us know and we will work to fine tune the talks that we offer.

4. Of course, the big event of this 125th year was the **Burnley Festival on 30 April**. The FOBG worked hard to contribute to the event that was steered and run by The University of Melbourne's Burnley Campus.
5. Our Friends Propagation Group conducted their now massive autumn plant sale at the Festival open Day with great success. The Friendly Guides led free Gardens tours in the afternoon and people gathered from all over the state to reconnect with colleagues and former class mates. What a festive air there was.
6. In May, the evening talk was a surprise. Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker Ian Winstone was unavailable due to family matters, but three Members stepped up to the plate and answered all sorts of **drainage** (and other) questions. Thanks so much to Gary Warren, Jan Chamberlain and Rod McMillan for making the evening such a success after all.
7. What a treat to have three Envirochampions from the Hume Council - Lee, Mercedes and Betty conducted our **Native Bee Hotel workshop**. They brought along heaps of stuff to fill the wooden cube that was to become the bee hang-out. All the participants were thrilled with the little hotels that they took home.

So as we limber up and spring into action (pardon the puns) for the second half of the year we still have more treats ahead for you. Plants sales occur regularly (Members are notified by email) and our FOBG Facebook page now has 92 Members (please contribute to it and become a "friend" – it's free). Cheryl Andrews sends out regular reminders to all events and you can always check the FOBG website (thank-you Jill Kellow) if you've forgotten a date. So please come along to a few more events and join in the fun.

Best wishes,
Michèle Adler
(Acting president 2016, FOBG)



We have a Facebook page. Funnily enough it's called Friends of Burnley Gardens. So if you want to keep in touch or chat about horticultural things, especially what is going on at Burnley then you may like to send us a Friend Request on Facebook. We are looking forward to having the 100th Friend soon.



ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Burnley Seminar series - '*Towards a blueprint for a greener city*'

With the Burnley 125th anniversary well underway, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the Campus for a seminar series titled '*Towards a blueprint for a greener city*'. This four part series will explore how we can use plants in cities to make them better places to live. Led by Burnley researchers these seminars are all about translating research on the campus to a broader audience. Burnley's expanding and internationally recognized research profile into green infrastructure has been one of the significant developments of the past few decades for the Campus, helping provide solutions for a more sustainable future.

Through four seminars, researchers at the University of Melbourne will discuss how current research is helping to drive the 'green cities' movement in Australia. They will discuss the benefits and types of different green infrastructure, including green roofs and walls, the urban forest, food gardens and rain gardens and how ecological research can be used to plan and design 'green cities'.

The Seminars will be held in the Main Hall Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond on Tuesday evenings on the following dates:

- The first held on Tuesday 7 June - It's hot in the city tonight: explored using Green Infrastructure to mitigate climate change.
- Then on- Tuesday 16 August - Rumble in the (urban) jungle: novel science research driving Green Cities.
- Number 3 - Tuesday 11 October - Urban plantings as living laboratories for climate change
- Number 4 - Tuesday 4 November - Where people, landscapes and biodiversity collide

Seminars are from 6.00pm - 8.00pm (followed by a networking session with beverages and nibbles). Tell your friends, industry contacts and come along! All are FREE, but please register. For further information and to register visit:

<http://ecosystemforest.unimelb.edu.au/#news-and-events>

FESTIVAL – SHOWCASES BURNLEY’S RESEARCH, TEACHING AND OUTREACH

With thanks to Jennifer McCoy, School of Ecosystem & Forest Sciences University of Melbourne for the reproduction of this extract from ‘Groundswell’ –(the Nursery and Garden Industry of Victoria’s trade dedicated magazine)

On the last day of April, the Campus opened its doors for the major event of the 125th celebrations calendar, the Burnley Festival. The occasion provided an opportunity to invite its graduates, industry partners and the general public back to the campus and to showcase Burnley’s research, teaching and outreach efforts to a broad audience.

The Campus looked splendid on the day, bathed in sunshine that highlighted the wonderful autumn colour in the gardens, it provided the perfect backdrop for the day’s activities. One of the largest crowds to come to the campus for many years attended, with approximately 1000 visitors. The program included contributions from staff, students, Alumni and Friends of Burnley Gardens, everything from plant clinics to demonstrations; green roofs tours to alumni reunions; and plant sales to lectures on the lawns.

Many alumni came from interstate and regional Victoria to attend and were welcomed by Prof. Karen Day, Dean of Science, at a special morning tea. Burnley’s volunteer archivist produced a fabulous display of archival material, helping alumni and former staff amongst others to share their memories of the place. A visitor’s book captured some of their reflections including:

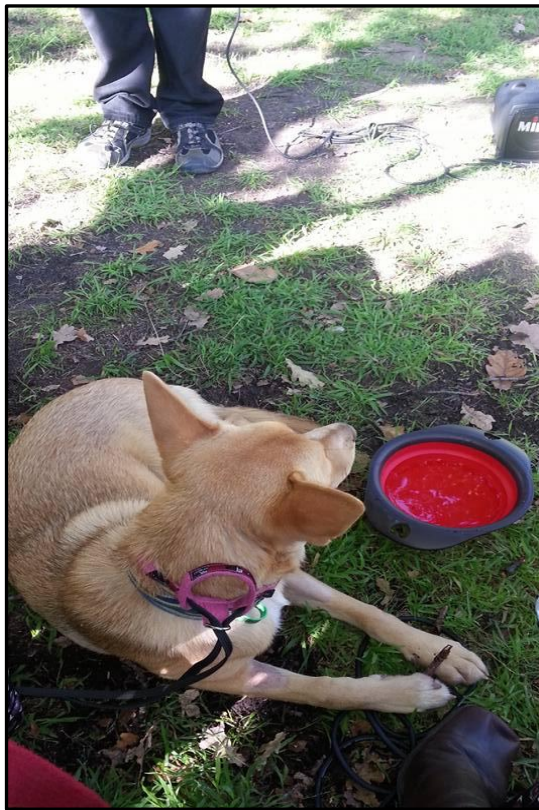
- ‘Enjoyed the day...sorry for my fellow students of 1946-47 who missed the occasion’, *Naomi McConchie 1946*
- ‘I recommend horticulture. It stood by me and still does’ *Maree Wilson 1957*
- ‘Very fond memories...What great students we had’ *Brian Pell, Principal of Burnley 1977-80*
- ‘I studied at Burnley in the 90’s and my father in the 70’s. Still passionate about horticulture and gardening’ *Susan Brown 1999*
- ‘It’s great to visit nearly 10 years after graduating. So many wonderful changes.’ *Jill Holmes 2006*

If you were unable to attend the Festival and would like to hear more about the 125th events, please visit: www.surveymonkey.com/r/Burnley125years; or for more information on courses and study options visit: www.science.unimelb.edu.au/study-us.

Marking 125 years of continuous horticultural education at Burnley provides opportunities for reflection, but also a look to the future. This means continuing to adapt to new challenges and to remain at the leading edge of horticultural teaching, research and engagement.



Chris Walsh's workshop - "Rain gardens - attractive and productive and protecting our environment"



One can only wonder what Burnley will be like in another 125 years?

FURTHER FEEDBACK CONFIRMS BURNLEY
FESTIVAL'S SUCCESS

Eleanor Foster (1984- 87) felt the 7hour drive to listen to Greg Moore (Plant Science) again after 30 years well worth it.

And so did her dog.

Well, pooch was pretty attentive apart from that stick between her paws that became entrée.

Kathie Thomas from Garden Imagery Dandenong said: 'Thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Burnley Campus today. What beautiful gardens and I enjoyed reading about the early students. Was surprised not to see any mention of Edna

Walling (one of my favourite garden designers) as she attended Burnley Horticultural in 1916 and 1917 I believe. She was just 20 when she enrolled. I took lots of photos but am still going through them. My husband and I really did enjoy our visit there.'

Archives Report - Contact with past alumni increases

Following the communications campaign, the VIP launch and the Festival there has been:

- a 12% increase in Burnley alumni contactability
- 31 alumni attended the launch, at least 58% were Burnley alumni
- 217 alumni attended the festival, at least 74% were Burnley alumni



1968 Diploma of Horticulture Students catch up

The Burnley Commemorative Pendant

To mark the event, the Friends of Burnley Gardens commissioned a special pendant to be made.

It's not just a pendant. Hand crafted by local silversmith Dougal Haslem, it is a beautiful and delicate piece. Made from one of the very old sugar gums that was removed a few years back. The timber was first sculpted and then infused with silver to create a "flower". Each flower is engraved on the reverse with BURNEY 125 and bears the makers imprint in a limited edition.

It is still possible to purchase the Commemorative pendant – many of you will be Burnley graduates. Or, there may be a special person that you want to give one to, perhaps someone who has contributed over and above the call of duty to Burnley Gardens activities or events.

You can see the 'real thing' before you buy. We have one for viewing at Burnley. The pendant comes with a chain and gift box (optional). Details are below.



Dougal working in his studio – cutting the venerable Sugar Gum

Commemorative Pendant

A beautiful memento hand crafted from an aged and elegantly grained wood, infused with silver to mark the celebration of 125 years of Horticultural Education at Burnley.



The Commemorative Pendant

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 – collector's item of the future.

The Artist

Dougal Haslem is a contemporary jewellery artist from Melbourne. He completed his Bachelor of Arts (Gold and Silversmithing) and a Master of Fine Art at RMIT University.

He has exhibited in Australia, the Netherlands and the USA.

To purchase the pendant

Place your order with the Friends of Burnley Gardens friends.burnley@gmail.com or speak to Andrew Smith on 9035 6861

Cost: \$160 (members) \$175 (non-members).

Gift box and silver chain, add \$15 (members), \$20 (non-members)

Payment details: PAYMENT by EFT *Please notate with your name*****

BSB 063420

Account No = 10018095

Account name = Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc.

FEATURES

The Gardens in Winter

Andrew

With the Gardens half way through winter, it's timely to reflect on what is looking good. One plant that seems to be under-used in gardens is the red or yellow stemmed *Cornus*. The red stemmed *Cornus* has been a mainstay in the Main building beds since the early 1990s and still fills my heart with delight when walking past on a sunny day. The stems seem to glow in the sunlight and look even better with a dark mulch or bare soil underneath them. In recent years we have added the yellow stemmed *Cornus* to the bed but I think the red is still my favourite.



The Cornus stems seems to glow in the sunlight and look even better with dark mulch or bare soil underneath.

As for the lily ponds; is it just me or is there something quite special or even better about the Lily ponds in winter? The beautiful curves of the Luffmann designed ponds seem to become even more prominent with the foliage cut down, water lilies dormant and *Salix* pollarded. Mind you; come early summer when the flowering water lilies cover the surface

of the pond, I'm apt to change my mind! I guess that's the fun part about seasons; there's something special about each one.

The *Salix* Luffmann planted c. 1898 is still hanging in there, even if most of it is now touching the ground. 20 years ago we thought it would be gone within 5 years and planted a replacement but it's surprised us all by continuing to survive.



The beautiful curves of the Luffmann designed pond seem more prominent in winter

One plant that comes into its own in winter is the flowering apricot, *Prunus mume* 'Pendula' down at the Orchard gates. What beauty! A perfect pink colour, displayed on weeping bare stems, is a sight to see. And even better, it goes on for around six weeks, much longer than its spring flowering *Prunus* cousins. And I haven't even mentioned the fragrance yet!

One must thank Geoff Olive (former staff member) for the inclusion of these two fine specimen trees in the Gardens. Now that the wonderful gates are positioned opposite them, looking through the gates, with the weeping stems of pink flowers superimposed in them is a lovely sight.



The flowering and fragrant *Prunus mume* 'Pendula'. What a beauty!

Most living organisms adapt their behaviour to the rhythm of day and night. Now, using laser scanners, scientists from Austria and Finland are studying the day-night rhythm of trees. And it turns out trees go to sleep as well!

Most living organisms adapt their behaviour to the rhythm of day and night. Plants are no exception: flowers open in the morning, some tree leaves close during the night. Researchers have been studying the day and night cycle in plants for a long time: Linnaeus observed that flowers in a dark cellar continued to open and close, and Darwin recorded the overnight movement of plant leaves and stalks and called it "sleep." But even to this day, such studies have only been done with small plants grown in pots, and nobody knew whether trees sleep as well. Now, the team of researchers from Austria and Finland have measured the sleep movement of fully grown trees, using a time series of laser scanning points consisting of millions of points each.

Trees droop their branches at night

Our results show that the whole tree droops during night which can be seen as position change in leaves and branches," says Eetu Puttonen (Finnish Geospatial Research Institute), "The changes are not too large, only up to 10 cm for trees with a height of about 5 meters, but they were systematic and well within the accuracy of our instruments."

To rule out effects of weather and location, the experiment was done twice with two different trees. The first tree was surveyed in Finland and the other in Austria. Both tests were done close to solar equinox, under calm conditions with no wind or condensation. The leaves and branches were shown to droop gradually, with the lowest position reached a couple of hours before sunrise. In the morning, the trees returned to their original position within a few hours. It is not yet clear whether they were "woken up" by the sun or by their own internal rhythm.

Laser scanning provides a more accurate reading than photography, which uses visible light that interferes with sleep movement. Scanners use infrared light, which is reflected by the leaves and individual points are only illuminated for fractions of a second. With laser scanning, a full-sized tree can be automatically mapped within minutes with sub-centimetre resolution. "We believe that laser scanning point clouds will allow us to develop a deeper understanding of plant sleep patterns and to extend our measurement from individual plants to larger areas, like orchards or forest plots," says Norbert Pfeifer (TU Wien). "The next use of laser scanning will be to collect tree point clouds repeatedly and compare water use during day and night," says Eetu Puttonen.

"This will tell us about a tree's water use and its influence on the local or regional climate."

So this is the question: Gross National Happiness or Gross National Product?

Michèle Adler

In the small Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, the people embrace a guiding philosophy called Gross National Happiness (GNH), unlike most of the rest of the world who subscribe to Gross National Product (GDP). Any development or law in Bhutan is measured in GNH. Their Constitution guarantees at least 60% forest cover, free health care and education at all levels. Agriculture is almost fully organic with only 5% of farmers using chemicals. Their goal is to be 100% organic by 2020.



The term GNH was coined in 1972 by Bhutan's 4th Dragon King Jigme Singye Wangchuk. (left). GNH aims to strike a balance between material and non-material values, prioritizing the happiness and well-being of humans and all life. The objective of GNH is to achieve a balanced and sustainable form of development which encompasses a range of domains each of which makes a vital contribution to our happiness. This approach aims to balance modernity with tradition, material with spiritual, and economic with social, all within the broader

context of ecological conservation.

A report in *The Guardian* says, "In the last 20 years Bhutan has doubled life expectancy, enrolled almost 100% of its children in primary school and overhauled its infrastructure.

At the same time, placing the natural world at the heart of public policy has led to environmental protection being enshrined in the constitution. The country has pledged to remain carbon neutral and to ensure that at least 60% of its landmass will remain under forest cover in perpetuity. It has banned export logging and has even instigated a monthly pedestrian day that bans all private vehicles from its roads."

Travellers in Bhutan pay a sustainable Tourism Royalty of \$65 that goes towards free education, free healthcare, poverty alleviation, along with the building of infrastructure.

A small country like Bhutan, with a population of approximately 800,000, with such an initiative ... sets an example to the rest of the world. *I wonder if we could learn from their example?*

http://www.gnhbhutan.org/about/a_development_path_with_values.aspx

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/dec/01/bhutan-wealth-happiness-counts>

You may not know that there is a Horticultural Media Association in Australia (HMAA). Every two years, the Association awards *Laurels* for recognised excellence in eight areas of horticultural / gardening media. The judging is done by communications and horticultural experts not associated with HMAA. Categories include: “best book,” best printed article”, “best image” etc.

This year I was thrilled to note that Dr. Greg Moore (FOBG Patron) and Dr. Peter May (FOBG Life Member) were on the HMAA judging panel. In addition, a number of the speakers in the FOBG monthly lecture series were Laurel winners. For example:

- Phillip Johnson who spoke to us about “Best in Show at Chelsea” last year won the Book Laurel for *Connected - the sustainable landscapes of Phillip Johnson*.
- Tim Entwisle (and radio partner Jim Fogarty) won the Audio Laurel for *Talking Plants*. Tim spoke to FOBG last year about Algae.
- Penny Woodward was a finalist in 3 categories. Penny gave us a most entertaining and thorough talk about garlic last year.



Dr Greg Moore (FOBG Patron) HMAA judging panellist



Penny Woodward finalist in 3 categories and garlic expert

So, FOBG offer our congratulations to the winners and also thank them for giving their time to share their knowledge and expertise.