



Papyrus

No. 76. SPECIAL EDITION *Farewell to Andrew Smith*

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

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Andrew and wife Julia - *au revoir* but not goodbye.

President's Report - Farewell to Andrew Smith



As many of you would know, the *Friends of Burnley Gardens* was formed back in 1998, initially by a group of students and staff who held concerns for the future of the Gardens, at a time when there was some concern about the direction which the University of Melbourne might pursue with this precious campus.

That is of course now all long ago in the past and it's quite clear that the Gardens have continued to flourish since the University acquired this precious site.

But I think it's fair to say that the real reason behind this is the 21-year tenure of Andrew Smith as Gardens Director. Andrew's phenomenal dedication - indeed devotion - to the Gardens cannot be overstated!

Over the past 24 years *The Friends* have raised close to \$250,000 - through monthly events, workshops, plant sales, guided tours, excursions and other activities. Every cent of this money has been channelled directly back into the Gardens to fund projects that might very well never have seen the light of day. These projects include

- the entrance gates to the Field Station,
- the renovation of the Luffman ponds,
- the Sugar Gum table,
- the wonderful metal wisteria arbour and Sunken Garden restoration,
- signage in the Gardens,
- the new garden areas up on Swan Street and on the rock tiers
- and most recently the new wisteria pergola - necessitated by the destruction in the most recent mini-tornado of the older timber structure.

It is to Andrew that we have constantly looked for inspiration about where money should be spent. He has been constantly 'on the case', you can almost hear those little cogs clicking over as he observes and assesses the needs and interests of the Gardens.

We get a lot of feedback from the public about these gardens and a common theme is that they have never looked better. I really believe that to be true, and that says everything really about Andrew's contribution.

As President of this Group, it has been a pleasure to work with you Andrew, your plant knowledge is amazing, you are always generous with that knowledge, and the Friends are indebted to you because you have truly worked with us. We are all very sad to see you go!

We welcome Sascha Andrusiak as Andrew's replacement. We know that she too will have the interests of these marvellous Gardens at heart. She has already demonstrated a great willingness to help with our fundraising ventures, and we do dare to hope that, with time, she may even take on Andrew's now legendary weekly column, 'Plant of the Week'. If any of our members still don't know about this, follow it on our website and Facebook page!

Farewell Andrew – but not good-bye!

Sandra McMahon

President, FOBG.

Farewell Andrew Smith, Gardens Curator and Campus Manager, Burnley Campus

By Prof Stefan Arndt, Director of Burnley Campus



Andrew Smith will retire this year after working for 34 years at the Burnley Campus. Andrew's official title is 'Operations Officer', which is a poor description of what he does on campus. He has been the curator of our heritage-listed gardens for two decades, and ensured their protection and refinement, and he has been the manager of all campus facilities for the last 5 years. What has it been like to work with Andrew in all these years?

Sometime in mid 2021 I asked Andrew Smith about his retirement plans. There had been rumours swirling around before, but I wanted to know what his plans were. "Well, sometime in early 2022 is when I will retire", he says. "Oh nooooo...." is my first thought, "so soon?"

But then it occurs on me, this is an unusual timing. Why early 2022, when he could have retired in early 2021 and taken a generous voluntary redundancy the University offered at the time? When I ask him why he had not taken "a package" he tells me "I felt I still had things to do and complete before I go."

And this one sentence almost tells you everything about Andrew Smith. He is not a nine-to-five man, he is somebody for whom his job is more than a means of income. He is somebody with **conviction** to his job.

I do not remember my first meeting with Andrew Smith, but I do remember the first time he "told me off". My colleague Steve Livesley and I were new to the campus and in 2007 around the time of the open day (Pruning Day) we set up our Ford Transit Van that housed a mobile greenhouse gas measurement system on the lawn outside the Main Building. We thought, well this will sit here for a few days, no worries. Only a few minutes after we had parked the van on the lawn Andrew walks up, looks me in the eye and says: "You cannot park the van here, it will compact the lawn". A very direct and clear instruction, that invited no argument: this is what is going to happen. Here was a man who has a clear idea how we should operate, and communicated it clearly. No beating around the bush, a **steely resolve** of what can and cannot be done.

To me this also was an eye opener: just ask before you act. I have been operating in this way ever since and we try to instil this consultative approach into everything we do on campus. And this little episode may also explain why Andrew is not an 'Andy' or 'Smithy' but 'Andrew' to all of us on campus.

Andrew sees his role as garden manager as a **conservator** of the design and composition that exists. He is very reluctant to change design and conserves the design principles of the people that implemented them like Charles Luffman, Geoff Olive and Phil Tulk. Initially, I thought this is because he idolised his predecessors and was reluctant to change their ideas. And this is certainly true in the case of Geoff Olive, one of Andrew's influential mentors at Burnley. But I realised over time, that changes to the Gardens are difficult to implement given the Conservation and Management Plan from 2005. Thus, Andrew is not as free as his predecessors to make decisions around garden design.



However, in many ways Andrew is not only a conservator but more a **refiner and improver** of the design language of the Burnley designers. Plants die off over time and have to be replaced. Installations deteriorate over the years. Look at the splendour of the gardens today, the wonderful colours and contrasts in texture or composition: these are mainly Andrew's choices. Two key examples of refinement and improvement are the Wisteria Walk and the Sunken Garden. Both sites had been in the garden for decades, but they had a rather tired and uninspiring look. Look at them today! The area around the Wisteria Walk and the Sunken

Garden is one of the most attractive and inspiring areas on the campus, a true place of tranquillity in the hustle and bustle of the city. This is conservation at its best, when a good idea is refined and made great.

Farewell Andrew Smith By Prof Stefan Arndt

Andrew has been an **innovator** in campus, always sought to improve the look and feel of the place. Many of the innovations may have been more in the background, not easily seen or identified, but really important. Examples are the installation of automated drip irrigation lines for the irrigation of the gardens and the commissioning of rainwater tanks. This makes our gardens maintenance more sustainable, and drought proofed the garden. Andrew was instrumental in the collection of organic waste on campus that is turned into compost. Every week he is writing his *Plant of the Week* column for the Friends of Burnley Gardens blog (<http://www.fobg.org.au/blog/about-the-gardens/previous-notes/>), which brings us one plant species from the garden and tells us more about them.



Andrew's Plant of the Week 11.2.22: *Clerodendrum trichotomum*

Andrew makes the gardens so much more accessible to us. Possibly his most important innovation is one that we can't see, his legacy: the *Plant Census*. Over the last few years Andrew doggedly pursued his dream to log and account for every plant in the garden. As of December 2021 we now have a complete plant census at Burnley, we know exactly what plant is where in the garden, in a modern Geographical Information System. This is going to be a resource for generations to come.

Andrew has been an incredibly important **facilitator** on campus, the go-to person if you wanted or needed to realise a project on campus. Many of the innovations or new projects on campus have Andrew Smith written all over him. Think of the *Swan Street Entrance*, which was a blight on the otherwise so picturesque Burnley Gardens, an ugly hedge of bamboo that blocked the view of the gardens. Andrew facilitated the magnificent garden bed that is now a cornerstone of the gardens. We can also think of the *rain-garden* that was integrated into the new ramp to the Main Building. And we can think of the many projects that the Friends have initiated and funded over time, the *Orchard Gates*, the *Sugar Gum Table*, renovation of the *Summer House* and the *Luffman Ponds*, all facilitated or led by Andrew.

Moreover, we can also think of the *Roots of Burnley Exhibition* or the *Burnley Gardens Walk* smart phone application, Andrew played pivotal roles in both by providing information or writing and recording content. A key reason why he is such a good facilitator is the fact that he is a good **active listener**, who is trying to truly understand what you mean and what your ideas and intentions are. He repeats your thoughts back to you in his own words to ensure that there is no ambiguity. And Andrew is very **decisive**; he is not afraid to make a decision once his mind is set and then he follows through.

Finally, one of Andrew's best qualities is his **approachability** and **open mind**. This seems to contradict his conviction and steely resolve. But if you have worked with him for many years, you will appreciate his openness to new ideas, his willingness to dig into a new project and his eagerness to make it work. These attributes very much set the example for all professional staff on campus, who are all incredibly helpful, open minded and assist students and staff where they can. Andrew set the tone for others to follow. And thus, it is not a surprise that Andrew Smith is a man who did not take a "package" when he could. It is not a surprise that he worked until his work was done so he could hand over Burnley, the Campus, the Gardens in the best state they have ever been.

Thank you Andrew! And all the best for your retirement!

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*



In my final few weeks of working in the Gardens, I'm taking this opportunity to record what I think are my most notable achievements, and the changes that have taken place during the last three decades that I've spent working at Burnley.

As you would expect from such a relatively long period of time; in a digital era when so much has radically and fundamentally changed, the Gardens have also had to develop and transition in response to the evolving technology and new garden management regimes.

...the lasting legacy I will leave to the Gardens is a plant census map and a gardens maintenance task schedule to help keep it looking its best.

So, what was Burnley like when I first started on September the 19th 1988?

The Gardens in 1988 had reached a point of transition, where the past teaching methods and garden maintenance were radically altered. Previously, a group of students would spend many months with a single garden tutor, focusing on one discipline, such as fruit tree production or maintaining the gardens. However, that all changed with a new teaching model and courses that were more science based and professional, with a higher academic standing, including, for the first time, a degree in horticulture. Although the Associate Diploma students still did a half day a week practical component, which

did result in garden maintenance work being undertaken in a similar fashion to the previous arrangement under a tutor, gardeners, like myself, were employed to do the bulk of the work.

For me, the first decade of working in the gardens was carefree and full of immersion into horticultural learning. I was doing one subject per semester of the Associate Diploma, and had access and exposure to all the academic lecturers, such as James Hitchmough and Geoff Olive, as well as lecturers who weren't part of my Parks and Gardens teaching stream taught in the "Ass Dip". ,

Phillip Tulk, the Garden Manager who organised the works program for the Gardens, was my day-to-day mentor, and was very generous in accommodating my family leave arrangements, including reducing my work time fraction for child rearing. In fact, I took a year off for each of my two children after my wife's maternity leave, and then returned to work with reduced hours so I could pick up and drop off for child-care and schooling activities, so I always felt well supported.

During this decade under Phil Tulk's leadership, many areas of the Gardens were re-designed and altered. It was not until the early 2000s that some of these changes were considered inappropriate due to heritage considerations, and were subsequently re-instated (for example the shape of the Main Building beds and the position of the Field Station entrance gates). However, apart from a few reinstatements, most garden bed changes remained intact and there is a long list of garden areas that were re-designed in the 1988-1998 decade. These included the replanting and slight re-shaping of the Pine Bed, the creation of the Rainforest Bed, the re-vamping of the Grey Border, the landscaping of the area in the Citriodora Courtyard (after the Plant Science Labs 4,5, and 6 were built), the re-arranging of the Herb Garden into culinary, medicinal and infusion beds, the removal of the Orchard trees and stock plots, and re-purposing and re-naming of the Orchard area to become the Field Station, including a new section for student pruning resources. The beds on the east and west sides of the main building were re-shaped (although the straight lines of the beds were later to be reinstated as curves, after heritage findings) and finally, and most significantly, the creation and installation of the Robert Boyle Native Ponds and grassland garden in the area behind the science laboratories, which previously contained a mishmash of native trees and shrubs. I was to spend a few weeks in 1990 cutting down these trees in preparation for the new pond and grassland development.

While Phil Tulk was responsible for implementing these changes, only some were solely his design, with the others created, supplemented, or workshopped with people like Geoff Olive and James Hitchmough. Hitchmough was a powerful force for the Gardens, as Senior Lecturer and Head of Department, under Greg Moore. James not only controlled what was being implemented in the Gardens but also oversaw the other teaching streams and budgets for the Ass Dip, which included the Landscape, Nursery and Arboriculture lecturers. It was not uncommon, much to Phil's chagrin, for Hitchmough to walk through the Gardens and notice something, such as a new teak bench in the garden bed on the east side of the main building, and instruct Phil to 'remove that bench'; as he believed its placement was inappropriate.

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*



The offending bench

It was this over-arching landscape design surveillance and governance that saw the removal of a yellow-foliaged tree from the middle of the Pond Lawn and a yellow-foliaged shrub in the bed on the south west corner of the shady walk. Hitchmough believed the vista across the lawn to the bed was better off without such bright yellow focal points.

Geoff Olive was also a subtle and powerful influence on what Phil did, and the plant species chosen for any garden re-design work. There were often weekly notes left on Phil's desk, detailing the garden tasks and plants to use for garden maintenance; I have found several of these, with lists and design

sketches for Phil to follow. Phil didn't seem to mind, as like me in my first years of managing the Gardens (from 2001, before Geoff left the campus in the early 2000s), he found Geoff's ideas and plant selection were faultless. Geoff had been in charge of the entire College grounds as Field Superintendent, overseeing all the works for the entire site, from the mid-1970s until 1985, when he was asked to focus solely on teaching. This change created, for the first time, a new position of Garden Manager, to deal with the day to day Gardens maintenance, and to provide resources to support the teaching program. It was hard for Geoff, who was previously doing both roles, to fully give up responsibility for the Gardens, so his visits at weekends to put on garden sprinklers (and leave them on, for Phil to turn off on Monday morning), or to suggest planting ideas or garden tasks to be done, was not surprising. Geoff's demeanour was kind and gentle, always considerate of people's feelings, compared to James Hitchmough's rather more direct approach. I have even discovered a note from Geoff to Phil, in which Geoff gave advice on how to provide non-judgemental direction to my gardening duties for the Rockery.

The resignation of Phil Tulk at the start of 2001 began a very different and, at times, difficult decade for me, when I became solely responsible for managing the Gardens (after an initial six month period sharing the role with Tricia Mooney, who like me, was one of the three gardeners under Phil's direction).

The first five years of my new role in managing the gardens was difficult, as the operations and responsibility for managing the Gardens by the newly declared School was in contention with the Property and Campus Services department, who funded and managed the grounds of all the other University campuses. The School froze the operational Gardens funding at \$16,000 *per annum*, and refused to employ on-going garden staff, instead employing casual labour.

Andrew with
some of the
Committee, 2016



The matter was finally resolved five years after I began managing the Gardens, when they were transferred to the Property and Campus Services department. This five year period of frozen funding was the start of the invaluable funding assistance provided by the Friends of Burnley Gardens. The FOBG, referred to as ‘the Friends’, had come into existence in 1997, in response to what turned out to be the mistaken suspicion that the Gardens would be sold off or somehow diminished by the University’s ownership of the campus (full ownership occurred in 1997).

This mistrust was highlighted by two separate submissions to Heritage Victoria, both nominating the Burnley Gardens for Victorian Heritage status. The FOBG and the University were unaware that each was independently organising and submitting a Heritage application, resulting in the absurd situation of the FOBG turning up at the office of Heritage Victoria on a Monday morning to lodge their application, only to find out that the University had lodged theirs the previous week.

At the start of the 2000s, before operational responsibility was transferred to Property and Campus Services, PCS was already aware and interested in understanding the importance of the Gardens, resulting in their nomination for Heritage status.

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*

Under the direction of Doug Dains and Fiona De Prue, PCS also instigated a Conservation Management Analysis (CMA), and subsequent 2005 Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for the Gardens. These two inter-related documents were based on two student honours theses, by Lee Andrews (A History of Burnley Gardens 1860-1939) and Linda Hipwell (The Burnley Gardens Conservation Plan 1930-1999), which both researched the Gardens, their history and people.



A new concrete lining for the ponds

The 2005 CMP provided me with a vital list of useful recommendations, which I dutifully ticked off one by one; some were only finally completed more than a decade later. The CMP provided a framework that highlighted the importance and significance of the individual areas of the Gardens, and recommended what was required for the now Victorian Heritage-listed Gardens. The only significant recommendation that wasn't able to be achieved was the completion and implementation of a Master Plan. Despite my repeated requests for funding, by the mid-2000s, Dains and Fiona De Prue had left the University, and the Master Plan was no longer perceived as worthy of funding.

In the first decade of the Friends and their assistance to the Gardens, the projects were rather small, in keeping with their small financial resources, with the funding of a teak bench, possum tree guard material, re-building of the wooden pergola opposite reception, and the purchase of irrigation controllers. However, their contribution was a significant funding source for me when the University believed the item or project I requested wasn't necessary or within University funding priorities.

By the end of the decade, when the millennium drought (1996-2010) was nearly over, I requested that the Luffmann Lily Ponds be made more water efficient, by converting the clay base to a concrete liner. The cost wasn't substantial, however the University was more willing to truck in a water tanker to keep it topped up, than pay for the concrete base solution to the seepage. Once my funding request was denied by the University, I approached the Friends for partial assistance. They were easily convinced of the worthwhile nature of the project and once I mentioned this, the University were prepared to put in half of the funding. The concreting of the ponds was completed and it was celebrated as a great achievement by the Friends, the biggest funding project to date. The next decade was to see this funding for special projects in the Gardens expand to greater heights, and by 2022, the Friends had spent (or committed funding) around \$250,000 towards tangible, important improvements to the Gardens. A remarkable, enviable, achievement that enabled me to build and improve many areas of the Gardens that will have long term substance.

While my first decade as Manager was focused on re-instating concrete kerb edging (repairing the damage done during Garden Week) or to ticking off CMP recommendations, the greatest challenge was in response to the drought, when I had to reduce water consumption and implement the drought water restrictions. The sudden change of water use, not being able to water lawns, only being able to use drip irrigation for two hours, every second day (stage 3A), was very challenging. I still marvel that so few plants were lost during this period of water restrictions. It is worth emphasising how difficult the millennium drought was for me to deal with. The archaic Gardens water infrastructure and practices were inherited from a very different period. There were very few automatic garden irrigation controllers, and most of those were for lawn areas and couldn't be used because of drought restrictions that forbade the watering of lawns. The vast majority of garden bed watering was done by hose taps, with sprinkler stands attached. Many wasted hours were spent as gardeners pulled hoses around and set up sprinklers that we would leave on for long periods, even overnight. After incremental changes to water restrictions for drought compliance, we found that all our garden bed irrigation fell outside the rules. The vast majority of garden bed watering was done by hose taps, with sprinkler stands attached. You couldn't operate overhead sprinklers during the day, hand watering was restricted to a couple of hours early in the morning and in the evening. I had the new responsibility to ensure that the Gardens didn't die...on my watch.

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*

I was pleased to have only lost a few conifers, and like the rest of Melbourne, went out and bought irrigation timers that could apply water in the early morning when we weren't there. The subsequent re-doing of the entire water infrastructure for the Gardens took a few years to implement, and resulted in a new water line connected to a pump and stormwater tanks laid around the Gardens, water tanks, irrigation controllers and new water meters and supply lines, new drip systems and water solenoids, plus the electrical control wiring/conduit connected to new irrigation controllers. I felt that the millennium drought, resulting in a complete renovation of the entire irrigation and water had finally brought the Gardens into the 21st Century.

By my third decade working at Burnley, the second as manager (Gardens Co-ordinator, later morphing into Operations Manager in 2017), I began to gain more confidence, and worked doggedly to achieve goals and ambitions for the Gardens. This second decade as manager was much more fun, as I was able to implement several aesthetically pleasing projects. There was a major milestone that needed to be celebrated: the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Gardens on January 1, 1861. The University, and the VCAH (the organisation that Burnley was part of prior to the Uni taking control in 1997), had celebrated two Burnley teaching milestones: the 75th (1966) and the Centenary in 1991. The celebration of the opening of the Gardens in 1861 was a different way to recognise a milestone. The Friends were keen to celebrate the occasion, and upon my instigation, set about funding two major projects to mark the milestone. The first project was the Sugar Gum Table and the second was the entrance gates into the Field Station.



The newly installed Sugar Gum Table

The gates had been flagged by the CMP as needing to be re-positioned, to put them back in line with the fence line (they had been moved a decade earlier during the creation of the Field Station), and rather than just re-positioning the chain mesh twin gates, I suggested the Friends pay for some ornamental gates instead. The other 2013 project, the installation of the Sugar Gum table setting, was to preserve and commemorate the National Trust listed *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* that had had to be removed in 2009. I felt such a tree deserved to be recognised, by making a table and seating out of the milled timber from the trunk and larger branches. The need for this wasn't supported by the University, so I asked the Friends to fund the project.



The original gates to the Field Station
(Image supplied by the Burnley Archives)

This was the start of the transformation of the entire area around the Herb Garden, as five years later, the Friends once again agreed to fund the replacement of the wooden wisteria pergola and refurbishment of the leaking Sunken Garden ponds. Once the paving for both the Wisteria Walk and Sunken Garden was completed, the inter-connected area, from the Sugar Gum table to the Sunken Garden, became an entertaining and gathering space, which had lighting installed to enable it to be used at night time.

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*



The (old) re-aligned Field Station gates



The crowd listens to the speeches at the Opening of the new gates



An amusing moment at the Opening



The new gates in all their glory, based on a design by Michele Adler. Note the finials on the posts, that resemble the cones from the nearby *Sequoia sempervirens*.

The inclusion of lighting into new structures first began with the side posts of the Field Station Ornamental Gates in 2013, and continued into the 2018 work for the Sunken Garden ponds and Wisteria Walk, with the installation of path lighting and up-lighting of several trees on the perimeter of the space. The re-furbishment of the Sunken Garden space gave me an opportunity to re-design the planting in the raised beds, which had remained unchanged since 1989. The new design had a fragrant theme, with predominantly white flowers and was designed to provide fragrance at different times of the year, and also at night time in summer and autumn, when people would be using the space. I was pleased to experience this at my farewell evening event in March 2022, when *Cestrum nocturnum* filled the air of the Wisteria Walk and Sunken Garden with the beautiful sweet fragrance that this night blooming jasmine is well known for.

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*

The last decade of my tenure working in the Gardens gave me several other re-planting opportunities. The re-positioning of the Orchard Gates in 2013 necessitated that the bed on the inside of the Field Station (north side) be reduced in width, and also enabled the re-instatement of the 'Green Orchard Border' (north side on the inside of the gates) that Hitchmough had implemented decades earlier, and which was removed as part of the 1990s Field Station entrance gate alteration. The new, narrow northern bed on the inside of the Field station provided me with a design opportunity, and in keeping with the colour theme orchard borders on the other side of the fence, I chose a royal purple and bright orange colour planting theme for this bed. The existing *Clematis* species and cultivars on the south-facing fence were retained, with additional *Clematis* species planted to fill in any gaps on the fence. The use of different-sized metal spheres, on which to train *Hardenbergia violacea*, and 'jester hat' shaped stands on the other side on which to train hops (*Humulus lupulus*), was a new way, for the Gardens, to include sculptural elements in a bed design. The design concept of my planting, representing beach balls (the metal spheres) being pushed onto the shore by foaming surf (the silver *Senecio vira vira*), with the ocean in front represented by a ribbon-planting of purple flowering *Salvia coahuilensis*, was something I wouldn't have attempted on the other side of the Field Station fence line because of Heritage considerations. The different-sized metal spheres were also intended to provide a diminishing visual perspective as viewed when entering through the gates.

Perhaps the garden bed I am most fond of is the predominantly succulent bed on the east end of the Pond lawn. The shape of the bed, and the simple, repeated silver, blue and purple colours with seasonal red and yellow highlights of the planting look good all year round without irrigation. This was a vast improvement on what was previously a lawn area where even couch grass struggled to survive. This bed, and the Rain Garden outside the Main Building that was done around the same time, were instigated by Marrit Postema, the best gardener I was fortunate enough to work with during my time at Burnley. Marrit's ability to suggest improvements, such as to replace the proposed bitumen car park in front of the new entrance ramp to Reception with a garden bed, and her visual awareness to improve the dead-looking lawn at the end of the pond lawn, are two examples of Marrit's great ideas that have enduring value.

Once the proposal to have a garden bed rather than a parking space outside reception was mooted, Stephen Livesley, an academic staff member, in true Burnley fashion, sensed a teaching opportunity and suggested a rain garden be installed. The suggestion of Claire Farrell, another academic, of using Western Australian species, set me on the path of selecting suitable species that could tolerate periodic inundation. I also managed to hide the silver hand railing of the ramp by planting a hedge of Tuscan Blue Rosemary.

The rain garden, 2017



This third decade at Burnley, in which the garden maintenance was almost entirely done by external contract staff, proved to be highly productive. Many of the garden pathways and edges were greatly improved and updated, including the lifting and re-laying of the edging stones along the Orchard border pathway, the Wild Garden pathway and the north Carob Bed pathway, plus converting the path material to sawdust on the north side of the *Ficus obliqua*, adjacent to the Orchard Borders (another of Marrit's suggestions).

At the start of this third decade working in the Gardens, the Parkville decision to use contract staff for garden maintenance prompted me to develop a detailed maintenance schedule for the contract gardeners to follow. Quite frankly, I felt if I didn't document how, when and what to do in the Gardens, the maintenance standards would drop and the hard work I had put into the gardens would be wasted. The EXCEL spreadsheet task schedule I compiled had three versions over the decade, with the final version detailing up to 150 tasks each month, from the basic tasks of 'raking of paths once a week' (no leaf blowing allowed),

Three decades in the Burnley Gardens *by Andrew Smith*

to detailed instructions on how to prune a particular shrub. I was transferring all my learned knowledge into a document that could be relied upon to keep the Gardens looking at their best, even if the garden staff came and went in their usual fashion. It was rare for any garden contract staff, especially the good gardeners, to stay longer than a few years, so my constant re-training of the new contract staff needed a task document for them to follow.

The final, and what I consider most significant achievement of the last decade was the completion of the plant garden census. This project began in the late 2000s, with the trees being named and located on an electronic, digital map, and was then expanded in the mid and late 2010s to include all plant species in the Gardens. Never before, apart from when the trees in the Orchard were drawn on a map in the 1870s, had all plants in the Gardens, (not including the Field station) been named and GPS positioned on a map. The inclusion of photos for each plant, partially completed at the time of writing this, will develop further to become a public and teaching resource. The 4,444 shrub records (as of Dec 2021) and 850 tree records will now have a way to be updated and will be used to showcase the huge plant diversity the Gardens contain. Without the help and assistance I have had along the 15 years it took to complete the census, the huge project probably would never have been completed. The first shrub census version, completed in 2016, was almost entirely done by Jill Kellow (plant mapping) and Gregor Sanders (creator of the QGIS software map platform), the second tree and shrub revised version, using the ArcGIS Collector software platform, was almost entirely re-done in a single year, by myself and a few others and was expanded to also include other garden assets, such as water infrastructure. While I was doing the plant census plotting, it was Rachael Miller and several of her student interns who updated the base map of the Gardens, and developed the ability to incorporate named photos of individual plants. This created a plant census map that could be accessed *via* a web link, rather than having the database on a single computer or needing to download software in order to view it. A huge development in the accessibility and knowledge of what the Burnley Gardens contain.

While the galvanised steel structures of the Wisteria Arbours will endure for many, many decades to come, the lasting legacy I will leave to the Gardens is a plant census map and a gardens maintenance task schedule to help keep it looking its best.

Farewell Andrew Smith *by John Delpratt*

The breadth of Andrew's horticultural knowledge, management skill and commitment are beautifully contrasted and illustrated by the short walk from the Lily Ponds, across the Oak Lawn, past the Perennial Border, through the Native Shrub Garden and into the naturalistic Native Grasslands Garden in the south-west corner of Burnley Gardens.

The basic structure of this quiet corner of the Gardens has not changed substantially since its re-design in the early 1990s. This is a tribute to Andrew's knowledgeable and consistent management programs. However, the past decade has seen a focus on increasing the abundance and diversity of wildflowers in the more open areas north of the creek (Native Garden Ponds). Andrew has supported this program, through the consistent allocation of physical resources and staff time. This has allowed a succession of garden staff, students and academics to screen and select species combinations, and to test design and management strategies.

The result is a dynamic, functioning example of this deceptively informal 'wildflower meadow' style now being implemented more widely to enhance the biodiversity and seasonal interest of our urban public spaces.

John Delpratt



Au Revoir Andrew, from Michele Adler

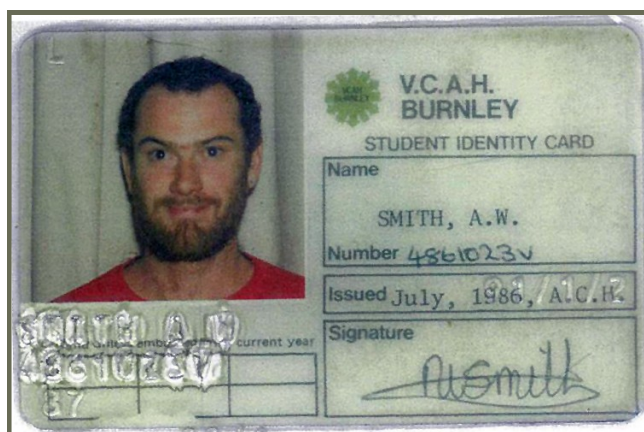


I first met Andrew when he began his horticultural studies at Burnley in the Certificate of Horticulture on day 1 of the mid-year intake of 1986. It was the beginning of my second year lecturing, and Andrew's first year at Burnley. Andrew was a mature age student, like many of our Certificate students at the time. His career up to that time had been in hospitality, as a chef. He had first worked in Bathurst, and then for six years in Cairns, where he ran a mixed food corner store and worked in seafood and Italian restaurants. Andrew's then fiancée, Julia had been appointed to the Victorian

public service, and so Andrew supported her by moving to Melbourne so that they would be together. It was also a chance for Andrew to change careers.

Andrew is a Record Breaker. Prior to Andrew, George Neilson (curator of The Gardens from 1872 – 1897), was the longest serving gardener/ Gardens Manager. At 34 years Andrew has well and truly broken that record

Andrew was a good student, and loved the new discipline. During the 80s, one of the requirements of the Certificate course was a 600 hour work experience component. Andrew approached the then Gardens Manager, Phil Tulk and negotiated to complete his 15 weeks in the Gardens at Burnley. Phil Tulk liked what he saw – a hardworking, keen, intelligent young man with plenty of staying power. He was offered six weeks of casual work. This was extended, and by the end of 1988, Andrew was appointed full time as a gardener. Andrew liked what *he* saw, and so embarked on an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture. He studied part time while he worked, and completed the Advanced Diploma in 2000.



Andrew's co-workers at the time were Rob Hardy (senior gardener) and Paula Cave (also a TAFE Certificate graduate). Gardeners came and went, but Andrew's staying power prevailed. After thirteen years, Phil Tulk retired and Andrew and Trish Mooney were appointed joint Acting Managers in 2001. I'm not sure how Andrew did it, but Trish stopped "acting" and left after six months, leaving Andrew to continue on.

Andrew deserved the job. He'd done a long apprenticeship (13 years), he knew the Gardens well, he'd done his training at Burnley and he knew how to handle the Admin staff, the Nursery staff and the Academic staff (in that order) to get things done.

Forever the mediator, with his gentle, yet persuasive and persistent manner Andrew has managed to ride out the difficult times when there was little or no budget for the Gardens. He has supported the Lecturing staff to achieve projects in the Gardens with the students.

He has been a staunch supporter of the Friends of Burnley Gardens in all their projects – big and small - over the last 15 years.

Andrew is a survivor. He has managed to dodge the mergers, the TAFE and higher education cuts and changes, the invasion by foresters and geographers and research students, the changes of Heads of Campus, deans and chancellors. Andrew is a more-than-competent Manager. However, it took quite a long time for him to stop "acting": it took management 5 years to make his appointment permanent. That was in 2006 after control of the Gardens passed to the University's Property and Campus Services.

Andrew is an achiever. He steered the Heritage listing of the Gardens in 2003. With the Friends group he organised the renovation of the Luffmann Lily ponds and the oldest building on site, the Garden Shelter. He cajoled the University to be financial partners in reinstating both of these after obtaining seeding funding from The Friends group. A new drip irrigation system was put in place during the drought, to ensure the health of some of the larger trees. He has installed water tanks to harvest water off the buildings. The re-shingling of the mud brick rotunda in the Native Garden was another of Andrew's projects.

Andrew is a Record Breaker. Prior to Andrew, George Neilson (curator of The Gardens from 1872 – 1897), was the longest serving gardener/Gardens Manager. At 34 years Andrew has well and truly broken that record.

Andrew is quietly determined, clearly an achiever, an excellent manager, a wily negotiator, a clever survivor, and a record breaker. He gets things done.

Andrew, congratulations on your 34 years at Burnley Gardens.

The Burnley Guides Report *by Judith Scurfield*



Would you like to learn more about the history and development of our beautiful heritage-listed Burnley Gardens, and then pass on your insights to visitors? If so, you might like to join our small bunch of friendly Guides, who take tours of the Gardens for small or large groups.

Informal training is given with more experienced Guides, and we meet regularly to discuss future programmes and new things we have been learning about Burnley Gardens. We also make occasional visits ourselves to notable gardens.

If you are interested, please contact Judith Scurfield on 0416237464 or email judithscurfield@yahoo.

We are extremely sorry to know that Andrew Smith is leaving Burnley, after more than 30 years. He has always been a tremendous support to us, and was often called on to help with tours, sometimes at short notice. It was reassuring to think that we might be able to ask Andrew the answer to a curly question, for help in identifying a plant which a visitor pointed out, or for some recollection of events in the gardens. When new or returning Guides wanted to brush up on their knowledge, we would always suggest that they go on any tour or excursion which Andrew was taking - he has always been such a fount of information! Thank you for all your help, Andrew.

The Burnley Guides have continued to keep in touch with each other from the end of 2021, when we had one tour in November (Port Phillip U3A). Another part of this obviously active, and garden-minded organisation, has booked another tour for March, and Deepdene U3A, also a very active group, is coming in May. The City of Stonnington "Engaged" program also plans to arrange one or more tours, so we hope to welcome them soon. Then for October, we have been asked by the Herb Society of Victoria to arrange some tours for their international conference, which is being held at Burnley. We hope that special tours like this may again become part of our program, with some specially themed activities, although we do have to inform groups that we cannot take them to the Green Roof, as it is awkward to access through the staff area.

We were sorry to learn that one of our members, Robin Calabrese, can no longer take part in our activities. We thank her very sincerely for her help and enthusiasm over a number of years, and wish her well for the future.

Judith Scurfield
Burnley Guides

Membership Report by Cheryl Andrews - Membership Coordinator

I would like to wish Andrew Smith, the Operations and Garden Manager at the Burnley Campus a happy retirement. Andrew has been a backbone of support and advice to me over my years on the committee of FOBG. He has helped the propagation group and guided us with sound advice. Also he taught me how to make the many plant identification labels you see around the gardens at the base of many plants. He even fixed the engraver when it played up. I will miss his quiet manner, his vast store of knowledge and of course, Andrew's Plant of the Week segment on the Website.

Andrew has been a member of the FOBG since September 2002 and an Honorary Life Member since 2016. He has been working at Burnley for the past 34 years – a life time of service. We have seen many beautiful additions to the gardens and sympathetic and necessary repairs under his guidance.

I wish him and Julia a very happy and interesting retirement with lots of travel and adventures



Since the previous Papyrus Newsletter No 75 in Spring 2021, our membership has increased to 218 members. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 13 new members who have recently joined our group. Thanks to all our loyal members for their con-

tinuing support and involvement in our activities which have mainly been via Zoom meeting over the past months but are now returning to in person meetings.

The 20 Year Club

There are 2 more members of the 20 Year Club for the period from January – March 2002. They are Barb Brooks and Catherine Trinca. Congratulations Barb and Catherine

Books for Sale – Contact Cheryl Andrews

There is a selection of gardening books for sale; details are listed on the website. The proceeds of the book sales go towards garden projects at Burnley. If you are interested in having a look at a particular book before purchasing, please email me at:

friends.burnley@gmail.com and I will arrange to meet you at Burnley Campus and show you the book.

Membership Report *by Cheryl Andrews - continued*

Books can be purchased on line, then you can collect them at Burnley at a predetermined day and time. Or you can pay cash when you collect them. Please note that collection time must be organised in advance.

The Propagation Group

The Propagation Group is gradually returning to Bunley Campus to maintain and care for the plants after an absence of many months. Currently we don't have a coordinator and are lacking a bit of direction for our planning and planting activities. Do you have experience / an interest in plant propagation? Would you be interested in guiding the group? The Nursery at Burnley Campus provides us with access to excellent propagating facilities. We are also seeking new recruits to the group. The only requirement is an interest in plants. An induction to the Nursery and training on propagation will be provided. If you are interested please contact us via the email: friends.burnley@gmail.com

Some nice feedback (below) that arrived via email in reply to an invitation to Andrew's farewell

From: Angela Rodd <marodd@ozemail.com.au>
Date: Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 11:48 pm
To: sandra mcmahon <gardenscape@bigpond.com>
Subject: Re: Andrew Smith Farewell Party 25th March - RSVP next Monday!

Dear Sandra,

Thank you for the invitation to the farewell party for Andrew Smith next Friday evening. Unfortunately we are unable to attend due to a prior engagement.

We have walked through the Gardens most mornings for the past ten years and we never fail to be soothed and inspired by their beauty. Andrew's dedication, skill and knowledge are in evidence everywhere. We consider ourselves very lucky to have known the Gardens under his unique directorship.

Please convey to Andrew our appreciation for his years of service and our warmest good wishes for his retirement. He will be greatly missed.

With kind regards,
Michael and Angela Rodd

Farewell and thank you to Andrew Smith from Jane Wilson, manager, Burnley Campus Archives

When I put my hand up to replace Joss Tonkin as the Burnley Campus Archivist I didn't know Andrew very well at all and could not have imagined how important his support and friendship would be to me. When I took over the position the University did not have much of a role in the management of the Archives but with Andrew's leadership the University became much more aware of their importance and they have become one of the official Cultural Collections.

The first thing we did was transfer the archival collection from the Centennial Building (Dairy) to a much safer space in the Administration Building. He had managed to persuade the authorities to convert the virtually unused Print Room to a new Archive Office to be shared with the Friends of Burnley Gardens and later the Herb Society. This space had originally been the men's changing rooms and Andrew managed to convert what remained of them into an office for the FOBG and locked storage for the Archives. He proved to be a diplomatic negotiator between me and Jamie Pearson who also laid claim to the room to store all his dead computers and other paraphernalia.

I don't know what I will do now when I find something new in the Archive Collection that I don't understand. His wealth of knowledge of 30+ years at Burnley has been so important in developing the Burnley Archive Collection. My thanks Andrew for all your support and encouragement.

From then on I got to know Andrew and picked up on his intense enthusiasm for restoring the Burnley Gardens to their former glory. We would spend hours pouring over old photographs, plans and documents as we tried to piece together some of the forgotten history of the Gardens. Andrew used this source material for managing the design and plant selection for the Gardens and for the restoration projects financed by the Friends of Burnley Gardens and the University.

During the process of cataloguing the photographs and documents I was able to challenge some of the myths surrounding the early days of the Gardens and the College. Each time I found something new I would talk to him about it and when Michèle Adler became involved with rewriting the history of the Gardens we would all go outside into the Gardens and try to prove what I had found out and then discover more together. During this time the Burnley Archive Collection grew as Andrew cleared out old office space and other enthusiastic people donated material. If I needed more lockable cabinets, Andrew would find them for me. The last thing we did together was to revisit a shed full of old gardening equipment and Andrew brought up an old lawnmower, seeder, pitch forks, etc. to safely store in the Archives.

Congratulations Andrew - *from Paula Cave*



Firstly, Congratulations Andrew on 34 Years at Burnley.

We began our journeys at Burnley at a similar time. I remember being nervous about being part of an all male team. I really appreciated how you made me feel welcomed and supported at the time. Your easy going attitude has always made you very approachable, and a good friend over the years. I wasn't surprised when you moved into the garden manager's role - well done!

We had so many fun times with our team in the 90's. Some of the highlights were developing the grasslands area, replanting the herb garden and the dreaded digging out of the ponds. No matter how arduous or messy the task, we always seemed to do our work with a sense of jovial fun. Andrew would be in the "thick of the mud" with full enthusiasm, keeping us all going. On the pond dig we did lose one of our precious stainless steel shovels, not sure who misplaced it (not me)!!! Years later it was uncovered when the ponds were cleaned out again, Andrew remembering how it was lost years ago!

Some fond memories were our special lunches out in the gardens with "Freddy the mechanic" who would share his gifts of appreciation with us. These relaxed times were a great way of developing our friendships even further. On one occasion I can remember Andrew sharing with us his inability to skip! Well, it became our mission to teach him, after all, what are friends for? He would have us in fits of laughter as he tried to skip down the paths with what seemed like two left feet, until he finally got better. I do hope you have been practising this skill over the years Andrew!

Your knowledge of plants and the gardens will make you a hard person to replace after 34 years. Your easy going approachable persona, that welcomed and supported me so many years ago will surely be missed. I'm so glad to see you moving into the next journey of your life. Burnley will always hold a special place in your heart as it has in mine.

All the best in your retirement.
x Paula



Replanting the herb garden

The early days—digging out the ponds



Above : Phil Tulk and Paula in full digging mode. Below, Andrew filling the trailer





Phil and Andrew. Who has the most mud on their waterproofs?
Thanks to Paula Cave for these photos.

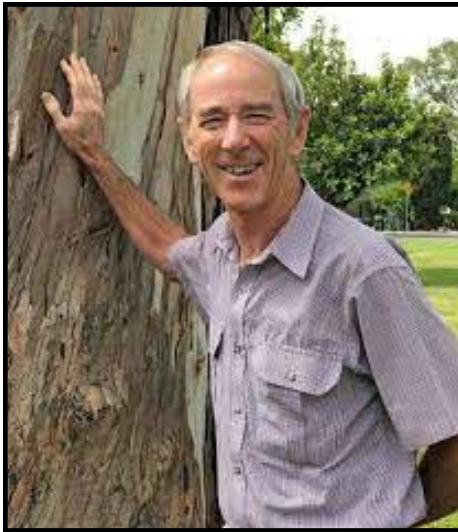
Climate change, according to Andrew, as remembered by Jill Kellow

I think it was during a car trip to somewhere, that Andrew explained his view of Climate Change. It went something like this:

“ Humans are very ingenious. Climate change is like a car careering out of control down a hill. Half way down the hill, someone invents a brake.”

Always calm, thoughtful and reasonable. It's a comforting thought. I hope he is right.

Andrew's legacy—by Greg Moore



I remember Andrew Smith coming to work at Burnley. I think it was yesterday, but apparently 34 years have passed. It was 1988 and I was Acting Principal and not sure then that I would be in the role for very long. I was interested in everything that was happening at the time but we also had an eye to Burnley's Centenary celebrations: just a few years off. The grounds and gardens would be featured and so we were keen to have a good gardening team.

Andrew was a great addition to the Burnley group. He was knowledgeable, quiet, determined and he worked well with Phil Tulk our Gardens Manager at the time. We had plans and needed people willing to give things - and new things - a go. We also wanted people who would try something new and make it work, or recognise that it hadn't and be prepared to give it another crack. Andrew has always been terrific at this sort of thing and you knew he would come through.

I was delighted when Andrew filled Phil Tulk's role, when Phil departed to further his career. These were difficult times as the University was taking things over and we were very unsure about how things would go and who, if any of us, would survive for long. Andrew kept positive, with his eyes firmly on making the most of the gardens and his time with them. I am guessing that only he, Phil and I now remember the arguments and battles that we had over a number of years with Buildings and Grounds to maintain a level of autonomy and the high horticultural standards at Burnley.

Eventually, we bought enough time for people to recognise the importance of our site and its history and the expertise and dedication that Andrew and his team brought to their management. The gardens had been through some tough times too, but under Andrew's loving eye they were a splendid place to be, study and research. As you wandered through the gardens there was always something new to see – the gardens both progressed and were thoughtfully and appropriately renewed.

Plants are not the only thing with which Andrew works well. He was good with people and had a fine rapport with his colleagues, students and researchers. He led a fine team in the gardens that recognised and had confidence in the importance of what they were doing. Over his many years at Burnley he worked with, assisted, guided and counselled many in their horticultural journeys to successful careers.

I have enjoyed working with Andrew now in many capacities for 34 years. When I was Principal, he knows that I loved being involved in tree replacement and management. We both wanted the gardens to be a splendid place not just now but in 100-150 years time. These discussions have continued long after I retired, and indeed up to the present. I am always delighted to see the expanded collection of araucarias, the replacement *Pinus canariensis* and other tree specimens that Andrew has nurtured, growing so beautifully in just the right places.

I trusted Andrew not only in his management of the gardens but as a colleague during some of those rough and difficult times dealing with Parkville. His quiet determination and focus on getting the job done was crucial in saving the positions of some of his colleagues and the quality of Burnley Gardens. He was and is highly respected by all who have worked with him. Andrew's legacy can be seen all around us at Burnley Gardens.



Part of the mature Burnley tree canopy. Many who attended Andrew's farewell remarked that the gardens have never looked better.

Farewell to Andrew Smith *by John Rayner*



I'm sure you are all aware of this by now, but Andrew Smith is retiring after 34 years of service in the Burnley Gardens. Firstly, a bit of history. Andrew was initially employed as a Landscape Gardener in 1988, when the Burnley Gardens were one of the six campuses in Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture (VCAH). Andrew was supervised by Gardens Manager Phil Tulk and worked with a crew of gardeners including Rob Hardy and Paula Cave and apprentices Pam, Daryl

and John. In 1997 Burnley was taken over by the University of Melbourne, becoming part of the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture. During this time and over later years Andrew worked with gardeners Martin Stevens, Chris Findlay, Tim O'Callahan, Robin Haylett and Trish Mooney. In 2001 Andrew took over as Gardens Manager although it wouldn't be until 2004 when he was finally confirmed as the Gardens Coordinator.



Andrew with the team under Phil Tulk. L-R Andrew, Robin, Phil, Paula and Marty. *Thanks to Paula Cave for the photo.*

The Burnley Gardens became part of University Campus Services in 2005, transferring from the then Institute of Land and Food Resources (ILFR), and Andrew had his first University of Melbourne supervisor, Wayne Williams. In 2011 external contractors were engaged to partly maintain the gardens; in 2015 this was extended across the entire site when the last University-employed gardener was made redundant. Andrew's role changed again in 2017, when, to save money, the University combined the separate Gardens and Buildings Coordinator roles into one and Andrew was appointed as Operations Officer at the Burnley Campus. A position he still holds today! Secondly, celebrating and acknowledging such a rich contribution of Andrew's is not a small task although reading through the Annual Reports of the Burnley Gardens from the last 20 years has certainly helped. An indication of Andrew's work is simply the length of these, changing from a few pages in the early 2000s' to more than 20 pages in 2018! However, there are five areas over the last 34 years that have defined Andrew's impact and legacy:

Irrigation and water management.

While the millennium drought is now a bit of a memory, the period from 2001-2009 was the driest ever in south-east Australia and forced severe restrictions on all landscape irrigation. I well remember the gardeners at Burnley in the 1990s' and early 2000s' spending entire summers dragging long hoses and sprinklers to keep plants alive, with the lawns browning off for months. Andrew fundamentally changed this by modernising the irrigation systems and planning for more efficient water management on site, including extensive rainfall harvesting. There is now storage capacity of 1 million litres of water at Burnley and plans for major works that could reduce the dependency on potable water for irrigation.

Tree care and tree management.

The scale of tree works, including pruning, removals and health interventions, that Andrew has overseen over the last 20 years is truly staggering. Not to mention the extensive new plantings and replacements of significant trees. Without these works we would not have the treescape, nor the healthy tree population, that we currently have in the gardens.

New garden projects, in partnership with the Friends of Burnley Gardens.

There are simply too many garden projects to mention here that Andrew has delivered, they include heritage restoration works, such as the Luffmann Lily Ponds and Sunken Garden, through to major new works, such as the Orchard gates, Wisteria Walk, Rain Garden and Swan Street entrance.

Most of these projects have been supported by the FOBG. The relationship that Andrew has cultivated with the Friends has been extraordinary and one that is envied across the University. These have helped to define the gardens, an amazing legacy.

Burnley plant census and maintenance schedule.

Over the last few years, mapping of plants across the gardens has been a major focus of work for Andrew, one that he is still working on! Coupled with this more recently has been updating the schedule of maintenance across all the site, again an extensive and significant task. These are extraordinary resources and will greatly assist the new Operations Officer on campus.

A culture of engagement with staff, students and the broader public.

A defining feature of Andrew's management has been his readiness to work collaboratively with everyone, from helping academics with practical classes through to new outreach initiatives. In 2013 we had the 150th anniversary of the gardens and in 2016 the 125th anniversary of horticultural education; Andrew was critical to both being really successful with high levels of public and alumni engagement. Then there have been open days, pruning days, summer schools, plant fairs and more, without Andrew none of these would have been possible.

Finally, when Andrew took over the role of Gardens Coordinator in the early 2000's it would be fair to say that things on campus were a little chaotic. Gardens maintenance budgets were frozen, casual staff were being used to replace departing gardeners and academic programs were in a state of flux. With little fuss Andrew took on managing the gardens, including for several years without any proper recognition. I think this is a real measure of him as a person and a leader, he simply moved on and got things done.

There have been periods over the last 20 years when to quote one of Andrew's reports 'the standard of horticulture in the gardens has declined'. But this is not the case over the last ten years. The gardens look renewed and refreshed, comments noted regularly via social media; largely because of Andrew's attention to detail and sheer persistence, particularly in working the staff to get high quality results. It's incredible to me that he has been able to successfully navigate the bureaucracy that is the University to achieve these outcomes and still be a really nice bloke! Andrew has always been respectful of maintaining the heritage of the place, but has worked hard to make positive improvements, a balance that can be difficult to achieve. Despite having the title of Operations Officer, Andrew is first and foremost a gardens curator in the truest sense of the word, a custodian of the Burnley Gardens and its legacy.



34 years—is that the same tractor? Thanks to Stefan Arndt for this great image.

All of us on campus will miss Andrew, indeed it's hard to imagine the gardens without him in it. I'm sure he is looking forward to new opportunities and I wish him all the very best of luck for the future.

Associate Professor John Rayner, Director of Urban Horticulture

Burnley Graduate of the Month—*Sandi Pullman April 2022*

As many of the achievements Andrew has listed in the later years of his long career were supported by the Friends of Burnley Gardens, it seemed appropriate that our Graduate of the Month for this Newsletter should be the founder of the Friends!



Years at Burnley:

9 years, 1991-1994 1995-1998, 2003-2006

Course studied:

Advanced Certificate in Horticulture; Diploma of Applied Science Horticulture and Bachelor of Applied Science Horticulture Honours

I was very lucky, as when I applied to do horticulture through TAFE. Burnley was the closest institution to

Clifton Hill where I lived at the time, and my application went there.

Favourite subject:

Plant Identification

Favourite plant: *Corymbia ficifolia* syn. *Eucalyptus ficifolia*

I decided to go to Burnley because:

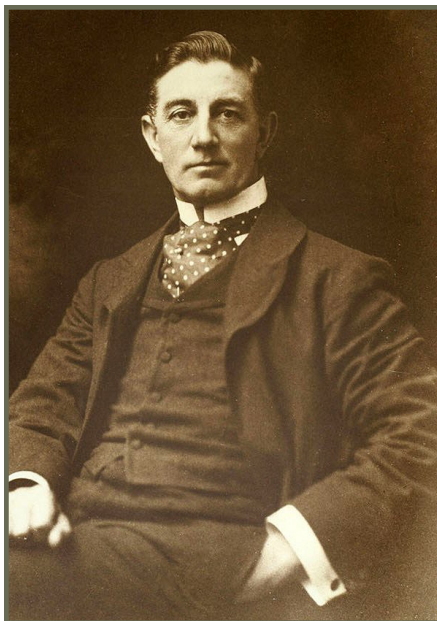
I was a bit lost, didn't know what I wanted to do (was in my late 20s) or what I was good at. I wanted to have a job outside, working with nature, and that was something I considered valuable. Little did I know that Burnley would give me much much more. At the time, in the 1990s, Burnley offered articulation from the TAFE courses to the Diploma or Degrees. Very clever.

I was able to give back to Burnley by initiating the Friends of Burnley gardens (the idea came from a Parks and Gardens lecture by Geoff Olive,), and by nominating Burnley to the Victorian Heritage register.

Since I graduated from Burnley I have:

I have developed my interest in garden history, especially the early staff and students of Burnley. I completed a Master of Architecture (Research) at Deakin University, on the successful horticultural lobbyist Ina Higgins who lobbied twice to have women admitted as formal student to Burnley in 1899 and then again in 1911.

Am at present doing a PhD in Architecture at Deakin University on Charles Bogue Luffman's (Burnley's first Principal 1897 to 1908) contribution to horticultural education at Burnley and in Victoria at the turn of the twentieth century.

Employment Highlights have been:**Research assistant** for Dr. J. Zeunert (UNSW) book on *Foodscapes of Sydney***Volunteer Research assistant** for former Burnley lecturer Michele Adler, who is writing a new book on Burnley entitled: *Burnley Gardens: their design and the people who loved them*. I contributed information on Ina Higgins, Charles Bogue Luffman and the other early women students.**Government House** – Maintaining the Governor's Kitchen Garden**Lend-A-Hand**, Supervisor for Work for the Dole – Completed a new Community Vegetable Garden**Winning the Victorian Community History Awards 2014** – *Historical Interpretation* Award for the Garden at La Trobe's Cottage**Gardening Australia, ABC TV – Program Assistant** – Horticultural adviser answering TV's emails. It was a fantastic way to learn more about other plants in Australia.**Invited to contribute to The Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens** – Olive Mellor

Two of Sandi's subjects: Charles Bogue Luffman (left) and Ina Higgins (right)

Horticultural Journalism Highlights have been:**Contributed many articles**, mainly on students and staff of Burnley to the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) journal since 2010**invited by the AGHS to review the book:** *Wonder 175 Years of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria***Contributed vegetable articles** to Vasili's Garden to Kitchen Garden Magazine since 2010**Contributed articles to The Age Saturday Extra – Gardening Section** on heritage parks and gardens.

3 DECADES AT BURNLEY *by Andrew Smith—the shorter version*

We thought you might like to read this less formal version of Andrew's 34 years, which he wrote as a speech for his farewell!

1. 1988-1998

My first decade at Burnley was a mixture of working and studying the Ass Dip, it was a care-free time, with few work responsibilities. It was a time when I emerged myself in learning the horticulture trade and where I had incredible access and mentoring by all the horticultural giants of Burnley's teaching staff. I have fond memories of working with Paula when I first started and later with Marti, planting up the quads and replanting the sunken garden the night before Garden week opened the next morning. It was also a period vastly different to what was to come, not only in terms of the sheer number of staff who were employed but also because it pre-dated the new computer technology age and work methods that was about to transform the entire world. For instance, when I started, we got paid cash in little brown envelopes and had to punch a time clock card each morning, before 7.45am, and record our departure at 4.21pm. There was a full suite of staff to support the archaic regime, and most staff had more than one role, or at least we asked to do so. So, the carpenter, Cal was also a builder, the mechanic, Fred Taylor, was a plumber (me no dig!) and a metal worker as well. (Fred made the nursery potting benches). Even lecturers had dual roles, like Ed Smart, the EHS officer, who set up the chemical store and roamed around condemning unsafe machinery, like the un-guarded branch shredder/chipper. Carpenter Cal, built the walkway between the student building and Plant science labs and also renovated all the bathrooms in the main building, including doing the tiling. There was a typist, a printer, a handyman, a full time student union rep, a part time student councillor, plus a welfare officer, and we had a book shop that sold hort tools and processed the film for the student plant ID photos we took for our plant materials classes. And we also had greasy chips made by Mike, who drove a pimped-up BMW.

Some of those horticultural giants I referred to earlier included, James Hitchmough, Geoff Olive, Peter May, Ian Winstone, Greg Moore and, a literal giant, Phil Kenyon. Phil was part of the large contingent of arboricultural teaching staff and was famous, as well as infamous, for all sorts of things, mostly relating to trees and student excursions. Because of the teaching student pracs, the trees in the Gardens got intensive scrutiny for any fault and potential failure issues. This has put the gardens in the fantastic position we are in today with our trees, where all the problems for potential failure were identified and remedied.

That's the main reason, when we have severe storms, the trees remain remarkably intact.

2. 1999-2009

The next decade, 1999-2009, couldn't have been more different. If the previous decade was carefree, this decade was arduous and edgy. There was a mass exodus of staff, including my boss Phil Tulk at the start of 2001 and the VCAH management and Parkville PSC were negotiating the transfer of responsibility of the gardens. There was a funding freeze on the gardens budget, \$15K per annum, and any garden staff that left could only be replaced by casuals. I remained on higher duties for years doing the garden manager role until Peter May and Mary Cox stuck their heads out for me to be appointed as the gardens co-ordinator. To make matters worse, the millennium drought had really started to take hold. The gardens were totally unprepared for the water restrictions that incrementally restricted water use. All the water infrastructure, apart from a wonderful, new (1992), dual feed mains supply, one from the soccer field, the other from Swan Street, that Greg managed to get installed. The rest of the irrigation infrastructure was all structured around leaking, rusted pipes, taps, hoses and sprinklers that Freddy had made in the 1990s. There was a couple of automated shrub spray systems and several automated watered lawns, all of which couldn't be used in the water restrictions set in place. I had to start from scratch, installing drip irrigation, new irrigation controllers and solenoids, plus a water line to run them, over the entire garden. It was amazing we lost so few plants in the 3 years it took me to complete the process. This was the start of my water reduction focus, that took consumption from 30 million litres, to the record lower of below 10 million in 2020. Water tank installation, storm water run-off harvesting and water meter installation, I had a great time pushing the campus into the 21st century.

This decade had a whole range of new record keeping and projects. I used the recommendations of the Conservation management plan, and the heritage listing to start the long process of implementing the key findings from the CMP.

The purchase of the plant label machine, by a fortuitous left over funding of TAFE grant funding, organised with Nick Dudley, enabled me to quickly roll out hundreds of new plant labels that people often appreciated. I also started the dream of getting all the plants named and located on a map in the gardens, this took 15 yr to complete, with it just been completed last year. This plant census project never really ends, with new functionality, abilities and plant photos still either to be done or thought about.

This decade was when I started to plant trees, or just left them where they had self-sown, if it was something useful to replace an existing tree with.

3 DECADES AT BURNLEY by Andrew Smith—the shorter version

3. 2010-2021

This FOBG funding was soon to ramp up in the 3rd decade, when huge, expensive, amazing infrastructure projects were installed, either solely funded by the Friends or in partnership with the Uni. The decade began with the drought breaking, just after the ponds had been done and with celebrations for the 150th of the Gardens opening in 2013, other great projects like the Sugar Gum table, and the ornamental gates into the field station were done to mark the occasion.

More was to come, in 2018 the Wisteria Arbor and Sunken Garden ponds, plus re-doing the paving, were also achieved through the FOBG.

With gardens maintenance operations being outsourced to external contractors, I felt I needed to detail how, where and what was needed to be done. I've had three goes at this, it's a large thing, about 12,500 individual garden tasks that are needed to be done each year. This has been refined, and will be used for the next round of contract maintenance tendering coming up this year.

So, what have the major accomplishments been?

The water infrastructure and combating the drought, creating plant labels, making a garden brochure, installing interpretive signs, working constantly with the Friends to build or renovate the Luffmann ponds, provide outdoor garden furniture, Sugar Gum table setting, ornamental gates, Wisteria Walkway, Wisteria Arbor (twice), the water-proofing of the sunken garden ponds, the paving of the Wisteria Walk and Sunken Garden.

Creating the plant census, making a gardens work schedule, re-developing the Grasslands Garden, persisting with the publishing of a book on Burnley's designers. Helping develop the garden walk App, planting trees, re-doing the rock terraces at Swan Street and planting up Sandra McMahon's design and developing an arboretum in the lagoon paddock. Probably my only unfinished project was to implement the lagoon paddock wetland, that would provide all the irrigation needs to the gardens and nursery, saving the uni 80% of the yearly water consumption usage.

Not goodbye but *au revoir* Andrew!



Andrew with his favourite tree. Thanks to Michele Adler for this photo.

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

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