



Papyrus

No. 78. Summer 2022

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

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President's Report

Welcome to our Summer 2022-3 edition of *Papyrus* – it's tempting to say "Welcome back to Winter"! Whilst being disdained by some as the domain of poor conversationalists, commenting on the weather is always excusable and acceptable amongst gardeners!

What our experience ultimately will be after a third *la niña* remains to be seen. One thing is for sure right now however: Burnley Gardens (and our own home gardens) have arguably never looked lusher or more burgeoning!

Once again, you're in for a treat with this latest edition of *Papyrus*! As always, congratulations to our indefatigable editor Jill Kellow for all her efforts to chase interesting copy, and to present everything so enticingly!

May I draw your attention in particular to Dr. Claire Farrell's article '*Behind the Fedge*', and to Dr. Greg Moore's latest article on the risks associated with tree lopping, also to Jane Wilson's most interesting article on early teaching methods at Burnley, based on archival research.

There are also our usual reports on recent events, as well as our latest 'Burnley Graduate Profile'*, reports from the Membership Secretary, and from the Burnley Guides and of course from our Director of Gardens Sascha Andrusiak.

* incidentally, if you missed No. 19: August 2022, on IAN SHEARS, find it on our website <http://www.fobg.org.au/blog/burnley-graduate-of-the-month/> - great reading!

President's Report *continued*

Despite ongoing Covid-related factors, the Committee continues to honour our commitment to provide our membership with a variety of regular events. As restrictions on gatherings have eased, we have felt more able to arrange 'live' events, while respecting the preference of some members for online access to talks. A good example was my own talk on Landscape Design in Belgium, which followed our AGM back in August.



Photo by James Wurz

We made a decision for this event to be staged as face-to-face only, because of perceived concerns being expressed by many organisations about the *loss of community and social connection* since Covid started dominating our lives.

So, while you may not have had the choice on the night, you can actually now view this recorded talk on our website, by following the links to the 'Members Only' section. **(Password for members is: SecretGarden)**

So, what's been happening at Burnley?

Also held in **August** was our regular 'Winter Pruning Workshop', conducted very generously by **Chris England** of **Merrywood Plants**. This workshop was very

President's Report *continued*

well attended, and as always proved to be a good money-raiser for FOBG.

In **September** two current Ph.D students from the University of Melbourne Burnley Campus, Zahra Saraeian and Dean Schrieke, gave really fascinating reports on their research topics: '***Australian Annuals for Green Roof Use***' and '***Spontaneous Plants on Roofs***'. Whilst attendee numbers were not high, these talks were very enthusiastically received. We greatly appreciate the contributions of John Rayner and Claire Farrell in suggesting and facilitating these presentations.



Photo Jo Wilkins

October was a busy month for FOBG: Jo Wilkins, alias 'The Palm Lady', spoke on '***Growing Palms in Melbourne***'.

President's Report *continued*

Then on Saturday 15 October a **Bird-spotting walk** led by Megan Griffith and friends from '**Birding Victoria**' was held at Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. I urge you to consider participating in our next Birding event – the feedback is always fantastic! See more on Page 12.

In **November** we were delighted to welcome Henry Fried and Mary Trumble from **Backyard Honey**. This event – largely in a Q & A format with samplings and sales – was really successful! There is so much enthusiasm all around the world now for bees and their inestimable contribution to our environment.

Our final event for the year was the annual '**Summer Pruning Workshop**' (traditionally conducted on the first Saturday of December). As always this workshop was very well attended, and we thank Chris England from Merrywood Plants once again for his generosity.

What's coming up:

Our proposed first event for 2023 is our traditional Valentines' Day Dinner in the Gardens. As the 14th February is a Tuesday, we have agreed to hold this event on **Sunday 12 February**. This is always a beautiful event, where we dine under lights in the Wisteria Arbour. Our guest speaker for the evening is Burnley alumnus **Bill Bampton**. Bill is the Head Gardener at **Heronswood** on the Mornington Peninsula. To his many followers on Instagram he needs little introduction! Plantsman, innovator, wit and history dabbler: this will be an evening not to be missed. Details, along with the 2023 programme will be sent out shortly to all members.

As always, I wish to thank our very hard-working and dedicated Committee for all that they do behind the scenes: Jacquie Chirgwin, Kirsten Binns, Andrea Bendrups, Jill Kellow, Cheryl Andrews, Dianne Cranston, Dianne Beddison, Christine Morrissey, Susan Murphy, Sascha Andrusiak

May I conclude by wishing you all a joyful Christmas Season – and joy, as well, as we wave goodbye to our very extended Winter!

Sandra McMahon.

Vale Carol Ferguson

Sandra received the following sad letter earlier in the year from the husband of long-time member Carol Ferguson, to let us know that Carol had passed away.

The letter reads:

“Dear Sandra,

Carol passed away on July 20th. Carol had a blood condition for over thirty years which developed into Leukaemia last year. Carol was in hospital for most of her last three months. There was no pain associated with Carol’s illness, she just got progressively weaker. Carol handled her fate with amazing dignity, and died peacefully with her family around her.”

Vale Carol. We hope to have an obituary for Carol in the next edition.



Evening stroll in the Sunken Garden

From the Gardens by *Sascha Andrusiak*



Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to bring you our end of year report for our beloved gardens!

This year has been a year of great change for the gardens, its plants, and devoted horticulturalists. As many of you would be aware, our Gardens Manager Mr Andrew Smith retired in April and I took the reins from his very capable hands.

Andrew then left Melbourne for Cairns but was always available to me for any questions I may have had (and they were plentiful). With the patience and charm of a true gentleman, he has been there for me through the whole transition, even when just his promise to do so allowed me to feel confident to make my own big decisions.

We also had a change in contract management for our gardens and there has been some settling in required. We were blessed to be able to keep two of our stellar Horticulturalists, Sam Zitkevicius and Maria Brandani, through the contract change. Sam and Maria, with our new apprentice Will, have been champions throughout this year of transition and have kept the gardens looking excellent. Their schedule is full and varied, with the broad pallet of plants we grow requiring individual attention to detail at the species level. I am always so proud of their work and their devotion to the Burnley Gardens.



Cosmos 'Garden Yellow'

Another different and unusual player in the gardens this year has been the weather, specifically *La Nina* and all her resplendent rainfall. The gardens have not seen such a level of moisture for many years and the plants are absolutely loving it (for the most part). With some judicious feeding, the growth and flowering has been exceptional, but when the lawns are growing super-fast and are too wet to mow most days, what can you do? You must have excellent timing and hope for some leniency from the stakeholders!!!

From the Gardens *by Sascha Andrusiak continued*

Regarding projects, we have our new wisteria arbor up (thanks to the FOBG) and supporting the regrowth of our salvaged *Wisteria chinensis* (now in its second bloom) opposite the main building. The Hilda Kirkhope rockery is slowly transforming with the addition of sumptuous hellebores, butter yellow cosmos and *Papaver rhoeas* varieties in shades of slatey mauve and red.

Our rose gardens are still under reconstruction but are absolutely smothered in deep purple, blue and pale pink blooms – at the height of aquilegia time I felt like I was wading through a sea of dancing fairies!



Papaver rhoeas 'Amazing Grey'

Our grasslands shone brightly this year with lots of early Milk Maids, Bulbines and Xerochrysums a plenty. I was absolutely delighted to find *Ptilotus* wending their fluffy way across the pathways – what a brilliant show!



Ptilotus sp.



Hakea sp., a feast for the bees.

The Burnley Guides Report *by Judith Scurfield*



The second part of 2022 has been among the busiest periods we have known, with a total of 12 groups taken through the Gardens between August and October. Two of these groups were from conferences: the Herb Society of Victoria whose conference was held at Burnley over two days, and the Botanic Gardens Volunteers Conference hosted by the RBG Melbourne, with a group coming to Burnley as part of a day excursion. Tours such as these are rewarding, as we get to meet like-minded people with a passion for gardens, with whom we can exchange enthusiasm and ideas.

But so too are groups from smaller organisations such as garden clubs, who usually make up the bulk of our tours. This year has been unusual in that two events were organised by the University of Melbourne to introduce staff, stakeholders and members of the public to Burnley. The first was for a group of about 24 young staff members of the Faculty of Science, mainly based at Parkville and not familiar with the Burnley Campus. The second event was a garden party and panel discussion evening as part of the “Science at Melbourne” lecture series, and there were possibly 150 people attending and coming on our tours! That was a logistical challenge for us, but with a bit of strategic locating of our six Guides round the Gardens, and a double-run for Kirsten and Sue, we think we kept the visitors on track and interested for about 45 minutes. Fortunately the weather was very fine and sunny that afternoon, unlike much of Melbourne’s recent weather.

We have not had to abandon any tours due to storms or heavy rain, but we do have a slide-show created by Jane Wilson which we could put on inside the Administration Building if the weather really defeated us. All these tours have brought in quite considerable revenue, including from the University, which is extremely welcome and helps support many projects in the Gardens.

The Guides have had one excursion to visit another garden - Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn, where we were given a very good tour by an experienced horticulturist but new guide. We understood her situation well, and were pleased to be her “guinea-pigs”! Next year we plan to visit Williamstown Botanic Gardens, Newport Lakes, and perhaps other public parks or gardens.

Thank you very much to the small band of stalwarts: Jane, Chris, Sue, Kirsten, Leesa, and Barb who take the tours, and to Michèle and Sascha for their guidance and advice.

Membership and Propagation Group Report *by Cheryl Andrews*

Since the previous Papyrus Newsletter No 77 in Winter 2022, our membership has increased to 205. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new member who has recently joined our group. It is good to see members in person as we resume face to face events at the Burnley Campus.

Members of the 20 Year Club

There are 3 more 20 Year members for the period from April – July 2002. They are Winonah Cunningham, Sandra McMahon, and Dr John Dwyer QC, Well done all, and thanks for your loyal support.



Propagation Group

The Propagation Group is meeting regularly again on Wednesdays. New members are always welcome to join the group, the only requirement is an interest in plants. An induction to the Nursery, and training on propagation will be provided.

Kirsten Binns Smith has donated and restored a Miners Barrow, which was then painted by Andrea Bendrups, We are using this for pop up plant sales. Each Wednesday the barrow is filled with plants for sale and located near reception. The plant pots are priced and there is an honour system with a small money box in the barrow for payments. So if you are in the gardens come and see what plants we have for sale and possibly purchase some for your garden at home. We had a successful plant sale on Saturday 8 th October in conjunction with the Australian and New Zealand Herb Conference which was held at Burnley Campus.

*If you are interested in joining us, please contact us via the Friends email:
friends.burnley@gmail.com*

The tale of a wheelbarrow...

How to sell plants when we aren't having a plant sale! An old miners' barrow put to good use—and it looks so glamorous!





Sascha's dramatic photo of the Field Station Gates, taken in winter when the Weeping Cherries are in full flower.

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.com.au

The trip to RBG Cranbourne *by Jill Kellow*

Our trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne on the 15th of October was one of the highlights of this years' program. It was a self-drive tour for two engaging sessions with a break between them: birding with Birdlife Australia, led by Birdlife Australia member Megan Griffith, and a Garden tour with Cranbourne Botanic Gardens Guides.

It's quite a long drive to Cranbourne, south east of Melbourne, as most of our members live in the city. We had to get off early to be ready for a 9.30 am start, but we all managed to arrive on time. The first activity was a "birding" walk, led by Megan, and ably assisted by Lindy, Nick and Kate, also of Birdlife Australia. Our Birding walk was not in the Gardens themselves, but a meander through the beautiful woodland with it's heathy understorey that surrounds the famous Gardens.



Serious birders always carry binoculars

The trip to RBG Cranbourne *by Jill Kellow*

Megan is a very experienced birder, and helped us to spot many birds that some might otherwise have missed. In all the group spotted 41 species, and Megan provided us with a list. See overleaf for the birds we saw, including their scientific names. We also saw a Koala, a Brown Snake, and a Swamp Wallaby!

Prize for the most birds collected went to post-grad visiting student Julien Voet. Well done Julz..



Birding expert Megan



This Swamp Wallaby isn't too sure about these visitors

Megan sent us a message that includes links to bird information:

“... A very special thank you to Lindy, Nick and Kate from Birdlife Melbourne for helping out on the day. Also for Kirsten for arranging the morning tea and coordinating all the walkers. Well done everyone!!

If anyone is interested in learning more about birds and joining in some walks they can go to the Birdlife national Webpage at <https://birdlife.org.au> or use this link to find a branches near you, click on <https://birdlife.org.au/who-we-are/branches-and-locations/victoria>. We have monthly beginners outings at good hotspots around Melbourne and lots of friendly people to help out to get you used to spotting birds.”

The trip to RBG Cranbourne *by Jill Kellow*

After a much enjoyed morning tea provided by Kirsten, the group went on a guided walk of the Gardens. As you can see, it was a beautiful day, and our guide Eva was most informative, interesting and entertaining. Those who were visiting for the first time were very impressed by the red Sand Garden, which resembles the “red centre” of Australia. One of our members wanted to know if the red sand had been brought to Cranbourne all the way from Central Australia. Our guide informed us that that was the original intention, but that the sand kept blowing away, forming dunes that spoilt the original design. What appears to be the red sand of the Centre is actually crushed red terracotta that has been mixed with a cementing material to keep it in place! Another surprising factor was the large round patches that in the Centre would be Saltbush. Saltbush was tried in the garden, but it was quickly demolished by the rabbits, so had to be replaced - by *Westringia*!



The view over the famous Desert Garden

Bird Species Observed for FOBG Walk

Location: Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

Australian Wood Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)
Chestnut Teal (*Anas castanea*)
Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*)
Pallid Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*)
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*)
Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)
Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*)
Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*)
Grey Goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*)
Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
Eastern Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*)
Superb Fairywren (*Malurus cyaneus*)
Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*)
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Caligavis chrysops*)
Noisy Miner (*Manorina melanocephala*)
Little Wattlebird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*)
Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*)
White-plumed Honeyeater (*Ptilotula penicillata*)
New Holland Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*)
White-eared Honeyeater (*Nesoptilotis leucotis*)
White-naped Honeyeater (*Melithreptus lunatus*)
Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*)
Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*)
Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*)
Yellow-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*)
Grey Shrikethrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*)
Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)
Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*)
Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*)
Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)
Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*)
Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura albiscapa*)
Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*)
Little Raven (*Corvus mellori*)
Eastern Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)
Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)
Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*)
Mistletoebird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*)
Red-browed Finch (*Neochmia temporalis*)

Burnley Graduate Profile No. 20 December 2022: Dr. Josquin Tibbits**Years at Burnley:**

2 years, 1990-1992

Course studied:

Associate Diploma in Horticulture (Arb)

Favourite subject:

Hard to choose -- Plant Biology

Favourite plant:

Agathis robusta

I decided to go to Burnley because:

In my late teens, after skiing for a year, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I found work as a ground crew for an arborist who had graduated from Burnley in the mid-1980s. I basically fell in love with trees and still to this day am following this passion. Going to Burnley to study arboriculture was the obvious thing to do and it certainly was a fantastic experience. I remember in the first six months basically living off the vegetables we grew down the back of the site. So many great memories. [the Field Station—Ed]

Since I graduated from Burnley I have:

Worked for city councils, and privately in arboriculture, gone back to university and studied a lot more - obtaining a double degree in science/forest science (Hons.) and on from there to get a PhD in forestry molecular genetics.

Since graduating I have pretty much worked in research supporting the forest and agricultural industries in delivering genomics science to breeding systems, first at The University of Melbourne and for the past eleven years at Agriculture Victoria. I have had the honour of being able to contribute to the publication of the first complete genome assembly of a eucalypt in 2014, which was published in *Nature* and more recently to the publication of the first complete genome of wheat, which was published in the journal *Science* in 2018. I currently have projects that are integrating genomic data into wheat breeding, and in a world first, into forest tree breeding programs, where we are aiming to massively accelerate the rate of genetic gain* to meet the dual challenges posed by climate change and increasing scarcity of food and wood driven by world population pressure

Burnley Graduate Profile No. 20 December 2022: Dr. Josquin Tibbits

Editor's note;

Don't know what the term *genetic gain* means? I didn't either! I found this on the web:

“Genetic gain has been described as the **expected or realized change in average breeding value of a population over at least one cycle of selection for a particular trait or index of traits** (Rutkoski, 2019a).¹ Apr 2020 “

That didn't help much! Then I found this:

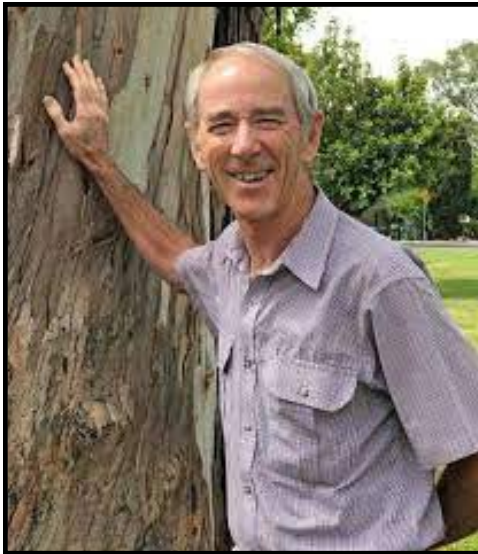
“As one of the important concepts in conventional quantitative genetics and breeding, genetic gain can be defined as **the amount of increase in performance that is achieved annually through artificial selection**.¹⁷ May 2017 J Exp Bot.

That's better! Even I can understand it. I think . I hope you can too.

Josquin is one of many Burnley Graduates who have found their Burnley qualification a stepping stone to other, related careers and higher qualifications. In one way or another they are all out there changing the world for the better.

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Knock, knock! Who's there? Tree loppers. Tree loppers who.....?



By FOBG Patron G. M. Moore, Senior Research Associate, School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne, Burnley Campus.

During the lockdowns of 2021, I wrote an article on tree loppers for *The Conversation*. It was precipitated by the sound of chainsaws buzzing away in the background on more than one occasion. You too may have had a knock on your door, or perhaps a card in a letter box telling you that the trees in your garden were dangerous or at least in need of urgent attention.

They were of course tree loppers working in the area and offering discounts if you did the work now, or tomorrow at the latest. There are some serious scams in several states involving “knock on the door “ tree loppers who pressure elderly home owners for work, which has evoked petitions from victims and some local governments seeking to have tree loppers licensed. Some of these cases involve thousands of dollars, and sometimes very poor quality work with potentially dangerous outcomes.

The knowledge that the general public has about trees is not the same as those associated with Burnley. The ordinary person assumes that the people at the door know what they are talking about, they have been worried about their trees that are getting bigger each year and think, “What harm can it do?” Burnley folk would be asking: “Are they qualified?” “What is wrong with my tree?” “What harm could be done to the tree?” and perhaps “What will the garden look like if the tree is badly pruned or removed?”

In a short article, it is not possible to cover all the aspects of tree structure and health that might be considered, but it is possible to give a few practical hints and to suggest further detailed reading for those who wish to be better informed. The first thing to consider in such a situation is the tree itself. Is it structurally sound? We usually focus on the trunk and canopy, but root systems also need to be considered.

- Beginning with tree structure will usually tell you if there is anything of serious and immediate concern that might pose a significant risk in the short term.

- Look for any dead or dying branches of significant size in the canopy. Many trees, particularly eucalypts, will have small (50mm diameter) dead twigs and branches in their canopies. It is part of their growth habit and they do not usually cause problems. It is also worth checking the point of attachment of large and heavy branches from both below and above the branch to see if there is any damage or decay which might weaken the point of attachment.
- The presence of co-dominant stems or major co-dominant (equal size) branches may be of concern, particularly if there is included bark trapped in the acute angle between the trunks. Such structures can be weak, but they are not always so. It is worth getting a qualified arborist in to inspect such unions if you have concerns.
- Inspect the root system. Have roots been exposed, damaged or cut? On a windy day check to see if there is any movement at or below ground level and after strong winds check to see if there is any movement of uplift in the soil surrounding the trunk.

General tree health may provide an indication of immediate concern, but is more likely to give insight into what might happen with the tree in the future. Again we tend to consider foliage, branches and trunk, but root systems are vitally important. Perhaps the most important indication of a tree in trouble is rapid defoliation. This does not necessarily mean complete defoliation. It may involve a sudden loss of leaves and twigs over a short period from a tree that has always been healthy. The problem here is that such changes often go unnoticed. You may think the tree is fine because you have no knowledge of how it looked three or six months ago. Oozing resin from the trunk and more commonly from a branch can be an indication of serious damage to that part of a tree. This can be especially important if there is resin in large amounts coming from a large branch near the point of attachment to the trunk or another larger branch. The resin may be an indication of cracking under load or of significant insect attack both of which can lead to branch fracture and failure.

Root system health is always very difficult to gauge, but there may be some indirect hints suggesting problems. Waterlogged and compacted soils can lead to root die-back or poor root development. Similarly if fill has been placed around the trunk and under the canopy, root health can be compromised. Damaged and decaying lateral roots may reduce tree stability and fungal rooting bodies following the line of a lateral root may indicate that it has died and is decaying.

Knock, knock! Who's there? Tree loppers. Tree loppers who.....?

Since trees are sophisticated organisms, the people working on them need to be well-qualified, know what they are doing, and know how trees will respond to their actions. There are many well-trained Burnley arborists in Victoria, but you may want to know what to look for in a good arborist, and here are a few tips:

- Good arborists will have TAFE or University qualifications of at least a Certificate Level 4 in arboriculture and preferably higher from a reputable institution. In many instances to undertake work according to relevant Australian Standards, the arborist will need to have a level 5 qualification (diploma or above).
- They will have substantial public liability insurance cover (at least \$10 million, and most will have \$20 million or more) because tree work is excluded from most domestic insurance policies, and if something goes wrong it can go seriously wrong.
- Trained arborists will not work on large trees or off the ground on their own. There will always be a crew of at least two, regardless of whether they are using travel towers or using ropes and harnesses to access a tree.
- Good arborists will also explain to you exactly what they propose doing to your tree and why. They will also have a good grasp of tree biology and the technical jargon that goes with the discipline.
- Qualified arborists will not describe themselves as loppers, and will prune rather than lop your trees. Those associated with Burnley will appreciate the subtlety of the language where pruning is a targeted approach to tree management while lopping is a wholesale removal of branches and foliage that can lead to serious and dangerous problems in the months and years ahead.

Qualified and competent arborists will not come knocking on anyone's door. They are too busy trying to cope with the work they already have.

Getting back to that question, "What harm can it do?" The answer is that it can cause considerable and serious harm if trees are unnecessarily removed, poorly pruned or if things go seriously wrong. The unnecessary removal of a large old tree destroys an asset after years of care, and can seriously reduce your property value by up to 5% or \$10,000. Sadly, it is not uncommon for elderly people to become worried about big, old trees that are perfectly safe but have them removed and then find their property value has significantly declined at a time when they need assets most.

Knock, knock! Who's there? Tree loppers. Tree loppers who.....?

- Indiscriminate lopping of the canopy of a tree which leaves little or no foliage and greatly reduces branching may seem a way of eliminating shedding and the dropping of limbs, but if it is done to a sound and healthy tree, it can lead to shedding and the development of a dangerous canopy.
- After severe lopping many trees respond by producing lots of epicormic shoots, which can be weakly attached in their early years and if they are not managed properly you can have substantial shedding of heavy shoots. You have created the very problem that you were seeking to avoid! A quote not necessarily accurately attributed to Albert Einstein is that *insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results*. Causing a problem where there was none or causing the problem that you were trying to avoid is getting very close to a definition of stupidity.
- People are very aware of the things that annoy them about trees - dropping of leaves, flowers and fruits, blocked gutters and cracked fences and paths. They often forget or are unaware of benefits such as shade in summer, moderating strong winds which protects their rooves during storms or the value of tree root systems in stabilising soil on steep house blocks. The value of these services only becomes apparent after the tree has been removed – you acted in haste, but regret the loss at your leisure over the many years it takes to grow a replacement tree – this is treegret!

So when you, a friend or neighbour gets that knock at your door and you have the chance to greet a tree lopper, don't forget to ask them if they are qualified and at what level and from which institution. Ask how large their public liability insurance policy and what size crew will be working on your job and then ask them exactly what they propose to do to your tree. I have asked all of these questions and been told of qualifications that I know don't exist, that come from institutions that don't train arborists and of plans to lop or top my trees which I know will leave them less safe. I won't go out on a limb, and I suggest that you should only employ qualified arborists!

Further Reading.

Moore G M (2021): *Dodgy tree loppers are scamming elderly homeowners and hacking up healthy trees*. The Conversation, 3rd August <https://theconversation.com/dodgy-tree-loppers-are-scamming-elderly-homeowners-and-hacking-up-healthy-trees-heres-what-you-need-to-know-164629>.

Behind the Fedge - Research at Burnley by Claire Farrell



The Woody Meadow project

Woody Meadows are transforming public landscapes across Greater Melbourne, with over 5000 m² currently installed. There are plantings in roundabouts, railway reserves, roadsides and parks, demonstrating Woody Meadows in different sites and planting contexts. An example of a recent Woody Meadow is the Hoppers Crossing train station, showcasing dwarf *Alyogyne huegelii* cultivars.



Hoppers Crossing Station—photo by Claire Farrell

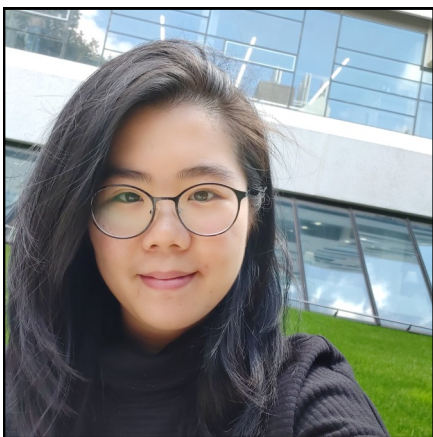
In the Burnley Field Station we have just coppiced the large polytunnel experiment and will look at how water availability affects resprouting in the new year .

Behind the Fedge - Research at Burnley by Claire Farrell



Polytunnels in the Field Station at Burnley

The large coppicing experiment has also been harvested as part of Lavinia Chu's (photo) PhD which is focusing on ***Selecting the ideal plant for Woody Meadows - using plant***



PhD candidate Lavinia Chu

traits to indicate coppicing success and vigour, and understanding the impact of coppicing on Australian shrubs and trees. This was a huge team effort and involved cutting off shoots, leaf stripping and digging up plant roots to look at how leaf traits and allocation and starch reserves in shoots and roots relate to resprouting success and vigour. Lavinia is looking forward to sharing her results on the best resprouting plants for Woody Meadows soon.

Behind the Fedge - Research at Burnley by Claire Farrell



Harvested and labelled roots - research can be hard work!.

Photo by Lavinia Chu



Plants were coppiced at 12 cm height (that is what the ruler is showing).

***From the Archives* by Jane Wilson** Volunteer Manager Burnley Campus Archives



**CONSERVATION OF WALL MOUNTED
BRACKET DISPLAY BOOK**

After discussion with Associate Professor John Rayner,* the decision was taken to restore an important historical artefact in the Burnley Campus Archive Collection - a wall bracket that is a unique example of a hand-crafted, illustrated teaching aid that was used in horticultural education up to the Second World War. The restoration project was seen as a daunting task.

BACKGROUND

The Burnley Campus of The University of Melbourne has a long and significant history. The original site on Crown land was first allocated by the Victorian Government to the Horticultural Society of Victoria in 1860, to establish Experimental Gardens. The HSV, later Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV), trialed mainly fruit trees, but also other trees, shrubs and plants. In 1884 an Exhibition Building was built on the site, designed by the architect Alfred Kursteiner.

The RHSV encountered financial difficulties and the site was turned over to the Victorian Government. The School of Horticulture commenced in 1891 and classes were held in the Pavilion. The school was the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and is the only Horticultural College in the world to have been in existence for over 130 years without ever closing for a period.

Joseph Bosisto, Chemist, C.M.G. and MP, well known for his eucalyptus and tee-tree oil remedies and friend of Ferdinand von Mueller, had been presented with an extensive collection of seeds by the English firm of Sutton's Seeds in 1888. He in turn presented the collection to the RHSV for permanent display. They remained on display in the Pavilion until its demolition in 1951.

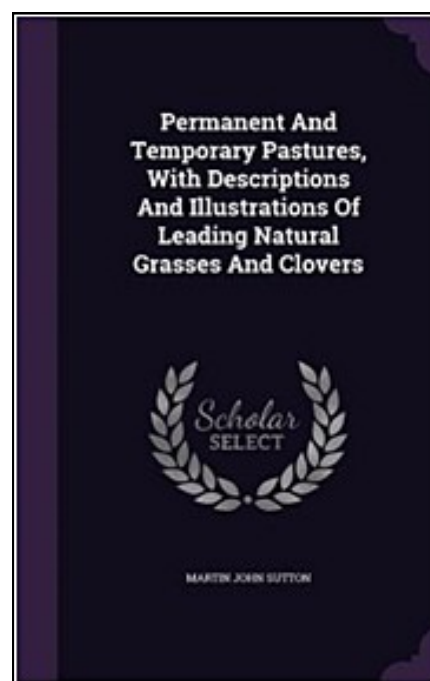
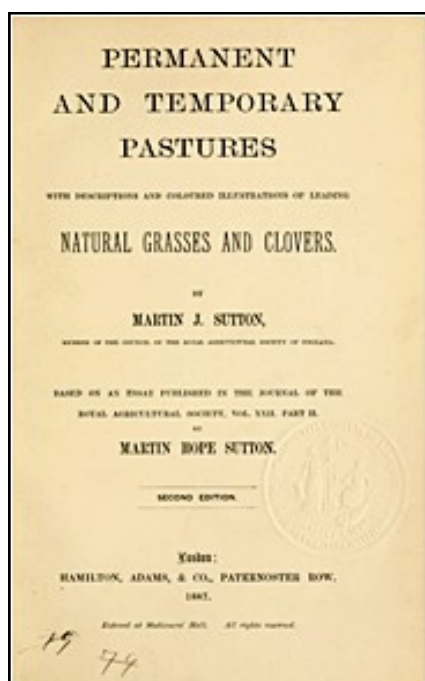
Presumably the Wall Bracket was part of this gift. The item consists of 12 ferrous metal plates which were tinned and hinged onto a scallop-edged oak bracket with brass bracket top and bottom. It was perforated to hold metal pins which acted as the support mechanism for the plates.

***From the Archives* by Jane Wilson** Volunteer Manager Burnley Campus Archives

Each plate could be turned in the mounting system, thus revealing different botanical illustrations. Each side of the plates has a botanical illustration depicting species of grasses and clover which we presume were available for sale through Sutton's and Sons seed merchants.

The illustrations were printed by Ben. George in London. They are coloured lithographs with some further hand colouring and highlights, and were glued to the metal plates with a varnish (Dammar). All printed surfaces and edges of the plates were heavily varnished with the same coating. We presume this was to protect the paper-based illustrations from water and dirt staining, especially if the item was mounted in a seed merchant's shop or plant nursery.

An inscription on the wooden cover, which had become detached and now appears to be missing stated "Natural Grasses, used in Mr. Martin Sutton's Prescriptions for Permanent & Temporary Pastures." It appears that the lithographs in the Wall Bracket come from an early edition of this book but do not appear to have been torn out. There are two duplicate lithographs, which were found during the restoration.



The book, "Permanent and temporary pastures with descriptions and illustrations of leading natural grasses and clovers," published in 1895, by Martin J. Sutton is still available in various editions.

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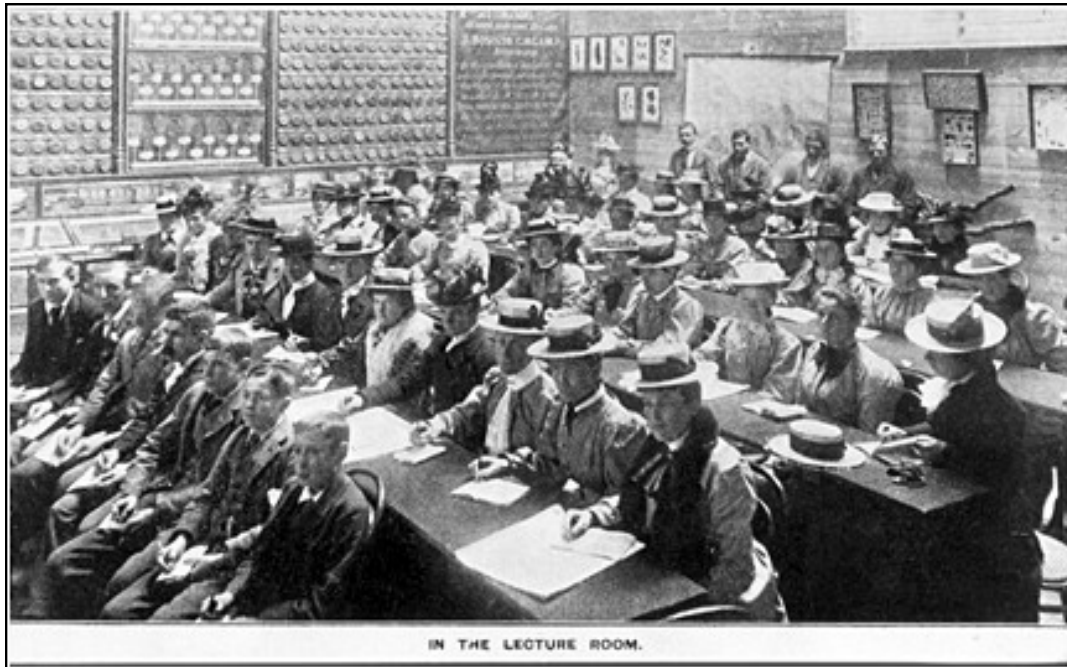
The Department of Agriculture gradually moved its branches to the Burnley site, and Agrostology, the study of grasses, was an important area of research.



The Pavilion at Burnley in the 1890s

The Pavilion was taken down in the late 1940's after a new modern building was erected in its place. This wall bracket was one of the few artefacts that were retained.

***From the Archives* by Jane Wilson** Volunteer Manager Burnley Campus Archives



Inside the Pavilion, around 1900. The Wall Bracket would have hung on the wall inside the Pavilion. (Just look at all those hats!)

RESTORATION

Duncan and Christine Rolley of *Artefact Conservation*, based in Kyneton, Victoria were asked for an opinion as to whether it was worth trying to repair, clean and stabilise the Wall Bracket. They reported as follows:

“The object is extremely unusual and of high historical significance to the Burnley Archive. “

The title page depicts details about a Royal Warrant awarded to Sutton & Sons in 1871/84, seed merchants in Reading, England.



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The report from the conservationists stated that the condition was very poor. Chemically and physically unstable due to varnish degrading and turning brown/yellow, extensive water damage resulting in tide marks in the prints and causing rusting of the metal plates. Rust has permanently bonded the illustrations in parts to the metal base plates and caused losses and black oxide discolouration of the prints.

The illustrations also show signs of mould and insect damage. The wooden base bracket is dirt stained and the surface abraded with some impact marks, but structurally sound.



The brass and the pin operating mechanism are oxidized, and the lower brass support is bent, most likely due to having been dropped.



TREATMENT

The best solution for preservation was to deconstruct the item and treat the mechanism, timber bracket and each illustration separately. Tests were done to see if the degraded varnished surfaces could be removed without affecting the printed inks and hand colouring on the prints. Non-printed areas could have the varnish removed with ethanol which was also used on the metal components. This proved very effective. However, tests showed that this could not be used on the printed areas of the illustrations as the colour would be affected.

Another solvent which did not affect the pigments/inks was tested, and both vapour and wetting was able to be used to remove the varnish, as well as to soften the same which had been used to adhere the prints to the metal plates.

Each plate was dry cleaned to remove surface dirt and mould., and the deteriorated varnish on each illustration was removed. The illustrations were removed, washed and de-acidified to reduce discolouration, tide marks, degraded cellulose, and acidity of the paper. The aqueous treatments resulted in 80-90% removal of the discolouration of the paper, and its pH raised to 7, making it chemically stable. Four illustrations were bonded to the plates by rust and could not be removed, as an attempt to remove them would have caused major losses.

Each metal plate was cleaned, and all degraded varnish removed entirely. Loose metal rusted particles on the metal plates were removed, and an application of Paraloid B was used over rusted areas. In order to protect each illustration, the plates were lined with archive text paper (90gsm) which acts as a barrier to the metal plate, while also enabling easy removal of the prints if required in the future. The conserved illustration was then pasted onto the archive text using reversible starch-based paste, and infilling any missing areas.

***From the Archives* by Jane Wilson** Volunteer Manager Burnley Campus Archives



All plates were re-attached to the cleaned and consolidated hinging mechanism and the plates inserted in the original order. A purpose-made museum standard box using 100% cotton board and Oxford book cloth was made with an internal support to house the Wall Bracket



Cleaning the illustrations

RESULT

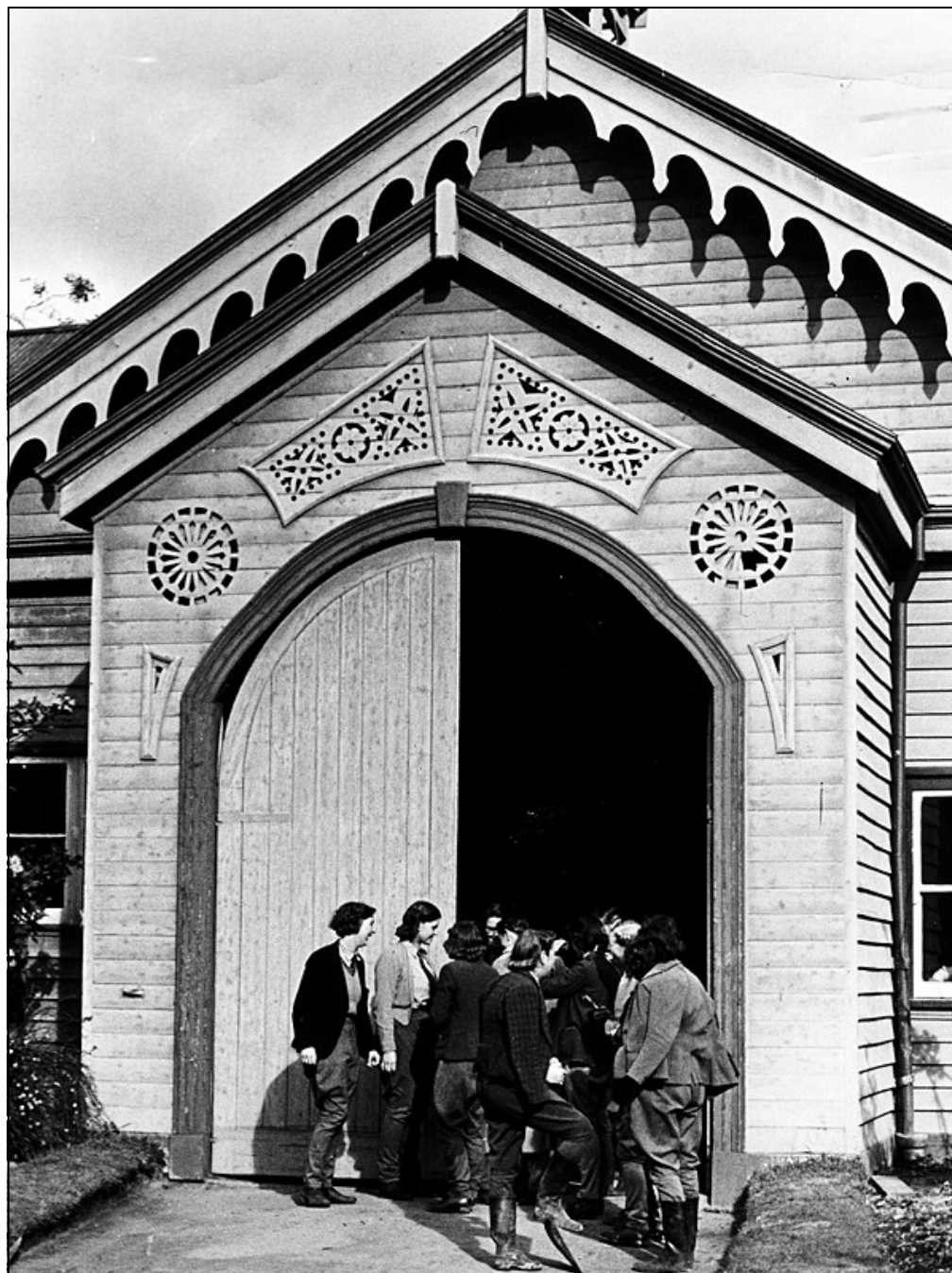
The item is now in a chemically and physically stable and a conserved condition. The illustrations are clearer with most tide marks and discolouration removed. The mould has been completely removed. The rust on the metal plates has been removed and neutralized other than on 2 plates. The repaired hinging mechanism allows the illustrations to be viewed as per the original intention. The museum standard enclosure affords support and protection of the archive for the long term

I would like to thank Duncan and Christine Rolley for their superb work and courage in bringing to life an important artefact illustrating the contribution of the Burnley Campus to the teaching of Horticulture.

The committee's end of year meeting and celebration



We wish all our members and friends a very happy Festive Season, and a happy and healthy New Year.



The Pavilion (nick-named "The Elephant House") - Burnley before the Main Building was built. Thanks to Jane Wilson for this image from the archives.

Thanks to Cheryl Andrews for careful proof reading of this edition, and Kirsten Binns for attention to detail.

***NEWSLETTER
OF THE
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BURNLEY
GARDENS***

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